

HITS & MISSES IN HOUSTON THEATER

From vampire lesbians to Christmas on Mars, 2000 offered Bayou City variety of gay productions

Page 15



ISSUE 1053

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DECEMBER 29, 2000

INSIDE



Finding homes for GLBT organizations, generating political activism top e-group Han-net's list of priorities for 2001

Page 3



We've come a long way, baby. Take a look back at the first 1,000 years of queer history

Page 3



Gay artists like Patricia Barber turned to the indie scene for more exposure in the year 2000

Page 18

Gay milestones reached in 2000

From sodomy law rulings to lesbian weddings, many historic landmarks noted in Texas this year

by WENDY K. MOHON

As we prepare to herald out the year 2000 with a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne," it's appropriate to note that this year was pivotal in the queer history of Texas and the nation.

While the fate of the state's homosexual conduct law rests in the hands of the Texas 14th Court of Appeals, the fact that the three-judge panel of that court overturned the law in June was a landmark occasion. Add to that the stories of the state's first legal lesbian wedding, plus Vermont's first civil union and you have a year for the history books.

The following is a month-by-month summary of some of the stories of note covered by the Houston Voice in 2000:

JANUARY

Radio station quiet after alleged gay slurs: The producer of a local morning radio program has come under fire for allegedly using anti-gay slurs to describe lesbian City Councilmember Annise Parker during a broadcast last week. Keven Dorsey, producer of "The Dean and Rog Show" on KKRW 93.7, allegedly called Parker a "dyke" and "carpet muncher" during the morning drive-time show on Jan. 21 during a discussion about Parker's involvement with the Westheimer Street Festival.



Annise Parker

"While it is insulting to me, it is an affront to the lesbian community," Parker said. "There are equivalent terms one would use for other minorities that no other radio station in Houston would use. We don't live in a city that tolerates those kind of remarks."

The station issued a terse on-air apology to Parker the following week, though station officials took no action against Dorsey for calling Parker a "dyke" and "carpet muncher" during a Jan. 21 broadcast.

"They did what I asked," Parker said. "They made a public apology and they



agreed that similar behavior wouldn't happen in the future."

Probe targets prescription fraud at AIDS clinic: A local and federal probe into alleged prescription fraud at Thomas Street Clinic has indefinitely shut down a popular volunteer program there and raised concerns about a heavy-handed investigation. A tip from a clinic employee in December launched the investigation, which has resulted in the arrest of a former volunteer with the People With AIDS Coalition and the temporary closing of the coalition's volunteer and child care programs at the sprawling AIDS clinic in Near Northside in Houston's Fourth Ward.

A week later, the Harris County Hospital District, which operates the clinic, ordered the PWA's volunteer program—along with its child care program—shut down during the ongoing investigation. Before his arrest, Pullam volunteered in the PWA program.

In March, the program was reinstated and hospital district officials ordered clinic director Carolyn Barrett reassigned.

In June, three people associated with the clinic were indicted for stealing from the state by using phony prescriptions to obtain steroids and charge them to Medicaid,

according to authorities.

FEBRUARY

State to fight order to free condemned killer: After 16 years on death row, and enduring anti-gay slurs from a prosecutor and a defense attorney who slept through much of his 1984 murder trial, Calvin Burdine anticipated being set free. A federal judge ordered his release in February, ruling that the state missed an earlier deadline to either set



Calvin Burdine

Burdine free or retry Burdine for killing his roommate and former boyfriend.

Later, the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals threw out a lower court's order requiring Burdine be released because the state missed a deadline for retrying him. U.S. District Judge David Hittner issued the order March 3 and is the same judge who ruled last September that Burdine's trial was unfair because his lawyer slept through much of it.

The case is still not settled.

The full 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided to take up the case after a three-judge

> Continued on Page 6



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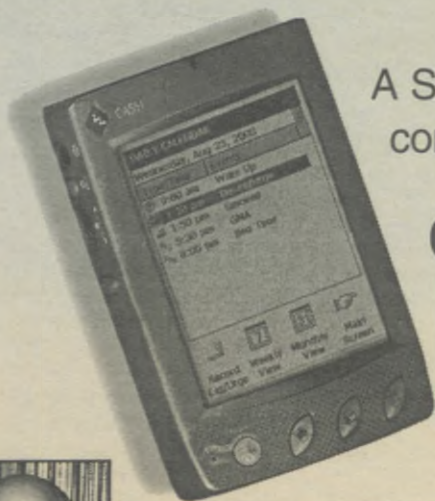
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INSIDE

NEWS

National News	4
Police News	5
World News	10
Health news	11
Quote/unquote	21

VOICES & ECHOES

Crain: Time for gays to break the faith?	8
Murphy/Minicucci: Celebrate your neurosis	9
'Dykes to Watch Out For'	9

OUT ON THE BAYOU

The good, bad and ugly of theater in 2000	15
Out in Music: Queer tunes of the year	18
On Screen: Quantity, not quality in gay film	19
Eating Out at Marrakech	20
Bayou Calendar	17
Community Calendar	22-23
Occasions	26
My Stars!	27

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Issue 1053

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Han-Net establishes list of goals for 2001

Finding homes for GLBT organizations, generating political activism top the list

by ELLA TYLER

Han-Net, the e-group for Houston's GLBT activists, recently asked its members to vote on Community Challenges for 2001. The poll closed Tuesday night.

"Focus on local and state political issues" was the top vote-getter, with 16 votes. The Texas legislature will be meeting from January to May of 2001, and city elections will be held in November of 2001.

Finding new homes for the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center and the Gulf Coast Archives & Museum were the next highest priority, with 12 votes and 10 votes respectively.

"Exploring options for a new home is one of our primary objectives for the year ahead and we will soon have a second meeting open to anyone who wishes to participate in the process," Tim Brookover, HLGCC president, said.

The Community Center is outgrowing its current space, and GCAM is temporarily housed in a portion of a warehouse east of downtown that is used as a residence.

> Continued on Page 12



Han-Net, an e-group for political activists in Houston's queer community, was established two years ago by Brandon Wolf. Found at www.egroups.com/group/han-net, the list is not moderated and has nearly 250 members.

Snapshots from a gay millennium

As 2001 marks the real start of the new millennium, the first 1,000 years show escalating change for gays

by LAURA BROWN

To say that life on Earth has changed in the last 1,000 years would be a massive understatement—although to say that there are some for whom things haven't changed so much is also certainly true.

Gay history, too, shows a pattern of escalating change with a stubborn undercurrent of hostility toward gays, although gay history is much more difficult to track. Most scholars, in fact, will argue that there really is no such thing as "gay history" before the last century or so.

The idea of a separate gay identity, they point out, is a very recent social phenomenon: While individuals engaged in sexual relations with members of their own sex in centuries past, and even in some cases were assigned social roles because of it, they were unlikely to have constructed their identity around their sexuality in the same way that many gay men and lesbians do today.

So looking back to the beginning of the millennium, the story of "gay history" is more often a story of same-sex attraction, sodomy or gender transgression, and how the people involved in these activities were treated by the individuals and institutions around them.

It is also, very often, a tale of persecution—although there have always been cultures, many non-Western, that have accepted and even celebrated such differences—and a tale of institutions of social power and how they affect whose story gets told, then and now.

Much more is known about male-male relationships, especially up until the last two centuries, as sexism and patriarchy in many societies kept women from recording their own stories and made them invisible or uninteresting to the men who created much of the bodies of law and literature that have survived until today.

Most gay historical scholarship has also focused on Western cultures, to the exclusion of those in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world.

1000-1100

• In his 1051 treatise "Book of Gomorrah," Saint Peter Damian wrote at length about the evil of male homosexuality, especially in the clergy, including long and very detailed accounts of what he implied were very common homosexual acts.

• Though not officially condoned, homosexual activity often was tolerated in the Catholic clergy. Pope Urban II, who launched the first Crusade, declined to act on information from church leaders who complained about the male lover of Ralph, Archbishop of Tours, becoming Archbishop of Orleans. John, Ralph's lover, was elected in 1098.

And while Ralph's homosexuality was so well known that it was described in popular songs, in later years, crackdowns on known adulterers among the clergy—who were required to be celibate—left John and Ralph alone.

1100-1200

• In 1102, the ecclesiastical Council of London sought to inform the general citizenry that "sodomy" was a sin that needed to be included in confessions, although the edict may never have been published. "This sin has hitherto been so public that hardly anyone is embarrassed by it," wrote Saint Anselm,

Archbishop of Canterbury.

• In 1179, the Catholic Lateran III council imposed sanctions against a variety of sinners, including those involved with homosexuality



REPRISAL: COURTESY MANN IN "CHRISTIANITY, SOCIAL TOLERANCE AND HOMOSEXUALITY"

Relative tolerance of same-sex relations in the early part of the millennium may be represented in art from the period: This sculpture from the 12th century came from an area known for homosexuality; it could depict merely wrestlers, scholar John Boswell notes, or much more.

in a list that also included Jews, Muslims, heretics and moneylenders.

1200-1300

• Although the past century in Europe was considered fairly open to same-sex relationships, the next two showed increasing persecution, as religion and law became increasingly absolute. As the Crusades continued, Christian leaders tried to rally hatred against Muslims by alleging effeminacy and sodomy as characteristics of the entire ethnic group.

• The earliest and most stringent legislation passed against gays came from Europeans

> Continued on Page 12

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Scout ban for Winter Olympics not related to gay ban, organizers say

SALT LAKE CITY—Both Salt Lake Olympic organizers and local leaders of the Boy Scouts of America have denied charges that Scouts are not being chosen as volunteers for the 2002 Winter Olympics because of the group's anti-gay policies, the Deseret News reported. David M. Bresnahan, 47, a former radio talk-show host and former Utah state representative, said that "the welcome mat was rolled up and the door slammed in its face" when a Scout group responded to the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee's call for volunteers. Olympic and local Scouting officials both said the boys can't be volunteers for the 2002 Winter Olympics because they don't meet the minimum age requirement of 18. "[Bresnahan's charge] happens to be 100 percent inaccurate," SLOC President Mitt Romney said.

Two governors ban discrimination against gay state employees

HELENA, Mont.—Montana Republican Gov. Marc Racicot, who removed his name from consideration to be President-elect George W. Bush's attorney general, has issued new state guidelines barring discrimination against state employees based on sexual orientation, the Billings Gazette reported. Racicot asked the state's Department of Administration to rewrite the guidelines more than a year ago, and specifically asked that sexual orientation be included in the new policy. "We don't want people making employment decisions based on any of these factors," said John McEwen said, state personnel division administrator. In Dover, Del., outgoing Democratic Gov. Thomas Carper also extended similar protections to Delaware state employees, the Wilmington News Journal reported. The order applies to all state Cabinet departments and executive agencies that fall under the governor's authority, and will remain in effect unless rescinded by another governor. A bill that would have forbidden employment discrimination against gays in the public and private sector was defeated in the Delaware House earlier this year. In January, Carper will be replaced by Democrat Ruth Anne Minnow.



Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, at one time a leading candidate for U.S. Attorney General in a Bush administration, issued guidelines protecting gay state employees from discrimination.

Aspen officials reject rainbow flags to celebrate Gay Ski Week

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—The Aspen City Council denied a request to hang rainbow flags on Main Street to mark next month's Gay Ski Week. Instead, they voted to maintain the current policy of only allowing U.S. and Colorado flags and flags marking anniversaries of local groups at least 25 years old. They also agreed to let non-profit groups fly a single flag at Paepcke Park during ski week. "Aspen has the only Gay Ski Week in the United States," resident Greg Hughes said. "It celebrates Aspen on an international stage as being open to diversity." But Councilman Tony Hershey argued that the city shouldn't allow exceptions to its policy. "Suppose the American Nazi Party wants to have Nazi Ski Week. We'd have to have Nazi flags up and down Main Street," Hershey said. Mayor Rachel Richards said the real issue is the commercialization of Aspen. "It's how much and how often you want to promote this week's marketing event for the town," she said. "Do you want flags on Main Street 40 to 50 weeks a year?"

Gay group in N.Y. wants legislators to ban teasing based on bias

ALBANY, N.Y.—A coalition of groups led by the state's largest gay rights group is pushing the New York Legislature to enact a measure banning teasing based on bias in New York's public schools, the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle reported. The Dignity for All Students Act would establish statewide regulations to prevent harassment in public schools against racial, religious and ethnic minorities as well as gay classmates. "There's no uniform policy in the state that recognizes harassment as a problem," said Matthew Foreman, executive director of Gay Pride Agenda, a New York gay advocacy group. Free-speech advocates said the proposed legislation would inhibit the way students address each other in public schools. "Whenever the government attempts to regulate free speech, it's a concern to us," said Marina Sheriff, legislative director for the New York chapter of the ACLU.

