

HOUSTON VOICE

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Oscar Contest

New Gay
Educational Film

L'Art Erotique organizers forced to remove part of exhibit at Pavilion



L'Art Erotique chair Michael Kemper is joined by Houston Oiler Warren Moon, Jann Glenn and Mark Prunty. The Valentine's Day benefit art sale at the Pavilion on Post Oak was a success despite the site's censorship of part of the display.

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Houston Voice Editor

Hearts, flowers and lovers may be the accepted emblems of tradition on Valentine's Day, but female nudes and suggestive flower sculptures are unacceptable, according to the management of a local upscale shopping center.

Dick Dace, director of the "L'Art Erotique," a Valentine's Day art show benefit for Alpha 2 Omega Foundation, expressed amazement and frustration this week at the in progress decision by The Pavilion on Post Oak to censor a portion of the art that was displayed in the show. The offending pieces included seven paintings that showed female frontal nudity and two display cases of erotic flower sculptures.

Participating artists and guests insisted the art was not offensive; indeed, though billed as an erotic art show, most of the works in the exhibit were highly stylized, impressionistic interpretations of their subject.

Dace said the center's management knew the theme of the show and had discussed its sensitivity in advance of the event. "We discussed pornography,

and what we could and couldn't show, and we seemed to agree (a pornographic painting) would be one that shows, say, an erect penis," he said.

Robert Ramos of Alpha 2 Omega, the show's curator, added: "It was just ridiculous. The Pavilion knew what this show was all about."

The painting they asked me to remove was a simple line sketch...I can't imagine anyone being offended by it," said Paula Knox, one of the featured artists whose work was censored.

"They were really tacky about it," said Dace. "They did things like place yellow post-it notes over vaginas." The center's management also sent an armed security guard to ask the organizers to remove the artwork, Dace said.

Michael Kemper, chair of the committee that sponsored the event, said that Pavilion manager Kristine Lancaster threatened closure of the show if the pieces were not removed from the exhibit.

"We had 300 people there (at the time)," Dace said.

The show, billed as "sensual, fanciful and flirtatious art that piques one's romantic imagi-

nation in the grand tradition of Rodin, Rubens and Renoir" was an invitation only event that attracted numerous local luminaries and society figures. Celebrity guests included Houston Oiler Warren Moon, television personality Jan Glenn and model Mark Prunty.

Dace commented that the censorship shows a frightening trend in Houston's receptiveness to the arts. "It's the far right that is coming in to tell us what we can and cannot see...it's really scary, because it comes down to just one person's opinion of what is offensive," he said.

Lancaster later told The Houston Post that the Erotique organizers had agreed not to show nudity and that the Pavilion "is not an art gallery." She did not return calls from the Houston Voice in time for our deadline.

The Valentine's event, including its controversy, had a happy ending, however. Which art had been censored became a hot topic of conversation that evening, Dace said, and an estimated \$5,000 was raised for the foundation that supports the Houston AIDS hospice, Omega House.

Right Wing dominates discussion at journalists' conference

By DENNIS VERCHER

Dallas Voice

Religious right activities and the implications for journalists was a major theme as about 60 gay and lesbian Texas news men and women gathered in Dallas last weekend for a conference sponsored by the state chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

Two conference speakers focused on the need to counter the religious right's effort to pass anti-gay ballot measures in states and localities around the nation. Lesbian psychiatrist D. Dee Mosbacher joined Mel White, Dean of the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church, in denouncing religious right activism and stressing the need for a strong response from the gay and lesbian community.

"You are on the front lines of the battle being waged against us by the religious right," White told the journalists. "You are the last line of defense between us and the Big Lie being told by my former employers." For many years before coming out, White was a ghostwriter for a handful of religious right luminaries, including Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and James Kennedy.

White said gay and lesbian journalists find themselves in the same position as "Jewish journalists just before the Holocaust." He urged journalists to observe religious right initiatives carefully and to find ways to "show the truth before we all become victims to their lies."

Mosbacher showed a film she produced in response to the religious right's infamous The Gay Agenda, a video which gay leaders have castigated as a distorted and hateful depiction of gay/lesbian life in America.

Mosbacher's film employs

various ministers and representatives of the organization Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) in making a case for equal treatment of gay and lesbian citizens. The lesbian psychiatrist, a Houston native and daughter of Republican fund raiser Robert Mosbacher, is now seeking funding for what she hopes will be wide distribution of the gay-positive video.

NLGJA national board member Garrett Glaser, an openly-gay correspondent for Entertainment Tonight, praised the Texas chapter and said the national organization, established two years ago, already has produced results.

"I think overall we continue to grow strong and are strong," Glaser stated. "Our Texas membership has built a nucleus of gays and lesbians in the media." Glaser said the Texas chapter was one of the group's strongest.

In addition to influencing coverage of gay and lesbian issues, journalists in their work," said, the organization continues to "support gay and lesbian journalists in their work," and said the national organization is beginning to focus on campus outreach programs. "We want to get the message out to the next generation of gay and lesbian journalists that it's okay to be gay in the newsroom. They need not go through anti-gay scenarios that we did," Glaser remarked.

During the conference, Texas chapter co-chair Kay Longcope appealed for volunteers to assist with a college outreach program in Texas.

The conference also featured panel discussions on a variety of issues, including coverage of civil rights issues, work place matters and homophobia and racism.

(Continued on Page 5)

Idaho attorney general wants legal opinion on gay alliance

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho, Saturday, Feb. 12 (AP)—The Idaho attorney general's office has been asked for a legal opinion whether the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance must be given campus status at North Idaho College.

Attorneys representing the Associated Students of NIC, the college administration and the alliance cooperatively drafted

a letter to the office, but agreed not to be bound by the opinion.

Meanwhile, the University of Montana student government has criticized North Idaho's student leaders for failing to sanction the alliance, and indicated it may file a friend-of-the-court brief, to side with the alliance if a lawsuit is filed.

The alliance in December requested offi-

cial campus status, including funding entitled to student organizations, and permission to meet on campus. The school's senators on Jan. 21 voted 5-2 against it.

Student body president Christa Manis said the senators felt a club based solely on sexual orientation is not needed on campus.

The letter asks whether the student body must recognize the alliance, and if it must

provide funding through student activity fees.

Montana student senator Evan Katzman asked the North Idaho College senators to reverse their decision.

Katzman said he believes it is a serious breach of individual civil liberties, and added the student leaders at Montana have supported his stand.

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President slams anti-Gay initiatives in letter to Gay and Lesbian organizations

Leaders of national lesbian and gay organizations heralded President Bill Clinton's strong statement against anti-gay initiatives occurring in 11 states around the country. The President said, "I am committed to the fight for equality for all Americans."

Clinton responded to a request from gay and lesbian groups with a strongly worded statement lending his support to defeat anti-gay initiative campaigns fueled by the Far Right. Campaigns are already underway to compromise or eliminate gay rights gains in Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington.

The President's message is clear that he is on the side of the gay groups: "All people in our society must enjoy the opportunity to be judged on their own merits. Sadly...this simple principle of justice has come under assault in several states

this year. Those who would legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other grounds are gravely mistaken about the values that make our nation strong. The essential right to equality must not be denied by a ballot initiative or otherwise."

The President's support was delivered in the form of a letter to William Waybourn, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, who wrote him on behalf of the Victory Fund, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The President commended the broad coalition of leaders from the religious communities, labor unions, environmental groups, gay and lesbian organizations, women's groups, senior citizens, communities of color, Republicans and Demo-

crats and many other groups who have united to oppose these ballot initiatives.

"You have demonstrated through your actions and your diverse membership that this is not an issue of 'special rights' for any one group. This is a battle to protect the human rights of every individual," Clinton said.

Tuesday, the letter was released in a national press conference held in Washington. In announcing the President's support, Waybourn said, "The President's backing brings a measure of hope to those who are fighting in the trenches every day to defeat these anti-gay measures. It will sustain them through this long battle. We are not alone," Waybourn said.

"Lesbians and gay men are victims of a holy war," he said. "We have been subjected to an epidemic of violence, hatred, bigotry, discrimination and prejudice. The radical right claims we seek 'special rights.'

That is a lie. We seek equal rights. But as we attempt to gain the freedoms that every American is supposed to enjoy, we are marginalized as extremists, portrayed as radicals and discounted as militant activists," he said.

Waybourn said obtaining the President's support was crucial since the Victory Fund, which supports openly lesbian and gay candidates for public office, has candidates running for office in eight states where there are referendums scheduled.

"We are a community that seeks inclusion, but finds intolerance. Intolerance in Colorado, where the Far Right managed to pass Amendment 2.

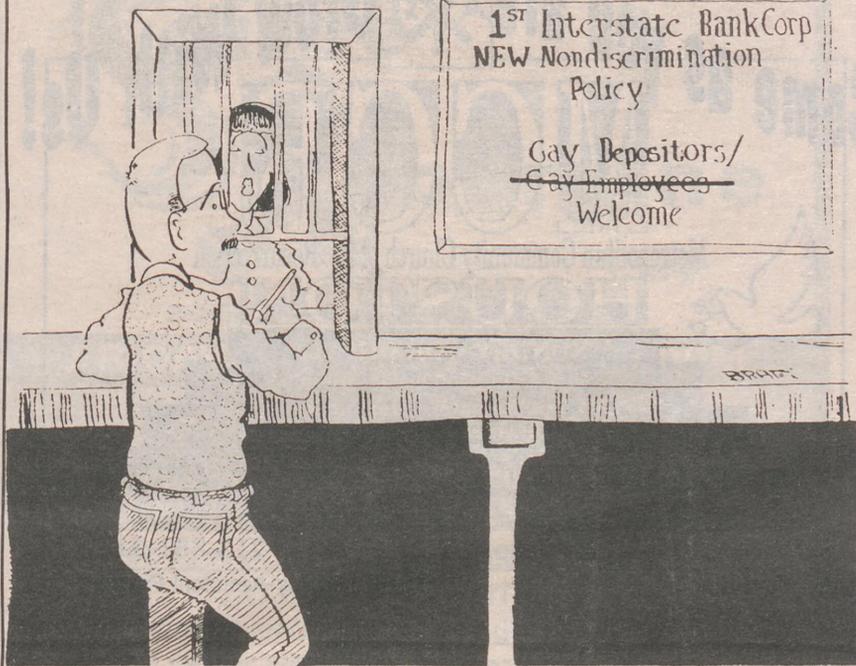
Intolerance in Michigan, Missouri, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and other states where legislation is being considered that prohibits these states from enacting laws that recognize lesbian and gay men and legalize discrimination.

Intolerance in Tyler, Texas where a man was brutally beaten simply because he was a gay man. Intolerance in Overt, Mississippi where lesbians seeking only to share the spirit of their lives are threatened and harassed every day," Waybourn said.

"We are tired of it. We shall be tolerant no more," he said.

(Editor's note: The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is sponsoring a local membership drive on Monday, Feb. 21, at the Museum Restaurant and Bar, 1512 West Alabama. The organization, which supports openly Gay and Lesbian candidates for public office, is hoping to double its local membership. Members are asked to contribute \$100 to join the fund and pledge \$200 in support to Gay candidates per year. The party includes an appearance by Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris and open bar and is free to new members).

Brady's Corner



Washington judge changes anti-gay-rights initiative ballot title

OLYMPIA, Saturday, Feb. 12 (AP)—Spin doctors on both sides of the gay rights issue are at it in Thurston County Superior Court.

The antis won the first round Friday when Judge Richard Strophy ruled that the Initiative 608 ballot title, as written by the state attorney general's office, was not neutral and exceeded the 20-word limit.

Strophy rewrote the title that will appear on initiative petitions and will be on the general election ballot in November if supporters gather at least 181,667 valid signatures of registered voters by July 8. His version:

"Shall government be prohibited from according rights or protections based on sexual orientation, and

schools be prohibited from promoting homosexuality?"

The attorney general's version, backed by gay-rights supporters:

"Shall governments be prohibited from providing protections against discrimination or other rights to persons based on sexual orientation, and schools be restricted in discussing homosexuality?"

Strophy ruled that wording was negative.

Annmarie Levins, representing Washington Citizens for Fairness, questioned whether the new title is neutral or even accurate.

Readers disappointed in 'Gay-friendly' officials Richards, Clinton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From THOM PRENTICE

Austin, Texas

On March 8, Gov. Ann Richards will not be running against George W. Bush. She will be seeking renomination by the Democratic Party and will be running on—or against—her own record.

On lesbian and gay issues, I find her record wanting.

Therefore, I encourage gay men and lesbians to Just Not Vote in the March 8 governor's race. A minor, unknown candidate is on the ballot against Richards so she is not at-risk of losing the nomination. But whether you vote for her or Just Don't Vote March 8, please send her a letter explaining that you want to be on board with her in November, but that she has some fences to mend with our people.

Here's why.

Remember the Apple Computer/Williamson County/Domestic Partners issue? Ann Richards treated it solely as an economic development issue. She uttered not a word on behalf of the concept of domestic partners.

Remember the sodomy law? She was helpful behind-the-scenes, but when the repeal effort went public, she turned tail and ran. She called in not chits to repeal what she called "the dumbest law I have ever heard of." Moreover, while she probably couldn't realistically veto the new penal code, she could have issued a statement critical of re-inclusion of 21.06.

But she didn't.

And when the Texas Supreme Court issued its convoluted 21.06 non-ruling, Ann Richards was silent. One of her sides, Chuck McDonald, stated publicly that she "wouldn't oppose" legislative repeal of 21.06—hardly an enthusiastic endorsement of our critical issue. It is certainly not a sensitive statement to our people who are bludgeoned day after day by the sodomy law wielded by terroristic, right wing sinister ministers, bashers, discriminators and homophobes.

Remember the 1991 March on Austin? Ann Richards refused to provide even a plain vanilla welcome letter to 30,000 lesbians and gays until—literally—the last minute when she gave State Rep. Glen Maxey permission to hand write one on the platform.

In addition, when was the last time Ann Richards has spoken the words "gay and lesbian" in a public statement or

speech?

When was the last time Ann Richards said the word "AIDS" in a public statement or speech?

Why do the homosexuals on Ann Richards' staff belittle gay and lesbian movement, treat gay and lesbian issues with contempt, and aggressively encourage the Governor to ignore our concerns, avoid our events and turn away from our suffering?

By her staff's own admission, Ann Richards has held only one meeting with gay and lesbian leaders only once in the four years she has been in office. One meeting. And this from a Governor who is "our friend."

When has anyone heard Ann Richards include "sexual orientation" to the list of human rights she wants to protect?

That's enough. You should get the point. Republicans like Mass. Gov. William Weld, California Governor Pete Wilson, L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and NYC Mayor Rudolph Guliani are all way ahead of Ann Richards in leadership and courage on our issues. Even Bill Clinton's tortured experience on the military ban issue demonstrated more guts than has Ann Richards.

And its time that Democratic gays and lesbians begin to hold Democratic officeholders accountable. This co-dependent, dysfunctional, ego-driven cult of personality that seems to motivate so many gay and lesbian Democrats to blindly worship Ann Richards has gotten us nowhere. It is time for Ann Richards to be held accountable for being Absent Without Leave on our issues for four years and if the gay political elites won't hold her accountable, the gay and lesbian grassroots, worms-eye view homos must.

Send Ann Richards a letter. Tell her you want her to include repeal of 21.06, increased AIDS funding, sex education, domestic partners, parental rights, and adding "sexual orientation" to the state human rights law in her platform and in her State of the State legislative proposals next year—assuming she is re-elected.

Her commitment to our issues can assure her re-election by assuring our support. I don't know of a single gay Republican who voted for George Bush in '92 nor for Clayton Williams in '90. But I know too many Democratic gays who spend too much time dysfunctionally and co-dependently apologizing for Ann Richards' failings. Her appointments are indeed a plus. But appointments—which were not among

the goals of our 1991 March on Austin and are not central to our lives—are simply not enough.

On March 8, send her a message. Just Don't Vote in the Governor's race and send her a letter telling her why and explaining how she can redeem herself with our community, secure our support, and win in November.

Outraged Sissyfag

From LUKE SISSYFAG

Washington, D.C.

Disappointed. Disappointed beyond words and almost to the point of tears, is how I felt after looking over President Clinton's 1995 AIDS budget. I am disappointed beyond words because we have yet another president who is allowing this to happen to us.

Clinton's 1995 AIDS budget is a slap in the face to our community, a community that has been devastated by death and disease. It took me some time to wade my way through the numbers and paper work, to get past the distortions to find out what new funds are being allocated to what desperately needed programs. The Clinton administration is playing the same dirty numbers game that George Bush did. Inflating the AIDS budget by including entitlement spending such as Social Security and Medicare, counting funds spent on testing members of the military as increases in AIDS spending. Once you get past the smoke and mirrors the reality is depressing. AIDS money has only increased by 6.9 percent over last years levels. This petty increase hardly keeps up with the plague that is mushrooming out of control at a pace ten times faster than the Clinton budget. AIDS research only sees an increase of 6 percent, and it's stretching it to consider this an increase when the rate of biomedical inflation is factored in. And Prevention efforts receive not one new penny from "our friend" Bill Clinton.

But this should not hardly surprise anyone. This the same Bill Clinton who during the campaign promised to lift the ban on HIV infected people with AIDS from entering the U.S. but signed it into law just after a few months in office. The same Bill Clinton that promised the sick and dying a cabinet level AIDS Czar. This woman nods, smiles, says the right things but has done nothing. She roams the country lowering expectations, underwhelming everyone she meets with.

AIDS research at the NIH is till in the stoneage. Thirteen long years we don't even know how this disease makes us

sick, how it kills us. Thirteen years and we have not one effective treatment to keep us alive. And Bill Clinton knows this. He knows the problems with the current AIDS research system. He knows that it's uncoordinated drug company controlled, and borderline useless. That's why he promised a "Manhattan" style research project, and intensive research initiative, to do the basic science, to unlock the secrets of AIDS and fine a cure. One year, where is it?

The thirty recommendations of George Bush's National Commission on AIDS report, with recommendations spanning needle exchange and condoms in schools to housing for homeless people with AIDS are still sitting on a shelf in the White House gathering dust while the death toll continues to spiral upward. And Bill Clinton himself attacked Bush for not having taken action on this report. What hypocrisy is this? One long death filled year later, where's the beef?

As part of his World AIDS Day address Clinton said "AIDS is receding in the public consciousness as a thing to be passionate about...even the Gay community." In politics and in Washington the name of the game is pressure. One thing we've learned over the last several years is that things don't change unless they are pushed. Knowing this, why do idiots like Tim McFeeley day such stupid things as 'He's done better than his predecessors' and fools like Barney Frank blabber "You have to look at what we had in the past." Garbage! We must grade Clinton by what's desperately needed, what's been promised and what's right. Not by what George Bush did or didn't do, that's irrelevant. Bill Clinton is throwing us bones because he knows he can get away with just that. He knows that this community's leadership has no standards and the combined political savvy of a glass of water. He knows that all he has to do is charm us with the right words and we'll eat it up.

After I confronted Clinton on World AIDS Day, Rush Limbaugh said "Clinton is big on symbolism but little substance." If Rush can see this why can't we? We need leaders and organizations that play hardball and get results not a bunch of suckers. At the start of this letter I said I was disappointed. I take it back, I'm outraged.

(Editor's note: Luke Sissyfag is a Washington-based activist who has had his name legally changed).

(Letters Continued on following page)

Colt 45's Moran is retiring; Gay candidate sets the record straight

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From CAL MORAN

Retiring Vice President, External, Colt 45's

For the past six years, the Colt 45's have been my husband, my wife, my lover, and more often than not, an Iron Mistress who demands all. This is a position I held most willingly and accepted most willingly. The fulfillment of the goals and dreams of the Colt 45's has always been my quest.

A few short years ago, Walter Carter, Till Thacker, and myself had a dream to turn an organization into the likes that has never been seen in our community. As other individuals who shared the same goals and dreams joined with us, a new revitalized Colt 45 organization arose like the Phoenix bird out of the ashes. This new breed of Colt 45 could only be compared in our times to the Knights of the Round Table in Camelot. This resurrected Camelot reflected an organization with heart, soul, and foundations balanced on the cornerstones of integrity and on the blade of a new Excalibur called Charity. And through holding various positions on the Executive Board, Walter Carter and I gladly wielded that sword to many valiant victories won through the unity of all Colts working as one to aid our clients.

At this time, however, I find that I must relinquish my clasp upon the mighty sword Excalibur, and therefore, in unison with Walter Carter, challenge the Colt 45's Membership to pick up the shield, the lance, our standard, and the sword and carry them forth so that the Mordreds and Morgans of this world can never unleash the Four Horsemen of

the Apocalypse on our organization, community, nor especially our clients. And by doing this, the Colt 45's will insure that the dream of Camelot and its Knights will truly become a never ending story that will endure for the betterment of our community.

Finally, it has indeed been an honor, and my total pleasure, to serve an organization that I love and believe in and to have made some positive difference in our community and to our clients' lives. This fellowship has truly been a most memorable time in my life, and one I will actively revisit again when the right time comes forth once more.

Get it straight: I'm gay

From BRUCE REEVES

Houston, Texas

Having just finished reading the Houston Voice of Feb. 11, I was somewhat intrigued to hear that "Houstonians won't get to vote for openly Gay and Lesbian candidates in the upcoming primary election." As a long time member of the Gay and Lesbian community of Houston, I take great pride in being the ONLY openly Gay candidate in Harris County in the March primary.

I am running for State representative in District 134 as a Democrat and was endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (as well as other groups), as was noted on the front page of the same issue. While my district does not include the Montrose area, it does include a number of precincts in the west Houston area, as well as all of Bellaire, West University and Southside Place. I would appreciate your setting the record "straight."

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.

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- 11:30am "Growing Herbs in Houston"
- 12:00pm "Topiary Shaping & General Pruning"
- 12:30pm "Bug & Disease Problems & Control"
- 2:30pm "Annual Spring Color"
- 3:00pm "Bug & Disease Problems & Control"

Sunday's Seminar Schedule:

- 12:00pm "New Varieties of Blooming Color"
- 12:30pm "Bug & Disease Problems & Control"
- 1:00pm "Annual Spring Color"
- 1:30pm "Growing Herbs in Houston"
- 2:30pm "The Benefits of Native Texas Plants"

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Activist Mitch Kincannon dies of AIDS complications

SANTA BARBARA, Calif., Thursday, Feb. 10 (AP)—Mitch Kincannon, a former circus clown who spent his last years educating people about AIDS, has died of complications from the disease.

Kincannon, 39, was the only surviving original resident of Heath House, Santa Barbara County's first board-and-care home for people with AIDS. The facility opened in June 1991.

After he was diagnosed in 1988, Kincannon dedicated his life to promoting better understanding of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, speaking at colleges, universities and conferences across the country.

He organized quilting bees for the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. For 2 1/2 years, his struggles were chronicled in "Mitch's Story," a series of reports and photographs in the Santa Barbara News-Press.

A native of Scobey, Mont., Kincannon in 1976 joined the Royal Lichtenstein Quarter-Ring Sidewalk Circus. He worked with the traveling show for 16 years as a clown, animal trainer, costume maker and manager before his health and finances faltered due to AIDS.

He is survived by his mother, Irene of Santa Barbara; sister Lisa Dighans of Peerless, Mont.; brothers Monte Kincannon of Aurora, Colo., Terry Kincannon of Peerless, Mont., and Stan Kincannon of Kelseyville, Mont.

Funeral arrangements were pending. Donations in Kincannon's memory may be made to Heath House.

