

# HOUSTON VOICE

A COMMUNITY NEWS PUBLICATION • APRIL 8, 1994 • ISSUE 702

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## IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

"Pride Pioneers"  
plan reunion

Why Not  
Gay and Lesbian  
History Month?

## AIDS patient wins fraud case against former care giver

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE  
Houston Voice Editor

A Harris County jury this week agreed with an AIDS patient's charges that the director of a local AIDS charity defrauded him of over \$50,000.

In awarding a judgment of nearly \$179,000 to AIDS patient Lawrence White Jr., the jury found Clortis "C.C." Roberts, head of the Foundation for Women and Children With AIDS, guilty of cheating White of \$54,000 in funds he had inherited from his late lover's estate.

White, now 41 and seriously ill, had lived in Roberts' home for a few months. During that time, he had granted her power of attorney.

White, who met Roberts through a Houston church's Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry AIDS care team, said that at the time, he trusted her to manage the funds from his inheritance on his behalf. He said he wanted the money reserved for his

future medical expenses.

The judgment, the first of its kind against an AIDS service provider, also sets a precedent for cases in which a care giver or friend entrusted to manage an ill person's financial and/or health interests, but is charged with abusing that trust. The award was even higher than White's lawyers (high profile Houston attorneys Joel Androphy, Lawrence Finder and Ken Broughton provided their services for the case free through the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association) had originally sought.

Jurors said they wanted to set an example to others placed in a position of trust.

But attorney John Paul Barnich, White's initial contact who referred him to the volunteer team, said the award will have little impact or meaning unless the District Attorney's office also pursues criminal charges against Roberts. (continued on page 7)

## Mark of the April 12 runoff may be running off at the mouth

### ELECTION '94 NOTES

Charges and counter charges, slurs and rumors of slurs (past and present) mark the down and dirty campaigning of candidates in Tuesday's (April 12) runoff election.

—An interesting twist this week is Gay/Lesbian and Hispanic activist Linda Morales' leap into the muddy waters of the State Senate District 6 campaign on behalf of Mario Gallegos. Gallegos recently embattled foe, Roman Martinez, is endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus in the runoff.

Morales, largely responsible for persuading the caucus membership to endorse Yolanda Flores in the primary, joined Gallegos in accusing Martinez of running a private business in an office paid for with taxpayer funds. Morales, according to the Houston Chronicle, charged that taxpayers bore the cost Martinez' business and that Martinez misappropriated state funds.

In recent weeks, Gallegos has also taken his opponent to task over his troubles with the IRS, and over hot checks reportedly written by the Martinez campaign.

Whoever wins the runoff is almost assured of being the State Senator in the heavily Democratic district.

—In the Democratic U.S. Senate showdown between Dallas investor Richard Fisher and

HGLPC-endorsed Jim Mattox, Fisher has tried to attack on two fronts: stirring up old bitterness from Mattox' nasty campaign against Ann Richards to appeal to the state's Richards Democrats, while at the same time labeling Mattox a "political dinosaur" (an animal, perhaps, that is yellow yellow and barks?). Fisher, however well he makes his points, suffers from a lack of a discernible platform to point with. His eagerness, however, to go after every voter with equal vigor and vagueness is at least inspiring.

—What could be a thinly veiled (and, if so, humorously naive) attempt at Gay-baiting might be found in a recent advertisement for Beverley Clark, who is running against Ken Bentsen (Bentsen is endorsed by HGLPC) in the 25th Congressional District, and who, we are told, is receiving money from Radical Right organizations. Presumably in reference to his lack of "experience" (her own consists of a single term on the Houston City Council won in a political fluke), Clark calls Bentsen "a fairy tale."

—Any Gay or Lesbian who voted in the Republican primary has a moral mandate to help Betsy Lake, Harris County Party Chair, turn back the foul waters of the R.R. which have soaked the local Republican apparatus. Even though the radical conservatives are bickering with each other, Straight Slater Jim Kennedy will get the vote of the Right Wing faithful, and the runoff turnout is expected to hit bottom.

## Getting a 'Kika' out of Pedro Almodóvar

By STEVE WARREN

(Editor's Note: The 27th annual Worldfest Houston film festival opens Friday, April 15. Among the highlights of the WorldFest program will be the premiere of Pedro Almodóvar's new film, "Kika." Almodóvar, dubbed the "King of Kink" by Out Magazine, is expected to attend. Following is the first in a series of interviews and reviews related to WorldFest, which runs for 10 days).

It's a measure of Pedro Almodóvar's new stature that he can get through a 75-minute press conference without the words "Gay" or "Lesbian" coming up in questions or answers. Not that Spain's leading filmmaker has ever denied his orientation—although in our last interview, six years ago, he eschewed the idea of labels altogether—but it's become something that's taken for granted; his life is neither more nor less upsetting to people than his always controversial work.

The press conference was held at the Miami Film Festival, where Almodóvar's latest, Kika had its U.S. premiere in February. Things might have gone differently if Rosy de Palma and Bibi Andersen, who co-star in Kika, had appeared as scheduled, but their flight was delayed. In the film de Palma plays a lesbian and the transsexual Andersen shows off her new body. And speaking of new bodies, Almodóvar's is lighter by a reported 40 pounds. He looks good.

If you lived in Spain you would have seen considerable newspaper coverage of plans for a wedding between Almodóvar and Andersen, but there was no truth to the story. "I couldn't believe it when I read it in the papers," Almodóvar says. "I thought it was a joke. But people took to the idea. It didn't matter that I said it wasn't true—there were hundreds of stories about it, not all of them

very nice.

"If I wanted to marry," he adds, "they couldn't have found me a more suitable candidate."

Media distortions are one theme of Kika, represented by TV tabloid journalist Andrea Caracortada (Scarface), host of The Worst of the Day. In some of the wildest costumes this side of Halloween,



Pedro Almodóvar, moviedom's "King of Kink"

she's played by Victoria Abril, who starred in Almodóvar's Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down! and High Heels.

Kika will be remembered for its hilarious rape scene (more about that later—don't start writing letters yet), but Almodóvar points out, "There are two kinds of violation in Kika. One is physical...the other by the mass media. The second is not less painful than the other. There is something human in the first rape (Kika, a makeup artist played by Veronica Forque, is assaulted repeatedly by Pablo, a former porn star and the brother of Kika's lesbian maid), but it's worse the use of the rape to sell products (Andrea shows the original rape on her TV show).

Almodóvar seems unaware of the extent of his passion for rape until he's reminded it was also a plot device in Matador and Tie Me Up!... "I didn't realize how many," he says sheepishly.

"Rape is something awful in real life," the filmmaker agrees, but that doesn't keep him from turning Kika's rape into a farce that the staunchest feminist will have trouble watching with a straight face. He plays the media rape more seriously, and is less forgiving. "This is the first time I've passed judgment on one of my characters. I even punish Andrea, because I hate the character."

Perhaps that's why Almodóvar calls Kika "more complex than the other movies I've made...the least obvious movie that I did."

Braced for an attack by the PC police for having fun with rape, Almodóvar claims, "Political correctness" is a term that doesn't exist in Europe." In his notes on Kika, however, he says he abandoned the title An Inopportune Rape because "there are throughout the world terribly touchy people who don't need to see a film to campaign against it." He seems genuinely confused when I tell him he's just defined PC. (Continued on Page 4)

# VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 12

## IN MEMORY OF



### STEPHEN ANDREW COLES

Stephen Andrew Coles, 34, formerly of Houston, passed away March 19, 1994 in Seattle, Washington of AIDS related complications. Survived by his parents, Ken and Krista Coles, brothers Mike and Larry, nieces, aunts, uncles and grandparents as well as his partner in life, Richard Griffin and his eternal friend, Nancee Beamer. His friends will remember him for his compassion and exuberant love of life...his hugs and smiles will live on in the hearts of those his life touched.

### AIDS and the WORKING MAN: VINCE

The moon was full the night he died,  
A golden diamond poised in a black sky  
Like a breath of expectation,  
Awaiting an angel.  
The ink is dry,  
The chapter finished,  
And yet I cannot close the book.  
There is a demon in me  
Who gives me no peace,  
Some inner beast I've never heard  
Who howls, possessed, at silent treetops,  
"Why?"

There is no calm in the knowledge that  
He sleeps.  
I am too selfish for that.  
I crave order in the chaos of my soul,  
Letters all neatly arranged to make words,  
Numbers that always equal one sum.  
This death is frost in summer,  
A riddle with no answer,  
A vexation to the brain,  
A cannibal of hope.  
My short time in his world  
As a witness to this genocide  
Has not prepared me for this pain,  
Finally too personal.

And yet,  
Beneath that shrieking demon in my heart  
I feel a stirring.  
I see a pair of tired eyes,  
Gentle solace amid the rage,  
Soft and silent, urging calm.  
I recall the sound of laughter —  
His lungs too weak to make it loud,  
But happy nonetheless —  
And feel the press of a hand in mine,  
Still firm.  
And in the fury of my frozen heart,  
A spark of gratitude ignites.  
What would life have been without him?  
Can I begrudge the universe my time with him,  
However brief?  
Make no mistake, the pain exists,  
The beast is not yet quiet.  
But perhaps this chaos is that order that I seek.  
Perhaps we must walk through lunacy  
To become sane.

Don Gill  
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### ESCHOL RICHARD WRIGHT

Eschol Richard Wright died peacefully on March 24, 1994, in San Antonio, Texas.

Richard was born in Houston on April 8, 1965, but spent his childhood years near Pleasonton, Texas. After living in Houston for several years, Richard returned in 1990 to San Antonio. Richard was best known as a columnist for The New Voice to numerous clubs and other businesses in San Antonio.

Richard was a creator, a promoter and an entrepreneur of the highest order, and he was an active and highly visible member of the San Antonio community. During his newspaper days, he organized or participated in numerous projects benefiting San Antonio charities. He had an army of friends in both Houston and San Antonio and his familiar smile and snap of the fingers will be missed by all who knew him.

Richard is survived by his mother and father, his four sisters, and William Albert Mayes, Richard's companion for the last few years of his life.

## Reunion of 1976 'Pride Week Pioneers' in the planning for 1994

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE

Houston Voice Editor

In 1976, a brave handful of men and women marched on Main Street in the first-ever Gay and Lesbian Pride event in Houston. In those days, a Mardi-Gras style parade on Westheimer was unheard of.

That first step, however, led to the organizing of Town Meeting Houston in 1978, believed to be the largest-ever Gay and Lesbian plenary meeting in the country with an attendance of 4000, and the first Houston Gay Pride Parade on July 1, 1979.

This first pride event did not carry the endorsement of the fledgling Gay Political Caucus or the Texas Gay Task Force (although several members of TGRF, in town for a conference at the University of Houston, marched with us). The march was organized mostly by a renegade Houston activist, a recent prison parolee and self-described "Fruits Rights Freedom Fighter" named Ray

Hill, in meetings with the university's Gay Activist Alliance (led at the time by an over-hyped, acid-tongued, baby barn burner who for the purposes of this article shall go unnamed).

Hill, the year before, had announced at a press conference that 1975 was the last year Houston would go without a pride event similar to the ones being held in other parts of the country to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

Tom Richards was one of the approximately 300 people who marched on Main Street carrying banners with colorful slogans that later demonstrations adapted to fit the times: "Out of the Sidewalks, Into the Streets," among them.

Now, Richards hopes to organize a reunion of the 1976 march's participants for the 1994 Lesbian and Gay Pride Week celebration.

"We want to have a reunion contingent in the Pride Parade, and probably some kind of a party the day before," Richards said. The project, he admits, is still in the

planning stages.

But Richards, who says he marched marked his coming out of the closet, feels a need to reconstruct the historical moment so that others will know it happened. "Most people think there wasn't (a pride event) in Houston until much later," he explained.

"When I talk about history, I mean that there is so much of what (Houston Gays and Lesbians) did back then that is all but forgotten," Richards said. "We in the community have a history, but we don't have anything that's written down to go by. It's in our memories, a little bit here, a little bit there," he said.

"The reason why I want to do this, the most important thing to me, is getting everybody who's still around back together to see where they are now, what's happened since then."

Anyone who participated in the 1976 march is invited to help plan the "Pride Week Pioneers" project. Call Tom, 522-6103, to reserve your place.

## HWCA presents 'Ecofeminism' exhibit; 'Endangered' etchings at Art League

### ART NOTES

The Houston Women's Caucus for Art is presenting the exhibition, "Ecofeminism: Crossing Boundaries." The exhibit will be on view at the Firehouse Gallery, 1413 Westheimer, from April 15 to May 15. This is a non-juried show open to all artists and crafts-persons in the Houston vicinity. Artists can drop off work from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. There is a \$5 entry fee to non-members.

Ecofeminism is a cross between ecologically sensitive beliefs along with feminist principals. Throughout Western Civilization, women have often been equated with nature and suffered like abuses. The diversity of this show promises to offer a healthier means for women to envision nature and themselves.

Drop Off Date: Artists can drop work off at the Firehouse Gallery from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. Cost is \$5 for non-members.

Discussion: A panel discussion on the topic of Ecofeminism will be held on Tues-

day, April 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Panelists will include Patricia Yongue, associate professor of English and Women's Studies at the University of Houston, Sabra Booth, artist and exhibitions coordinator at the Nature Discover Center, and Linda Walsh, a psychologist and professor at Baylor University.

Reception: An opening reception for the artists of "Ecofeminism: Crossing Boundaries" will be held on Friday, April 15 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Firehouse Gallery.

The Firehouse Gallery hours are 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call the Gallery at (713) 520-7840.

### "Endangered" Exhibition

The sponsors and advisory committee of "Endangered," a project of the HIV Outreach Program at Art League of Houston, will hold a reception at the League's gallery, located at 1953 Montrose, on Thursday, April 14, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The community is invited to view the suite of etchings titled "Endangered."

The HIV Outreach Art Program founded by Patrick Palmer with the Art League of Houston nearly four years ago is offered free of charge to anyone who is HIV+. Participants may be either professional or the inexperienced artist. The class is a multimedia design course, meets twice weekly and focuses on the healing power of art. This is the only course of its kind in the city.

"Endangered": The Prints, is a unique suite of ten etchings, in an edition of 15, which was published to support this worthy program. A few complete suites remain with a limited number of individual works still available.

Artists' Etchings including those by Eric Avery, James Bettison, Karin Broker, Rachel Hecker and Lucas Johnson are priced at \$250; course participants' etchings including work by R. Berger, Dale Piper, Norman Umstead, Don Workman and Buck Worthen are \$50. A complete suite of 10 etchings are \$1,500.

All funds raised by the sale of the prints will go towards the HIV Art Program Fund, administered by the Art League of Houston.

David Brady is on vacation. his weekly editorial cartoon will return next week. Also next week, we are starting a new feature, "Houston Spotlight," profiling in brief our local Gay and Lesbian luminaries in activism, business and entertainment. Stay tuned!

### GAY GAMES IV & CULTURAL FESTIVAL



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## Frustration changing local AIDS advocate's view of protesters' tactics

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From JEFFREY D. HALLAUER

Houston, Texas

I was sitting at home reading my newspaper and sipping my coffee, when a headline caught my eye. "AIDS protester heckles Clinton during church service." Now for some reason, I am drawn to HIV and AIDS stories, and this one was no exception. I am also a firm believer in peaceful protest, and I don't support this kind of "anti-social" behavior, but I find that view is slowly changing.

I guess being active in the HIV/AIDS community will do that to a person. After living in this nightmare of AIDS for 11 years now, I find that my patience has waned and my tolerance has grown short. I attended the Sixth Conference on AIDS in Houston last week in hope that some progress had been made by researchers and doctors to at least get a foothold in the battle of HIV, or at least something that will let HIV infected individuals live a little longer or happier lives, but alas, I found the opposite was in fact true. Some of the evidence was:

—The Concord Study was correct. AZT will not help HIV positive persons live longer.

—Microbacterium Alivium Complex is deadly, with no known cure or effective treatment.

—Multiple anti-viral therapies do not work any better than mono-therapies.

—HIV is direct cause of dementia, no longer a syndrome.

So, in living with those facts I found I was not a "happy camper," to say the least. Most of the reports from the conference were half-truths at best. They reported that hope and optimism were the messages given at the conference. It was enough to make me want to puke in my Cheerios! Once again the media has felt it is in the "public interest" to twist the truth so that the news is more palatable for the general public. The HIV infected community needs hope, but only TRUE hope, not candy-coated half-baked crap. Tell us the truth and save us from being disappointed for the hundredth time.

The HIV Surveillance Division of Harris County reported last week that Houston has had over 10,000 confirmed AIDS cases. The number crunchers over there tell me that for each confirmed case of AIDS registered, they predict that there are between 9 and 10 positive cases in the Houston area, so with a little math that puts the HIV-infected population at about 100,000.

Now to some of you 100,000 may be a small number, but it is equal to twice the population of my home town. I try and imagine two cities the size of my hometown totally

wiped out by AIDS. All the empty shops, empty houses and the lives that no longer exist.

If you cannot relate to that figure, how about this one. The estimate is that in the United States alone, there are over TWO MILLION HIV infected persons. Imagine an area about as large as Houston totally wiped out. Think about it...

I get angry when I see that almost all prevention, education and information funding for HIV related services in the Houston area is gone. We received over \$11 million in federal HIV funds this year, and yet we have allocated less than \$60,000 for information and referral services/That is less than one half of one percent spent on ensuring that people know what services are available to the HIV infected community! It makes me so mad and frustrated to know that prevention is the only cure, and because of religious and political reasons those funds have been reduced or eliminated altogether. The CDC reported that the number of HIV infected heterosexual persons more than doubled last year and the rise is expected to continue to increase. Reports from San Francisco are that the infection rate has supposedly peaked, and yet in the same report, they state that the number of cases in 18-24 year old population have increased 120 percent. In light of these facts, is it prudent to suspend prevention and education?

So I find more and more my opinion of the heckler is changing. I used to believe that working with the system was the most productive way to work towards bringing an end to this pandemic of AIDS. I now see that I may have been wrong, that this may not be the most productive way anymore. What have I got to lose? That heckler may just have something...he just may.

(Editor's Note: Jeff Hallauer is vice chair of the local Ryan White Planning Council and chair of the HIV Community Caucus, an independent local AIDS advocacy group. The "heckler" he refers to is D.C. based AIDS activist Luke Sissyfag, who disrupted Easter Sunday services at Foundry United Methodist Church by yelling at President Clinton, who was in attendance: "Where is the Manhattan-style AIDS cure project you promised during your campaign?")

Note to writer: local news media, including the Houston Voice, reported last week that the message of speakers and presenters at the recent Sixth Annual Houston Conference on AIDS was one of hope and optimism for people living with HIV. Please note that this was not a distortion of information by "the media" to protect the public or anyone's interests, but an accurate representation of what those speakers who delivered said messages at the conference had to say.)

## Reader believes previous letter writer's criticisms were misdirected

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From KEITH STEWART

Houston, Texas

I could hardly concentrate on Kenneth Wilk's letter (Letters to the Editor, April 1) what with the sound of wailing violins and crashing syntax. Painful as it was, I did finally wade through the twisted wreckage of Standard American English to glean a momentary hint of what Mr. Wilk was trying so desperately to communicate: Mr. Hill is a hypocrite whose philosophy and methods are obsolete. Mr. Wilk, on the other hand, is the paragon of virtue and righteousness sent to save the lost sheep from Mr. Hill and his cronies. The Pharisees and the Messiah: an altogether appropriate theme for Good Friday and, for that matter, April Fool's Day. Well, Mr. Wilk, get off the cross because we need

the wood. We need it to build an ark in which to escape the flood of B.S. that will surely cover the earth when you finally explode from your own inflated sense of self-importance. Until that glorious day, however, I want to correct some of the mischaracterizations resulting from the synaptic lapses evident in your letter.

Ray Hill is a lot of things—pompous, overbearing, hubristic, a bit of a windbag—but he is neither hypocritical nor obsolete. I have not always agreed with the positions he's taken or the methods he's employed. I frankly confess that I'm often required to take him in very small doses. Mr. Hill and I have had our disagreements in the past...But, I'm damn glad he was out there all those years because he's made it easier for me to be a Gay man in this place at this time.

Ray Hill was barnstorming for Lesbian

and Gay rights before a discernible "Gay community" even existed. While you were floating in ignorant bliss with your finger-foods-and-Beamers crowd, he was rattling the cages of the powers-that-be.

I agree with you that Mr. Hill is an "angry voice." He's angry because our people are murdered on the streets of our communities and the thugs who commit the crimes are out on parole. He's angry because our tax dollars are good enough for the generals but our patriotism is not. He's angry because your Nixon/Reagan strict constructionist Supreme Court elevates the Judeo-Christian tradition to the status of a compelling state interest sufficient to deny us the sanctity of our own bedrooms. He's angry because the judicial Neanderthals in Austin have left us with no remedy for a blatantly unconstitutional assault on our right to equal protection of

the law. He's angry because our community is starving on the crumbs thrown our way by heterosexist politicians who need our votes but not our participation. He's angry that our families of choice were decimated for 12 years while your neo-conservative buddies in Washington spouted disingenuous moralisms about divine punishment and cracked AIDS jokes in Chevy Chase locker rooms. If these injustices don't also make you angry, you are either blind, stupid or evil. My cronies and I (and I would be honored to include Ray Hill among them) are very angry. We are angry that so much of our energy is endlessly expended in trying to progress beyond the smugly self-satisfied status quo-ism evident among your clutch of reheated Ayn Rand leftovers.

Mr. Wilk, if HGLPC's ox is in the ditch, it's because the ox driver has been asleep since January.

# Controversial Pedro Almodóvar tests boundaries again with 'Kika'

(Continued from Page 1)

Almodóvar has made all ten of his features in his native Madrid, but he's ready for a change. For one thing, he says, Spain is facing so many political and economic crises that the government gives filmmaking a low priority. For another, "Madrid is still a lot of fun, but not as much as it was ten years ago. Kids today have fun differently than I did ten years ago."

"I need to get away if only to come back (refreshed)," he says. Havana is one possibility—he enjoyed a week there recently—but Hollywood will probably have to wait. He won't make a film unless he has total artistic control, and he doesn't believe the American studios would give it to him. He was in negotiations with one once, he says, and "at the beginning they promised me control, but there was something about them I didn't trust."

The story is the important thing to Almodóvar, and the scripts he's been offered by American studios haven't pleased him. Ironically, one of them was for *Sister Act*—in the early stages, when it was to be a vehicle for Bette Midler—which bears more than a passing resemblance to Almodóvar's earlier film, *Dark Habits*.

"I also saw my shadow in *Soapdish*," the filmmaker says. "It seems when they imitate me they imitate the worst (aspects) of my films."

Hollywood has considered remaking at least two of Almodóvar's pictures. Jane Fonda bought the rights to *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and was going to star in it, but plans fell apart after two unsuccessful drafts of the script. "Now she doesn't seem to want to

act anymore, and she's gotten too old for the part," its creator says. "Columbia-TriStar has the project now. About a year ago Blake Edwards asked me about it. I'd like for him to make it. He's one American with a good sense of comedy."