Former HIV-positive court clerk sues after termination earlier this year

LITTLE ROCK (AP)—A former worker who was demoted after informing supervisors that he was infected with HIV, and later fired after missing days from work, filed a \$1.2 million federal lawsuit Dec. 20. Christopher Haynes alleges wrongful discharge, discrimination and infliction of emotional stress in the civil rights lawsuit. He seeks damages, reinstatement, and back pay, and also asks that Pulaski County Clerk Carolyn Staley either be removed from office or that the court assign an officer to monitor her employment practices. The lawsuit said Haynes began work for the county as a deputy clerk in April 1999 and was promoted to administrative assistant the following August. It said Haynes informed Staley and Janice Hay, chief deputy clerk, in October 1999 that he is HIV-positive and that his absences from work were due to his medical condition. Haynes was demoted to deputy clerk three months later and fired in January after missing several days' work.



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—From staff and wire reports

police beat

Three Chicago cops placed on leave for alleged role in anti-gay beating

CHICAGO—Three police officers have been placed on administrative leave for allegedly beating a man they thought was gay, the Chicago Free Press reported. Jeffrey Lyons, 39, was hugging a man good-bye outside a bar filled with off-duty police officers when he was allegedly confronted by the officers. "Get that faggot shit away from my truck," one of the officer's shouted, according to Lyons' attorney Timothy Cavanaugh. The officer then started hitting Lyons, and other officers allegedly joined in. The beating ended with Lyons unconscious with a broken nose and fractured cheekbones. Cavanaugh said Lyons' long hair may have led the officers to believe he was gay. Cavanaugh said Lyons is not gay and the son of a police officer who was killed in the line of duty in 1992.

Vt. judge rules details of lesbian affair tainted wrongful death lawsuit

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP)—The Vermont Supreme Court found that inflammatory testimony about a wife's lesbian affair has tainted the verdict in a trial over a man's death in a 1998 apartment fire, and ordered a new trial. The high court agreed with the family of the late Charles Mears that a lower court judge erred when he allowed Edwin Colvin's attorney to attack the family's moral character. The family sought \$1.75 million in damages for Mears' death, charging that as landlord, Colvin should have installed hard-wired smoke detectors in Mears' apartment, as required by law. Colvin, a former state representative, argued that battery-powered smoke detectors were sufficient. Throughout the trial, defense attorney Marc Heath hammered away at Mears' widow, Shirley, depicting her as an opportunist who abandoned her mentally ill husband for another woman and then tried to cash in on his death.

Alleged killer fit to stand trial in W.V. killing, psychologist says

FAIRMONT, W.Va.—A teen charged with killing a gay black man last summer claims he was sexually abused by the victim for more than five years, starting at age 12, the Charleston Gazette reported. Arthur "J.R." David Parker and Jared Wilson, both 17 at the time, are being tried as adults for Warren's July 4 slaying. "[Warren] would come around when I was drunk. He would follow me into the basement," Parker told forensic psychologist William Fremouw. "In a way, he forced me." Parker does not consider himself to be gay, although he had sex with Warren about 30 times over five years, Fremouw said. The night of the killing, Parker said he consumed 15 beers, smoked marijuana, snorted crushed tranquilizers and huffed gasoline. But Parker's intoxication didn't prevent him from knowing what he was doing the night of the murder, Fremouw said, and the teen is capable of standing trial on a first-degree murder charge. Prosecutors alleged Warren was killed because he told others about his sexual relationship with Parker. Parker's attorney, Stephen Fitz, has said he will argue that Warren was a "sexual predator." Also, special prosecutors have been appointed to handle the two cases, since the current district attorney is leaving office in January. Wilson's trial is set to begin Jan. 16, though a new judge who takes over the case next month said the start of the trial could be pushed back.



David Parker, accused of killing a gay West Virginia man, had sex with the victim more than 30 times before the July 4 slaying, authorities said.

Hustler, transgendered partner convicted in fatal Calif. robbery

SAN JOSE, Calif.—A hustler and his transgendered lover were both found guilty of robbing and fatally knifing a man last year, the San Jose Mercury News reported. Michael Yancey, 29, and Ronnie Warren Ellard, 32, were charged with first-degree murder and robbery in the April 13, 1999, killing of lighting consultant Kenneth Alexander, 47, who had met Yancey in a San Francisco park. The pair went to a motel and engaged in drugs and sex, police said. Alexander then invited Yancey to stop by his apartment on his way home the next day. The motive for the slaying, according to prosecutors, was money. During the trial, Ellard's attorney, David Hultgren, accused Yancey of the killing. Yancey, he said, wanted Ellard to take the fall for the crime because Ellard, who has AIDS, "was going to die anyway." Yancey testified that he was not present when Alexander was fatally knifed. The are scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 18.

Two New Zealand men sentenced for vicious attack on gay waiter

AUCKLAND—Two New Zealand men were sentenced for the beating of a gay waiter, the New Zealand Herald reported. Andrew Andre Poki, 20, received 10 years, while Phillip James Taylor, 26, got 7-1/2 for the March 24 beating of Stephen Byrne, who had been lured by the two men into a secluded place. When Byrne tried to kiss one of them, they viciously beat him. "Mr. Byrne was the victim of a particularly brutal attack because he was homosexual," Judge Nicholson said. Doctors had to remove a blood clot in Byrne's brain, leaving him with short-term memory problems after the attack. "I just keep thinking they stuffed up my life and stuffed up theirs as well," Byrne said of his attackers.

—From staff and wire reports



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Landmark gay cases heard during 2000

> Continued from Page 1

panel of the court ruled 2-1 in October that the defendant's rights were not violated. The panel said Calvin Burdine, 47, was unable to prove that his lawyer, Joe Cannon, slept during critical parts of the trial. Cannon is now dead.

The court has scheduled oral arguments for Jan. 22 in New Orleans.

AIDS Ride cuts fail to make financial difference: Despite dramatic changes in the Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride last year, final accounting results are expected to show that expenses for the 1999 event consumed about 85 percent of the money raised, matching disappointing returns a year earlier that prompted several beneficiaries to drop out. A severe shortfall in the amount of money returned to beneficiaries of the 1998 AIDS Ride led at least 10 agencies to pull out of the 1999 event. Only \$380,000 was distributed among the 40 AIDS groups that took part in 1998, less than 15 percent of the \$2.8 million raised.

Organizers said in February that if more riders will participate in the 2000 event in October, the ride will be able to return more money to benefiting agencies.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen. Low rider turnout and poor financial returns caused promoters of Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride to disband the event. Directors of the Resource Center of Dallas say they plan to continue an AIDS ride of some sort in 2001, but it is still uncertain if the ride will be state wide and whether Houston AIDS agency would benefit from such an event.

APRIL



Bobbi Whitacre (left) is hugged by partner Sandi Cote after the Vermont House gave final passage to the civil unions bill in April.

Vermont legislature approves historic 'civil unions' bill: A bill to recognize same-sex "civil unions" won final passage in the Vermont legislature and received Gov. Howard Dean's signature a day later, bringing with it the creation of a new verb: "to C.U."

The Vermont House passed the Senate version of the bill by a margin of 79-68, three votes more than it earned on first passage.

An estimated 20 to 30 couples took advantage of the law on July 1, the day it took effect, including out-of-state couples from Massachusetts, Louisiana and Ohio.

Houston gay activist Richard Wiederholt dies: Gay activist and businessman Richard Wiederholt, an inspiring force to many members of Houston's gay community, died April 28 from complications related to AIDS. He was 57.

Wiederholt was best known for Basic Brothers, a gay clothing store he founded in

1982, and a laundry list of community groups he volunteered with or helped establish, including the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the Body Positive Wellness Center and HIV/AIDS Resource Group.

As a testament to Wiederholt's community involvement, he was selected in March as one of four grand marshals for the Pride parade June 24.

Hundreds of thousands march for equality: Despite protests from anti-gay religious groups and some gay rights activists, hundreds of thousands of participants joined the Millennium March on Washington for Equality April 29-30, the fourth gay rights march on the national capital.



With the Capitol in the background, Bethany Toups (left) and Bonnie Kramer of Rochester, N.Y. hold a flag while taking part in the Millennium March on Washington for Equality.

Though the numbers are widely debated, organizers estimated a crowd of 700,000 to 800,000 participated in the April 30 march and rally on the National Mall. Media reports estimated the crowd at 200,000 people. The march capped a week-end of gay rights events that also included a gala dinner, a mass same-sex wedding ceremony, a display of panels from the AIDS memorial quilt, a rock concert and a street festival on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"Moments like Sunday are life-transforming, and we need those moments because we need more people to be involved in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights movement," said an exhausted but elated Dianne Hardy-Garcia, MMOW executive director.

But just a week later, MMOW organizers asked the FBI to investigate as much as a million dollars in money missing from the Millennium Festival, a street fair produced by Millennium Productions that was scheduled to donate the bulk of its proceeds to the march.

In mid-December, two gay media companies, Gay.com and Liberation Publications, publishers of the Advocate and Out magazines, and the nation's largest gay political group forgave hundreds of thousands of dollars in loans to MMOW, Inc.

MAY

Local station gives green light to 'Dr. Laura': KPRC Channel 2 won't stop Dr. Laura, but the television station's management says it will monitor the upcoming show for negative comments about gay men and lesbians.

Steve Wasserman, KPRC general manager, told a group of Houston activists during a private meeting May 8 that he won't pull the plug on controversial talk show host Dr. Laura

Schlessinger's program set to air this fall, but will personally review the show for inappropriate content.

The meeting came just days before some companies—including Procter & Gamble Co., United Airlines, Xerox Corp. and the online branch of toy retail chain Toys "R" Us Inc.—announced that they are pulling back on advertising support of the television or 'Dr. Laura's' daily radio talk show.

On Dec. 4, KPRC downgraded the show to a 3:05 a.m. time slot.

JUNE

Elizabeth Toledo, a newly out mom, takes NGLTF helm: A lesbian mom who has been out less than a year started on June 1 as the new executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the 27-year-old group focused on state and local organizing.



Elizabeth Toledo, the newly out and newly appointed executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and her children posed for a Human Rights Campaign catalogue, a group often pitted against NGLTF. Toledo has pledged to work with HRC.

But Elizabeth Toledo, 38, stressed that while she may be new to lesbian issues personally, "I'm not new to organizing on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered political issues."

State sodomy law overturned: In a landmark decision on June 8, the 14th Texas Court of Appeals declared the state's homosexual conduct law unconstitutional under the Texas Equal Rights Amendment and acquitted two Houston men convicted of violating the 120-year-old Texas sodomy law.



Mitchell Katine

Shortly thereafter, Harris County assistant district attorney Bill Denmore asked all nine justices of the 14th Court of Appeals to reconsider the decision of a three-judge panel.

In September 2000, a two-sentence letter sent announced that the full panel of judges of the 14th Court of Appeals would review the ruling.

The letter read: "The Court has granted the State's Motion for Rehearing En Banc without hearing oral argument. The Court's opinion on rehearing will follow."

There is no time frame set on the full court review and the court has not yet issued a decision.

Brown rides in Pride parade: For the first time the 22-year history of Houston's Gay Pride celebration, the city's current mayor rode in the annual parade. Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown participated in the June 24, 9 p.m. parade down Westheimer from Woodhead to Whitney.

An estimated 100,000 people lined the parade route for the annual gay pride celebration.

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas Rep. Debra Danburg and Houston city council members Annise Parker, Gordon Quan and Carol Mims Galloway joined the mayor in the festivities.

Protesters were there too, about 16 or so, but they departed after Brown's cortege went by.

Supreme Court rules Scouts can exclude gays: In a move that sparked immediate reaction from the gay community, the Supreme Court ruled in June that the Boy Scouts can bar homosexuals from serving as troop leaders. The 5-4 decision said forcing the Scouts to accept gay troop leaders would violate the organization's rights of free expression and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment.



Former Eagle Scout James Dale (center) talks to the press at the Supreme Court in Washington in April. Wednesday, the court ruled that the Boy Scouts can bar gays from serving as troop leaders. Also pictured are Dale's attorney Evan Wolfson and Dale's mother Doris Dick.

"The Boy Scouts asserts that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with the values it seeks to instill," Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote for the court. Requiring them to accept a gay scoutmaster "would significantly burden the organization's right to oppose or disfavor homosexual conduct."

The ruling reversed a New Jersey Supreme Court holding that the Scouts wrongly ousted assistant scoutmaster James Dale when the organization learned he is gay. The state court had said the scouts' action violated a New Jersey law banning discrimination in public accommodation.