Gay and Lesbian Catholics & Friends meet for Mass Saturdays at 7:30 pm



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Gay journalists complain of continuing sensationalism in news coverage

(Continued from Page 1)

The hottest discussion, however, came during a panel of primarily non-gay editors and producers, who fielded claims by journalists that too many newspaper and broadcast outlets continue to sensationalize gay and lesbian news stories. Several gay journalists also complained about newspaper policies that prohibit the publication of Holy Union announcements by gay and lesbian couples.

"The gap is very real," Ira Hadnot, edi-

tor of The Dallas Morning News Today section, observed about the difference in perception among gay journalists and their non-gay editors and managers. "Hopefully, we're trying to address it."

The Texas chapter also handed out awards to ten journalist and newspapers. Award-winners included: Joe Patrick Bean, San Antonio Express News, for columns championing human rights and detailing the threat posed by the religious right; Rosemary Barnes, Cor-

pus-Christi Caller-Times, for stories documenting the final months of a Texan with AIDS; Dallas Voice, for coverage of news, politics and controversies within the gay and lesbian community; Featherduster, the Westlake High School student newspaper, for promoting frank discussions of sexual orientation and teen sexuality; Texas Observer, for devoting an entire edition to gay and lesbian issues; Jay Janer, Corpus Christi Caller-Times, for photography showing the effects of

AIDS on persons with HIV and their loved ones; Hollace Weiner, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, for sensitive reporting on human sexuality; Clifford Pugh, Houston Post, for an account of why Texas Medical Center has failed to become a leading AIDS research center; Frank Trejo, The Dallas Morning News, for continuing coverage about diversity and discrimination in the gay and lesbian community; and John Young, Waco Tribune-Herald, for columns making a rational case for gay and lesbian rights.

NGLTF urging local groups to organize projects to counter Hate Crimes

INFORMATION AND ACTION FORUM

(Editor's note: This column is intended to alert our readers to opportunities to participate in planned or ongoing activities of local, state and national activist organizations, and to obtain newly released reports or educational materials pertaining to Gay and Lesbian issues. Organizations are asked to please include all applicable contact numbers and charges when providing a listing for the Forum).

On March 8, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is scheduled to release its eighth annual national report on anti-Gay/Lesbian violence and victimization. In conjunction with that event, anti-violence projects around the nation will release their statistics, hold press conferences and organize vigils and other events.

Groups and individuals around the country are encouraged to hold events as a part of this national day to Count and Counter Hate Crimes. If you or your group are sponsoring an event, please let the NGLTF know about it. Contact Martin Hiraga, Anti-Violence Project Director, (202) 332-6483, ext. 3307. (Source: NGLTF).

AIDS Treatment Newsletter

Community Prescription Service of New York offers a quarterly "Infopack" containing up-to-date treatment information for people with HIV. Copies of the newsletter are free by calling CPS. The current issue contains articles on HIV drug resistance, Chinese medicine and MAC (mycobacterium avium complex).

CPS is a mail-order prescription service that helps individuals reduce or elimi-

nate their out-of-pocket prescription costs. The company handles all insurance company paperwork, does not require advance payment and accepts most insurance company payments.

To receive a subscription to the Infopack, call Community Prescription Service at (800) 842-0502. Bulk copy subscriptions are also available free of charge to doctors and community based organizations. (Source: Community Prescription Service).

Austin ordinance

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is alerting Austin and Texas residents that an effort to repeal the City of Austin's domestic partner benefits program for city employees is ongoing. A pre-election challenge measure pushed by the anti-Gay Concerned Texans Inc. of Austin is being evaluated. To find out what you can

do to help fight the measure, contact the Lesbian/Gay rights Lobby of Texas, (512) 474-5475. (Source: HRCF).

NGLTF Conference

Organizing is now underway for the seventh annual Creating Change Conference, sponsored by NGLTF. Regularly scheduled host committee meetings are already being held at the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Upcoming meeting dates are March 23, April 20 and May 12.

Persons would like to be part of the Creating Change host committee, are urged to attend one of the upcoming meetings. Meetings are held at the Community Center, located at 2701 Reagan at Brown. For more information, contact Deb Elder at (214) 528-4233.

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Academy announces nominees; Houston Voice announces Oscar Contest

By JAVIER TAMEZ
 Houston Voice/Houston

Ah, Oscar! How I do love you! I love you for the excitement, the suspense and the thrill. I love you for the unexpected, the unfettered and the unbelievable. I love you for the glamour, the glitz and the spectacle. And I love you as a fairly decent dildo substitute (just kidding!). I love Oscar for the sheer celebration that this awards ceremony has become. It's a grand, splashy festival, and I love every minute of it.



Tommy Lee Jones, right as Deputy U.S. Marshall Sam Gerard, barks out orders to men (Joe Pantoliano and Daniel Roebuck) searching for escaped convict Dr. Richard Kimble in 'The Fugitive'

The nominees having been announced, the real race for that cute little guy now begin in earnest. And who do I think will walk away a winner and who will be an also-ran. Well, I'll tell you, but not yet. Because that would ruin the contest.

This year, you get to match your Oscar prognosticative powers against me (and anyone else who plays of course) in a contest. The complete rules are simple and included on the ballot. Suffice it to say that if you predict more winners correctly than anyone else who enters, you will win \$100. But if you also predict more winners correctly than I, then you win an additional \$50.

So you understand, I'm sure, why you can't know just yet my thoughts on this year's race. The Oscar telecast is on Monday, March 21st. You can see my picks in the issue on March 17th. Your entries must be post-marked or delivered to the Houston Voice office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16th.

And one other note. Four categories are not included in this contest. Documentary Feature, Documentary Short Subject, Animated Short Film and Live Action Short Film are composed of works with such limited exposure that even Academy members are required to show proof (through a stamped or hole-punched card I think) that they have attended screenings of the nominees before being allowed to vote in these categories. Therefore it seemed more reasonable to exclude them from our fun. But even if I can't discuss the nominees,

I can tell you who I feel was robbed. Under Best Picture, many will wonder why 'The Age of Innocence,' 'Philadelphia,' 'Shadowlands' or 'Short Cuts' weren't honored. Truth of the matter is though, while these films were good, the five nominated were all better.

Missing among the actresses was Juliette Binoche. Though the film has yet to play here in Houston, Binoche has received universal acclaim from critics in New York and L.A. That usually makes for a strong contender, but this year it wasn't enough.



Liam Neeson and Ben Kingsley as Oskar Schindler and Itzhak Stern in 'Schindler's List'

The short list of actors should have included Harrison Ford for 'The Fugitive.' Ford's performance was as excellent as the film and his omission is glaring. Similar, though not as powerful, arguments could be made for Harvey Keitel for his brutal and alluring performance in 'The Piano' and David Thewlis, an

unknown Briton, for his captivating turn in 'Naked.'

When the votes were tabulated for the directing nominees, the absence of Andrew Davis raised a few eyebrows, particularly since his film, 'The Fugitive,' was among the Best Picture nominees. Jonathan Demme ('Philadelphia') and Richard Attenborough ('Shadowlands') both had their proponents but not the votes.

Probably the biggest snubs occurred outside of the major categories. In Original Score, Kitaro, a tremendously versatile composer, was not honored for the sweeping score of 'Heaven and Earth,' while under Original Song, the Irish rocker Bono and his band U2, who produced several invigorating pieces for 'In the Name of the Father' and was widely expected to be a nominee.

For my money though, the biggest surprise of them all was in Best Costume Design. The huge wardrobe topped off by the elaborate costumes needed for Chinese opera from 'Farewell My Concubine' was not included nor were the flashy festooned frocks of 'Strictly Ballroom,' which I would have rated a shoo-in. The academy members usually love this kind of stuff. Go figure.

It seems everyone has a favorite that doesn't make the list when all is said and done. Assign it to the vagaries of taste or the dealings of politics, but don't dwell on it too long; the real fun has just begun.



Ana Paquin and Holly Hunter in 'The Piano'

HOUSTON VOICE — OSCAR CONTEST

Name _____ Phone _____
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Best Picture

- The Fugitive
 In the Name of the Father
 The Piano
 The Remains of the Day
 Schindler's List

Best Actress

- Angela Bassett (What's Love Got to Do With It)
 Stockard Channing (Six Degrees of Separation)
 Holly Hunter (The Piano)
 Emma Thompson (The Remains of the Day)
 Debra Winger (Shadowlands)

Best Actor

- Daniel Day-Lewis (In the Name of the Father)
 Laurence Fishburne (What's Love Got to Do With It)
 Tom Hanks (Philadelphia)
 Anthony Hopkins (The Remains of the Day)
 Liam Neeson (Schindler's List)

Best Director

- Robert Altman (Short Cuts)
 Jane Campion (The Piano)
 James Ivory (The Remains of the Day)
 Jim Sheridan (In the Name of the Father)
 Steven Spielberg (Schindler's List)

Best Supporting Actress

- Holly Hunter (The Firm)
 Anna Paquin (The Piano)
 Rosie Perez (Fearless)
 Winona Ryder (The Age of Innocence)
 Emma Thompson (In the Name of the Father)

Best Supporting Actor

- Leonardo DiCaprio (What's Eating Gilbert Grape)
 Ralph Fiennes (Schindler's List)
 Tommy Lee Jones (The Fugitive)
 John Malkovich (In the Line of Fire)
 Pete Postlethwaite (In the Name of the Father)

Best Original Screenplay

- Gary Ross (Dave)
 Jeff Maguire (In the Line of Fire)
 Ron Nyswaner (Philadelphia)
 Jane Campion (The Piano)
 Nora Ephron, David S. Ward & Jeff Arch (Sleepless in Seattle)

Best Adapted Screenplay

- Jay Cocks & Martin Scorsese (The Age of Innocence)
 Terry George & Jim Sheridan (In the Name of the Father)
 Ruth Praver Jhabvala (The Remains of the Day)
 Steven Zaillian (Schindler's List)
 William Nicholson (Shadowlands)

Best Foreign Language Film

- Belle Epoque (Spain)
 Farewell My Concubine (Hong Kong)
 Hedd Wyn (United Kingdom)
 The Scent of Green Papaya (Vietnam)
 The Wedding Banquet (Taiwan)

Best Art Direction

- Addams Family Values
 The Age of Innocence
 Orlando
 The Remains of the Day
 Schindler's List

Best Cinematography

- Farewell My Concubine
 The Fugitive
 The Piano
 Schindler's List
 Searching for Bobby Fischer

Best Costume Design

- The Age of Innocence
 Orlando
 The Piano
 The Remains of the Day
 Schindler's List

Best Film Editing

- The Fugitive
 In the Line of Fire
 In the Name of the Father
 The Piano
 Schindler's List

Best Original Score

- Elmer Bernstein (The Age of Innocence)
 Dave Grusin (The Firm)
 James Newton Howard (The Fugitive)
 Richard Robbins (The Remains of the Day)
 John Williams (Schindler's List)

Best Original Song

- "Again" (Poetic Justice)
 "The Day I Fall in Love" (Beethoven's 2nd)
 "Philadelphia" (Philadelphia)
 "Streets of Philadelphia" (Philadelphia)
 "A Wink and a Smile" (Sleepless in Seattle)

Best Sound

- Cliffhanger
 The Fugitive
 Geronimo: An American Legend
 Jurassic Park
 Schindler's List

Best Sound Effects Editing

- Cliffhanger
 The Fugitive
 Jurassic Park

Best Visual Effects

- Cliffhanger
 Jurassic Park
 The Nightmare Before Christmas

Best Makeup

- Mrs. Doubtfire
 Philadelphia
 Schindler's List

Rules:

1. Only one entry per person.
2. Indicate who you think the winner will be in each category by placing an "x" in the appropriate box.
3. All entries must be mailed or hand delivered to: The Houston Voice, Oscar Contest, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006. Entries must be received (or be postmarked if mailed) by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17 to be eligible.
4. The person who correctly guesses the largest number of winners will receive \$100.00.
5. If the person correctly guessing the largest number of winners also guesses more winners correctly than Houston Voice Critic Javier Tamez, then the winner will be awarded an additional \$50.00. Tamez's picks will be published in the March 19th issue. Maximum prize is \$150.00.
6. In the event of a tie, a winner will be selected by random drawing from among those tied.
7. This contest is not open to employees of the Houston Voice or their family members.
8. In all cases the decision of the judges will be final.

Would same-sex marriages impact Hawaii tourism?

HONOLULU, Friday, Feb. 11 (AP)—Advocates of same-sex marriage says the impact on tourism if same-sex marriage is approved in Hawaii is debatable.

The Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project held a news conference Friday to respond to concerns voiced at a recent public hearing by Hawaii Visitors Bureau Chairperson Dieter Huckestein that some groups might boycott Hawaii if same-sex marriage is approved.

Maggie Tanis, spokesperson for the Marriage Project, said Conde Naste, a leading travel industry magazine, recently rated San Francisco, known for its large gay and lesbian population, as the top destination of American tourists.

Tanis said this indicates that the presence of gays is not a deterrent to tourism.

Tanis also said that the state of Colorado lost nearly \$38 million in convention revenues after it passed a constitutional amendment that would have denied civil rights to gays and lesbians. The amendment was later overturned by the Colorado Supreme Court.



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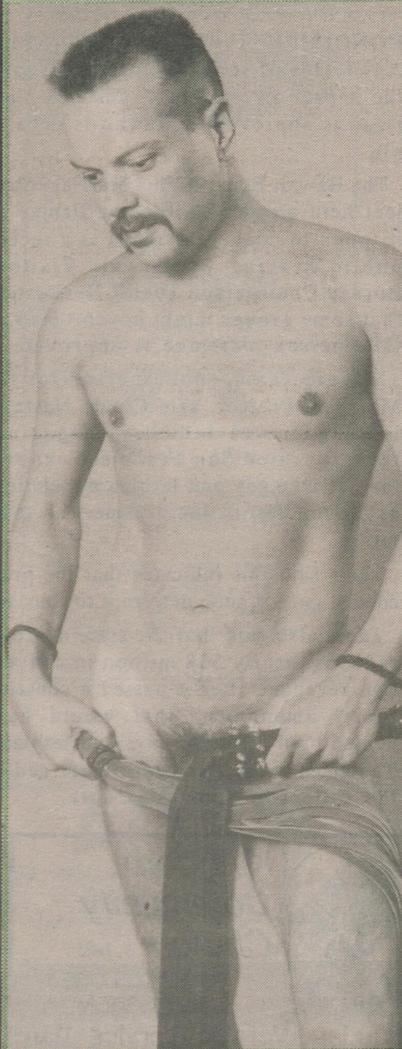
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Biloxi, Mississippi police chief says city doesn't have HIV list

BILOXI, Miss., Saturday, Feb. 12 (AP)—Police and emergency departments are discouraged from keeping lists of HIV-AIDS infected citizens like the one described in a lawsuit against the city of Biloxi, the head of Mississippi's HIV-AIDS program says.

"They are actually doing the (responding personnel) a disservice because it would have encouraged them to have been lax," said Craig Thompson, director of the state Department of Health's HIV-AIDS Program. The program annually screens 65,000 people for HIV.

According to a court document, a list of people believed to have AIDS or to be HIV positive was kept at the Biloxi Police Department until the lawsuit was filed in November.

Biloxian Clyde Hall, who does not have AIDS and is not HIV positive, contends that the city invaded his privacy by listing his name.

Police Chief Tommy Moffett said the list was not initiated or maintained by the city or police supervisors.

Thompson said his office encourages police and emergency personnel to use universal precautions, which means handling all patient contacts involving blood or bodily fluids as if the person had acquired immune deficiency syndrome or was infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, which can cause AIDS.

He said that level of precaution was the recommended standard for medical personnel's best protection. He said his Jackson-based office works very hard with emergency and police departments around the state on accepting universal precautions.

Thompson's office keeps Mississippi's official records of HIV and AIDS patients from state Health Department tests as well as private doctors, clinics and testing services.

Those results are kept in a secure computer system inside an old records vault with access limited to a handful of department employees.

"I know that we don't even produce a list as such, but there are any number of ways that a list could be compiled," Thompson said. "I think the likely ways would be random information provided by people in the health-care community, people in testing labs and a lot of times just because people think someone is positive."

Hall's lawsuit contends that he suffered great emotional distress after a police employee told a mutual friend that he was on the list. Hall said police did not remove his name after he told them he was not HIV positive.

The city contended in its response that because officials never sanctioned the list there was no policy to remove Hall's name.

Hall's only professional contact with city police was in early 1993 when he complained about unsanitary conditions at property near his.

Bill Brent, director of the South Mississippi AIDS Task Force, said that to his knowledge there have been no cases of broken confidentiality with any testing sites around the state, but he added that the revelation of the list at the Biloxi Police Department could be harmful for some residents. That's because all Mississippi HIV tests require specific identification, unlike Louisiana, which allows anonymous testing.

"One thing that's going to happen is that the Health Department is going to see a marked decrease in the number of people who are getting tested," said Brent, adding "And it's horrible that has to happen."

GOP, Pentagon reach compromise on gay regulations

WASHINGTON, Friday, Feb. 11 (AP)—Wording for the Pentagon's new regulations on homosexuals in the military has passed muster with conservatives in Congress, and the rules could be sent out later this month.

The new rules are designed to precisely define homosexual conduct and conditions warranting an investigation that could lead to a service member's removal from the military.

The regulations, to be sent to commanders in the field later

this month, were delayed in response to complaints that they did not conform faithfully to a law Congress enacted last year.

A provision that prompted the most disagreement has been rephrased in an effort to accommodate those concerns, said Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Doug Hart.

Originally, the provision said: "Sexual orientation is considered a personal and private matter, and homosexual orientation is not a bar to service entry or continued service

unless manifested by homosexual conduct."

The revised provision states: "A person's sexual orientation is considered a personal and private matter and is not a bar to service entry or continued service unless manifested by homosexual conduct."

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said Thursday the change has "no legal significance," and occurred only because conservative members of Congress had attempted to remove all references to "sexual orientation" from the regulations.

The regulations "are still lousy," said Frank, one of two openly homosexual members of Congress.

Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., who had demanded a change in the provision, is "pleased with the outcome," said his spokesperson, Tim Goeglein.

Coats and several other GOP members of the Senate Armed Services Committee had threatened to hold up confirmation of William Perry as defense secretary over the regulations.

Frank said the squabble over

language in the regulations is irrelevant since the real fight over the gay ban is taking place in the courts.

"Since the day it was clear that we lost it in the Congress, it's been an issue for the courts," Frank said.

The new rules came about after President Clinton, facing strong opposition from Congress and the Pentagon, abandoned his campaign pledge to lift outright the 50-year-old ban on homosexuals. He settled for a policy that differs only slightly from the old rules.

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Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "I have heard about people channeling spirits—asking them for help, advise, etc. Is this okay with God? After all, the spirits they call on are good spirits, right?"

A: This may seem like a very simple illustration, but let me ask you a question. If you needed quite frequently to talk to the President of the U.S. and you were told that you could have a direct telephone line to speak to the President at any time, day or night—would you use it? Or, would you continue to try and get things done and work through the local politicians, hoping that somehow you would be accomplishing what you and the President had set out to do. You and I know how things can get watered down and misrepresented between the local community and the White House. We also know that there are crooked politicians and those who are full of integrity.

Why take the risk? Get the phone!

There are several reasons why people get into channeling, and asking spirits for advise, etc. First of all, they don't realize that they can have a direct line to God themselves. A middle person for communication is not needed. Another spirit is not necessary for communication with God. For a Christian, we have direct access to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is our intercessor or mediator as stated in the book of Hebrews 7:25. He is the one we are to call on immediately when we need to talk to God and also to receive information from God. Jesus left us an example about how we are to pray and that we are to call on God at all times and in every circumstance or situation.

The person who is involved in the practice of channeling is allowing themselves to be guided by a spirit other than the Holy Spirit, or a holy spirit (an angel of God). There is an enemy of God who would like to distract us, and draw our focus and attention off of God. Satan is that enemy and is interested in getting you to seek anyone or anything other than the Holy Spirit. What many people don't realize is that Satan is disguised as an "angel of light." Satan does not always come with a pitched fork and a red outfit. Satan can come in a flowing white gown, looking beautiful. Once you become enthralled with the entertainment and get hooked on using Satan's disguised angels, it will be very difficult to break away. A book I would like to recommend for your reading is, THE BEAUTIFUL SIDE OF EVIL, by Johanna Michelson. She had an experience with a spirit guide and also with channeling, letting herself be taken over by a spirit for the purpose of "healing." In time she came to discover that it was all very evil and very much counterfeit from the real thing. When she tried to break away, the evil spirit wanted to take her life.

It is very dangerous to flirt with the spirit world. Satan is out to steal, kill and destroy in whatever way possible. Satan is never honest, never truthful and always out to keep you from the truth. You are too precious to God to be lured into such practices. God is genuine and authentic all of the time.

The key question to ask anyone involved in channeling is their view of Jesus Christ. If a person has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, there won't be any need for this kind of activity. For a non-Christian, it seems to be more appealing to dabble in this form of communication rather than to seek the One (Jesus) who can connect you right away with God. It is intriguing. It is mystical. It gives you a sense of power. But, why not try Jesus—HE'S THE REAL THING!!!!!!!

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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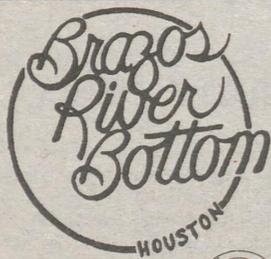
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Mormon Church takes stand against same-sex marriages

SALT LAKE CITY, Monday, Feb. 14 (AP)—Mormon Church leaders have called on their nearly 9 million members to actively oppose same-sex marriages.

"Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God to fulfill the eternal destiny of his children," the church's governing First Presidency said in a statement released Sunday.

"This sacred family setting, with father and mother firmly committed to each other and to righteous living, offers the best hope for avoiding many of the ills that afflict society," church leaders added.

Church spokesperson Don LeFevre said the statement came in response to debate in Hawaii over efforts to legalize homosexual marriages.

In May, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that the state's ban on same-sex marriages may amount to sex discrimination and thus be unconstitutional.

A bill before the Hawaii Legislature would modify the state constitution's equal-protection clause to limit marriages to heterosexuals.

While the controversy seems remote from the Mormon Church's Utah headquarters, LeFevre said that because the faith spans the globe, church leaders' concerns are justified.

"If it (lifting the ban) were successful, that would be a foot in the door," he said.

"It's rare (for the church) to speak out on anything with political overtones," LeFevre said. "We speak out regularly on moral issues. Obviously we feel this is a moral issue."

The church's statement drew criti-

cism from Utah's gay community.

"It's a reaction that goes against the Constitution of the United States," said Duane Jennings, co-director of Affirmation, a support group for gay and lesbian Mormons. "It violates civil rights, and it violates the separation of religious beliefs from social policies."

If Hawaii legalizes gay marriages, other states—including Utah may be obliged to recognize those unions. States customarily honor each other's marriage laws.

"It's not impossible," said Lee Teitelbaum, dean of the University of Utah College of Law.

But he said while same-sex marriages may be valid where instituted, whether Utah officials would be forced to recognize those unions may depend on other factors—such as whether the couple's ties are stronger to Utah or Hawaii.

For example, if two Utahns went to Hawaii to enter into a homosexual marriage and then immediately returned to Utah, officials here may not recognize the union.

"Hawaii (would have) very little relation to these people or their marriage. Utah would have the strongest interest in the marriage at all times and would be able to decide whether the marriage was valid," Teitelbaum said.

