



### INSIDE



Ex-Houstonian organizes Santa Fe Women's Weekend May 25-28 in New Mexico, which features lesbian icon Janis Ian.

Page 2



Shell Oil, through its Support Equality and Awareness group, recently donated \$3,000 each to AssistHers and the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Teen Homosexuals.

Page 2



'Eating Crow,' and 'Dinner With Friends' leaves a bad taste, but 'Raised in Captivity' (above) locks in a great performance.

Page 15

## Task Force leader quits after less than one year

Grassroots group now must pick new leader to lobby in a capital run by Republicans

by ERIC ERICKSON

WASHINGTON—After less than one year at the helm of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Elizabeth Toledo announced she will not renew her contract as the organization's executive director.

Toledo said her resignation, effective May 18, is for personal reasons, but her tenure has been controversial since her selection, only a short time after the former NOW vice president divorced her husband and came out as a lesbian.

As the NGLTF begins its search for a new leader, the traditionally liberal grassroots group must decide whether to make a more moderate choice to lobby a federal government now completely in the hands of Republicans for the first time in half a century.

> Continued on Page 12



Elizabeth Toledo (left) is leaving the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force after less than one year at the helm, while Elizabeth Birch, Human Rights Campaign's executive director, renewed her contract despite a history of very public support for the unsuccessful presidential campaign of Democrat Al Gore.

## House approves hate crimes bill



Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, right, speaks in the Texas House of Representatives on Monday in Austin, as he presents a motion to table a bill offered by Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, left. The motion failed, and the House later approved her bill, the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act. In background from left to right: Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, who carries the bill in the Senate; Rep. Yvonne Davis, D-Dallas; House Speaker Pete Laney and Sharon Carter, House Parliamentarian.

James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act now faces tougher fight for a vote in the Senate

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Legislation that strengthens penalties for crimes motivated by sexual orientation, race, religion, color, disability, national origin or ancestry drew one step closer to becoming law Tuesday, gaining approval from the Texas House.

The State House of Representatives on Tuesday gave final approval to the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, sponsored by Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston.

The measure was approved on third reading by a voice vote with no discussion. The House gave HB 587 preliminary approval 87-60 on Monday after a two-hour debate during which Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa tried to stop the vote and others tried to alter the bill.

"Today is a proud day for the Texas House," Rep. Thompson said on Tuesday. "Once again we have declared that Texas will not tolerate hateful acts

> Continued on Page 12

INSIDE

NEWS

Health news .....11  
 National news .....5  
 Police news .....6  
 Southern news .....7  
 Quote/unquote .....20

VOICES & ECHOES

Alvear: Living down the stereotype .....8  
 Arenschioldt: Respecting our elders .....9  
 'Ethan Green' .....9

OUT ON THE BAYOU

Gay Film Fest Preview .....15  
 'Eating Crow,' 'Dinner,' et al .....15  
 Eating Out at Fire and Ice .....18  
 Bayou Calendar .....17  
 Community Calendar .....22-23  
 Occasions .....26  
 My Stars! .....27

CLASSIFIEDS .....24-25

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Houston Voice  
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 713-529-8490

# Shell Oil donates to gay groups

## AssistHers, HATCH receive \$3,000 each from corporation's gay network

by ELLA TYLER

Shell Oil recently made grants of \$3,000 each to AssistHers, Inc. and the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. Shell employee Laurie A. Bane, who delivered the checks to AssistHers and HATCH, said that members of SEAShell, Support Equality and Awareness at Shell, the GLBT network within Shell, nominated these groups for funding.

"This is a pleasant surprise," Kevin Davidson, who accepted the check on behalf of HATCH, said. "This is not a grant that a group can apply for, a SEAShell member had to nominate us."

Davidson said Bain nominated HATCH "We really appreciate Laurie Bane for nominating us and doing all the work. All we had to do was send a few papers," Davidson said.

"This is a nationwide thing," Davidson said, "so we were competing against groups from all over the country. We appreciate the national attention."



Shell Oil recently contributed \$3,000 each to AssistHers and the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. Tori Williams (far left) and Janet Langham of AssistHers accepted the check from Laurie Bane of Shell, while Kevin Davidson accepted the donation on behalf of HATCH.

Bain said that it is not an accident that Houston groups received the majority of the grants.

"Shell's largest locations in the U.S. are in Houston and New Orleans and the membership of the Employee Networks reflect this, as well as the organizations that were chosen," she said.

Grants also were made to Houston Lesbian and Gay Parents and to the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New

Orleans, Bain said.

"We are really pleased with this gift," Janet Langham, president of AssistHers said. "We appreciate the money, but it also means a lot that we were nominated for it by people who know our work. Besides, it is very validating that this big corporation recognizes our little organization."

AssistHers is a 5-year-old volunteer group that helps lesbians with long-term,

> Continued on Page 13

## Ex-Houstonian launches women's weekend in S.F

WILD WOMEN PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

THE SANTA FE WOMEN'S WEEKEND  
 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND  
 MAY 25-28, 2001

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 Rio Grande RAVEL  
 MEMBER OF IGLTA  
 Girlfriends  
 ENTERTAINMENT IS PARAMOUNT  
 www.wildwomenproductions.com

### Lesbian event set for Memorial weekend in New Mexico

by MARIA MINICUCCI

Summer in the Southwest is approaching and promises steamy days and sultry nights. Wild Women Productions, based in Santa Fe, N.M. is promising lesbians an entire weekend of steamy, sultry, sexy adventures.

Angela Martin, a founding member of Wild Women Productions and a former resident of Houston was in town recently spreading the news about the upcoming, Santa Fe Women's Weekend, which will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-28, in Santa Fe, N.M.

Martin describes the event as "a Dinah Shore circuit party without the golf." How did the Women's Weekend become a reality? Martin said when she relocated to New Mexico 11 years ago, she started to go to the Paramount Bar in Santa Fe. Once a month, this gay bar was turned into the "Lava Lips Lounge" and was a "women only space" for that evening.

The concept became so popular that Martin claims, "300 to 500 women from all over the Southwest have been coming to this for years." For Martin, she experienced the circle she found herself in as "a hotbed of outrageous women and creativity."

Linda Krause, the owner of the

Paramount Bar, along with Martin and a couple of other interested women, decided to take advantage of the interest and excitement women had over these monthly parties and created, Wild Women Productions. The Santa Fe Women's Weekend is the debut adventure and take off from the Lava Lips Lounge concept.

Events lined up over the three-day weekend include private pool parties by day and dance parties in the evening with celebrity DJs spinning tunes and an ambiance of "hot, hot, hot," Martin said.

Literary and film salons also will be offered. Clare McNab, a lesbian mystery writer will be among the guest authors. The "wild women" who produce On Our Backs magazine are venturing into the video arena of eroticism and will be there to exhibit the most current lesbian erotic visuals.

The "One Rail Circus," an all-women's traveling circus will thrill and titillate all-female audience with an exhibition of erotic acrobatics. Continuing along the lines of sensual sensibilities will be a reception at the Georgia O'Keefe Gallery in Santa Fe.

Karen Williams, a well-known and well-received comedienne will entertain on Saturday evening and on Sunday evening, the headliner act will be Janis Ian.

"We are hoping to portray a little bit of this, a little bit of that, but it is all about our world as lesbians." She adds that the response to this event will be a gauge for

> Continued on Page 13





## VIRACEPT®

(nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

### Information for Patients

about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) 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.

#### 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 is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Efavir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (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.

#### Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)  
Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)  
Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)  
Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as  
Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex, 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®)  
Zerit® (stavudine, d4T)  
Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

**If you are taking both Videx (ddl) 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 Virmune® (nevirapine) The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Virmune.

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)

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.

Norvir® (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT 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		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
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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## around the nation

### 'Secret' relationships can limit future visitation rights, NJ court says

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey state appeals court has found that keeping a gay relationship secret can limit visitation or custody rights involving children if the relationship breaks up. In a case involving two lesbians, the court turned down one of the women's request for visitation rights with her former partner's 7-year-old adopted daughter. The court said the woman, identified in court papers only as "A.F.," isn't entitled to a hearing to determine if she is considered the child's "psychological parent" because there is no evidence the couple ever presented themselves as a family in public. The ruling came a year after a New Jersey Supreme Court decision that granted lesbian partners visitation rights with the children of a former partner. A.F.'s attorney Bettina Munson said her client hadn't decided whether to appeal. "She feels she lost a child," Munson said.

### NE high court says sheriff negligent in not protecting Brandon Teena

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Nebraska's Supreme Court ruled April 20 that a former sheriff was negligent for not protecting Brandon Teena, the female-to-male trans murder victim whose story was dramatized in the award-winning movie "Boys Don't Cry." In a scathing opinion, Chief Justice John Hendry ordered that the Teena's mother be awarded \$80,000, plus damages for emotional distress. The decision reversed a ruling by a lower-court judge who said Teena was partly responsible for his own death, and had awarded less than \$18,000. In 1993, Teena reported being raped by two friends after they learned she was a biological female who lived as a male. About a week later, the two men killed Teena and two others who witnessed the slaying. Teena's mother, Joann Brandon, sued Sheriff Charles Laux and the county for more than \$350,000, and said Laux should have offered Teena protective custody. The high court said the sheriff was more concerned with Teena's gender identity than safety. "Nothing will bring Teena back, but I will sleep better knowing that we have found some justice for her," Joann Brandon said.

### Gay composer awarded Pulitzer; GOP criticizes recipient in VT

MONTPELIER, Vt.—The chair of Vermont's Republican Party apologized April 18 for criticizing the Pulitzer Prize awarded to the *Rutland Herald* for its editorials supporting that state's civil unions law. Republican Party Chair Patrick Garahan suggested on a radio program that editorial page editor David Moats didn't deserve the award because the newspaper is biased against Republicans. "It's just kind of disappointing... that somebody who we think is just an unfair critic is just given this prestigious award," he said. Garahan later said he was surprised to learn that his views had become a news item. Other Pulitzer Prizes went to openly gay composer John Corigliano for his "Symphony No. 2 for String Orchestra," and to writer Michael Chabon for his novel, "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay," about comic book writers in the 1940s, one of whom is gay, according to the *Washington Blade*. "It's like going into a roller coaster—it's invigorating and terrific," Corigliano said of receiving the Pulitzer.



