

Houston hosts an International Cat Show, and at least one gay man has entered two of his pets.

Page 15



INSIDE



Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, is one of the award winners to be honored Saturday at the annual Houston Black Tie Dinner.

Page 2



National Salvation Army officials give domestic partner benefits a thumbs down, reversing a regional board's decision.

Page 8



Houston Ballet prepares for its performances of 'The Nutcracker,' as other theaters also fill their stages for the holiday season.

Page 17

Gay vote may be key for Brown

Political observer: Current mayor likely to get support of gay voters; runoff expected to be close

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON — Thursday's Chris Bell endorsement of Mayor Lee Brown for re-election is likely to mean a stronger showing of support among gay men and lesbians for the incumbent, according to a local political expert.

But the clearly pro-gay Brown still has a tight runoff election in front of him against candidate Orlando Sanchez, a former Houston City Council member who has cast more than one anti-gay vote, notes Dr. Richard Murray.

"Bell and Brown seem to have split the gay and lesbian vote in the first round," said Murray, a University of Houston political science professor and author. "I think that there is the possibility that the disappointed opponents of [the anti-gay] Prop. 2 will now try to make the mayor's race a sort of second referendum — that, 'We don't want a mayor two to six years who opposed us on



Now that Houston Mayor Lee Brown and mayoral candidate Orlando Sanchez are in a Dec. 1 runoff election, gay voters who split between Brown and candidate Chris Bell may help make or break Brown's bid for re-election, according to a local political expert.

this issue."

On the Nov. 6 ballot in competition for Houston's mayoral slot, Brown, Sanchez and Bell were the top three vote-getters.

Brown did not garner the necessary minimum of 51 percent of votes, however, to avoid a runoff. Bell did not earn enough

> Continued on Page 8

Health experts warn Houston gay men



Houston health officials have renewed warnings to gay men about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases in light of a continued increase in the number of cases of syphilis among men who have sex with men.

Officials alarmed by continued increase in local cases of syphilis among men who have sex with men

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON — Texas gay men may not follow a national trend that traces syphilis outbreaks to Internet chat rooms, but health officials still are alarmed at a continued increase in the number of gay men with the disease.

"We're concerned about it," said John Paffel, sexually transmitted diseases (STD) prevention program manager for the Houston Department of Health & Human Services. "Some of our traditional interventions don't appear to be working very well."

As Houston Voice reported in mid-October, health officials in San Francisco have linked Internet chat rooms frequented by gay men to an increase in STDs, particularly syphilis. Officials with America Online, the nation's largest Internet provider, at that time did not plan to post warnings in such gay chat rooms.

This week, AOL officials admitted they are discussing possible online areas in which to post such warnings, but do not necessarily plan to do so specifically in chat rooms. (See story, page 9.)

> Continued on Page 9

INSIDE

NEWS

Houston Black Tie Dinner sold out2
 Local news briefs5
 Salvation Army nixes DP benefits8
 AOL stalls on chat room debate9

VOICES & ECHOES

Varnell: Islam's punishing truth10
 Letter: Wockner should apologize11
 Quote/Unquote12



At least one local gay man has high hopes for this weekend's International Cat Show in Houston. See Out on the Bayou, page 15.

OUT ON THE BAYOU

Weekend event celebrates felines15
 Out on the Aisle17
 Homefront19
 Eating Out at Zana20
 Community Calendar22
 My Stars!27

Issue 1099



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Mayor to appear at Black Tie Dinner

Annual event also to honor Ellis, Davidson, and raise funds for several AIDS organizations

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—Organizers excitedly report this week that the Houston Black Tie Dinner is sold out and more than 900 people are expected to attend the charity fund-raiser on Saturday.

"The dinner is going to be beautiful — as always the decor will be fabulous," said Gail Swinney, president of the Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. board of directors. "So far we have 900 people who are attending. It's going to be a grand evening."

Janine Brunjes, liaison to the GLBT community for Mayor Lee Brown, said this week the mayor will attend the event. Swinney confirmed that Brown will take the podium during the evening also.

"The mayor's going to speak. Janine

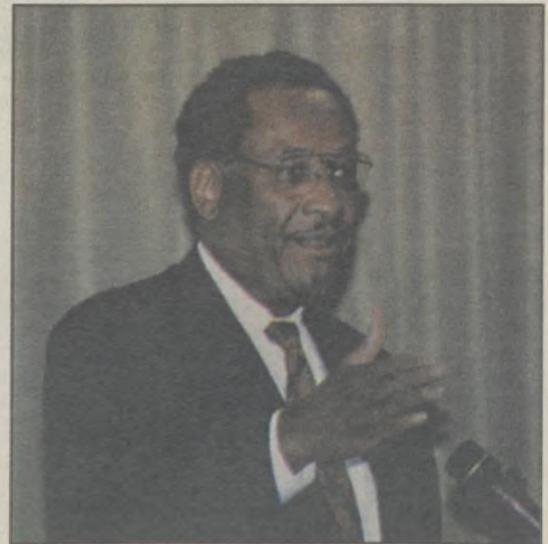
Brunjes is going to speak," Swinney said. "We'll have a lot of political people there. It's going to be fun."

The dinner will be held in the grand ballroom at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Featured speaker is nationally known actor Alec Mapa. Also appearing will be the Houston Gay Men's Chorus and Sharon Montgomery. This year's theme is "And the Beat Goes On..."

Among those to be honored during the evening are Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, who will receive the Hollyfield Political Award, and local resident Kevin Davidson, who will receive the humanitarian award. Among other activities, Davidson is the administrator for the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

The event includes a silent auction as part of an effort to raise funds for the many beneficiaries of the dinner. The national beneficiary is the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. Local groups who will benefit are: An Uncommon Legacy, The Assistance Fund, AssistHers, Bering-Omega

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, is among those who will be honored at the Houston Black Tie Dinner on Saturday. Ellis will receive the Hollyfield Political Award at the event, which is a charity fund-raiser.



Houston Mayor Lee Brown will be among those who address the audience at Saturday's Houston Black Tie Dinner.



Community Services, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Clinic, People With AIDS Coalition of Houston, PFLAG-Houston, PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation, Texas Human Rights Foundation, The Center for AIDS and Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church.

The Houston Black Tie Dinner last year distributed more than \$130,000 to local and national organizations that serve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

The group states that its mission is to "fight AIDS, prejudice and discrimination while serving as a strong advocate for men's and women's health care."

The dinner has raised and distributed more than \$1.2 million since 1993.

GLBT Chamber selects new board members for 2001-2002



Members of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce this week elected five new board members for 2001-2002. They include, from left: Jeff Wallace, Sheryl Parrish, Robin Robinett and Whit Sanders. Not pictured is new board member Jani Lopez. Chamber members voted to elect the leaders at the group's Tuesday meeting at DoubleTree Hotel in Houston.

Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

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nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (N-rt-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (n6-FN-n6-vee) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human

Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT."

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zert® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts. VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglut®, Cardioquin®, Quinides®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
- Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®
This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zert® (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)
- Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Narvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight	Kg	Lb	Number of	Number of
			Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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Alex Morua, executive director of Progressive Voters in Action, has resigned his post to take some time off to 're-energize.'

PVA leader steps down, undecided about next move with group

HOUSTON — Alex Morua, executive director of Progressive Voters in Action, a gay-friendly political group, has announced that he will resign that post in order to rest. "I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of PVA over the last two years, especially regarding the 'No on City Prop. 2' campaign and the Ada Edwards for Houston City Council District D campaign," said Morua, who is openly gay. "But after two years of 50-60-hour weeks, I'm ready for a break." Morua will remain on the group's board of directors. He plans to take the rest of the year off before deciding his next step. "It has been inspiring to see hundreds of new LGBT and straight-allied volunteers take action," he said of his time leading PVA. Grant Martin, PVA board chair and a gay political consultant, said the group's members wish Morua well. "PVA and the entire progressive community owe Alex a great debt of gratitude," Martin said. "Alex is responsible for bringing PVA from an operation with one computer and one phone to an organization capable of running a citywide ballot measure campaign."

Supporters host Saturday breakfast with mayor

HOUSTON — Community leaders including Houston City Council member Annise Parker and Janine Brunjes, GLBT liaison to Mayor Lee Brown, invite gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and supporters to a Saturday breakfast for Brown. The focus of the event is to help gather support for Brown's quest for a third term in office. He faces Orlando Sanchez in a Dec. 1 runoff election.