Almodóvar adds somewhat immo-destly that he's been told it's hard to find a director to remake his films "because nobody here (in the U.S.) wants to be compared to me in my own field." *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* was purchased, he says, originally as a vehicle for Kim Basinger.

The latter film almost had an American star the first time around. Madonna had spoken to Almodóvar about playing the lead for him, but then things came together for Victoria Abril to take the part, and "I preferred to do the film entirely in Spanish."

"Madonna is always asking me to do something," the director says. "It depends on the project. I like her very much personally." As an actress, he says, she started well in *Desperately Seeking Susan* but ran into trouble when she began to overshadow her characters. "Madonna is bigger than the roles," he goes on. "She has an incredible vocation to act, but she has to find the right role."

American actor Peter Coyote plays a writer in *Kika*. Almodóvar, who cast him after seeing him in Roman Polanski's *Bitter Moon*, says Coyote worked hard to learn his lines in Spanish but still had to be dubbed. "I hated to do it because I hate dubbing and I love Peter's voice." He says he cast Coyote because "he has the face of a writer, and you don't always find that. Take Sharon Stone in *Basic Instinct*. I didn't believe she could write."

Three of Almodóvar's stars have become international celebrities—Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas and Victoria Abril. He excuses Banderas's work in Philadelphia and *The Mambo Kings* because "the change of language is very difficult. ...I think the best of him is to come. He can do much better than he's doing now."

Almodóvar says his "ideas come from everywhere. You can be having coffee and watching television and an idea comes into your head. I get ideas from stories people tell me, but then I filter them through my own life experience. Sometimes I write the stories I wish someone would tell me. They don't exist so I have to write them."

As a controversial filmmaker he is naturally opposed to censorship, which is presently being suggested in relation to violence. "Films are not to blame for the violence you experience in daily life," he says. "Violence is provoked by injustice, hunger, people not having a future and living in the streets—not by violence. I believe controlling violent images is going in the wrong direction."

Violence has been the least of the problems in Almodóvar's films, which have featured all kinds of queer characters, plus S/M carried to the extreme—death (*Matador*), lesbian nuns (*Dark Habits*) and a mother selling her 13-year-old son to a pedophile (*What Have I Done to Deserve This?*), along with incest and other kinks.

"As a storyteller," he explains, "I prefer people in extreme situations. ...I was born this way. I don't necessarily seek controversy, but I accept it when it happens."

# HOUSTON VOICE

ISSUE 702  
April 8, 1994

Published Fridays

Established 1974 as the Houston Montrose Star, re-established 1980 as the Houston Montrose Voice, changed name to The New Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, re-established December 1, 1993 as the Houston Voice

811 Westheimer, Suite 105  
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## If the cultural rainbow includes us, where is Gay history month?

### OBSERVER'S NOTEBOOK

By PAUL VARNELL

As you are probably aware, America has just recently (in February) observed Black History Month. The designation is an occasion for the major media and many of our public institutions to do some special features on the topic. Some newspapers even do daily short columns or articles on events in black history in the lives of prominent African-Americans.

Radio and television shows—espe-

cially those ubiquitous local radio call-in programs—often do something on the topic. Many schools regularly do units on black history. And the classical music stations to which I am usually tuned play more music by black composers or performed by black artists.

Libraries show special displays of books on black history or by black authors. Book publishers make sure they release new books on the African-American experience to be promoted during February. In cities with large black populations, public officials

often attend events to kick off Black History Month or end it with some special celebration.

Most Americans, like myself, probably make little effort to seek out material on black history. But just as I do, they probably absorb a certain amount of new information just in the normal course of things.

So why, I ask, is there no Gay and Lesbian History Month? More often than not, our existence is publicized when we are the villains or the victims of some crime; or when we as a group are seen as an

aggrieved minority or a social threat (as in the recent anti-gay ballot initiatives) or when there is news about AIDS, in which we are simultaneously villain and victim.

Seldom except during rare major events such as last year's March on Washington is there much coverage of us as a people, a community growing into self-consciousness, developing our own institutions and making a contribution to the common culture. (Continued on following page)

## The case for an annual observance of Gay and Lesbian History Month

(Continued from preceding page)

Discussion of Gay and Lesbian history, which is safely in the past, would be an excellent way of talking about Gay lives in a context free from controversy and rancor, without having to argue without directly talking about sexual behavior, which still makes many people uncomfortable.

Gay and Lesbian History Month could provide a painless, non-threatening way of disseminating information and therefore familiarity, and therefore comfort, and therefore tolerance—among a larger number of people than we have thus far been able to reach.

Perhaps most Americans do not know much history at all, but particularly they do not know that gays have a history. They must think homosexuality was invented some time in the last couple of decades in a big city far away from them. They may still think being gay consists primarily of the mindless repetition of sexual acts, and be totally unaware of our social history, literary history, even economic history.

Gay history could help explain much about our lives from a community development standpoint: where we have been, what we have overcome, and when we, individually and cooperatively, have achieved, often against daunting odds and with frequent examples of great individual courage.

What would it take to get Gay and Lesbian History Month off the ground? To start with, merely an "official" designation by some "official" body that some month is now "officially" Gay and Lesbian History Month. It should not be difficult to persuade the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, along with the gay caucuses of the American Historical Association, to make such a pronouncement.

And it should be easy to set up. Two people working in a small office could get it started. They could draw up several thematic topics and choose several significant individuals, then make a short list of available books, articles and films on the topic. They could even provide article outlines, biographical sketches and photographs of the people involved. (The Encyclopedia of Homosexuality is a useful tool here.) Gay and Lesbian History Month staff would then package this material attractively and send it to city editors, feature editors and gay-friendly reporters at local newspapers, to the assignment editors at radio and television sta-

tions, to local and network talk-show producers, to library directors, to magazine editors. They could send the same material to special events people in city governments and the human resources departments of large corporations.

They could follow up with telephone inquiries ("Did you receive our kit? How can we help?") and regular faxed updates and supplements to keep nudging people along.

They could identify experts, local and national, who could give lectures or be available for interviews and talk-show appearances. Gay and lesbian historians such as Martin Duberman, John D'Emilio, Lillian Faderman, Warren Johnson, John Boswell, Elizabeth Kennedy, William Percy and Eugene Rice could become media stars.

And those classical music radio stations I listen to might even be persuaded—if only for one month—to actually identify as gay those innumerable gay composers they already play without identifying them.

I spell all this out not to show how complicated it is, but to show how many opportunities are going untapped. In fact, it is not complicated at all; it is all very simple and straightforward—very much like a standard public relations campaign.

In fact, that is exactly what it is—that is what the whole gay movement is about. Some people (some activists) mistakenly believe that PR campaigns such as this might be at best a useful tool in helping to obtain gay rights laws. The truth is the exact reverse: gay rights laws are a useful tool in the broader gay PR campaign.

Our goal, remember, is a society in which there is no hostility or discrimination against gays. A positive and affirmative public attitude can bring that about—with or without laws. In fact, a positive and affirming public attitude is exactly our end point.

Accordingly, we must devote far more tactical thinking to non-political (non-electoral) ways to advance our goals. (National Coming Out Day is one such.) The obsession with politics by some activists amounts to a kind of tunnel vision bordering on pathology.

The current fixation with state anti-gay ballot initiatives may be understandable, but the point should be to have prevented their occurrence in the first place. That should have been our goal five or ten years ago, and preventing future ones should be our goal now.

## House Republican criticizes colleague over education amendment

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 24 (AP), Rep. Robert Dornan personally attacked a Republican colleague Thursday on the House floor amid a fight over denying federal funds to school districts that teach children about homosexuality.

"He has a revolving door on his closet," Dornan said of Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wis., who opposed the amendment.

"He's in, he's out, he's in, he's out, he's in. I guess you're out because you went up and spoke to a huge homosexual dinner, Mr. Gunderson," said the California Republican.

Dornan said he was quoting his wife. "I think this conversation is out of order," said Rep. William Ford, D-Mich. He urged that Dornan be silenced. After first refusing, Dornan relented and agreed to withdraw his comments.

Afterward, Gunderson's spokesperson, Kevin Kennedy, said, "It's one of those things that isn't dignified with an answer.

Our interest is in the bill itself."

The dispute came as the House debated the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The amendment, by Rep. Mel Hancock, R-Mo., would have denied government funds to school districts with activities and programs for students that support homosexuality as a positive lifestyle.

The House, by a vote of 224-194, amended the Hancock proposal to limit its application to federal, but not local, funds and to state that nothing in it would interfere with the rights of local communities to pick curriculum.

The revised amendment passed, 301-120.

"If you adopt the Hancock amendment by itself, it has the effect of prohibiting school counseling and guidance," Gunderson said. "It has the effect of prohibiting AIDS education."

He added, "How many kids do we have to kill before we have the courage to stand up and say it's time educate them and do what is right, not what is politically popular?"

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## The Dizinger Foundation and the Easter Bunny reach out to local PWA's



Bering Care Center's Jewel Gray, right, helped the Dizinger Foundation's Easter Bunny pass out stuffed rabbits to clients of the center last Friday, April 1

inger Foundation, said the purpose of the visits and gifts is "to let people with AIDS know they are neither alone nor forgotten."

Chris Kerr, the foundation's new executive director, added that the rabbits and the efforts of the volunteers are "symbols of our love and caring."

"AIDS can be such an isolating disease. We can never stop reaching out," Kerr said.

The Dizinger Foundation is a non-profit organization created to assist those living with HIV/AIDS. Programs include the opening of a local food pantry, educational outreach through HISD, hospital visits and, most recently, a project titled "The Positive Power of Art: Art

By and for People Living With AIDS."

### Names Project Yard Sale

The NAMES Project Houston is having a yard sale this Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10. Sale hours will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The NAMES Project workshop is located at 2410 Woodhead (between Westheimer and Fairview). For more information, call (713) 526-1859.

### QUICK NOTES

Volunteers from the Dizinger Foundation of Houston distributed stuffed rabbits Friday, April 1 and Sunday, April 3, to AIDS patients at area hospitals, nursing homes and care centers. Nicole Turpeau, the reigning Miss Austin, accompanied the foundation's own fully-costumed Easter Bunny on the visits.

Hans Willi Rotheudt, founder of the Diz-

## New York Front Runners to host fun run on opening day of Gay Games; Houston Outdoor Group plans more camping in April

### SPORTS NOTES

Front Runners New York, America's largest Lesbian and Gay athletic organization, is planning its 13th Annual Lesbian Gay Pride Run, to coincide with the opening of Gay Games IV. Athletes and spectators from all over who will be in New York to attend the Gay Games are invited to participate in the run, scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. in New York City's Central Park, said Marty King and Lenore Beaky, co-directors of the event.

Traditionally, the group has held a 5-mile race on the day before the city's Gay Pride Day. Instead, the 1994 event will be an unscored "fun run" of five kilometers (3.1 miles), the directors said.

"We chose both the date and the distance of the race," said Beaky, "to allow as many people as possible to participate. We feel that the run is a perfect way for athletes participating in Gay Games IV to kick off the week and to warm up for the events to come."

King added that the run will give those people who are coming as spectators a chance to feel part of the athletic activities by participating in a non-competitive event for fun.

Christopher Street Financial and Pride Tours Inc. are major sponsors of the 1994 Lesbian and Gay Pride Run. Registration fees are \$10 by June 4; \$12 by June 17 and \$15 on the day of the race. Entry is free to PWA's. Runners may obtain registration forms by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Front Runners New York, Race Information, P.O. Box 87, Ansonia Station, New York, N.Y. 10023.

### Houston Outdoor Group

On March 13, campers from the Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) spent two nights at Lake Ratliff in the Davy Crockett National Forest about two and one half hours from Houston, canoeing and kayaking on the serene lake. The Dogwood trees were in full bloom under the tall pines, enthused members reported.

Among other activities, the group

held its March social at a member's condominium in Galveston, attended by 15 members.

Scheduled activities for April include a camping trip to Enchanted Rock State Park April 22-24; the monthly social, to be held at the country home of two HOG members in Conroe; and horseback riding on April 30.

The Houston Outdoor Group welcomes new members. Persons interested in camping, hiking and other outdoor activities may call the group's message line (dial KAMPOUT) to receive a complimentary HOG newsletter.

### Outdoor Skate

Lambda Rollerskating Club will hold an outdoor skate this Sunday, April 10, weather permitting. Meet at 1:00 p.m. in Memorial Park (100 Picnic Lane); look for the LRC banner. Skates may be rented at local shops. For more information, contact Keith, 933-5818 or Ray, 862-4875.

### Bowling Standings

Following are the weekly standings for the Houston Gay bowling leagues.

Houston Thursday Night Mixers: (1st) Luci's Loosie's; (2nd) Members Only, Not; (3rd) Cheaper Than Therapy. Men's High Scratch Game, 256, Gardy Harvey; Men's High Scratch Series, 615, Chris Bennett. Women's High Scratch Game, 210, Andrea Black; Women's High Scratch Series, 564, Andrea Black.

Summer League begins at Emerald Lanes on Boone Road on April 14. For information, call Mace Adams at 432-7239.

Montrose Monday Night Men's League, final standings for the winter league: (1st) B & W; (2nd) You Just Go Girl; (3rd) Leave It, it's Beaver. The Roll Off was won by Something Wicked This Way Comes; Manly Men With Balls came in second, and third place was taken by Here Kitty Kitty II.

Summer League begins at Fairlanes Southway, April 18. For more information, call Gardy Harvey at 641-5424.

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The run-off race for Texas Senate District 6 is critical to the lesbian and gay community. Our community deserves a Senator who can effectively work with fellow legislators to finally repeal Texas Penal Code 21.06. I strongly and unequivocally believe that Mario Gallegos, Jr. is the only Senate candidate who can fulfill a long overdue commitment. Mario's vision for a better Texas includes lesbians and gay men. His compassion for caring wants to see an end to the cancers that affect both men and women. That's why I'm endorsing Mario Gallegos, Jr. for Texas Senate District 6.

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**Linda Morales**

(Morales et. al. - 21.06 lawsuit)

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## Plaintiff may not live to collect jury's \$179,000 award, some say

(Continued from Page 1)

"The bottom line is, the jury gave Lawrence White a piece of paper that says, (Roberts) owes you \$179,000," Barnich said. "I doubt that he will ever see any of the money."

Roberts maintains she is broke.

Roberts' lawyers said she did not deny spending the funds, some on items that White wanted and the rest on herself, for such items as jewelry, clothing and antiques. But they maintained that she understood the money was a "gift."

She also stated in court that White left her home voluntarily. He would not now be destitute and living on charity, she said, "if he had only stayed with me."

Even as she was spending White's money, Roberts filed bankruptcy in federal court, reportedly under a phony Social Security number.

Though initially involved, Barnich said he purposely decided to "lay low" and let others handle White's

case because Roberts had tried to blame the lawsuit on a conflict between her foundation and Gay community organizations over AIDS funding, and had accused him of instigating the flap.

White's foundation runs the only AIDS housing facility in the city for women and children, and she is currently under investigation by the State Attorney General's office over complaints that she also misused the foundation's funds for her personal gain. A former foundation board member has raised charges that Roberts stacked the charity's board with family members.

In White's case, Barnich said, Roberts violated "a specific criminal statute" by misusing the funds entrusted to her. However, he noted, District Attorney Johnny Holmes has said he knows of no criminal investigation of Roberts over that violation or the allegedly fraudulent bankruptcy action.



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## From California to Stonewall, Pride is a long journey

*YOURS TRULY IN A SWAMP*

By LEONARD EARL JOHNSON

*Houston Voice/New Orleans*

It truly is our own chains that bind us. We have come far, dragging our chains when we couldn't loosen them, tossing them off when we could.

In 1970, fresh from college and living in "the emerald city on the hill": San Francisco, the Lesbian/Gay mecca, I wrote an article for the Berkeley newspaper, *Gay Sunshine* (now a publishing house by the same name). It was about a documentary film released for the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

The film was short, amateurish, and splendid. It heralded news of far away battles, and victory's sweet success over effete East Coast oppression—something about which the Golden State felt famously superior.

At the film's end, a Dachshund trotted along on a leash, sporting a saddle sign reading, "Me Too!" In that *Gay Sunshine* article, I wrote of this and noted for the first time in print that I was also gay and proud of myself. It was a nascent half truth. It was one chin loosened.

A fellow cross-country tripping hippie took a stack of those *Gay Sunshines* back to Illinois and sold them on the campus of my alma mater. I was horrified. My God, my teachers would see it! My old friends would see it! The Italian hunk would see it! And they will all know!

Of course, they had always known. All that happened was that I gave permission to those who care to have it to let me know they knew. One chain gone. That was good for my head, "The Looking Glass Self"

out of the Psychology 101 classroom and into the real world.

It is now 25 years since the Stonewall Riots. We have all come a long, long way. President Bill Clinton speaks the once unspeakable on television, telling the nation it is OK to have queer children, OK to be queer. In the 1960's President Lyndon Johnson told the press he couldn't have been more surprised when learned his top aide Walter Jenkins was Gay than if "Lady Byrd had shot the Pope." Jenkins was arrested in a D.C. toilet by policemen whose daily job was to sit in a stall secretly watching other men pee, a practice still cherished by some in law enforcement.

Today most American cities have Gay Pride activities, even little Illinois town where I went to college. New Orleans, Louisiana, as Southern and slow to change as any place, has one of the largest. It is a month long with an emphasis on community education. The Crescent City has revised its civil rights laws to include sexual orientation. And Louisiana's Governor Edwin Edwards signed an "Executive Decree" forbidding sexual-orientation discrimination in state hiring, or from anyone contracting with the state (this includes the Nevada gambling giants contracting with the state (this includes the Nevada gambling giants contracting for the much heralded New Orleans Casino).

We have come a long way, and we do have a long way to go.

A few years ago, in this column, the great entertainer and activist, Lynn Lavner said, "Coming out, being proud of ourselves, is not a fixed position. It is an ever, ongoing process." The first step of which will start you on an odyssey not to be missed in this life time. Speed the day!



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### IKEA launches ad featuring gay couple

By WAYNE WOOLLEY  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, April 1 (AP)—Swedish furniture chain IKEA helped build its image with its advertising slogan: "It's a big country. Someone's got to furnish it."

Now, the company hopes to reflect the country's diverse lifestyles with four new commercials, one of which features a gay couple.

"This is just the next logical progression," said Mark Sciumeca, marketing director for WHY-TV in Philadelphia and a former commercial network marketing executive.

IKEA, which has 12 stores in the United States and 118 worldwide, first aired the ad featuring the couple on Wednesday evening on stations in four major markets: New York, Houston, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

The company believes the spot, which shows two men shopping for a dining room table may be the first televi-

sion spot used by a mainstream advertiser depicting gays.

"The campaign not only illustrates diverse lifestyles ... it reflects what's common to all of us: commitment to a relationship, the importance of family, and making a house a home," said Peter Connolly, the company's marketing director.

IKEA has operated in the United States for the past 10 years. Industry observers say the privately held company's U.S. sales are about \$400 million a year.

The commercial shows the men shopping for the table at IKEA and sitting at their new table at home. They do not say they are gay or discuss their lifestyle. They do, however, allude to a committed relationship.

"You know, we went to IKEA because we thought it was time for a serious dining room table," one of the men says.

"We have slightly different tastes," the other says, add-

ing that they met at his sister's wedding.

While the campaign is not the first to depict gay and lesbians, it's likely the first to do so on television, said Larry Gross, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communications.

Gross said most advertisements depicting gays have been confined to newspapers, magazines and billboards. He applauded IKEA's decision to use a medium with a larger audience.

"It's a good thing. It's part of what you might call the standard procedure of social change in America," Gross said. "The commercial world is the barometer of the social change."

The advertisement was created by Deutsch Inc. as part of IKEA's ongoing "Lifestyles" campaign. Three other commercials in the series have shown a couple preparing for retirement, a

divorced woman and an adopted child.

"The campaign acknowledges the emotional importance that goes into purchasing decisions and communicates that IKEA understands its consumers' needs and can fulfill their dreams," said Donny Deutsch, the agency's chief executive.

IKEA believes consumers were ready for their message.

"We don't think it's taking a chance to use a gay couple in 1994," Connolly said.

But he added that the company recognizes the sensitivity, "since a consumer cannot choose when a television commercial comes into their home as they can with a television show."

For that reason, the ads are not aired before 10:00 p.m., he said.

Connolly says reaction has been positive. All four network affiliates in Philadelphia have run the ad all week. Three said it drew no response.

Tom Kane, president and general manager of the fourth, ABC affiliate WPVI-TV, said his sales department has averaged about five calls a day from people calling to complain.

"It's nothing real heavy," Kane said. None of the callers could specify their problem with the ad other than to say they don't like it "because you've got gays in them. It's nothing deeper than that."

Sciumeca believes that while consumers in the largest markets may be ready for gays in ads, he doesn't think most corporate advertisers are.

"IKEA has been a missionary company with all their advertising; they're innovative and with the image they have created," said Sciumeca.

"You're not going to see an American mass marketer, with a product in all 50 states embrace this approach," he said. "I think there's a lot of companies with boards of directors who would be howling if they tried this."

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# The group auditioning for Pride production; GMCH announces 15th anniversary concert; 'Tommy' cast members at benefit

## ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

The Group (Theatre Workshop) will conduct auditions for "Closets: A Stonewall Celebration" on April 11 and 12, Monday and Tuesday evenings at Stages Repertory Theatre. Stages is located at 3201 Allen Parkway. Audition times will be from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on both evenings.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, considered the beginning of the modern Gay rights movement, The Group will present an original production by Houston writers which will consist of ten 10-minute pieces, dealing with gay and lesbian lifestyles.

Joe Watts, director, will conduct auditions and is looking for 5 females between the ages of 25 and 50, 8 males between 25 and 60, and 1 Black male between 25 and 30. Auditions will consist of reading from the script.

The production will open in early June. For information, call Joe Watts at (713) 522-2204.

### Pride Concert

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is inviting to Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week celebrants to wrap up the week's activities in style by joining them for their 15th anniversary concert, titled "To Friends and To Life." Tickets from 10 to 20 dollars are now on sale for the July 2 gala celebration in the Wortham Center's Cullen Theater. Featuring the world premiere of a specially commissioned work by Artistic Director, John Michael Albert, the concert will showcase favorite selections from the chorus's colorful past.

GMCH is offering a special discount for group sales. Any organization ordering ten or more tickets will get



The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston will wrap up Pride Week festivities with their 15th anniversary concert

ten percent off the already low ticket prices. In addition, wheelchair access and special seating for

hearing impaired patrons is available at discount prices. For more information, or to order your group's tickets, call (713) 227-ARTS (227-2797) and ask to speak with Andy Dawson.

Chorus President Rex Gillit says, "We anticipate once again selling out the house, so it's recommended you order your tickets early." With the wide range of music, choreography and guest soloists on the program, "To Friend and To Life" should be an event not to miss. Individual tickets can be reserved by calling (713) 227-ARTS (227-2787), or any Ticketmaster outlet.