Openly gay composer John Corigliano received a Pulitzer Prize last week for his 'Symphony No. 2 for String Orchestra,' one of three of the awards given to gays or for gay content.

### Historic San Fran vote on trans benefits for city workers put on hold

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A vote that could have made San Francisco the only city in the nation to pay for employees' sex changes was postponed Monday after one supervisor disapproved of adding such health coverage. The measure needed nine Board of Supervisor votes, which was impossible with two of the 11 supervisors absent and Supervisor Tony Hall speaking against it. The issue will be taken up again next week. "If you're asking the asking Health Service System to provide these sex-change procedures for those suffering from gender dysphoria, then what about those people who suffer from personal appearance dysphoria?" said Hall, who views the sex-change surgery as elective and said it would cost city workers and retired employees an extra \$1.70 a month they may not want to pay. Supervisor Mark Leno argued the insurance would not cover elective surgery or cosmetic procedures and would kick in only after a doctor deems it medically necessary.

### Philly paper publishes column on gay slaying that never took place

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A gay freelance columnist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, along with the newspaper, has apologized for complaining about the lack of publicity for the murder of a gay man that turned out to be a crime that never happened. In the April 14 column, Thom Nickels wrote about a murder that occurred "about three weeks ago in Washington Square, just before 8 a.m.," and described two gay men being confronted by two robbers, one of whom "plunged the knife into one of the robbed." "The lack of news coverage meant "it was days later before the man's many friends in Philadelphia began to learn and be shocked by his death." The freelance writer, who has written several short novels with gay protagonists, said he was tricked by a screenwriter friend. Editorial page editor Chris Satullo

described the situation as "a very bad breakdown in our editing process." The *Inquirer* ran a correction on April 18 and fired Nickels.

—From staff and wire reports



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# police beat

## District Attorney won't fight venue change in dog attack trial

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Although it hasn't yet been requested, District Attorney Terence Hallinan said Wednesday that he won't oppose any attempt to move the trial of Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel in the dog mauling death of Diane Whipple. "We don't intend to fight a change of venue," he said. "We want a speedy trial." The two lawyers charged in the dog mauling death of their neighbor had their arraignment postponed for a third time Wednesday while they continued to seek legal counsel, a tactic that riled prosecutors. Knoller and Noel appeared before Judge Herbert Donaldson, who continued their arraignment until May 9. Hallinan bristled at another delay in prosecuting the couple in the high-profile case. Knoller faces a second-degree murder charge in the Jan. 26 death of Diane Whipple. The couple was caring for the two Presa Canario-mastiffs when the dogs—a 120-pound male named Bane and a 113-pound female named Hera—fatally mauled Whipple, 33, a lacrosse coach. Knoller and Noel both face charges of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous dog that killed a human being. Knoller and Noel never turned to face Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, who was seated in the front row. Smith and Whipple's mother, Penny Whipple-Kelly of Fairfield County, Conn., have filed wrongful death suits against the couple.



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

A San Francisco District Attorney said he won't fight a change of venue in the high-profile trial of Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel in the dog mauling death of Diane Whipple (above). Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, is suing the couple, who was caring for the two Presa Canario-mastiffs when the dogs fatally mauled Whipple, 33, a lacrosse coach.

## MA man charged in house fire, allegedly throwing partner from window

DEDHAM, Mass.—A Massachusetts man was charged with attempted murder April 15 after allegedly starting a fire in the house he shares with his gay partner and throwing the man out a second-story window, the *Boston Herald* reported. Paul Salemi, 48, was treated at Faulkner Hospital for cuts and abrasions he suffered after falling about 20 feet from the second-floor bedroom where the fire, allegedly started by his partner David Stevens, 47, began. "It was just a domestic argument between two partners that got physical. They've been together for 19 years. It's just typical relationship [expletive]," said neighbor Joanne Mulherin. Stevens was also charged with burning a dwelling and domestic assault and battery.

## Turkish transvestites stone home of country's sports minister, police say

ANKARA, Turkey—Turkish police said they drove a gang of stone-throwing transvestites away from a sports minister's home April 15 after they tried to rob the man's son, Reuters reported. A local newspaper said the transvestites accosted the son of sports minister Fikret Unlu as he parked his car near the family's Ankara residence. They demanded he give them about \$40 or face being shamed in front of his neighbors. The group then allegedly threw beer bottles and stones at the Unlu home, an Ankara police spokesperson said. The paper said the group used their mobile telephones to call in other transvestites to join the fray before police drove them away. Two people have been detained in connection with the incident, police said.

## CO man arrested in 1994 slaying of wife over apparent lesbian affair

THORNTON, Colo. (AP)—The daughter of a Colorado man allegedly confided to a friend that her father killed her mother because of a lesbian affair, and the daughter helped him dispose of the body. Patrick Coulehan, 53, is in custody in the death of his wife Alberta "Kathleen" Coulehan, whose body was found near Las Cruces, N.M. in August 1994. He had been arrested on unrelated drug charges in March, and was in custody when an informant contacted police with information from Valerie Coulehan. She confided that her father killed her mother because of her affair with another woman, and she had pangs of remorse for helping dispose of the body, police said. The informant told Denver police that Valerie Coulehan said she and her father loaded the body into her mother's car and drove from their home in El Paso, Texas, to a rural highway in New Mexico. Coulehan has been considered a possible suspect since his wife's body was discovered, but the evidence was insufficient to make a case until now, authorities said.

## Escaped con receives life in prison for hate murder of CO gay man

DENVER—A 22-year-old jail escapee was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole on April 20 for robbing and killing a Colorado man in 1999 because he was gay, the *Denver Post* reported. Daniel O'Brien, 36, was found dead Sept. 13, 1999, just four months after leaving Massachusetts for Colorado to start a new life. It took the jury about three hours to find Samuel Grauman guilty of first-degree murder, robbery and auto theft in connection with O'Brien's death. Grauman and another inmate had escaped from a Wyoming jail, and drove to a Denver gay bar to target what they thought would be easy victims of robbery. Grauman was driving O'Brien's car and had the slain man's wallet when he was arrested in Texas, authorities said. Grauman was accused of hitting O'Brien over the head with a flowerpot and choking him. O'Brien died of heart problems brought on by the assault, authorities said.

—From staff and wire reports



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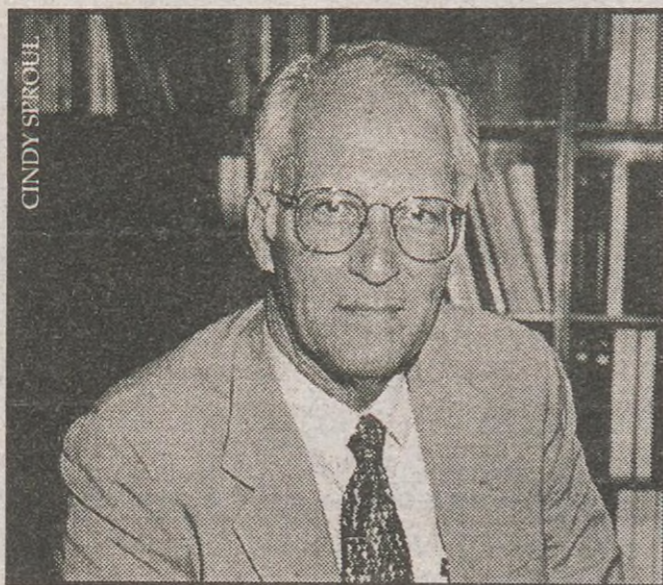
# around the south

## Home Depot officials reject pro-gay proposal by shareholders

ATLANTA—Home Depot officials have recommended that stockholders reject a proposed gay-friendly policy, prompting the leader of Georgia's gay civil rights group to state that the company's stance damages the group's running dialogue with the popular Atlanta-based home repair retailer. During their May 30 annual meeting, shareholders are expected to consider adding gays to the company's anti-bias statement. Company officials have recommended a "no" vote. "I can't let them off the hook with this one. That's just nonsense," said Harry Knox, executive director of Georgia Equality. The company said the proposal isn't necessary because Home Depot already follows federal anti-discrimination laws. Federal employment laws don't include sexual orientation. "They're missing a terrific opportunity to show themselves to be truly inclusive," Knox said.

## Anti-gay Presbyterian 'confessing' movement organizes in NC

LENOIR, N.C.—A conservative church group called the Presbyterian Lay Committee is asking churches around the country to issue statements denouncing same-sex unions. The Lay Committee urges Presbyterians to pray that the Presbyterian Church USA will return to a "full faith in Jesus Christ," demonstrated by the three faith claims in their confessing statement: that Jesus Christ is the sole way to salvation; that Holy Scripture is infallible; and that marriage between a man and a woman is the only appropriate context for sexual activity. "So far, 20,000 congregational members are represented by confessional statements, and I expect that to reach 75,000 by the end of the month," said Rev. Parker Williamson, editor in chief of the *Presbyterian Layman*. The "confessing" movement comes in response to the Presbyterian church's failure earlier this year to pass Amendment O, a measure that would have banned same-sex unions in the church.



Parker Williamson, leader of the Lenoir, N.C.-based Presbyterian Lay Committee, is encouraging churches around the country to denounce same-sex holy unions.