The reception begins at 8 a.m., and Brown will address the audience at 8:45 a.m. A breakfast buffet will be served at 9 a.m. The event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Houston, and those who wish to attend are asked to RSVP to Grant Martin Consulting at rsvp@grantmartinconsulting.com or 713-523-1762.

Breakfast with Mayor Lee Brown

8 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 17
Doubletree Hotel
400 Dallas St. at Bagby
RSVP to Grant Martin Consulting:
e-mail: rsvp@grantmartinconsulting.com
713-523-1762.

INFO

Center to host Thanksgiving dinner Thursday

HOUSTON — For the second year, the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center will serve dinner for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 22. There is no charge for the meal, which will begin about noon. The center's board of directors will provide the main dishes for the meal, including turkey and holiday favorites. Individuals who plan to attend are encouraged to bring food items, potluck style, but such contributions are not required. "We invite everyone to join us, even if they want to stop in after other family celebrations," center President Tim Brookover said. "Last year, about 50 people dropped by for dinner and fellowship." Those who plan to attend are asked to call the center and leave their name.

—Penny Weaver

Thanksgiving Day dinner

Noon
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center
803 Hawthorne
713-524-3818

INFO

Hiles remembered as fun-loving

Houston native Perry Gorden Hiles died May 11, 2001.

Mr. Hiles was born on Dec. 11, 1968. Friend Ricky L. Johnnie of Houston said Mr. Hiles will be remembered for his fun-loving nature by the many people in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of Houston who knew him.

Mr. Hiles was an interior designer whose work includes several River Oaks homes.

He is survived by his parents; two sisters; several nephews; many other relatives and a number of friends.

—Penny Weaver



Remember Our Names

November 30, 2001

Candlelight March 6:00 pm

4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market, Suite C140

Panel Dedication Ceremony 7:00 pm

The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross

Tree of Remembrance 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

NAMES Project Learning Center at

4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market, Suite C140

NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON

The Menil Collection

Alley Theatre

Houston Ballet

Houston Grand Opera

THE AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT



THANK YOU

Mayor Lee Brown, State Representative Garnet Coleman and Council Member Annise Parker.



In the world of politics we have many friends. In the No On City Prop 2 campaign these three leaders stood out as heroes.

Mayor Lee Brown passionately articulated our message, raised over \$100,000 for the campaign, and opened many doors to the corridors of establishment power not ordinarily available on an issue of gay rights. Mayor Brown truly understands that health care for the families of gay and lesbian city employees is a family value.

State Representative Garnet Coleman stepped up to the plate as Campaign Co-Chair when it mattered the most – when the fallout from the World Trade Center attacks threatened our campaign budget. He gave \$5,000, and raised almost 10 times that much in checks and in-kind donations. Garnet always took our calls and – most importantly – never said the word "no." Garnet is not only a good friend, but also a leader and an inspiration when it comes to building true coalitions.

Council Member Annise Parker – what is there to say that we already don't know? Annise spent \$50,000 and risked her own seat on City Council to stand up for gay and lesbian families, including her own. She endured – with dignity and grace – public insults from Prop 2 proponents, political candidates, talk radio hosts and even anti-gay colleagues. Annise, you have the love, respect and admiration of your community and all of Houston.

Friendship is a two-way street. When Garnet Coleman and Annise Parker are ready for higher office, we must stand up for them just as they stood up for us in this campaign. And on December 1, let's all stand up for our mayor:

Re-Elect Mayor Lee Brown



DISCRIMINATION
on CITY PROP 2

November 16, 2001

Dear Supporter of No on City Prop 2,

This is an especially hard letter for me to write. We lost our fight last Tuesday against City Proposition 2 by 6,710 votes. While my heart broke that night, however, my spirit did not.

Before anything else, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your contribution and the role you played in standing up to discrimination and unfairness, and thank you for moving outside your comfort zone as we had a very public, honest and positive conversation with Houston voters about the value of gay and lesbian relationships and families.

In any close defeat, it is tempting to start laying blame and pointing fingers. A very few things done in a slightly different way could have affected the outcome. It is even more tempting to rage at Dave Wilson, the architect of the anti-gay ballot measure, and his merry band of cowards who mask their hate in the guise of values and pervert the concept of family.

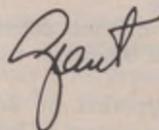
But all that energy would certainly be wasted. As it turns out, we weren't really running against them – they ran next to nothing of a campaign. We were running against a set of deeply held beliefs that take a lot of education to overcome. Even if the numbers were flipped, and we had won by a 2-point margin, the fact would remain that roughly one-half of Houston voters still do not "get" the concept of gay and lesbian families.

That said, I want to thank you specifically for what we accomplished:

- **Heroes:** I know gay and lesbian people who came out of their closets; African American ministers who search their souls to discover their opposition to discrimination against gay and lesbian people; volunteers who took vacation days to check petitions and work polls; and staff who quit their jobs and moved to Houston just to work on the campaign.
- **Numbers:** In 1985, we lost an election to save a nondiscrimination ordinance for gay and lesbian city employees by 64 percentage points. In 2001, we passed a nondiscrimination ordinance for gay, lesbian and bisexual and transgender city employees with little controversy. We lost an election about domestic partner benefits, a much more controversial issue, by only 2.64 percentage points.
- **Friends:** We built a coalition of leading elected officials, corporate CEOs, unions, leading African American ministers and clergy of every color and denomination, social justice organizations, students, parents and grandparents, working, middle and upper class people, leaders from virtually every ethnic community in Houston, and even of the Houston Chronicle and Channel Two, to stand up openly and publicly for gay and lesbian families.
- **Education:** We raised and spent over \$300,000 on a public education campaign about gay and lesbian relationships, with more than 1,500 volunteers talking one-on-one with over 50,000 voters and with television and radio spots reaching over 1 million people.

These are the reasons that my spirit is intact and my heart will heal. While, there is no doubt that winning is better than losing, it is my hope that we will take the long view and continue a positive, open and honest dialogue with Houstonians about the value of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their families. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,



Grant Martin
Campaign Manager

Salvation Army rescinds domestic partner benefits

Decision follows uproar from anti-gay groups

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The Salvation Army on Monday, Nov. 12, rescinded a decision it made less than a month earlier to allow its West Coast division to offer health care benefits to the domestic partners of its employees.

The policy reversal came after Salvation Army officials received a barrage of criticism from fundamentalist Christian and anti-gay groups, who complained that the popular charitable organization was bowing to pressure by "militant homosexuals."

"There was an uproar from the public, both internally and externally," said Maj. George Wood, a spokesperson for the Salvation Army's national headquarters in Alexandria, Va.

"We received about 20,000 e-mails in 48 hours, nearly all of them against the policy change," Wood said. "These were written by real people. They weren't canned messages."

Wood said the decision to rescind the policy was made by the Salvation Army's five-member national commission, which consists of the commanders of the organization's four regions and a national commissioner.

He said the national commission approved the earlier decision to allow the West Coast region to offer benefits to

domestic partners on Nov. 1. The policy change, Wood said, was aimed at enabling the Salvation Army to meet equal benefits ordinances passed by various cities, such as San Francisco, which require companies and nonprofit groups providing services under city contracts to comply with those equal benefits laws.

San Francisco's equal benefits law requires all firms or social services groups, such as the Salvation Army, to provide the same domestic partner benefits to their employees that San Francisco provides to its own municipal workers.

Wood said the policy change adopted by the West Coast region used the term "legally domiciled member of an employee's household" rather than the term domestic partner, even though officials with the organization made it clear the term would apply to domestic partners.

"We wanted to reach a balance between biblical principles and the people we try to serve," Wood said. "But this was perceived by the public as violating biblical principles. So the commissioners met again and decided we can't cross the line on domestic partners."

The policy adopted by the Salvation Army on Nov. 12 prohibits the organization's regional entities from offering employee domestic partner benefits by

restricting benefits to an employee's spouse and dependent children.

Wood said the new policy makes it clear that the Salvation Army will withdraw from or decline to enter into contracts with any city or municipality that requires a domestic partner benefits program as a condition for providing social services programs.

Officials with gay civil rights groups disputed Wood's assessment of the bulk of the complaints came from the general public, saying the opposition e-mail messages and phone calls were driven largely by anti-gay groups.

Jody Renaldo, executive director of Equality Mississippi, a gay advocacy group, said the Mississippi-based American Family Association called on its members across the country to "flood" the Salvation Army with emails, faxes, and phone calls.

"The pressure put on the Salvation Army by the AFA worked," Renaldo said.

The D.C.-based Family Research Council acknowledged on its Internet site that it called on its members and supporters to demand that the Salvation Army reverse its domestic partners policy.