### "Tommy" Benefit

It's "A Miracle Cure" on Sunday night, April 10, immediately fol-

lowing the curtain of the spectacular rock musical, "The Who's Tommy," at Jones Hall. The cast will leave for opening curtain at Rockefeller, 3620 Washington, at 11:00 p.m. that same evening (doors to Rockefeller open at 10:00 p.m.) for a musical presentation to benefit AIDS Foundation Houston and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. The "Tommy" cast and musicians will perform some of their favorite songs from Broadway, pop and rock 'n' roll, rousing musical evening that will raise the roof of Rockefeller. The show's

The benefit is spearheaded by cast member, Michael Tapley, who is a native of Houston. Tapley graduated from the High School For The Performing and Visual Arts and the Humphrey's School of Musical Theater. After doing 38 shows for Theater Under The Stars, he made his directorial debut there last year.

Admission is a \$15 donation at the door. For further information call Rockefeller at (713) 861-8925.

## San Francisco TV-radio outlet to offer health insurance to domestic partners

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, March 31 (AP)—KQED Inc. will make health insurance accessible for partners of its employees, regardless of marital status or sexual orientation, the company announced.

KQED, which runs local public television and radio stations, cur-

rently allows married employees to purchase health coverage for their spouses.

The new policy, announced by KQED on Thursday, will allow employees to purchase policies for their domestic partners. It will be available May 1.

"It is a question of parity in the ben-

efits we offer; we are pleased that we have been able to obtain these benefits for all our employees. I know it has been important to the staff for a number of years," said Marry Bitterman, KQED's president and chief executive.

The domestic partners insurance was arranged with KQED's two carriers, Blue Cross and Kaiser, the

company said.

The new policy requires interested employees to sign a confidential affidavit of spousal equivalency stating they have been in a relationship for at least six months.

"We have been working with the human resources department for

years to find a way to make this happen," said Carol Pierson, KQED's radio production director and co-chair of the company's Gay and Lesbian Staff group.

"We are proud that the benefits are available to all employees and see this as another step forward in KQED's proactive, non-discrimination policy," she added.

Elect  
**BRIAN A. QUINTERO**  
DISTRICT 148  
State Representative

Pol. adv. paid for by Brian A. Quintero Campaign, Helen Quintero, Treasurer, 3411 Irvington, Houston, TX 77009, (713) 691-7464.

Houston Voice Readers:

I am in the April 12 Runoff for the open State Representative District 148 seat. The District includes Sixth Ward, First Ward, Lindale Park, Near Heights, Timbergrove and Spring Branch. GLPC did not endorse in the primary, and endorsed my opponent at a special Executive Committee meeting. Although I did not receive the GLPC endorsement, I am friendly to your concerns. I ask for your vote and support.

I am an attorney/mediator, and a graduate of Rice University and U.T. Law School. My law practice focuses on wills and probate, so I am uniquely in touch with issues in this community. I have volunteered many years with schools, churches, civic clubs and indigent legal clients. I was a houseparent at the original Avondale House. I worked in the Texas Legislature for progressive representatives and the Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

For years, I have seen friends, relatives and clients suffer from AIDS and breast cancer; no one with a heart can watch an AIDS or cancer death and not be compelled to push for increased health research and care. I believe in privacy and personal choice, and support repeal of the sodomy statute. I am proud to be endorsed and supported by gays and lesbians in my community and politics, including Linda Morales and Ray Hill.

I have been true to GLPC on my pledges. Working and practicing law in the community for years has given me the insight to keep an open door and mind on matters.

On April 12, I hope that you will vote for BRIAN A. QUINTERO. PUNCH #14 on your ballot. THANKS!

Paid Pol. Adv. by Brian A. Quintero Campaign, Helen Quintero, Treas. 3411 Irvington, Houston, Texas 77009 (713) 691-7464

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Eight Ball Tournament 5pm  
Boy Toy Dancers 5pm - 9pm  
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Boy Toy Dancers 6pm - 10pm  
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THURSDAY  
Boy Toy Dancers 5pm - 1am

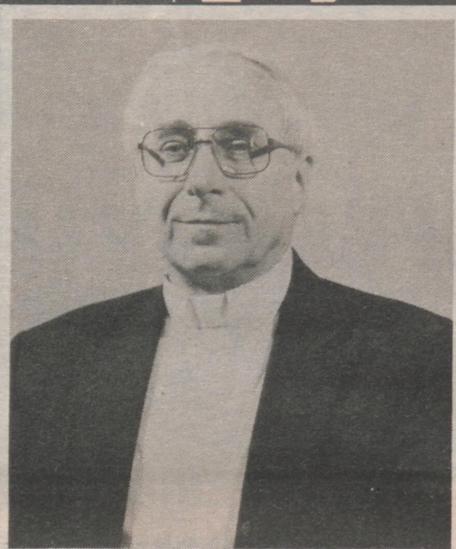
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**Rev. Ralph Lasher**

was an Episcopal priest who was asked to resign from the church 35 years ago after he announced he was gay. He is Executive Director of Houston's Montrose Clinic and serves as a member of the pastoral staff at MCCR. Rev. Lasher last year was published in the *Texas Observer* and recently had an article in the new *Houston Out Smart* Magazine.



**One Day Seminar  
Saturday  
April 16th**

**9:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Please make reservations in advance by calling the church office at 861-9149. Attendees may bring a sack lunch or a box lunch will be provided by MCCR for a \$5.00 donation. (RSVP)

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'Suddenly Last Summer' this spring at Curtains Theater is a mixed blessing

**THEATER REVIEW**

By JAVIER TAMEZ  
*Houston Voice/Houston*

Tennessee Williams is arguably America's finest dramatist, and more often than not, his work drew on the suffering of women from his native South. One of his more eloquent, and metaphorical, plays is "Suddenly Last Summer," which is being presented at Curtains Theater through April 23rd. There is actually little action, so the success or failure of any production of this play lies squarely with the director's ability to evoke the necessary performances from his cast. And in this case, the results are mixed, though not displeasingly.

The first act of the work centers on Mrs. Veneble (Del Ellison), a stately matron who chafes at the slightest suggestion of impropriety and treasures the memories of her annual excursions with her son Sebastian. When the sanctity of those memories is threatened, Mrs. Veneble icily takes extreme measures to stop what she feels is the disparagement of Sebastian's character.

Mrs. Veneble summons a representative from a nearby mental health institute of national repute. Dr. Cuckrowitz (Jeff Mackey) is greeted by Mrs. Veneble with appropriate formality. Though she speaks around her intention (being blunt just isn't done), her designs become all too clear to the doctor. Mrs. Veneble says her niece, Catherine, is

suffering from delusions. To alleviate this problem and provide the young woman with some much needed rest, Mrs. Veneble wants an operation performed on Catherine.

Dr. Cuckrowitz, of course, responds that he cannot agree to surgery until he examines Catherine himself. To persuade him, Mrs. Veneble, again speaking in circles, informs him that she will be quite generous to the institution if the stories her niece is repeating are stopped. Interestingly enough, the word lobotomy is never mentioned.

The second act focuses on Catherine (Jackson Gay), who for her part, is all too aware of Mrs. Veneble's unhappiness with the story of Sebastian's last summer. Additionally, Catherine suffers the indignity of pressure from her mother and brother, both of whom have no wish to see Sebastian's will tied up in probate any longer than necessary. Katherine is reluctant to speak to Dr. Cuckrowitz and does so only after extensive petting and reassurances

from the doctor, and even then, it occurs only over continuing interruptions from Mrs. Veneble. Nonetheless, in an increasingly anxious manner, Catherine tells the story of what happened suddenly last summer.

The play is really two lengthy monologues with dashes of dialogue interspersed to keep the plot moving. Lucid recollections and rambling conveyance are commingled in a brilliantly structured fashion. Moreover, the monologues provide tremendous insight into Mrs. Veneble and Catherine.

Mrs. Veneble is marked as an unfettered aristocrat, a blindly loyal mother and a diabolical woman. She holds court in a garden enveloped in a shroud of serenity. The garden is analogous to the veneer that Sebastian maintained, reinforced by Mrs. Veneble's tragic myopia where her son is concerned. This single-mindedness of vision is Mrs. Veneble's greatest flaw. Although it is tempting to make allowances for a mother defending the reputation of her son, no matter how strident or ruthless her methods, it is impossible to defend the suffocation of truth. As such, Mrs. Veneble is an unsavory antagonist, sheathing daggers in silk.

Katherine's demeanor, on the other hand, is a study in wariness, fright and a surprisingly strong sense of will. She is terrified of her aunt and of the doctor, but she still clings to the truth, to the things she learned of Sebastian that summer, to the memory of the atrocity that ended his brief life. Despite the strain of family pressure and threats, Catherine steadfastly refuses to alter her story.

Because of the construction employed by Williams in the play, "Suddenly last Summer" is particularly dependent on the success of the female leads' characterizations. In Curtains' production this is accomplished soundly if unspectacularly.

Del Ellison has a sturdy, quirky presence as Mrs. Veneble. Though she does well at capturing the upper crust stiffness, she fails to relay the wry superiority of being and purpose with which Mrs. Veneble justifies her horrifying plan.

Likewise, Jackson Gay as Catherine does well enough in displaying Catherine's apprehension and angst, but she falls short of convincingly portraying the frantic sense of despair that erodes Catherine's strength of purpose.

The supporting cast is largely unnotable, though it should be mentioned that Mackey's performance is insufferably wooden and only serves to underscore his talent as a writer (which is considerable).

"Suddenly Last Summer" is one of Williams' strongest plays and though this production does not exactly confirm Curtains' self-proclaimed refocusing on its stated mission, it does offer proof that even the smallest of theaters can tackle weightier productions with comfortable results.



(L-R) Jackson Gay (Catherine), Del Ellison (Mrs. Veneble) and Jeff Mackey (Dr. Cuckrowitz) in "Suddenly Last Summer" at Curtains

## KAPOSI'S SARCOMA STUDY

A study is being conducted by the Jabboury Foundation For Cancer Research to assess the effect of low dose fluorouracil infusion with leucovorin modulation in AIDS related Kaposi's Sarcoma.

Please contact  
Lena Rogers, R.N., Clinical Director or  
Khaled Jabboury, M.D.  
at (713) 558-1171 for inquiries.

*Houston Ballet series has  
American flavor with soft  
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Artists of the Houston Ballet bring 40's sass to the fine arts in modernist choreographer Paul Taylor's "Company B" (Photo by Geoff Winningham)

### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

By JOHN REED

Houston Voice/Houston

Houston Ballet's springtime series, which continues its run through this weekend (ending April 10) is a treat tailor-made for fine arts patrons who are interested in dynamic new works and the increasingly popular trend of jazzy, experimental styles in the world of ballet.

Perhaps the most successful of the three-part program was the world premiere of "Touched" last Saturday. This new work by Houston Ballet's choreographer and costume designer is in four movements. In part, the dancers move in rhythm, using flashlights to illuminate parts of their bodies upon a darkened stage. The musical background was a number of Dave Brubeck's songs, which proved to be very melodic and pleasant listening. The dancers were very skilled in flowing smoothly to the 'soft' jazz music. This is one of the ballet pieces where all of the ingredients combined in a natural and honest manner to produce a fine sight and sound performance.

The second portion of the evening was the Houston premiere of James Kudelka's "Musings," which was set to Mozart's

Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in A Major. The musicians were placed on the stage but did not interact with the dancers. This music is excellent Mozart, but lacks the stage drama for a ballet. Seven dancers presented a dance form traveling through life and love in search for identity and purpose. This nebulous concept requires a bit more dramatic music to captivate and hold the audience's attention. The five musicians played very well and made the performance worthwhile from that standpoint alone.

The final portion of the Houston Ballet's program is "Company B," set to nine songs sung by The Andrews Sisters and choreographed by Paul Taylor. Nearly five decades have passed since some of these tunes were first heard over the airways. The music was a step back into time, supported by casual dress of the college age women and man of that time. The production reminded me more of a dance routine than a ballet. The dancing was lively and fast paced, featuring the polka, jitter bug, and "college" dance routines, a truly American-styled production.

Tickets for the Houston Ballet are available by telephoning (713) 227 ARTS. The current productions continue the high caliber of dance that artistic director Ben Stevenson, and his skilled staff have offered this year.

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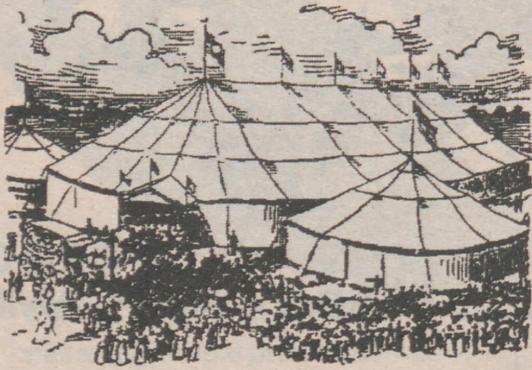
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# SPRING FESTIVAL

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## MCC announces class schedule; Bering Spring Festival is April 16

### QUICK NOTES

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) announced its Spring Educational Classes this week. The classes will be going through the end of May.

"The Road Less Traveled" is an eight week study, taught by Pat Boyd. The course is based on M. Scott Peck's best selling book of the same title. Fashioned "a new psychology of love, traditional values, and spiritual growth," this course is ideal for anyone who is feeling stuck in old and unproductive habits or ways of thinking. Class is Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the MCCR Library from April 5 through May 24. Cost is \$5/book \$10.

"Learning to Read Music" course will be held on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on April 10, 17 and 24. Cost: Free.

"Truth and Myth about P.M.S." This course is being taught by Dr. Maribel Aquilera. In the class she will address Pre-Menstrual Syndrome, how to identify it and how to understand it. Classes will be held Mondays on April 11, 18 and 25. Cost: \$5.

"Stress Management" is a 5-week course taught by Dr. Chuck Perroncel. He will lead the class through experience guided imagery and self hypnosis and learn some fundamental breathing exercises and systematic relaxation techniques. Classes will be held Mondays on April 11-25 and May 2 and 9th. Class will be from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the cost is \$5.

"Old Testament Survey/Overview" is part of the Abundant Life Bible study program at MCCR and will be held on Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. from April 6 through May 25. The cost is \$5 for the study materials.

"Homosexuality and the Bible; In God's Name—God, Gays and the Bible" this year will be a 1-day seminar on Saturday April 16th from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This class is being taught by the Rev. Ralph Lasher, M. Div., who has published articles in the "Texas Observer," "Out Smart" and other publications. This day-long educational seminar will give you and understanding of how sexuality was viewed in ancient and biblical times; how homophobia colors modern translations of the Bible; and how gays and lesbians can find help and hope in the Bible for reclaiming their own spirituality. Due to the popularity of this class, early registration is suggested. You may bring a

sack lunch or box lunches will be available for \$5 but a RSVP is required.

"True Colors" a psychological look at your true colors. Taught by Kay Van Cleave. Mondays, May 16 and 23 only at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.

"Money Management—Getting Control of your Spending" will be taught by John Lehey and Sharon Nazarian who are Personal Financial Planners with IDS, a division of American Express. Class will be only on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.

"Retirement Planning—Don't Wait, Do It Now" will be taught by John Lehey and Sharon Nazarian who are Personal Financial Planners with IDS, a division of American Express. Class will be only on Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.

All the classes offered through Resurrection Education are open to everyone. You do not have to be a member or friend of MCCR to participate in these programs. We invite and encourage every interested person to attend faithfully, regardless of church affiliation, faith preference or the ability to pay. We will gladly accept any financial donation but we also offer full or partial scholarships as needed. For more information about the classes or about other programs at MCCR please call the church office at (713) 861-9149.

### Bering's Spring Festival

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church will hold its 44th annual Pancake Breakfast and Spring festival on Saturday, April 16, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. under a circus big top at 1440 Harold Street in Montrose. The \$5 all-you-can-eat breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns and fresh fruits. Besides entertainment provided by local musicians, there will be a puppet show for the kids, a church wide rummage sale, a car wash, and a raffle with prizes including a trip for two to Hawaii, Las Vegas, and two round trip airline tickets.

Outreach programs of Houston's Bering Memorial Methodist Church today serve over 3000 people with HIV. Bering is a "Reconciling Congregation" of the United Methodist Church, one of several across the country practicing a policy of inclusive membership and outreach. The neighboring community is invited to the festival to find out about the many activities of the church, a Houston institution for over 145 years, organizers said. For tickets or additional information contact the church office, (713) 526-1017.

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# Hawaii state senator pushes for vote on same-sex marriage ban bill

By BRUCE DUNFORD

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

HONOLULU, Monday, April 4 (AP)—Sen. Rick Reed failed again Monday in his attempt to yank the controversial bill to ban same-sex marriages out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, but says he'll continue the effort.

The Senate voted 20-4 against Reed's motion, leaving him five votes shy of the nine needed under Senate rules to pull a measure from a committee for a vote by the full Senate.

Reed said he'll keep making that motion each day this week, hoping to build pressure for the committee to send the House-passed bill to the floor.

Reed failed in a similar effort last Thursday when Sen. James Aki failed to make a second to Reed's motion in time. Voting with Reed and Aki were Republicans Mary George and Stan Koki.

Judiciary Committee Chairperson Rey Graulty says he does not have sufficient votes to advance his version of the bill because the members are deadlocked on the issue.

Friday is the deadline to move the measure in time to have it acted upon this year.

In making his motion, Reed urged the senators to abandon their rigid loyalty to Senate President Norman Mizuguchi and let the matter come to a vote.

He likened such loyalty to a Nazi soldier's to Adolph Hitler.

Sen. Donna Ikeda later criticized Reed's remarks, saying he had moved away from the merits of doing something about the issue to name calling.

Sen. Anthony Chang said he considered Reed's complaints about the failure of the Judiciary Committee to act to be disingenuous.

As a member of the committee, Reed should have worked harder on getting the differences over the bill resolved in the committee, Chang said.

Lawmakers are seeking to nullify a state Supreme Court ruling last year that the state's denial of marriage licenses for couples of the same gender was unconstitutional unless the state could show a compelling state interest to do so.

While a majority of lawmakers support the continued ban on same-sex marriages, they differ on how to go about it.



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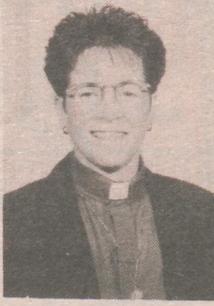
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## ASK THE PASTOR



Q: "What do you know about a psychotherapy program called 'A Course in Miracles' recently popularized by Marianne Williamson's book, *A Return to Love*?"

A: Now that I have laid the ground work for understanding New Age thought, let me say that the program is heavily steeped in New Age thinking. To give you a history of how this course came about and a review of its contents, let's begin with a quote from Kenneth Wapnick. He claims to be a Catholic Christian. He is a believer in the Course and has taken this new bible and interpreted it for the masses in a number of bestselling books. He was interviewed in 1987 by the SCP Journal. Here Wapnick frankly admitted that: "The Course is not compatible with Biblical Christianity. There are three basic reasons. One is the Course's idea that God did not create the world. The second is the Course's teaching that Jesus was not the only Son of God. The third involves the Course's assertion that Jesus did not suffer and die for our sins."

The origin of A Course in Miracles" is undisputed. In the mid-1960's, a Jewish, atheist psychologist named Helen Schucman, a professor from a university in the state of New York, claimed that a spirit entity began to send her visions and speak to her mind. Asked who this spirit was, Schucman revealingly exclaimed "It said it was Jesus." The Voice (as she called it) told Schucman to "take notes," that she was to give a profound teaching to the world.

For almost ten years Helen Schucman dutifully took down the notes of the Voice inside her brain. The results were published in 1975, and by 1980 over 60,000 sets of books had been distributed—without benefits of media advertising and mainly on the basis of recommendations by enthusiastic students of the course.

Although a do-it-yourself New Age course, A Course in Miracles is also now being taught in many New Age churches throughout America as well as Europe. Its influence is especially deeply felt in Unitarian churches and such New Age-oriented denominations as the Church of Religious Science, Unity, and others. The Course comes in three volumes which sell for about \$30. Volume I, the principal text, has 622 pages. Volume II, a workbook for students, is 478 pages in length. There is also a Manual for Teachers (88 pages). This is really a set of teachings promoting the basic premises of Hinduism and Buddhism, but it is deceptively presented in Western terminology and does not easily give itself away as a doctrinal Hindu/Eastern Mystical text. Indeed, it comes across as a very holy and loving text which promises peace and contentment for its students. Those who are unfamiliar with the Holy Bible and have rejected traditional Christian doctrines are almost sitting ducks for A Course in Miracles because of the seductive nature in which it presents its teachings.

I would like to take a few weeks to look more extensively at the teachings of A Course in Miracles and see how it compares to the truth of the Bible.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THEM ADDRESSED BY REV. JANET PARKER, PLEASE WRITE TO: MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX 77266-7032**

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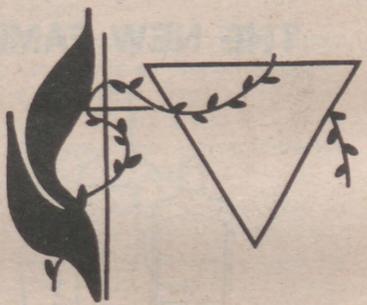


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### Three-quarters of Denver mayor's gay, lesbian advisory panel has quit

DENVER, Wednesday, March 30 (AP)—A lack of direction and political and emotional turmoil over the anti-gay rights Amendment 2 are some of the reasons Denver Mayor Wellington Webb's gay and lesbian advisory committee has all but disbanded, according to former members.

In the last six months, a majority of the committee's members have resigned, leaving behind only four of its original 17 members.

Formed in Feb. 1992, the panel was sup-

posed to serve as a forum for Webb aides, who wanted easy access to citizen responses.

The gay and lesbian advisory committee successfully improved relations between the Denver Police Department and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, which operates an anti-violence hotline, said former member Sue Anderson.

"Then Amendment 2 hit, and our movement got so traumatized and scattered, that it played out on the committee," she said.

Several former members said Webb met infrequently with the panel, but they do not blame him for the committee's demise.

"In my opinion, it lacked direction," said Denver attorney Mary Celeste, who resigned at the end of last year. "It didn't have a focus or an agenda. We got a little sidetracked with the Amendment 2 issue."

Celeste, one of the lawyers who fought successfully to overturn Amendment 2 in court, said the committee's failure could lead to progress.

"Sometimes you've got to have breakdown before you have a breakthrough—this is just another level of breakthrough," she said.

Tina Scardina of the Mayor's Office of Citizen Response is now reworking the structure of the advisory panel and hopes to have it back on track by June. She said new members will be appointed by the mayor, who has vowed to meet quarterly with the committee.

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## Sprited Houston Pops performance highlighted by Peter Nero's piano skill

### MUSIC REVIEW

By JOHN REED

Houston Voice/Houston

Houston Pops' Easter weekend offering for Voice readers was the piano artistry of Peter Nero. Conducting and accompanying the Houston Pops Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Nero impressed a near sell out audience, taking familiar popular songs and varying the tempo, key, and meter to provide a wonderfully varied program. I will admit that there were moments when I was unable to discern what the song was that was being played, but I was never far from being amazed at his keyboard skill.

The orchestra was well rehearsed and seemed to have no difficulty in entering at the correct moment in time. They seemed to enjoy the music as much as the audience did. The program featured Mr. Nero in all of the selections and went over the listed length of time, giving to the audience a generous amount of music to enjoy that evening.