## Dueling workplace bias bills in LA cover gays, but split over trans inclusion

NEW ORLEANS—Gay-friendly civil rights group Forum for Equality wants to exclude transgendered people in a state Employment Non-Discrimination bill. The bill omits the language of transgender protection that is included in a bill that was recently filed by the Louisiana Lesbian & Gay Political Action Caucus. The state isn't tolerant enough of transgendered people, creating an atmosphere in which an inclusive bill can't pass, said Jimmy Farenholtz, Forum for Equality's executive director. Republican State Sen. Lynn Dean considered sponsoring the forum's bill, but opted to add his name to the original, trans-inclusive measure. Officials with both groups said the existence of two bills might be a death knoll for each.

## Gap rejects Texas town over poor climate for gays, city official says

EL PASO, Texas—An El Paso city official has said that the decision by The Gap to move its headquarters to Albuquerque instead of El Paso was influenced by doubts about the quality of life for gays in the city, the *El Paso Times* reported. The company and city had initially said that the decision was based on "quality of life" considerations, without any specific reference to the city's climate for gays. "I don't think anybody wants to talk about it. But I think it's important that we address it and that we know what the real situation was," said Roberto Franco, director of the city's Economic Development Department, who was involved in the negotiations. Gap officials denied that the company's decision to move to Albuquerque instead of El Paso was made over quality of life considerations for gays. The Gap, also the parent company of Old Navy and Banana Republic, has announced plans to move some of its back-office functions from San Francisco, and was offering to transfer employees who wanted to retain their jobs.

## Gay Street residents in Texas city ask for new name for the road

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Residents of Gay Street have requested that the San Angelo City Council approve a plan to change the name of the street to Grace Lane. The city's planning commission approved the name change last week. Residents said the new name will mean fewer pranksters and stolen street signs. "We had a resident die while waiting on an ambulance, which had difficulty finding the street because the sign was missing," said resident Sylvia Soto. "As we speak, one of the signs is missing because it's been stolen." The signs have been removed or damaged at least three times in the past two years, according to city records. New signs will cost the city about \$200. "It's one of

those names that has changed identities over the years, and kids have a tendency to take it," Commission Chairman Benny Jenkins said.

—From staff and wire reports



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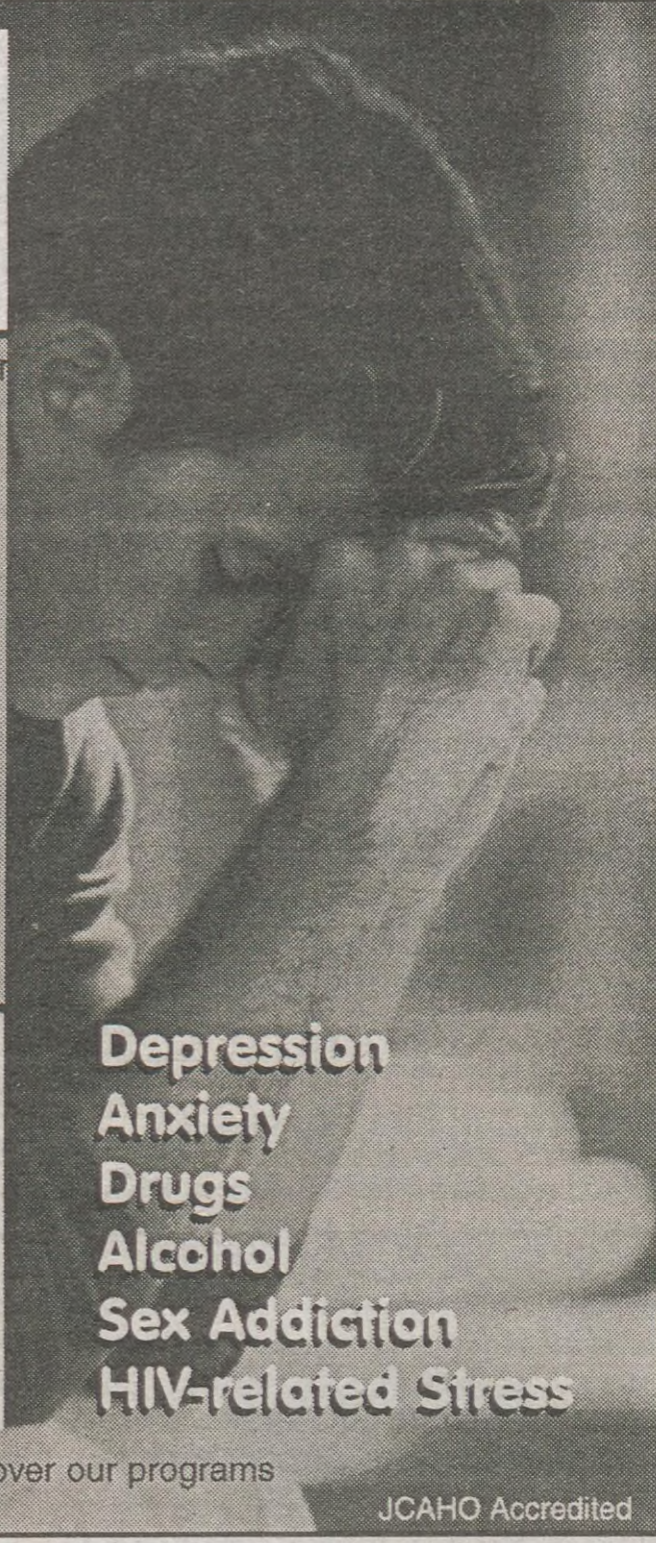
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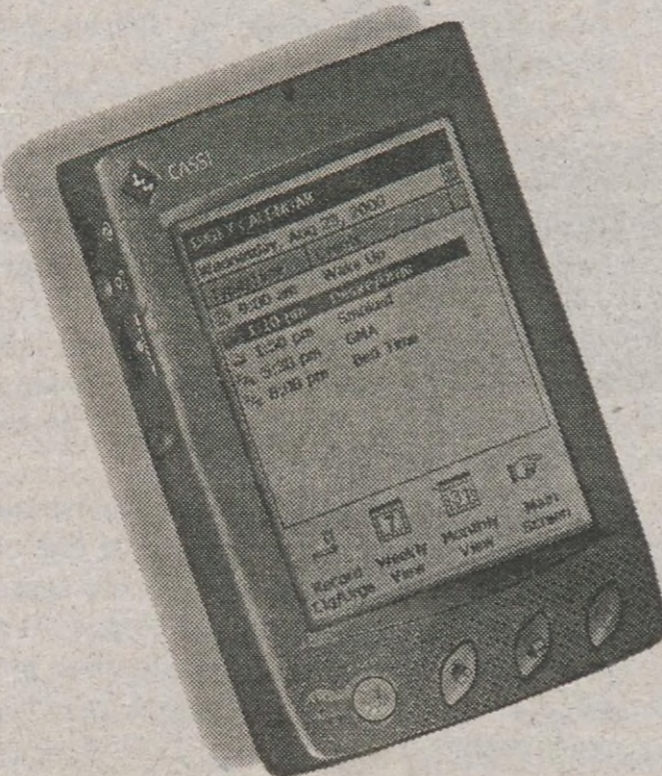


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## STAFF

### Editor

Wendy K. Mohon  
editor@houstonvoice.com

### Production

Senior Graphic Designer-Natasha Marquez  
Graphic Designer-Deborah Duplant.

### Contributors

Rich Arenschioldt, Kay Y. Day, Tracey Diskin, Earl Dittman, D.L. Groover, Robert B. Henderson, Kathreen Lee, Maria E. Minicucci, D.L. Murphy, Gip Plaster, Ella Tyler

### Photographers

Dalton DeHart, Kimberly Thompson

### Advertising Sales

Tom Robbins  
trobbins@houstonvoice.com

### Wanda Faulkner

wfaulkner@houstonvoice.com

### Administration & Sales Support

Carolyn A. Roberts  
croberts@houstonvoice.com

### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.  
212-242-6863

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## VIEWPOINT

# Making the case for transgender inclusion

by MATT COLES

*"The gay and lesbian community may be just as diverse [as the transgender community], but the message about sexual orientation is so much more concise: Our freedom and civil rights should not be curtailed based upon who we love.*

*"Let us hope that message does not get lost in the alphabet soup of LGBT inclusiveness."*

With that, a recent *Houston Voice* editorial ("T" time at the Human Rights Campaign, April 13) echoes the sentiment of some lesbian, gay men and bisexuals who urge caution on going too far toward including transgender people in the movement equality.

It's a familiar concern: Including transgendered people in the struggle for gay rights is too complicated, may not even be necessary, muddles the message, and blurs the fact that gay people are different from transgendered people.

We at the ACLU respectfully disagree.

The argument against transgender inclusion rests on two common misconceptions—that local or state gay rights bills will fail if they include transgendered people, and that inclusion isn't necessary because existing sex discrimination laws already cover transgendered people. Neither is true.

We are at a watershed moment in the struggle for statewide civil rights legislation that bans discrimination based on sexual

orientation, and in some cases, based on gender identity. Right now, 19 states are considering such bills; of these, bills in 11 states include transgendered people.

This is nothing new. Inclusiveness didn't kill legislation in Atlanta, New Orleans, Portland or the several towns and counties that passed civil rights laws in Kentucky that covered gender identity as well as sexual orientation.

In fact, several times, activists in the Louisville area were convinced to drop gender identity from proposed laws there. Each time they did, the ordinances still failed to garner enough votes. In 1999, when local activists insisted on transgender inclusion, the ordinance passed.

Just last month, that ordinance was upheld by a federal court in Kentucky, which said the government does indeed have a clear interest in explicitly barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We believe that state and local laws barring sex discrimination should be interpreted to prohibit sex stereotyping, and thus should protect transgendered people. For as long as it takes, we will continue the battle to secure these legal interpretations. But this conviction and optimism should not be misunderstood as well-established fact.

The strongest legal precedent we have that extends existing laws to sex stereotyping involves a woman who was not promoted because her bosses thought she was not "feminine" enough. However, some

courts have rejected efforts to take this further and apply sex discrimination laws to transgendered people.