Dale, who was an Eagle Scout, had sued the Scouts under the New Jersey law. But the Supreme Court said Wednesday that law must yield to the Scout organization's right of "expressive association" under the Constitution's First Amendment.

JULY

'GVO' leaves legacy of action: Longtime gay activist Gary Van Ooteghem, 58, died July 6, at Twelve Oaks hospital. He had been in the hospital with pneumonia and had a heart

> Continued on Page 7

First legal lesbian wedding held in Texas

> Continued from Page 6

attack following surgery to treat blood clots.



Gary Ven Ooteghem

Van Ooteghem was a leader in the Houston and national gay community for 25 years. In 1975, he was the first president of the (then) Gay Political Caucus, and at the time of his death was the retiring chair of the Ryan White Planning Council, which distributes more than \$15 million annually to HIV/AIDS service providers in the Harris County area. He also was serving as chair of the Scholarship Committee of the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals and the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation.

Van Ooteghem's name is on an important gay civil rights case. In 1975, while working for Harris County as its Comptroller of the Treasury and Assistant Treasurer, he addressed County Commissioners Court and said he was gay. His employer, Harris County Treasurer Hartsell Grey, fired him, saying he had told Van Ooteghem not to make the speech. Following many years of litigation and appeals, the Fifth Circuit said that Van Ooteghem's firing was illegal because it violated his First Amendment right to free speech. He was awarded back pay.

AUGUST

Gay guide closes its Texas-wide doors: Saddled with debt and strapped with a dwindling advertising base, This Week in Texas closed its doors after 26 years of publishing the only weekly gay statewide entertainment guide, according to publisher Alan Gellman.

The final issue of the 22,000-circulation magazine appeared Aug. 10, nearly half-way through its 26th year of publication.

Gellman attributed the magazine's demise to his poor health, which has kept him from closely overseeing the publication's editorial and financial operations for more than two years and led to "foolish mistakes," he said.

"Our staff meant well and were good at what they did, but they had so many extra duties out on them. There was nobody steering that bus," he said.

Openly gay player, Richard Hatch, wins 'Survivor': He was taunted for his penchant for nudity, condemned as manipulative and even called a snake by a fellow castaway. Richard Hatch earned another label: millionaire. And he said that he has no regrets.

The 39-year-old corporate trainer took home the cash prize and a new car on the final episode of CBS' hugely popular "Survivor," confounding those certain his scheming would cost him in the end.

"I wouldn't change anything that I did," Rich told the jury in a final statement.

Heche hospitalized hours after split with DeGeneres: Actress Anne Heche was hospitalized after wandering up to a rural home appearing shaken and confused, hours after

her breakup with Ellen DeGeneres became public, authorities said.

Heche apparently parked her car along a highway Saturday and then walked about a mile to the house in Cantua Creek, where she knocked on the front door at about 4:30 p.m. and made strange statements to the occupants, said Fresno County Sheriff's Lt. Merrill Wright.

SEPTEMBER

State Supreme Court to review exec order case: In a move that brings gays and lesbians in Houston closer to knowing whether Mayor Lee Brown's executive order banning sexual orientation discrimination in city government is legal, the Texas Supreme Court agreed to hear arguments about whether the city councilman and the businessman who sued to stop the order from taking effect had a right to do so.

Days after the executive order was issued in 1998, businessman Richard Hotze and City Councilman Rob Todd sued the mayor and the city to try to stop the order from taking effect.

Later in 1998, District Judge Patrick Mizell stopped the order until the case could be decided and said that Hotze had no legal standing in the case—that is, he had no right to sue.

The Texas Supreme Court heard arguments in October in the case and a ruling from the court is still pending.

Lesbian wedding held in San Antonio: When a Texas appellate court issued a ruling last year that essentially said people who are born male remain legally male even if they have surgery to change their sex, it opened the door for Jessica Wicks of Houston—who was born male—to marry her girlfriend.



Jessica and Robin Wicks

And in September, amid a throng of reporters, Wicks, 53, and her partner Robin, 44, got their marriage license in San Antonio.

"They were cooperative," Wicks said of the county clerk's office. "Of course, probably the fact that there were lots of television cameras there helped."

They were denied a marriage license in Harris County, but the Bexar County clerk agreed to issue the license based on birth certificates that show Jessica was born male and Robin was born female.

Etheridge splits from girlfriend: Rocker Melissa Etheridge and her girlfriend, director Julie Cypher, announced they were ending their relationship after 12 years. The couple has two small children together.

"With the utmost of love and respect for one another, we have decided to separate," the couple announced in a statement released by Etheridge's label, Island Records.

Etheridge and Cypher, together for 12 years, were one of Hollywood's most famous lesbian couples, after Ellen DeGeneres and Ann Heche, who announced their breakup in August.

Ex-gay leader confronted in gay bar: A prominent ex-gay leader once featured as "going straight" on the cover of Newsweek magazine was confronted and photographed by activists Tuesday night patronizing a gay bar in Washington, D.C.

John Paulk, board chair for the umbrella ex-gay group Exodus International, admitted in an interview with the Voice that he was in Mr. P's, a gay bar in Washington's DuPont Circle neighborhood, but said his only intention was to use the bathroom.

OCTOBER

Trans teen kicked out of Covenant House: In February of this year, Jeff Loftin checked into Covenant House Houston and was allowed to stay. He left in March.

In September, Loftin checked into Covenant House as Chanel Dita, and she was ousted in no uncertain terms, even though she had nowhere to stay. And Covenant House knew it, says Dita.

Dita is a 19-year-old homeless transgender. She was thrown out of her home in Pasadena, after she told her mother she was transsexual.

When Dita checked into Covenant House on Sept. 16 as a female, she says she was told she could not dress as a woman. She was also told she must submit to a physical within 48 hours of admission. The physical exam is standard practice.

By the first of December, Dita was back at Covenant House, allowed to stay as long as she adhered to a few house rules.

This time, Dita underwent the required physical and she says she has been told to wear unisex clothing ("jeans and stuff," says Dita) and forego the makeup while there.

Though she landed a job at Burger King in the Montrose, she has since quit and as of presstime had left Covenant House as well.

Happy birthday, Ray Hill: On Friday, Oct. 13, 2000, one of Houston's bold, brazen, and at times brash, queers celebrated his sixtieth birthday.

For most of those 60 years, Ray Hill's life has been spent, in one way or another, for better or for worse, standing up for social justice for queer folk or for folks who simply had been too beaten down to stand up for themselves.



Ray Hill

Hill admits that his way has always been "years ahead of my time." He backs that statement up by reminiscing about attending Tulane College in 1966. He enrolled in the graduate program there and submitted his thesis topic, "A Sissy is a Sissy, is a Sissy."

NOVEMBER

Houston's Black Tie draws 1,200: For the second year in a row, the George R. Brown Convention Center was transformed from its ship-like appearance into an elegant dining room with subdued lighting and muted music played by the Ricky Diaz Orchestra for the Houston Black Tie Dinner, the stylish fund-raising event that draws who's who in the city's LGBT community.



Steve May

Houston City Councilwoman, Annise Parker, introduced the keynote speaker, Steve May, as one of only 200 openly gay or lesbian politicians nationwide, and as a good friend of hers. Pointing out May's abilities as a leader in the LGBT community, Parker said, "We cannot afford mediocrity."

May, the only openly gay Republican in the Arizona House of Representatives spoke about his experiences as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve and about his road to politics.

Deaths of transgendered commemorated in solemn ceremony outside City Hall: Two dozen transgender activists assembled on the City Hall steps in Nov. 28 for a candlelight memorial for the 18 gender variant people who died as a result of violence since last year's memorial.

The Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held on Nov. 28 to honor Rita Hester, whose murder kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" project.

DECEMBER

'AIDS: Men Make a Difference': Candlelight vigils, toy and food drives, art shows and help for those with HIV/AIDS marked Houston's LGBT observation of the 13th World AIDS Day on Dec. 1.

The event is a day, when people around the world join to commemorate public awareness about the disease that does not discriminate. The united theme for this year is, "AIDS: Men Make a Difference."

With new infections of HIV/AIDS rising at an alarming rate worldwide, it is time for all to make a difference. According to figures from AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), it is estimated that within the Houston/Harris County area alone, one in 90 individuals is HIV positive.

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VIEWPOINT

Time for gays to break the faith?

by CHRIS CRAIN

The media frenzy this year may have focused on presidential politics and pregnant chads, but the story that most impacted gay and lesbian lives was unfolding at church, of all places.

One after the other, mainstream Christian and Jewish faiths debated whether to perform weddings, or some second-tier alternative, for same-sex couples, and whether to ordain openly gay ministers or even permit the election of out lay leaders.

The results were often evenly split, and in all case reflected deep divisions that sometimes threatened schism, or at least significant splintering of mainline denominations.

The most important development was also the most promising: Reform Jewish rabbis overwhelmingly approved a resolution allowing individual congregations to perform wedding ceremonies for gay couples. The 1.8 million-member branch of Judaism—the country's largest—was by far the largest yet to embrace gay relationships as the moral equivalent of straight married couples.

Conservative and orthodox Jews maintained their adamant opposition to approval of gays, joined by their more vocal brethren from Roman Catholic and Evangelical Protestant traditions, who threw their financial and political weight behind anti-gay efforts in the secular world as well.

The Mormon Church, which considers itself Christian even as Evangelicals balk at the idea, contributed heavily toward passage of the Knight Initiative, a ballot measure that added California to the list of states refusing to recognize gay marriages.

But it was the mainline Protestants where the culture wars waged the most furiously. At each successive denomination's annual convention, voices were raised and protests disrupted the proceedings. And at each gathering, the traditional church hostility toward gay relationships and leaders was reaffirmed in one way or another.

At issue isn't just the resolution of liturgical issues like gay weddings and ordinations, but the underlying moral questions about homosexuality.

Most lay Christians and plenty of religious leaders start with their own discomfort about homosexuality and work their way backward looking for scriptural support. Of course, many gay and gay-friendly Christians follow a remarkably similar path.

For many fair-minded Christians in the mushy middle, the question of homosexuality raises basic theological issues: How literally should the Bible

be taken, in its proscriptions against homosexuality and on other subjects as well?

Gay Christian apologists are too quick to dismiss this dilemma as a false one, unwilling to face the uncomfortable reality that, even under the most liberal and loose interpretation, the Bible is at best neutral and at worst, disapproving, of gay sex acts.

Of course the Bible is a product of its historical times, and as our snapshot history of the last millennium suggests, gay people—much less gay "relationships"—didn't even exist in a form that could be judged fairly thousands of years ago.

Gay Christian apologists are too quick to dismiss this dilemma as a false one, unwilling to face the uncomfortable reality that, even under the most liberal and loose interpretation, the Bible is at best neutral and at worst, disapproving, of gay sex acts.

Like most divisive social issues, the church's position on homosexuality also doesn't admit easily of compromise or middle ground.

The U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops took a stab at finding the center: approving homosexuality as a morally neutral orientation difficult to change. But wedded to the Biblical condemnation of gay sex acts, the bishops insisted gay sex acts were sinful.

That left the bishops to conclude gay people could stay in good graces with God so long as they remain celibate, something the Vatican isn't particularly successful at demanding of its own priests, despite their greater spiritual motivation to remain chaste.

Don't expect real progress to emerge from the Catholic Church, which only recently rescinded Galileo's 15th century ex-communication for insisting the earth revolved around the sun. Or from the Southern Baptists, who only months ago finally apologized to African-Americans for supporting slavery and Jim Crow as Biblically permissible.

But the sleepy mainline Protestant denominations have been awakened by this debate over homosexuality and appear to be sincerely struggling with the issues.

Weary with the struggle and frustrated by the continued retrenchment, gay spiritual leader Rev. Mel White has urged gay Christians to withdraw from mainstream faiths, especially mainline Protestant denominations, until they forgo their history of "spiritual violence" against us.

White and his Soulforce troops have done a tremendous job of rallying support for better treatment of gay congregants, but his call is off the mark. At this critical juncture, it is more important than ever that gays remain in their mainstream faith groups, so long as they come out and join in the struggle.

Too many gays sit comfortably in church pews, pretending their significant others are only friends, following the unspoken rules of the polite Christian closet—that's especially true in the South.

Every congregation, even conservative and evangelical ones, can claim some fair-minded members. Gay

parishioners should be open about their lives with those members, even if full-throated activism is not a role they feel comfortable playing.

We all know how differently people view gay issues when they know that someone close to them is gay. That's especially true of most Christians, if they remain true to Jesus' central message of love and hope.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that Sundays are the most segregated day of the week. It's just as true that so many gays venture "out" as far as possible when socializing Saturday night, only to return to the familiar confines of the closet on Sunday morning.