"[T]here is no escaping the fact that the policy at issue was being driven by demands of militant homosexual activists," said FRC President Kenneth Connor. "Their goal is not simply to obtain health insurance, but to have their relationships treated on an equal basis with traditional heterosex-

ual marriage."

Gay organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, have insisted their calls for recognition of same-sex relationships are aimed at securing equal rights and benefits for gays.

"We are dismayed that the Salvation Army's national leaders stepped back in time and usurped the strong leadership of a local division to include and support all families," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "We urge the organization to return to basing its policies on 'moral and ethical reasoning' instead of what appeases anti-gay political pressure groups."

Birch added, "If this decision stands, the Salvation Army will have unambiguously identified itself as an anti-gay organization."

The Salvation Army became the subject of a flurry of press reports in July when the Washington Post disclosed the contents of a controversial, internal memo from the organization that discussed its views on gay civil rights issues. The memo claimed that the Bush administration had agreed to support a federal government policy exempting the Salvation Army from complying with local gay civil rights laws in exchange for the organization's support for President Bush's faith-based initiatives legislation.

The White House denied it had entered into such an agreement.

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houston VOICE

Brown's record clearly pro-gay; Sanchez cast anti-gay votes on City Council

votes to compete in the runoff, set for Dec. 1.

Sanchez and Brown now face off in a runoff election that most local political observers agree will be close.

Brown and Bell both opposed the anti-gay City Prop. 2, which voters approved by a slim margin. The measure prevents the City of Houston from offering same-sex domestic partner benefits to its employees. Sanchez is on record as supporting the proposition.

Bell's Thursday announcement backing Brown's re-election campaign makes the distinction of the incumbent as pro-gay — versus Sanchez as an anti-gay figure — more clear.

"It's helpful of course," Murray said of Bell's endorsement of Brown. "If you look at the precincts where Chris was strong, he ran well in [the heavily gay neighborhood of] Montrose."

"One of the clear differences between Sanchez and Bell-Brown was Prop. 2," he added.

Gay supporters of Bell this week pledged their support for Brown's candidacy. He also has been endorsed by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus; Gay or Lesbian Dollars Political Action Committee (GOLD PAC); and Annise Parker, the City Council's only openly gay

member, who was re-elected on Nov. 6.

Brown co-sponsored an anti-discrimination measure that included gays. The ordinance was approved by the City Council in July. Sanchez voted against that measure.

In a close election, gay men and lesbians who vote can have a big impact, Murray noted.

"Every vote will count. Every vote really matters here," he said.

INFO

Mayor Lee Brown

920 Studemont, No. 500
713-426-2001
www.brownformayor.com

Orlando Sanchez

3100 Timmons Lane, Suite 100
713-871-8468
www.orlandosanchez.com

AOL denies plan to post chat room warnings

Internet giant is working with CDC on public service announcements for 'appropriate areas,' not necessarily chat rooms, top officials say

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Internet giant America Online says reports of plans to post warnings about sexually transmitted diseases in some chat rooms are "not wholly accurate," a company official said this week.

AOL has not agreed to post STD information specifically in chat rooms, said Richard Socarides, a gay vice president of corporate relations for AOL/Time Warner.

"We are continuing to work with the [Centers for Disease Control] on public service announcements on the issue of STDs, and we are continuing to look at what are appropriate areas on the AOL service and elsewhere across our publications," said Socarides, who formerly served as White House gay liaison under former President Bill Clinton.

Socarides said possible "appropriate areas" for STD information on AOL include the services, health, gay and lesbian, and women's channels.

As for posting the information in chat rooms, "I wouldn't say we have ruled it out, but I wouldn't read anything into that," he said.

Socarides' comments this week are consistent with information he told Houston Voice for an Oct. 12 article on concerns over gay chat rooms. AOL did not have plans then to post messages in the chat rooms per se, Socarides said.

But in a report published the same day, the Dallas Voice, a gay newspaper in that city not affiliated with Houston Voice,

reported that AOL would post information about STDs in some gay and heterosexual chat rooms on the service.

The Dallas Voice attributed the information to AOL spokesperson Andrew Weinstein.

Socarides' said this week that the report was "not wholly accurate," but Dallas Voice Editor Dennis Vercher said his paper stands by the story.

Weinstein "was familiar with the issue from the start and gave those responses pretty much off the cuff," Vercher said.

Weinstein said Wednesday that he told the Dallas newspaper that AOL would post public service announcements, but he didn't specify in what areas.

"I didn't say they were going in the chat rooms, but I didn't say they weren't. I didn't say either way," Weinstein told Houston Voice.

Concern over STD transmission through Internet chat rooms became a topic of debate after Jeffrey Klausner, a top official with San Francisco's Department of Public Health, raised concerns about an outbreak of syphilis among gay men he said has been traced to the AOL chat room SFM4M.

When the outbreak first occurred in 1999, Klausner said he considered asking for a court order to force AOL to disclose names of the chat rooms users so they could be contacted.

The solution came in a suggestion from AOL, which put the San Francisco department in touch with PlanetOut, an online ser-

vice for gays. AOL allowed PlanetOut volunteers to visit the chat rooms to provide information to users.

Klausner has continued to push AOL to post general warnings about syphilis in the SFM4M room, as Internet outreach has become an increasingly popular tool for safer sex outreach.

HIV organizations in cities including Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans and San Francisco say they are using screen names such as "HIV Info" to enter chat rooms and provide education to chat participants. Some activists, meanwhile, have accused the educators of privacy violations.

Klausner said Monday that he continues to encourage AOL to post information in SFM4M.

But "there has been no specific plans told to me by AOL to do direct notification and awareness efforts in the chat room," Klausner said.

Meanwhile, a meeting between the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and other public health officials about transmission of sexually transmitted diseases through encounters arranged on the Internet has been rescheduled, apparently in the wake of the nation's anthrax scare.

"A new date has not been set for the meeting, however, it will be rescheduled when all key state, local and other officials can attend," said Mary McFarlane, a research behavioral scientist at CDC's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention.

America Online was not part of the planned meeting, Socarides said, although AOL is engaged in "active discussions" with the CDC about appropriate language for public service announcements.



Reports that America Online plans to post STD information in chat rooms are not accurate, according to Richard Socarides, vice president of corporate relations for AOL/Time Warner.

INFO

America Online

P.O. Box 29521
New York, NY 10097
1-888-265-8003
www.aol.com

People with syphilis more at risk for HIV, health experts say

➤ Continued from Page 1

In Texas, unlike California and other areas in the nation, health officials do not report a link between gay chat rooms and the increase in cases of syphilis.

Paffel said that at least in Houston, it is more likely that the STD is spread by men who have sex with men after meeting in places other than a chat room, such as bars or bathhouses.

"There are some pickup sites on the Internet that I think have been referenced a couple of times," Paffel said of information his office has gathered from gay patients. "I haven't seen a big relationship with that."

The Houston Department of Health & Human Services (HDHHS) reported an increase in new syphilis infections among gay men early this year. That trend has continued, Paffel said this week.

Reported new infections between May and October this year totaled 23, compared to 28 such cases of early syphilis among gay men the first four months of the year. That contrasts with 18 such cases reported last year total between January and October,

according to Paffel.

"In the gay community specifically, it's been going kind of up and down," Paffel said. "Right now we're still at a higher level than we're comfortable with and really need to be aggressive to get the word out for people to use precautions. It's still there."

Of particular concern to health officials is the rate of syphilis co-infection with HIV among gay men. Paffel said people who are infected with syphilis are at an increased risk of HIV infection.

"The syphilis chancre sores make the risk of HIV infection two to five times higher," he noted.

Both diseases can be prevented through safer sex practices such as condom use, reducing the number of sexual partners and eliminating high-risk sexual practices, health experts said.

Paffel encourages gay men to be mindful of symptoms of syphilis and to refer their sexual partners to health care officials if they discover they are infected.

Health experts in Houston and across the state are combating the increase in STDs

through traditional methods such as talking to the media and posting fliers, posters and other items in high-traffic places such as bars or book stores.

"We try and get some visibility in [putting] promotional items out into the community where folks might congregate," Paffel said. "We're also trying to alert the medical providers that cater to gay men."

He noted that health professionals sometimes need to be reminded that patients who test positive for HIV do not necessarily abstain from having sex.

A main ally for the HDHHS in the local health education campaign is the Montrose Clinic, which provides free testing for syphilis, Paffel added.