In Utah, where an estimated 70 percent of the state's population is on Mormon Church membership rolls, lawmakers foresee no attempts to legalize gay marriages.

"I don't think same-sex marriage is a high priority," said Sen. Lyle Hillyard, R-Logan. "I don't think it would fly anyway."

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Pride Committee announces Grand Marshal nominees; Ryan White Council taking applications; Gay Comedy Jam comes to Houston

QUICK NOTES

The Pride Committee of Houston, at its monthly planning meeting Tuesday, Feb. 15, accepted first call nominations for Grand Marshals of the Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1994 parade and celebration. The committee received a total of 10 written nominations for male, female, honorary and organizational honorees. Additional nominations will be accepted until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 15, and the Grand Marshals will be elected at the meeting that evening.

Nominated so far for male Grand Marshal are Stephen Bradley and Jay Allen. The nominees for female Grand Marshal are Roni Hulin, Cicely Wynne and Jewel Gray. Lindy Huffman of the Bering Care Center is the sole nominee for Honorary Grand Marshal.

The following nominations were received for organizational honoree: Q-Patrol, Northern Lights Alternatives, Act Up Gulf Coast, and the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

The theme for this year's pride celebration is "HouStonewall 25" and, to accommodate those planning to attend the monumental Stonewall 25 event in New York City, Houston's local observation of pride has a different schedule this year. The pride week for 1994 has been moved up to June 3-12, with the parade, followed by a rally in Buffalo Bayou Park, scheduled to take place June 12.

Other special events are in the planning stages, and may include a Gay and Lesbian film festival as well as workshops, seminars, concerts and other fare. The committee is also working on a video project in cooperation with the Alternative Broadcasting Service, to produce a six-segment program for cable television spotlighting the parade and Houston Lesbian and Gay pride. Several PCOH committees are planning their informational mailouts for early march, and a more detailed listing of events will be available soon, according to the chairs.

Sweetheart Ball

The turnout was lighter than hoped, but a great time was reward enough for approximately 150 people who turned out to support three local organizations at a Valentine's Day party and



Council member and candidate Ben Reyes is all smiles at recent community fundraiser. From left: Evelyn Carroll of Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston, Rusty Morrissey of Northern Lights Alternatives, Reyes and Ray Ramirez, co-chair of Houston Lesbian-Gay Pride Week

auction last weekend. The "Sweetheart Sockhop Ball" sponsored by Pride Committee of Houston, Northern Lights Alternatives/AIDS Mastery Workshop and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston will become an annual event, representatives said.

Highlights of the evening included silent auctions presented by each of the groups and a brief show featuring Misty Valdez, Rainbo D'Klown and Angel, said Rusty Morrissey of Northern Lights, one of the coordinators. Jean Bennett and the volunteer office of the Thomas Street Clinic sent volunteers to help with event, he noted.

Houston City Council Member Ben Reyes, a candidate for U.S. Congress in District 18, was among surprise guest celebrities who showed up to support the fundraiser. Reyes, apparently undaunted by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus' decision this month not to endorse in the race, welcomed the opportunity to mingle with his Gay supporters, and reportedly was one of the bigger spenders at the auction.

Ryan White Council

The nominations committee of the Ryan White Planning Council is urging concerned and qualified individuals who have been affected in some way by HIV to apply for nomination to serve on the Ryan White Planning Council.

In fiscal 1994, the Planning Council is responsible for overseeing \$12 million in Title I grant funds for the Houston multi-county area.

Currently, there are four vacancies on the Council that need to be filled by March 11, and the entire council is due to be considered for reappointment in June, noted Jeff Hallauer, nomination committee chair.

Interested people are needed from all sectors of the HIV health services community, including persons living with HIV, health care providers, social service providers, local public health agencies, hospitals and other health care entities, non-elected community leaders, Title I, I, and III grant recipients and other concerned people in the community. Individuals interested in applying should plan on donating six to ten hours per month of their time to participate in the various meetings and Council activities, he said.

Special consideration will be given to

applicants who are HIV-positive and consideration for nomination is not contingent on affiliation with any specific group or category. All completed applications are regarded as confidential information.

To obtain an application, or for more information, contact: Jeffrey D. Hallauer, (713) 520-2081 or (713) 630-0570.

HIV Caucus

The Community HIV Caucus is scheduled to hold its next meeting at 12:00 noon at 811 Westheimer, Suite 201. At this meeting, the group is scheduled to approve rules of operation, elect representatives to the Houston HIV Care Consortium and develop goals and objectives for the caucus.

The CHC is an independent community organization formed to provide constructive input to various groups that decide funding of HIV services in the Houston area.

Gay Comedy Jam

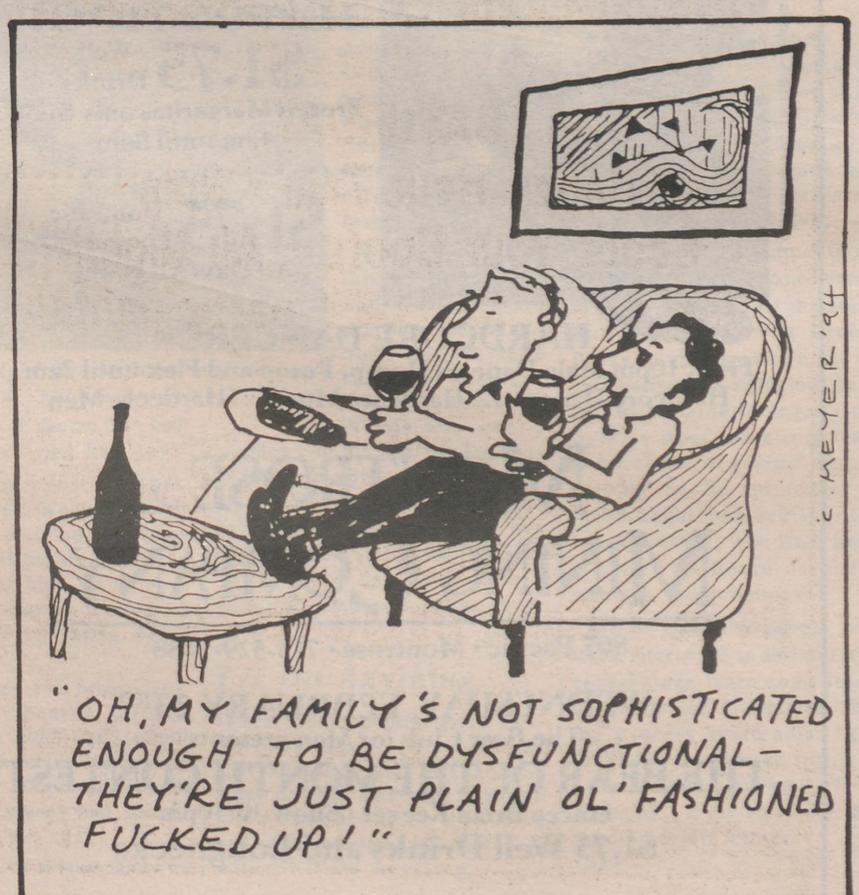
LoneStar Entertainment and the River Oaks Laff stop have announced the national tour of the "Gay Comedy Jam Freedom Tour" is coming to Houston on Feb. 28. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Laff Stop, located at 1952A West Gray in the River Oaks Shopping Center.

Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye, billed as "two of the hottest nationally touring comedians today" are the featured performers. Their two-man Gay Comedy Jam has been an exclusive sell out event for the Gay community in other cities where it has been presented.

Scott and Kevin live in Houston and perform at comedy clubs worldwide, as well as major Las Vegas show rooms. They have worked with other superstars such as Garth Brooks, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Neil Sedaka, David Sanborn, Judy Tenuta and Richard Jeni.

The show is structured for a Gay audience, but is widely enjoyable for a non-Gay crowd as well. The Gay Comedy Jam is gaining national attention as the first show of its kind.

Ticket prices are \$8 (advance) and \$10 (day of show). For ticket information, call the Laff Stop, 524-2333.



GLBVA holds conference in San Antonio; THRF Schwab Awards set March 12

AROUND THE STATE

(SAN ANTONIO)—The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) held its first national conference last weekend, Feb. 11-14 in San Antonio, and, among the meeting's highlights, chose a Texan to lead the national organization in 1994.

National and regional officer elections and the establishment of a national constitution for major business activities of the three day conference, which members said resulted in a general reorganization of the group. Eight chapters of GLBVA, a network of Gay veterans' organizations, were represented. Houston was the largest chapter in attendance, with six members.

"There were a lot of people who couldn't make it because of the weather conditions up north," noted Charles Moody of Texas Gay Veterans of Houston. "It was a good working group, though, and it was basically a reorganizational meeting. We think we're off to a very good start."

The national officers elected were: Nancy A. Russell of San Antonio, National President; Steven G. Webb of Ann Arbor,

Michigan, National Vice President; Gene F. Barfield of Barre, Vermont, National Secretary, and Lloyd Havers of Michigan, National Treasurer. The Interim Regional Vice President elected for the region comprised of Texas and Oklahoma was Chuck Zickerman, a member of Texas Gay Veterans of Houston.

Other Texas chapters in attendance were San Antonio and Fort Worth. GLBVA has members in Austin, Dallas and El Paso.

GLBVA remains committed to an end to discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the military services, members said, but the organization's focus will expand beyond lifting the military ban.

The Houston chapter is scheduled to elect officers at its next meeting, to be held this Friday, Feb. 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the Stone



New national officers of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America: Nancy Russel, president; Steven Webb, vice president; Gene F. Barfield, secretary and Lloyd Havers, treasurer

Soup building, 608 Westheimer.

Schwab Awards

(AUSTIN)—The Texas Human Rights Foundation will hold its seventh annual Robert Schwab Memorial Awards on Saturday, March 12 at Austin's historic Saengurrunde Halle. The awards, named for one of THRF's founders, honor contributions by individuals and organizations toward furthering the

rights of Gay men, Lesbians and those living with HIV.

This year's event is titled "The Texas Two Step II," in tribute to the hugely successful "Texas two step" held in Washington, D.C. the night before the historic March on Washington this past April.

The 1994 honorees are: Robert Schwab Memorial Award, Paul Clover; Community Advocate Award, Bettie Naylor; Community Business Award, Chances (Sandra Martinez); Journalism Award, The Texas Triangle (Kay Longcope, Barbara Wohl-gemuth); Elected Official Award, Sen. John Whitmire; Community Organization Award, The Octopus Club of AIDS Services of Austin (Dara Gray and Lew Aldridge, co-founders); Appointed Official Award, Sara Goodfriend; Legal Advocate Award, Tom Doyal; Outstanding Community Event Award, Festival of Dance of

AIDS Services of Austin (Charles Santos); Health Care Award, Dr. David Wright; and "Uniquely Austin Award," Austin Tavern Guild for Splash Day (Myra Atkins, president).

In addition to these awards, special "Profiles in Courage Awards" will be presented to the senators who voted to omit Section 21.06 from the Texas Penal Code in the last legislative session, and to the five Austin City Council members who voted to extend benefits to domestic partners.

In keeping with this year's country-western theme, there are three levels of sponsorships: Rustlers, Wranglers and Cow-pokes. Individual tickets to the event are \$25 per person. All attendees will be treated to a barbecue buffet and boot-scootin' live music. Sponsors will be treated to an open bar; those with individual tickets will have access to a cash bar.

Seating is limited to 450, so people are encouraged to make their reservations early. In Houston, tickets are available at Crossroads and Inklings. For more information, or to make reservations with Visa or Mastercard, call (512) 479-THRF.

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HGO production of Kurt Weill's 'Street Scene': strongly recommended

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Houston Grand Opera audiences were treated to the most entertaining "new" opera that this reviewer has seen, defining new as being composed in this 20th century. Leaving the Wortham Theater last Friday evening, you easily asked, "where has this production been all of my life?" The production is STREET SCENE, Kurt Weill's compelling and very American opera, directed for HGO by Francesca Zambello.

First performed in Philadelphia, 1946, this original production with music by Weill and lyrics by Langston Hughes is centered upon an apartment block of the lower East Side of New York City of the same time. An assorted collection of brownstone residents interact with each other socially, in gossip, love making, and in murder. The play is surprisingly forceful, construction of the four story apartment units was amazingly detailed, and the acting is first rate. In fact, the stage design is clearly the most dramatic the '93-'94 season and a most welcomed departure from the barren stage and set designs of the past year. (I had almost forgotten that the word "Grand" was included in HGO's name). Ms. Adrienne Lobel deserves high marks for a wonderful stage design. Hopefully, the season's budget for set construction was not



entirely spent of this production. With three or four exceptions the music and lyrics are not memorable.

The audience's favorite musical number was a song and excellent dance routine titled, "Moon-faced, Starry-eyed," with Mae Jones and Dick McGann. The choreography by Ms. Denny Berry was imaginative and very well rehearsed. It is the type of number that one would wish to have on video to enjoy at home. "Wrapped in a Ribbon and Tied in a Bow" sung and danced by recent school graduates and "Remember That I Care" sung by two young suitors was a beautiful love duet, and round out the list of my favorite songs.

The attention to set detail is what makes the production most interesting. The smallest items on stage were carefully thought out. Clothes hanging to dry on a clothes line were changed from one scene, e.g., day, to another. A walker used by a physically challenged child was period correct, the fabrics and textures of window coverings, and the green, blue, and yellow colors that were so much in favor in the 1940's were all correct.

The socially concerned political comments by Abraham Kaplan would have made Communist head hunters scream. Out of tune with today's world, but proper for that decade. As urban poor citizens were trying to form their own version of the American success dream, they tried to achieve the basic needs of love, affection, and recognition. This three hour performance passed quickly and is strongly recommended to Voice readers.



Francesca Zambello, director of HGO's new production of Kurt Weill's "Street Scene"

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Would-be thrillers and spy comedies share February screens

FILMCLIPS

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

1993 Oscar talk notwithstanding, the 1994 movie year is fully underway. Outside of New York and Los Angeles, January is generally filled with films that are labeled 1993 releases because of the limited screening they had on both coasts. So it's really not until February that film-goers get a taste of what the new year is offering. And based on the sampling so far, your palate is in for a decidedly mixed treat.

Blink

Let's take a tried and true formula. The suspense thriller. We want to make money, so we cast aside simple plausibility and go for all those unlikely cliches that have been a staple of the genre for decades. So we make the pursued an ostensibly defenseless woman, and we make the cop a sturdy pillar of propriety with a heart. And of course, the two have to become romantically involved with one another because...well just because that's the way it's suppose to happen.

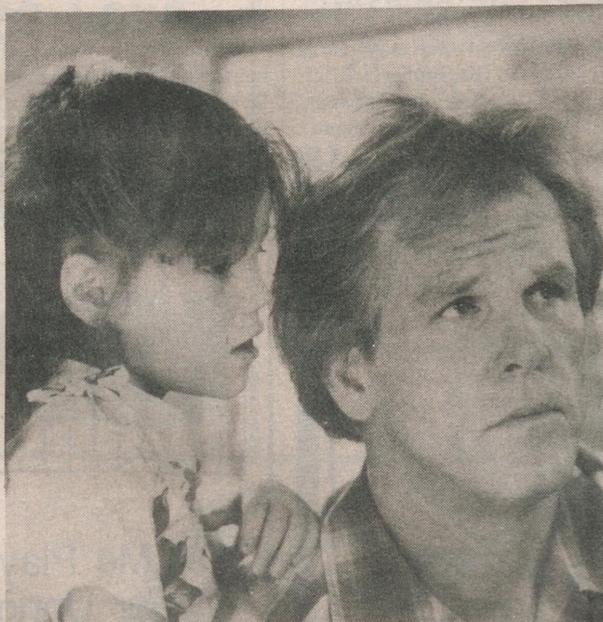
But since everyone has seen this formula movie before, let's add another dimension. We'll make the woman a recovering blind person, meaning she has recently undergone surgery to restore her eyesight. She's making good progress, of course, but she's still not quite 100%. But she has flashbacks, in perfect clarity, of things she saw earlier, even days earlier, through blurred vision.

And one of the things she saw, was a strange man in her apartment building stairwell. A man who most likely has just murdered her upstairs neighbor. Does it sound suspenseful? It isn't. It's "Blink," a dreary, droning and dreadful film that is redeemed only partially by the performance of Madeleine Stowe.

Stowe plays Emma Brody, the female lead. Though she has a vital and vibrant screen presence, it's overwhelmed by the sheer drudgery of this film. Aidan Quinn plays the amorous Detective John Halstrom in a manner typical of his limited repertoire. If you have anything else to do (even the dusting!), it would be time better spent than at this movie.

The Getaway

And speaking of thrillers that aren't, there's the "The Getaway." This is a remake of the 1972 box-office hit and no further mention of the original need be made. This film stinks and sinks entirely on its own. Alec Baldwin and Kim Basinger play Doc and Carol



Nick Nolte and Whittni Wright star as father and daughter Matt and Jeannie Hobbs in "I'll Do Anything"

McCoy who are on the run from both the law and assorted bad guys.

Doc and Carol, you see, are professional thieves. When Doc ends up in a Mexican border town prison, he sells his services, and unbeknownst to him, his wife, to Jack Benyon (James Woods), a criminal kingpin operating out of Phoenix.

Doc, Carol and two other criminals, picked by Benyon, successfully pull off a multi-million dollar heist of a dog track. One of the others, Rudy Travis (Michael Madsen), gets greedy and doesn't want to split the cash.

Doc kills him, or at least thinks he

does, and then leaves to split the haul with Benyon. Benyon goads Doc about the infidelity of his wife. Doc simply wants to divide the loot and leave, but Carol acts for him, and she kills Benyon. So the cops, Travis and Benyon's goons are the ones doing the chasing when the getaway finally gets going. Not that the chase scenes make much difference in this loser.

Nothing works in this movie. Baldwin and Basinger are pretty to look at but both should take remedial acting courses. James Woods was wholly

wooden and Michael Madsen has never been worse. The tension is tepid, when there is any at all. The only time my pulse quickened was when I almost spilled my popcorn. This is a very depressing effort. I wish this getaway would go away.

I'll Do Anything

James Brooks doesn't make movies very often. (His last was "Broadcast News" in 1986.) So when he does make one, you can pretty much bet, that it'll be above par. And that is exactly the case with "I'll Do Anything."

Nick Nolte plays Matt Hobbs a dedicated actor who received an Emmy nomination in the 70s, but hasn't been able to secure decent work since then. His trouble is compounded when Beth (Tracey Ullman), his ex-wife, is sent to prison, which means their 6-year old daughter, Jeannie (Whittni Wright), has to go and live with Matt.

Besides wondering how in the world he'll care for Jeannie, Matt also finds himself falling in love with Cathy (Joely Richardson), a young executive for Popcorn Pictures, who has lost her taste for the big budget action pictures on which the studio thrives.

Through his relationship with Cathy, Matt has a chance encounter with the head of the studio, Burke Adler (Albert Brooks). Burke is an insensitive cad who rationalizes his egregious behavior with pathetic ingratiation. Burke's most redeeming feature is his choice of advisor. He relies heavily on the opinion of Nan (Julie Kavner) an audience opinion researcher, who finds herself attracted to Burke despite his obvious shortcomings.

And so these five people, whose lives intertwine in and out of the sound stage learn some lessons about life and themselves, and in the process share some hearty laughs, some bitter truths and some touching growth. "I'll Do Anything" is the nicest war fuzzy you'll get all winter.

Newly elected N.O. council member uses 'G' and 'L' words in victory speech

YOURS TRULY IN A SWAMP

By LEONARD EARL JOHNSON

Houston Voice/Houston

Hard to believe, but in the full heat of Carnival, New Orleans held an election for mayor and everybody on city council.

This is comparable to nothing in other American cities, but might be likened to taking Christmas, Easter, Hanukkah, Home Coming, Super Bowl, a national political convention, and your favorite birthday party, rolling them into one event and holding an election while it's going on.

Listed candidates hoped the ballot would woo an electorate greatly preoccupied with literally tens of thousands of parties. Plus a sky filled with glittering beads and colorful go-cups showering down upon them from passing parades of ever variation, and orientation. To do this would take a titan's power, and they did it, more or less.

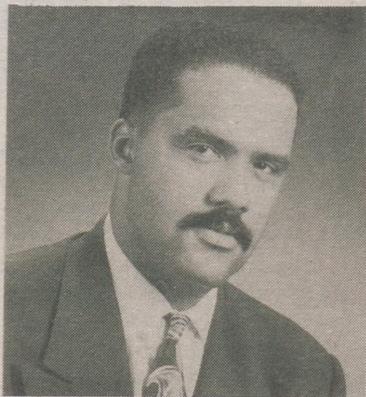
Nearly fifty percent of registered voters voted. This would be a huge percentage elsewhere, but it was low for New Orleans, which regularly sees a mind boggling sixty/seventy-plus voter turnout. Like the old song says, "Louisiana girls and boys are raised on politics."

This Carnival-time election was of great interest to Crescent City queers because of District-C's city council race. District-C includes the famously gay and lesbian French Quarter and adjacent Faubourg Marigny. Incumbent Jackie Clark-

son, angered this large voting block early in her term by appointing a man charged by his critics with being semi-closeted to advise her on—and then voting against—revision of the city's human rights laws. Despite Clarkson's opposition to the revision passed expanding civil rights protection to sexual-orientation.

Newly empowered political wonks throughout New Orleans' lesbian/gay population efforts to expand city/state rules and regulations. Then, a few weeks before the election, they hit a brick wall. The City's second black mayor reversed a wobbly alliance between blacks and queers by vetoing expansion of medical benefits to domestic partners of lesbians and gays.

Oddly, of the ordinance that passed council had excluded straights and was, for this and other reasons, a hard veto to override. In fact, the 5-2 vote to uphold the mayor's veto was exactly the number originally passing it. Ominously for queer rights in a city nearing a 65 percent black majority, old guard civil rights leaders switched their vote to the Mayor's side. The reason given was budget restraints.



New Orleans Council Member, Troy Carter

In an election-eve *deja vu*, Jackie Clarkson set out to mend political fences with her queer voters. She, alone with the bill's sponsor, Johnny Jackson, cast the two votes to override. Some thought she was playing politics.

In Louisiana complicated run-off systems, usually more than one primary is held until a slate of candidates is narrowed to a single winner.

In the case of District-C, only Troy Carter opposed Clarkson. That race would be decided on first balloting, "While we danced at the Mardi Gras."

Carter and Clarkson both live on the Westbank of the Mississippi River. She is a middle-aged white realtor, with a large white following. He is a Creole—black, handsome, young and a sitting state legislator with a pro-L/G voting record. He has a large black following augmented by a large number of lesbians and gays in all sizes and colors.

Some political annalists argue that the queer vote is the deciding swing vote in New Orleans elections. Consultant J.R. Wiltberger says, "This election shows clearly the power of the queer vote."

Election night, Clarkson and Carter held victory parties in posh French Quarter

hotels a few blocks from each other. At Clarkson's party, the crowd hushed as she invited select folk to join her on stage for her acceptance speech. Just after she offered her symbolic hand to "Representative Carter" someone near the televisions starting gesturing with a big white card. Clarkson, embarrassingly, was premature. She had lost by twenty-six votes. The television had spoken.

Over at Carter's hotel, the candidate had left in defeat only to return in tears and deliver a speech that thundered the clouds. "Look around this room," he said, "We are diverse! We are black, we are white, we are lesbian, we are gay, we are straight! And we are victorious!" The crowd went wild.