Perhaps more critical, civil rights laws are important not just because they allow people to sue, but because of what they say to and about society. Civil rights laws are supposed to prevent discrimination, not just remedy it. This is far more effective when the people protected are described explicitly.

Moreover, civil rights laws embody our ideals about what it is that civilized people don't do to each other. Transgendered Americans deserve to be a part of those ideals, and not just through the back door.

To be sure, there are differences between gay people and transgendered people—we are not so similar that a law covering one group will apply to the other. But our commonalities far outweigh our differences. Often it is nearly impossible to distinguish between discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, because so much of it turns on ideas of how men and women should act.

We have more to gain by taking on this sort of bias in a way that addresses all of its manifestations than we do by trying parse out who the target is, and choosing who to protect.

We've been down this road, and chosen a better path. Now is not the time to turn back.

*Matt Coles is national director of the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project and can be reached at 125 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004.*



## SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

# Taking the road most traveled for older gay men

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

*Editor's note: In part one of this two-part series, Michael Alvear observed*

*that, as a young gay man, he felt most older gay men wanted nothing more than a sexual relationship with him and other younger gay guys. Now 41, Alvear struggled with whether to become sexually involved with an attractive 23-year-old friend who sought his support and advice after a break-up.*

I slowly raised his chin with my hand. He looked up at me, blinking his tears away, trying to make sense of what was happening. He sought me out for comfort, support, and advice. Not for this.

The hurt in his eyes didn't stop our lips from inching closer. I had created the kind of aching ambiguity that one man's desire can make of another man's pain.

The closer we got, the more my mind screamed, "Don't do it!" He was at one of the lowest points in his life. I could sense what he was thinking. He had already been abandoned by his boyfriend. Stopping me ran the risk of being abandoned twice in the same night.

I knew all that, but I went ahead anyway.

I could feel the quiet shock in his body as our lips touched. He didn't pull away. He received the kiss the way you'd receive something you didn't order. You sign for delivery, but you know it's a mistake.

I had come full circle. I went from a young man betrayed by an older man to an older man who betrayed a young man. From victim to perpetrator, I had completed the cycle of distrust between old and young.

There are plenty of young guys who want the sexual company of older men. But the majority don't. What they want is friendship, guidance, advice and support. And too often, men like me use these potential gifts as a lure for sexual conquest.

In gay life, the line between sex and friendship is thin, transparent and constantly moving. It's hard to pinpoint the coordinates of the line's location, but it's easy to feel it once you cross it. It tends to shatter everything around you.

There is a famous question straight people have asked themselves throughout time: "Can men really be friends with women?"

We have our own version of that question: "Can older gay men really be friends with younger gay men?"

How can you truly be friends with

somebody you have the potential to have sex with?

For heterosexuals the question isn't that important. They get married, have kids and have a whole support system called society. We don't. All we have is each other, making everything up as we go along.

And that's why the answer to that question *must* be yes. It has to be if we're going to thrive, not just survive. It's enough to be victimized by a hostile dominant culture. To betray each other in the midst of that hostility is unconscionable.

I never heard from my 23-year-old friend again. My calls went unanswered and my letters unopened. There's a no return policy when you buy a piece of oblivion.

I am not proud of what I did. There is nothing wrong with 41-year-olds sleeping with 23-year-olds. There was just something wrong with *this* 41-year-old sleeping with *that* 23-year-old.

My only saving grace is life's propensity for pitching endless opportunities for redemption. There is always another chance to bat for the team instead of against it.

*Michael Alvear lives in Atlanta with Zoey and Zack, his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla. He can be reached at mikealvear@aol.com.*



VIEWPOINT

# The Sisters of Sul Ross: Support offered from older generation

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

I usually don't respond to other writers; however, Michael Alvear's column two weeks ago ("Aging disgracefully: confessions of an older gay man," April 13) got me thinking... then writing.

I guess Mr. Alvear isn't really concerned about how his ageist confession appears in print. From his byline pic he is handsome enough... if you like that Cro-Magnon mono-brow look. Seems like he should have no trouble dating, no matter what his age preference. Appearance aside, his words read like a clip from a shallow sitcom.

The Friday his article appeared I had the good fortune to visit my oldest (literally) gay friend, Wilburn. This gent (and he is truly that) is the junior member of a septuagenarian trio of friends I affectionately refer to as the "Sisters of Sul Ross."

Wilburn had read the same words and was truly incensed. "Who does he think he is?" Wilburn scoffed. "Doesn't he realize that his current level of freedom comes from men like us?"

Knowing Wilburn and his companions, the statement rang clear. Though some may unjustly discount the value these men now have, things look quite a bit different as you broaden your historical perspective.

This troika of Wilburn, Ogden and Roger have lived on the same street forever and have known each other since God rode a tricycle. They are an educat-

ed, cultured group and their list of friends includes cultural icons, thespians and families with museums named after them.

Cocktails with this group will allow you to hear first-hand accounts of instantly recognizable artists, dancers, as well as the activities of former French presidents and their wives. Remembrances of various flirtations are numerous—the most famous of which was one where "Liz" offered one of them a "come hither" look—and she meant it.

These men have traveled and lived everywhere. Black and white photos depict Wilburn strolling down a Paris street accompanied by two fully costumed Amazon goddesses employed by the Lido, the most famous nightclub in Paris. "Oh, the girls used to stop by all the time as my apartment was just down the street," Wilburn chirps.

My mature friends are not only walking encyclopedias of gay culture and history; their ability to dispense advice is limitless. They have been the counterweight to more than one of my mentally unbalanced pairings. If I happened upon all three at once I could receive counseling from the gay equivalent of Ann Landers, Dear Abby and Miss Manners at the same time. Though they can be painfully honest, and often are, their archive of relationship-oriented knowledge rivals any on the planet.

When I develop the occasional hare-brained scheme in my head—for

instance, at my own expense relocating to Houston a guy I met on the Internet—Wilburn looks at me with an authoritative calm and says, "Richard, have you lost your mind? That kind of thing just isn't done. People are rarely as they first seem to be."

I know he's right and quickly return home to enable the "block sender" function on my e-mail account.

In spite of my closeness with these men, none has ever made an inappropriate overture. I never thought they needed to. In fact there have been periods when I suspected that they were having a far more exciting intimate life than I was.

Wilburn bluntly told me, "You're just the wrong age, dear. Not young enough to be sought after and not yet old enough to be viewed as a handsome gentleman. Don't worry, that will change." Exactly what I needed to hear, the prospect of a renewed sex life in about 12 years.

You will not find these men lurking in a bar. They universally view it as a waste of time and wonder why some men insist on inflicting themselves on others who aren't interested. As Wilburn says, "Even Beverly Sills knew when to retire... sort of."

Contrary to the perception that older men require younger men for validation, these three seem to think the reverse. I feel as though I've entered their communion after a rather rigorous probationary period, and I'm one of

their few friends under 50. They let me join the club because I try to be polite, love their animals, admire their art and never arrive at a social function empty handed (the "height of bad taste" Wilburn says).

Having been admitted to their circle I contemplate how my life would be if we hadn't met. The thing I would miss most would be their collective humor. They have known each other longer than I have lived. This gives them free reign to tease each other about such things as the eldest member finishing an event in the Senior Olympics—last.

They have enough dirt on each other to fill Buffalo Bayou. They impart hilarious stories about needing to hire Houston's most diminutive and disreputable gay lawyer to disentangle their friends from certain unnamed indiscretions.

These are powerful men. They have lost more friends and family members to natural and unnatural causes than I ever will. They have dealt with all manner of life-threatening personal illness and thrived in spite of it. The people they have known could populate a planet and their combined wisdom rivals the Bible, the Torah, and Mary Baker-Eddy's "Science and Health."

Many of us can't maintain a meaningful relationship for 40 minutes, much less 40 years. Wilburn, Ogden and Roger must be doing something right.

Maybe Mr. Alvear and the rest of us should take the time to find out what it is.

## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

**Sunday Morning Crossfur**

Lucy the Cat has been missing all morning.



Buck is over. Eeth is making banana pancakes & hearing all about what went on at the club last night.



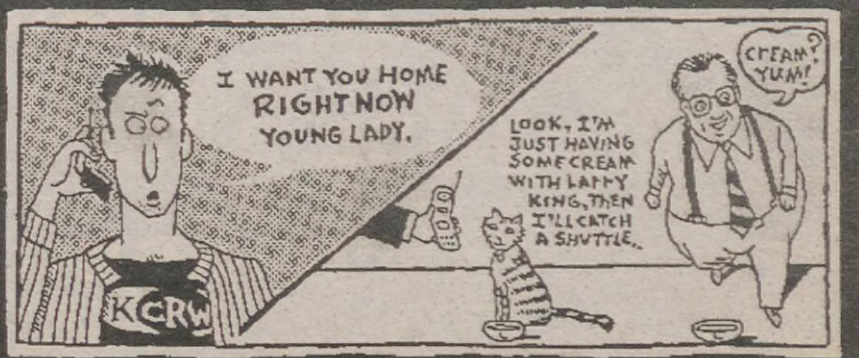
Oh there's Lucy now. She's sitting next to Sam, across from George and Cokie.



Apparently, she's gotta new gig as a political commentator. She's pretty good. Like Maureen Dowd with whiskers.



Okay, so we all know that cats are independent, but enuff's enuff



# Coke mum on size of gift to ATL Scouts

Statewide gay rights group stops short of criticizing soft drink giant for gift

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Despite a gay-friendly corporate outlook, the Coca-Cola Company recently donated funds to the Atlanta Council of the Boy Scouts of America, a group that bans openly gay members.

And the state's leading gay civil rights group is shying away from criticizing the soft drink giant for its February donation.

Coke officials confirmed the donation, but refused to say how much the local Scouting organization received or discuss details of the grant.

"Ultimately what it came down to is we're

continuing our long standing support of the Atlanta area Boy Scouts for the very same reason we became involved with the Scouts many years ago," said Ben Deutsch, the company's media relations director. "We're committed to improving and enhancing the lives of the young people in our community."