Syphilis is caused by the bacterium *Treponema Pallidum*, and transmission occurs when the uninfected partner has contact with the infected partner's painless lesion, which is often located in the genital, anal or mouth area. The newly infected person will develop lesions about three weeks later, according to health officials.

The disease is treated with antibiotics.

Left untreated, however, the infection progresses to the secondary phase, in which one or more areas of the skin break into a non-itchy rash. Secondary syphilis symptoms also include fever, swollen lymph glands, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches and fatigue.

If the case remains untreated, health experts caution, the patient's symptoms will disappear but the disease will continue to cause damage.

INFO

Montrose Clinic

215 Westheimer
713-830-3000

Texas Department of Health

Bureau of HIV and STD Prevention
1100 West 49th St.
Austin, TX 78756
512-490-2515
www.tdh.state.tx.us

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VIEWPOINT

The punishing truth about Islam

by PAUL VARNELL

Barely two weeks before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the New York Post and Court TV both ran items about punishment meted out by Afghanistan's Taliban regime on two men convicted of homosexuality.

According to those stories, the Taliban's Islamic jurists knew that homosexuality was reprehensible and the sentence should be execution, but they were genuinely puzzled by conflicting Islamic opinion on exactly how the execution should be carried out.

"We have a dilemma on this," one Taliban leader explained. "One group of scholars believes you should take these people to the top of the highest building in the city, and hurl them to their deaths."

The other group, he said, opted for a different approach. "They recommend you dig a pit near a wall somewhere, put these people in it, then topple the wall so that they are buried alive."

No one thought to point out that these approaches are atavistic survivals of options presented during the earliest days of Islam in the mid-seventh century.

The idea of stoning derived from the Koran's account of the destruction of Sodom by a "rain of stones," apparently due to Mohammed's misunderstanding of the Hebrew legend of "fire and brimstone" (sulfur), and from a supposed hadith ("saying") of Mohammed's urging stoning of both partners found engaging in homosexual sex.

Mohammed's successor, his father-in-law Abu Bakr (reigned 632-34), reportedly ordered a homosexual burned at the stake. The fourth caliph, Mohammed's son-in-law Ali ibn Abi Talib (reigned 656-61) ordered a sodomite thrown from the minaret of a mosque. Others he ordered to be stoned.

One of the earliest and most authoritative commentators on the Koran, Ibn 'Abbas (died 687) stipulated a two-step execution in which "the sodomite should be thrown from the highest building in the town and then stoned." Later it was decided that if no building were tall enough, the sodomite could be shoved off a cliff.

Subsequent commentators on the Koran denounced homosexuality in what ethnologist Jim Wafer calls "extravagant" terms: "Whenever a male mounts another male, the throne of God trembles; the angels look on in loathing and say, 'Lord, why do you not command the earth to punish them and the heavens to rain stones on them.'"

These early doctrines and practices were codified by the influential Hanbalite school of law, the most conservative school of Islamic jurisprudence, named after the theologian Ahmad ibn Hanbal (780-855).

Ibn Hanbal argued that human reasoning was not a reliable guide to truth and that the Koran and the habitual behavior of

Mohammed, literally understood, offered sufficient guidance for later practice. As a result, Hanbalites uniformly urged execution, usually by stoning.

There were, to be sure, other schools of thought on the subject. The Hanafites, named for Abu Hanifa (699-767), put greater emphasis on individual reasoning and local circumstances. They taught that homosexuality was wrong but did not merit physical punishment because another supposed hadith of Mohammed said Muslim blood should be spilled only for adultery, apostasy or murder.

But some ambiguity remained. For a married man, homosexuality could be interpreted as adultery, so an individual judge might choose to impose a physical penalty anyway.

Other schools of jurisprudence urged public whipping, usually 100 lashes, so that the pain of the sodomite might serve as an exemplary warning to others.

Reports of these punishments being carried out in early times are not abundant. Some historians think this means Islamic culture was more tolerant in practice than



Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks in the U.S., grew up in the state-supported Wahhabi religion, a version of Islam that condones the stoning of gay men.

'Whenever a male mounts another male, the throne of God trembles,' or so argued an early Islamic commentator. The outlook hasn't gotten much better since then, especially in Afghanistan.'

in principle. But more likely most court records have simply not survived, so we have no information.

What may have protected some homosexuals, though, was the insistence by most Islamic jurists that conviction for homosexuality required witnesses, sometimes as many as four. That meant that homosexuality conducted discretely and in private might survive unpunished.

What does all this history have to do with us?

Just this. The strict Hanbalite school of Islamic jurisprudence remains powerful to this day, and is dominant in Saudi Arabia and Syria. The distinguished Islamic scholar Seyyed Hossein Nasr describes the current Hanbalite school as:

"The most strict in its adherence to the Koran and the Sunnah [the original practices] and does not rely as do the other schools of law upon the other principles — such as the consensus of the learned, the welfare of the community, modern scientific knowledge, or individual human reasoning — and, in fact, rejects them."

The official Saudi Arabian state religion is a puritanical branch of Islam called "Wahhabism," named for the fundamentalist religious leader named Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab (1703-92), who urged an anti-modern, "restorationist" or "back to the Koran" puritanism fully consistent with the Hanbalite school.

It is hardly necessary to remind anyone that Osama bin Laden is a Saudi Arabian who grew up in the state-supported fundamentalist Wahhabi religion; or that the Saudi government and royal family have channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to fundamentalist Islamic groups worldwide including, according to hundreds of millions of dollars to promote their particularly homophobic version of Islam among U.S. Muslims.

Paul Varnell is a Chicago-based syndicated writer whose work can be found at the Independent Gay Forum (www.indegayforum.org); he can be reached at Pvarnell@aol.com.

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LETTERS

For Wockner to blame religion for Sept. 11 attacks no better than Falwell, Robertson blaming gays

To the Editor:

I read with disgust the quote by Rex Wockner blaming the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on religion (Quote/Unquote, Oct. 26).

It is simply stupid and as bigotted as the statements by Revs. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, who blamed gays for the same disaster. Many in the gay community have a deep religious faith. It is not religion at fault but rather human nature hiding behind the mask of religion that causes wars.

Does Wockner honestly believe the world would be a better place without religion? Stalin was no religionist, nor was Hitler.

I think Wockner owes those of us with religious faith an apology.

Albert Clerc
Houston

HRC defends new plan to build official headquarters in D.C.

To the Editor:

We are frustrated that the Houston Voice editorial of Nov. 9 ("House poor HRC can't lead"), failed to represent the facts regarding the Human Rights Campaign's plans to build a national headquarters in Washington, D.C. The plans are alive and well, and more exciting than ever.

The editorial asserted, among other things, that the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 had dashed HRC's plans — nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, two days before the editorial ran, HRC concluded negotiations for the purchase of land and an existing building at 1640 Rhode Island Ave. for just this purpose.

The editorial's analysis is flawed. On the one hand, the paper has lauded the underlying fiscal motivation for this step ("anyone paying rent down a black hole appreci-

ates the benefit of owning your own home"), but it does not make a case for how this is suddenly unwise and why this sensible investment in HRC's future is now detrimental.

Our analysis shows this approach will save the institution over \$15 million in a 15-year period, and, under this new scenario of renovating an existing building, it may be more. Owning our own headquarters will strengthen the organization by better positioning HRC to weather hard times and prosper, even in economic downturns.

HRC abandoned an earlier plan in favor of a far more effective approach. As the Zoning Commission records make clear, at all times, development of the lot at 1616 Rhode Island Ave. for HRC's use was an option under consideration.

The editorial completely misinterprets HRC's statements regarding the decision not to proceed with the purchase of the property. Neither the Sept. 12 letter the editorial refers to or an Oct. 10 letter from HRC to the Zoning Commission indicates that a "final decision" had been made. In fact, the Oct. 10 letter clearly states that HRC was "exploring other options including the feasibility of a smaller HRC headquarters building on the site."

All funds in the capital campaign are wholly separate and distinct from HRC's operating budget. Separate and apart from the HRC's operating budget, we have already raised \$15 million from a small group of leadership donors and board members.

Jeff Sachse, president
HRC Capital Campaign



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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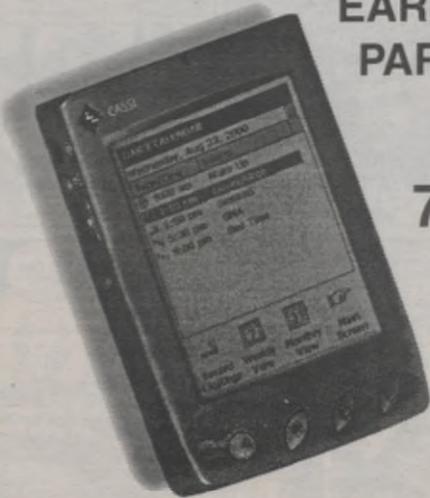
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Brandon Quinton

"It's such a great thing that I'm gay because I could not stand to put up with a crying woman now. I couldn't do it."