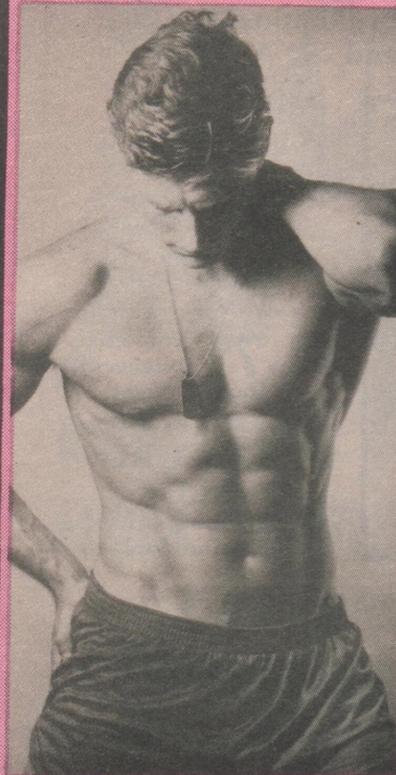
The rendition of "Summer of '42" was the highlight of the concert for this reviewer because it was played somewhat slower and less stylized than other selections, and of course, is permanently associated with Peter Nero. This song represented a million

selling gold "single." (This film of 1971 is available on video at this time, and the music is as fresh and as interesting as it was two decades ago).

Mr. Nero was skillfully accompanied by bassist, Michael Barnett, and on drums, Steve Pemberton. As versatile as electronic instruments are in this day of modern music, the traditional non-amplified bass is still a more realistic sounding instrument than its electronic counterpart. Other songs of special note included "Memories" by Andrew Lloyd Weber, "Isn't She Lovely" and "For Once in My Life" by Stevie Wonder, and the Beatles classic, "I Want to Hold Your Hand." Cole Porter music from "Kiss Me Kate" was also featured, including a well played bassoon solo. A Richard Rodgers medley was one of the selections that was overly embellished, and a number of the songs were barely understood for title. The concert was ended with a Mozart-styled, "Yellow Rose of Texas" that was surprisingly successful and a clear hit with the Houston audience. The next and final performance of the POPS series will be over the weekend of May 6 and feature The Glenn Miller Orchestra. Tickets may be reserved by dialing (713) 224-7575.

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## AIDS research: the story so far

By STEVE WARREN

### TELEVISION REVIEW

"And the Band Played On 2" might have been a sexier title than "AIDS Research: The Story So Far," but there could have been some copyright problems; and besides, Jon Palfreman's documentary isn't airing during a sweeps period, but Tuesday, April 12 over many stations.

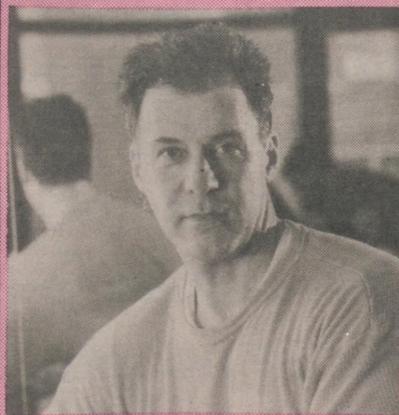
"I know that there are drugs out there that can save my life, and I want to know why they're not being tested more quickly," the late Vito Russo says in a familiar clip. This program presents some answers to his question, along with animation (by Jed Schwartz) that shows how the HIV virus works in the body and mutates to resist AZT and other

drugs.

The big question is why, after 13 years and nearly \$10 billion, we still have no vaccine or cure for AIDS. This being a polite overview that allows both activists and conservatives to be heard, it's pointed out that AIDS prevention has been possible since 1985, if people would modify their behavior.

There are no late-breaking news stories on the program, nothing that will surprise anyone who keeps up with HIV news in this and other publications. No hope is given on the cure front, only progress in the study of protease inhibitors that might, in combination with AZT and other drugs, prolong life for decades.

After a lengthy explanation of why it's so difficult to find a vaccine against "the most formidable microbe in history," we're



Larry Sharpe is one of the "long term survivors" followed in "AIDS Research: the story so far" on PBS

introduced to the work of Dr. Ronald Desrosiers, who discovered an HIV-like disease in monkeys and developed a vaccine to prevent it. It's made from an attenuated form of the live virus, which seems the most promising course to follow.

Concurrently, the Australian discovery of a reverse "Patient Zero" seems to offer human confirmation. Six people infected with HIV a decade ago by transfusions from the same person have all remained healthy. So has the donor, who was found to have an attenuated form of HIV.

But getting approval for tests on humans is a problem, with Dr. Anthony Fauci not uncharacteristically representing the biggest stumbling block. It may not be P.C. to test a live virus on humans without know-

ing the potential side effects, but there are plenty of volunteers willing to take the risks.

There are also Third World countries being decimated by HIV. Some are so poor they can't afford aspirin, let alone an annual bill of \$10,000 per capita for AIDS drugs. With their populations said to be 100 percent at risk for HIV infection, informed consent shouldn't be too hard to obtain.

Yes, there are ethical questions; but as Martin Delaney, director of Project Inform, says, "There's also an ethical question of not taking advantage of opportunities."

"AIDS Research: The Story So Far" isn't terribly optimistic, but it does a good job of clarifying some issues and should stimulate more debate and action.

## Oregon State University's housing plans for gays, unmarried couples draws fire

CORVALLIS, Ore., Saturday, April 2 (AP)—An Oregon State University proposal to allow homosexual and unmarried couples to live in a campus family housing complex has drawn protests from some of the residents.

A petition signed by 72 tenants of the 94-unit Orchard Court complex said unmarried couples don't fit the definition of "family." The document was presented Thursday to assistant housing director Terri Tower.

"Family student housing is by definition for families," resident Tom LePage said.

The university has proposed offering

"domestic partners" benefits and services currently available to spouses of employees or students, including access to recreational facilities, tickets to athletic events and student family housing.

The proposal defines a domestic partnership as "a committed relationship between two persons, regardless of gender ... who share responsibility for the common welfare and financial obligations of each other."

The policy has been in the works for years, and is similar to those already in place at Harvard, Yale, the University of Minnesota, Columbia University and elsewhere, said Stephanie San-

ford, Oregon State's director of affirmative action.

Oregon State proposes requiring tenants to prove the existence for at least six months of two of the following:—Joint ownership of a bank account, credit account or car.—Joint housing mortgage or lease.—Health-care power of attorney assigned by one partner to the other.—Designation of a partner as the beneficiary of life insurance or retirement benefits.—Designation of a partner as primary beneficiary in a will.

Family housing residents opposed to the policy said the requirements are too loose, opening the complex to room-

mates and others not in a committed relationship.

"The family housing is discriminatory—but for a purpose. As a society, we realize that without children, we have no future," said LePage. "People are competing for limited assistance."

Sanford responded that few people have taken advantage of such policies at other universities. She estimated 50 to 100 additional people might be interested and qualify for family housing at Oregon State under the policy.

The family housing complex currently has a waiting list of two to five years.

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## Lutheran Gay minister, dying of AIDS, criticizes church stand on homosexuals

GRAND FORKS, N.D., Monday, March 28 (AP), The Rev. Phil Knutson, who is dying of AIDS, told friends at a Palm Sunday service about his lifelong struggle with his homosexuality and criticized the church for forbidding homosexual ministers.

"You and your kids have said that I have done what I was supposed to do as a minister for Christ," he told a tearful crowd at Christus Rex Lutheran Center in Grand Forks.

Knutson wrote a letter Jan. 4 to his former ministry telling them that he is a homosexual and that he has AIDS.

Knutson, 56, tested HIV-positive seven years ago. He got sick around Thanksgiving and now is exhausted. He was recently released from a Chicago hospital where he was treated for pneumonia.

"I am the only practicing homosexual openly on the clergy roster" of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, said Knutson. He is on disability leave.

Knutson said telling friends and colleagues that he is gay has been very freeing. He hid his homosexuality so he could keep his job.

"The first half of my life was spent denying my attraction to my own sex," he said in the January letter. "I dated women, came close to marriage twice, thought I would be OK and straight if I was married, fought against my fanta-

sies and my dreams."

Knutson said he was "as bad as anyone" with telling jokes about gays.

"All because society, and especially the church, said that kind of sexual identity was wrong. So I tried to obey! But it didn't work."

Knutson said the stress of living a clandestine life was terrible. "No one would choose this lifestyle."

In his sermon Sunday, Knutson lambasted the church for its stand against gay ministers.

He said he's received letters of comfort from people across the country. He said the biggest compliment he's had is in letters saying "because of you, I worship now and my kids worship."

Knutson was youth minister at United Lutheran Church in Grand Forks from 1964 to 1971. He tweaked the establishment by converting part of the building into a coffeehouse and allowing young people to play cards and listen to folk music in the church building.

Knutson is a former assistant director for National Lutheran Campus Ministry and also served as a campus pastor in Milwaukee and Madison, Wis.

Knutson said seeing his old friends Sunday was very comforting.

"In a way, I feel lucky that I know I'm going to die because I get all the good-bies," he said. "The rest of you won't hear these things until your funeral. You have given me great joy."

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## California court says Boy Scouts can bar gay leader

LOS ANGELES, Wednesday, March 30 (AP)—A new state appeals court ruling gives the Boy Scouts and numerous charitable organizations "free rein ... to exclude blacks and women and Jews," according to an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The court decided the scouts are not covered by California civil rights law and can bar homosexuals as scout leaders.

"The imposition of a leader who is an improper role model is a severe intrusion upon the First Amendment activities of an expressive association" like the Boy Scouts, said the 2nd District Court of Appeal in a 2-1 ruling. The court said disapproval of homosexuality was part of the scouts' moral code.

The ACLU lawyer, Jon Davidson, said Wednesday it is now more likely that the state Supreme Court will review the issue.

The court also said the Boy Scouts were a private membership organization, not a "business," and were therefore exempt from the state's Unruh Civil Rights Act, which forbids discrimination by businesses. That part of the ruling apparently allows the scouts to exclude gays or any other group as members.

Even if the scouts were a business, the court said, their constitutional right of freedom of association would override the state's interest in outlawing discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The ruling was issued Tuesday. It did not mention a decision last month by the 4th District Court of Appeal in Santa Ana that the Boy Scouts were a business and could not bar atheists as members.

the latest decision adopted "some of the most homophobic and stereotypical views of gay people," such as a statement by the majority that the acceptance of an avowed homosexual as scoutmaster would make boys "more likely to engage in homosexual conduct."

A lawyer for the Boy Scouts' Mount Diablo Council could not be reached for comment.

The case originated in 1981, when Timothy Curran, an 18-year-old former Eagle Scout, applied to be an assistant scoutmaster in the 13,500-member Mount Diablo Council in Contra Costa County. Curran had recently taken a male date to his high school prom and had described himself as a gay-rights advocate in a newspaper interview.

The council rejected him for the volunteer job and Curran sued after moving to Los Angeles. A judge ruled that his rejection was due solely to his homosexuality, and the appeals court ruled in 1983 that Curran could sue for discrimination.

After numerous procedural delays, the

case went to trial before Superior Court Judge Sally Disco. She ruled that the scout council was a business establishment but was entitled to exclude Curran in order to preserve its "belief system."

In the appeals court decision, Justice Fred Woods said the scouts were dedicated to "instilling values in young people" and were entitled to define those values.

None of the scouts' basic documents mentions homosexuality. But Woods said the Scout Oath, in which members pledge to be "morally straight," and other statements of principle had been consistently interpreted by the organization as expressing a view that homosexuality is immoral.

To require the scouts to admit an openly gay man as a leader would interfere with that message, undermine the credibility of the scoutmaster who counseled the troop on moral issues, and destroy crucial religious support for the scouts, Woods said.

He said representatives of the Catholic, Mormon and Methodist scouting programs, scouting's three largest religious sponsors, testified that they would withdraw their support if structures against homosexuality were dropped.

In concluding that the Boy Scouts were not a business, Woods drew a distinction between the scouts and a Boys' Club that was found to be a business in a 1985 state Supreme Court ruling. Unlike that club, which ran a gym and swimming pool open to all, the scouts operate a camp for members only and focus on personal relationships between the youths and their leaders, Woods said.

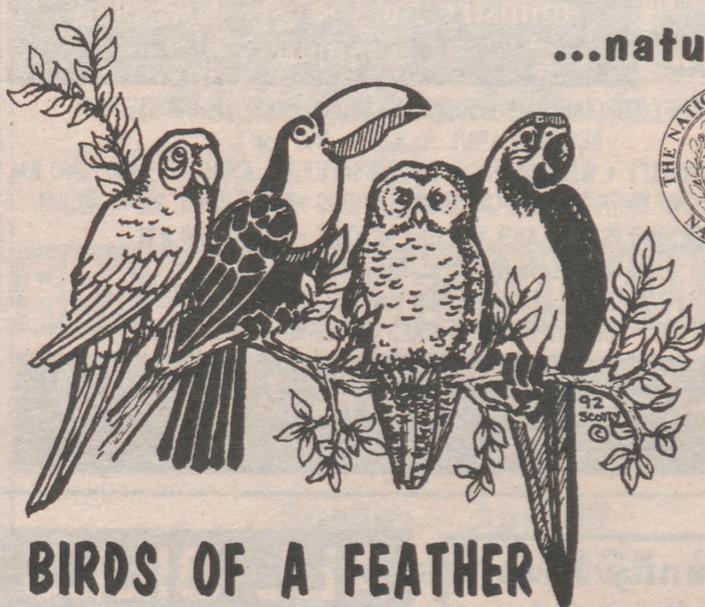
"The Unruh Act has never been extended to not-for-profit groups which neither have a business purpose nor offer a traditional public accommodation," Woods said. Even if the Unruh Act covered the scouts, he added, they would be entitled to choose volunteer leaders who "agree with (their) moral viewpoints."

Presiding Justice Mildred Lillie joined his opinion. Justice Robert Staniforth, a retired jurist assigned to the case, dissented, saying the court was allowing "blatant admitted discrimination against an individual because he openly declared his status as a homosexual person."

Whatever views scout leaders hold, the condemnation or exclusion of homosexuals is not a defined purpose of the organization and was not even shown to be an opinion held by the scouts themselves, Staniforth said. He also said the scout council had "significant business-like attributes," was "active in the world of commerce" and was covered by the Unruh Act.

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## New York judge grants injunction in suit challenging military's gay policy

NEW YORK, Monday, April 4 (AP)—A federal judge on Monday blocked the dismissal of six homosexual members of the military who filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The lawsuit alleged that the policy violates a homosexual's rights to free speech and equal protection under the law.

The injunction was sought after Petty Officer Robert Heigl, on active duty with the Coast Guard and a plaintiff in the case, was served with a notice of imminent discharge.

In explaining why he granted an injunction preventing the dismissal of Heigl and the other five plaintiffs, Judge Eugene Nickerson of U.S. District Court

in Brooklyn wrote: "The hardship to the six plaintiffs is evident and immediate. ... Their free speech rights to pursue this case will be chilled. They will be subjected to adverse action, including likely discharge from their chosen profession, on the basis of what substantial judicial authority has deemed unconstitutional discrimination."

The injunction is temporary, pending the outcome of the case. No trial date has been set.

The lawsuit was filed on March 7 on behalf of five men and one woman by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. Two of the six are on active duty in New York City; the rest are reservists.

Under President Clinton's policy on

homosexuals in the military, recruiters are not supposed to question men and women about their sexual orientation, and military officials are not supposed to conduct witch hunts for suspected homosexuals.

The lawsuit alleges that the new regulations are no better than the outright ban that preceded them.

"Today's ruling guarantees that these six individuals will be able to continue serving their country until we have the chance to prove that the law and regulations are unconstitutional," said William Rubenstein, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

The U.S. Justice Department did not return a call Monday seeking comment on the case.

Heigl, stationed at Governor's Island in New York Harbor, has been with the Coast Guard since 1988. The other plaintiff on active duty, Seaman Werner Zehr, enlisted with the Navy in 1991 and is assigned to Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island.

The other four plaintiffs are First Lt. Kenneth Osborn, a California Army reservist since 1986; Sgt. Steven Spencer, a nurse in the Army Reserve in Washington state who was on active duty from 1987 to 1990; Lt. Richard von Wohld, who was on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1979 until 1993, when he became a reservist in a California naval flight squad; and Lt. Col. Jane Able, the only one of the six plaintiffs to use a pseudonym, who commands an Army Reserve battalion and has 20 years in the service.



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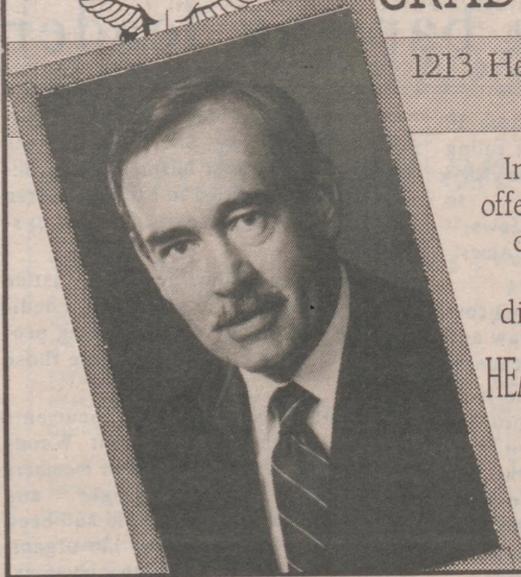
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## San Francisco officials welcome women from Mississippi camp

By RICHARD COLE  
 FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, April 1 (AP)—A lesbian couple who run a besieged Mississippi women's camp received an official welcome and widespread support during a fund-raising visit to San Francisco.

"We're here to meet with family—with liberal-minded gay, lesbian and straight America in a place where they understand that lesbians don't recruit, don't mark children, and don't cause the divorce rate to go up," said Brenda Henson.

In a meeting at City Hall, two lesbian San Francisco supervisors and a gay school board member praised Brenda and Wanda Henson for refusing to close Camp Sister Spirit in Overt, Miss. despite sometimes violent opposition.

Supervisor Susan Leal said the women's battle to overcome prejudice in Mississippi was a needed reminder for people living in the more tolerant San Francisco Bay area.

Gays and lesbians are still not protected in much of the country, the officials warned.

"It gives us a real different look at what we are in San Francisco and how fortunate we are," said Leal.

The two women, who consider themselves married and share a last name, made the visit to San Francisco in part to raise money for a generator and electric fence to stop intruders.

The 120-acre Camp Sister Spirit was initially welcomed in Overt, a rural commu-

nity of 400. But opposition grew when the facility openly received lesbian women for retreats.

Since then, the women have been shot at, repeatedly threatened and a dead dog was draped over their mailbox. They were even told to "go back to Africa," even though both women are white, said Wanda Henson.

Jones County Deputy Sheriff Myron Holifield referred to the women at the camp as "filth," and said children weren't safe while it remained open.

Attorney General Janet Reno offered to mediate the dispute, but local officials have declined, and residents filed suit to prevent federal intervention.

Brenda Henson, 48, said the visit to San Francisco is "like coming home."

Wanda Henson, 39, a native Mississippian, says she was overwhelmed by the group's warm welcome.

"To be here in a city that really cares means a lot to us," she said. "In Mississippi, we don't have one elected official who has spoken to represent us. It's quite a shame."

Despite Reno's efforts, violence is increasing against the camp, said Wanda Henson. But she vowed not to give up the fight.

"The next generation will have to walk this way," she said. "It's been like this forever."

The camp has been supported by feminist, gay and lesbian groups, which have held a series of Northern California fund raisers for the women.

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**RECYCLE**

*Colorado governor's hometown wary of big-city democrats despite native son's success*

HOLLY, Colo., Monday, March 28 (AP). A prophet in his own land he is not, but Gov. Roy Romer saw fit to announce his re-election bid in Holly, the southeastern Colorado hamlet that is his hometown.

Romer's success has earned him the respect of more than a few in Holly, but most residents are wary of anyone who cannot see things their way.

Many still remember how Romer opposed Amendment 2, the ballot measure banning anti-discrimination laws for homosexuals. Prowers County residents voted 4-1 in favor of the anti-gay rights measure.

"I don't know anybody here who would vote for him," said Blaine Ice, a horse trainer.

Holly, like most of eastern Colorado, has its share of conservative Christians who do not take kindly to metro-area politicians and their big-city agendas. Eight churches, two of them evangelical, dot the tiny town's landscape.

"A lot of the thinking here is black and white," said Bill Bruce, minister of the Methodist church where Romer announced his bid for a third term last Thursday. "There's not much gray."

Even so, Romer has received the support of Holly, despite its being the stronghold of Republican farmers.

The town's native son managed to beat GOP nominee Ted Strickland 2-1. In 1992, the ratio over John Andrews was 3-1.

"There's not too much criticism for a local boy," said Bill Lowe, a self-described staunch Republican and former GOP county chairperson.

But Bruce, a six-year resident of Holly, disagreed.

"It's one thing for the governor to remember his roots," he said. "But if he starts talking politics, I don't think there'd be much agreement at all."

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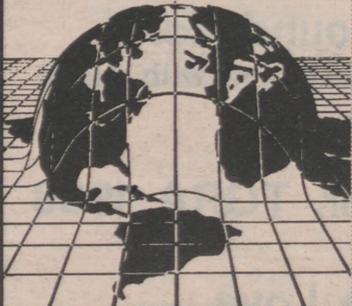
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## Ten members of Utah gay-rights group elected as Republican delegates

SALT LAKE CITY, Wednesday, March 30 (AP)—At least 10 members of the Utah Log Cabin Club, a Republican gay-rights organization, have been elected as delegates to state and county GOP conventions.

"The main goal is to get our party's ear, to let them know we're out here and who we are," said club President Chris Ryan, who was elected a delegate to the Salt Lake County GOP Convention. "It's a first step, a tiny one, but it's a start."

Parties elected thousands of delegates at neighborhood meetings held in voting dis-

tricts throughout the state. Democrats and Republicans each try to fill the slots for about 2500 state delegates.

Traditionally, gay and lesbian activists belong to Utah's minority party. The group Gay and Lesbian Utah Democrats has been active for several years.

"We'll fight against these people to the bitter end," said Gayle Ruzicka, president of the conservative Utah Eagle Forum. "They took us by surprise, but we'll be looking out for them now. ... They should support the platform, period. And if they don't, the party will rise up and do something about

it." State GOP officials do not discourage Log Cabin's efforts, said party chairperson Bruce Hough. But some do suspect the group is interested more in promoting an agenda than electing Republicans.

"This is paradoxical and makes no sense at all," says Hough. "If you want to be Republican, be Republican. But why set yourself apart? A person's sexual orientation has nothing to do with the politics of the Republican Party."

The 150-member state Log Cabin Club supports homosex-

ual rights including legal recognition of same-sex marriages and gays in the military, but the members tend to share their party's view on crime, abortion and parental choice on schools.

"I don't want conservative Republicans like Eagle Forum telling the state party what gays and lesbians are all about," said Ryan, a 28-year-old Navy veteran who volunteered for Sen. Orrin Hatch's re-election campaign.