Coke's donations are focused on youth development and the gift to the Scouts should not be interpreted as support for the Scout's anti-gay policies, Deutsch said.

"At the end of the day we look at the tremendous contributions that the Boy Scouts make in this community. If we were to withdraw our support of the Boy Scouts, we could jeopardize the very individuals who we're trying to help," Deutsch said.

Lisa Duke, a spokesperson for the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, did not respond to questions about the Coca-Cola contribution.

The donation to the Scouts came just weeks after the company put in place domestic partner benefits for its employees. That effort was announced last June as Georgia Equality launched a project targeting nine other large Georgia companies to ask them to provide the benefits.

Coca-Cola is one of four companies, along with AGL Resources (parent company for Atlanta Gas Light), Delta Airlines and BellSouth—on GEI's list that has added the benefits.

Harry Knox, GEI's executive director,

said he would urge Coca-Cola not to donate funds to "groups that discriminate," but stopped short of criticizing the company for the recent Scout contribution.

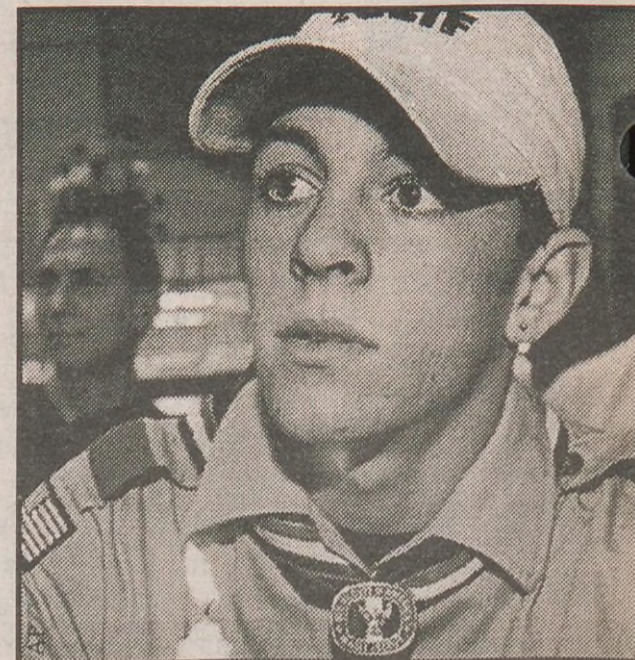
"I'm not willing to take on Coke on this one," Knox said. "I would like to have a conversation with them about the fact that this particular gift probably doesn't match their values of inclusion. It's hard to promise that Georgia Equality or any other particular organization would sort of go around and smack the hands of everybody who ever gave money to the Boy Scouts."

Knox said if GEI pushed Coke to stop donating funds to the Scouts over its gay policies, it could backfire.

"If you start down that path, then we are more likely to be the victims of that kind of action than we are to be successful in getting them to stop doing it," he said. "Because the moment that they stop giving money to the Boy Scouts, somebody's going to come back and say 'well, you know, you shouldn't be giving money to those godless gays either.'"

Aside from the domestic partner benefits, Coca-Cola fosters a gay-friendly corporate environment, some of its gay employees have said. The company's diversity office, which opened in March 2000, offers support to gay employees.

And the company's Equal Opportunity Policy includes sexual orientation—along with race, sex, color, national origin, religion and age—as a protected category. The office



The story of Stephen Cozza, who founded Scouting for All to fight the Scouts' anti-gay policies, is the focus of 'Scout's Honor,' a documentary being screened next month in Atlanta.

was opened as the company worked to settle lawsuits alleging race-based discrimination against Coca-Cola's black workers.

The controversy over the Scouting policy will receive more attention in Atlanta next month during the screening of "Scout's Honor," the award-winning documentary from the Sundance Film Festival.

The documentary by Tom Shepard centers around the stories of Rice and Steven Cozza, then 12, who are determined to change the Scouts' policy.

## INFO

### 'Scout's Honor' screening

May 11

Emory Univ. White Hall, Room 208

Free admission

[www.aclu.org/scoutshonor](http://www.aclu.org/scoutshonor)

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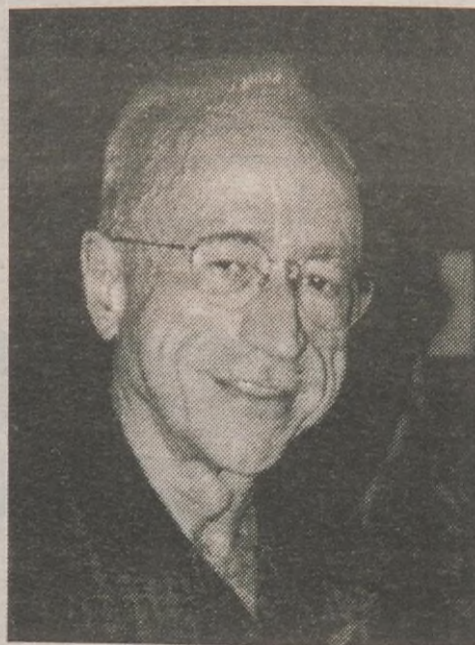
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—Warren Hanson in *The Next Place*

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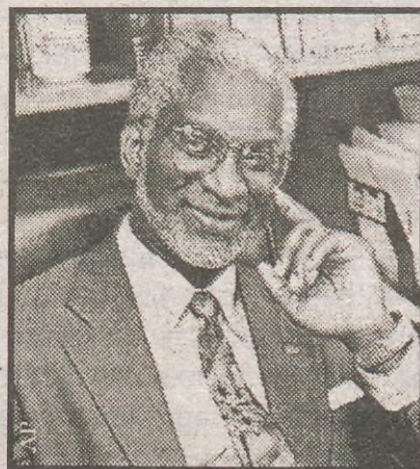
# health news

## Lesbians more likely to smoke than heterosexual women, report says

WASHINGTON—A 675-page report released by the U.S. Surgeon General's office last month on women and smoking found that women now account for 39 percent of all smoking-related deaths and that lung cancer has surpassed breast cancer as the leading cause of female cancer death in the U.S., according to the *Washington Blade*. Although the report failed to go into any depth about lesbians—it referred to lesbians six times—it concluded that "limited data also suggest lesbian women are more likely to smoke than are heterosexual women." The first Surgeon General's report on women and smoking, released in 1981, did not mention lesbians at all. "Surgeon General's reports don't create new science, but take a comprehensive look at what is already out there," said Damon Thompson, spokesperson for Surgeon General David Satcher. Thompson said the report is used as a base for legislators, scientists, doctors, teachers, and others to make decisions.

## Surgeon Generals' report on sex education, STDs may be dead

WASHINGTON—A report on sex education from Surgeon General David Satcher's office may have been killed due to political pressure from the Bush administration, the *New York Times* reported. The report, drafted by a committee last September, is thought to have contained information about sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies among adolescents and teens, urging comprehensive sex education in every grade and better access to contraception. But the report was never published, and Satcher declined last week to be interviewed by the *Times*. "All schools would have comprehensive sex education, and all people would be empowered, regardless of orientation, to be sexually responsible," Satcher reportedly said about the project during an AIDS conference in South Africa last July. Supporters of the report said politics are playing a role in its delay. "I'm not at liberty to say what the thinking is now, but there have been changes," said Thompson.



A report from Surgeon General David Satcher urging 'sexual responsibility' for people regardless of sexual orientation may have been killed due to political pressure.

## Drug using lesbians at higher risk for HIV infection, study says

NEW DELHI, India—Injection drug-using lesbians are at higher risk of HIV infection compared with other female users, GayHealth.com reported. New York-based AIDS researcher Samuel Friedman told Reuters Health that the research was conducted between February 1997 and December 2000 in several U.S. cities, and was spurred by earlier studies that found a risk of HIV among some women who have sex with women. Friedman said the study found that lesbians represent about 25 percent of all women injection drug users, and that they are "more likely to be marginalized in society than other women injectors." The findings were reported at the 2th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm earlier this month in New Delhi. "We think stigmatization and social marginalization contribute to [women who have sex with women] being more likely to engage in high-risk behavior," Friedman said.

## St. John's wort ineffective in battling major depression, study reports

CHICAGO—A study has found that St. John's wort, an herb that has shown promise in treating mild to moderate depression, does not seem to work against severe cases, CNN reported. The herb worked no better than a placebo in a study of 200 adults diagnosed with major depression. In an earlier analysis of some 23 studies on St. John's wort on patients with less severe forms of the disease, the herb was found to be significantly superior to a placebo and just as effective as standard antidepressant drugs. But Dr. Richard Shelton, a co-author of the new study, said earlier studies had serious limitations, and he recommended against using St. John's wort at all until further research is done. Other studies have found that St. John's wort may interfere with the effectiveness of several drugs, including protease inhibitors used to treat HIV. The study was published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

## One lump or two? New research may hold the key to 'sweet tooth'

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time, scientists may have identified one of the tiny taste buds and sensors that let people detect sweetness in foods. The work could lead to improved artificial sweeteners, and maybe help explain why some people have a sweet tooth. Researchers have identified a gene, present in mice and people, as the blueprint for a "receptor" in taste buds. It's not yet proven that this receptor detects sweetness, but the researchers said the evidence is strong. Scientists believe people have more than one sweet receptor, allowing them to detect sweetness in a variety of food substances. If the newly identified receptor is for sweetness, it might be used to develop better artificial sweeteners that taste more like sugar, said Dr. Robert Margolskee of the Hughes Institute and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. "Maybe it explains someone who takes two lumps of sugar in their coffee, as opposed to one lump or no lump," Margolskee said. The study is reported in the May issue of journal *Nature Neuroscience*.