I've never seen a party like Carter's, except in the movies. A local P-FLAG activist and I edged our way to the bar. A smiling black man handed me an ice—tea tumbler full of bourbon. When Carter finished talking, champagne bottles popped showering the candidate, his retina and most of the crowd as the room circled past in part Carnival-rhythm, part victory dance.

Back at Clarkson's hotel, her party blanched. White faces crowded around the candidate as she told television camera it had been her understanding she had won. She bitterly held that position until Lundi Gras (Fat Monday), the day before Mardi Gras and a week after the balloting. The official count put the Clarkson defeat at twenty-three votes. It was one of the closest in history.

Results of bowling tourney and weekly league standings

SPORTS NOTES

Taking first place at the No Tap Candlelight Doubles Tournament on Saturday were Sheri Teinert and Margie Martinez. Second place went to Brian Elley and Jim Ewing; third place was bowled by Mace Adams and Jody Dunivant.

The next tournament is scheduled for March 12 (mark your social calendars!) For information, call Tom AT 522-9612.

Bowling Standings

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

MONDAY NITE WOMEN'S LEAGUE: (1st) Maybe, maybe not; (2nd) Bedrock Bowlers; (3rd) Can't Bowl Straight. For information call Pat DeCarlo at 437—

6218.

HOUSTON THURSDAY NIGHT MIXERS: (1st) Luci's Loosies; (2nd) Cheaper Than Therapy; (3rd) Tops & Bottoms. Men's High Scratch Game, 248, Gardy Harvey; Men's High Scratch Series, 614, Gardy Harvey. Women's High Scratch Game, 246, Andrea Black; Women's High Scratch Series, 636, Andrea Black. For information call Mace Adams at 432-7239.

MONTROSE MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S LEAGUE, Division A: (1st) Miss Marks Alot; (2nd) Hard as a Rock and Easy to Nail; (3rd) You Just Go Girl! Division B: (1st) I Can't Believe It's Not Gutter; (2nd) B&W; (3rd) Go Go Gopher's. High Scratch Game, 231, Mauricio Mariscal; High Scratch Series, 623, Mace Adams.

For information call Chris Bennett at 655-7327.

Billiards Standings

Following are the weekly standings (by team) in the Houston Metropolitan Billiard League:

(1) Oui Cousins; (2) Coalition; (3) Jackson 5; (4) BP "Ate" Ballers; (5) Crazy 8's; (6) Outpost Men; (7) The Flying "none"; (8) Soft Balls; (9) E.J.'s Mess; (10) Ripcord Rebels; (11) King's X; (12) Scandalous Reds I; (13) Past time Parrots; (14) Suicide Squad; (15) Miner 69'ers; (16) Cousin's Dudes.

Elections were held on Feb. 6 and the board remained the same. Officers: Joe Dyson, president; Alan Gillespie, vice president; John Adams, secretary;

Steve "Chops" Kerr, treasurer; Al Geoffrey, Sgt. at Arms.

Also at the February meeting, league members voted to hold this season's awards party at Gentry on March 20, 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Attention All Sports Groups:

The Houston Voice would like to report your weekly scores, league standings, et cetera. Please send, deliver or fax us this information by Tuesday morning of each week, and don't forget to let us know about any upcoming special events or tournaments! The Houston Voice is located at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006; Fax (713) 529-9531.

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Local company developing pro-Gay educational videos for mainstream

By **SHERI COHEN DARBONNE**
Houston Voice Editor

A neon pink triangle glares from the wall of the squeaky-clean, sparsely furnished office on Westcott off Memorial Drive, and "family snapshots" of two men who are obviously lovers pepper the desk and bulletin boards. In the center of the room, however—prominently displayed on a shelf over rows and rows of unmarked tapes—are two items ominously at odds with the rest of the decor at TriAngle Video Productions, a new Houston-based, Gay-owned business that develops pro-Gay and Lesbian educational and instructional videos.

Steve Baker, who recently launched the production company with his companion, Russell Byrd, calls the right wing videos "The Gay Agenda" and "Gay Rights, Special Rights," which sit atop the shelf, his "inspiration" for starting the venture he acknowledges is somewhat risky. The films, filled with deliberate misinformation and inflammatory images, are "the symbol of everything that's been missing" in the media's portrayal of Gays and Lesbians, Baker said.

"What people don't realize is that these tapes are among the Christian right's biggest money raisers...homophobia and fear are big sellers," he said.

"What they did was take a very small minority within the Gay and Lesbian community and say, to promote their agenda, this is what the Gay lifestyle is like," he said. "It's like if someone (filmed the Ku Klux Klan) and

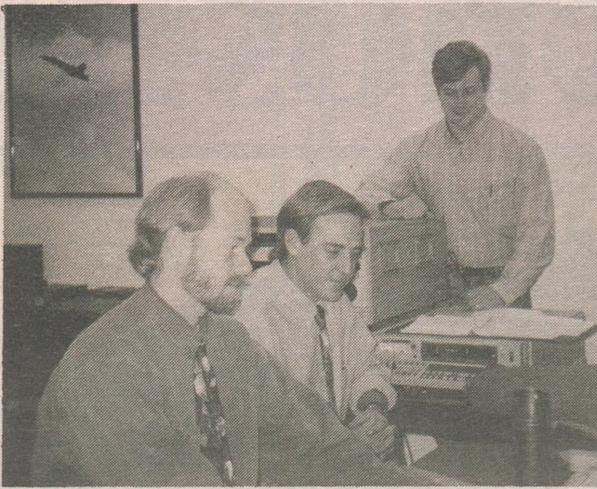
said, this is the heterosexual population."

Baker's first reaction to the tapes, which he said he initially had a hard time obtaining, was typical blind rage. But the venomous videos, which he now helps others obtain, also made him think about the lack of positive and accurate information about the Gay and Lesbian community available to the mainstream.

Baker, who already had experience working for a company that produces legal videos, and Byrd decided it was time for the Gay community to fight film fire with fire. They worked on their first project, an educational video produced in cooperation with the Houston chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG), for six months.

TriAngle Video, the pair's Gay-owned and operated video production company, was created with the intent of designing programs "to enlighten and educate both the straight and Gay communities as to Gay life beyond the stereotypes usually identified in our society," Baker said. He added that a portion of revenues from each video will be donated to local Gay and Lesbian organizations.

The company differs in its mis-



Steve Baker, center, of TriAngle Productions works on final edit of educational video "Always My Kid" with partner and co-producer Russell Byrd, right, and editor Trevor Brock

sion from other Gay-owned production businesses, in that its intended market is the general public, not the Gay community. "The market we see is everybody," said Baker. "That's who we're directing our message to."

Regarding the profitability of such a venture, he is guardedly optimistic. "Every venture is a gamble...we've gone deep into this with the idea that it's going to work," he said.

"Always My Kid," the first in a series of educational videos TriAngle hopes to produce and market which explore the different aspects of being Gay, will be screened for the first time this Friday, Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m. at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto. Designed to serve as a family guide to understanding and acceptance of a Gay or Lesbian child or sibling, "Always My

Kid" contains one-on-one interviews with parents and their Gay and Lesbian children, giving viewers a chance to experience first hand the emotions of "coming out," from both the parents' and child's perspective. Much of the footage was shot at a national P-FLAG conference in New Orleans, Baker said.

The film also contains interviews with health care and mental health professionals, public officials, representatives of religious organizations and Gay leaders. In the course of preparing the eighty-minute video, Baker and Byrd conducted over 140 interviews and spent weeks in the editing room. Besides P-FLAG, other local organizations interested in positive media portrayals of Gay people offered their support to the project, including the Agora and the Executive and Professional Association of Houston (EPAH), the producers noted.

Unlike the tapes produced by the radical right, Baker boasts, "my video looks good," and the interviews are approached from a non-inflammatory, educational perspective. "Experts" interviewed in the TriAngle offering are recognized professionals in their respective fields.

"We'll have an arsenal too, but

it won't be hate," Baker said. "We interviewed real people, both the Gay people and their parents, and what we're showing is the reality."

"Our goal is to educate people in an honest, personal manner and not to offend anyone," he said.

Later videos in the series will focus on other topics, including the "coming out" process, religious issues, equal rights and prejudice, Baker said. "Our next program will probably more directly tackle the Christian Right and religious issues," he said. TriAngle hopes to take on the radical right by showing that they represent only one side of religion, that there is a more rational voice that is supportive of Gay and Lesbian rights, he said. "We're not going to stoop to their level, but we'll show who they are," Baker noted.

Baker and Byrd also hope to show, in other efforts, who Gay and Lesbian people really are: the rich diversity of the community, the inanity of prevailing stereotypes, and the many contributions of Gays in history and in society. They said they hope the positive images will encourage Gay and Lesbian people who are still in the closet to come out—the most important step, said Baker, toward gaining acceptance in the mainstream of society. "As (U.S. Rep.) Gerry Studds said when we interviewed him for the video, 'we're never gonna win this war if nobody knows who the troops are.'"



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Mainstream and Gay travel trade professionals network at Expo in Houston

As hundreds of thousands of Gay Men and Lesbians prepare to travel to New York City for Stonewall 25 and the 1994 Gay Games this summer, the nation's first Gay and Lesbian Visitors Center is overwhelmed with the business of preparing for their arrival. The New York-based center, a membership organization dedicated to providing unbiased, Gay-friendly tourist information and personalized travel services, is preparing packets containing information on member businesses, a detailed listing of events, and other information geared to helping Gay travelers enjoy their visit and avoid being subjected to discrimination while they're in town. Now in its second year, the center, which functions much like other specialized tourist clearinghouses, is averaging 100 to 150 calls per day. In New York, the organization functions as a business-to-business networking service as well, providing subscribers with Gay-sensitive information not easily available from other sources, such as referrals to doctors or chiropractors, and other professionals and businesses.

The big news for Houstonians (besides knowing that individual as well as business memberships are available and one can still sign up to receive all services in time for Stonewall) is that such an agency might be opening here. According to

Mary Seifert, a representative of the New York center and a guest speaker at a luncheon roundtable during the Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo on Feb. 10, Houston is one of 17 cities targeted by the organization as a future site, in a national plan of cooperative expansion.

"We're not looking to own outright (the centers in) all of the cities," Seifert explained. "We're looking for local people who are interested in this as a primary business, who are

interested in equity and in being in the front line of running such a business." The New York agency would provide the manuals and oversee the establishment of the center, she said.

The idea of a Gay-owned, oriented and operated visitor's center here in Houston, which has in recent years been a site of several national Gay conventions, was only one of many exciting visions of the future offered at the event. Gay and mainstream travel suppliers

and service representatives networked together in a one-of-a-kind, touring exhibition focusing on the lucrative Gay and Lesbian travel market.

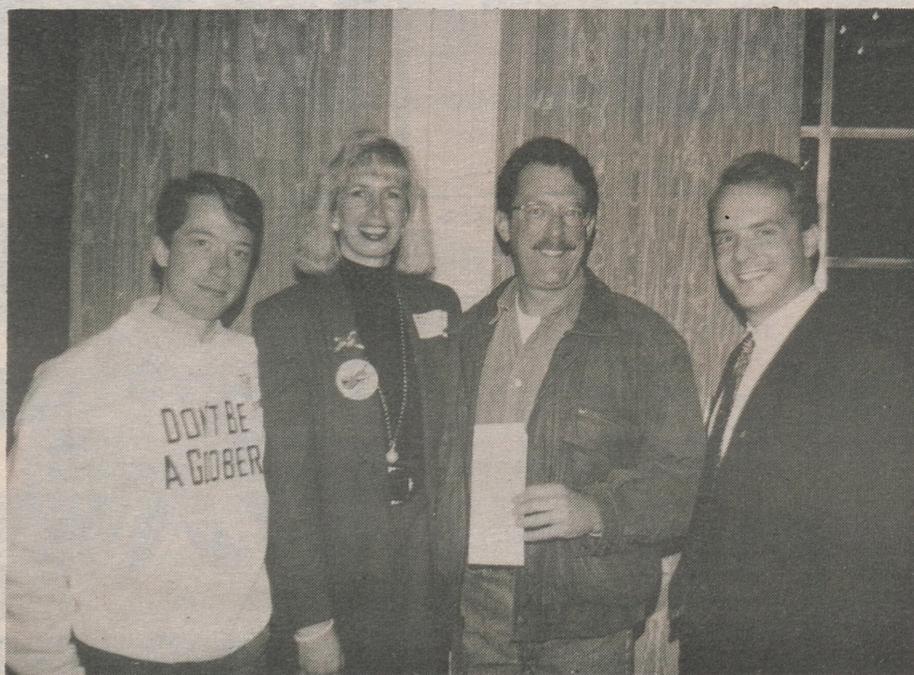
Local, regional and national Gay travel suppliers participated as exhibitors, including Above and Beyond Tours, Atlantis Vacations, and Interworld African Safari. Besides long recognized leaders like RSVP and Olivia Cruises, participants were introduced to some new names, such as Skylink

Women's Travel, a full service international Gay travel association reaching out to the Lesbian travel market; specialized tour organizers like Travel Keys Tours (coordinators of the Dungeons and Castles tours of Europe for leathermen); and new and innovative resources and marketing plans.

Other speakers at the Expo included Josh McKean Reich, publisher of Victory!, a magazine for Gay business owners, and the Houston Voice's own publisher, Tad Nelson.

Travel trade shows are the norm in "mainstream" travel marketing, with specialty shows covering destinations such as Europe or Latin America, or travel opportunities such as cruises and safaris. This exposition, however, a national touring show first mounted last year, is the first to target the Gay traveler specifically. Mainstream travel suppliers including Continental Airlines and Travelodge participated in the event, aimed primarily at professionals in the travel trade, business owners and frequent travelers.

In a raffle held during the event, Eric Chiarizio of Houston was the winner of the first place travel prize: two free air tickets to any destination in 48 U.S. states, Mexico or Latin America. Proceeds from the raffle benefited Houston area AIDS service agencies.



Eric Chiarizio, third from left, was the first place winner in a drawing at the Gay and Lesbian World Travel Expo in Houston. Pictured with him are Grady McGuire III, Jenifer Hunter and Jef Furtado of Continental Airlines

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Houston's Dean Walradt to head planning for National Leather Association convention



NLA:Houston's Michael Springer, toy drive coordinator, left and president Dean Walradt, right, present check to Ronnie Koehn of Casa De Esperanza from proceeds of annual toy drive

QUICK NOTES

The National Leather Association International has selected Houstonian Dean Walradt to head the executive staff for Living in Leather IX, scheduled to take place in Toronto, Canada at the Westbury Hotel Oct. 7-9, 1994.

This year marks the convention's first time to be held outside the United States. NLA:International's annual "festival of play and information" hosts workshops and demonstrations, along with a weekend of social events and vendors. The event was held in Houston last year.

Living in Leather IX director Walradt is the president and founder of NLA:Houston. He was Mr. Texas Drummer for 92/93, and served as Staff Whip and Host Committee Chair for LIL VIII. Walradt also holds the title of Viscount IX of Houston's Imperial Court of the Single Star and is a judge for this year's International Mr. Leather in Chicago.

The assistant director is Andy Anderson of Toronto, who was Mr. NLA International in 1993. The critical position of program director is filled by Donna Shroul of San Francisco. Shroul is Ms. Northern California Leather I and served as program director for LIL VIII in Houston. Other positions on the executive staff: Richard Reynolds of San Diego, publicist and K.T. Chase of Portland, Mr./Ms. NLA Contest director.

Organizers said the 1994 event promises to be the most exciting in LIL's history, "setting a new standard for the international leather family in the welcoming arms of the enchanting city of Toronto."

A free registration or NLA: International membership information packet may be obtained by writing: LIL IX, NLA International, 584 Castro Street, Suite 444, San Francisco, CA 94114-2500;

calling (415) 863-2444, or faxing (415) 626-3011.

NLA:Houston toy drive

NLA:Houston recently presented a check for \$335.50 to Ronnie Koehn, representative from Casa de Esperanza which cares for children with AIDS. Casa was this year's beneficiary for the NLA:H Toy Drive for Kids with HIV/AIDS, which wrapped up in December.

The week before Christmas, NLA:Houston representatives took nearly two car loads of toys to Casa for the children, including over 75 stuffed animals. (The drive began the week of Thanksgiving and concluded just before Christmas).

The toy drive started three years ago when Dean Walradt, president of NLA:H, came up with the idea under the philosophy of reaching outside the gay and leather lifestyles to give back to the greater community/"We are part of the world, and I think it is important to reach beyond our immediate community once in a while and give back." Koehn said Casa was grateful for the assistance, noting the service always needs formula and diapers or money to buy them.

Many bars and businesses helped to collect toys as well as money. Basic Brothers, a new business to join this year, gave a 20 percent discount off any purchase when a toy was brought in for the drive. Local social organizations also participated. Gulf Coast PEP (People Exchanging Power) took a special collection at one of their meetings and contributed \$75 to the drive; Candidate for Emperor (and now Emperor) Deb Delahay of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star held a benefit with part of the funds going to the drive.

Activist fears Russia poised for AIDS epidemic

MOSCOW, Monday, Feb. 14 (AP)—It used to be a crime to be gay in Russia. It is legal now—but more dangerous than ever.

Activists say Russia may be poised on the edge of an AIDS epidemic.

"There is a sexual revolution going on. Homosexuality is becoming more open," said Julie Stachowiak, president of the AIDS Infoshare program in Russia. "Everything is right for an epidemic to explode."

Ignorance is the worse enemy, Stachowiak said. "The public knows

nothing about AIDS except to avoid foreigners or prostitutes. There is virtually no public education."

The decriminalization last April of male homosexuality may help change that.

She said the sexual revolution has been accompanied by a rise in prostitution and sexually-transmitted diseases like syphilis. At the same time, the health care system is falling apart and Russia has little in the way of AIDS prevention and education.

Officially, 715 people in Russia have tested positive for the HIV virus.

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This is LUEY WEEKEND; VICTORY FUND Party Monday; SOIREE AUBERGINE Silent Auction



GARY MUNSON & JOHN BENAVIDES were hosting Club Night at E/J's last Thursday for Texas Riders and Texas Leather & Lace

HOUSTON SOAP, PART ONE

By TAD NELSON
Houston Voice Publisher
HELLO HOUSTON!

My apologies to my dear friends at the Garden Party. I didn't mean to ignore you all for so long. Well here it is Roni! This fine organization has elected a new board and officers (see photo this issue). They are Creath Robinson, President, Board; Roni Hulin, First Vice President, Board; David Cleveland, Second Vice President, Board Chair; Elmer Shehane, Secretary; Thomas Coronado, Treasurer; Hezekiah Bryant, Board; Robert Hammond, Board. Congratulations to each of you and keep up the great work. I'm looking forward to the next extravaganza!

Congratulations to my good friend BOB HOUGHTON, who recently purchased MAN'S RESALE SHOP by Baubles and Beads at Memorial and Kirkwood. Bob and friend Kim Zeigler have been putting in some extra long hours getting things ready for a great shop for Houston's men and Kim tells me they are currently accepting consignments of clothing (designer sport coats and suits, and other clothing articles by famous designer names like Polo, Dockers, Armani and more). For more information or to just tell Bob and Kim congratulations yourself, call 531-0008. The store is open daily 10-6 Monday through Saturday and is closed on Sundays.

My condolences to good friend BETTY ALEXANDER who works for Dr. Crad Duren. Her mother Nell Watson passed away this past Tuesday morning. Our thoughts are with you in your difficult time.

This looks like a great place to put an important plug in for the Monday fundraiser for the NATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN VICTORY FUND. Bob and Rod Jackson-Paris are scheduled to be at the event to be held Monday Feb. 21 at MUSEUM RESTAURANT AND BAR at



Bill & Amie at their Grand Opening last Friday

1512 West Alabama. Admission for full members is \$25.00 while admission for associate members is \$50.00 and if I'm not mistaken admission for non-members is \$100. which is the cost of membership to the Victory Fund. Peter Foley and Craig Volmers have been kind enough to donate their restaurant/bar for this occasion and provide an open bar. The force behind the organization of this event has been Joe Ramunni of CROSSROADS MARKET and ANNISE PARKER a member of Victory Fund's Board of Directors. If you are unsure what Victory fund is, it is an organization responsible for assuring gays and lesbians a voice in government by raising money to support gay and lesbian candidates in politics. This is a very important fundraiser for each of you and if you can attend, you might assure that Houston as well as other cities will one day have gays or lesbians in many political offices throughout the mainstream system. This could be one of the most important fundraisers you could possibly attend. Be there!

LAST WEEK in Houston. ...

SWEETHEARTS IN TEXAS by SOUTHERN COUNTRY HOUSTON & AUSTIN Chapters was a great success. This was the 2nd annual Hoedown with dance lessons, barbecue, open dancing and lots more. Congratulations to the men and women of SOUTHERN COUNTRY!

THE CLUB HOUSTON had a hot time with the HONEY I LOVE YOU BUT I'VE GONE TO THE TUBS VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY last Saturday. Hot men everywhere and lots of Valentines encounters occurred to be sure. Trucker, I love you, but you may find me at the tubs real soon! Woofier.

E/J's new MISS SWEETHEART E/J'S PAGEANT crowned a new sweetheart this past Sunday and Catia Lee Love was the winner. Congratulations Catia!

R.S.I.C.S.S had a wonderful Valentine show at GENTRY last Sunday and raised \$382.00 for the BERING CARE CENTER. Way to go gurlhls!

PASTTIME had a benefit show last Sunday for the PET PATROL and raised \$1365 and 3 barrels of food for the organization that's helps PWA who can't afford to or needs assistance with the care of their pets. That's one heck of a benefit guys—congratulations on that great total!

Sundays LOVE BALL at HEAVEN was a real crowd pleaser with MISS DONNA DAY reading per usual and MISS TIF-FANY AREIAGUS working the crowd with her Tina impersonation. There's always something interesting happening at the clubs at 800 Pacific. You know that Armstrong bunch!

AMIE'S says "Thanks Houston for the grand turnout" for their opening last week. See their ad this issue for dates and times and things that are happenin'.

CUPID'S BALL at RICH'S was a smashing success raising \$1000. for AIDS Charities. Hats to Eduardo Bennett and Paula Chambers for a smashing show.

Don Gill's fundraiser RIVER OF DREAMS held last Sunday afternoon at MARY'S raised \$550 for STONE SOUP. This money will not only benefit a great

charity but will help Don on his way to Mr. Prime Choice—a much coveted title in Houston for men over 40. Mr. Everything is currently seeking to add this to his list of titles. Good Luck Don! You certainly work hard for your community. I hope they appreciate you.

THIS WEEK in Houston. ...

The SOIREE AUBERGINE SILENT AUCTION opens tonight (Thursday) at GENTRY with over \$10,000 worth of new merchandise, collectibles and services. The auction will be open for eight days so get on down and bid on your favorite item.

Also, SOIREE AUBERGINE is selling \$2.00 raffle tickets for a chance to win a new Yamaha Seca II Motorcycle and two Fabulous travel prizes. Tickets are available at GENTRY and the drawings will be on Feb. 27th. You need not be present to win.

The VOLLEY BALL SILENT AUCTION will be this Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18th and 19th at the BRIARPATCH and should run all week long. Go by and see what's on the list for bidding.

Fridays are fierce at HEAVEN. This past Friday they offered the ample talents of Adult Video stars Chase Hunter and Tony DiAngelo. The standing room only crowd got more than they expected from the two whose autograph line was almost as long as the combined length of their

incredible endowments. Fierce Fridays continue at Heaven on March the 4th with Adult Video star Jesse Tyler—Live On Stage at midnight. Be there!