The Utah group is one of 33 state chapters of the national federation, which has 8000 members. Ryan founded the state chapter in 1993, after the Clinton Admin-

istration compromised on its election promise to allow gays in the military by adopting the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Some Log Cabin members used a similar strategy to become Republican delegates Monday night.

"Nobody in my neighborhood meeting asked me about my sexual orientation or which clubs I belonged to," said Bruce Allen, a Log Cabin delegate to the Cache County GOP Convention. "I would have told anyone who cared to ask. But we were all more concerned about health care."

## New Hampshire church leaders clash over anti-discrimination bill

By NORMA LOVE  
 FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

CONCORD, N.H., Tuesday, March 29 (AP), Heterosexuals have a right to discriminate against homosexuals based on their religious beliefs, say opponents of legislation to bar discrimination due to sexual orientation.

Opponents questioned why heterosexuals should be forced to live near or work with sinners while supporters condemned all discrimination.

"To place one group of people over another is wrong," Romelle Winters of Kingston told a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing Monday in arguing against the bill.

"Imposing one's religious beliefs on another is not a basic right," responded House Judiciary Chairperson Elizabeth Lown, R-Amherst.

The hearing turned into a religious debate over whether homosexuals deserve the same civil rights protections as hetero-

sexuals.

Church leaders clashed over whether granting homosexuals government protections was following God's teachings or legitimizing sinners.

Opponents argued homosexuality is a chosen lifestyle and a sin.

"Your lifestyle will send you to hell," Norman Horion of Auburn told the homosexuals in the crowd of about 200.

Supporters countered that no one should be denied a job or roof over head solely due to sexual orientation. Few would choose a lifestyle scorned by so many, they added.

"All people are created in God's image and entitled to equal protection ... There is no reason to vote against this bill except to discriminate against people of homosexual orientation," said Bishop Douglas Theuner, head of New Hampshire's Episcopal Church.

"Some have called this a special interest bill. They are wrong," said Rep. William McCann, D-Dover, its prime sponsor.

"This bill simply provides basic human rights to the people of the state, no more, no less ... We are far better off when we love one another, not hate one another."

But Msgr. Francis Christian of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester said that while the diocese opposes discrimination, it couldn't support granting government protections to homosexuals.

That would give homosexuals an undeserved special status and elevate an immoral lifestyle to that of a role model, Christian said.

Franklin Pierce Law professor Marcus Hurn pointed out that the law already protects behaviors scorned by Catholics, such as divorce. The law prohibits discrimination based on marital status, he noted.

New Hampshire has no laws against homosexuality, but the state doesn't prohibit discrimination against gays in employment, housing and public accommodations as it does for children, the elderly, blacks, Catholics, the disabled and oth-

ers.

Supporters argue the bill is drawn narrowly since the state's anti-discrimination law exempts small family businesses, non-profit organizations, religious groups and organizations like the Boy Scouts. Landlords who rent rooms in their homes or a small apartment in a building they live in also are exempt.

Concord lawyer Charles Sheridan said landlords still would be able to take action against homosexual tenants who failed to follow apartment complex rules or town ordinances on public behavior.

Parents of homosexuals said there's no excuse for discriminating against their sons and daughters.

"Who can tell me two of my children aren't as equal under the law as my other three," said Betsy Janeway, president of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays of New Hampshire. Two of Janeway's children are homosexual.

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**'My Children! My Africa!': excellent, powerful drama at Theater LaB**
**THEATER REVIEW**

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

The scourge of apartheid is a wellspring of source material for artists who burn with rage at social injustice. One such example, one outstanding example, is "My Children! My Africa!" by Athol Fugard, being presented at Theater LaB Houston through April 23rd. The work is a masterful exploration of the conflict between tradition and social upheaval, between the politics of compromise and confrontation, and it is set in very personal proportions, bringing the scope of pride and prejudice on a national political level to the gut-wrenching level of human interaction.

The play is set in Camdeboo Township, South Africa, in autumn of 1985. We meet Mr. M (Ray Anthony Walker), a large, imposing man who glories in role as teacher, going beyond instruction to molding, channeling and challenging. For Mr. M education and his duty to teach are above all else.

A cooperative educational program between a white suburban school and a black township school brings Isabel Dyson (Rebecca Harris) to the attention of Mr. M. She is intelligent, articulate and pragmatic and debates with enough oratorical skill and inescapable rationale that she wins over the minds (and votes) of her opponent's class-

mates.

Her forensic rival is Thami Mbikwana (Adrian Cardell Porter). He matches Isabel's intellect and speaking skills, but where Isabel is practical, Thami is passionate.

In the two of them, Mr. M sees a strong, contending team for a nation-wide English literature contest. Both Isabel and Thami are eager to become partners and excited about the upcoming competition. Naturally enough, the two become friends, and thus Isabel learns that Thami actually feels a good deal of resentment, even anger, toward Mr. M. He bristles under the teacher's unbending expectations. Thami has a vastly different political outlook from Mr. M, and despite his strong sense of tradition, which keeps his tongue in check, Thami grows increasingly tired of the control Mr. M exercises over him.

The breaking point comes when Thami elects to participate in a school boycott led and organized by an anti-apartheid group. Breaking the news, first



(L-R) Adrian Cardell Porter (Thami), Rebecca Harris (Isabel) and Ray Anthony Walker (Mr. M) in "My Children! My Africa!" at Theater LaB.

to Isabel and then to Mr. M, Thami must defend his decision to forsake education for politics, except of course, Thami feels he is choosing liberty not politics. For Mr. M though, learning and teaching are sacrosanct and no other alternative is possible in his mind.

The resolute conflict between Thami and Mr. M takes on the expected analogous dimensions. Mr. M represents a stoic course that seeks through knowledge to change years of repression—an evolutionary approach that places more weight in education than confrontation as a path toward equality.

Fugard though somewhat

strips Mr. M of the ostensible nobility of his argument. The students are studying for an English literature competition. This could just as easily have been a science fair or a math contest, but by making the subject English literature, Fugard means to tie Mr. M to the imperialist forces that subjugated South Africa centuries earlier.

Thami is emblematic of more than the revolutionary call he so fervently embraces. He also symbolizes tribalism as much as tradition—a more vibrant but certainly harsher means of existence.

Isabel is the foreign element epitomized. She is unable to appreciate the angst and frustration and is far more inclined to take note of the waste.

The play is doubly good because so is the acting and directing. Ray Anthony Walker as Mr. M has a mellifluous foghorn voice that flows from imperious decree to rich persuasion to rolling anger. He performs with a strong, unerring confidence and it makes for a grand presence on stage.

Adrian Cardell Porter is definitely a young man who'll be

going places. As Thami he beautifully evinces the fervor that comes with belief in a cause and the milder, but still vivid, enthusiasm associated with anticipatory excitement. Porter does a great job.

Rebecca Harris is also terrific. She has a smoothly, detached composure that perfectly fits her character's English heritage. Moreover, Harris' delivery strikes resonant chords in all who have been bewildered and at a loss for action at the course taken by friends. She's super.

Director Alex Allen Morris has crafted superlative work. His actors are all excellent, and his staging is remarkably well-suited to the production, with hardly a wasted motion or an unrealized thought. Morris shows a talent for directing comparable to that of his acting.

Deborah Kinghorn served as the dialect coach for the production, and a long ovation to her for her exceptional work. None of the accents seemed the least bit false, due in no small part, I'm sure, to Kinghorn's coaching.

"My Children! My Africa!" is an exceptional play that meshes politics and personal conflict into a seamless story that reflects the greater tragedy of apartheid and the trauma that it brings into ordinary lives. This is what drama is all about, and with it Theater LaB is back on track.

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## Homosexuality creates rift between Florida shelter program, churches

TACOMA, Monday, April 4 (AP)—Some church groups involved in a homeless-shelter network say they can't set aside their religious views on homosexuality when they participate in the program.

"You could argue that if we're going to be loving and Christ-like, we should give a homosexual family shelter," said Jill Branham, coordinator of the homeless project at University Place Presbyterian.

"But when we do a network at our church, we have tons of our own children involved. ... Even if the parents feel, 'Yes, we can accommodate them even though we believe it's wrong,' they probably don't want their children exposed to that as something that's normal or OK."

The conflict arose about two months ago over a homeless homosexual couple and their three children, who entered the Interfaith Hospitality Network earlier this year.

They were sent to, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, but were asked to leave after one night.

Father Patrick Ritter, the parish priest, said the family didn't fit the guidelines as laid out by the network.

When sponsors came to his church seeking its participation, they played a videotape depicting only heterosexual couples, Ritter said. Thus, he felt this family violated what he calls the policies and procedures of the organization.

"Our trouble is not with gay couples or anyone else," he said. "Our problem is with the administration of Interfaith Hospitality Network, which we believe can be straightened out."

The network tries to pull churches and their congregations into the campaign to help the homeless. It started in Pierce County last fall, after nine churches and two private religious schools agreed to host families in some part of their church or school buildings.

Sponsors of the network plan to discuss the issue when the head of Associated Ministries, David Alger, returns from a 90-day sabbatical later this month.

Some of the leaders in the churches say they can't accept a homosexual couple living in their midst.

But Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County, which oversees Interfaith Hospitality Network, has a non-discrimination clause that explicitly bans unequal treatment of gay people.

Abraham Valencia, the gay man whose family stayed one night at St. Charles Borromeo, fears the network might not survive this turmoil.

"I really believe the majority of these people are really good and kindhearted, and they just stepped into the middle of a whirlwind," Valencia said. "It's just one or two people who are so arrogantly self-righteous that they are threatening the ultimate destruction of the network."

Besides St. Charles Borromeo and University Place Presbyterian, the network includes: Mason United Methodist; Visitation Catholic Church; Christ Lutheran Church in Lakewood; St. John's Lutheran Church; United Methodist in Lakewood and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Charles Wright Academy and Bellarmine Preparatory School are also in the network.

Meanwhile, the program is on hold until April 17, while it tries to recruit more churches, said network director Gloria Wiedenhoft. Without more host facilities, the program can't live up to its promise to the churches of only one group of families per quarter, she said.

The break has also given the network a chance to discuss its differences.

"Through dialogue and discussion and listening deeply to each and every party involved, I think we can arrive at a decision that is best for all concerned," said Jan Leng, acting director of Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County.

## Oregon State University's housing plans for gays, unmarried couples draws fire

CORVALLIS, Ore., Saturday, April 2 (AP)—An Oregon State University proposal to allow homosexual and unmarried couples to live in a campus family housing complex has drawn protests from some of the residents.

A petition signed by 72 tenants of the 94-unit Orchard Court complex said unmarried couples don't fit the definition of "family." The document was presented Thursday to assistant housing director Terri Tower.

"Family student housing is by definition for families," resident Tom LePage said.

The university has proposed offering "domestic partners" benefits and services currently available to spouses of employees or students, including access to recreational facilities, tickets to athletic events and student family housing.

The proposal defines a domestic partnership as "a committed relationship between two persons, regardless of gender ... who share responsibility for the common welfare and financial obligations of each other."

The policy has been in the works for years, and is similar to those already in place at Harvard, Yale, the University of Minnesota, Columbia University and

elsewhere, said Stephanie Sanford, Oregon State's director of affirmative action.

Oregon State proposes requiring tenants to prove the existence for at least six months of two of the following:—Joint ownership of a bank account, credit account or car.—Joint housing mortgage or lease.—Health-care power of attorney assigned by one partner to the other.—Designation of a partner as the beneficiary of life insurance or retirement benefits.—Designation of a partner as primary beneficiary in a will.

Family housing residents opposed to the policy said the requirements are too loose, opening the complex to roommates and others not in a committed relationship.

"The family housing is discriminatory—but for a purpose. As a society, we realize that without children, we have no future," said LePage. "People are competing for limited assistance."

Sanford responded that few people have taken advantage of such policies at other universities. She estimated 50 to 100 additional people might be interested and qualify for family housing at Oregon State under the policy.

The family housing complex currently has a waiting list of two to five years.

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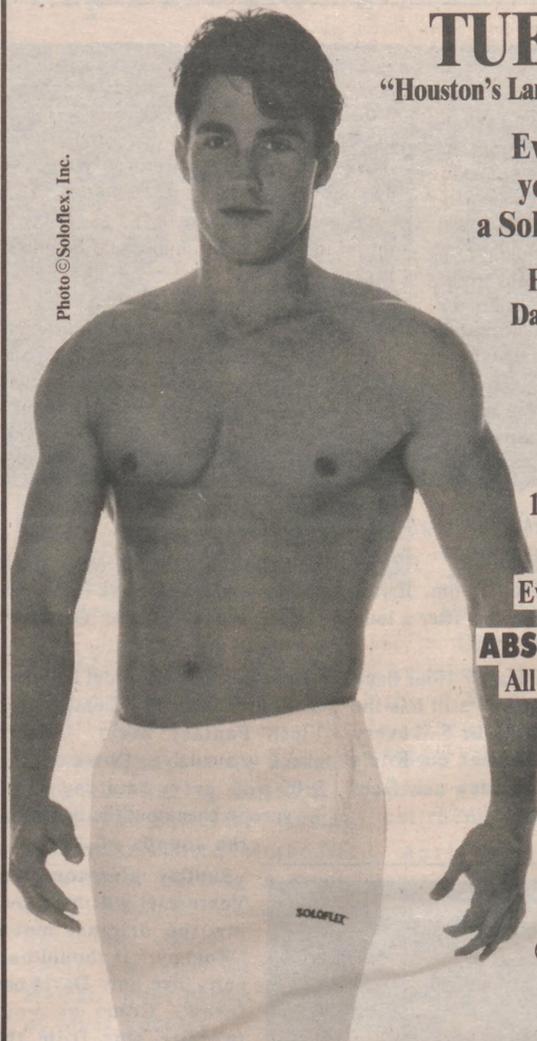
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## House Republican criticizes colleague

WASHINGTON, Thursday, March 24 (AP). Rep. Robert Dornan personally attacked a Republican colleague Thursday on the House floor amid a fight over denying federal funds to school districts that teach children about homosexuality.

"He has a revolving door on his closet," Dornan said of Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wis., who opposed the amendment.

"He's in, he's out, he's in, he's out, he's in. I guess you're out because you went up and spoke to a huge homosexual dinner, Mr. Gunderson," said the California Republican.

Dornan said he was quoting his wife.

"I think this conversation is out of order," said Rep. William Ford, D-Mich. He urged that Dornan be silenced. After first refusing, Dornan relented and agreed to withdraw his comments.

Afterward, Gunderson's spokesperson, Kevin Kennedy, said, "It's one of those things that isn't dignified with an answer. Our interest is in the bill itself."

The dispute came as the House debated the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The amendment, by Rep. Mel Hancock, R-Mo., would have denied government funds to school districts with activities and programs for students that support homosexuality as a positive lifestyle.

The House, by a vote of 224-194, amended the Hancock proposal to limit its application to federal, but not local, funds and to state that nothing in it would interfere with the rights of local communities to pick curriculum.

The revised amendment passed, 301-120.

"If you adopt the Hancock amendment by itself, it has the effect of prohibiting school counseling and guidance," Gunderson said. "It has the effect of prohibiting AIDS education."

He added, "How many kids do we have to kill before we have the courage to stand up and say it's time educate them and do what is right, not what is politically popular?"

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## Gays touting Michigan governor's opposition to amendment banning gay rights

By JUDY DAUBENMIER  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LANSING, Mich., Friday, March 25 (AP), Gay activists hope a three-paragraph letter from Gov. John Engler will speak volumes if conservatives ever try to ban measures protecting gays in Michigan.

Engler has told gay rights supporters he opposes amending the Michigan Constitution to ban legislation protecting gays from discrimination.

"I believe a Colorado-type amendment would have a negative impact if adopted in Michigan," Engler wrote.

"Such an amendment could lead to tourists and convention planners boycotting our state, which would obviously have an adverse effect on our economy. Michigan does not need an amendment of this nature."

The Michigan Campaign for Human Dignity has been distributing copies of Engler's letter to help build opposition to such an amendment in Michigan.

In 1993, the Board of State Canvassers approved the form of a petition initiating an amendment banning gay rights laws.

It would bar all governmental units from adopting laws or policies that give homosexuals civil rights protection.

It also would repeal local ordinances banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. At least six Michigan cities, Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Detroit, East Lansing, Flint and Saginaw, as well as Wayne County, have such ordinances.

The proposed amendment's sponsor, George Matousek of Bentley, said the proposal is in hibernation now until the courts decide if the Colorado measure on which it is patterned is constitutional.

A district judge in that state struck down the measure last month, but further appeals are expected. Those are unlikely to be finished in time for amendment supporters to gather the necessary 256,457 signatures and submit them to the canvass-

ers by the July 11 deadline to be on the November ballot, Matousek said.

"Tell the queers, they got some time. They don't have to worry about this one for awhile," he said.

Gays are reluctant to believe that.

Linda Shapanka, campaign coordinator for the Michigan Campaign for Human Dignity, said the group organized to fight the amendment picks up varying reports on whether signatures are being gathered.

"What we do know is they can collect their signatures in a very short period of time and it's just a matter of whether they decide to come after Michigan or not," she said.

"Our goal is to show them that Michigan is not going to be an easy win, hands off Michigan."

Shapanka said Engler's letter was heartening.

"It's very difficult to get politicians to take a stance at the beginning of these kinds of

movements so I'm overjoyed that he was able to muster the courage and take the stance," she said.

But she said tests of the letter with focus groups found it swayed few people.

"If you like Engler that works out. It doesn't seem to motivate people either way. I think it's more of a surprise to the more progressive people that he came out against the initiative," she said.

The letter, dated Feb. 16, 1993, was written to Henry Messer, a retired Dearborn Heights doctor who quizzed Engler about his position when the governor was on a radio call-in show.

"He didn't hesitate at all. He said that he would oppose that," said Messer, who followed up his question with a letter asking for a written response.

Engler spokesperson John Truscott said the governor also believes such an amendment would be unfair to gays, but he opposes adding protection for

gays to existing civil rights laws.

"He does not support setting aside special classes or privileges or granting minority status to gays at this time, as far as that goes," Truscott said.

Messer is a board member of a gay rights group called the Triangle Foundation. He said he wasn't surprised Engler didn't go farther and support adding protection to gays to civil rights laws.

"He's made it perfectly clear that he doesn't support increased civil rights for anybody," Messer said.

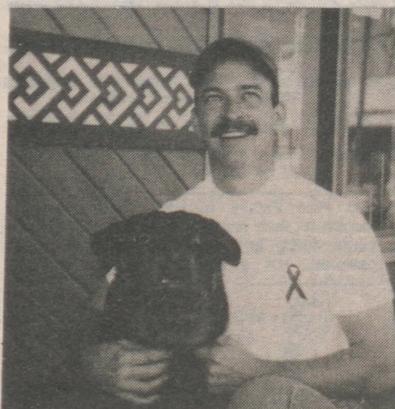
"Everybody's protected under the constitution, including them, but they want special minority status," he said.

But Messer said gays are not asking for special treatment. They only want to be included in existing civil rights laws that ban discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, race, national origin and physical disability, he said.

# RECYCLE

# ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE HOUSTON VOICE

# High heel race raised \$750; Bunnies bountiful and beautiful on the bayou



Brian and Travis of TNT T-Shirts

## HOUSTON SOAP, PART ONE

By CAROLYN LARSON  
Houston Voice/Houston  
Hello Houston!!

In last week's Soap, Tad informed you that he and the Trucker were going on some tropical vacation. Well, I've heard from "informed sources" that they never left the state. They have been seen at the Truck Stop and Pancake House in Flationa, Texas. That new Peterbilt has sure logged a bunch of miles.

### LAST WEEK:

Over at THE CLUB, they were splashing and trashing all day Saturday. Even Club Manager Damion got caught up in the act (yeah right him acting) of being trashy. Check out their weekly specials especially Monday and Tuesday's 1/2 price locker night.

It was a busy weekend all over town. I did not have to enter the Annual High Heel race, though I ran into them everywhere I went. Cass reports they raised over \$750 for the Colt 45's Trouble Fund. Good work!! She wants to thank all the bars that contributed, and apologize to the Atrium for missing them.

Tony from E/J's got his shopping list and money and tore out the door...even though the last leg of the race had not yet started. Tony ran to Kroger and back, retrieving only 1/2 of what was on his list, went back, finished his shopping and ran back to Mary's (naturally). Somehow he STILL came in 5th place. Gotta love his spirit

and dedication.

There were Bunnies everywhere...even on the bayou. The 14th annual Bunnies on the Bayou was Easter Sunday. It was a beautiful day, and lots of gorgeous people having a great time. The Wortham was the ideal spot to hold such a party. The food donations were stacking up as I got there. I heard the Trolley ride was almost as much fun as the party. Later at RICH'S...let the Gay Games begin. It was a SRO crowd. When the guys on San Jacinto through a party, they sure do it with style.

The Peter Cock-N-Tail party was smash success. The Mine's tropical patio was packed with more baskets than one would know what to do with.

The Bunnies were running. This was the weekend for the 1st annual Texas Leather and Lace and Texas Riders Bunny Run. There was an egg eating contest, games and awards. Congrats on a successful run. Let's hop again together next year.

back at Tar Tare real soon.

Coming up this week:

Monday, Monday, just about everyone hates Mondays, but not those that go to Pacific Street on Mondays. It is Clubber's night. Doors open at 9:00 p.m. Monday is the night your favorite bartenders and waiters party. No cover with a current pay stub for any restaurant, bar and night spots employee. All Club members welcome with no cover while in Colors.

Every Monday night at J.R.'s and Santa Fe Miss Lindsey Love's strip contest. Enter to win cash and prizes.

Over at E/J's on Monday nights, B.J. Williams hosts the Male Strip Contest. The clothes start to go at 11:00 p.m.

My favorite place on Tuesday in Mary's... Naturally. It is 2 for Tuesday. Cuervo shots are only \$2.00 all day all night. No wonder I'm a little groggy every Wednesday morning.

Time is running out for SOLO-FLEX TUESDAY'S at J.R.'s.



Cass and the High Heel race at QT's

parties. Think about "Happy Hour" at the Red Room. It is a great place to unwind after a long day at work.

Talking about Happy Hour hang outs, the Venture-N still has the original Power Hour 5-7 every day. Go by and check out Rita's act. The V-N has a few new faces behind the bar!!

J's 1994, Sivi Ross-Miss E/J's 1994, Catia Lee Love—Miss E/J's sweetheart 1994. The show starts 11:pm sharp.

Get your jock strap out and head to Pacific Street...Leather and Flesh Fantasy night. Clothes check is available. Doors open at 9:00 p.m. every Saturday night. Be sure to check out the lights and the sounds of Adrian.

Sunday afternoon the Venture-N will be showing the original movie "Tommy." It should be a party like only David can throw. Come as your favorite star from the movie. Hal and Jim fryin' up some fish and chips.

At Heaven it's L.A. art card and calendar model Jimmy Johnson. Jimmy is a real California hunk that will take the stage at 11:00 p.m. to perform before posing for photos and signing autograph's.

Sunday fun continues at Club Tar Tare: a special show from the meat locker. The Imperial Court presents: Damita Jo, Regina Dane, Vanna White, LaWanda Jackson and club Tar Tare's own Yolanda!!