—Contestant Brandon Quinton on CBS TV's "Survivor," Nov. 8

"I thought that I was just like everybody else, that I'd grow up and get married and have kids, but that everybody else must have these feelings, too. I thought that other boys must find that guy cute, and that guy hot, and they must all think that way but just date women and then maybe get turned on by them later. This was going on in my head and I believed it, and so all through high school I dated girls."

—"Survivor" winner Richard Hatch to the Idaho gay newspaper Diversity, November issue

"It was difficult getting back into the groove this time around because we have changed in many ways. Five years later, I found that I didn't have the desire to smoke as much, for example. Last time, I was always desperate for a smoke and now I just can't be bothered to smoke. But these characters aren't tired or anything like that. I think that their worse vice now, more than ever, is selfishness. They don't think about anyone but themselves, and I love that!"

—"Absolutely Fabulous" creator/co-star Jennifer Saunders (Edina) to San Diego's Gay & Lesbian Times, Nov. 1

"I think gay people were important to the show's initial success, especially in America. It was a gay cult hit well before the mainstream got on to it. I love that gay men love the show."

—"Absolutely Fabulous" creator/co-star Jennifer Saunders (Edina) to San Diego's Gay & Lesbian Times, Nov. 1

"My gay friends tell me that in a lot of gay relationships, it's OK to bring in a third party, as long as everyone's in agreement. It seems to me that this is a more open sexual thing than in a straight relationship."

—Author Jackie Collins to London's Gay Times, November issue

"I think there is a difference between the English and the American gay scene. In Los Angeles in particular, they are much more into the body beautiful and everyone is oiled, suntanned and worked out to within an inch of their life. In England, it's more of an at-home thing, where the body is not so important, unless it's being shown off in private."

—Author Jackie Collins to London's Gay Times, November issue

"Our basic perspective is that Hollywood is a lost cause when it comes to promoting traditional views of marriage and sexuality."

—American Family Association spokesman Ed Vitagliano, to the Associated Press, Nov. 7

"The narrow view is that a transgender woman looks like a man in a dress, but that's not true. Yes, there are some transgender women who look like men in dresses, but that's just a tiny, tiny part of the whole community."

—Helen Shaver who plays the tranny character on CBS' "The Education of Max Bickford," to the Associated Press, Nov. 7



Phyllis Diller

"There isn't any [after life], you dingbat! Ahhha...Ha...Ha...Ha...Haaah. This is it, baby! Enjoy, carefully! Religion is such a medieval idea. Don't get me started. ... I can't buy any of it. So God made man in His own image? It's just the other way around. ... It's all about money."

—Comedian Phyllis Diller to the AIDS magazine A&U, November issue



Jackie Collins

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November 25 "Overflowing With Thankfulness" Rev. Janet Parker

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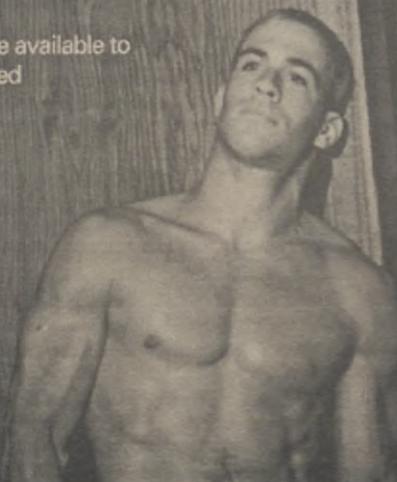


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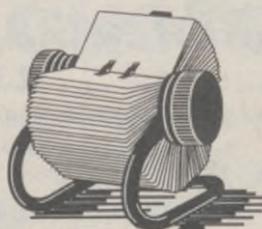
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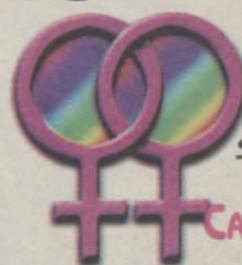
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Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • NOVEMBER 16, 2001

THE CAT'S MEOW

by ELLA TYLER

"I became addicted the first time my child won," laughs Wil Johnson, as he confesses how, 15 years ago, he joined the world of cat shows.

The openly gay Johnson is a bartender at EJ's and a sometime cat breeder. Two of his cats, Elusions Black Pearl and Elusions Enchantress, will be shown at this weekend's Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. International Cat Show at the Brown Convention Center. The highlight of the show will be the naming of the "World's Most Beautiful Cat" on Sunday afternoon.

"This show," Johnson says, "has only pedigreed cats, unlike many shows that have a household pets category."

There will be more than 1,000 cats, representing 40 different breeds, being shown, he says. Each cat entered in this show qualified at one of 11 regional shows held last month.

"When cats get to this show, they compete as equals," Johnson notes. "They don't have any points and previous wins don't matter."

Black Pearl is a part of the Championship Class for adult un-neutered cats. Enchantress is a kitten and competes in the Kitten Class, of course.

Cats that have been neutered compete in a separate class, called Premiership.

Johnson is excited about the event. "This is the best part of the year because people come from all over the world to this show. You don't get to see them any other place," he says.

Black Pearl and Enchantress are Cornish Rex, a breed that attracted Johnson because their unusual coat did not set off his allergies.

"Most cats have three kinds of hairs, but these don't have the coarse guard hairs. They only have the short, fine undercoat," he offers.

The cat's unusual coat attracts attention, and makes getting them ready for a show relatively easy.

"Some breeds can be work, but these are self-maintaining," Johnson says. "You can wash them if you want, or put on some powder so the white stands out, but generally all you need to do is comb them and maybe add some texturizer."

Fifteen years of



Elusions Picture Perfect, also known as 'Baby,' is one of Wil Johnson's pedigreed Cornish Rex cats. Johnson will show two felines in this weekend's International Cat Show in Houston.

Local gay man among those to show felines at this weekend's International Cat Show in Houston



Cat-lover Johnson admits that he lets his cats — including Elusions Great Expectations or 'Handsome' — have free run of his house.

Continued on Page 16 >

appts.

friday, nov. 16

Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) presents the sixth annual Wreath Collection and auction benefitting DIFFA/Houston, one of the largest sources of private funds for HIV/AIDS care in this area. The collection features a number of one-of-a-kind wreaths created by notable talents from the areas of interior and floral design, art, and local celebrities. A cocktail reception, buffet and auction of wreaths is included. 7-10 p.m. Hotel Derek, 2525 West Loop South. 713-840-0555.

saturday, nov. 17

Houston Masterworks Chorus kicks off its 16th season with a musical feast featuring great vocal works sung in Hebrew, English and Latin. "The Promise of Living: A Concert for Peace and Unity" benefits several arts organizations damaged by flooding from Tropical Storm Allison. Works to be performed include those by Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland. Joining the Houston Masterworks Chorus are Grammy Award winner Cynthia Clawson and Houston musical colleagues Joby Bell and Wendy Wentland. 8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 5300 Main St. 713-529-8900.

through sunday, nov. 18

Circus Chimera brings its big top to Houston from Friday, Nov. 16, through Sunday, Nov. 18. Entertainment includes aerial contortion, juggling, tumbling, flying trapeze, theater and more. 1402 Spencer Highway, adjacent to Storage USA and Fiesta Mart in South Houston. 1-888-ONE-RING.



A number of pieces will be available at the White Oak Artists Collective sixth annual Firehouse Art Show this weekend.

Several artists will present displays at the sixth annual Firehouse Art Show from Nov. 16-18, hosted by White Oak Artists Collective. Master potter Vorakit Chinookoswong of Seabrook will be on hand with examples of his porcelain vessels and stoneware pieces. Painters, photographers, jewelers and mixed media artists will join the show. Admission is free. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

Firehouse Community Center, Houston Heights, 12th and Yale streets. 713-869-0441.

ongoing

National Leather Association: Houston is kicking off its annual toy drive to bring holiday joy to children affected by HIV/AIDS. The NLA:H partners with AIDS Foundation Houston and the Red Ribbon Toy Drive to collect toys and distribute them at sites including the Texas Children's Hospital, Thomas Street Clinic and UT Health Science. Monies collected during the toy drive help send HIV-positive children to Camp Hope, an AIDS Foundation Houston program that includes a week-long camping getaway for youth ages 7-17. Contact: Dennis R. Watson, NLA:H toy drive co-chair, 713-741-2273, ext. 1873; or C. Brian Keefer, NLA:H toy drive co-chair, 713-520-5126. www.nlah.org

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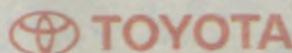
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Show lasts through Sunday

Continued from Page 15 >

competition have made Johnson a relaxed competitor.