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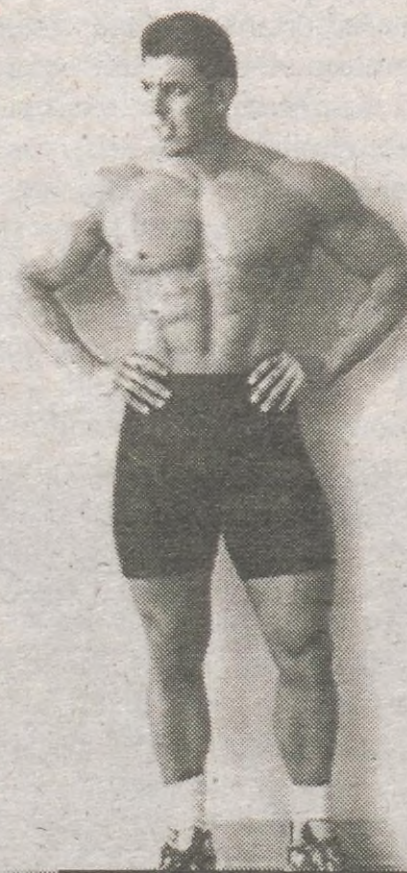
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# Should gay lobby groups shift with political winds of D.C.?

➤ Continued from Page 1

In the meantime, Toledo said she is proud of the organization's performance during her time there.

"In the last year, the Task Force has really been an important political presence in a very tumultuous time," she said, citing increased membership numbers among her specific accomplishments.

"We changed the way that we valued members, so that we moved from a position where membership in the organization was largely valued based on the contributions that you made to valuing both contributions and activism," Toledo said.

She announced her resignation to the NGLTF board last Friday and in her resignation letter, Toledo listed a desire to spend more time with her two young children and ailing mother, who lives in Tucson, Ariz., and suffers from multiple sclerosis.

Still, Toledo said she plans to stay in Washington with her partner and children and has made no immediate professional plans.

Despite some media accounts alleging financial problems at the Task Force, Toledo denied that money issues or internal conflicts prompted her resignation.

"Financially, [the NGLTF has] done very, very well in a year that's an election year where there's been a lot of demands for financial contributions from across the community," Toledo said.

"We were trying to elect people at the state, local and national level and were trying to

strengthen our national organization and local organizations. There was just a tremendous amount of demands across the movement."

A press release issued by the Task Force credits Toledo with improving the organization's overall financial condition. The group's annual financial report for 2000 won't be made public until after an audit scheduled for this weekend, according to David Elliot, NGLTF communications director.

With Toledo's resignation only days old, Elliot said the NGLTF has already begun the process of replacing her.

"We do hope to have this completed as quickly as possible," Elliot said. "There's not a lead candidate at this time. There are people who have expressed interest in working at NGLTF and we're going to carefully, but quickly move through our hiring process."

Elliot insisted the Task Force will consider all qualified candidates, regardless of gender.

"I think the experience is the important component and experience would entail things like a history of grassroots activism, a history of fund-raising and certainly a knowledge of the GLBT community," said Elliot.

## Moderate leader to lobby GOP feds?

As NGLTF initiates its selection process, the organization must decide whether it will follow the lead of some non-gay lobby groups based in D.C., which have put mod-

erates and Republicans into leadership posts in recognition of the power the GOP now wields in the nation's capital.

"That would never be the NGLTF way," responded Elliot. "Our job is to mirror our progressive principals in both our hires and in the organizing work that we do. It matters not a whit who's in the White House."

For some organizations in Washington, who's sitting in the Oval Office does seem to matter. Democrat Paul Equale found himself out of a job as leader of the Independent Insurance Agents of America, a trade lobbyist group.

And after backing Al Gore's failed campaign for president, Roy Neel was axed from his position as chief executive of the United States Telcom Association, and was replaced with a veteran Republican lobbyist.

But the head of the nation's largest gay lobbying group said civil rights groups follow a different strategy.

"If you're talking about business institutions, the perception is they do better when there's a Republican administration," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign and a vocal Gore supporter.

Before Birch renewed her contract with the HRC earlier this year, she fed speculation about her future under a Bush White House, wondering aloud in a *Houston Voice* interview before the November election about whether the organization would be better served with a leader not so closely associated

with the Democratic presidential nominee.

But this week, she sounded confident about HRC's effectiveness under her leadership.

"I've worked really hard to bring us to the center and to be truly bipartisan," Birch said.

"It's absolutely true that in any presidential elections, it's a high stakes game and we try to come at it by doing a very fair and even analysis based not on the party and not on the party level, but on the candidate. And our conclusion is that Al Gore was far and away the better candidate for the GLBT community," she said.

Despite HRC's Gore endorsement, Birch said civil rights groups can survive in the current political climate, whatever their political leanings.

"You have to live within the political environment that's delivered out by history," Birch said. "And we have certainly had a commitment to work professionally and affirmatively with the Bush administration in every instance where we can, and I think those instances are evolving."

Birch said she does not believe HRC is viewed as leftist by politicians in Washington or their constituents.

"We've worked hard over the past several years to take our issues out of the partisan fray and to focus on the issues," argued David Smith, the communications director for HRC. "By doing that, we've garnered a tremendous amount of support for our work."

# Sen. Ellis working to gather support to bring the bill up for debate

➤ Continued from Page 1

against its citizens. We are very hopeful that the Senate will hear the powerful message sent by the House and do the same by finally passing the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act."

Thompson described a group of House members who opposed the measure as "homophobic."

Rep. John Shields, R-San Antonio, who opposed the bill, said he would have voted against it even if it didn't include protections for gays and lesbians.

"I really don't think that helps us to call names," Shields said. "They should be rejoicing that they won, not kicking the side that lost."

Shields said he opposed all crime but feared the legislation threatened free speech and unnecessarily and unfairly protected certain people.

"It will divide us as a state rather than unite us as Texans," Shields said.

"Although hatred is ugly, it is legal," Rep. Suzanna Hupp, R-Lampasa, said in opposition to hate crimes legislation passed by the House.

"Urban Cowboy" and "Northern Exposure" actor Barry Corbin of Fort Worth made an impromptu appearance on the House floor Monday.

"I'm real proud of you because of this hate crimes legislation you all passed

today," Corbin said.

"Hate is nothing but ignorance and fear and the only thing we hate in Texas is ignorance and fear," he said to applause.

The bill's companion legislation filed in the Senate is sponsored by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston. Ellis has been unable to gather support to bring the bill up for debate. The bill died in the Senate in 1999 when critics complained it created unnecessary distinctions for homosexuals.

"I did my darndest" to get senators to vote on the measure before the House, as Thompson had challenged them to do.

"This bill would have passed both houses of the Legislature many years ago if we'd been willing to take sexual orientation out of it," Ellis said, but that would send out a signal that "it's open season on a certain group of people, so that will not happen."

The House voted closely along party lines, with all 77 voting Democrats supporting the bill and all but ten Republicans opposing it. Democratic House Speaker Pete Laney did not vote.

The GOP members who voted for the bill were: Reps. Kip Averitt of Waco; Warren Chisum of Pampa; Pat Haggerty of El Paso; Charlie Geren of Fort Worth; Toby Goodman of Arlington; Jim Keffer of Eastland; Tommy Merritt of Longview; Jim Pitts of Waxahachie; G.E. "Buddy" West of Odessa; and Gary Walker of Plains.



Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, left, joins Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, at a news conference Monday in Austin. The Texas House of Representatives had just approved her bill that strengthens penalties for crimes motivated by race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry. Ellis is sponsor of similar legislation in the Senate.

Thompson overcame an early hurdle when an attempt by Chisum to kill the bill failed 60-84.

He proposed allowing the Republican-controlled Senate to act before the House, where there are 78 Democrats and 72 Republicans.

Chisum later voted for the bill, after an amendment was added that replaced the

"sexual orientation" wording to "sexual preference," specifying only heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality.

Both Ellis' and Thompson's proposals would assign a hate crimes prosecutor in the attorney general's office and assist counties with prosecution.

The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, named for the black man dragged to death behind a pickup in 1998, strengthens penalties for crimes motivated by race, religion, color, disability, sexual preference, national origin or ancestry. The sexual orientation part of the bill, which enhances protections for gays and lesbians, has been the sticking point for conservatives.

"I am extremely pleased with the vote today," Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas Executive Director Dianne Hardy-Garcia said. "It is a testament to a lot of hard work. Over 70 percent of Texans favor passage of the bill as it is worded. I am hopeful that the Senate will follow the lead of the House and the will of the people of Texas by passing this bill."

Gov. Rick Perry has argued that the proposed hate crimes law would create "new classes of citizens" and that all Texans are adequately protected under the current law.

He has not said if he will sign or veto the hate crimes legislation should it reach his desk, saying he will study the bill before making a decision.

# SEAShell members nominate local groups for donations

Continued from Page 2

Chronic illnesses perform tasks that they have difficulty doing for themselves, Langham said.

"Each client has a care team of eight women who help her do things like laundry or grocery shopping" she explained. "We also have a cab voucher program because many of our volunteers work during the day. We sometimes deliver meals from local restaurants just so our clients can enjoy the feeling of eating out."

AssistHers also refers clients to Montrose Counseling for case management, Langham said.

"I would like to use this contribution to augment the client services budget, but we haven't had a board meeting yet to make a formal decision how it will be used," Langham said.

HATCH provides a variety of programs and services for local teenagers who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. Davidson said the Shell gift will be used for general staffing and program maintenance.

HATCH's annual prom, the group's major fund-raiser, will be May 4 at the Magnolia Ballroom in downtown Houston.

Shell "Employee Networks" are groups of employees that have some common

interest or attribute (ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) who come together for the purpose of networking for the purpose of networking, support and education, Bain explained.

"Last year, Shell asked each of its employee network groups to nominate non-profit organizations to be considered for funding. SEAShell, which I am a member of, solicited nominations from all its members and then the Steering Committee narrowed them down," Bane said.