T.G.R.A. is hosting a "Wranglin and Rustlin" variety show this Sunday at Gentry.

Over at the BriarPatch, the "Little Sisters of the Patch" will pull out all the dresses to help a sickly sister in need. It will be the best of the worst.



Talk about Takin' the trash out!!

The Easter Bunny even found his way to the 611 Hyde Park Club. I bet his little feet are glad the weekend is over!!

Why did this weekend remind me of that stupid, little, never slowing, always clanging rabbit I see on TV. Some day I'm gonna get that wraskely wrabbit.

Club Tar Tare this past Sunday, Tasha Kohl tore up the stage at the meat locker. Plan to see Tasha



Hams were given away at Stone Soup.. Thanks Ms. Lust and her Bunnies

Every tuesday at J.R.'s you can register to win the SOLOFLEX MACHINE or \$500 in cash. The drawing will be held on the last Tuesday of this month, April 26 during the tuesday show with emcee KOFI.

Wednesday is a busy night around town. The CLUB has "Buddy Night" Buy a room and your buddy gets a free locker. You might want to run by E/J's first to enjoy Steak night on the Patio with Lucy. It starts at 6:00 p.m.

If you are in the mood, you dance your dinner off, check out Hot Hump night at Pacific Street. No cover with a pass from your favorite bartender.

Maybe you feel like being entertained, Wednesday nights sizzle at Gentry. As Ms. Gay Texas, Dyan Michaels hosts a male strip contest. The club is packed to the rafters for this weekly penile projection extravaganza.

J.R.'s and Santa Fe offer happy hour till 10:00 p.m. Imported beer specials as well as hot dancers to help you work up a thirst.

By Thursday you should be ready to start work up for your weekend

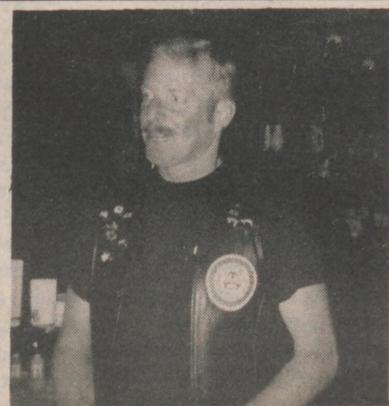
The Montrose Mining Company opens every day at 1:00 p.m. Most days you will find Red Barry( see picture) there to serve up a drink and a smile. Don't forget the Mine is open for AFTER HOURS until 4:00 a.m. every Friday and Saturday nights, with Hard core Dancers...

TGIF... It finally got here. But it looks like we have slipped back in time. Get out your platforms and white suits, look out Mr. Travolta, TRASH DISCO is back!! This Friday April 8, at RICH'S !! Viola Wills we be performing live: You Can Hear This Diva, Stormy Weather, Up On The Roof, and more. You wanted Trash back and Rich's is giving it to you.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Gentry's softball team is having a car wash in the parking lot. Saturday night at E/J's is the "Super Show." The royalty of E/J's starring guest host Lee Chardon, Miss E/J's 1992. Appearing is Jerry Morin-Mr. E/



Bunnies on the Bayou Hosts



Having fun at the Mine !!!

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# Fem 2 Fem returning to Heaven; Boy Toy of the Year at Gentry April 16-17



The Easter Bunny at 611

## HOUSTON SOAP PART TWO

Up and coming events to watch for: The Spring Festival... Under the BIG TOP. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church is holding a traditional pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 16, 1994. There is a raffle for a trip to Hawaii, door prizes and lots of other goodies. Tickets are available by calling 526-1017.

Heaven screams "Switch you Bitch!" to herald the return on America's favorite Lesbians FEM 2 FEM. Saturday, April 23, dance music's most controversial success story returns to Houston with an all new show that is guaranteed to leave you screaming for more.

The "BOY TOY" of the Year



At the Bunny Run...Just what are you stuffing in your mouth??

contest is at Gentry's on April 16 and 17. Mark those calendars!!

Club Tar Tare brings in America's sexiest twins for the "White Party." This year's theme is "The Other White Meat." Leave it to Rich's to cum up with the wildest theme parties.

April 16, Taylor Dayne graces us with a show at Rich's. It's Live, It's Hot!! Doors open at 9:00 p.m.

Team Houston has some upcoming fund raisers: Friday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. at J.R.'s. 3 car washes... April 9 at Heaven, April 16 at Fiesta and May 1 at Heaven. Next meeting April 13, 7:00 p.m. at 1475 W. Gray. You can find many places around the Montrose to purchase raffle tickets. They are good for a free trip for 2 and hotel accommodations at the Gay Games. Pull out a buck or two to maybe

win a trip to this most memorable event.

TNT T-shirts has a great fundraiser going on right now. The Red Ribbon T-shirts are on sale for \$17.00. of that \$3.00 is going directly to the Pet Patrol. Good idea Brian... or was that one of Travis's ideas!!

Be sure to by Uptown Liquors at 414 W. Gray. They have a coupon in this weeks issue for 5% off Liquor and beer.

Angels, Women's Softball begins March 12, anyone interested call Mary Beth at 864-0871.

The Women of F.I.S.T.(Females in Search of Trouble) are still recruiting. I know most of the "members." Call Tiger at 528-2127 for details and info.

And now for some dirt. ... To our most colorful of crayons, Dear Crayola (Red Room) you



Miss Camp's Miss Georgia &amp; Miss Arkansas

better get the lead out!!! There has been an outbreak of lead poisoning among younger boys here in the Montrose. The symptoms are short attention spans, tacky jeans and bad wigs. Just what are you doing to those poor unsuspecting little ones!!!!

Robert (BRB) On WHICH cheek is that mole on or is it a pimple?

Our own Mike Prince went fishing this weekend. I heard he caught a small one.

Clarence (BRB) Did you get any this past weekend?

Jeff (Past Time) Are you ready for your last big blow out there. The party is Friday at 4:00 p.m.!! Save some Cuervo and Sambuka!! We are gonna miss having you so close to the office. Good luck at the BRB!!

Devin (Mary's) is now offering "Curb Service," so when you pull to the light at Mon-

trose and Waugh, He will dash out the door to take your order. Is it Mary's or Sonic Drive-In?? Even I am confused!!

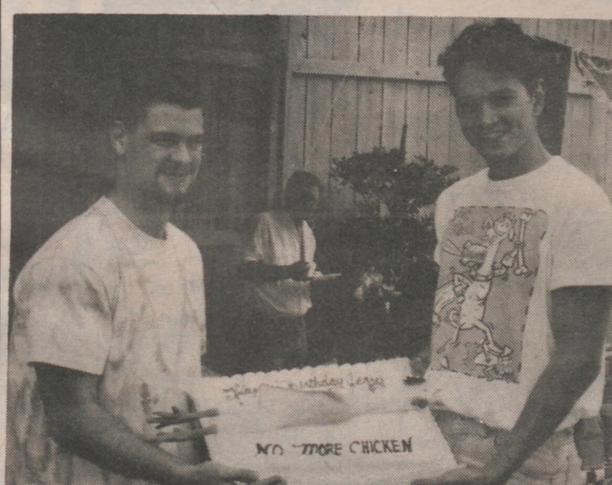
I understand you can now have the interior of your car washed at Past Time, Contact Big Bob for details.

Hey, While Tad is truckin' around, Please call Don, Ron, Sheri, Mike, Jim or me with dirt. I need some juicy stuff for next week. You can call 24 hours a day 529-8490 and leave gossip and dirt on the voice mail. OOPS... there goes the fax machine... Tad when did the Trucker get that installed? ..Just when I thought I was through with you make me work more. I'm typing and you are out shopping. He stopped into Basic Brothers to get ready for "Vacation" and could not believe the selection on swim wear. Over 2500 suits to choose from, including Spedo, Gazelle, Tan Line, Sun Blocks, Jantzen, TTR, Hot Line and too many more to list. Cody and Oscar were on hand to help his selection. Tad and the Trucker picked up several. I think I will stop in tomorrow to pick up one for my favorite blond hunk. >We hoped you enjoyed our little "pranks" in last weeks issue.

Well, it is Cuervo time for this Cuervolyn.. have a great week



Beauty and the Beast at Gentry's



Jerial and Damion at THE CLUB



Talk about Trailer Park Trash at THE CLUB

## California court allows sexual harassment suit by one man against another

By BOB EGELKO

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday, March 25 (AP) Sexual harassment between people of the same sex is illegal in California, according to a newly binding state court ruling.

The state Supreme Court refused Thursday to remove from the books an appeals court decision allowing a male screenwriter to sue Silver Pictures over alleged harassment by his male boss. Lawyers in the case say the suit has been settled on confidential terms.

The high court's action makes the appellate ruling final and binding on trial courts statewide.

The screenwriter, Wayne Mogilefsky, said in his suit that Michael Levy, then the president of Silver Pictures, demanded that he stay overnight in Levy's hotel

suite on two occasions, and told him the first time that he would make more money if he complied. He also said Levy made sexual remarks to him and falsely told others that the two had sex.

Mogilefsky said he refused the demands and later quit his job in disgust. The allegations were denied by Silver pictures and by Levy, who resigned as president last year.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Lawrence Waddington dismissed the suit, saying the allegations, even if true, did not show sexual harassment under state law. But the 2nd District Court of Appeal overruled him last December and reinstated the suit.

There is no indication in state law that "the Legislature intended to limit protection from sexual harassment to male-female harassment," said Presiding Justice Arleigh Woods in the 3-0 ruling.

She rejected defense arguments that a man could not be sexually harassed in a male-dominated work environment. An employee who is subjected to sexual mistreatment on the job is protected by the law, "regardless of whether he or she is otherwise 'empowered,'" Woods wrote.

She also dismissed arguments that allowing such suits would require an inquiry into the supervisor's sexual orientation. That is irrelevant, Woods said, because the focus of the law is "whether the victim has been subjected to sexual harassment, not the motivation of the harasser."

Silver Pictures did not seek reversal of the ruling, but a Sacramento law firm that represents employers asked the Supreme Court to eliminate the ruling as a legal precedent.

Mark Spring, a lawyer with the firm, said he did not object to allowing suits for same-sex harassment but questioned the

appeals court's statement that the law did not focus on the motivation of the harasser.

That statement, if interpreted broadly, could convert the law "from an anti-discrimination statute into a statute that regulates all speech and language in employment," Spring said.

The court unanimously rejected the law firm's request.

The action pleased attorney Carol Sobel of the American Civil Liberties Union, who had asked the high court to leave the ruling intact. She said the harassment was the same whether it was motivated by sexual desire or hostility.

Defending the court's conclusion that the law covers same-sex harassment, Sobel said, "the reason why somebody is selected is because of their gender and the presumption that because of their gender, they're fair game."

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## Washington state anti-gay initiatives short on cash

SEATTLE, Monday, April 4 (AP)— Supporters of two initiatives that would limit gay rights say a shortage of cash and paid staff won't doom their efforts to get the initiatives on the state's November ballot.

The campaigns are relying on a network of activists in conservative and church circles to distribute thousands of initiative petitions.

"You don't need big bucks to win," said Cathy Mickels, spokesperson for the Initiative 608 campaign. "If you have a good argument and a good product, you don't need money."

The Idaho Citizens Alliance, which is pushing a similar initiative, has also found drumming up financial support difficult. Alliance founder Kelly Walton has been using his own money and money from his business to keep the campaign going.

Both Washington initiatives would bar enforcement of laws that protect gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation. They would prohibit schools from promoting or supporting homosexuality. Initiative 610 would also ban gay couples from adopting children.

The campaigns for Initiative 608 and Initiative 610 have raised less than \$4,000, according to their latest public disclosure reports. Neither campaign can afford paid staff.

Hands Off Washington's anti-initiative campaign, meanwhile, has had no trouble raising money. Its 16-month effort has resulted in a statewide organization with 25 chapters and a bipartisan coalition including Gov. Mike Lowry and former Gov. Dan Evans.

Hands Off has raised more than a half-million dollars in donations from nearly 6000 contributors. It makes use of pollsters, political advisers and media consultants.

The initiative petitions must have 181,667 valid signatures by July 8 to qualify for the November ballot.

"If you're not well-funded, it's a double strike against you," Republican consultant Brett Bader said. "It's definitely too early to be writing them off, but they should have proceeded further than they have."

But initiative supporters note the passage of last year's anti-tax Initiative 601, another conservative-based

grassroots campaign with a shoestring budget.

"We still anticipate at least one will make the ballot," said Charles Brydon, chairperson of the Hands Off Washington campaign.

The Initiative 608 campaign reported \$777 in contributions in their last disclosure report, but the campaign is being underwritten by the Washington Public Affairs Council, a Tacoma-based group that spearheaded the initiative. The council reports raising more than \$30,000 over two years.

Harder pressed is the Initiative 610 campaign, an offshoot of the Oregon Citizens Alliance. After more than a year on the campaign trail, the campaign has collected \$2,847, of which only \$28 is left, according to disclosure reports.

"We're the poor boys in this thing," said volunteer campaign manager Sam Woodard, a railroad lineman who is selling his 15-foot powerboat and his wife's bicycle to cover expenses.

"I feel like David and Goliath. It's overwhelming at times, but I believe it can be done," Woodard said.



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## Wisconsin congressman gets contradicting reactions

MILWAUKEE, Monday, March 28 (AP), Rep. Steven Gunderson's reluctance to discuss his personal life suits the Republican chairperson of his congressional district but gets mixed reactions among gays.

"There's a fair number of people who will say, 'I really don't care what his orientation is as long as he continues to be discreet and doesn't advocate and doesn't become the spokesperson,'" Doug Knight of the 3rd Congressional District said.

"Frankly I don't think it's any of my business whether he is or isn't," Knight said. "If he crosses that line, I and a lot of other Republicans in this area who are very loyal supporters of Steve Gunderson would take a step back, and I think he knows that."

Knight, in whose western Wisconsin district Gunderson seeks

re-election this fall, was quoted by The Milwaukee Journal in Sunday's editions. The newspaper said Gunderson refused to be interviewed.

Gunderson, in the House since 1981, has regularly declined comment on his personal life.

However, in a keynote speech March 12 at a fund-raiser sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Baltimore, Md., he shared some personal experiences while urging tolerance of homosexuals.

He mentioned a friend named Rob, their two dogs and a beach house they rented last summer.

"Like many of you in this room, we too have been touched by AIDS in the last year," he told his audience. "Two of our closest friends died from AIDS, and while for Rob and I this was the first personal loss from this tragic disease, it

makes its impact no less painful to each of us."

Rep. Robert K. Dornan, a Republican from California, cited the speech during House debate Thursday on an education bill.

In remarks he later withdrew from the Congressional Record, Dornan accused Gunderson of having "a revolving door on his closet."

"He's in, he's out, he's in, he's out," Dornan said. "I guess you're out because you went up and spoke to a huge homosexual dinner, Mr. Gunderson."

Gunderson declined to reply, saying he did not want to dignify Dornan's comments.

Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, said "the unique role he plays as a loyal Republican member of Congress is very valuable, not only in terms of the issues that

are important to the lesbian and gay community which he helps us with, but also the perception of what is a gay or lesbian person."

"Too often people deal in stereotypes, and I think Steve Gunderson is very far from what most people stereotype gay people as being," McFeeley said.

Tanya Domi, legislative director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, called Gunderson "very sympathetic. His role as a Republican moderate can be extremely effective."

Michael Petrelis of Queer Nation thinks Gunderson should be outspoken.

"He wants it both ways. He wants to say that he doesn't approve of being labeled. Wait a minute; you're labeled a Republican or a congressman or a Wisconsinite. What would be wrong with adding the 'gay' label to the list?" Petre-

lis said.

Petrelis was among Queer Nation members who tried to "out" Gunderson in 1991, meaning to make him publicly declare his life preference.

"Talking about, explaining or defending one's personal and private life under a public microscope is a violation of our guaranteed right to privacy," Gunderson said in a statement last September during debate over the Defense Department's policy toward homosexuals.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., an openly gay member of Congress, commended Gunderson and said acknowledging homosexuality can attract publicity that is irrelevant to public service.

"This is not an easy situation that he finds himself in. In a perfect world, none of this would be necessary," Frank said.

## Harassing calls force the shutdown of Seattle AIDS info hotline

SEATTLE, Monday, March 28 (AP), Thousands of what appeared to be carefully orchestrated harassing phone calls forced Seattle-King County health officials to disconnect an AIDS information hotline.

The phone number, a voice-message line, was inundated with thousands of calls, which also jammed the lines of the small businesses using the same telecommunications company's service, King County officials said. Callers to businesses received busy signals.

The information line, which normally received about 50 to 100 calls a day, jumped overnight to 2000 to 3000 calls a day for about three days in the incident

three weeks ago. Then it was shut down.

Almost all callers hung up immediately but a few left anti-gay messages, said Tim Burak, manager of the AIDS Prevention Project for the Seattle-King County Health Department.

"We've had occasional harassing calls on our main line and our (information) hotline," Burak said. "But we've never had anyone try to jam them with a huge number of calls that seemed orchestrated to harm our operations."

The Seattle Police Department is investigating the incident, but no one was immediately available to discuss the investigation.

The hotline was part of the "Stella" program for preventing AIDS, a comic strip advertisement about safe sex for gay men that appeared in the Seattle Gay News and The Stranger, a Seattle-based alternative weekly. The comic strip listed the phone number for gay men to call with questions.

The influx of calls appeared to be carefully orchestrated, said Rose Dembo, telecommunications manager for all King County government agencies.

On one day, the pagers of 50 to 60 employees of the Boeing Co., the area's most prominent employer, flashed the number of the line, Dembo said.

She said that means someone or a group

of people called the number of each pager, then punched in the AIDS hotline number in order to create a traffic jam.

"This was a concerted effort," Dembo said. "It was somebody with a real dedication to this."

Dembo said any investigation into the calls would be difficult because of the variety of numbers from which the harassing calls were made.

Burak said it would be inappropriate to put a trace on the calls since the hotline was supposed to be confidential. It was not immediately known whether the hotline would be restored.

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**ROGER, 5' 8" 150 lbs, good definition, 30 inch waist, brown hair and eyes, moderately hairy. Big cock, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2". Likes to jack off, give and receive low jobs and talk dirty on the phone. Mail Box 1176**

**CHRIS, 5'11" 150 lbs. brown hair/eyes. Looking for older brother type between ages of 37 - 45 to give me the discipline I need. I want to get spanked, paddled and humiliated. Mail Box 1223**

**MICHAEL, 23 year old slender blond hair, brown eyes. Recent U of H grad, classical musician who likes reading, music, clubbing, staying at home. Looking for friendship and possibly more. Mail Box 1199**

**DOUG, 27, good looking, straight acting WM, dark hair/eyes. I have a great, muscular body, and am into leather. Looking for the same with a big dick.. Mail Box 1284**

**DOUG, lives in Houston area. 5'11", 175 lbs, 29" waist, 17" arms, very muscular. I work out a lot! You must also. Looking for muscular guys for a good time. I like to wrestle! Mail Box 1291**

**MICHAEL, 6', 180 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, tan. Looking to meet people all over the country. I live in Texas. Want friendship plus more. Mail Box 1303**

**LEE, 30 years old straight acting/looking; I look 25 years old. Live in Galveston area. I have dark hair/eyes, and like working out lifting weights and biking. Looking to meet 22-30 yr old W/HISP G/BI M who is sincere, and honest for friendship leading to relationship. Mail Box 1296**

**Let me rub your feet! RAY, 6'1 1/2", live in Houston, 195 lbs, good shape, clean shaven, hairy chest. I love feet! Total discretion, no reciprocation required. Mail Box 1313**

**BRIAN, 30 years old. 5'10". short blond hair, blue eyes. 165 lbs, clean shaven. Houston area, 33" waist, looking for discreet fun, and new friends. Mail Box 1351**

**MICHAEL, 39 years old, 160 lbs. Short dark hair, brown eyes, moustache, smooth chest. Live in Houston area. looking to talk to and meet new people. Mail Box 1347**

To respond to a Houston Voice Hot Personal, you must join the Houston Voice Connect Line. It is only 10¢ per minute (plus any normal toll) and your first 30 minutes are free! To join see our Connect Line ad on page 16.

## A year after losing custody, lesbian mother awaits Virginia court's ruling

By LARRY O'DELL  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

RICHMOND, Va., Monday, April 4 (AP)—Wednesdays are the toughest for Sharon Bottoms.

Every Wednesday, she has to again get used to giving up the son she lost custody of because of her sexual orientation.

She only sees 2-year-old Tyler on Mondays and Tuesdays, then the boy goes back to his grandmother, who sued for custody because she doesn't approve of her daughter's relationship with another woman.

"I miss everything about him," Ms. Bottoms said. "I miss being a mother the most."

It's been a year since a judge took her child away. Now, Ms. Bottoms waits with increasing anxiety for a Virginia Court of Appeals ruling that could return Tyler to her.

Tyler has lived with Ms. Bottoms' mother since April 5, 1993, shortly after a juvenile court judge declared Ms. Bottoms an unfit mother because she is a lesbian. The decision was upheld by a circuit court judge.

Her appeal was heard in February, and a ruling could be issued at any time.

Lawyers for both sides say they'll take the case to the state Supreme Court if the appeal ruling goes against them.

In the meantime, anticipation rules every waking moment, despite Ms. Bottoms' best efforts.

"I keep myself very busy," the 24-year-old Ms. Bottoms said in an interview at the suburban apartment she shares with April Wade. "Our house stays very clean. I just do things to try to keep it off my mind."

Scattered throughout the apartment are many reminders: framed photos of Tyler, a poster-board card from supporters in California stapled to his bedroom wall, a lace doily with an ornate cutout of his name on a living room table.

She's not the only one left to wait.

Ms. Bottoms' mother, Kay, is "getting apprehensive" and "wishes the decision would come on down," said her attorney, Richard L. Ryder.

The case made Sharon Bottoms a national figure in the fight for homosexual rights, a distinction she'd

rather have gone without. Nevertheless, she is thankful for the support she receives.

She shows three large manila envelopes stuffed with mail.

"Every single one is positive," she said. "And this isn't the half of it."

Since 1985, about 100 homosexuals have gained parental rights through the courts in what is called a co-parent, second-parent or same-gender adoption, according to San Francisco's National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Kay Bottoms argued successfully that Tyler would grow up not understanding the difference between men and women. Sharon Bottoms said her relationship with her mother has gone from rocky to "no relationship at all."

Tyler's father, who was divorced from Ms. Bottoms in 1992 and had no legal say in the custody fight, supports his ex-wife's claim.

Ms. Wade, a 27-year-old health food store manager, is barred from seeing Tyler. Friends take in Ms. Bottoms and her son for their weekly visits.

"I love him like he was my child," Ms. Wade said.

Ms. Bottoms has a picture of Ms. Wade she shows Tyler every week to try to keep his memory of her alive. Ms. Wade was laughing when the photo was taken, but to Tyler it looks like she is talking.

"He always asks, 'What's April saying?' I tell him she's saying, 'I love you, stinker,'" Ms. Bottoms said.

"I don't want him to think I've abandoned him," Ms. Wade said.

Ms. Bottoms said the past year has been tough on her son.