"The cat has to enjoy it. Some cats don't like going to shows and you might as well take them home," he says. "Some cats love shows, but others are scared and cower in their cage."

Johnson says he has traveled all over the country showing cats.

"It's a lot of fun and very social. I meet people from all over the world; people who I would never meet otherwise," he relates. "Everyone enjoys showing cats and our cats are like our children and have lots to talk about."

He used to go to as many as 10 shows a year, but heart surgery slowed him down. "I go to maybe one show a year, but Cynthia Rigoni, who is my vet and best friend, also shows my cats," he says.

Johnson also breeds Cornish Rex, but produces just a few kittens each year. He has eight cats, including a 17-year-old.

"Lots of people in Montrose have one of my cats," he says.

He treats his cats like more than just pets, and admits the cats have the run of the house. "They run me; they're my children," he says cheerfully.

The fact that he is a gay man doesn't necessarily dictate his love for felines, according to Johnson. He doesn't think that gay men are any more likely to have cats as pets than any

other group of people. "All the men I know have dogs. I don't know why, but they do," he says. People who own his cats seem to be equally likely to be men or women, he notes.

In addition to the cat exhibition and judging, the weekend feline show features a judging school, exhibits and information about various cat breeds, performances by the Friskies performing cats and the opportunity to meet a live cougar.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Winn Feline Foundation, which studies feline health, and the Houston SPCA, the Houston Humane Society, Citizens for Animal Protection and the Spray-Neuter Assistance program.

The "World's Most Beautiful Cat" award will be handed out Sunday at 3 p.m.

CFA International Cat Show

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9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

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THEATER CALENDAR

by PENNY WEAVER

"She Loves Me"

The Country Playhouse presents a holiday musical with "She Loves Me," a love story based on the classic film "Little Shop Around the Corner." This unconventional love story is set in a European "parfumerie" in the 1930s and tells the tale of two co-workers who each fall in love by correspondence — without knowing that it is to each other. The recent film, "You've Got Mail," is loosely based on the same story. Director is Christopher Ayres, and Claudia Dyle is musical director. The show opens at 8 p.m. today and runs weekends through Dec. 15, with two Sunday matinees, Dec. 2 and 9, at 2 p.m.

"She Loves Me"

Nov. 16-Dec. 15

Tickets: \$19 or \$17 for seniors/students

The Country Playhouse

12802 Queensbury

713-467-4497

Mezza-soprano Denyce Graves

Known across the globe as one of today's premiere vocal stars, mezza-soprano Denyce Graves will appear at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House this Sunday in a performance sponsored in part by Diane and Marion Duzich, The Trube Foundation and The Galveston Musical Club. USA Today calls Graves "one of the singers most likely to be an operatic superstar in the 21st century." She has performed throughout the world since her debut at the Metropolitan Opera during its 1995-96 season. She probably is best known for her title roles in "Carmen" and "Samson et Dalila." She has partnered with Placido Domingo in both performances. Special discounts are offered for group and senior citizen tickets.

Mezza-soprano Denyce Graves

3 p.m. Nov. 18

Tickets: \$16.50 to \$55

The Grand 1894 Opera House

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409-765-1894

www.thegrand.com

"The Nutcracker"

Houston Ballet presents Ben Stevenson's holiday production of "The Nutcracker" in both 2 and 7:30 p.m. performances on various days from Nov. 23 through Dec. 30. The opening night cast features Lauren Anderson as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Zdenek Konvalina as the Nutcracker Prince and Sara Webb as the Snow Queen. For more than 100 years, the story of this ballet has proven irresistible to both children and adults. A little girl named Clara receives a magical nutcracker on Christmas Eve and sets off on a wondrous journey to the Land of Snow and Kingdom of Sweets. Houston Ballet's production includes a Christmas tree that grows to a towering 40 feet and a winter snow scene complete with falling snowflakes. The production will include 10 separate casts throughout its run, and includes the debuts of five Houston Ballet dancers. Artistic Director is Ben Stevenson, designs are by Desmond Heeley and lighting is by Duane Schuler.

"The Nutcracker"

Nov. 23-Dec. 30

Tickets: \$11.50 to \$76.50

Houston Ballet

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www.houstonballet.org

"Buddy...The Buddy Holly Story"

In three concerts over Thanksgiving weekend, Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House presents "Buddy...The Buddy Holly Story." The musical celebrates the life and legacy of the singer/songwriter who changed popular music forever. Favorite songs such as "Peggy Sue" and "That'll Be the Day" add to the performance.

"Buddy...The Buddy Holly Story"

8 p.m. Nov. 23, 3 and 8 p.m. Nov. 24

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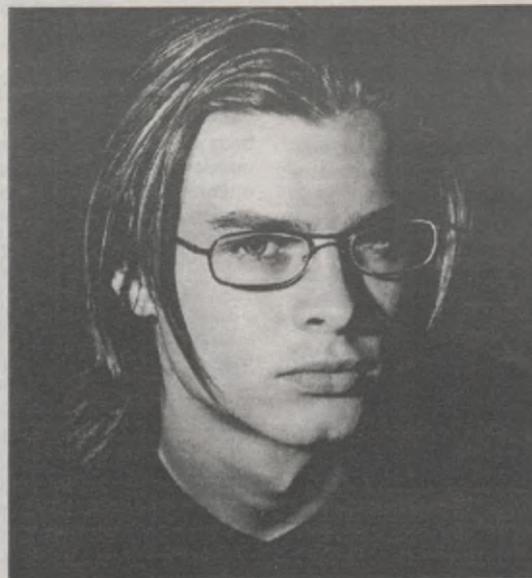
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homefront

Tropicals offer winter beauty

As annual Cow Parade cows retire to pasture, a tour of the city offers colorful indoor, outdoor foliage

by ELLA TYLER

The Cow Parade cows are now on their way to the last round up, but they were fun while they lasted. In the course of checking out the cows, I visited several places that I don't visit often. I saw some very pretty public spaces and got new ideas for big and small gardens.

Sam Houston Park, downtown at Lamar and Bagby, has some unusual plants in the gardens around its houses. It is worth a visit for a leisurely stroll or for inspiration if you are trying to landscape an old house. I found a pretty little park on the other side of downtown, at Austin and Lamar, that I hadn't seen before.

My quest for cows took me to the Galleria. I rarely go there, but the stores were closed, and except for the contractors remodeling, the place was empty. Its interiorscapes is scattered pots planted with ferns and orchids. They make a striking display. In this kind of display, each plant usually has its own pot. The pots can be changed out when the flowers fade. Each plant can have the kind of soil it likes but the plants should have similar requirements for heat, light and humidity. In this case, both ferns and orchids like humidity.

Seeing these pots reminded me of the first time I saw bromeliads. It is also the first time I remember seeing plants in a commercial interior, except for the philodendron at the dentist's office. It was when I was a teenager, and they were at Neiman's, when it was still downtown. There was a planter of them at the top of the escalator. They had a silvery-green leaf and pink bract with tiny blue flowers.

Bromeliads and orchids are worth using more often both inside and outside. Since many of the varieties derive nourishment from the air or have cups that hold water, they need less space for roots and can be planted in relatively small containers. Some can be even be wired to a board. They have

long lasting flowers or bracts that are eye-catching.

I continued onward to Uptown Park, which I hadn't visited before. Its outdoor planters have interesting and imaginative plant combinations. I saw one with loropetalum and caladium, and the spots on the caladium were the same color burgundy as the new growth on the loropetalum. It is also called Chinese witch hazel or fringe flower, and blooms in the winter and early spring.

One planter has druanta, which gets one of its common names, sky flower, from its blue flowers, and its other, golden dew-drop, from its small fruits. One pot included Jewels of Omar, which is rarely seen. Its botanical name is talinum paniculatum. It has spikes with lots of tiny bright red and yellow flowers in late summer.

Some of these plants are tropical, but they might survive the winter outdoors. They are on concrete walks, which retain heat, and are sheltered. Many tropicals, however, begin to lose leaves when temperatures fall below 40. Chinese evergreens and peace lilies are notorious examples.