This Friday Feb. 18th P-FLAG debuts the educational video 'ALWAYS MY KID.' Doors open at 7:00 p.m. There is no cover and discount drinks. TRI ANGLE PRODUCTIONS first production is designed as a family guide to understanding homosexuality. Support this gay owned and operated

company and experience an evening of love and life.

The Third Annual DIAMONDS AND STUDS party will be Saturday Feb. 19 at PACIFIC STREET. Sure Diamonds last forever, but studs... can go for hours! And at this, the toughest party of the new year, everyone stays hard. Rock hard bodies and wanton man-beasts will pack Pacific Street for this most torrid party marathon. Levi-Leather dress code enforced and clothes check will be available. So don't miss this Post Mardi Gras climax!

MIDTOWNE SPA is inviting you to attend their VALENTINES/MARDI GRAS WEEKEND PARTY on Saturday Feb. 19th from 9 pm till ?. They promise J/O dancers, door prizes, food and punch with guaranteed fun for all. They are now taking reservations. See their ad ;in this issue of the Houston Voice Blue Pages.

This Saturday at GENTRY NLA-Hous-



CLINT & TOM in Mardi Gras attire reveling at RICH's

ton, RSICSS and TGRA will host a cocktail party for LUEY weekend beginning at 2:30 p.m. Don't miss the action as this wild group storms the doors at your favorite stylish neighborhood watering hole.

Did you know that the BRIARPATCH has live entertainment every night! Some of the entertainers are TUG WILSON direct from New York, Carol Talley, Marshall Maxwell and Jim Cater. BP brings you the best in live entertainment all the time. Drop by and see; there's someone new every night.

The SATURDAY SUPER SHOW at E/J'S will star NAOMI WARWICK, SHAUNA ROBERTS, and direct from Las Vegas the fabulous LAWANDA JACKSON. The show begins at 11 pm with Miss Mid Texas, BRITTANY PAIGE as emcee.

"BERING IT ALL" a Strip Tease Spectacular. will be at GENTRY this Sunday night and will be benefiting the Bering Care Center. Be there as the Hot men slowly but deliberately pull off every stitch of clothing permissible for your viewing pleasure. Stuffing a few dollar bills behind that string is a great way to check out the merchandise without getting into trouble and help raise money for a worthy cause, too. Who knows if you're Mr. Right and very lucky you might raise something else while you're at it.

MARDI GRAS continues at RICH'S this Sunday with the SHOW US WHAT'S LEFT PARTY. Lot's of men, some drag, and even a float! The only thing missing is you and your friends. The best way to finish the Mardi Gras season is at Rich's.

The MONTROSE MINING COMPANY is the only place to be on Sundays if you are looking for a real man. The always exciting BEER BUST on the patio offers .25 cent beer from 4 pm until 2:00 a.m. with a \$1.00 buy in.

B.J. WILLIAMS is the host of E/J's Monday Night MALE STRIP CONTEST and this week his special guest is JAMIE LENNOX. Showtime is 11:00 p.m.

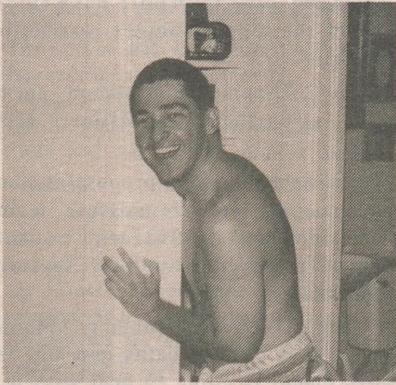


Trucker Mom & Boots Adams (Leather by Boots) at Mom's 92nd birthday celebration last Saturday night at Rivolli



Contestants for E/J's Sweetheart '94 Contest; l-r: Catia, Valerie, Windy Chicago, Chemie, Halston

BEAR CLUB at Mine; SWEET PUSSY PAULINE at Heaven; DEBORAH HARRY at Rich's



Andrew Flores is the new Mr. Pre Parade '94

HOUSTON SOAP, PART TWO

By TAD NELSON
Houston Voice Publisher

Houston's largest weeknight party; is SOLOFLEX TUESDAYS at JR'S. Not only will you find all of Houston's party people under one roof, but you can register to GRAB FOR CASH at midnight or for the opportunity to win a SOLOFLEX weight lifting machine or \$500 in cash (your choice) on Tuesday April 26th. KOFI is always at J.R.'s on Tuesday to emcee the Calvin Klein Undergear Amateur Strip Contest with \$200.00 in cash to the winners.

The MINE'S own Bear-ness-Empress BRIAN KEEVER will be back this month to host the Bear of the Month Contest, which this month as always is sponsored by Leather Forever with a \$50.00 Gift Certificate. This month's contest is scheduled for Wednesday Feb. 23rd.

Wednesdays at HEAVEN are Mondo Bizzaro. Things will get really crazy when CANDY J aka SWEET PUSSY PAULINE aka HATEFUL HEAD HELEN takes the Mondo stage at midnight. She'll work the crowd with all of her triple x rated high energy dance hits like "Work That Pussy," "Desire," "The Pre-

tender" and more. And if that weren't enough, well drinks will be only .50 cents all night long.

Don't miss KARAOKE NIGHT at E/J's beginning at 8 pm each Wednesday night. The evening is hosted by Bill Sansom and is in conjunction with STEAK NIGHT ON THE PATIO at 6 pm with LUCY. E/J's does have one of the best steak nights in town for a very reasonable price. Try it and get the Karaoke entertainment for free!

Sundays...enjoy the MONTROSE MINING COMPANY'S "MINE SHAFT BEER BUST" on the patio gets EVEN better. New in 1994 is \$1.00 buy in and a .25 cent refill of Miller Lite Draft Beer with extended hours from 4:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. The patio will surely get hotter as the men enjoy Houston's biggest beer bust.

Sunday at PACIFIC STREET is MANDANCE, Monster-T-Dance with the doors opening at 7 pm and no cover from 7 to 9.

Hit Videos. And there's no cover if you've been in previously and received a free admission from your favorite bartender.

The Wednesday night MALE STRIP CONTEST at GENTRY really sizzles as MISS GAY TEXAS, DYAN MICHAELS whips the hunky contestants and the crowd into a frenzy.

Thursdays over at the BRB the have Happy Hours till 11 pm and if you get hungry around dinner time they have HAMBURGER NIGHT out on the patio with ANIMAL. Hamburgers are .75 cents and cheeseburgers are only \$1.00. COMING UP In Houston. ...

at GENTRY on Friday Feb. 25th is the reception for the Bering Community Service Foundation with complimentary hors d'oeuvres buffet at 6:00 p.m. The SOIREE AUBERGINE SILENT AUCTION closes at midnight.

at GENTRY on Saturday Feb. 26th, SOIREE AUBERGINE presents CREME DE LA CREME



GARDEN PARTY BOARD AND OFFICERS FOR 1994 Back row: Roni Hulin, 1st VP/B; Thomas Coronado, T; Front row: Creath Robinson, Pres/B; Elmer Shehane, Sec; Robert Hammond, B; David Cleveland, 2nd VP/B chair; Reclining: Hezekiah Bryant, B

on APRIL 9th the DIANA FOUNDATION will present the 41ST ANNUAL DIANA AWARDS SHOW. Stay tuned for more info on this event.

OTHER HOUSTON NOTES. ... BASIC BROTHERS is putting the West into Westheimer with

and forty five minutes long and is \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door and happens to be on a Monday night Feb. 28th. This is a special evening of Gay comedy being put on by the Laff Stop and I think if you aren't involved with a team event such as pool or bowling, you ought to give up Murphy Brown for one night and spend the time laughing your asses off at the Laff Stop.

Thanks to the Trucker for the interesting fantasy he had on Valentine's Day night. Rather bazaar who you can find in Walgreens parking lot isn't it. I hope you continue to tell me about all future conquests (like Mr. B.S.) so I can catalog them for my upcoming book, "With A Trucker Like You, Who Needs A Flat Bed." Don't worry names of the not so innocent will be encoded so that only BA will be able to decipher who is involved. Also thanks for the friendly talk Tuesday night. As I told the readers last week, open communication is the only true way to make those relationships last. I love you Trucker (with a capital T) and know that you love me with all your heart and axle grease. Don't forget to call Caterpillar for a set of the Ball Berings for me, too. Hope New York comes through this week. Can't wait for an ecstatic weekend of fun as only we know how.

BYE FOR NOW!



NORM of MEADOWOOD RANCH and Dr. Crad Duren visit at the GAY TRAVEL EXPO held last Thursday at Allen Park Inn



NICOLE TURPEAU (Miss Austin) helped Dizinger Foundation's HANS WILLI ROTHEUDT deliver Valentine's Day roses to clients of BERING CARE CENTER

When the weather is nice outside the crowd overflows onto the patio so there's always room for more.

The gang at the BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM is offering HAPPY HOUR all day each Monday. That's from 7:00 a.m. till 2:00 a.m. WOW! With \$1.50 cocktails and \$1.75 long-necks.

Tuesdays don't miss "Houston's Largest Weeknight Party" at JR'S with Men In Skirts, four of the hottest male dancers that will work up a sweat for you in and out of Kilt Fashions by Basic Brothers. There's also a CK Strip Contest and a Grab For Cash at Midnight. You can win a Kilt from Basic Brothers if you're the lucky winner of the Midnight drawing.

Wednesday is HOT HUMP NIGHT at PACIFIC STREET with the doors opening at 9:00 p.m. Victor Toledo plays this weeks current Billboard

94 at 10:00 p.m. The show will feature entertainment from a host of community organizations, clubs, businesses and bars.

at GENTRY on Sunday Feb. 27th is LA SOIREE GRANDE from 5 pm to 10:00 p.m. There will be live music and comedy entertainment throughout the afternoon and evening.

at RICH'S for Feb. 27th. Tickets are on sale for DEBORAH HARRY at RICH'S and TICKET MASTER outlets. Dave Hemmer, Rich's production manager says the phones are 'ringing off the hook' and space is limited. So get your tickets early!

on MARCH 4-6 is the PANTHEON OF LEATHER WEEK-END 1994 as presented by the LEATHER JOURNAL. Featured will be the Leather Community Service Awards and the International Masters and Slaves Contest. Wyndham Warwick is the host hotel and NLA-H is the host club. For information call Dean Walradt at (713) 528-2850.

their expansion into the western shirt market. According to owner Richard Wiederholt, there has been an increasing demand for Western Wear. So the decision was made to carry Panhandle Slim and Brooks & Dunn, two of the finest lines available. These shirts are being offered in a full size range, small to x large. Basic Brothers has been responding to the up-to-the-minute fashion demands of the community for 12 years. So don't be surprised if you see more especially well-dressed cowboys in these here parts. Yee Haw!!

And finally speaking of comedy. ... at THE LAFF STOP is having a great night of Gay Comedy called the GAY COMEDY FREEDOM JAM with entertainers Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye who just happen to be lovers and Gay comedians on the local scene. This special showing is approximately one hour



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Judge rules Oregon Citizens Alliance's proposal flawed

By CHARLES E. BEGGS
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SALEM, Ore., Friday, Feb. 11 (AP)—The Oregon Citizens Alliance's proposed statewide anti-gay rights initiative ended up in a legal snarl Friday.

A judge ruled that the initiative was flawed and the state claimed his decision was technically faulty.

Judge Rod Miller of Marion County Circuit Court said the proposed initiative measure, being circulated for petition signatures, violates the Oregon Constitution's prohibition against initiatives dealing with more than one subject.

Charles Hinkle, a Portland lawyer who handled the case for initiative foes, hailed the ruling as a major victory. He said it meant the measure could not go on the ballot even if backers collected enough signatures.

Miller issued his decision in a letter that was released by lawyers on Friday.

But Secretary of State Phil Keisling said the ruling was premature and that the state will ask Miller to reconsider. Keisling, as chief state elections officer, is the defendant in the case.

He said Miller in effect gave the measure's opponents two chances to file written briefs on the issue while allowing the state only one brief. The state was supposed to have had two more weeks to submit its final brief, he said.

Keisling said Miller will be asked to withdraw his decision and allow additional time for briefs before making an new ruling.

Keisling said the court have interpreted the single-subject restriction liberally.

OCA Chairperson Lon Mabon said he was "astonished" by Miller's decision.

He said the new OCA proposal is much like its first statewide measure, which voters defeated in 1992, with a couple of the most controversial sections removed.

"There is only one subject," Mabon said, "It is homosexuality and how the government is going to deal with it."

Backers of the proposed measure need to gather 89,000 signatures by July 8 to put the proposal on the November general election ballot.

Provisions in the new OCA initiative include ones dealing with spending public funds to promote homosexuality, what can be taught to students and restrictions on access to library books.

The constitution says proposed initiatives "shall embrace one subject only and matters properly connected therewith."

Miller said the proposal also is defective because it would revise rather than just amend the constitution.

Local anti-gay rights initiative measures similar to the new statewide proposal have been passed by voters in 16 cities and counties. But another Marion County judge last week upheld a 1993 state law that bars enforcement of those measures.

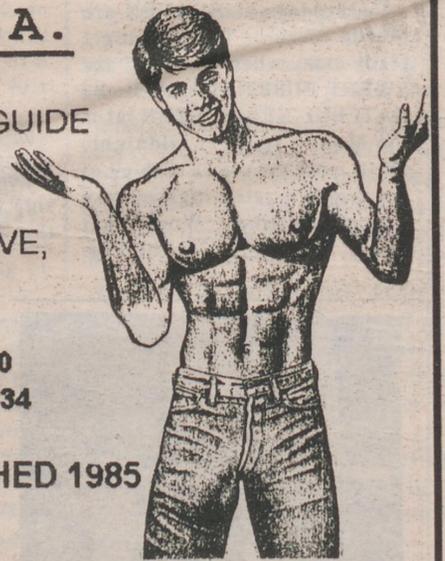
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DiverseWorks presents Root Wy'mn in 'lovve' this weekend at Heinen

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES

Though a bit late for Valentine's, DiverseWorks is offering "Lovve" between women as a poetic indulgence for the mind and soul as part of its 1993/1994 NU-ART Performance Series.

Austin's spontaneous but stylistic Root Wy'mn Theatre Company will be featured Friday and Saturday (Feb. 18 and 19), 8:00 p.m. at Heinen Theater on the Houston Community College central campus, 3517 Austin, in a poetry play by Austin writer/activist Sharon Bridgforth. Titled *lovve/rituals & rage*, "The piece uses words, music, original art and performance to trace the journey of the soul of one woman through different lives and times, from Africa 500 years ago to an urban American life in the 1970's."

Four performers portray five lives, including three sisters: donn—donna, soon-come and she, and she's daughter, ma-paw. As the story develops, Bridgforth's hip-rolling, bean snapping free verse and K. Anoa Monsho's choreography call forth the rituals of African-American women's day-to-day life: "cookn/singn/telln/dancn/drummn/prayin'/laughin—cryn/touchn/felln/birthn-rebirthn..."

Root Wym'n formed last April in Austin as an African-American women's theater company. The group presents a history of African-American women's stories through performance, workshops and presentations. The opening of their debut piece met with heavy praise from critics and audiences in Austin.

Admission is \$10 (\$9 for DiverseWorks members and \$5 for students); tickets are available at DiverseWorks, Inklings, Crossroads Market, Houston Community College Fine Arts Dept. and

Nia Bookstore and Gallery.

Two Jeffery benefits

Friday, Feb. 25, will be Team Houston Night Out with "Jeffrey." The Houston Showing of Paul Rudnick's hit comedy about love, sex and AIDS is the first outside of Los Angeles and New York. Stages has given Team Houston 100 tickets to sell at \$20 each for this special evening. Stages will also be making a generous donation to Team Houston for each ticket sold. The Silent Auction will be available for bidding prior to the play and throughout intermission. All bids will be closed after intermission and the highest bidders will be posted in the lobby area. Team Houston is excited about the auction! Donations, to name a few, have been provided by Evin Thayer Studios, The Alley Theatre, The Lovett Inn, Treebeard's Restaurant, The Crystal Dolphin, Basic Brothers, Fitness Exchange, Nuvo and more.

Make plans to see Jeffrey and arrive early for the festivities. To purchase tickets for this performance contact Team Houston at (713) 621-5300. (Tickets and seating are limited).

Also, the Community Endowment Foundation (CEF), in association with Stages Repertory Theater, has announced a special exclusive showing of Paul Rudnick's JEFFERY on Tuesday, March 8. Curtain will be at 7:00 p.m., with a cast party after the show in the Stages lobby.

All proceeds from this special showing will benefit CEF, a local non-profit organization dedicated to developing affordable housing for people with HIV/AIDS. Tickets can be arranged through the CEF offices at 528-0037.

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Colorado Episcopal church delays resolution on homosexual unions

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., Sunday, Feb. 13 (AP)—Delegates from Colorado Episcopal churches have decided they want a study before deciding on a resolution condoning the union of homosexuals.

After a 20-minute discussion at the convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado here on Saturday, an overwhelming number of the 360 delegates voted to approve an alternative resolution allowing parishioners to discuss the matter further.

The original resolution, presented by St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Denver's Capitol Hill, asked that the diocese recommend that the national Epis-

copal Church write liturgy for same-sex unions.

"I agree with the substitute resolution," said Scot M. Peterson, a gay Episcopalian from St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Denver. "The primary concern of all members of the Episcopal Church is that we come to a consensus on the issue so as not to have deep divisions within the church."

Opponents of the St. Barnabas resolution have said the church's 1991 General Convention reaffirmed that physical and sexual relationships should be a lifelong commitment between a husband and wife.

The church's Massachusetts diocese

already has appealed to the national church to write such liturgy. The national meeting is scheduled this spring in Indiana.

Under the alternative resolution, the 106 Colorado congregations will have an open dialogue on same-sex marriages.

Results will be presented at a meeting at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral on June 18.

"It's not taking a position," said the Rev. Bruce McNab of Christ Episcopal Church in Denver. "It's allowing a whole broad range of views, thinking and convictions to be aired out so that we can all hear."

The state convention also announced that it will try harder to reach Colorado's Hispanic community, identified as the largest minority group overlooked by the church.

"We are seeing an increasing percentage of Hispanic people, and we believe our church would be greatly enriched if we reached out to the Hispanic community," said the Right Rev. William J. Winterrowd, bishop of Colorado.

A task force is planned to teach Spanish to clergy and laymen and to strive to recruit Hispanic and Spanish-speaking ministers to serve communities on a full-time basis.



Tonight
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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
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at (713) 558-1171 for inquiries.



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Stages to present brand new staging of Paul Rudnick's Jeffrey

HOUSTON LIVE

By VADA CARROLL

Houston Voice/Houston

Stages Repertory Theatre has replaced its intended production for February-March, "Parader Without a Permit," with a brand new comedy, fresh from critical raves in New York—"Jeffrey" by Paul Rudnick.

For those of you who haven't a clue: in Jeffrey, the title character is a gay man in his mid-30s who, exhausted from negotiating safe sex, decides to become celibate, and then meets the man of his dreams who is HIV-positive. In a series of short satirical sketches, Jeffrey wrestles with the questions of life, death, and erotic partnership that thousands face every day.

Jeffrey is written by Paul Rudnick, known for his screenplays "The Addams Family" and "Addams Family Values" and the Broadway comedy "I Hate Hamlet." Stages' production will be directed by Michael Scheman who was Assistant Director of the New York show. Mr Scheman is credited by the playwright and by Chris Ashley, the New York director, as having been an active participant in shaping the play; he has been associated with the project from its initial rehearsal process, through its development and subsequent transfer into a commercial off-Broadway venue.

I recently interviewed Mr. Scheman at Stages during a break in his busy rehearsal schedule. The following is what transpired.

In his description of "Jeffrey," Mr. Scheman said that in the play, Jeffrey

very well meets a man who could be the man of his dreams, and he is HIV positive.

"So Jeffrey has this dilemma of having to try to live a life without intimacy when he has this man who is intent on having a relationship with him. Along the way we run into a myriad of characters of the gay community of Manhattan, all the way from career designers to Broadway dancers, to S&M Club owners, to a gay priest, to a sort of Marion Williamson self-help character. It's the first sort of real AIDS comedy to come along. There have been many AIDS plays all across America obviously, but this is the first one to take a sort of outwardly comic slant.

"I was the assistant director of the New York production and at first no one really knew how audiences were going to take it. If they would sort of look at AIDS and comedy as two things that wouldn't go together like oil and water or if people would laugh at it. Because Paul Rudnick sort of took the idea that AIDS is this big catastrophe, and it's this constant source of tragedy and sorrow in so many peoples lives that laughter becomes therapeutic. And Paul's philosophy is that if you can laugh in the face of death, you can make life easier to bear."

When I asked Michael how audiences prior to Houston have handled the comedy associated with AIDS in the play, he responded, "There was very, very little negative feeling about the play. And with a play like Jeffrey to have a predominantly gay theme and about a topic like AIDS to have a year long run off-broadway with no major stars, unless you count Greg Louganis who played one of

the parts for a short time, it is a very rare thing. It's following was by word of mouth really and the play is first and foremost, really really funny.

"Paul is just a wonderful writer and he is three times funnier in person than he is on the page. And a big thing to was that he was very concerned that it was a play that could be appreciated by a straight audience as well as one that would sort of transcend the sexual lines and I think he has succeeded at that."

VC: Tek Wilson of Stages PR sent a press kit to me that included a picture of the cast that you will see in this story and you must admit that it is a rather bazaar mish mash of people in various states of dress or undress on a bed. Does this mean that there is nudity in the play, Michael?

MS: "Not really, there is one scene where the whole cast is in their underwear. And the first scene takes place in bed. Jeffrey sort of has a different sexual situation with each person in the play. In the beginning of the play there is sort of this comic look at how AIDS has changed what happens in the bedroom. The sort of by-play between people who have to decide how to arrange sex so it can be safe, or it can be negotiable. You know one of the first things a character says is, 'sex wasn't meant to be negotiated or arranged or fatal' and that's what induced him to make his decision about giving up sex. Then the journey he takes is that he realizes that by giving up sex and intimacy, he sort of resigns from the human race. He realizes that the need not to be alone becomes the deciding factor and he finally takes the romantic viewpoint. That's what the play is. It's sort of the romantic comedy for the 90's."

I tell Michael that I really find the cellophaned person in the picture kind of interesting and he tells me, "well that's one kinky scene and then there is one scene that takes place in a masturbation club and that get's to be pretty racy, but you know, there's no overt nudity, but there's certainly come skin showing. It is all within the confines of the play. The gay community of Manhattan is a lot of things—it's stylish, it can be bitchy, and rough sex can be a part of all of that."

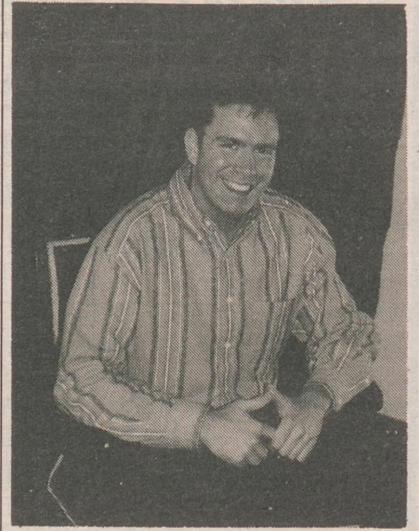
VC: Michael, tell me a little about your background. How you got started in all this. Were you an actor?

MS: "I acted a little bit when I was a teenager but I am first a director. I got my masters at Columbia University, I studied a little bit in London and then I studied in New York at the Eugene O'Neil Theatre Center. Directing has always been my focus. Acting was fun when I was a kid, but directing more suited my personality. It gives me an opportunity to explore different worlds on stage and take responsibility for my career. And really make sure that the project that I am working on has a focus. They've allowed me to do that here at Stages."