"The older he gets, the more confused he gets," she said. "He asks a lot of questions, like 'Why can't I live with you and April?' I tell him because Grandma says you can't."

Ryder, the grandmother's attorney, said Tyler is not confused now, but would be if left with the two women. Sharon Bottoms and Ms. Wade say those claims are nonsense.

"Children in homes with these relationships grow up fine if things are explained to them," Ms. Wade said. "They aren't born with racism or discrimination of any kind in their heads. They learn it."

## Nevada governor attends rally against anti-gay petition

RENO, Nev., Monday, April 4 (AP)—Gov. Bob Miller showed up at a rally here to reaffirm his opposition to an anti-gay petition circulating in Nevada.

Other speakers at Friday's rally included Reno Mayor Pete Sferazza and Democratic congressional candidate and former Sparks Mayor Jim Spoo.

"This petition isn't just repugnant and negative for gays and lesbians, it's a threat to everyone in Nevada," Miller told about 60 people at Wingfield Park.

"It goes against the basic premise of all religions and is designed to divide us and to instill hatred and intolerance."

The initiative being circulated by Nevada Citizens Alliance (NCA) would amend the state constitution to prohibit minority status based on homosexual-

ity.

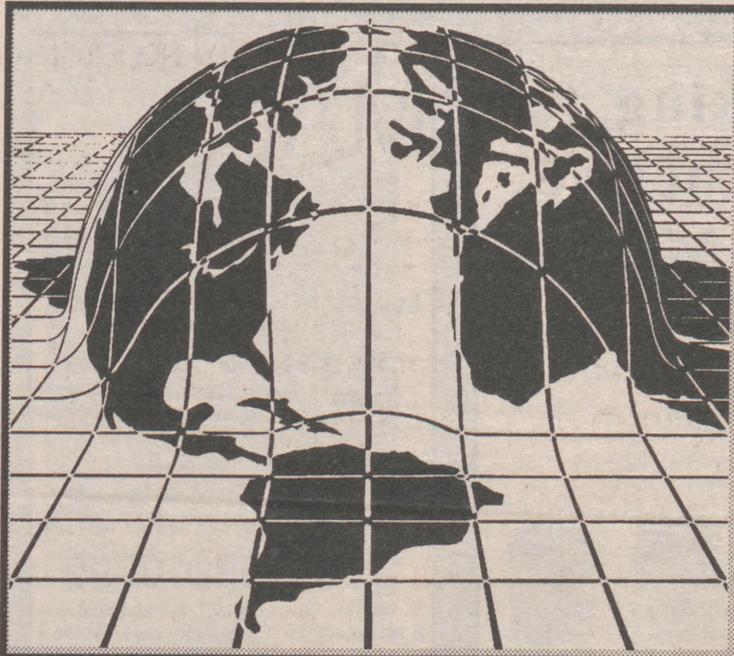
NCA is an offshoot of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, which has sponsored similar initiatives in that state.

"This is a very dangerous initiative for our community," said Washoe County District Attorney Dorothy Nash Holmes.

During the rally, two protesters stood nearby with signs reading "Gov. Miller Supports Minority Status for Pedophiles" and "Sodomy—Ruin of a Nation."

They identified themselves as Randy Talcott, pastor of Abundant Life Fellowship, and his son, Joe Talcott.

The rally was sponsored by a group calling itself Nevadans Organized for Human Advocacy, Tolerance and Equality (NOHATE).



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# HOUSTON VOICE

### *Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate would ban gay interference with Irish parades*

HARRISBURG, Tuesday, March 29 (AP)—Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher plans to introduce legislation in the Senate that would make it illegal for gay and lesbian groups to interfere with St. Patrick's Day parades.

Fisher said Tuesday he wants to avoid a situation in Pennsylvania similar to the cancellation of Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade this year. Organizers called off the event to prevent gay activists from taking part.

Fisher, who represents a suburban Pittsburgh district in the Senate, said he has been told Pennsylvania has been targeted by homosexual rights activists for a similar demonstration.

His campaign is airing a radio advertisement that calls gay activists a "small and biased band of bigots" who plan to "rewrite our religious and cultural history." The strains of "America" play in the background as Fisher speaks in the spot, which airs primarily on Christian radio stations.

Organizers of Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade cancelled the event this year after a court ruled that an Irish-American gay and lesbian group could not be excluded.

Fisher said Tuesday that he looked at the Boston situation with "disgust" after taking part in St. Patrick's Day parades in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia this month.

Michael LoFurno, a director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Philadelphia, said gays probably marched in the parades with Fisher.

"Just because the official gay group is not allowed to march doesn't mean there are not gays in there," he said. "Believe me, they're in there."

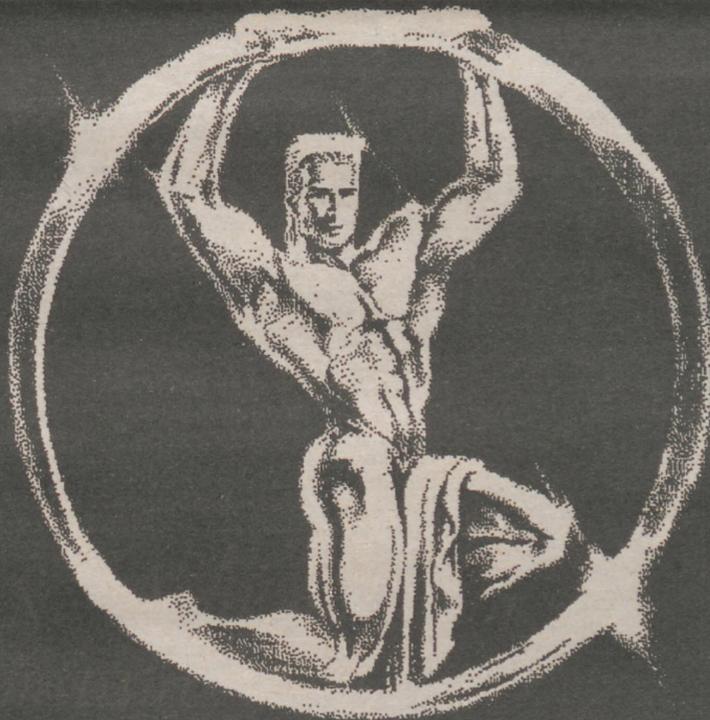
LoFurno said Fisher's plan runs against the point of such parades, which is to celebrate a common heritage.

"The gay people who are marching in the parade are as Irish as anyone else," he said. "They were born Irish."

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## H O U S T O N



### ex-traor-di-nar-y

(ek-stor'-de-ner'-e, ik-, ek'stre-or'-) adj.

1. Beyond what is ordinary, usual, or commonplace. 2. Exceeding the ordinary degree, amount, or extent; exceptional; remarkable.

Ex: An extraordinary private men's club.

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**SLEEPLESS IN BRENHAM! (ONE HOUR TO HOUSTON)**

Sooner or later I won't have to remind myself to wake up in the morning or breath in and out. If you feel like this then maybe we can make magic. I'm a GWF looking for someone who is also sleepless. I can't meet you on the Empire State Building but I can meet you anywhere else. Ad 25721.

**BLACK ATTACK!**

Very good-looking GWM, crazy about experiencing black guys. I'm 6 ft. tall, well-muscled, trendy, work out regularly. I'm safe, disease-free and ready to go. Not interested in relationships - just hot fun. You gotta respond to this! Let's go! Ad 25531.

**SPANKINGS NEEDED**

W/M, 33, needs older white gentleman (mid 50's late 60's) to help me correct my behavior by administering spankings. Must be safe, sane and want to help me grow as a person via meaningful discipline. Ad 25734

**SEEKING AFFECTIONATE GENEROUS GENTLEMAN SUGAR DADDY**

Tall, healthy, sensual, affectionate, fun, friendly, athletic, stable, ambitious, sincere, out-going, handsome, blond, varied interests. You: fit, height/weight proportionate, affluent, very generous gentleman. Able to give: affection, fun, friskiness, contributions, gifts, travel, etc. Casual to serious relationship. Privacy, discretion, friendship, companionship assured. Let's fulfill each other's needs, wants, desires. Ad 25978

**SOUTH AMERICAN COUPLE WANTS A BOY!**

We 25/34 y.o., white, nice looking. You: 18-22 y.o., white, cute, boyish good looks, slim, DDF who likes an intimate cozy friendship. Social drinking and smoking okay and must like pets. Ad 25747

**BABY WANTED BY GWM!!**

Me: Handsome, stable, self-employed. You: attractive GHF/GWF who desires no contact with infant. I would agree to having two children -1 for each if you also desire parenthood. Also if you have or know of anyone unable to care for an infant (preferably male) please contact me. Ad 25766

**FLIGHT ATTENDANTS**

Come visit Atlanta Blue eyed top, boyish, 38, romantic, sexy, seeks: safe bottom boyfriend for hot fun. Ad 25787

**QUALITY OLDER SEEKS QUALITY YOUNGER!**

If you are young, slim, healthy, not addicted to alcohol/drugs, and would enjoy gay fun times with a mature WM who is decent, sincere, sensitive, and will treat you right, I would like to meet you. Ad 25947.

**RESTLESS IN MONTROSE, SEEKS PLAYMATE**

Playmate should be a GWM, 35-45 who is a "top" only for this GWM, 41, HIV+, 5'9", 140#, br/br with moustache playmate. I am of small endowment, "bottom" only, but active/passive in all other areas of play. Cuddling, exploring each others bodies and having a mutually hot time is what I desire. I smoke and occasionally drink, if you think I could be your plaything then please respond to Ad#25904

**GWM 32 NEEDS LITTLE BROTHER TYPE!**

Me: 6', 180#, brown hair/eyes, masculine, well built, smooth body, very healthy, HIV+, stable, professional, live in Montrose, non-smoker. You: 18-early 20's, hairy, well built, masculine, very healthy, non-smoker, sincere, stable, employed. You should be looking for big brother type and hours of intense and passionate kissing. Ad 25778

**INTRIGUE! SUSPENSE! ROMANCE! TERROR!**

All in the comfort of one's living room. Montrose gaming group being assembled. Experience with role playing games not necessary. Just a sense of whimsy, a flair for style and a thirst for adventure required. Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men ... Find out! Ad 25773

**SCORPIO LOVERS ARE WONDERFUL MAGIC MAKERS**

GWM, 6', 190, br/br, handsome, distinguished, professional, well-educated, and traveled, socially and financially secure, in search of a drug/smoke free masculine GWM 30+. Healthy, happy, honest, sincere, romantic, fun-loving guy. One who enjoys dining by candlelight, quite evenings at home, "black-tie affairs," old movies, opera, theater. Most important loving and being loved and wanting a long term monogamous relationship. Ad 25275

**GWF SEEKS GWF**

I'm looking for a serious relationship, aren't we all?! Ad 25967

**DOMINANT GWM**

40, 145, 5'9 seeks GWMs into S/M -B/D. Limits respected. Ad 25336.

**COME OUT OF MY DREAM...**

and into my life! I'm searching for another unattached, positive minded, versatile, financially secure and mature, Gay female who has a sense of humor seeks fun and adventure and loves to enjoy life. Ad 25748

**LOVE SOUGHT FOR AFFECTIONATE/ATTRACTIVE MAN**

Me: GWM, 30, bl/br, 5'9", medium build, loves to dine out and movies. You: Dominant GWM/GHM, SF, DDF, must be about the same age or younger. Willing to share life and love with. Ad#25923

**LOOKING FOR ...**

GWM 31, goodlooking, professional, masculine, honest and sincere. 5'11", 140lbs, br/green eyes, DDF/non-smoker looking for same with GWM 32-42 who is interesting in a monogamous relationship. Serious responses only. Ad 25785

**GOOD LOOKING DADDY! ARE YOU OUT THERE?**

Attractive, muscular, hairy boy is seeking very muscular, very hairy, very endowed daddy, non-smoker a must; Me: 32 years, Italian, endowed and relationship oriented. You: 35 to 45 yrs., facial hair a plus! Please respond only if serious. Ad 25782

**EPITOME OF FEMININITY!**

Looking for an extremely ultra-feminine woman, slim/medium build, a warm, gentle, calm, stable, positive personality who'll be the "center of my attention, who loves being pampered. Me: GWF, soft butch, small build, blonde/blue. I like doing unto a woman as I would have her do unto me. Ad 25553.

**HEARTTHROB!**

32 yr. old healthy professional, 6'1", 170lbs, well built, black/brown, moustache, sensual, attractive, witty, and loves good company. Enjoy dining out, movies, theater and anything else. You: same age group, build, looking for fun times and maybe more. Go ahead! Take a chance! Ad 25784

**ATTENTION: WHITE CALVIN WEARERS**

GWM, Daddy bear, 43, 5'6", moustache, balding, hunky, HIV-. Successful professional with a dry sense of humor and a lot of energy. Not looking for love, relationship, or anything serious--just someone who wants to play and who likes to cuddle after. If you are 23-35, straight, bi, or gay, athletic, and look hot in white Calvins, why not give it a try? Attorneys, architects, doctors a plus. Ad 25387

**"LET'S HAVE A DATE?"**

Man to man, let's connect!! Well adjusted, high-spirited, good-looking, masculine, "well built", GM, 36, 6', 170lbs., gr/br, DDF, non-smoker/medium drinker looking for same to date/sleep with/be in a relationship with. I'm through with bars and attitude; Let's treat ourselves to a little intimacy, honesty, and adventure. I have multi-various interests...we have a lot to talk about... Please respond for more details. Ad 25759

**BABY WANTED!**

by attractive, stable, professional, white woman who is racing the biological clock. Seeking attractive, intelligent caucasian male or male couple for cooperative effort in having a child. Full custody for the mother but father (s) can alternatively can have plenty of involvement/visitation alternatively. Would also consider a platonic "marriage of convenience" so that both parents could live with the child. Ad 25740

**DOES THE OUTDOORS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS**

appeal to you? Are you a slim, warm, considerate, GM between 30-45? I am a GWM, br/br, 5'10", 160lbs, 40, handsome, trim, and smooth, NS, DDF. Likes long walks, swimming, and intelligent conversation. Enjoy spiritual topics (a Course in Miracles), new age thought and astrology. Want intimate non-smoking buddy for companionship possibly more. Ad 25745

All ads in this category should be strictly individual to individual. No commercial offerings. Nothing for sale. No promotions.

**Very attractive, sincere, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'10" and 180lbs., interested in meeting someone terrific for a long term monogamous relationship ... fun to be around, interesting, focused, masculine and sincere. Ad 25783**

**WELL ENDOWED, HEALTHY, MASCULINE CUTE GWM**

outgoing, DDF/NS wants to meet other(s) the same for friendship and safe fun. If you are well-endowed, masculine, attractive, under 45 years of age, weight in proportion height, outgoing, not into S & M, DDF/NS, and want to meet the same respond to Ad 25749.

**WE WANT MORE!**

Couple seeks singles and couples for safe fun. Male number one is a GWM, blonde, green, 5'7", 135lbs. Male number two is a GWM, 5'6", 140lbs. Both are good looking and well-endowed. If interested, please respond now. Ad 25754

**MARRIED MEN**

Spend quality time day or night w/semi-retired GWM in Houston. Ad 25328

**SUBMISSIVE MEN!**

are sought by Houston man (44, 5'9", 180, hairy, aggressive, demanding). Seeking 21-48, masculine, any race. I travel on business so out-of-town replies are welcome. Ad 25134

**ATTENTION - NUDIST**

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, smoker and a nudist. This nudist would like to get together for social non-sexual encounters. Just the enjoyment of viewing each other's bodies. Ad 25772

**LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT MAN**

25-45, masculine, neat in appearance and at home, DDF, NS, (light drinker) who wants to share apartment in a peaceful, quiet, very luxurious atmosphere, with a mature person. Must be financially responsible and able to afford \$400 monthly for his part of rent and utilities. Ad 25700

**LONELY BIWM SEEKING SAFE FUN**

I'm 5'6", weight proportionate, DDF/NS/LD, average looks, 44, sincere, discreet, masculine, likes sports, reading, movies, dining out and intimate evenings plus a BIGWM with same qualities as above. Experienced, average looks, height/weight proportionate 30-50, DDF/NS/LD equals safe fun times -no strings, let's talk. Let's meet and talk. Ad 25378

**ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

I'm an attractive 39yr. old, 5'9", 150#, well built professional WM that enjoys working out, art, music, outdoors, travel, dinners out, good conversations and hot times with masculine, muscular men of all ages and races. If you are muscular and looking for someone to date and perhaps develop a relationship, let me hear from you! Ad#25935

**YOU MUST BE SINCERE FOR**

consideration by this attractive, 43 y.o., hirsute, GWM, 6'2", 185lbs, br/hzl. I'm educated, professionally employed, good sense of humor. Enjoy home life, good friends, music, dinner in/out and occasional travel. You are 30-45 y.o., handsome, masculine, GWM, HWP, NS, DDF, employed, affectionate, relationship oriented, sense of humor, kind heart and sincere! Ad 25769

**HAVE AN AFFAIR**

GWM, 30ish, Clear Lake Homeowner, educated, well dressed, limited social time due to profession, DDF, workout, seeks: WGM, bi, or married man 25-45, for serious affair, DDF, personality and sense of humor a must. Ad 25778

**LONDON, PARIS, SYDNEY, NEW YORK CITY**

Travel companion wanted for traveling around the USA and the world. Travel agent needs reliable and responsible GM to accompany him to split cost at discounted prices. Must be non-smoker and drug free. Prefer light drinker to non-drinker. Passport required. Possible relationship. Ad 25972

**COME OUT, WHERE EVER YOU ARE!**

GBM, 41, 5'11", 195lbs., beard and moustache, receding hairline, HIV+, asymptomatic. I enjoy good conversation, evenings at home, movies, museums, dining out, and just about anything you can think of. Seeking good natured, masculine men, H/W proportional, with similar interest for friendship, dating, and other fun activities. I want to hear from you. It's time for something different. Ad 25974

**MALE COUPLE SEEKING HOT PLAYMATE!**

GWM couple, mid 50's and 20's, both bearded (5'8", 250 -6', 185). Seeking young hung, hot, hard, hairy, multi-orgasmic, GWM/GBM/GHM for a top position and french action. Bare upper torso/swimsuit photo or any photo appreciated. Ideal for a young top seeking fun times. Voice box 25911 detailing your interest.

**AFFECTIONATE GM SEEKS SAME!**

24 yr. old GBM, 6all, slender, cute, boyish looking. Interests: theater, politics, jazz, mythology, opera, eating out, history, books, conversations, writing, art, cd shopping, bookstore browsing, hand-holding, hugging and cuddling. Seeking gentle, affectionate GM (age 23 or older) for friendship, possibly more. Any race. NO REPUBLICANS. Ad 25786

**GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES**

I'm 43, married, 5'10, 160lbs., average looks, DDF, clean, no drugs, married-top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598

**NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?**

Mature, professional, very hairy body/hairy chest, Edwardian beard, (sign of Cancer) . You, mentally mature, non-smoker, into safe fun. Please respond to Ad 25916.

**MAN TO MAN!**

GWM, 38, independent, fun-loving person, romantic, passionate, aggressive, HIV+. Who is active and enjoys working out and living life day to day. Seeks GWM in shape (30 to 40) who would enjoy an evening of good safe fun...possibly longer. Ad 25780

**OUTGOING, ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE, PROFESSIONAL**

seeks same GWM/BIWM for special friend and safe fun. I and respondent will have a great sense of humor, weight in proportion to height (or thin), DDF/NS, under 45 years of age, clean shaven (moustache okay), not into bars or S & M, and have time to spend with a new special friend. Ad 25011.

# Splash Day Galveston is on the way, mark calendars for May 2



Crystal Tremaine at K.T.

## GALVESTON SOAP

By JERRY STUART

Houston Voice/Galveston

The annual Splash Day party is only weeks away so I sure hope you all have your calendars marked for May 2nd. The first Sunday in May, the time high noon, the place, the Dunes. This year the party is

expected to be bigger and better than the previous splash parties here in Galveston with all three clubs involved in organizing the event there is sure to be activities for everyone to participate in. The only thing that could put a damper on things is the weather but I'm sure they will reschedule if it does get bad. For those of you who don't know where the Dunes is located it's about a mile and a half east of Stewart Beach on East Beach Drive. You can't miss it. You people with fair skin should remember to bring along a bottle of sun block. I can't tell you how many spring breakers I have seen go home beet red. Also don't forget to bring a trash bag for your non perishable items, we have been trying

to keep the beaches as clean as possible. You've got a few more weeks to work on those tans and remember skimpy is the word for swim wear this year. I even heard that there is going to be a couple of guys from Basic Brothers modeling their newest beach wear so you may want to pack your camera. I know I wouldn't want to miss a shot

at a couple of them. Basic Brothers is also planning a fashion show in Galveston that's coming up soon so stay tuned for exact dates and times.

Misty Valdez is having her annual AIDS Benefit coming up on May 6 at the Kon Tiki Club. For information you can contact the island Diva herself. I stopped by the club Sunday night to catch the show that included Naomi Warwick, Misty, Jessica Van Shelton and Crystal Tremaine. I must say, Crystal was in some kind of wild mood that evening. I'm not sure which cat crossed her path but when she came out to do one of her numbers her back was arched and her razor sharp claws were straight out, let me tell you girls, if looks could kill she have gone up for manslaughter. The crowd loved her because when it comes to serving it she's pure royalty.

Club Evolution is looking for a few good men to dance and entertain us on weekends. Check the help wanted section of the Houston Voice or call the club at (409) 763-4212 if you are interested. I also stopped by there Sunday evening to find Deva working some hot number over on the dance floor. I ask Toby the bartender o duty who he

was and he filled me in on the situation. You know me, I've got one of those inquiring minds and besides, it's my job. Anyway Deva, you go girl! I'm sure trade like that is sure to put some color in a girls cheeks. And Leo, what's this I hear about the after hours party at Planet Mars? From what I heard you were in outerspace all right. Next time you decide to party on Mars you'll have to let me know. I'll come along and bring my

camera. I'm sure I could get some photos that would send us all into orbit. I also caught Cinnomen working the Dunes last weekend. Was a sunburn all you caught out there girl? The beach looked pretty festive that day. Remember, if any of you get any good gossip or soapsuds you want to spill, I'm all ears. This has been your friendly island reporter now signing off.



Sunday Cabaret at Lafitte's

# Albuquerque mayor signs order banning discrimination against gays

ALBUQUERQUE, Thursday, March 31 (AP)—Mayor Martin Chavez has signed an order banning discrimination against homosexuals and others.

The document signed Wednesday

adds "sexual orientation" and "medical condition" to a list of reasons that may not be held against city employees or people who have dealings with City Hall.

"We know prejudice continues to exist, but if we are to serve as role models for our children, we must do what we can to fight discrimination," said Chavez.

The list also bans discrimina-

tion on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, ancestry, national origin, disability and Vietnam veteran status.

"The problems we have as a community are too great to exclude

anyone," the mayor said.

Chavez said he issued the order in commemoration of the 26th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, which is being observed April 4.