The organizations that were nominated had to provide documentation about their tax status and finances, describe their program and how they use their current funds and state the use of the proposed donation, Bane said.

"Shell relies on the networks to broaden Shell's thinking as to those organizations where we can make a difference and raise our profile in particular communities," Stacy Hutchinson, a spokesperson for Shell, said.

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# Bocados owner to host dance party at S.F. weekend

> Continued from Page 2

organizing future events. Right now, Wild Women Productions is considering sponsoring a lesbian and gay Ski Week in 2002.

Theresa Flores, Houston's very own DJ Diva from Bocados will be on hand for "The Salsa and Dance Party" to be held during the weekend reverie. The legendary DJ from South Beach in Miami, Fla. will also keep the women dancing. In fact, Bocados is one of the sponsors for The Santa Fe Women's Weekend.

"Angela, who is one of the owners of Wild Women Productions, had been to several of our Wednesday women's nights at Bocados and really loved how we did it," Flores said. "She also really loved my music so she asked me if I would provide the music over the weekend. So, I will be doing that Friday, Saturday and for the Sunday Brunch."

Flores also added that a large group of women who support Bocados and attend regularly on Wednesdays will be heading to the women's weekend.

"It is going to be a really fun, festive weekend and we, at Bocados are helping as much as we can to promote this."

Lesbianation.com's columnist, Bett Williams will also be on hand discussing her wildly popular, "Girl Walking Backwards," and Chris Williamson, singer, songwriter and co-founder of Olivia Records, also will perform.

Options for fun and adventure continue with the opportunity for women's group bike tours with New Mexico Bike Adventures, horseback riding, casino hopping, massages, hot tubs, white water rafting and, for the "real lesbian," hiking tours are also available.

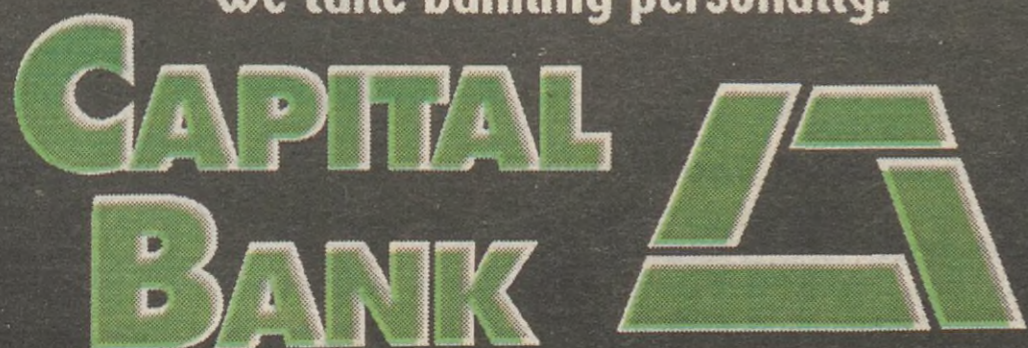


Folk singer and lesbian icon, Janis Ian, (left) will perform as the headlining act at the Santa Fe Women's Weekend, May 25-28 in New Mexico. Comedienne Karen Williams also is schedule to perform.

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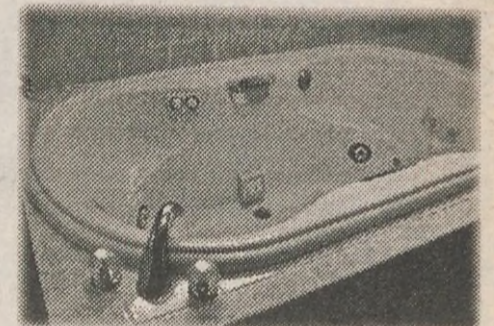
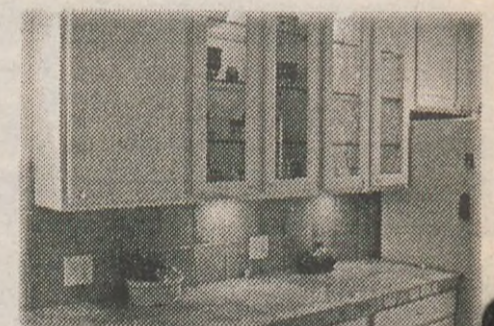
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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • APRIL 27, 2001

## Gay pix mix tricks, chicks, & licks

Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Fest coming next month

by D.L. GROOVER

See Hedwig scratch! Watch as strippers unionize and become feisty Norma Raes! Hiss the evil Nazis! Relish the ravished lesbian vampire! Howl with the gay wolves! Jump turnstiles with Madrid drag queens! Be body slammed by the Gaea girls of Tokyo!

All these cinematic wonders—and more—can be yours when the 5th annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival unspools next month, May 24 through June 7, at venues around town.

The impressive pix lineup, to be detailed in a pullout section of the Voice in coming weeks, promises to be socko-boffo and more varied than last year's limp selection. Full houses are expected with the eclectic mix of art flicks, studio productions, and credit-card maxing independents. Isn't lavender your favorite film color? What follows is an incomplete list of the features to be screened.

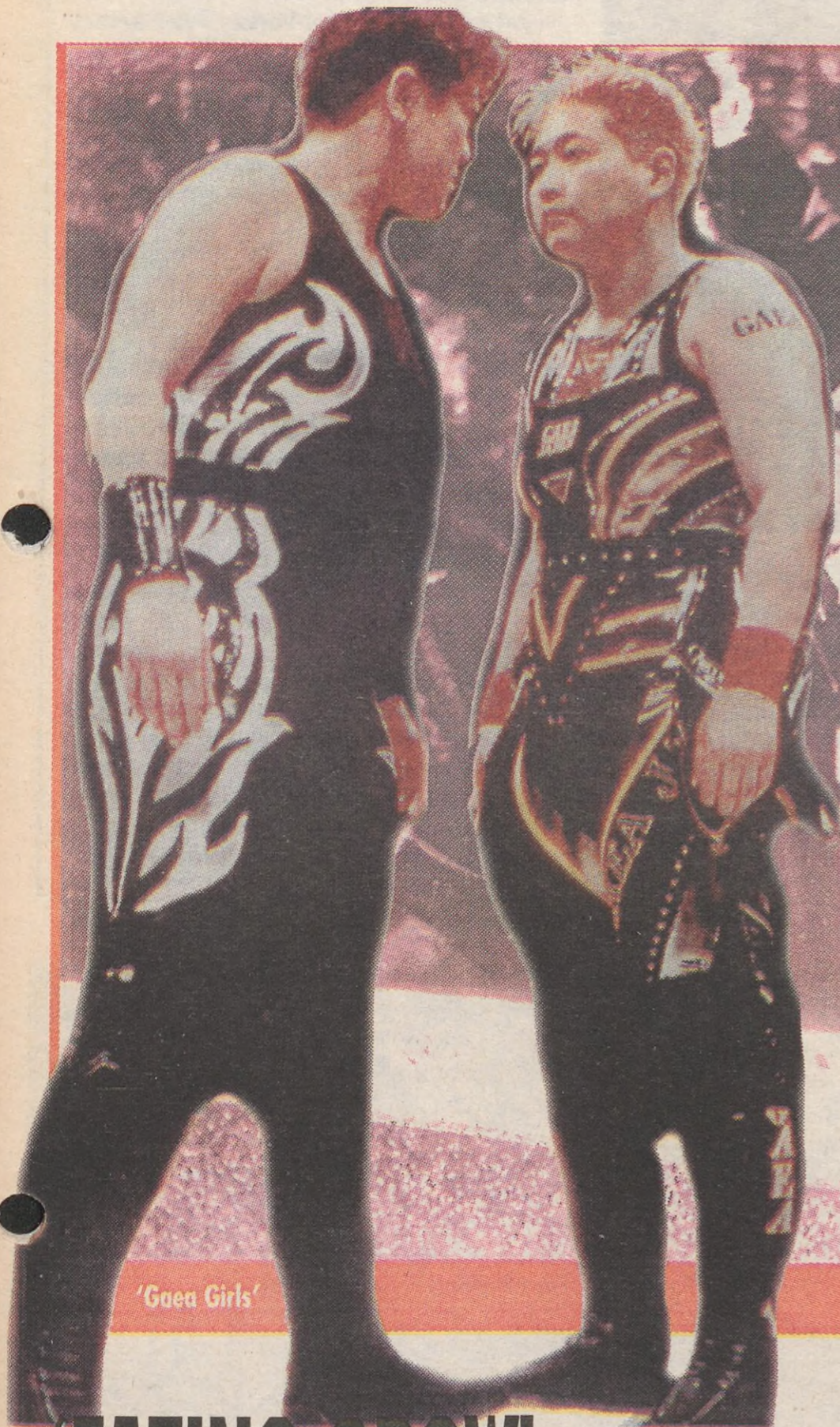
### 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch'

Nothing like opening the festivities with a winner. John Cameron Mitchell's cult musical is a tasty combo platter of sexy sleazy Almodovar, glossy Douglas Sirk soap, and bizarre Kiki and Herb, wherein a botched sex-change operation leaves poor Hedwig pining for closure, if not a zipper. "What I Did for Love" writ large. Museum of Fine Arts Houston. May 24, 9 p.m.

### 'Paragraph 175'

Oscar-winning documentarians Jeffrey Freidman and Rob Epstein ("The Celluloid

> Continued on Page 16



'Gaea Girls'

## 'EATING CROW' 'DINNER, WITH FRIENDS' 'RAISED IN CAPTIVITY'

Venues offer up varied fare for theater-goers

by D.L. GROOVER

What is it about French farce that makes theater directors go bonkers? Why are these lighter-than-air, fluffy and inconsequential soufflés turned into confections with the heft of the Hindenburg?

Last month, the Alley Theatre remounted Feydeau's classic "A Flea in Her Ear" with a disastrously ponderous production that wasn't worthy of Houston's grande dame. Bloated and gaseous, it crashed and burned with fiery prodigality.