Even if you don't consider yourself a religious person, this spiritual debate has an important impact on your life. As more and more mainstream religious faiths permit gay marriage and alter their view on the morality of homosexuality, our Christian-dominated culture will move accordingly.

And just as important, the political and legal debate over gay civil rights will be drawn in even sharper relief. Even Americans uncomfortable with homosexuality don't like the idea of government picking and choosing among religious beliefs to enshrine into law.

As the consensus over the immorality of homosexuality crumbles, so does the façade that unfair laws are anything more than the establishment of a particular religious belief, in violation of the separation between church and state.

VIEWPOINT

Celebrate the New Year and your own personal foibles

by D.L. MURPHY and MARIA MINICUCCI

Phew! Congratulations are in order for everyone whose Christmas survival kit kicked in. Regardless of whether you went home for the holidays or not, you are sane, sober and any emotional scarring is becoming a distant memory.

Enjoy the moment, yet another holiday hurdle is sneaking up ready to snatch away your hard-won victory.

Yes, New Year's Eve is another one of those double-edged holidays. Below are our suggestions for those of us who are single, even if it's just temporary because your beloved went home to his/her family.

For everyone:

Go to a late movie. You won't even notice midnight. If you are really lucky, that cute number in the seat next to you will notice midnight, and you'll get one very illicit kiss.

Go to a fireworks display. I don't care how depressed you are; it will do you good. Pretend the fireworks are a metaphor for your life. Hell, understand that the fireworks are celebrating your life. Construct Voodoo dolls of all your exes. This should keep you very busy.

For Hedonists:

Make all your favorite goodies and indulge without having to share. Or, better yet, have all your favorite goodies delivered. Sharing them with the delivery person after sex is optional.

Turn the evening over to your alter ego. Go wherever s/he takes you. Invite your imaginary playmate. You may want to discuss this with your therapist later.

Go to bed before midnight. Take your imaginary playmate with you.

For Type A personalities:

Take this opportunity to catch up on

your work (and steal a march on that guy in the next cubicle).

Catch up on your coworkers' work. Be prepared to explain exactly why you thought that was a good idea.

Beep your tax accountant so you can start obsessing about your tax return now.

Fill out your Franklin-Covey planner for the next year.

Do your spring-cleaning.

Spend the evening browsing catalogs for your 2001 business wardrobe.

Go to bed before midnight. Dream about spending your new budget.

For Type B personalities:

Do what you usually do. Don't do what you usually don't do. Don't care about it.

Don't put it off, this year lose your new planner early.

Shovel a path to the bed. Go to bed before midnight. Vow to actually change the sheets tomorrow.

For introverts:

Pretend you are an extrovert in your favorite chat room. Spend the evening initiating cybersex.

Read your journal. Try to get your journal published.

Beep your therapist.

Go to bed before midnight.

For extroverts:

Howl at the moon. Make sure there are witnesses.

Have pizza delivered to all of your enemies.

Have a pity party, invite everyone you know who is single, even if they are single-for-the-moment.

Invite everyone for a birthday party. It doesn't matter if it's your birthday, so long as you get to celebrate you.

Crank up the music so everyone thinks you are having a grand party.

Go to bed before midnight. Celebrate yourself.

For cat people:

Buy your cat's favorite treat and serve it in the new dish s/he got for Christmas.

Spend the evening playing an intoxicating game of catnip mousey. Note: it should be intoxicating for the cat, not you. Other substances should be required for your intoxication.

Be smug about not having to take the cat out for a walk.

Go to bed before midnight (take your

favorite pussy with you).

For dog people:

Buy your dog's favorite treat and serve it in the new dish s/he got for Christmas.

Spend the evening watching your companion chew up all of your Christmas presents.

Be smug that you have an excuse to get out of the house, even if it is cold, raining and windy.

Go to bed before midnight (take a dog with you).

But really folks, there are some options for you. Enjoy yourself.

Happy New Year!



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



HIV Treatment Trial

The AIDS Clinical Trials Unit is seeking HIV+ volunteers for a clinical research trial evaluating the safety and effectiveness of an experimental extended release formulation of Zerit® (d4T) versus the approved formulation. Study treatment (Zerit®, Epivir, and Sustiva) is provided for 56 weeks.

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Lesbians make better parents than heterosexuals, Australian researcher says

MELBOURNE—An Australian pioneer in in vitro fertilization technology has published a study suggesting that lesbians make better parents than heterosexuals, the Melbourne Herald Sun reported. Carl Wood's paper, published in the journal Australian Medicine, uses American research which found that the children of lesbian couples are more tolerant of diversity and more socially skilled. Children of lesbians were also found to suffer far less parental sexual and physical abuse and incest than their peers. "Women are more verbally fluent than males, so with two women bringing up a child, it has a greater chance of developing better conversation skills," Wood said. "The children of lesbians in the studies also had a broader view of life." Australian Family Association national secretary Bill Muehlenberg disagreed with Wood, saying that the great weight of studies suggested any combination other than a man and woman—preferably married—harmed the child. "These children will do less well on almost every social indicator—school performance, suicide rates, drug involvement and criminal involvement," Muehlenberg said.

Gays could benefit as U.K. looks to liberalize adoption guidelines

LONDON—Tony Blair's Labor government has announced plans to liberalize adoption rules, including easing restrictions on adoptions by gay men and lesbians, in hopes of increasing the number of adoptions by 50 percent, the London Times reported. "In far too many parts of the system there is a lack of clarity, consistency and fairness. Most pressing, children in an already vulnerable position are being badly let down," says a report the government plans to release this week. The Times reported that the changes will not likely give gay couples full parity with married couples. Other changes in eligibility for adoption include allowing couples over 35 to adopt, allowing couples who are overweight or who smoke to adopt, and easing adoption procedures for mixed-race couples. Government officials hope to increase adoptions by nearly a third, to 3,000 a year, and ease the backlog of 2,000 children who are transferred between foster homes every year.

Number of gays seeking asylum in U.S. grows as qualifications broadened

FT. LAUDERDALE—The number of gay men and lesbians seeking political asylum is growing rapidly, especially in the South Florida region, the South Florida Sun Sentinel reported. The increase inspired South Florida immigration attorneys to create a chapter of the New York-based Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to help gays dealing with immigration matters. "These people have just been showing up on our doorsteps," said Clark Reynolds, executive director of the Dade Human Rights Foundation. "We had no idea this was such a huge problem." In 1990 Congress quietly removed sexual orientation as a disqualification for U.S. admission. In 1994, Attorney General Janet Reno clarified that persecution based on sexual orientation can be considered grounds for asylum, and in August, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a ruling by the Board of Immigration Appeal that had denied asylum to Mexican transsexual Geovanni Hernandez-Montiel. But U.S. immigration law still prohibits HIV-positive immigrants from entering the country.

BBC relaxes ban on discussing that former minister's sexual orientation

LONDON—The BBC has relaxed its ban on mentioning the sexual orientation of a former government minister who was outed, the Guardian reported. BBC journalists were outraged when Ann Sloman, the agency's chief political adviser, told editorial staff in a September 1998 memo that "the allegation" that Peter Mandelson is gay should not be repeated during broadcasts. Mandelson, who was serving as Northern Ireland secretary when he was outed, was openly living with a partner at the time. Journalists and politicians had accused the BBC of caving in to Mandelson's demands and affording him special treatment. The revised policy says that basic guidelines—that public figures are in a special position but retain their right to a private life—remains the same. But "sensible editorial judgments should be applied in the light of changed circumstances."



The BBC's policy on not broadcasting reports that Peter Mandelson, a former government minister, is gay has been revised to account for 'changed circumstances.'

African AIDS vaccine tests delayed pending government approval

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Trials of the first AIDS vaccine specifically designed for Africa, slated to begin this week, have been delayed until early next year. Kenya's Health Minister Sam Ogeri said the government approval process is not complete, and that the trials will not begin until early next year. The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, which has been working on two vaccines it hopes will immunize people against HIV, is currently testing the vaccines on a small number of volunteers in England. None of the volunteers have displayed adverse effects from the vaccines, said Andrew McMichael of the Medical Research Council. In primates, the two vaccines combined have boosted the immune response. But it will take up to five years before it is known whether vaccines actually work on humans, and several

more to reach the general population, McMichael said. "There is tremendous urgency in getting the vaccine trials to go forward," he said.

—From staff and wire reports



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Good & Evil"

Saturday • Jan 13
Breakfast 9:30am



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health news

Health concerns, lack of knowledge highlight 2000

Party-goers drink to health at the dawn of the New Year, but in a review of the year's most notable health-related news, lifestyle concerns marched to the forefront of debate about the health of gay men and lesbians.

From smoking to body image, from oral sex to barebacking, debates about the root of AIDS and the federal government's "Healthy People 2010" report reveal a surprising lack of conclusive evidence about health concerns specific to gay men, and especially lesbians.

A smoking gun. Gay men smoke at rates nearly twice that of the general U.S. male population, and researchers offered explanations ranging from tobacco prevention measures that fail gay men, to tobacco ad campaigns that have been successful in attracting them. A tendency to drink heavily and socialize frequently in bars is also believed to be a factor for gay male smokers.

A lesbian health study released last year also indicated that lesbians have similar habits, including much higher rates of alcohol consumption and tobacco use for lesbians than for all women. In response, the American Legacy Foundation will spend \$300 million a year over the next four years on public health education on the dangers of tobacco use, and a portion of these funds will be earmarked for gays.

The gay male image. Recent studies show that gay men experience greater body-dissatisfaction than heterosexual men, which in turn contributes to higher rates of eating disorders among gay men. Barriers to healthy self-image in gay men have been shown to resemble those faced by heterosexual women.

In addition to contributing to the onset of eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia, distorted body image can also lead to steroid use and sexual anxiety. Internalized homophobia also greatly contributes to lower self-esteem and body image, as gay men and lesbians aggressively act out society's negative messages about homosexuality upon their own bodies.

The safety in barebacking? Some sex-positive activists insist barebacking is safe when both men are seroconcordant, or have the same HIV status. But medical experts beg to differ, arguing that not only can HIV-positive individuals become "re-infected" through exposure to a more virulent strain, but that resistance to drugs may be affected. Better-understood risks of engaging in unprotected sex include the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases like gonorrhea, herpes, hepatitis and syphilis which activate the immune system and allow the HIV virus to become more active.

An African solution to AIDS. The HIV/AIDS epidemic's epicenter, South Africa, hosted the 13th International AIDS Conference this year. Figures indicate that at least 10 percent, possibly up to 20 percent, of South Africa's 44 million people are HIV-positive, and the vast majority don't know they're infected.

South African President Thabo Mbeki backed away from his stand that HIV didn't cause AIDS after an international round of condemnation from researchers and healthcare officials. Mbeki insisted that he's looking for "an African Solution" to the question of whether AIDS is caused by HIV or simple, extreme poverty. Some 5,000 scientists, doctors and AIDS professionals released the "Durban Declaration," an unprecedented statement claiming the link between HIV and AIDS is "clear-cut, exhaustive and unambiguous."

U.S. health officials include gays. For the first time, the nation's long-range health planning document mentions sexual orientation. But gay health advocates say gay concerns deserve more attention than they receive in "Healthy People 2010." The ways in which health data has been gathered in the past 10 years limits the soundness of conclusions and projections that can be made about the health of gays, some activists argue.

In response, the Department of Health and Human Service's Health Resources and Services Administration awarded the San Francisco-based Gay & Lesbian Medical Association a \$25,000 grant to publish a separate paper on gay and lesbian issues, the release of which will coincide with the January release of the government's "Healthy People" report.

GLMA has also successfully lobbied to have questions regarding sexual orientation added to the individual academic and government research projects whose results eventually make up large documents like "Healthy People 2010."

HIV and oral sex. Almost eight percent of newly infected gay men contracted HIV through oral sex, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The receptive partner in oral sex is at the most risk, and simply abstaining from ejaculating into the mouth is not sufficient to prevent transmission because pre-ejaculate also contains HIV, the CDC reported. The agency did not have data confirming transmission of HIV through

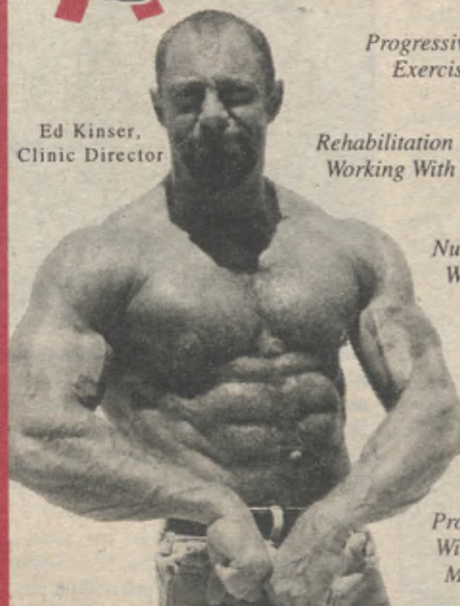
cunnilingus, though experts acknowledged that HIV can be present in vaginal secretions and menstrual blood, making transmission theoretically possible.