## MID MONTH BLOWOUT CUSTOMER APPRECIATION - NO COVER PARTY EVERY MONTH THIS MONTH'S PARTY DATE: APRIL 16TH

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Photography by Ed Freeman

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The Texas Puzzle Solution  
 c. 1994 GULF FEATURES, Puzzle TXS67  
 Initialed names: Richard M. Nixon, Hugh Hefner,  
 Clark Kent, Charles De Gaulle, Phil Everly, Weicker,  
 Clark Kent, William Shakespeare, Lowell Weicker,  
 Lawrence Welk, Ezra Pound, Earl Warren

## Japanese court rules discrimination against gay group illegal

By MARI YAMAGUCHI  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

TOKYO, Wednesday, March 30 (AP)—In a landmark ruling for homosexuals' rights in Japan, a court told authorities today they were wrong to bar a gay group from using a public lodge and must pay them \$2,600 in compensation.

The Tokyo metropolitan government had rejected an application by the Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement, known as OCCUR, to stay overnight at the lodge. It said other guests would be disturbed because they would assume members of the gay group were having sex.

But Tokyo District Court Judge Toshi-

aki Harada ruled the rejection was discriminatory because authorities had no basis for their claim that the group would engage in sexual activities.

"I think the ruling was only appropriate," said Masanori Kanda, one of the plaintiffs. "We should not be discriminated against just because we're gay."

Except for a small number of transsexual entertainers and patrons of gay bars in Tokyo's Shinjuku area, most Japanese gays hide their sexual preference, fearing discrimination at work and elsewhere in a society where pressure to conform is intense.

OCCUR members used the Fuchu Youth House, run by the Tokyo government,

once in Feb. 1990. They said they were harassed by a youth soccer team and a church group that were also staying there.

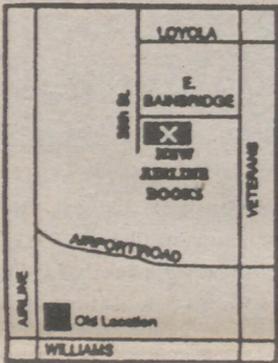
When OCCUR applied to use the house again three months later, authorities refused. The Tokyo government's education division said it barred homosexuals for the same reason that it prohibits members of the opposite sex from sharing a room.

The suit filed by three OCCUR members demanded \$63,000 in damages.

In awarding the plaintiffs \$2,600, the judge dismissed their damages claim for defamatory remarks allegedly made by government and youth center officials.



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## Gay student group in Florida wants student prosecuted over telephone threats

TAMPA, Fla., Wednesday, March 30 (AP)—A University of South Florida gay-student coalition wants a sophomore expelled and prosecuted for leaving more than a dozen threatening calls on the group's answering machine.

A complaint against USF student Nelson Trujillo was submitted to the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office last week, said Pam Morris, co-chairperson of the 50-member USF Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Coalition.

Morris said the calls began in October and some simply left the message "Die, faggots, die." Other calls predicted the murders of 10 gay men, five lesbians and two bisexuals in Tampa during the month of April.

Trujillo, a former columnist for USF's student newspaper, the Oracle, admits calling the coalition. He said he was simply expressing his outrage toward homosexuals in an exercise of free speech.

"I didn't mean it like it was going to happen for real," he said Monday. "When you're angry, you tell some-

one you're going to kill them. But that doesn't mean you're going to do it."

Gay behavior is the source of his rage, said Trujillo, 20. He blames homosexuals for making AIDS a threat to heterosexuals but declined to discuss his feelings in detail.

Threatening telephone calls can be second-degree misdemeanors punishable by as much as \$500 in fines and 60 days in jail, said Paul Duval Johnson of the Hillsborough State Attorney's Office, which will consider the complaint.

Florida's hate crime law might apply in this case, he said. If so, it would make the charge a first-degree misdemeanor and increase the punishment to as much as a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

USF's Student Code of Conduct defines harassment as conduct that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, while disruptive conduct includes violence or threats of violence against university people.

Punishments range from reprimands to expulsions.

## TEXAS CONNECTIONS

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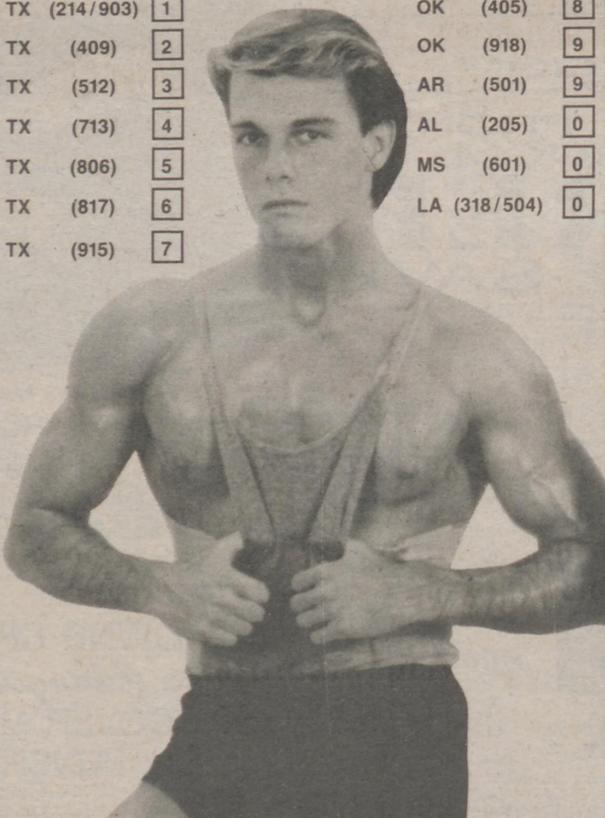
State	A.C.	Press
TX	(214/903)	1
TX	(409)	2
TX	(512)	3
TX	(713)	4
TX	(806)	5
TX	(817)	6
TX	(915)	7

State	A.C.	Press
OK	(405)	8
OK	(918)	9
AR	(501)	9
AL	(205)	0
MS	(601)	0
LA	(318/504)	0

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## Senators ask New York governor to rescind military ban

ALBANY, N.Y., Thursday, March 31 (AP)—Eighteen state senators have asked Gov. Mario Cuomo to overturn the State University of New York's ban on military recruiting, saying they feared it could damage the military.

The state university last month decided not to appeal a court decision that banned military recruiters at SUNY Buffalo because of the Pentagon's policies against homosexuals. The decision not to appeal effectively stopped military recruiting at 29 SUNY campuses.

A judge ruled that the military's policy on homosexuals violated an executive order issued by Cuomo in 1988 forbidding discrimination by any state agency on the basis of sexual orientation.

Under military policy, universities that ban recruiters cannot receive Defense Department funding. The military has taken no action on SUNY contracts.

The total value of Defense Department programs at SUNY campuses is \$21.3 million, university officials told the Gannett

News Service. That includes research grants and funding for students in the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

The senators asked Cuomo to either change his executive order or command the state university to appeal the court decision.

They called the statewide ban ironic in light of Cuomo's efforts to maintain New York state as a site for military bases.

"We strongly urge you to take immediate steps to allow our country's military personnel to recruit on state university campuses," the senators wrote. "The United States military deserves better treatment than this."

The letter was sent by Sen. John Daly, a Niagara County Republican. Republican candidate for governor Sen. George Pat-aki signed the letter.

"The governor wants the opportunity to respond to the senator before responding publicly," said Cuomo spokesperson Cecily Bailey on Thursday.

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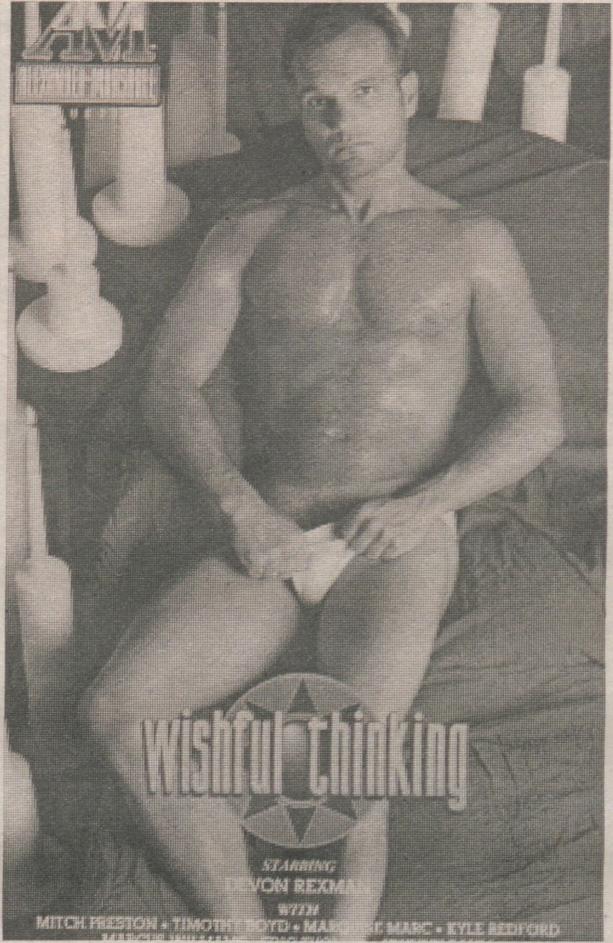


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• **To PLACE a Personal Ad by Phone:**

First, before you call, write out your ad. Use up to six (6) words in a bold headline and up to fifty (50) words in regular type. Call us at Houston (713) 529-8490 or Nationwide (800) 729-8490. After you've read your ad to us, and we prepare it to go to print, we will give you an 800 toll-free telephone number, your personal 5-digit ad number and your secret 4-digit personal identification number (PIN). Call the 800 number using a touch-tone phone and follow the verbal instructions to record, in your actual voice, your ad. (Somewhere in the verbal ad, say what city you live in.) Cost is \$24.95 for up to a year. We will mail you a bill. You can change your ad as often as desired during the year, but you must call us every four weeks to keep your ad running.

• **To PLACE a Personal Ad by Mail:**

Write out your ad using up to six (6) words in a bold headline and up to fifty (50) words in regular type. Then mail it with your check for \$24.95 to the Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006. Please enclose your name, mailing address and telephone number where you can be reached during the daytime. We will mail back to you an 800 toll-free number, your personal 5-digit ad number and your secret 4-digit personal identification number (PIN). Call the 800 number and follow the verbal instructions to record, in your actual voice, your ad. You can change both your voice and written ad as often as desired but you must phone or write us every four (4) weeks to keep your ads running.

• **To RESPOND to a Personal Ad by Phone:**

Call 1-900-454-3576. Listen to the verbal instructions. A charge of \$1.49 per minute will appear on your telephone bill. You can respond verbally, leaving your name and phone number, to as many personal advertisers as you wish. You can browse through all the personal advertisers until you hear someone that interests you. As the individual advertisers periodically check their incoming verbal mailboxes, they will retrieve your response. Call (713) 529-8490 (Houston) or (800) 729-8490 (Nationwide) for more information about this service or to obtain information about a pre-paid toll-free answering account. You must be 18+ to use this service.

• **To RESPOND to a Personal Ad by Mail:**

Place your written response inside a blank sealed envelope and write the 5-digit ad number on the envelope. Place this envelope along with \$2.00 inside another envelope and mail to the Houston Voice Personals, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006. Your response will be forwarded to the advertiser the same day received by first class mail. You may mail multiple responses in the same envelope, but enclose \$2.00 for each response mailed. Responses received without fees will not be forwarded nor returned. Call (713) 529-8490 in Houston or (800) 729-8490 Nationwide for information about this service or to obtain information about a toll-free answering account. You must be 18+ to use this service.

• **To RECEIVE Responses to Your Personal Ad:**

We will forward to you daily, unopened, at no charge, all responses received by mail. To see if you have any verbal messages waiting, call the 800 toll-free number we gave you when you placed your ad. If the recording says you have verbal responses waiting, have your 5-digit code and secret 4-digit PIN handy and call 1-900-454-3576 to retrieve your verbal messages. A charge of \$1.49 a minute will appear on your phone bill. Call (713) 529-8490 in Houston or (800) 729-8490 Nationwide for information about this service or to obtain information about a toll-free answering account. You must be 18+ to use this service.

• **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

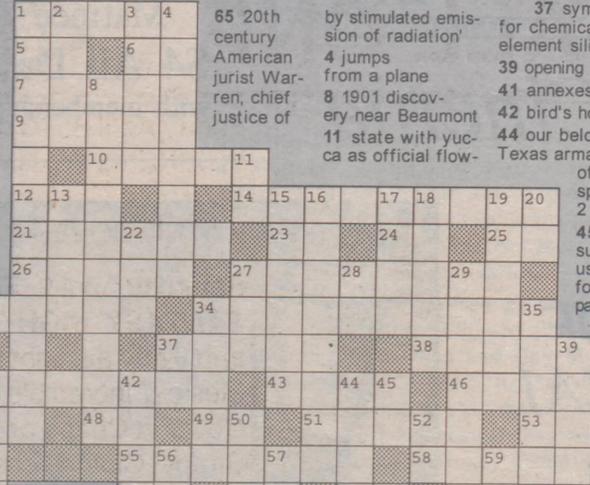
To take advantage of this \$24.95-per-year offer, you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personal Ads by calling the special 800 toll-free number you will receive when you place your ad. You must record, in your own voice, your personal ad. If you do not participate in this "live voice aspect" your ad may be discontinued after the first week without reimbursement. If you do not desire to participate, you may instead purchase a personal ad at the rate of 55¢ per word weekly. Additionally all ads, both in print and voice should not contain references to sexual acts or organs. All ads should be "positive", that is describing only those people -or- traits desired. People or traits not desired should not be listed.

# THE HOUSTON VOICE SPECIAL PUZZLE

Includes Clues About Montrose, Texas Clues, Standard Crossword Clues

By Henry McClurg  
ACROSS

- 1 upright structures around a room
- 5 adjective & adverb suffix for comparing 2 items
- 6 Last Frontier state, abbrev.
- 7 timid boy
- 9 secured with adhesive plastic
- 10 Texas county



with Mer-  
tzen as seat  
(you'll prob-  
ably have  
to look  
this one up)

- 12 37th U.S. president, resigned from office, initials ("A riot is a spontaneous outburst. A war is subject to advance planning.")
- 14 county at the geographical center of Texas
- 21 lowered head in agreement
- 23 to a horse, stop!
- 24 Roman numeral for 6
- 25 interjection for hesitation
- 26 performances by 1 person
- 27 those devoted particular things
- 30 frames for hanging criminals
- 34 slyness
- 36 notion
- 37 beamed
- 38 vapor of boiling water
- 40 Roosevelt organized the famous Rough Riders here, 2 words
- 43 in a right triangle, function of acute angle that is the ratio of the

- 46 the hypotenuse inactive & unused
- 47 20th century French general, statesman De Gaulle, initials
- 48 the other Everly brother from Don, initials
- 49 senior, abbrev.
- 51 Texas town where HUD seized control of all-white housing project
- 53 a lot of the 5th letter of the alphabet
- 54 color of the ruby
- 55 make more pleasant
- 58 those of Wales
- 60 steamship, abbrev.
- 61 a bunch of the 20th letter of the alphabet
- 62 Land of Opportunity state, abbrev.
- 63 20th century American poet Pound, initials ("Literature is news that stays news.")

- 65 20th century American jurist Warren, chief justice of
- U.S. Supreme Court, initials ("Liberty, not communism, is the most contagious force in the world.")
- 66 Bob Wills' band was the Texas ?????????
- 69 line of cliffs
- 70 parasitic insect egg
- 71 14th letters of the alphabet
- 72 American car maker
- 74 Great Lake
- 75 turf

- by stimulated emission of radiation
- 4 jumps from a plane
- 8 1901 discovery near Beaumont
- 11 state with yucca as official flower
- 37 symbol for chemical element silicon
- 39 opening in a net
- 41 annexes
- 42 bird's home
- 44 our beloved Texas armadillo is of what species, 2 words
- 45 verb suffix used to form past participles
- 50 in actuality, here and now, 2 words
- 52 19th century Irish wit Wilde, initials ("Duty is what one expects from others.")
- 56 16th-17th century English playwright Shakespeare, initials ("In delay there lies no plenty.")
- 57 those who betray
- 59 Conn. politician Weicker or late orchestra leader Welk, initials
- 64 detachable spacecraft compartment
- 66 criticize
- 67 a bunch of the 25th letter of the alphabet
- 68 you
- 73 Spanish for river

- 13 cow noises
- 15 fetters
- 16 think of
- 17 Roman numeral 57
- 18 legal claims against another's property
- 19 cursed
- 20 Playboy publisher Hefner, initials
- 22 most popular computer operating system
- 27 away
- 28 Superman's disguise, initials
- 29 those retired
- 30 U.S. Army enlisted man
- 31 commercial messages in this newspaper
- 32 meadow
- 33 spears
- 34 plural form of 'that'



## GALAXY GAZER A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

### HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 9 - APRIL 15, 1994



Houston Voice readers born this week share with author Glenway Wescott, born 1901, the quiet power of observation and story telling.

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Luck with money is not for you this week. Therefore go easy with Lotto card purchases. If you wish to gamble, do so purely for the fun and excitement involved, realizing that your chance to win is zero. A better plan would be to set a fixed sum of dollars aside each pay period, for investment savings. The sense of security from a growing account will do wonders for you.

**TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21) Readers who are single will have a great chance to meet someone attractive and interesting this week. The other person will not be your expected 'type', but will have the qualities you should be having in a mate. You will find her/him to be more explorative sexually than you are generally comfortable with, and versatile with interests and skills making the person very talented in your eyes.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) Getting your body into shape for summer will begin to be a major focus for you. Tanning, a shorter hair style, working out with weights, and even a tattoo are all in the works. A small tattoo on your buttocks will be a special gift of self indulgence by you. Be intuitive as your quick mind will be working over time month at work.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) Trying to make your self indispensable at work makes real sense to have your position more secure for yourself, and hopefully point to a raise in the future. Impress your supervisor with accurate and productive projects so that she/he could not imagine running the office without you. It maybe difficult for you, but try to stay above the gossip activities and not take sides when Office decisions are made.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug 22) This month will see a flurry of social events and parties available to you. You enjoy the center stage position. Make sure that grooming needs are always done, e.g. shoes' polished and sole dressing applied, extra hair trimmed from the neck, nose, and ears. I believe that you look more attractive without shaving others portions of your body besides the face for the men, and legs for the ladies.

**VIRGO** (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Tend to brush off minor problems that may come to all of us, this month, so that you will have energies and vision to handle the major area of concerns, e.g. finances, your love affair, relationship with a parent, and performance record at work. You will come through it all amazingly well. Dress a little more up-scale than you have been when dealing with co-workers and the public at work, and impress them with sincerity.

**LIBRA** (Sept 23 - Oct 22) 'Thank You' is in order for those of you who have performed volunteer work this past month. You have brightened the smile of many of our Community. When cooking, experiment with a higher level of seasoning to make your food more interesting. But "ma non troppo", "but not too much", as quantity of seasoning is not the same as quality. Try to always have some cookies or other home made munchies at home for impromptu guests.

**SCORPIO** (Oct 23 - Nov 22) Consider getting an extra ticket for an upcoming concert and then make a list of friends to attend with you. The someone special will be very impressed with your fore planning. Not knowing how your early dating will proceed, think about purchasing an extra ticket for two or three events. Be sure to tell your guest how to be attired to make her/him feel comfortable when out with you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23 - Dec 20) Think positively about your problems areas in your life and do not get weighted down in crossing your bridges over and over again. Try to keep a cheerful outlook in response to others, as a saddened face will not be attractive on you will work against you at home and the office. Get out your mirror from along side of the bed, and practice a smile and a 'happy face'.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 21 - Jan 19) This is an excellent time of the year to actively plan a vacation trip later this summer or fall. If out of ideas, please telephone Tad at the Voice Offices for excellent ideas from a world traveler. Consider taking one of the Sea Spirit Cruises, nothing like falling or being in love at sea. Take advantage of many of the special bargains in the tour industry.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Appreciate several of you stopping by the Voice Offices to let us know of your ideas for the Newspaper. Continue to be aware of the world around you and remember that either the world will changed you or you will alter the world, if only in a minute. Decide if you wish to be a participant or a spectator. You may choose to be both. Take advantage of being out of doors and working on your tan for the summer months.

**PISCES** (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You will be entering your high style period of time over the next six weeks. This is a great month to try a different hair style (women or men), use of colors that you never thought would work, and a different style at the office. I still like the 'power' colors on yourself, e.g. red, medium blue, black, strong grays, and yellow. Check your posture to make sure that you have an upright stance of confidence.

## RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD



Yo!! With everyone's hectic schedules now a days, here's a recipe that is super easy, and doesn't take much time. It makes lots, so you can have several guests over, or it freezes very well.

### BEEF STROGANOFF

- 2 pounds of round steak (tenderized and sliced into thin strips)
- 1 to 2 toes of garlic (depends on the strength of the garlic)
- 3 cans of Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1 16 ounce carton of sour cream
- 1 medium onion (chopped)
- 1 package of McCormick Beef Stroganoff Sauce Mix
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- Butter or margarine

In a large saucepan, melt butter and sauté onion and garlic. When onion is translucent, add beef and cook. When beef is near done, add mushrooms, and simmer for about five minutes. Sprinkle on the Beef Stroganoff Mix and stir well. Add the Mushroom Soup and heat to bubbling point and turn heat down. Add the sour cream and stir well. Salt and pepper to taste. Pour over medium egg noodles, rice or even good over baked potatoes.

Instead of using beef, I like to use chicken. You can either use boneless, skinless chicken breasts thinly sliced, or you can use two pounds of the ground chicken meat. Either is very good.

Do you know what you call a bull in the field masturbating? Beef Stroke-N-Off.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



## GAY GAMES IV & CULTURAL FESTIVAL



JUNE 18 - 25, 1994  
NEW YORK CITY  
(212) 633 - 9494

The Houston Voice welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point opinion pieces for our editorial page. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in commentaries that we have run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and readability, and we will run only one full-length counterpoint to an opinion piece. Shorter responses may run as "letters to the editor" at our discretion.

## BARS/CLUBS

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Robert's LaFitte	2501 Avenue Q	765-9092
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Amie's	403 Westheimer	523-0030
Bacchus	2715 Waughcrest	523-3396
Backyard Bar & Grille	10200 S. Main	660-6285
Berryhill II	15346 Kuykendahl	587-8810
Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	528-9192
Briar Patch	2294 W. Holcombe	665-9678
Club Houston	2205 Fannin	659-4998
Cousins	817 Fairview	528-9204
E/J's	2517 Ralph	527-9071
Gentry	2303 Richmond	520-1861
Heaven	812 Pacific	521-9123
JR's	808 Pacific	521-2519
Lazy J	312 Tuam	528-9394
Mary's	1022 Westheimer	527-9669
Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin	522-2379
Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	529-7488
Ms. B's	9200 Buffalo Spdwy	666-3356
Outpost	2818 Richmond	520-8446
Pacific Street	710 Pacific	523-0213
QT's	534 Westheimer	529-8533
Ranch	9200 Buffalo Spdwy	666-3464
Red Room	1419 Richmond	529-3367
Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	759-9606
Ripcord	715 Fairview	521-2791
Venture-N	2923 Main	522-0000
XTC	9200 Buffalo Spdwy	666-3464