Speaking of tropicals, many people have bananas now. The fruit stalk can be cut from the tree when the edges of the bananas begin to get rounded. The stalk can be hung in a cool place and hands can be brought inside to ripen. A friend gave me some, and though they don't taste quite like Chiquita, I found them to be edible. They are sweeter and have a slight citrus undercurrent. If you have them, put some chunks out for the birds. Drag out a Cuban cookbook and fry them like plantains or make banana bread.

One of the things that occurred to me on this mission was that I could have more fun with my garden. I don't think I'm ready for a painted cow, but my pots and birdbaths and patio furniture are all very tasteful and classic. My roses are colorful, but only in one area of the garden. Rainbow Moosaic, at Sam Houston Park, reminded me of the mirrored Mexican flowerpots that were all over the place a few years ago. I wanted one, but couldn't find one that wasn't too gaudy. I've decided to make my own. And it might not be white. I might even plant a hot pink hibiscus by the front door.

But, if you're ready for a cow, 60 of them will be auctioned off at Wortham Center on Dec. 6. You can get all the details from www.cowparadehouston.com.

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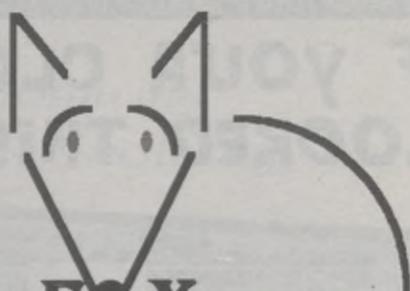
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Local gay artist Kermit Eisenhut decorated this and several other bovine for the Houston Cow Parade, which is about to reach its end for this year.

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eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Dining at Zana a real treat

Despite one pretentious waiter, restaurant shines with creative foods, unique atmosphere

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Are we Houstonians really that provincial when it comes to global cuisine? Or did our waiter at Zana (the downtown Mediterranean Café owned by the talented and savvy folks of Mi Luna and Mia Bella) just have a bit of an inferiority complex?

Soon after seating us at one of the cozy yet sleek black vinyl booths, he brought us the starter of sliced pita and charmoula, a spicy tomato sauce. "You know how you guys eat tortilla chips and salsa? Well," he coached, "this is what we eat instead in Morocco. This is pita bread." Well, thanks for clueing us in. Our amusement, however, would have been sweeter if this exotic and obscure invention was actually fresh. Unfortunately, the chilly, thin triangles were chewy and decidedly stale. The sauce, however, redeemed our friend quite a bit. The deep tomato flavor and smoky, garlicky seasonings made it easy to disguise the texture of the bread.

The waiter's overbearing and pretentious manner continued this way throughout the evening, as he reminded us more than once that he was the artist behind the minimalist, industrial-looking creations on the walls, and questioned us as to various items on the menu, to "test" our knowledge. There's a fine line, we learned, between the entertaining and downright irritating.

Thankfully, Zana offers some sumptuously good food to counteract its seemingly needy staff. The charmoula sauce makes another fortuitous appearance with the Fried Calamari (\$5.95), which features lightly battered meaty rings of squid. The Steamed Mussels (\$6.95) in a zesty tomato, cilantro and roasted jalapeno cream sauce is a welcome south-of-the-border addition to the menu. The Moroccan Blackened Tuna (\$8.95), on its bed of leafy sautéed spinach sauce and drizzled with harissa sauce, is not to be missed.

Although one expects lamb and couscous, feta and olives to make star appearances on the menu, the crepes caught our attention immediately. The Veggie Crepe (\$8.95) features sautéed spinach, mushrooms, roasted red peppers, zucchini and cheese stuffed into a thin crepe. Although the veggies were tender and fresh, the real flavor comes from the generous heaping of basil cream sauce, which lends a rich and piquant kick to the otherwise somewhat bland dish. Perhaps it was just an oversight, but we found it odd that the cheese wasn't listed as one of the ingredients.

The Chicken Zana (\$11.95) is topped with a festive confetti of sundried toma-

FOOD FILE



Zana Mediterranean Café
401 Louisiana
222-1822

Food: |●|●|●|●|●|●|

Service: |●|●|

Value: |●|●|●|●|●|●|

Scene: |●|●|●|●|●|

●| Opt for bread, water at home

●|●| OK, if you really must

●|●|●| Fine for most

●|●|●|●| Worth the drive, so live a little

●|●|●|●|●| As good as it gets

toes, artichoke hearts and goat cheese, and the white wine sauce deliciously enhances this mingling of flavors. The chicken itself was tender and moist, and the side of couscous was light and unburdened by heavy spices or drowning sauces. The side of vegetables is a healthy and pleasingly ungreasy medley.

The Grilled Eggplant with Goat Cheese (\$8.95) features eggplant that manages to be beautifully grilled while still maintaining its succulence. The layering of mozzarella, parmesan and goat cheese overwhelm the dish a bit, but the resulting taste is rich, smoky, and decadent.

For those interested in something a little more spare, try the Whole Wheat Fettuccine (\$12.95), with mushrooms, peas, spinach, roasted peppers and an exquisite wild mushroom pesto sauce. The Grilled Lamb Chop (\$14.95) with its tapanade of sundried tomatoes and braised leeks features a gorgeous saffron rice and pinot noir sauce.

Salads also illustrate the creative and tasteful touch of many of Zana's dishes. Try the Roasted Eggplant Salad (\$6.95) and Rosemary Chicken Salad (\$7.95), where toasty walnuts and juicy tomatoes soak up a delicate pommery mustard vinaigrette. The lunch menu doesn't scale back in terms of quality, but features more on-the-go items such as wraps, burgers and an endless array of sandwiches.

Located one block from the heart of the Theater District, Zana is a welcome, casual alternative to many of the cavernous and loud new restaurants in the area. Other than an obnoxious waiter or two, Zana's staff is efficient and friendly, and allows the food to speak for itself.

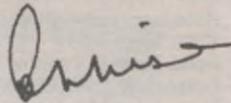


Houston City Council Member
ANNISE PARKER

Thank you to all my loyal supporters and friends. You have stood by me throughout my career in politics, and your votes, volunteer time and money are the reasons we won this election.

The outcome was closer than I was comfortable with, in large part because of my active and public involvement in the **No on City Prop 2** campaign. I am proud of that effort, and would do it again without hesitation.

Although this was my last campaign for Houston City Council, it is certainly not my last election. I look forward to calling on you for support in 2 years.

Thank you! 

THANK YOU.



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The Issues

Non-discrimination Ordinance

Mayor Lee Brown



SUPPORTS

Orlando Sanchez



~~**OPPOSES**~~

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SUPPORTS

~~**OPPOSES**~~

Metro Rail

SUPPORTS

~~**OPPOSES**~~

One City. One Future.
Lee Brown



The Choice is Clear!



Pol. adv. pd. for by Lee Brown Campaign, PO Box 540143, Houston, TX 77254

community calendar

saturday, nov 17

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston volunteer appreciation reception, 1-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Asians & Friends Houston. Dining with friends at West Gray Cafe Express. www.AsiansAndFriendsHouston.com. 713-626-6300.

Houston H Friends. Support group for people with HSV or HPV (herpes or genital warts). Meeting. www.HoustonHFriends.org. 713-595-2100, ext. 3821 (24-hour voice mail system). Confidential and anonymous.

sunday, nov 18

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 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.

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.

The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

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

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

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in 2-5 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Progressive Dinner. Three locations for coordinated potluck. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org. 713-797-8615.

PFLAG-Galveston. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

monday, nov 19

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom: 713-726-8736.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.

HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

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

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Integrity/Houston. Guest speaker Rev. Elizabeth Carl. 6:30 p.m., Aury House. 713-622-2255.

tuesday, nov 20

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

HTGA. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Noon, Thanksgiving dinner potluck. • Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, nov 21

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Blessed Sacrament Church. Workshop Series for Christian Faith and Ecumenical Old Catholicism. 713-476-9776.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9

a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

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.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

thursday, nov 22

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

Free HIV Testing. By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.

Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Spanish Charla Conversation Group. 7 p.m., Empire Cafe. Email charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, nov 23

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie night, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Lesbian & Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Q-Patrol. Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Trip to AutoRama. Classic Chassis Car Club travels to world's largest indoor car show. Meet at The 59 Diner, 3801 Farnham, 10:30 a.m. brunch/gathering.

www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org. 713-797-8615.