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Judge Edwin Cameron, a gay, HIV positive high court judge in South Africa, said during an International AIDS conference that he wishes more people with HIV would be public about it, but the stigma in Africa is too great.

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Han-Net users aim to politically activate community in 2001

> Continued from Page 3

"Roust the politically apathetic into action" was the third-runner-up, with 9 votes, followed by "Begin a community dialogue about filling the needs of elder GLBTs," with 6 votes.

Thirteen choices, nominated by Han-Net members in November and December, were presented to the membership last week. Each voter was asked to choose the three highest priorities for the upcoming year. Unlike ordinary elections, "something other than the above" was offered as a choice, but did not get any votes.

Other topics receiving votes were "Create and publicize a community volunteer clearinghouse," "Support HIV education and prevention," and "Create an Internet presence (Web site) for the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus" each with 4 votes.

After establishing a volunteer clearinghouse was suggested in November, Sally Huffer established one in the Han-Net database at <http://www.egroups.com/database/han-net>.

Community projects that need volunteers are listed there.

Other issues that received some votes were "Assist the Emergency Aid Coalition in their food/clothing/sundries pantry efforts," "Establish a community shelter, with a counselor, job coach, and outreach program (such as Project TAIL for transgenders)" and "Bring



Brandon Wolf established Han-Net, an e-group for political activists in Houston's GLBT community, two years ago. The unmoderated forum now has nearly 250 members.

RMCC and Bering Memorial UMC into the GLBT Rights dialogue within the religious community."

Han-Net was established two years ago by Brandon Wolf for political activists. Members of at least three political parties are active in the group, and often engage in lively discussion about current events. The list is not moderated and has nearly 250 members.

INFO

Han-Net

www.egroups.com/group/han-net

First-century gays often punished

> Continued from Page 3

in Jerusalem trying to create an outpost in the Middle East, which was Muslim. The legislation, clearly referring to male homosexuality, called for burning at the stake for the sin of sodomy.

• From 1250-1300, same-sex sexual



Renaissance genius Michelangelo wrote love sonnets and created sculptures to honor Roman nobleman Tommaso de' Cavalieri (above).

activity went from being legal in almost all of Europe to being punishable by death under most legal codes.

1300-1400

• Lesbian sexuality is included in a list of nine classifications of lustful sins formulated by Saint Antonius (1363-1451), who differentiated lust between women from "lusts against nature," which involved acts between men and women "outside of the natural place where children are made."

• Edward II, ruler of England from 1307-1327, was the father of four children with Isabella of Spain. His true love, however, was Piers Gaveston, who was exiled by Parliament in an attempt to end the relationship and was later murdered by barons.

1400-1500

• In China, after 1429 when the Xuande emperor called for an end to sexual activities with female courtesans, male government officials began turning to boys and young men, according to Ming writer Shen Defu.

• In the Middle East, surgical removal of the clitoris was used as punishment for women having sexual relations with other women.

> Continued on Page 13

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Early gay history: Tales of persecution

➤ Continued from Page 12

- Several hundred men a year were prosecuted for homosexuality in Florence, Italy, during this century.

- Despite frequent persecution, male beauty is frequently celebrated by male Renaissance artists: Michelangelo's dedication of love sonnets and sculptures to Roman nobleman Tommaso de' Cavalieri is only one notable example.

1500-1600



England's King Edward II (ruler, 1307-1327) (above), fathered four with Isabella of Spain, but his true love was Piers Gaveston.

- While lesbian relationships usually attracted less attention from men in power, in the Plymouth colony in America, two women were charged with "lewd behavior each with the other upon a bed."

- In 1578, a Roman church celebrated several "marriages" between Portuguese men, but the couples are later arrested and executed.

1600-1700

- In 1640, Anglican bishop John Atherton is executed by hanging for sodomy, incest and



Burning was the common punishment for 'sodomites' in Europe for several centuries. This manuscript illustration from 1483 depicts the burning of Richard Puller and his page, Zurich, the year before.

adultery; pamphlets distributed at the time feature drawings of Atherton and his male lover, John Childe.

1800-1900

- As physicians increase their study of mental illnesses, the medicalization of homosexuality in Western society began in earnest, as those engaged in same-sex activities were labeled sick instead of simply sinners—a belief that persists until the present day, although the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its official list of mental disorders in 1973.

1900-2000

The explosion in gay culture in the last 100 years is, of course, too much to condense into a few brief words, as gays became more and more organized into distinct communities, that then began to direct their energies back outward to fight for inclusion and equality in larger society.

- During World War II, gay men and lesbians joined Jews, Gypsies and others on the German hit list as Adolf Hitler attempted to control the world through a mix of military might and social cleansing. During the Holocaust, gay men were forced to wear pink triangles in the concentration camps; lesbians, grouped with other "undesirables," wore black triangles.

- In 1969, patrons at the Stonewall Inn, a New York City gay bar, fought back against an all too common police raid, in what would come to be seen as the start of the modern gay rights movement.

- By the late 1970s and the 1980s, gay activists found their work, and their lives, cut short by AIDS, which rapidly claimed thousands. But the swift organizing to fight the disease and care for the dying, often in the face of indifference or hostility from mainstream institutions, helped build the community groups and organizing structures that would contribute to major gay rights victories for the rest of the century.

- In 2000, the Netherlands became the first country in the world to extend full, legal marriage to gay couples.



In June 1969, angry patrons fought back after a routine police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a New York City gay bar, in what many consider the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • DECEMBER 29, 2000

Houston theater 2000 in review

The best and the brightest (and a few dim bulbs, too)

by D.L. GROOVER

The rainbow flag flew high and proud over Houston's theaters this past year. We were blessed with a surfeit of gay plays and musicals. Mercifully, it was fairly free of outright stinkers, and many productions found enthusiastic new audiences. The diversity extended to two new theater companies who highlighted gay-theme plays making 2000 a year of thriving gay theater.

Ray Hill and Love

On Valentine's day, Stages gave us that thorny bouquet, "Ray Hill and Love."

Described by friends and foes as irascible, tactless, pesky and generous, Hill says he's a "cantankerous old fart." Whatever, he's a Houston institution and our own gay Foghorn Leghorn: preaching, hectoring, and offending.

With story-telling verve, this gay Aesop spun personal fables that detailed his life of love and his love of life. Along the twisted path lay shards of Houston's gay history and six former lovers.

For all his bluster, Hill's a big ol' marshmallow when it comes to love. He chases it with the passion of a union organizer, wrasslin' it to the ground and celebrating its mysteries, pains and joys with pagan abandon.

One-sided in the telling, the ornery Hill's longevity has earned him the right to tell his fascinating stories any way he pleases.

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom and Sleeping Beauty

Blazing into the ultra-hip Commerce Street Artists Warehouse as if on a Bedlam Halloween float, came two one-act plays by Charles Busch, the master high dramatist of camp: "Sleeping Beauty" and "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom."

These delirious, amphetamine-induced comedies were given a spectacularly cheesy charm in the greasy hands of the dos chicas production team. Both pricked the conventions—cinema, theater, society, sex—with surgical precision. They were whacked-out, loving versions of Republic B-pictures overlaid with a slimy sheen of sexual perversion and gender-bending.

Although Anne Zimmerman, who did quadruple duty as director, costume designer and actor in two leading roles, outdid herself while wearing all four hats, the eye-opener was Walt Zipprian, as the woman-eating Succubus. With foghorn voice and acidic stage presence, Zipprian overlaid the bizarre with comic relief. He was over the top and under control at the same time. It was perfect Busch: a gourmet cannibal who has Julia Child for dinner.

Nabucco

Houston Grand Opera roared in during the spring with a soaring production of Verdi's first big hit, "Nabucco," which more than any other work of its time gave a nice big kick to the fat posterior of "bel canto." Thanks to Verdi, Italian opera was never the same again.

Verdi supplies the bombastic plot with incredibly profound music, and sets it all in the dazzling theatrical splendor of Nebuchadnezzar's ancient court. It's quite a show, and HGO's superlative treatment never flagged. Conducted in fever pitch by Patrick Summers, the Houston Symphony raised the

melodrama into the heavens. The Opera Chorus never sounded so beautifully alive, whether praying softly for deliverance or thundering out condemnation.

Maria Guleghina, as Abigaille, seeker of vengeance, could be heard over an earthquake. Though her volume control was set at temple-shattering, her velvet soprano, agile enough to leap around Verdi's vocal gymnastics, was a force of nature, as was the consummate artistry of Samuel Ramey and Segei Leiferkus.

"Nabucco" may not be great, but it's certainly grand. With HGO, you couldn't have heard a finer production of Verdi's stupendous translation of this Bible story. Even the pagans were smiling.

As Bees In Honey Drown



Like a spring breeze, Douglas Carter Beane's "As Bees in Honey Drown" wafted in during late May. In the Alley's polished production, "Bees" was a bright, frothy boulevard comedy, whose intersecting streets are Melrose Place, Rodeo Drive and the Yellow Brick Road. It told the fairy tale rise (and rise) of the consummate con artist, the mysterious Alexa Vere de Vere, international glitterati priestess. Lighter than a fine soufflé and as insubstantial as cotton candy, melting in your mind as soon as it was over, this comedy of manners was slick and enormously entertaining.

Carol Linnea Johnson portrayed Alexa with lacquered sophistication. In her helmet of jet-black hair, tailored suits, jungle red fingernails,

> Continued on Page 16

Mostly hits, few misses marked Houston theater in 2000

> Continued from Page 15

studied hyper attitude, and a pronunciation guide stolen from past divas, Alexa's velvet spider ensnared up-and-coming wanna-bes behind her enticing, seductive smoke screen.

Her latest conquest is a hot gay writer on the rise. With his dark matinee idol looks and four-star physique, Ty Mayberry was the perfect naive fly caught in Alexa's seductive web.

"Bees" pricked the balloon of "sticky sweet success" with sass, and the Alley mounted it in a setting of flashy rhinestones. A genuine theatrical cubic zirconium.

Zombies From The Beyond

Silly and inane, this cheesy re-mix of '50s sci-fi B-movies made you laugh out loud. Part homage, part vaudeville, Theater LaB's parody was wonderfully goofy.

In James Valcq's loving satire, the surprise was the addition of a musical score that's a clever parody of times past. The death ray of the evil Zombina, the alien aviatrix, earth's pneumatic nemesis, is her voice. Like a demented Norma, her stratospheric coloratura drives men mad.

The septet of talented performers handled their stock characters with infectious high jinks, over-the-top zaniness, and nimble high-kicking supplied in spades by director and choreographer Jim Phillips.

This was the type of show that can't be played straight, not when the young lovers whistle their love song, or the illustrious skyline of downtown Milwaukee is knocked senseless by the malevolent alien. Earthlings, beware!

Fat Men In Skirts



Nicky Silver's "Fat Men in Skirts," written in sulfuric acid, was a mordant, blacker than black, comedy. You were likely to gag on your laughter, as if gargling blood.

Flawlessly acted at Ashland St. Theatre Co., it documented the chilling fall of Bishop Hogan, plane crash survivor and ultimate psycho, whose insatiable taste for human sushi matches his unholy desire for his mother. There was no redeeming social value in this satiric amoral tale, whose progenitors are

Jonathan Swift, John Webster and John Waters.

The play took the human condition and whacked the stuffing out of it. Veering wildly between biting satire and horrid melodrama, it was like a highway accident: fascinated, we had to look.

Travis Ammons inhabited the mad Bishop Hogan like a second skin. Blood-drenched from dinner, he sank deeper into psychosis and resembled a dangerous medieval icon. Hannibal Lector meets Norman Bates.

Therese Katara, as Bishop's out-of-touch mother, matched his intensity every mad step.

This sit-com from Hell was laced with enough tasty laughs to make it potable. On a shoestring budget, director Chris Jimmerson managed this bitter comedy with imagination, keeping us sated all the way to its bloody conclusion.

Fairy Tales

As the inaugural production of Houston's newest theater venture, Theatre New West, "Fairy Tales" was a jubilant, radiant, enlightening gay musical revue. With music and lyrics by Eric Lane Barnes, it was required viewing for anyone who adored theater, musicals, or just an exceptional evening out on the town.

With wit and great charm, this bedtime-story-for-adults revue celebrated the ordinary life and times of a gay man who grows up in a dysfunctional conservative family, comes out, meets a lover, and eventually succumbs to AIDS.