Michael continued, "Since college I've been a director, I've done lots of Summer Stock and a couple of shows in New York. This is actually my first regional production and it's been great. The people at Stages have been really wonderful in terms of their commitment to the production. And there's been a genuine enthusiasm not only among the cast and the staff at the theatre but I've been told by the box office that people have been calling and I get the feeling that the community has embraced the play even before it opens so that's always really encouraging to see. You know Houston is genuinely friendly. It's like the stereotype that people in the South are very gregarious and are warm and welcoming and I find that to be very true."

VC: What type of theater do you prefer, Michael?

MS: I like the musical. They immediately create a sense of heightened reality. The good ones are the ones where



Director Michael Scheman

when people break into song, what they have to say, normal speech wouldn't quite cover it. So when the musical is constructed the songs are part of the characters voice that they wouldn't have otherwise. And musicals are also very tricky to get right. I've directed some of the best ones, like Gypsy, Side by Side by Sondheim. I don't like the really light fluffy ones, but musicals more like Nine are fun. Ones that have a voice or a reason for being. Pure entertainment can be wonderful. But I like theatre with a twist. VC: Michael, are you happy with the cast you have at Stages?

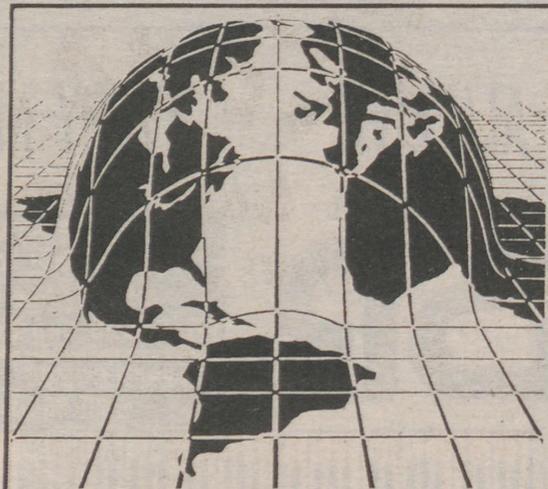
MS: Oh, I'm thrilled with the cast. There have been a couple of regional productions of Jeffrey. One in LA and one in San Francisco, but they were recreations of the New York production. But this production at Stages is really the first production of the play that the country has seen. So I guess that couples with how really wonderful the play is, really got a lot of terrific actors to come down and audition and I'm really thrilled with the cast. They are all very talented and very funny, but more than that they are all team players. No one is trying to be a star. The play and the ensemble are more important than the individuals and that in itself makes directing this production a great experience."

When asked what's next on his agenda, Michael replied, "Jeffrey was my first experience to work with Paul Rudnick and he has invited me again to work with him on his new play which is about an art gallery that has displayed some paintings deemed not fit by a high and mighty society woman. It will sort of reflect the whole Mapplethorpe issue. I haven't read the script yet, but that's what I get from what Paul has told me so far."

"Jeffrey" will run until March 13, Wednesday; through Sunday at Stages. Subscribers who have already been issued tickets to Parader Without A Permit will be able to use those tickets for admission at their regularly scheduled performance time. For times and dates or ticket information call 52-STAGE. Stages Repertory Theatre is located at 320-1 Allen Parkway (one block West of Waugh Drive). Parking is free and the theatre is wheelchair accessible.



The cast of "Jeffrey" by Paul Rudnick, clockwise from left: Joe Kirkendall, Kent Johnson, Paul Hope, Adrian Porter, Adrian Walter, Connie Cooper, Randall W. Jobe and Jeff Baldwin (Photo by Ken Rabalais)



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HOUSTON VOICE

Pennsylvania man convicted of murdering gay man

SMETHPORT, Pa., Sunday, Feb. 13 (AP)—A judge sentenced a 20-year-old man to life in prison for slashing and dumping into a creek a gay man who propositioned him.

A McKean County jury deliberated about six hours over two days before returning a first-degree murder verdict Saturday against David Riley Jr., 20, of Bradford, in the April 2 drowning death of Scott Palmer, 24.

Riley was sentenced by Common Pleas Judge John Cleland, who decided not to have jurors consider the death penalty. The judge said the aggravating circumstances of the crime, robbery, occurred after Palmer was killed.

In closing arguments Friday, prosecutor Jeff Duke said Riley robbed Palmer before dumping him in the water. Duke said the attack occurred after Palmer asked Riley for sex.

Riley was arrested on an unrelated charge in DuBois on April 14, the day before Palmer's body was found in Bradford's Tuna Creek. The victim's wallet was empty.

Riley's former roommate, Joseph Taylor, testified during the trial that Riley graphically admitted slashing the 6-foot-4-inch, 275-pound man as he threw him into the icy water.

A forensic pathologist testified during the trial that Palmer's slash wounds were inflicted moments before he entered the water.

Riley's defense was that he was involved in a fight with Palmer, who Riley said was the first to pull a weapon. Riley denied throwing the man into the water.

"He cut me in the finger, and I pulled out a knife and I stabbed him," Riley testified Friday.

Riley said he also connected with a punch to the chest, which doubled Palmer over.

"I just walked away and that was the end of the fight," Riley said. "He was beginning to get up when I was walking away."

The prosecutor asked Riley why he didn't report the attack, if indeed Palmer had instigated the fight.

"Basically, in Bradford, if you get into a fight, you get into a fight ... when the fight is done, you forget it," Riley responded.

Riley admitted to calling the victim a "faggot" but denied being anti-gay.

"To each his own, I say," Riley testified.

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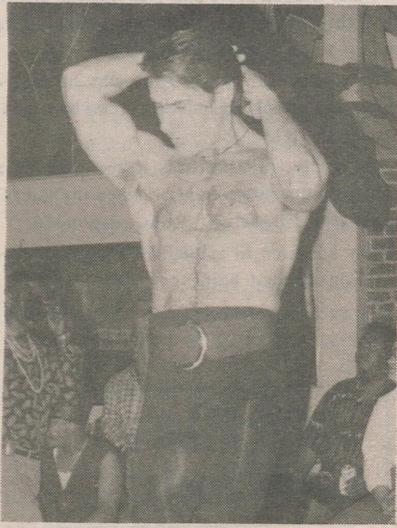
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Mardi Gras in Galveston was incredible, decadent, flamboyant fun



Wrangler at Kon Tiki

GALVESTON SOAP

By JERRY STUART

Houston Voice/Galveston

I sure hope every one that attended the Silk Stocking Ball this year had as much fun as I did. The costumes were incredible. But we all know how creative the girls can be, especially when there is a contest involved. The winner of the contest was none other than Robert Mainor, the owner of Robert's Lafitte's on 25th Street. He's known to some of you as Robert the Mouth the Ugliest Girl in the South. That being his drag character. Congratulations, Robert, you deserve it because I know it must have been hell wearing that enormous costume all evening. The head piece alone must have been three feet tall and weighed ten pounds. I guess a little pain and discomfort is a small price to pay to be the Bell of the Ball. The winner of the group contest was the "Gods of Mount Olympus." There were about 18 of them, all with wonderful costumes. Great job guys! Congratulations also goes out to Lewis Groce as this year's winner of the Jack Biggerstaff Founder Award. Over all it was a record breaking year for the Ball. It raised over twenty thousand dollars for the benefit. The bartenders also donated their tips this year in the amount of \$628 and these guys really worked hard for them. You should have seen those lines. There was approximately 539 tickets sold and about 506 in the box at the



Robert wins costume contest at the Ball

door, so a lot of people came out this year for this fun and charitable event. On behalf of the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas Resource Center and Food Pantry, I would like to thank Mr. Ken Dennis and Mr. David Bump for all the work they put in to organizing this event.

The Momus Grand Night Parade Saturday evening brought people by the thousands to the island. The Strand area and all the bars were wall to wall people. Everyone seemed to have a great time this year and there were very few bad incidents. I think they said there were only 129 arrests in all and for 400,000 people drinking and getting wild and crazy, I think that's pretty good. I wonder if New Orleans could do that well.

Saturday night the show at the

time when she visits. She would also like to wish everyone a Happy Easter. The show also included Melissa Crawford, Wrangler, April, Misty Valdez, and Tommy from "Muscles in Action." Wow what a cast!

Club Evolution also had a bumper crowd for Mardi Gras this year. They had that pretty little Latin guy dancing along with a female stripper. The dance floor was full all evening and the spirit of Mardi Gras was certainly in the air. They had a line going in for after hours that almost reached the end of the block. Don't forget Evolutions for "Weekends in February" Girls night out, with C&W music upstairs and Sundays—Salute to Star of Texas employee's. You can register for two free

cruises and there's no cover before 9:00 p.m.

Although I worked almost all weekend and didn't have enough time to get by there I heard that Lafitte's also had a nice crowd last weekend. The parade went right past the bar as it came off the sea wall. If I could have fought the crowd and the traffic to get there before I had to work that's where I would have been. They had some good looking men from the Ripcord and the Brazos River Bottom in Houston that came down on buses to party and watch the parade. I bet the bus driver had a hard time keeping his eyes on the road instead of the rear view mirror on the way back to Houston. I wonder if there were any stow aways? Before closing I'd like to give ya some of the dirt swept my way after Mardi Gras. One source told me there were a pair of shoes found on the patio at the Kon Tiki. Mr. Bill, did you finally get tired of those old sneakers or did you just decide to trade with someone? And what's this about you playing teddy bear with the bottle? Mmmm. I also heard that Sherri is single again and on the prowl, so watch out girls because this lioness is looking for some fresh game and she's ready to roar. The most disgusting thing I heard all week is about Tina a friend of mine who happens to be straight. Fact is, she lost her job just because she hangs out with some of us homosexuals and because her roommate happens to be gay. One of the owners of the office even rep-

rimanded here when she put an issue of a very popular magazine, that being New Week, in the waiting room just because it had a picture of two lesbians on the cover. She stated she didn't want trash like that in her waiting room, referring to the magazine of course and it was mailed to that office. Well, the ironic thing about this story is that a lot of the clients who go there and wait to be seen in her waiting room are in fact gay. So, I ask you, would you support a business no matter how good their services are with your hard earned gay-money that doesn't want trash like that in their waiting room? I mean, come on! I've heard of some homophobic people but to fire a good employee because her friends happen to be gay. And to trash News Week and Time Magazine just because they have special people on their cover. This is the 90's and there is more than one place in town to get your teeth cleaned. I hope I didn't bore you all with this story but I know how some of you like to hear the dirt. This incident just happened to be the dirtiest thing I've ever heard in awhile. Again I would like to ask all of you to contact me if you have any comments. If you have any news on upcoming events, parties, announcements, or just some good old fashion gossip call (409) 740-7403 and leave a message. Thanks! This has been your friendly Island Reporter now signing off.



Mardi Gras cast at the Kon Tiki



Dancing the night away at Evolution



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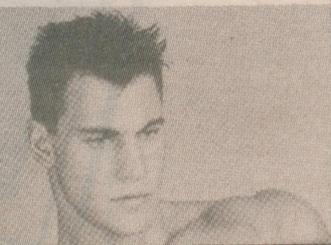
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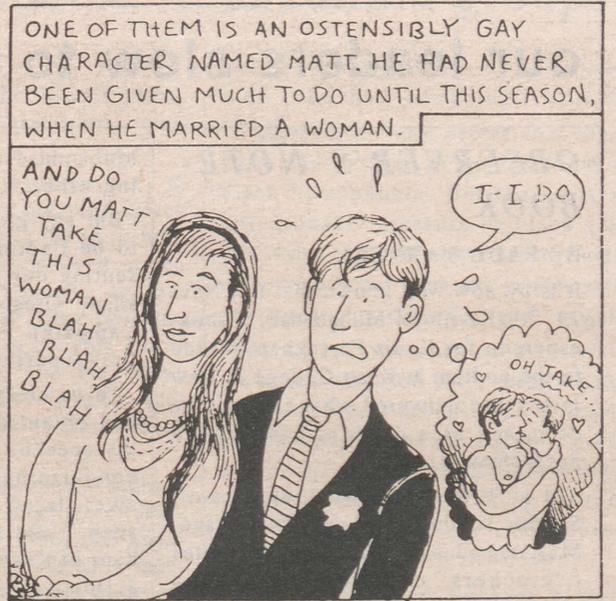
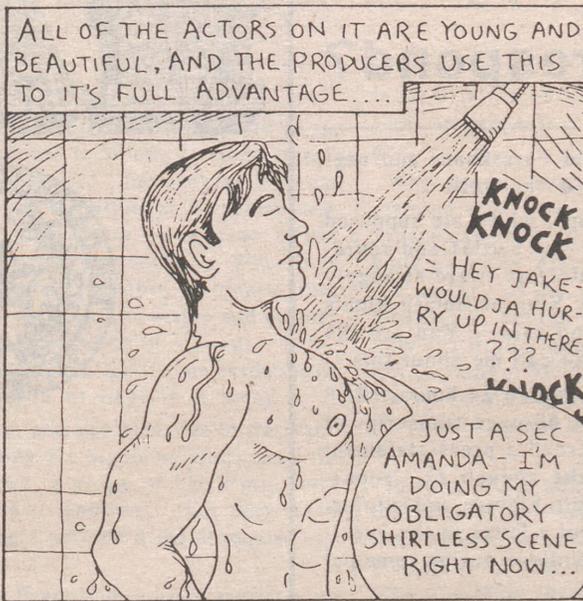
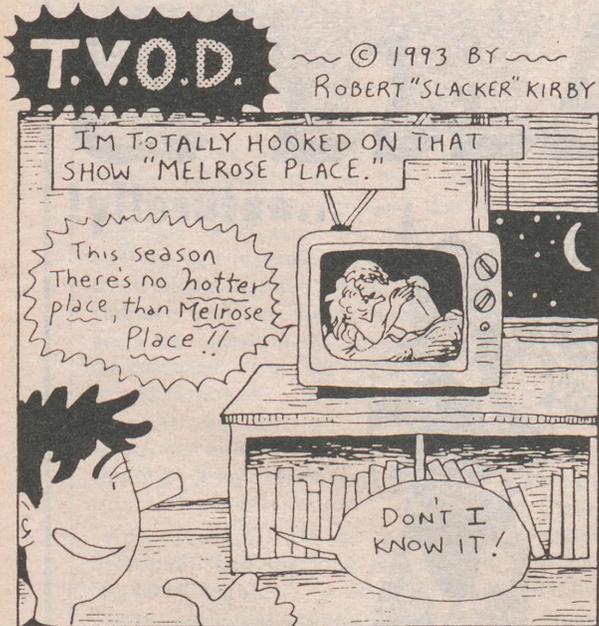


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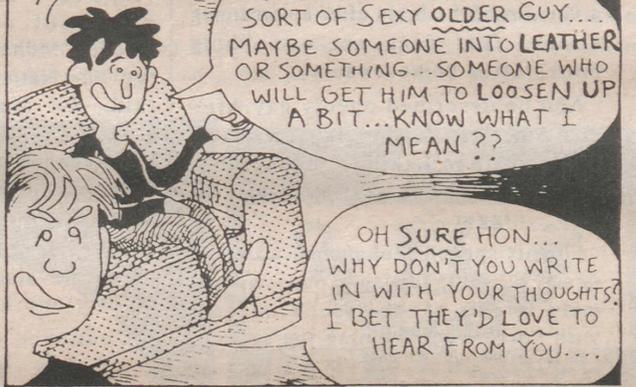
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PWA Coalition Rally Day; new support group at Montrose Counseling Center; Pantheon of Leather activities

QUICK NOTES

The People with AIDS (PWA) Coalition will hold its first-ever Rally Day at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

This is a unique opportunity for HIV+ individuals to take care of a variety of services, free of charge, at one time. The following will be made available: Forms for Wills, General Power of Attorney, Health Care Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians and Guardian Declaration; 1994 Coalition identification cards will be issued; New members can sign up as Coalition clients; and Legal documents can be notarized free of charge.

In order to fill out legal forms and receive free notary services, patrons need proof of diagnosis or an identification card from the Coalition or other community organizations. In addition to proof of diagnosis, a driver's license or photo identification must be provided.

The PWA Coalition is an organization "of, by and for" people with HIV/AIDS in the Greater Houston area. For more information on Coalition services and Rally Day, please call (713) 522-

5428.

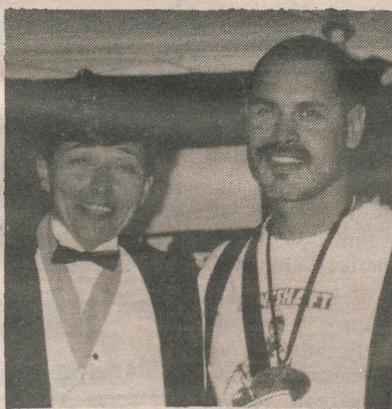
Support group

Sexuality, Spirituality, and Self-Esteem: a new support group for anyone who has lost a loved one to illness, accident, suicide will also be beginning soon. For more information contact: Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond (East of Montrose Blvd.), Houston, Tx., (713) 529-0037.

The Montrose Counseling Center is a non-profit, United Way agency devoted to serving the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community. Thank you for assisting us in getting out the word to the community.

Pantheon of Leather

The panel of seven judges for the International Masters and Slaves Contest (IMSC), to be held Saturday night, March 5, at the Venture-N during Pantheon of Leather 1994 weekend in Houston, Texas, have been named. Three people from the Lone Star State will be on the judging panel, including Mr. National Leather Association 1993-94 Mark Frazier of Dallas, Ms National Leather Association 1993-94 Artemis Silverowl of Hurst, and



Pantheon of Leather 1993 Woman of the Year Kay Hallager of Indianapolis and Woody Bebout of St. Louis, Mo. (Photo by Dave Rhodes)

Bob Bouton, who was president of the Texas Renegades for four years and is currently chairperson of the Houston Council of Clubs. Brian Keever of Houston, who works for This Week In Texas (TWT), will be the tally master.

In tradition with contest standards, the current title holders are automatically on the panel. These are International Master 1993 Tammerlayn "Tam" von Hohenzollern and International Slave 1993 Kit West, while International Mr. Saliva 1993 and Mr. Rocky Mountain Drummer 1991 Joe Potter and Mr. Drummer 1989 Brian Dawson fill out the judging

panel.

Brian Dawson is currently the head of the Orange Coast Leather Assembly in Garden Grove, California. He has helped with the production of, or has judged, all of the previous Master and Slave contests except last year's.

The Pantheon of Leather Awards 1994 show will be held in the La Fontaine Ballroom at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel. Twenty awards will be presented to deserving individuals, clubs, businesses, and organizations on Sunday afternoon, March 6. Nearly 200 nominations were made by TLJ readers in September, October, November, and December. The selection panel, comprised of 13 men and women, voted in January and their choices will be announced beginning at 5:00 p.m. during the Pantheon of Leather 1994 Awards Show.

Pantheon of Leather weekend, hosted by NLA:Houston, begins with an opening reception at the Wyndham Warwick on Friday night, March 4. Clubs will present their colors at the reception and dignitaries will be recognized then. A Leather Bazaar starts at noon on Friday and Saturday and Sunday, with some of the nation's best leather makers on

hand.

A Texas Barbecue at the Brazos River Bottom on Saturday afternoon. This barbecue is to die for, say local Houstonians. The barbecue is held every Sunday afternoon, but Saturday's feast will be extra for Pantheon of Leather.

On Sunday there will be CUIR Next Door Photo shoot party for CUIR Magazine at the Ripcord. A Leather Dance will be held at Pacific Street on Sunday night after the awards show.

Lee Baber, owner of Leather Forever and SmartPlay, Inc., will have a dungeon party during Pantheon of Leather. Admission will be \$15 per night per person with registration during Leather Bazaar at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel. Once tickets are issued there will be no refunds—use it or lose it! The space should be available Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, March 3-5. The times that the dungeon will be open have not been set as yet. The dungeon was well stocked, safe, and well-supervised during Living in Leather. It is not part of the Pantheon of Leather package, but should be plenty of fun. For more information on the dungeon, phone Lee Baber at (713) 526-7328 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Central Time any day of the week.

Farrakhan and the Gays: why were our leaders slow to respond?

OBSERVER'S NOTE-BOOK

By PAUL VARNELL

It is by now well known that last Nov. 29, Khalid Abdul Muhammad, a spokesperson for Louis Farrakhan, strode to the podium at Kean College in New Jersey and delivered what can only be described as a piece of hate-infused performance art.

In a three-hour, disjointed, anti-Semitic tirade full of gutter language, Muhammad also attacked all whites ("crackers"), Catholics, women and gays.

Speaking of whites who did not leave South Africa, Muhammad said, in part, "We kill the faggot and we kill the lesbian. We kill them all." Of the Authorized Version of the Bible, he said, "King James' version. Here's a sissy. King James Bible. Can you name a version of the bible after a screaming sissy?...God does not name holy books after homosexuals."

And he described openly gay African-American leader Bayard Rustin as "some bootlicking, butt-licking, butt-dancing...sissified, punkified...nigger."

For his speech Muhammad was paid nearly \$2,700. Jewish groups, as primary targets of the speech, reacted with horror, condemning the speech,

Muhammad and Farrakhan, and urging others to do as well.

But gay groups, which are supposed to be fighting our battles and representing our interests, were strangely silent. Gregory King of Human Rights Campaign Fund said, "You are the first reporter to call me about this."

To its credit, within 24 hours HRCF had obtained a 60-page transcript of the speech, issued a press statement condemning the speech as "repulsive...laced with bigotry and intolerance," and sent a letter to the President of Kean College urging remedial action.

But other national gay groups seemed reluctant to speak out. An obviously uncomfortable and increasingly irritable David Smith, spokesperson of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said his group had no plans to do or say anything about the speech.

NGLTF "supports the ongoing effort (of others) to determine whether Muhammad's remarks represent the Nation of Islam Policy," he said. But Muhammad was a spokesperson for the Nation of Islam and Farrakhan himself delivered similar speech in New York on Jan. 24.

"At this point the situation is still being evaluated," he said. But what is there to evaluate? Whether there was bigotry and homophobia?

(Continued on following page)

Amnesty International says homosexuals vulnerable to rights abuse

By GENE KRAMER

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 8 (AP)—Amnesty International announced a six-month campaign Tuesday to combat rights abuses against homosexuals in the United States.

The announcement by Amnesty International USA, the U.S. branch of the London-based human rights organization, coincided with the release of a 24-nation survey on the treatment of homosexuals.

Amnesty called it a groundbreaking report placing "government repression of gay men and lesbians squarely on the international human rights agenda."

Five U.S. states apply antisodomy laws only to homosexuals, and "Amnesty International would consider an individual imprisoned under these laws a prisoner of conscience and call for their immediate and unconditional release," the organization said. The states are Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Montana and Tennessee.

Amnesty International defends victims of political, religious and ethnic persecution, torture, violence and discrimination.

Curt Goering, acting director of Amnesty USA, said the group wants to elevate gay rights as a mainstream issue before the public and such bodies as the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

The organization's international council decided to take up homosexual rights in 1991. Exhaustive investigations showed that gays and lesbians,

like political prisoners traditionally defended by Amnesty, are "vulnerable to the pretexts governments use to lock people up," Goering said.

Sexual orientation is not mentioned in the 1948 U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, but homosexuals are implicitly protected and Amnesty wants to ensure that "what is implicit in language is explicit in practice," he said.