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

Holiday Health Fest - Health Fair

Sponsored by



Lesbian Health Initiative



& Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

WHEN: Saturday, December 1, 2001
TIME: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
WHERE: 2025 W. 11th Street (RMCC Gym)
WHAT:

- * Free Mammograms
- * Health Screening
- * Speakers on Health Issues
- * Vendors
- * Live Music and Dancing



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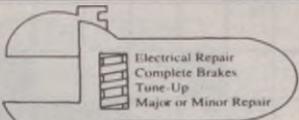
- * Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Project #9816
- * Bunnies on the Bayou
- * Hollyfield Foundation
- * Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc.
- * Magnolia Ball Christmas Party
- * Uncommon Legacy
- * Individual Donations



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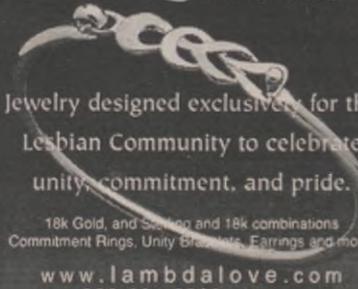


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houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

OCCASIONS

Fabulous wordsmith and Editor Matt Hennie celebrates his birthday on Nov 17.

Tony T. & Ted P. celebrate birthdays with a little left over turkey on Nov 23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUTCH-FEM

Starting Butch-Fem group for Lesbians • If interested call 713-917-8987 Press 4 to leave a message for us.

EMPLOYMENT

INSURANCE OFFICE

Insurance agency needs part-time customer service assistant • Must be proficient with Microsoft Word • Responsibilities include correspondence, filing, and general clerical duties • Good job for college student • We are looking for strong written and verbal communications plus a stable background and good references • Please call Rob @ 713-661-7700 or www.schmerleragency.com

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seeks a highly organized individual with excellent telephone, writing and computer skills to fill position of Support Staff secretary/receptionist • Must be fluent in English/Spanish • Requirements: Knowledge in Microsoft Office and typing 45wpm • Starting salary \$1900 per month • View job description at www.rwpc.org • Apply at 1310 Prairie, Suite 240 • Reference #7982-C

COUNTER HELP

DELI

Gay owner and operated deli in the Heights seeks counter help. Call Doug @ 713-864-3354

STEVEN'S HOUSE

Seeking cook • Responsible for preparation of nutritional meals for program participants • Meal planning • Prepare grocery list • Clean kitchen and utensils after use • Call Taylor @ 713-522-5757

SOUTH BEACH JR'S MINE 800 PACIFIC AVE

Taking applications for all positions • High Volume • Gay night club • Group health insurance offered • Apply in person Wednesday thru Friday • 1 to 4 pm. Recent photo is required.

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Offering free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness, training, resume development, and job searching assistance. For more info call 713-981-1543

PWA COALITION PART-TIME

Warehouse Assistant • Clean driving record required • Fax resume to 713-522-2674

MONTROSE

House help wanted • Yard • House • Pool • Maintenance work • 713-529-5993

STEVEN'S HOUSE

Seeking caregiver for HIV+ adults • Part-time overnight and weekend staff • Minimum requirements include high school diploma and at least 3 years prior work experience in caregiving • Light duties include cooking, cleaning, administration of medications and crisis intervention • Call Taylor @ 713-522-5757

Resurrection MCC is seeking a maintenance specialist/caretaker • Individual will clean and maintain interior and exterior of church properties • Qualification: High School diploma/equivalent • Salary & benefits • Send cover letter with resume to: Resurrection MCC • 2025 West 11th Street • Houston, Texas 77008 • Attn: Maintenance/Caretaker

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

New to area Gay barber seeks man's styles barber job in gay friendly shop • 14 years experience • 713-957-1078

FOR SALE/RENT

MONTROSE COTTAGES

1/1 Garden Cottage • \$300 and up • Reserved for People Living with AIDS • 90 day MAX • Phone, furnished, AC • Maid paid • No deposit • Sliding scale fee • No drugs or Alcohol on property • AIDS Housing Coalition AHCH • 713-521-1613.

Garage Apartment • Eastwood • Near U of H & bus line • One person • No pets • \$325 deposit & utilities • Call Michael 713-928-2473

OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable tv, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access • Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale • 713-520-0206

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FREE yoga classes every Friday @6:30 p.m. • 3115 West Loop South #21 • No restrictions • No reservations needed • 713-439-0455

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"MEN IN SHORTS"

ACROSS

- 1 Porn star Stryker
- 5 Place for oral gratification
- 9 Strip for porking?
- 14 Largest continent
- 15 "The Spell" author Hollinghurst
- 16 Filmmaker James
- 17 Argument in favor of male gay sex?
- 20 Poet Griffin
- 21 "No" to Dietrich
- 22 Keanu's "Matrix" cyber-ID
- 23 It can be pulled
- 25 Noisy hammer target
- 27 Have a one-nighter?
- 32 Hardtop, maybe
- 36 Sexual preference determiner, some say
- 37 Motorists' org.
- 38 Boat basin
- 39 Shakespeare title starter
- 41 With 64 Across, premature ejaculation?
- 43 Slumps
- 44 Minuses on the ledger
- 46 ___ & Jerry's
- 47 Wishy-washy Mapplethorpe supporter (abbr.)
- 48 Former gay mag "Men's ___"
- 49 Result of aggressive sex?
- 52 "Hilarity" Clinton
- 54 Cold porter
- 55 "___ Pleasures" (Pansy Division song)
- 57 Porn film "___ Riders"
- 60 "...9" cut, smooth"
- 64 See 41 Across
- 67 Composer Copland
- 68 Fremont's gay and lesbian center, with "The"
- 69 ___ St. Vincent Millay
- 70 Piece played by Liberace, perhaps
- 71 The Red and the Dead
- 72 Grating sound

- 2 Jacob's hairy brother
- 3 Missile stabilizers
- 4 Description for a butch's dead girlfriend?
- 5 Result of beaver nibbling
- 6 Enthusiasm
- 7 Nathan of "The Birdcage"
- 8 The-Girls link
- 9 Part of an AOL chat room's name
- 10 Direct-action lesbian group
- 11 Costume prop from Madonna tour
- 12 Approximately
- 13 TV's "Science Guy"
- 18 Prime draft classification
- 19 Ambient music pioneer
- 24 Flying pests
- 26 Govt. intelligence org.
- 27 Larry Kramer and George Bush, to Yale
- 28 Tongue of water
- 29 GLAMA Award winner Elaine
- 30 Long, in Morse code
- 31 Greta of "Ninotchka"
- 33 Princess and icon to many gays
- 34 Melissa Etheridge's "Talking to My ___"
- 35 Like Fran Drescher's voice
- 38 Brainy bunch
- 40 Movie in which Cher played a lesbian
- 42 Want ad abbr.
- 45 Room opening?
- 49 Whitman's "___ of Grass"
- 50 Poet Gidlow
- 51 ___ half (partner)
- 53 "Bill and ___'s Homosexual Adventure"
- 55 Like Seinfeld, though he's straight
- 56 Stocking shade
- 58 Verel's "The Dark ___ of Venus"
- 59 Madonna's discipline in "The Next Best Thing"
- 61 Heroine of Verdi or John
- 62 Quite a bit
- 63 "Thumbs up" on "Men on Films"
- 64 Kind of enc.
- 65 U-turn from SSW
- 66 Cukor's "___ Girls"

DOWN

- 1 Fruit preserves

Answers on Page 27

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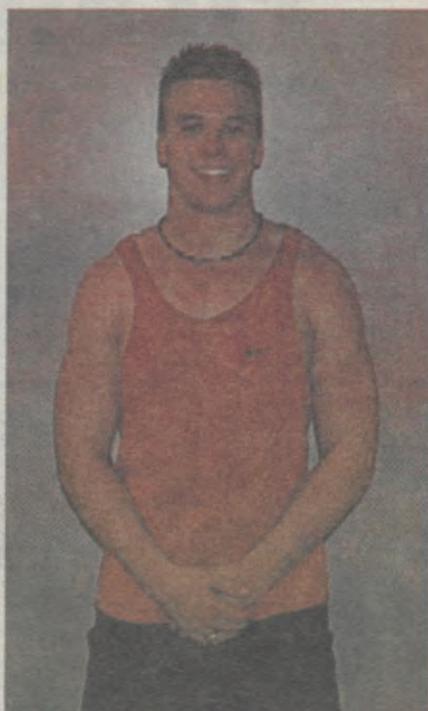


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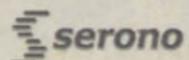
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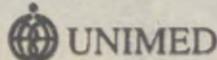


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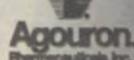


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