Although solemnity runs under the story like a riptide, this production rejoiced in the delicious diversity of gay life. It reveled in camp, yet glorified remembrance and humanity.

Alex Stutler, firm of voice and body, made a strikingly good Matthew, all wide-eyed comic innocence, longing for the complacency and normal existence of his favorite TV family, the Partridges. Keith Caldwell as Matthew's lover had the best voice of the five, and his twang rendition of "Illinois Fred" gave a well-heeled boot to the conventions of masculine role playing.

With its sublime mix of laughter and tears, "Fairy Tales" gave us a needed boost of humanity and pride, ending in a stirring message of empowerment and hope.

Rent



Jonathan Larson's exuberant rock paean to life has become a pop culture phenomenon. In a decade or so of really egregious musical the-

ater, "Rent" deserved all its awards. Spinning its "Boheme"-inspired tale in contemporary hues of AIDS, sexual nonconformity, drug addiction, and multiculturalism, the musical took the verities of poverty, homelessness, and illness and transformed them with splendid affirmation.

Larson's heartfelt empathy for his alternative community could be as sappy as a Hallmark card (a chorus line of homeless junkies seemed just as unreal as a convent of singing nuns) but his passion packed a mighty wallop. His pop and rock score, a melange of styles borrowing tangos, blues, gospel, reggae, funk, and MTV, is still rooted on firm Broadway stock. The love ballads are haunting, and the up-tempo pieces, feisty and energetic, are filled with sophisticated rhythms that keep us off balance. His dramatic lyrics, agile and propulsive, shift in off-kilter ways, too; sometimes comic, sometimes heartbreaking, yet always right.

Bar none, this was the finest touring production of a Broadway musical last year. An amazingly theatrical show, it used all the high-tech smoke and mirrors that money could buy. Grunge never looked so high gloss.

Bruiser

When Houston Ballet opened its 2000-2001 season in September, it did so with a knockout: Stanton Welch's "Bruiser."

With a company of eighteen, "Bruiser" was a tongue-in-cheek, witty look at modern relationships, using all manner of sports references.

Wearing skin-tight abbreviated shorts and midriff revealing tops, the dancers—wrists bandaged and cheeks blackened—feinted and jabbed, performed tae bo, jumped hurdles, skipped imaginary rope, power walked, even egged us on to fight. One of the guys flexed like a musclemans upstage in silhouette.

The women, all on pointe and just as seasoned and strong as the men, fought back—a contemporary Gen-X take that was mighty refreshing. The guys were butch; the girls were butch.

A perpetual mobile of off-kilter classical steps, big sweeping arabesques in lifts, sexy duets, expressive solos, "Bruiser" was modern ballet with vengeance and a laugh.

As the preeminent tomboy, Britain Werkheiser exuded stage presence with a feisty powerhouse performance. The intense and razor sharp Joel Prouty was a perfect foil to the leggy and athletic Lauren Anderson; while the very blond and beefed-up Ian Casady complemented Sarah Webb's beautiful line. At the end of their pas de deux, he pinned her down, but not for long.

There's no entry in the Olympics for ballet, but if there were, Mr. Welch and his brilliant dancers would've shared top spot: gold.

Naked Boys Singing

The title said it all. Unfortunately, there wasn't much else to this musical presented by Bienvenue Theatre. Once the revelatory shock of being up close and personal faded, our gazes glazed over.

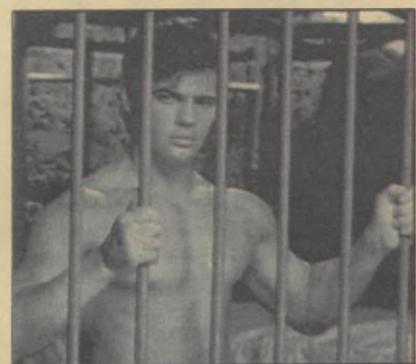
This was a musical revue written by committee: 24 hands to be precise. Too many cooks and no chef. This gay musical mean-

dered without much thought in its head. It was well-scrubbed and sex-free, non-prurient and G-rated. Why did they bother to remove their clothes?

For a musical that paraded its gimmick in our face, it's ironic that the best number, the most erotically charged, was the love song where Augustin Paz slowly donned his clothes, until by song's end he was fully dressed. If only the rest of the show would've been so charged. This was a sex musical without a rise.

Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time

In his first venture into live theatrical performance, the world's most famous male porn star had the savvy to fashion himself a vanity production. For what it was, this star vehicle served him well. Everyone else got the shaft.



He and his un-credited co-writers crafted a soft-core showcase, where Stryker is swathed in '40s film noir glamour with inky shadows and wet reflections. On display, his body became his own fetish.

To be fair, you didn't go to this expecting "Hamlet." But after scores of performances in NYC and San Francisco, the eponymous star and his tailor-made "hilarious, erotic comedy" should have had more pizzazz and polish than this lumbering, limp effort.

As a live porn movie, this sad little affair moved with the speed of a lump of Crisco. For all its X-rated trash sex talk, the porn was missing. Discreet and hiding behind veils, the play cried out for Viagra.

The evening ended with a mini-sex show, as Stryker doused himself with baby oil and danced nude among the audience. It's one exotic dance where he brought his own pole. The curtain call had him patting his large friend in appreciation of a job well done. It's the only part of him that could act.

Kiki and Herb

If you didn't experience this demonic dysfunctional duo at Theater LaB, you missed one of the truly theatrical events of the season.

Frightening and funny, this psychotic lounge act was post-modern drag and performance art mixed with a full fist of barbiturates.

Kiki (Justin Bond) is a washed-up, never-has-been boozy cabaret singer whose grotesque life story is the patter that drives the rock and alternative grunge song cycle. Herb (Kenny Mellman) is her autistic co-dependent pianist who bangs out the accompaniment and adds his wails to Kiki's vodka-tinged

> Continued on Page 17

Plentiful gay productions in 2000

> Continued from Page 16

song stylings. Between the laughs, they made you weep with their neurotic showbiz long-ing.

After thrashing herself into a frenzy with Butt Trumpet's "You're Ugly," Kiki lay sprawled on the floor. "Mommy's all right. We just get a little weird sometimes."

Then it was off on a Shakespearean soliloquy or a scorching rendition of Patti Smith's "Horses." Scary and fascinating. And unforgettable.



Christmas On Mars

To say that a staging of a Harry Kondoleon

drama is rare would be an understatement, so we were exceedingly grateful for Ashland St. Theatre Co.'s winter mounting of this blistering play. That this production was a riveting, sterling powerhouse account was also something for which to be grateful.

"Christmas" is, at all times, unreal yet truthful, perverse yet sane, sadistic yet tender. Distinctive in its bending of theatrical conventions, the spellbinding characters held us enthralled throughout. It veered from searing dramatic outburst to luminous insight to laugh-out-loud comedy schtick, thoroughly engrossing, or grossing us out. It was a bizarre human comedy of ill manners.

Forcefully directed by Travis Ammons, this dark and poignant tale of four interconnected people who can't really connect is afire with humanity: the egotistic bisexual male model manqué (Tim Wrobel); his fiercely neurotic gay lover (Byron Norton); the pregnant wife-to-be (Adrienne Kipp); and her mother (Cheryl Croix) whose unending search for love unravels her life.

At the end, the stage is littered with wrapping paper, a beat-up Christmas tree, the lover who finds solace inside a baby's crib, self-deluded Mother weeping and laughing on the floor, a headless doll, and a puddle of amniotic fluid. How the detritus got there represents Kondoleon's brilliant map of the human heart. All we had to do was follow his trail of blood, tears, and laughter.

Bayou Calendar

The Nutty Nutcracker

Houston Ballet's take-off on its own classic holiday production has become one of the hottest tickets during the post-Christmas season. It's everything you'd wish the "Nutcracker" would be if someone only had the nerve to do it. Well, the comic zanies at the Ballet do it right! Past shows have been set on the Titanic (with dancing penguins for the Snow Scene) or in the West Wing (with Monica and Bill cavorting under the executive desk in the Land of the Sweeties). Ribald and exceedingly funny, this R-rated retelling ends the year with smirking glee. The day after, you will be sore from laughing so hard.

Dec. 30

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A Tuna Christmas

Without the help of digital effects, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams portray all the loony beloved characters of Tuna, Texas, the second-smallest town in state, in this warm and cozy parody of contemporary American life. Consummate actors, these two will make you believe that the entire stage is ablaze with life. It is, just not at the same time. A memorable night in the theater for any season.

Jan. 9 through 14

The Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston

409-765-1894

Walker Evans: A Retrospective

In a magnificent new exhibition, MFAH salutes and glorifies the artistry of photographer Walker Evans. Quintessentially American, his black and white eye focused on hard truths with unflinching documentary-like detail, such as the Great Depression, tenant farmers in Alabama or New York City subway riders. By rejecting artifice and artiness in his spare, elegantly framed pictures, he nevertheless created photography as an art form. He was the ultimate photographer: he makes the viewer see anew.

Continuing through March 4

MFAH, 1001 Bissonnet

Dirty Little Showtunes

If you think gay life is a "Cabaret" or a Broadway musical with better lyrics, then Tom Orr's delicious parody is a must-see. Using tunes we can hum in our sleep from Sondheim, Webber, Richard Rodgers, Gilbert & Sullivan, Harold Arlen, et al., this wicked spoof skewers GLBT living with delightful zest and irreverence by supplying new lyrics to Broadway standards. Funny, moving, it might even make you think. Now that's a novel concept for a musical.

Jan. 5 through Feb. 24

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—Mark Goebel,
Eclipse Magazine

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Out in Music

MUSIC REVIEWS

A queer year in music

With big name labels practically void of queer music—gay and lesbian artists turned to the indie scene

by MARGARET COBLE

Y2k was not a big year for queer music, at least not if you're looking at the major record labels. The trend of coming out as a promotional boost seems to have faded (the exception being Sinéad O'Connor, who amid a whirlwind of publicity came out as both a lesbian and a priest upon the release of the critically praised *Faith and Courage*).

New, live, and greatest hits albums by out artists like k.d. lang, Elton John, and the Indigo Girls, respectively, pleased their die-hard fans but were not particularly noteworthy additions to their oeuvres, and gay-baiting artists like Ricky Martin, the Backstreet Boys and other boy-bands were happy to take their queer fans' money, but gave them little but something pleasant to look at in return.

The real story of gay and lesbian music

in the year 2000 came from the independent labels, where a new crop of talented out-queer artists directed their own career paths and expressed themselves honestly without the fear of homophobic consequence associated with a major record label contract.

Though these artists often struggle for recognition beyond their own geographic region, due to lack of resources available to their often self-run labels, the quality and importance of their work should not be overlooked.

That having been said, here's the best of 2000!

VARIOUS ARTISTS *Forever Dusty* (R&D Records)



Truly one of the most under-appreciated compilations of the year, this 17-track tribute to Dusty Springfield featured a veritable who's-who of out-queer female performers donating their efforts to a breast cancer benefit CD.

From The Butchies, Indigo Girls, Jill Sobule, and Zrazy to Michelle Malone,

Sonia Rutstein, and Gretchen Phillips, the track listing is a star-studded lesbian affair, and the material covered is simply stunning. (www.ladyslipper.org)

MARK WEIGLE *All That Matters* (Pet-A-Luma Music)

California-based, out-gay singer songwriter Mark Weigle is the queer indie underground's best kept secret—though not too much of a secret, as Weigle has consistently topped the charts for two years at Outvoice.com, a website and mailing list which celebrates out-queer music and the artists who make it. With his acoustic-pop sophomore album *All That Matters*, Weigle matched the critical success of his 1997 debut *Truth Is* while continuing to broaden his fanbase and commercial appeal. (<http://songs.com/markweigle/>)

MELISSA FERRICK *Freedom* (W.A.R.)



With her aggressive blend of confessional and political lyrics, this alt-folk-rock singer-songwriter has become the new Ani DiFranco. 2000

was a year of much momentum for the fast-rising lesbian star, with a hectic tour schedule which included a remarkable performance at this year's Michigan Women's Music Festival, the release of *Freedom* in the spring and more recently *Skinnyer* and *Faster Live* (Right On Records). (www.melissaferrick.com)

LARRY LEVAN *Live 'At The Paradise Garage* (West End/Strut UK)

This posthumously released 1979 mixtape by the New York DJ who started it all is an essential disc for anyone who loves dance music. The deluxe liner notes of this two disc box set, and an accompanying book by West End Record chief Mel Cheren *Keep On Dancin': My Life and the Paradise Garage*, serve as some of the best gay-perspective documentation of the early days of disco. (www.westendrecords.com)

SLEATER-KINNEY *All Hands on the Bad One* (Kill Rock Stars)



These Pacific northwest dyke punk rockers continued to maintain their widespread popularity both within and outside the queer community with their fifth full length release, a full throttled party record full of three chord fun and smart lyrics. (www.killrockstars.com)

MADONNA *Music* (Maverick Records)

Though the degree of her queerness

may be debatable, her widespread appeal in both the gay male and lesbian communities is not. The title track of the long-awaited *Music* was a global radio and club phenomenon, with its stylish retro-electro beats and sexy lesbian-tinged video, and now, thanks to some clever remixes, the second single "Don't Tell Me" looks to keep *Music* throbbing well into 2001.