The organization said it considers "prisoners of conscience" anyone detained for peacefully advocating gay rights or "solely because of homosexuality," including private sexual acts between consenting adults.

Amnesty's worldwide survey said Ukraine had become the first republic of the former Soviet Union to decriminalize homosexual acts between adult males. Similar steps are being taken or considered in Russia, the three Baltic republics and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union.

Mistreatment of homosexuals by police is frequently alleged in Britain and Northern Ireland, the report said. Amnesty welcomed the introduction of legislation in the Irish Republic decriminalizing private homosexual acts between consenting adults.

In Colombia, there are reports of homosexuals, vagrant children and petty criminals being rounded up as "social undesirables" and gunned down by police-supported "death squads," the survey found.

Amnesty said its six-month U.S. campaign would include the petitioning of state governments to revoke laws singling out homosexuals.

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Are national Gay leaders afraid to counter homophobia from certain groups?

(Continued from previous page)

At the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in New York, Director Ellen Carton told me that she had been on vacation and did not feel well-enough informed to make a comment. Media director Donald Suggs was similarly reticent. He declined to condemn the speech or the remarks, saying the comments were "not worthy of a concerted response." But you would have thought that anti-gay defamation, whenever and wherever it appeared, would be a legitimate target for objection and condemnation.

And excerpts from the speech have been published and long articles have appeared regularly in The New York Times. Isn't that required daily reading for our East Coast activists? Not apparently at GLAAD/NY. Nor at NGLTF. "Where did you see these quotes?" asked David Smith. What are we paying these people for?

Under enormous pressure from most black political groups from the Religious Right. But they have failed to develop a method and a language to counter homophobia from the left or from non-white groups, especially Afri-

can-Americans.

African-Americans, along with gays, are supposed to belong to some mythical entity called "the progressive coalition." It is unthinkable that anyone in the progressive coalition could attack any gays or lesbians. When presented with palpable evidence that some of these people loathe and despise gays, the tendency of our "progressives" is to ignore the evidence or trivialize it or explain it away.

And yet anti-gay elements in the black community are becoming more vocal. In Cleveland, a group of black ministers gathered to announce that they were mounting a petition drive to oppose gay rights.

In San Francisco, a black minister on the Human Rights Commission cited Levitical calls for the murder of gays and said AIDS was the just reward for a sinful lifestyle.

In Washington, national gay groups were silent when the African-American Corporation Counsel John Payton was nominated to be the head of the Civil Rights Division in the Justice Department, despite the fact that Payton's office had opposed gay marriage in a

legal brief laced with Biblical quotations and appeals to "traditional" values.

Why anyone would expect blacks to respond otherwise is a mystery. Black Americans grow up with the same holy book as white Americans. And, given the history of discrimination against blacks, the church has often been the only institution able to provide continuity among blacks, and may have played a more important role in the emotional and social lives of many black Americans.

In each of the above cases, I suspect that most progressive gays were reluctant to speak out because they may genuinely have felt that it was somehow indecent or simply inappropriate to attack members of a traditionally disadvantaged group.

But they may also have feared that anything they said in opposition to a black man might be construed as racist. Progressive white gays may certainly fear the imputation of racism since there is no clear way anyone can disprove the charge.

Progressives themselves have used it often enough to discredit people, so

they know how damaging it can be.

Progressives may prefer that black gays take the lead in denunciations of black homophobia. But that puts an unreasonable pressure on black gays who may reasonably not wish to antagonize significant elements in their core community or community of origin.

Black gays often say, and I believe them, that they feel more discriminated against as blacks than as gays. It may be unreasonable, even unfeeling, to expect them to condemn other blacks, with whom they may feel strong bonds on the basis of a shared history of oppression and daily discrimination.

But someone must be there to fight homophobia wherever and from whom ever it appears. This is a lesson that Jews have learned at an enormously painful price. Never ignore an enemy, because others will take heart when the enemy goes unchecked.

(If you would like to respond to this commentary, please call the Houston Voice ConnectLine. For instructions, see page 13 of this issue).

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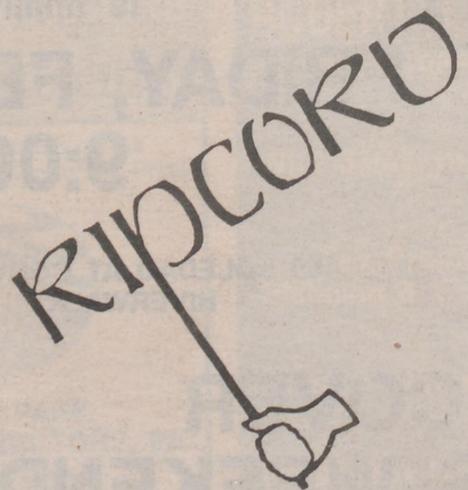


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Photo by Bob Thomas



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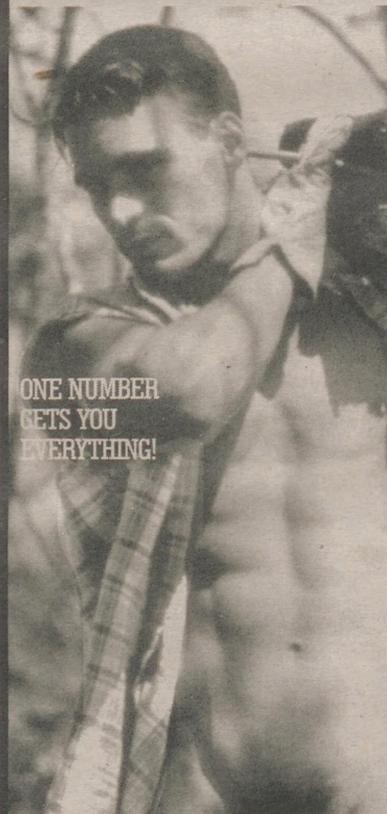
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Cupid's arrow strikes Tootsie; Miss Slut USA Pageant held at Zippers



Angie and Javier at 10th Ave

RIO GRANDE VALLEY SOAP

By **TOOTSIE WOMELDORF**
Houston Voice/Rio Grande Valley

Help! I'm wounded! Cupid's arrow struck me again while I was least expecting it. But I'm not complaining. Ah, how sweet it is! So since I've been on hiatus for the last couple of weeks, I want to start out by letting my honey-bunny know that I still love her now just as much as I did when we first started out thirteen years ago.

And now that we have all that mushy stuff out of the way, let's get down to the news. First of all I want you to know that I am a very important person. I'll have you know that last Friday night I had the distinct honor of being a judge to one of the most prestigious pageants of our time. I'm talking about the first pageant of this caliber to be held here in the Rio Grande Valley. Of course you know that I'm speaking of the one and only Miss Slut U.S.A. Pageant that was held at Club Zippers in Harlingen. After weeks of elimination rounds, the field was narrowed down to only two contestants. They represented the State of Confusion and the State of Drunkenness. The Miss Congeniality award went to Tessie Tittywitter and the Miss Photogenic award went to Simone the Slut. The title of Miss Slut U.S.A. went to Miss State of Confusion, Tessie Tittywitter.

However, it is important to remember that in the event that she is not able to fulfill her role as Slut the title will be passed on to the first runner-up, Simone the



Sandra and Debbie at Just Tery's

Slut.

And believe it or not, the fun didn't stop there. On Saturday night the action continued at Club Zippers welcomed the Special Collection Dancers from Monterrey featuring the talents of Rory and two newcomers to the Valley, George and Alex. Although I wasn't able to be there for the show (I was still busy signing autographs from the night before) I understand that they put on one helluva fantastic show. Don't forget Club Zippers has been bust on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday till 11:00 p.m. and specials on Club Cocktails on Monday nights. Be sure to stop by there on Wednesdays for hot dogs and cold beer for a buck.

Just down the street The Planet was hopping this weekend also. On Saturday the Planet really rocked the house with some of the best music mixes in the Valley. Valley Voice members were out that night also taking Valentine photos and selling sweetheart roses and carnations to raise money for the Children's Pediatric Task Force. The money will go to provide recreational activities for the kids and their families. Valley Voice wants to thank The Planet and Just Tery's for their cooperation in this worthy cause. Valley Voice would also like to thank Gloria and Dora for the fantastic decorations and backdrops for the pictures. Thanks go out to Bill and Chris for all their help, too.

On Sunday night the guys from Lone Star Male Revue who were to have performed weren't able to make it unfortunately because of an automobile acci-

dent that they were involved in earlier in the day. Don't worry, I understand that no one was seriously injured. So be looking for them again, soon.

This Sunday night is this month's amateur Drag contest at The Planet. There will be a \$75 cash prize give-a-way. Then next Sunday, Feb. 27th be looking for the Lone Star

Male Revue and Fantasy Girls. Remember, The planet features four levels, three bars and twice the fun with a different music theme every night of the week. The Mighty Duckster of bar three at the Planet will be leaving in March for Special Forces training for Fort Benning, Georgia. He will be missed. John wants to remind everyone to stop by and get a drink from him and wish him luck. And incidentally, any available bartenders might want to give John a call.

This Saturday night P.B.D.'s will be celebrating their 10 year anniversary with a bang. They have planned a special show featuring a special performance by Miss Laredo At Large and all her girlfriends (oops, she has no girlfriends), just kidding Lady Laura, the devil made me say that. Be sure and go out and celebrate

with Pretty Boy Drew (PBD), Chuck, Don and Jose. And tell them I sent you. Be sure and watch for some pool tournaments coming soon to P.B.D.'s. Check us out for more details soon.

Just Tery's held their annual Valentines party last week featuring the talents of the wonderful Jacqui Fabiane, Lady Laura, Julissa and Margot Landro. And folk's, mark your calendars for the special return of one of the Valley's favorite entertainers, Victoria West, who will be appearing on Feb. 25th at Just Tery's along with the one and only Terry de la Douche (otherwise known as Madame Masengill). Also appearing will be Esmer and Velma and another special guest from San Antonio. Starting in March, Just Tery's will have a Friday Show once a month beginning with Oprah de Marro. Be checking in the paper for more details on the Miss McAllen Metroplex Pageant which will be coming in April at Just Tery's. And be sure to start saving all your pennies (or hundred dollar bills) to buy Tery an extra special birthday gift to present to him at his birthday bash also in April. Terry has informed us the Just Tery's and Choices of Corpus Christi are joining force to bring you some of the best entertainers. They will occasionally be trading entertainers, D.J.'s and male dancers. Be watching for changes soon.

Last Wednesday 10th

Avenue held their birthday bash for all those Aquarians including special guests Arnold and Sylvia Garza. Happy Birthday guys! Tonight, Friday Feb. 18th, 10th Avenue will host the Reigning Miss Gay U.S.A., Sweet Savage. Sunday night is a very special night at 10th Avenue as we watch Misty and Gave finally tie the knot in a special wedding ceremony and reception. Congratulations guys!!! Next week on Feb. 25th the lovely Tandy Andrews (the former Miss Gay U.S.A. '92) will be at 10th. In short, 10th Avenue has some really hot entertainment in store!

Hey, have you been looking for a terrific place to go for the weekend or maybe even for spring break? Well, look no further. The Upper Deck is the place for you. You lounge by the pool and catch some rays, or just sit in the sauna and relax. Or if sport is more your style, go out and cruise the lovely Padre Island beaches located just within walking distance from The Upper Deck. Call for reservations at (210) 761-5953. Do me a favor and tell them you read about them in the Houston Voice.

Valley Voice will meet this coming Tuesday at Creasey's Bowl in Harlingen at 8:00 p.m. See ya'll there. Hasta la vista!



Simone, Tessie TittyTwitter and Maxine at Club Zippers



Larry at The Planet

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Love is a gas: the full report on Valentine's weekend in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO SOAP

By LEFTY TAYLOR

Houston Voice/San Antonio

Happy Valentines Day to everyone! What a wonderful time for love to be bounding in the air. I think its methane, but it really can get to you. And of course there was yet another shift in the weather. Only Texas and the excitement too. Things are happening all over the place.

At Sparks, Little Jeremy had to fill in for yet another of those strippers from Austin that don't show up. Yes, he filled in during hot oil wrestling on Tuesday nights. I think that bartender wrestling should become a major part of Tuesday night. I know a couple of them and a few DJ's I'd like to see fight it out. Maybe I would even join in. Hey Mike, here's an idea! How about a special drag queen wrestling match. Pick any major pageant and we'll do it the day before or after.

This week end at the El Jardin, the Pointless Sisters are putting on their once yearly show there. Not much exciting has happened lately. Nothing has fallen from the ceiling and there's been no fights for awhile. That doesn't include dart night.

I can safely say the dart league meeting went very well. The treasurer and president both

showed us the proof of a bank account and the deposit slips. Unlike previous leagues, the various members of the teams feel safe and assured that the money will be present this time at the end of the year.

The Sunday show at Miriam's went very well with a packed house. There was some new and old talent performing including Chuckina, Miffy from the Hardly Girls, the Nasty Girls (I heard they were great) and a new band of girls called Intuition. Miriam says the band was so good she will have them back next month to perform by themselves. The show went along without any surprises and no police. Boy, I was glad too! There's nothing like a stalker to keep you on your toes, right Guido?

Congratulations to Dick at the 2015. Valentines Day was their 11th anniversary and I am truly glad to see them still going after all this time. Eleven years is a long time and a lot of bars have come and gone since then. Steak night is still on Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. until Peter gets tired of cooking. Five dollars buys you one of the best steaks in town.

The Wild Club has had a great fun of porno stars without attitudes. Performing this weekend was Chase Hunter and Ton DiAngelo. They put on another

great show that will live in the fantasies of all the people who were there. I got to speak to them in the back room for awhile and they are really great guys. They've been together for five years, too. Chase should probably change his name to catch. I would. On Sunday Jimmy James joined the Sunday show with Victoria West, Shawna Brooks and Amber Nixx to help crown the new Miss Stupid Cupid. The winner was Miffy Dolbare from the Hardly Girls in a new glamour red wig. What an outfit. It looked like something only Victoria would wear (as one of the cast members said). Jimmy also did a show next door at the Wild Country as Patsy Kline. I saw him perform for the first time and I was truly surprised. He is really good and has a great personality, too. Hopefully we'll see more of him again soon.

FINALLY, after a long waiting ordeal, Industria's top floor (also known as Phase II) will open this weekend, Ready Or Not! One of the newest employees, Billy, will be on top of it all. Of course, he's used to climbing stairs...

Volley ball season is upon us and the time to call Nexus is now! The season will break with a special tournament and a fajita cookoff and then will go into the regular league season.

Wednesday is all girl teams and Sundays are mixed teams, I believe. For more information you can call the Nexus and they will be happy to help you. This Sunday Debbie Garris with Musket and Wave will be performing live. These girls are a terrific duo performing a variety of songs in a style that will keep your feet hopping.

This Friday at the Papermoon is the 19th annual Miss Gay San Antonio pageant with special guests Dyan Michaels, Sweet Savage, Janice Dumont and Pauletta Leigh. The newly crowned Miss Gay San Antonio will be joining the Super Sunday show in a special performance along with Papermoon Entertainer of the Year, Jessica DeMornay, Tandi, Shady Lady and Pauletta. On Wednesday, Shady Lady hosts the hottest male and female dancers in town with .50 cent well and \$1.75 longnecks all night long.

This Saturday night, the Hardly Girls along with Tommy Manhattan and Prince and other special guests will host another benefit show for the MC Church at the 106 off Broadway. This is (hopefully) the last one to raise the deposit to bring the Flirtations to town. The El Jardin show raised almost \$300 and I hope that the 106 will beat that. That money will go a long way to helping the

church. There will also be a special auction of Tommy Manhattan again. This time I hope she goes for more than the price of a cheap hotel room.

And why stay in a cheap hotel room or even pay rent when you can buy your own home from Ken Bradshaw (210) 653-7711. He is there to help you in any way possible, even with very reasonable financing.

Well, as another Harper says, it's time to wind up this letter with just a few thoughts. The various AIDS facilities around town depend not only government provisions for money, but also the kind donations of money, food and clothing from our own sector. You can also help by stopping by a local bar that has steak night that benefits AIDS charities and help in that way. Also, with spring comes Fiesta and its time for us all to start thinking seriously about security, as recent events at several local bars have proven. Not only should you try to park as close to the bar as possible and in the light, but try to have a few friends walk you to your car. A few minutes outside could help steer away any possible threats and it's good for your lungs, too. I really don't want to see any of you hurt! Thanks again and Chow!

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Gay Personals

DOMINANT GWM

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

WANTED: HAIRY CHESTED YOUNG STUD FOR COMPANIONSHIP

GWM, 35, bl/gr, 5'9", 200lbs, DDF, seeks muscular male 20-39 for companionship. Enjoy movies, leather, evenings at home and dining out. Must be self-employed and own your own transportation, male stripper or swimmer's build and DDF. Nipple rings, black/blonde hairy chested a plus. I live in San Antonio but would like to receive responses from the Houston area. Ad 25744

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

SAGITTARIUS

GWM, youthful 50 y.o., bid/green, moustache, 175#, 6', DDF, nice looking, low key, professional, interest in the Arts, all music, dancing, old movies and quiet evenings with you. Like to find that true, healthy man ready to settle down and committed to a monogamous and growing relationship. Ad 25767

FRIENDSHIP IS WORTH THE EFFORT

Two GWM's, 35-52, HIV+, healthy, Houston Heights, seeks other couples or singles for friendship. Interest include movies, dinners, games, travel and good companionship. Prefer non-smokers. If you sincerely interested in finding friends we would love to hear from you. We know you are out there. Don't be afraid to reach out. Ad 25934

TICKLISH?

Attention: Kinky men with a taste for the unusual who crave excitement and adventure. Sleeping endorphins awake! Unwind as you never have before. Attractive WM, born day before yesterday, seeks ticklish men for ticklish times. Comfortable bondage, no sex required, satisfaction guaranteed. Ad 25768

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24 yr. old college educated GWM seeks emotional wants and closeness in a marriage of convenience situation with a female. Will consider efforts in having a child. Female must be 20-25, intelligent, attractive and most of all have a friendly personality. Will consider some sort of living arrangement with lesbian couple or open minded straight female. Only non-smokers and non-drug users considered. Prefer to stay in the Harlingen, McAllen, Brownsville area but will consider relocation. Ad 25774

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

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

GAY SWEEP-STAKES!!! YOU MAY WIN!!!

Me: GWM, 42, 5'11", 175, dark hair, blue eyes, professional, discreet, stable, DDF, non-smoker, handsome, endowed and "natural." You: GWM, 20-30, honest and good looking. To enter: Please respond by describing yourself and why I should choose you to take to dinner. Extra credit awarded for certain attributes!! Ad 25738

Intensely handsome, intriguing, articulate professional, masculine, successful, young, dark hair and blue eyes, 5'10", 175, in great shape, secure, romantic, intense yet relaxed ... Ad 25762

"If you know the wonder of being joining in you heart to a man and share commitment, devotion and fun, let's talk. I'm 43, 5'10", 185, HIV+ and always searching in life. Ad 25571

WHITE KNIGHT SEEKS MR. RIGHT!

GWM, 32, green eyes, blond hair, medium build, versatile! Looking for a one on one relationship with no games! I am HIV+ but very healthy and active. I love life and just want someone to share it with! Please sincere responses only, all replies answered. Ad 25910

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-organic, GWM/GBM/GHM for a top position and french accent. Bare upper torso/swimsuit photo or any photo appreciated. Ideal for a young top seeking fun times. Voice box 25911 detailing your interest.

SMALL TOWN GUY/HAIRY, FRENCH, SAFE

Attractive Latin guy 32, 5'9", 165lbs, muscular, travels to San Antonio/Houston. Like to meet healthy GWM/GHM for friendship and safe times. Prefer in shape hairy blonde with similar attributes. Above average endowment/circumference -DDF. Ad 25760

ENDOWED HEALTHY, ATTRACTIVE OUTGOING PROFESSIONAL

GWM wants to meet other(s) the same for friendship and safe fun. If you are endowed, attractive, non-smoker/non-substance abuser, under 45 years of age, professional, weight in proportion to height or thin, friendly, outgoing, not into S & M, and want to meet the same please respond to Ad 25749.

DOES THE OUTDOORS, ANIMALS AND PLANTS

appeal to you? Are you a slim, warm, considerate, GM between 30-45? I am 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 buddy for companionship possibly more. Ad 25745

SPANKINGS NEEDED

WM, 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

I'M THE GIN... ARE YOU THE TONIC??

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

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

SEEKING A GHM

Latino, 20-35, masculine a must, LD, DDF, interested in long term relationship. More Hispanic, Latino the better. I'm a WM, 31, 6'11", 200lbs, seek a long term relationship. Ad 25764

BRAZORIA COUNTY

GWM, mid 30's, late 40's, business or country type, discreet adventure, could involve part time bar scene. All replies answered. Ad 9060

DOWN TO EARTH NICE MAN

GWM, professional, masculine, attractive (27, 5'8", 150lbs., bl/blue, NS). Looking to meet a nice GWM (23-37) for possible relationship/friendship. I'm romantic, funny, dependable, physically fit, quiet but outgoing, looking for same. I'm in Clear Lake, prefer someone within 30 miles (includes inside the loop). Ad#25155

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

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

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

COLLEGE BOUND?

GWM, 37, 5'11", 150, bl/bl, very healthy, athletic, successful businessman, just out, into film, art, kayaking, tennis. Seeks healthy, intelligent, handsome, masculine, Bi/GWM, 18-32. I help you through college, you make me proud of you and we have some great times on the way exploring the world. Serious inquiries only. Ad 25751

HEY, I KNOW YOU!

You're a GWM 30's to 40's, smart, stable, secure, masculine and healthy. You have integrity, wit, optimism and charm. This GWM, 36, 6'2", 175, br/bl is all the above plus compassionate, comfortable to be around, upbeat, adventurous and an extrovert. If you're who I think you are, respond today! Ad 25716

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

I'M WAITING FOR YOU!

Mature, professional GWM, seeks a young, decent, masculine gay male who is healthy, slim, alcohol and drug free. If you like to have fun like I do, what are you waiting for? Talk to me. Ad 25947.

HANDSOME BOY NEXT DOOR TYPE

Straight acting GWM, 6', 175lbs, clean shaven, well endowed, mostly smooth, good looking body. Looking for handsome in shape to well built, endowed, definitely straight/looking/acting WM for fun and maybe even more. I'm a very young looking 38 and DDF. Interest include Caribbean, Florida, sailing, cool music, partying and bicycling. Ad 25763.

HANDSOME GWM SEEKING SAME

I'm 31, 6'3", 210lbs, HIV+, short brown hair, hazel eyes, hairy chest and moustache. I own my home and am financially secure. Seeking a relationship with a man who is also HIV+ or able to deal with the situation on a mature and informed level, about my age, sexually secure and versatile, non-smoker, weight in proportion to height, comfortable in jeans or a tuxedo, and financially secure. I'm a very romantic person and seek out those qualities in others. We'll have to start out as friends first and let nature take its course. Ad 25962

FIT, FUN, HANDSOME, SEEKS B & D BUDDY!

Healthy, 33, bl/bl, 5'10", 165lbs., HIV+ seeks buddy or dad for imaginative fun. Likes working out, movies, hiking and biking, restaurants, B & D, humiliation, toys and more. Am open minded and fun to be with. Age or race are unimportant. Ad 25750

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR A FEW MASCULINE FRIENDS

I'm a 35 yr. old attractive WM, 6', long br/br eyes, moustache and beard, HIV+. Like working on my own car, camping, four wheeling, rafting, rock-n-roll and safe fun times. Not necessarily in that order. I'm looking for friends with similar interests. Ad 25719

WANTED: SOMEONE TO KEEP MY TOES WARM!