VARIOUS ARTISTS *Queer As Folk Soundtrack* (Netwerk)

Whether it's the two-disc import version from the UK hit series or the newly released single-disc American compilation, the hiNRG-filled *Queer As Folk* soundtrack has created almost as much of a stir as its TV counterpart. (www.netwerk.com)



PATRICIA BARBER *Nightclub* (Premonition/Blue Note)



This eccentric jazz pianist has proven to the notoriously homophobic jazz world that being openly queer won't ruin your career; in fact, hers has only soared. This 12-track collection of vocal standards will no doubt show up on countless critics' year-end lists. (www.patriciabarber.com)

TRACY CHAPMAN *Telling Stories* (Elektra Entertainment)



The enigmatic Chapman had somewhat of a comeback with this 11-track release. Though critically lauded, it was rather under-appreciated, commercially, but if her tour performances were any indication, she still has a lot of fans, both in and out of the queer community.

THE 6THS *Hyacinths and Thistles* (Merge)

Stephin Merritt is the openly gay genius behind The 6ths, The Magnetic Fields, Future Bible Heroes, and The Gothic Archies. One of the pop music world's most prolific and iconoclastic of composers, this latest offering from him only served to drive home that point, with its odd assortment of guest vocalists and bubblegum pop lyrics. (www.houseoftomorrow.com)

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On Screen

MOVIE REVIEWS

The state of queer film in 2000

Quantity—not quality—was the key word for films with gay and lesbian content this year

by STEVE WARREN

At this time last year much of the awards buzz was focused on films with strong queer components: *AMERICAN BEAUTY*, *BOYS DON'T CRY*, *BEING JOHN MALKOVICH*, *ELECTION* and *THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY*.

This year's counterparts are fewer and weaker—witness *BEFORE NIGHT FALLS*, *BEST IN SHOW*, *BILLY ELLIOT* and *WONDER BOYS*. They're clearly not as queer.

For example—*GLADIATOR*, where the main kink is brother-sister incest; *QUILLS*, in which the Marquis De Sade will screw anything but has a strong hetero preference and *SHADOW OF A VAMPIRE*, with F.W. Murnau implied to be bisexual, but his only identified sexual partner is a woman.

It's not that there weren't plenty of queer and near-queer films out there, just that they weren't as good this year. But neither were the straight ones.

The overall output of the movie industry may have reached an all-time low in quality, or at least in the lack of really high-quality films—including queer ones. We wanted equality and we got it, damn it!

The queerer the movie the fewer screens it opens on, as a general rule. We got crumbs in a few wide releases: a gay male cheerleader in *BRING IT ON*; Kip Pardue (who was way out in "But I'm a Cheerleader") letting his teammates think he's gay after kissing one of them in *REMEMBER THE TITANS*; and Ashton Kutcher and Seann William Scott wrestling shirtless and locking lips in *DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR?*



Queer directors working in the mainstream also made us settle for less. Don Roos put a gay supporting character (Johnny Galecki) in *BOUNCE*, as did Stephen Daldry in *BILLY ELLIOT*. Gus Van Sant says Sean Connery's character in *FINDING FORRESTER* is a closet case, if

you read between the lines. (Why else is he watching those boys through binoculars?)

Joel Schumacher threw some nice butt shots into *TIGERLAND*, and if Terrence Davies stayed faithful to Edith Wharton there's naught but a gay sensibility in *THE HOUSE OF MIRTH*.

That left John Waters to carry the rainbow flag in the disappointing *CECIL B. DEMENTED*, in which a diverse group of radicals kidnapped a fading movie queen to strike a blow for independent cinema.

Before you get too depressed let me give you the good news.

Four queer filmmakers got at least mixed-to-good reviews for their debut features, which received decent distribution and did some crossover business: GREG BERLANTI for *THE BROKEN HEARTS CLUB*, JAMIE BABBIT for *BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER*, JON SHEAR for *URBANIA* and NISHA GANATRA for *CHUTNEY POPCORN*.

Overseas our newest greatest hope is FRANCOIS OZON, who had two good films in limited U.S. release this year, the twisted fairy tale *CRIMINAL LOVERS* and the filmed Fassbinder play *WATER DROPS ON BURNING ROCKS*. He's building quite a body of work but not much of an American following.

Gay Canadian JEREMY PODESWA followed *ECLIPSE* with *THE FIVE SENSES*, in which the character representing smell was gay.

Longtime favorite documentarians ROB EPSTEIN and JEFFREY FRIEDMAN had a fine new entry, *PARAGRAPH 175*, about queers in the Holocaust.

Another personal-and-professional couple, FENTON BAILEY and RANDY BARBATO scored a one-two punch with *THE EYES OF TAMMY FAYE* and *101 RENT BOYS*.

Our favorite fag hag, MARGARET CHO scored with her San Francisco-filmed concert, *I'M THE ONE THAT I WANT*.

If you've never heard of, let alone seen some of the films I mention it may be because they haven't been shown here, or have had a festival or campus screening or an unpublicized week at an art house.

Many will yet show up—in a theater, on cable or in the video store.

As usual there wasn't much for lesbians, besides *CHUTNEY POPCORN* and *BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER*.

The German docudrama *AIMEE & JAGUAR* was tops in that limited field, and there was cause for at least some rejoicing in *DR. T AND THE WOMEN* when (spoiler ahead, if you haven't seen it) KATE HUDSON ended up with

LIV TYLER. There's a lesbian moment in *REQUIEM FOR A DREAM* but it's degrading, not romantic.

Mike Figgis' failed experiment *TIME CODE* gave us JEANNE TRIPPLEHORN ("Basic Instinct") and SALMA HAYEK as lovers, but Hayek was having an affair with a man—the slut!



JULIANNA MARGULIES and KYRA SEDGWICK were happier together in *WHAT'S COOKING?* as they endured a family dinner. Yet another lesbian couple, CALISTA FLOCKHART and VALERIA GOLINA, didn't make it to theaters this year because MGM stupidly sold *THINGS YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING AT HER* to Showtime instead. Watch for it next spring.

Stage fare didn't translate too well to the screen. David Drake's *THE NIGHT LARRY KRAMER KISSED ME*, directed by Tim Kirkman ("Dear Jesse"), though well done was too late to be topical and too early for nostalgia. Charles Busch's *PSYCHO BEACH PARTY*, as directed by Robert Lee King, was a thorough disappointment.

How about novels? Marcel Proust's life and work got an interesting going-over by Raul Ruiz in *TIME REGAINED*. Julian Schnabel took an almost equally oblique approach to the autobiography of gay Cuban poet-novelist Reinaldo Arenas in "Before Night Falls."

Peter Cameron's *THE WEEKEND* was poorly adapted by director Brian Skeet, despite some bright moments in the mother-daughter bitch fights between GENA ROWLANDS and BROOKE SHIELDS.

Shields also turned up as a beard for ROBERT DOWNEY, JR. in James Toback's *BLACK AND WHITE*. Downey also played gay in *WONDER BOYS*, where he (here's another spoiler) brought out "Spider-Man"-elect TOBEY MAGUIRE.

MICHAEL CAINE was gay in *MISS CONGENIALITY*, as were

MICHAEL MCKEAN and JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS in *BEST IN SHOW*, which also finally got JENNIFER COOLIDGE and JANE LYNCH to act on their obvious mutual attraction.

CRAIG FERGUSON wasn't very funny as a gay Scottish hairdresser in *THE BIG TEASE*. HAROLD PERRINEAU, JR. was more entertaining as the drag comic relief in *WOMAN ON TOP*, certainly better than WING CHEN as the transgendered butt of questionable humor in *CATFISH IN BLACK BEAN SAUCE*.

Some highly anticipated films were early-year disappointments. Just the idea of NATHAN LANE playing BETTE MIDLER's (as Jacqueline Susann) husband should have been enough to make *ISN'T SHE GREAT* funny, but nothing could. Bette bombed again a few weeks later in *DROWNING MONA*, which opened the same day as the MADONNA muddle *THE NEXT BEST THING*, in which she had a baby with best friend RUPERT EVERETT. No wonder he's going back to Oscar Wilde!

Two queer fantasies about gays in the military came from different parts of the world. Each received some praise from knee-jerkers who cream over subtitles, but I didn't like Claire Denis' *BEAU TRAVAIL* or Nagisa Oshima's *TABOO*.

Less arty but guiltily pleasurable was *BURLESK KING*, the latest "macho dancer" movie from the Philippines. Even more dreadful by cinematic standards but a big crowd-pleaser in its native Thailand was *THE IRON LADIES*, the fact-based story of a queer team that won the national volleyball championship.

It could attract fans of feel good movies if it reaches our shores next year. GUINEVERE TURNER ("Go Fish") co-wrote MARY HARRON's adaptation of *AMERICAN PSYCHO*, giving herself a sex scene with Christian Bale and another woman.

Other edgy films with more queer content were Miguel Arteta's *CHUCK & BUCK*, written by and starring Mel White's son, MIKE WHITE, as the childlike gay protagonist; BENJAMIN SMOKE, a documentary about a queer (in more ways than one) Atlanta poet/musician; and Constantine Giannaris' *FROM THE EDGE OF THE CITY*, showcasing the body (and incidentally the acting ability) of STATHIS PAPADOPOULOS as a Greek hustler of Russian descent.

At the end of the year Strand released another terrific package of shorts, *BOYS LIFE 3*. One of those shorts, Lane Janger's comedy *JUST ONE TIME*, has already been expanded into a feature, which began hitting theaters a few weeks earlier.

All in all—and that's far from all—there was nothing on theater screens this year as good as *QUEER AS FOLK*—either version, even though Showtime betrayed us by cutting theirs.



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Eating Out

Sinfully good

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Marrakech offers delectable food, lush atmosphere, entertaining 'eye candy'

by KATHREEN LEE

Stepping into the traditional dining room at MARRAKECH is like being sucked into a magical Genie bottle where one leaves the plain and ordinary "real world" to a richly and lavishly decorated fantasy where you have suddenly become the master (or mistress).

Plush sofas with luxurious pillows, velvety carpeted walls with exquisite designs and silken sheets billowing out from the ceiling create a hedonistic atmosphere reserved for only the most self-indulgent and decadent of diners.

On Friday and Saturday evenings, Marrakech only opens their traditional dining room where diners can lounge in the lavish setting and choose from several different multiple-course meals. While one cannot order a la carte, the diversity in their multi-course offerings should satisfy even the pickiest of eaters.

My friends and I ordered the Family Style Dinner (\$29.50 per person), a seven-course meal recommended for parties of four or more. Each main course is presented in traditional large platters with a wide variety of offerings. The first course was Harrira Soup—a tomato and lentil soup rich in texture and very mildly spicy. After this initial tantalizing offering, the anticipation for the next six courses was almost unbearable.

The second course was a Moroccan Salad with the three main ingredients of eggplant garnished with cumin and garlic, chopped cucumbers flavored with rosewater (water in which the petals of roses have been steeped) and a mixture of cooked carrots, tomatoes and bell peppers.

The third course was Bastilla, which Marrakech touts as its house specialty. Similar to the samosa often found in Indian cuisine, a Bastilla is phyllo dough filled with diced chicken, almonds and egg custard. For those vegetarians out there, Marrakech can substitute the chicken with eggplant. The stuffed dough is then baked until it's a crispy brown carapace and then dusted with powdered cinnamon and sugar. Your mouth watering, yet?

The fourth course was Cornish hen served on a bed of couscous mixed with chick peas, raisins and variety of vegetables. The incredibly tender meat slid effortlessly off of the bones and the sweet couscous mixture perfectly enhanced its savory flavor.

The fifth course combined a variety of lamb dishes, including lamb kabobs, Tajine of Lamb and Lamb Mrouzia. The tender meat of the grilled lamb chunks in the kabob were served on a bed of saffron rice, which was a perfect complement to the succulent lamb.

The Lamb Mrouzia are chunks of lamb deliciously caramelized in a sweet honey

sauce and further seasoned with a sprinkle of saffron, sliced almonds and sesame seeds. Unlike the other lamb dishes, the Tajine lamb was stewed with an assortment of carrots, sweet peas and artichokes. Each delectable bite of the stew diffused to every corner of your mouth and stirred every remaining dormant taste bud.