I'm a passionate, attractive Italian Scorpio. GWF is with long dark brown hair and light brown eyes. Just re-entering the dating scene after 6 years of being corralled. I'm looking for someone who is intelligent, pretty, feminine, affectionate and employed to come out and play. DDF, light drinking okay. Ad 25755

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 25749

LOOKING FOR BUDDY/GOOD TIMES

GWM, 155, bl/bl, medium build, attractive, HIV+, healthy 8 years. Smoke/no drink. Very oral. Homebody, T.V., movies, music, two dogs, yard. Looking for similar, steady buddy, same age or older for fun times. Prefer hairy/endowed. Ad 25757

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

LOOKING FOR SINGLES AND COUPLES

We are in our late 30's looking for singles and/or couples for safe fun. We are both DDF. Serious replies only. Ad#25709

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.

I KNOW YOUR OUT THERE!

Professional, GWM, DDF, healthy, sincere and romantic. 39yrs old, 6', slim build. Brown eyes, glasses, and thinning brown hair. Into movies, sports, tennis, bicycling, hiking and camping. Seeking a monogamous relationship with GM 21-30yrs. old with same qualities. Non-smoker preferred and not into the bar scene. Ad 25288

I am a White Hispanic, DDF, 32 yr. old bottom, looking for a dark Hispanic or an African American top under 36 yrs. old able to work it out as a friend all the way into a special relationship. I love independence, social events, joyful moments and honest individuals. Ad 25765

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

DO YOU WANT WHAT I WANT?

I want someone who, like me, is good looking, fit, muscular, intelligent and is a good conversationalist. If that is what you want too, then you have found it. (P.S. I am 42, GWM). Box 25298

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.

GWM, 24, 5'10", very attractive, seeks good looking in shape man, 5'10" or taller who is under 35. I'm originally from the midwest and live in New York. I want to get to know a sincere, masculine gay man. Ad 25752

LOOKING FOR MASCULINE ROOMMATE -POOL OUTBACK!

Looking for GWM or GHM to share rent at house in Sharpstown. Nice in ground swimming pool in backyard. Private surroundings. House has living room, sun room, large kitchen, two baths, 3 bedrooms. Also looking for masculine friends. Reference please. Men need only. Sharpstown Home. Ad 25770

IN THE ARMS OF LOVE, FRIENDS ...

Professional, GBM, 40ish, height/weight proportionate, HIV+ with a positive attitude and good health. No mind games, just honesty. Enjoy walks, music, movies and quiet times at home. You: GSM, GHM or GWM, honest first, sensitive, warm and emotionally strong. Let's see what happens! Ad 25758

LONELY BIWM ROOKIE LEANING TOWARDS MALES

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

FRIENDSHIP AND FUN

GBM, 5'10", 195#, healthy, HIV+, affectionate, realistic, spontaneous, honest and sexy. Prefer ages 30-45, w/propor-tion. Interest include but not limited to movies, music, theater, and life outside the bars. I'm a heck of a great guy and I know there are more like me somewhere out there with similar interests, feelings, inclinations and aspirations. Oddly, we haven't met. Let's change that! Respond to Ad 25974.

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.

CUTE ATTRACTIVE, AFFECTIONATE SEEKING SAME!

GWM, 30, 5'9", medium build, HIV+, attractive, enjoys movies, dining out and dancing. Also passive, seeking GWM 30 and under who is DF, optimistic and would enjoy sharing life with me. Ad#25923

SAN ANTONIO: LOOKING FOR MR. RIGHT!

34 yr. old effeminate female impersonator seeks masculine, neat in appearance male of any race between 30-45. If you are masculine looking for someone to date and perhaps develop a relationship, let me hear from you. Ad 25761

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

LARGE TOOL WANTED!

GWM, 29, above average looks and tool. Work out often. Looking for fun or a serious companion for long term. You must be masculine GW or GH top preferred. You need to know how to use your tool. You won't be disappointed. Good looking strong tools need only reply. Ad 25270

OUTGOING, ATTRACTIVE, MASCULINE, PROFESSIONAL

seeks same GWM/BiWM for special friend. I and respondent will have a great sense of humor, weight in proportion to height (or thin), healthy, under 45 years old, clean shaven (moustache okay), non-smoker, non-user of drugs, not into bars or S & M, safe fun only, like movies, entertaining, outdoors, and have time to spend with new friend. Please respond to Ad 25011.

GWF SEEKS GWF 25-35!

AND MUST BE CLEAN, NO STEREOTYPING, WILLING TO PUT MY HEART AWAY FOR SAFE KEEPING -MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP -ONLY SERIOUS RESPONSES WILL GET MY REPLY. Ad 25967

GBM WHO DARES TO BE DIFFERENT!

Independent -thinking Gay Black Male with red convertible sports car, seeks someone completely different than oneself. I have every toy a man could want except that elusive Boy-Toy. All I guarantee is a good time! Ad 25707

GWF, 31

Want someone who is bubbly, fun and down to earth yet sincere, mature, stable and sensitive. I like arts and crafts, music, incl. 70's and disco, movies, shopping and traveling. I'm very down to earth, 5'2", medium build, br/br. Want someone with same build, age 28-38. Not into roles or games, mature people only. Ad 25753

GWF SEEKS GF/GM FOR ROOMMATE

GWM, 32, looking for GF or GM to share 3/2 house in Meyerland area. Must be neat, responsible, considerate and a non-smoker preferred. \$450 a month plus half utilities. Ad 25756

ATTENTION -NUDIST

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, 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

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.

SEEKING AFFECTIONATE GENEROUS GENTLEMAN SUGAR DADDY

Tall, healthy, sensual, affectionate, fun, friendly, athletic, stable, ambitious, sincere, outgoing, 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

LET'S START '94 OUT RIGHT TOGETHER!

30+ GWF who is mature, out-going, positive minded, completely unattached, financially secure and is a firm believer that weekends were made for fun and traveling. We'll never know if there is a future for us unless you respond. Ad 25748

To advertise call Houston local number (713) 529-8490 Mon.-Fri. 9-5. To respond to an advertiser and to hear his actual voice describing himself and the people he would like to meet, call 24 hours 1-900-454-3576. (\$1.49/min. on your phone bill. You must be 18+.) OR you can call (713) 529-8490 Mon.-Fri. 9-5 for more information or to establish a pre-paid toll-free answering account.

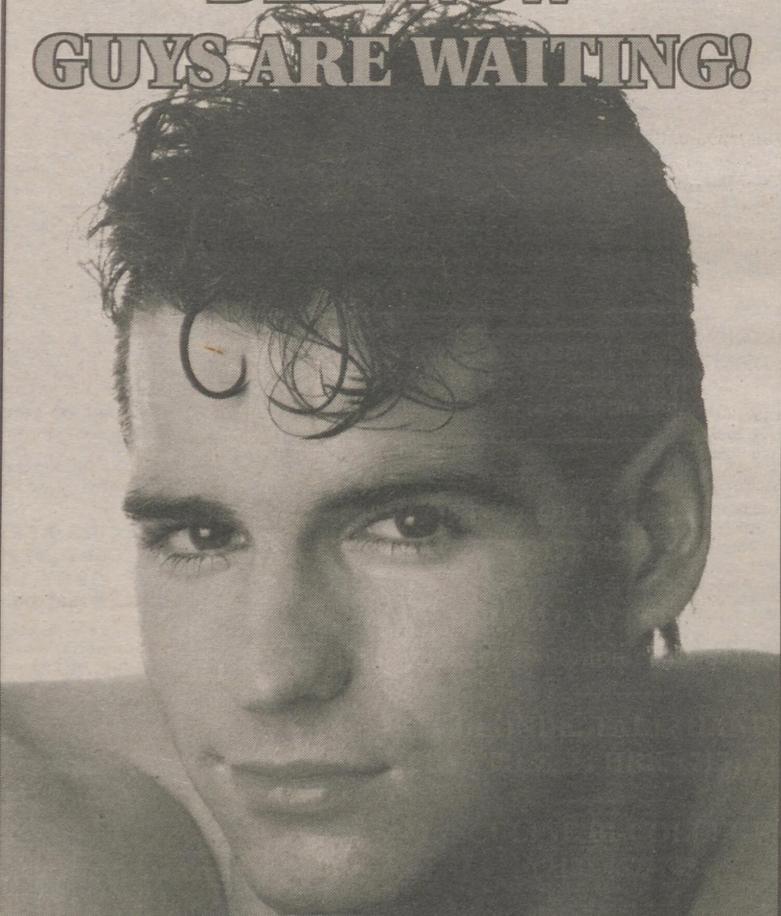
\$500 Reward

For information leading to the location and questioning of John (Johnny) Michael Jenkins, Jr. by the Houston Police Department for the Burglary of a home.

Call (713) 993-0084.

Immunity and confidentially guaranteed.

**DIAL NOW
GUYS ARE WAITING!**



CALL NOW!
TALK LIVE, LOCAL AND NATIONWIDE.
1-900-568-6868

Must Be 18 Or Over • Prices Subject To Change Without Notice.
FREE INFO: 1-800-676-GUYS

NOW ONLY

99¢

Per min.

First min. \$3.99

Classified Order Form

To Place Your Ad: Please fill out the form below, making sure you include your name, address and phone number. The form must be mailed or delivered to our offices. Full payment must accompany the ad; we accept payment by cash, check, money order, American Express, Discover, Master Card or Visa.

Deadline: Ads received no later than noon Monday will be inserted in that week's edition, which is distributed on Friday. Ads received after the deadline will automatically be inserted into the following weeks edition.

Rates: A bold heading for your ad is \$4 per line with a limit of 6 words. Words in regular type are 55¢ per word. Additional words in bold are 75¢ per word. For ads running 3 or more weeks the bold headline is \$3.25 per line per week. Regular words are 45¢ per word per week. Additional words in bold type are 65¢ per word per week.

Category:

- Travel Classes/Workshops Auto Sales
 Announcements Roommates Dwellings
 Jobs Wanted Garage Sales Services
 Employment Pets/Grooming For Sale
 Models/Escorts Licensed Massage

No. of weeks: _____

Costs:

_____ bold lines at \$4.00/\$3.25 _____

_____ regular words at 55¢/45¢ _____

_____ bold words at 75¢/65¢ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Ad Copy:

For more words attach additional sheet of paper

Name: _____

Address/Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Circle One: MC VISA AMEX DISC

Account No: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail or Deliver to:
Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006

**MIDNIGHT MATINEE
SPECIAL**
Sunday thru Thursday
Midnight til Closing
Admission \$4
with membership

FRENCH QUARTER
(713) 527-0782 3201 LOUISIANA HOUSTON

**THURSDAY
Matinee**
\$4 All Day
with membership

All Male Cinema

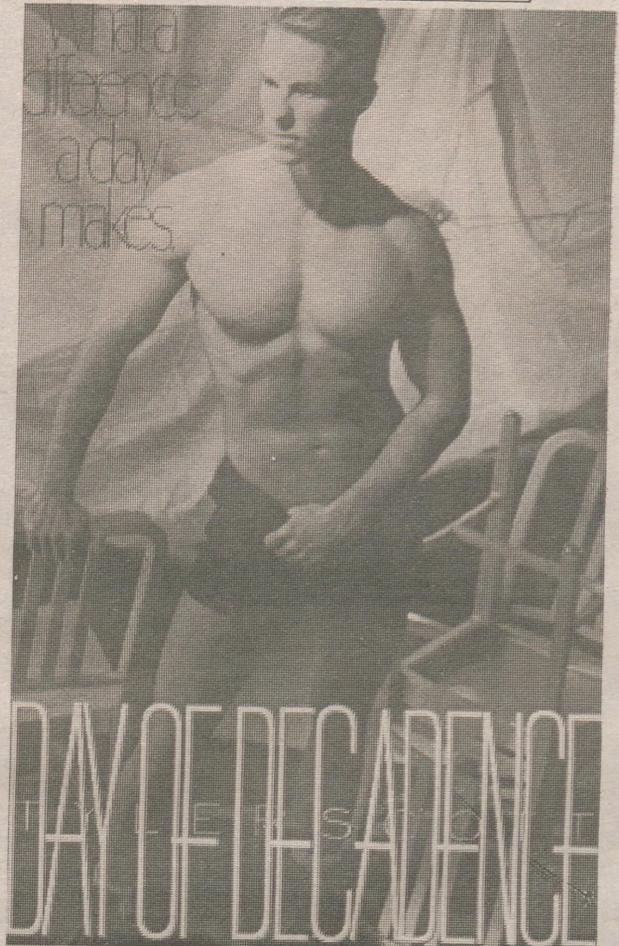
presents

*EATEN
ALIVE*

and

*DAY OF
DECADENCE*

Friday & Saturday
11am - 3am
Monday-Thursday
11am - 1am
Sunday
1pm - 1 am



HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS

Our very own! All are REAL! All are CURRENT! All are from readers of the HOUSTON VOICE!



• 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.

RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD



Hi again ya!!! Here's one of my favorite cake recipes. My mom gave me the recipe years ago, and is always a hit. Better if made a day or two in advance.

FRESH APPLE CAKE

- 4 cups diced apples — Granny Smiths are great!
- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup oil

Mix the above ingredients, then add, and combine well:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp cinnamon

Then add:

- 2 beaten eggs (Remember we don't use whips in baking)
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup chopped English walnuts

Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes in a 9 X 13 pan, greased and floured. Now come on girls, you should already have Crisco on hand (so to speak) from a previous recipe.

Cake is great plain or serve with ice cream or whipped cream. Here is a cream cheese frosting:

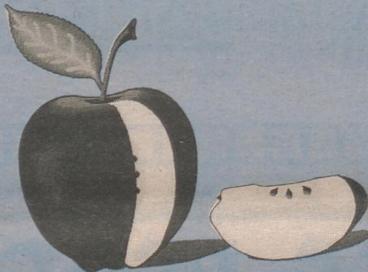
- 4 ounces cream cheese
- 1/2 cup oleo
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tbsp milk

Beat well and spread on cake.

This recipe also works great to make cupcakes. Watch baking time, will probably only take about 15 minutes or so. They freeze very well, so they make a good early morning get me going muffin.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



THE HOUSTON VOICE SPECIAL PUZZLE

Includes Clues About Montrose, Texas Clues, Standard Crossword Clues

By Henry McClurg

EVERYWHERE

76 across, 17 across, 66 across, 58 across: what L.U.E.Y stands for, 4 words

ACROSS

- 1 clothing
- 6 having realization
- 7 fold of the front of a coat

8 full of life

9 movie creature

10 Associate in Arts, abbrev.

12 site of the state penitentiary

19 levers moved by another part

21 Roman numeral for 502

23 over

24 senior, abbrev.

25 home of Lancers & Texas Riders

26 county where Branch Davidian compound was located

30 position of perspective

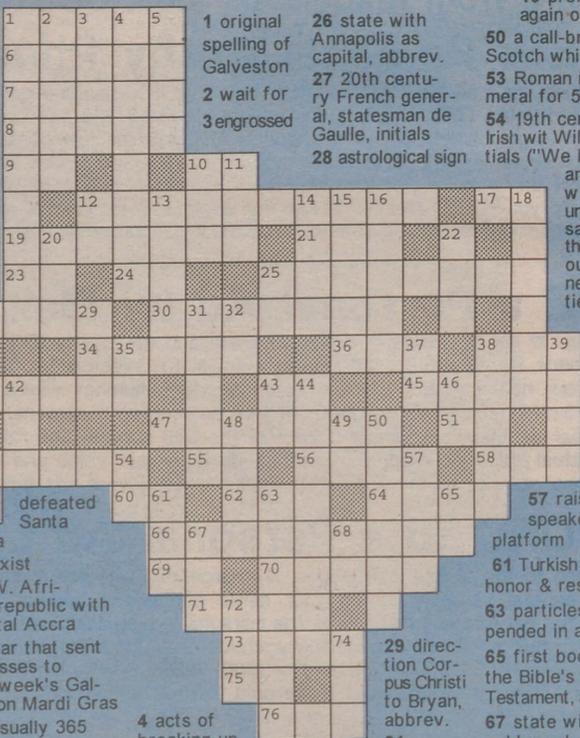
33 President before Kennedy, initials ("Some people wanted champagne and caviar when they should have had beer and hot dogs.")

34 daughter of one's sister

36 ball

38 witty saying

40 where Sam Houston traveled to take command of the ragtag Texan army that later



- 1 original spelling of Galveston
- 2 wait for
- 3 engrossed

- 26 state with Annapolis as capital, abbrev.
- 27 20th century French general, statesman de Gaulle, initials
- 28 astrological sign

Youngman, initials

48 agreement

49 prefix for again or anew

50 a call-brand Scotch whisky

53 Roman numeral for 550

54 19th century Irish wit Wilde, initials ("We live in an age when unnecessary things are our only necessities.")

57 raised speaker platform

61 Turkish title of honor & respect

63 particles suspended in a gas

65 first book of the Bible's Old Testament, abbrev.

67 state with goldenrod as official flower, abbrev.

68 symbol for very hard, metallic element tantalum, used for light bulb filaments

72 direction away from inside

74 long-lasting insecticide

75 until a stipulated time

76 DOWN

- Anna
- 43 exist
- 45 W. African republic with capital Accra
- 47 bar that sent 2 buses to last week's Galveston Mardi Gras
- 51 usually 365 days, abbrev.
- 52 city with \$18,500 giant statue of a killer bee
- 55 20th century American public official Acheson, initials
- 56 obligation
- 59 abbrev. for lines
- 60 What you see at the start of a Bugs Bunny cartoon
- 62 in a sense, opposite of a dog
- 64 wiggles
- 69 you
- 70 bellows loudly
- 71 shouts of disapproval
- 73 accustomed
- 75 until a stipulated time
- DOWN

- 4 acts of breaking up
- 5 be sold
- 10 biggest U.S. phone co.
- 11 related to the horse
- 12 horsepower, abbrev.
- 13 daring
- 14 notion
- 15 usually strange language
- 16 1.06 quarts
- 18 San Patricio County seat
- 20 collection of misc. info on a subject
- 22 home of Colt 45s
- 25 state with Montpelier as capital, abbrev.

- 29 direction Corpus Christi to Bryan, abbrev.
- 31 sharp and biting
- 32 direction Tyler to Texarkana, abbrev.
- 35 exists
- 37 late musician Goodman or late actress Grable, initials
- 38 home of Sundance Cattle Company & Fire dancers
- 39 a prohibition
- 41 pointed metal fastener
- 42 interjection used to express surprise
- 43 type of electric current, abbrev.
- 44 Houston gay area
- 46 comedian "Take my wife ... please"

MORE CLUES
If desired, at these numbers fill in these letters: 1 G, 6 A, 10 A, 12 H, 17 U, 22 B, 25 V, 26 M, 38 M, 43 A, 49 R, 68 T
The solution appears elsewhere this issue
©1994 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX500



GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB 19 - 25, 1994

Pisces born during this week share a birthday with poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, who was born in Rockland, Maine on February 22, 1892. This famous American poet, whose name sounds like the first line of a dirty limerick, led quite the bisexual life according to early biographers. But with lines of poetry like, "I dream of a lover with a 'pink camellia-bud...beside her silver comb" it is hard for this astrologer to believe that Miss St. Vincent Millay was dreaming of anything other than another woman.



PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) As you become more confident in yourself, you will be able to develop and enjoy your feelings. This is going to take several years to both accept the honesty and believe in the value of your feelings. Please begin now to do this, as an important mark of adulthood is centered around being comfortable with one's feelings. Continue to dress in a stylish manner this week.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Heard that the Toll House cookies you served last week were excellent, drop some by the Voice Office to sample. Check out the Classified Section for new telephone numbers. This week continues to be a highly social period for you. Take advantage of being able to bring

home from the clubs whom ever you find interesting. Strong colors will work to your favor, e.g. red, black, dark blue, and grey.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Happy to hear that all is going well-wonderful. And I believe that progress on both sides is definitely at hand. Communicate your on going needs and feelings. The party was wonderful, and now to prepare for your birthday event in two months. Your fashion style is very attractive and adds to your charm and wonderful personality. Do not be afraid to demonstrate your knowledge and technical skills.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You are handling life stresses well and continue to benefit from input from trusted friends, though final decisions are definitely yours. Let others know of your needs, and you will be surprised how well they are able to read you and meet those needs. Physical activity is an excellent form of lowering stress levels. Order to your surroundings also brings a lower stress level, this is a good time to clean out your closet.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Assertiveness will work in your favor both at work as well as in playtime. This is a good time to let someone that you have been cruising to hear from you for a date. Chance of rejection is low, if you act with poise and confidence. Remember to keep your quarters in order as cleanliness is impressive to that person. If the desired person is vague about your date offer, move onto another person.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22) Saw you out last weekend with your new piece of black leather, looked great and made you look very attractive. Believe that you will be more happy in knowing and dating assertive persons than the passive ones of the past. Some one who just sits or lies there is not very exciting. Look for those who get with the program.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22) Be careful with you money and clear up any old debts, including credit cards as you try to put some money aside for the Basic Brothers sale. You are the type of person who spends money in small pieces without realizing how it all counts ups. Begin to work on your '93 tax forms and see if a refund is due to you. Careful tax paper work will make the refund more likely.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 22) Be selective and careful about following directions and requests of others. You will spend more time than you should on projects others are able to do for themselves and slight your own needs. Being kind hearted in one thing, but folks may take advantage of you because of your desire in 'rescuing' others. Make a list of all of the people you know who like to play the victim role.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 22) Physical appearance will become even more important to you this '94 year. And this includes your concept of yourself and why working out at a local gym makes good sense to you. Your chance in attracting Ms. or Mr. right will be greatly strengthened by having your body in shape. Does not have to be a number 10, but at least a five or six. Shorter hair style will work to your advantage, also.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 20) Neatness in your work clothing is very important. The clothing does not have to be new or necessarily the latest in fashion, but the appearance needs to be clean and ironed. Arrange your work schedule so that you are able to stay overtime if needed to complete the tasks of that day and then leave with a cleared desk top. A promotion or an increase in salary is likely for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec 21 - Jan 19) As with your Sagittarian friend above, the similar moon phase dominates your employment scene. Accurate, productive and neat work on your part will be noticed and be done to your benefit. Try to find ways to make yourself indispensable at work. Anticipating your supervisors needs also will definitely be to your advantage.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Moving into your new year will be an exciting time of becoming in love or being more securely within a relationship for you and yours. Spell out the needs that you have from the other person (s). And be honest and direct about these needs. If you liked to be tied up, tell her/him that. Spanking is not all that usual. A flowered house plant, even a simple violet will spruce up your quarters and bring a smile when you see it.

HOUSTON VOICE CONNECT LINE HOT PERSONALS

TAD, 22 yrs. old, black hair/eyes, fair complexion, clean shaven into alternative music and hanging out. Mail Box 1182

MICHAEL, 24 yrs. old, blond hair, blue eyes, clean cut, big dick. Call for fun and fun only. Mail Box 1098

MAVERICK, 24 yrs. old. Wants to meet GM between 20-30 years old. Into clubbing, partying and sex. You will not be disappointed. Mail Box 1198

ROGER, brown hair and eyes. 5'8", 150 lbs. Moderately hairy. Huge cock; 8 and one-half inches long, 5 and three-quarter inches around. Likes to jack-off, suck dick and talk dirty. Mail Box 1176

For instructions on how to respond to Houston Voice Hot Personals See our ad on page 13.