Baklava, your standard Middle Eastern rich dessert was offered as a sixth course and our gluttonous endeavor was capped off with a Moroccan Hot Mint Tea which served to cleanse our insatiable palates.

As if this seven-course gastronomical gratification is not enough to serve your decadent desires, a trained belly dancer sashays around the dining lounge and jiggles her exposed abdomen for your viewing and donating pleasure.

As if this seven-course gastronomical gratification is not enough to serve your decadent desires, a trained belly dancer sashays around the dining lounge and jiggles her exposed abdomen for your viewing and donating pleasure. Enchanting her audience with the rhythmic striking of her zills—a form of wooden castanets—and the flourishing of her vivid and diaphanous robes, the belly dancer's sensual dance added yet another layer of debauchery onto the already self-indulgent evening.

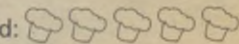
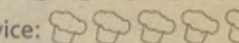
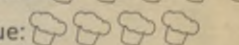
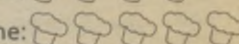
Marrakech's orgy of food and entertainment is best when relished with a group of friends who are in the mood for a gluttony of mouth-watering cuisine, conversation and eye-candy entertainment.






"Sinful" would be the best description of such an evening and I encourage everyone to partake in the sensory delights that Marrakech has to offer.

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the year in quotes

january

"I didn't know if [the scene] was going to be appropriate or not, but it turned out to be so beautifully done."

—Actress Sharon Stone on her nude love scene with Ellen DeGeneres in HBO's "If These Walls Could Talk II," which was directed by DeGeneres' partner Anne Heche, as reported in the New York Post on Jan. 20

"Am I anti-gay? ... I've spoken out against gay marriage, am on record as describing homosexuality as a deviant sexual orientation and have spoken favorably about reparative therapy for gays who wish to change their sexual orientation. Well, the truth is, I'm not [anti-gay]. What I am is a serious Jew who has consistently stated my belief that same-sex sexual activity is incompatible with Biblical scripture and, in the same breath, that homosexuals are as entitled to love and respect as all other human beings."

—Dr. Laura Schlessinger writing in the Los Angeles Times, Jan. 17.



february

"I've gone out with some nuts. When I first met them, they seemed decent and regular and said they weren't big fans, but then they turn out to be crazy—mad, insane Madonna fans. Looking back, it's pretty funny. Nobody's ever caused any harm. Let's just say it was bad judgment on my part."

—Madonna's brother Christopher Ciccone to the Advocate, Feb. 15

march



"His legacy lives on through our movie to remind us to always be ourselves, to follow our hearts, to not conform. I pray for the day when we not only accept our differences but we actually celebrate our diversity."

—Hilary Swank, in her Oscar acceptance speech for Best Actress, thanking Brandon Teena, who passed as a man and was murdered in 1996

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to express, the rumors. But, Barbara, for some reason, I just don't feel like it. You know, it's, it's something so mine. I give it all when I'm on stage. I give it all in interviews, but you've got to keep something for yourself sometimes, and that's for me."

—Singer Ricky Martin when asked if he's gay by Barbara Walters on her March 26 Oscar night special.



april

"Who are now the most square people on Earth? Who are the only people left who want to go into the Army and get married? Homosexuals."

—Humorist Fran Lebowitz

"A sports stadium full of queers—how fuckin' brilliant!"

—Singer George Michael at the Equality Rocks concert during the Millennium March festivities in Washington, D.C., April 29.

"The best thing that's happened about it [my coming out] is nothing. The world didn't end, my career didn't come to a complete halt, I didn't get ridiculed, I didn't get yelled at. Life went on just as I'd hoped it would."

—Actor Bill Brochtrup of TV's "NYPD Blue," to Portland, Oregon's Just Out, April 7

may

"I had no trouble kissing Valeria [Golina in the movie 'Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her']. We had chemistry. And I've kissed Courtney [Thorne-Smith], Jane [Krakowski] and Lucy Liu on 'Ally McBeal.' It's more about whether they have bad breath or not. There are guys who come on Ally McBeal whom I have to kiss, and I'd rather kiss my dog."

—Actress Calista Flockhart to the New York Post, May 15

june

"I'm a lesbian... although I haven't been very open about that and throughout most of my life I've gone out with blokes because I haven't necessarily been terribly comfortable about being a lesbian. But I actually am a lesbian."

—Singer Sinead O'Connor in an interview with Curve magazine in the June 27 issue



"I've cried more at times than I would like to admit because to see my name, my character, my person come under attack. It's astonishing to have your name smeared with such vitriol. I wouldn't wish it on people I dislike. It's been agonizing."

—"Dr. Laura" Schlessinger, in an interview with Time magazine, June 24 issue



"What a fucking idiot!"

—Bryant Gumbel, host of CBS' "Early Show," after interviewing Robert Knight of the Family Research Council, who defended the Boy Scouts' ban on gays. The FRC demanded Gumbel's resignation after the remark was picked up by a studio microphone and broadcast

"Hundreds of my friends have died before their time [of AIDS]. The most profound effect it's had on me is that when I heard that someone had died from a heart attack it was almost like an elation. I was like, 'Oh, okay.' Because you just got to the point where you couldn't take one more [death]. Couldn't take one more."

—Actress Whoopi Goldberg to the AIDS magazines A&U, June issue

july

"I'm not aware of myself as a sex symbol—I wouldn't object if I were. It's one of the functions of actors to let people fantasize."

—Actor Sir Ian McKellen, who is openly gay, to Chicago's Outlines, July 19

august

"My goal is to be in a committed relationship in the future with the right man. ... The prize may complicate that."

—"Survivor" winner Richard Hatch in an Aug. 24 conference call with reporters



"Everyone says to me, 'Your mother being who she is, it must have been easy [coming out to her].' But she had more difficulty with it than my dad."

—Christopher Rice, 22, son of novelist Anne Rice, to the Advocate, Aug. 29



september

"[My lover Jim Bridges and I] never made a fuss about being gay, but we never hid anything. Maybe I was naive, but I never felt oppression."

—Jack Larson, who played Jimmy Olsen on the classic "Superman" TV series, to the Advocate, Sept. 12

november

"Anne Heche has signed a deal to write her autobiography. It'll be the classic tale of a small-town girl who goes to Hollywood and becomes a lesbian to help her career."

—Craig Kilborn on "The Late Late Show"



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community

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saturday, december 30

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Certified American Heart Association CPR Classes. noon. 713-607-7700.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.

sunday, december 31

Common Group (formerly New Hope Christian Center) Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church. Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org. Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

monday, january 1

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVEs. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition meeting. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, january 2

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

RESURRECTION

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Reclaiming Scriptures For Positive Faith

workshop led by Rev. Dr. Rembert Truluck, author of
Steps to Recovery from Bible Abuse
January 6, 2001, 10am-3pm in the seminar room

Has Religion Failed?

seminar presented by Dr. Truluck

Tuesday, January 9, 2001, 7pm in the seminar room

Dr. Truluck's workshop and seminar will kick off a year long program designed to heal our spirits and help us become the free people God has created us to be. If you can't attend the workshop or seminar, please join us for any or all of the following programs:

Step one to redemption:
Have You Been Hurt By Religion?
Tuesday, February 6, 2001
7pm-8:30pm

Step two to redemption:
Turn To God As Your Guide
Tuesday, March 6, 2001
7pm-8:30pm

Step three to redemption:
Examine Your Faith
Tuesday, April 3, 2001
7pm-8:30pm

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calendar

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Certified American Heart Association CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Island Association meeting. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, january 3

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.
BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380.
Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

thursday, january 4

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-524-9530.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, january 5

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Mishpachot Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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QUIT SMOKING!

Volunteers needed for research study using hand-held computer at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Free nicotine patches! Call 713-792-2265

BAY AREA GAYS

Is a new social group in the greater Clear Lake area for "young-ish" gay men (ages 20-40) • Call 281.488.0537

Ryan Idol's Latest Video and Web-Site Premiere at <http://RyanIdol.com>

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Youth Empowerment Advocates of Houston, an outreach center for homeless youth, is seeking the following donations: Clothing • Hygiene supplies • Towels • Books • Videos • Backpacks • Call Brian Jones 713.523.9324

Auditions

CASTING CALLS

• Casting for three transsexual roles for a campy "Charlie's Angels" takeoff. • Casting for local gay, lesbian and transgendered talent for an upcoming independent film website. Contact Casting at 713.867.7965

Employment

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The Lovett Inn, Houston's Premier Bed and Breakfast, is currently seeking a full/part-time housekeeper • Must be dependable, hardworking and have reliable transportation • Previous experience helpful • Apply in person at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd • Mon-Fri. 9:00am to 4:00pm

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To request an application packet, please visit www.gmch.org/adsearch

Or call 713-927-3129

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KITCHEN STAFF

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1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

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— Volunteers
— Non-Profit Organizations
*First 20 words

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2 WRITE YOUR AD

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Occasions

Big birthday hugs to "Too Tall Joe" on his New Year's eve birthday, Dec. 31.

Fabu bar manager and cool guy Kody rings in the New Year on his Dec. 31 birthday.



This is Daniel Dubcak, our pet of the week. And just like his owner, Cara, he's out and proud. (Duh! What heterosexual dog would be caught dead with his hair in these bows?)

Daniel is an 8-year-old Yorkshire Terrier seeking a dominant male canine for romance. His turn-ons include long walks on the beach, Beggin' Strips, and anything that squeaks. He can be reached c/o this publication.

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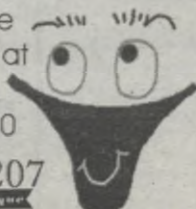
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

December 29 - January 4

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

An eclipse on Christmas Day slinked in and slinked out and may have triggered intense needs inside you, Aries. If your work is killing your personal life, it's time to ask why. Many planets are triggering you to break old patterns. Are you brave enough? I should say so! A Taurus brings you joy.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Transfer some of your creative passion into your love life, and vice versa, and you can achieve pleasure and success by spring. You have the ability to attract a near-perfect match for yourself, so please begin exuding your sexy charm! A Scorpio wants to enter your world.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You're the only one who can take control of your life, honey. It's time for the emperor to buy some new clothes. Mars trines Venus in such a way as to bring you down from your cold, airy world into a more emotionally intense existence. Love calls to you from the mouth of a babe—most likely a Pisces.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Lay back and relax in your home for a good chunk of time during this first week of the new year before going out to fight any major battles. You are in a very receptive state and can use your powers to help others. You're feeling particularly courageous when it comes to helping those who need some TLC. Begin with an Aquarius.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

If you are feeling left out in the cold on the work front, chill out, baby. It's your perspective that's off. Don't forget to remind yourself what it is you're working for. Get back in touch with your Leonine confidence and enthusiasm. A Sag misses them.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Things are changing rapidly, but you are very in sync with the universe and will benefit from the ups and downs. Justice can be yours, but only if you act just as well. You are the star of your own comic book right now, so for God's sake, buy a new pair of tights! A Libra wants to be rescued.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Life is full of opportunities during the first week of 2001, especially if you are willing to invest in concrete things that will serve you in the long run. Try to balance emotion with pragmatism. You're veering too far towards the latter. A Capricorn can push you into the center. Beg to be pushed harder.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Don't be taken in by petty dramas during early January. Look at them as entertainment, but stay out of the fray yourself. You are ripe for some metaphysical tweaking. If you follow your intellectual obsessions, they'll lead you to the heart of what matters. A Gemini is intimately involved.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

This is the best time for you to explore some of the mystical things in the universe, my philosophical friend. You may have to dig deep within yourself for the big answer to the big question. I think you know that you're at a point where no one can help you but yourself. A Leo is waiting for you to catch up spiritually.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

You have a lot to ruminate on as the Sun spreads confidence throughout your chart. But don't sit and think too long. Get away for just a day (or even a few hours) during the first week of 2001 in order to collect your thoughts. Then go, go, go. An Aquarius is hot on your heels.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

A romantic friendship could be the metaphorical life and death of you in the days ahead. A major psychic transformation is due, but the thing is, other people are the catalyst, not the cause. Be a knight in shining armor to the one who inspires you most. I pray that's yourself. I know you can't live like an island, but you also don't need as many fish in your sea as you think.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

You may have to walk away from someone you love in order to walk towards yourself, sweetheart. Your masochistic tendencies are no longer serving you. Happiness is just inches away. If you can stretch to reach a little further, you can grab it. And it may feel like a cute Cancer.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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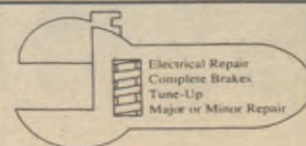


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