Attempting to translate the original Parisian farceur, Eugene Labiche, Main Street Theater has followed the misguided Alley flight path. Labiche's Moliere-like EATING CROW tangles its lines, smashes into the mooring tower and self-immolates. As in the Alley production, this one uses white-face grotesque makeup; parodies all comedy styles from Mel Brooks to Monty Python to 4th grade bathroom humor; overstates the obvious; has as its protagonist an actor without much comic sensibility; strains with sad predictability; is bombastic and arch without effect. Another lead balloon.

James Magruder's translation is a mess, and he, along with director Jef Johnson, must share the blame for this show taking such a steep nose dive. Stylistically it's all over the place and much too smug with itself, not trusting Labiche's rapier morality and jaundiced view of life. It has no sense of place or time, except for an insipid television mentality; and Masterpiece Theater, it's not. Nobody seems to trust the original material, certainly not Magruder, who jazzes it up with quotidian street slang and ironic self-satisfaction. It's like a big sleazy wink.

The set by Mims Mattair, though, is inspired: canvas wings, painted with b/w sketches of Paris scenes, pulled back at the corners like a whacked-out circus tent. It has just the right air of French chic and

> Continued on Page 16



# HGL Film Fest features vampires, wrestlers, Gen Xers

> Continued from Page 15

Closet," "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk," "Common Threads") illuminate the fatal consequences implied in paragraph 175 of the German Penal Code: "An unnatural sex act committed between persons of the male sex or by humans with animals is punishable by imprisonment; the loss of civil rights may also be imposed."

Narrated by gay icon Rupert Everett, the persecution yet ultimate survival of 10 gay men from the Nazi horrors is laid out, as well as is their incredible determination, hope, and struggle to tell their amazing stories for the younger generation. A must see. MFAH. May 26 & 28; 5:30 p.m.

## 'Gaea Girls'

Ow, ow, ow! The life and times of Japanese women wrestlers is given a cinematic arm lock and bone-crunching overhead spin in this graphic documentary by co-directors Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams. If you ever thought Japanese women were docile and submissive, this grueling look is a body slam to the head. Cold Stone Austin, these gals are more man than you'll ever be. Watch out! MFAH, May 26, 7:30 p.m.; May 28, 9:30 p.m.

## 'Vampire Lovers'

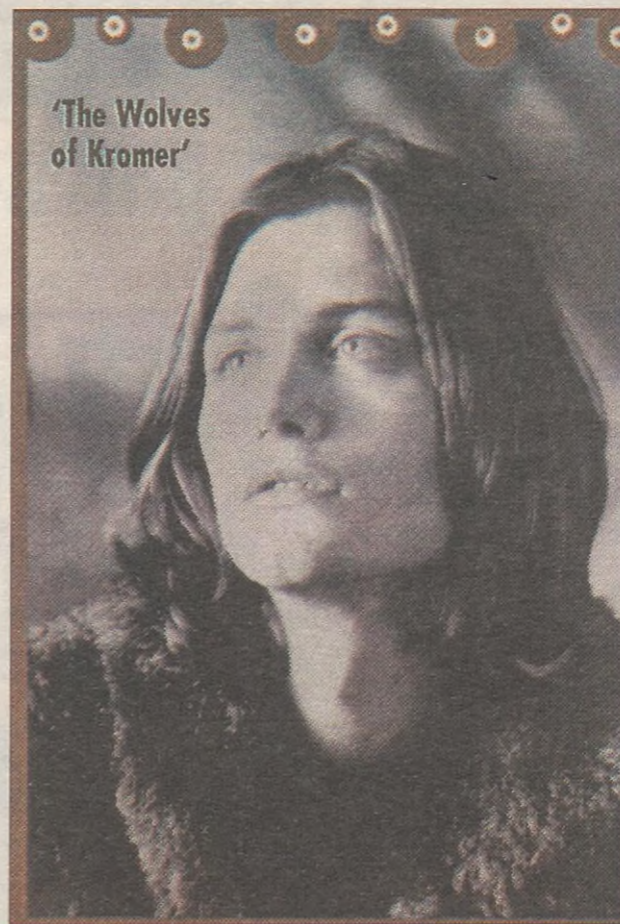
Grade B movie, Grade A laughs. In 1970, Hammer Films, the most successful film

studio in England, put its sleazy hands on Le Fanu's classic vampire novella "Camilla" and came up with overlit nudity and an overwrought Peter Cushing in this campy lesbian howler. Can you say hoof and mouth? MFAH. May 26 & 27, 9:30 p.m.



## 'The Wolves of Kromer'

It's a parable. SLAP. It's a fairy tale. SLAP. It's a parable AND a fairy tale. This 1998 English import, directed by Will Gould, arrives, unlike the wolves in his tale, without fanfare or much press. Where have these furry gay lycanthropes been hiding? This one sounds most interesting, especially since the marauding and love-making wolves are played as gay boys wearing great coats with wolf tails. Off to grandma's house we go. SLAP. MFAH. May 27 & 28, 7:30 p.m.



## 'All Over the Guy'

Directed by Julie Davis and written by co-star Dan Bucatinsky, this contemporary romantic comedy receives its theatrical premiere at the HGLFF. Two opposite gen X-ers meet cute, quarrel, then see the error of their ways for the final liplock at fade out. How can it go wrong with support from ethereal Lisa Kudrow, scary Christina Ricci, and our favorite SCTV-alumnus Andrea Martin? MFAH. May 30, 7 p.m.

## 'Sleep in a Nest of Flames'

One of the unsung architects of modern American gay life, Charles Henri Ford now has a film documentary to chronicle his life and times and bring his story out of the historical closet.

A lifelong friend of Parker Tyler's, they collaborated on the 1933 landmark gay novel "The Young and Evil" and their correspondence is a blow by blow description of NYC's gay subculture during the '20s and '30s, Ford was never far from where the artistic action was, whether with beat poet Alan Ginsberg, modern architect Philip Johnson, or the Who's Paul Morrissey. Directors James Dowell and John Kolomvakis will have a Q&A after the screening. Rice Media Center. June 1, 7 p.m.

## 'Not Love Just Frenzy'

Ah, the Spanish certainly know how to make a raunchy gay farce, just ask Almodovar. Following his lead, three directors have their hands full with this one from 1996: Alfonso Albacete, Miguel Bardem (cousin to superstar Javier), & David Menkes.

Here, we have a homophobic cop chasing a male hustler, a transsexual lesbian pimp, and a trio of drag queens who terrorize the Madrid subway system. Great soundtrack, fabulous costumes, torrid Spaniards: who could ask for anything more? Rice Media Center. June 1, 9:45 p.m.; June 3, 9 p.m.

# 'Dinner' and 'Crow' leave bad taste, 'Raised' performance is captivating

> Continued from Page 15

sauciness, perfect for farce—just not this one, unless all characters could be played by Ralph Ehntholt and Sara Simmonds, who steal the show whenever they appear.

Although Ehntholt's hunchback Saint-Putois is over the top, he's in such control that we know he knows just how far he can go with the grossness. But it's his almost wordless portrayal of the English Man that would earn him a Tony if that sort of prize were awarded here on the bayou. Sublime, a loving Labiche caricature, and a perfect example of what could have been done with the rest of the production.



## 'Dinner With Friends'

How in hell did this tepid glass of water ever win a Pulitzer Prize? What was that 2000 committee smoking? Surely Suzan-Lori Parks' "In the Blood" had more fire and August Wilson's "King Hedley II" more dramatic interest than this tame Donald Marguiles comedy-drama of four whipped-out over-the-hill preppies. It's

Updike without the linguistics; fireworks without fire.

Marguiles tries to turn these best-friend married couples into something worthy of study by having one half of the duo split asunder, but the characters are so self-absorbed and much more interested in food than each other, that we really don't care about any of them. Karen's a martinet, Gabe's a marshmallow, Beth is neurotic, Tom's a tomcat. Nothing much changes at the end, although somewhere we learn that risotto adds the right touch to lemon cake.

However, this production, also, boasts a great set: Neil Patel's turntable of detailed conspicuous consumption: a Williams-Sonoma kitchen, a Restoration Hardware living room, a Martha Stewart bedroom, an Ian Schrager Manhattan bar—all more interesting than the inhabitants thereof. Except Claudia Fielding's self-pampering Beth, who manages with simple defining moves (like a quick hand to brush away strands of hair, or an off timbre giggle) to take the interior artist manqué and make it visible and understandable. When Fielding's good, she's very good; when the play's good, it's only mediocre.

## 'Raised In Captivity'

The best theater in Houston right now is on the boards at 2610 Ashland where Nicky Silver's 1995 blistering, lacerating "Raised in Captivity" glows like a house afire. The heat's not just from Silver's white-hot dysfunctional family drama—whose onrush of

theatrical flair and pyrotechnic writing burns the skin and scalds the brain—but also from director M. Adam Traylor's imaginative yet simple mise en scene in staging this saga of woe and love, and the incandescent performances of Byron Norton and Anthony Marble, as gay Sebastian and his prison penpal Dylan.

Last seen as the neurotic gay Nissim in Harry Kondoleon's "Christmas on Mars," also staged at Ashland St., Byron Norton as Sebastian (conceived through rape and whose only fault is that he wants to be loved) adds another immensely affecting portrait to his impressive resume. He gives a searing performance that rivets you in your seat while he teeters on the brink of madness, psychosis, and forgiveness. When he tells the story of his lover Simon who died from AIDS, the theater's fourth wall disappears. It's one of those rare magical moments when an actor becomes just another human being talking to us, sharing his heart, breaking ours. A defining performance not to be missed.

Newcomer to Houston theater, Anthony Marble has stage presence to spare. Lean and wiry, with ringing baritone, he commands the space and fixes the eye as Dylan, a murderer serving life in prison with whom Sebastian has fallen in love by correspondence. At first his country boy charm and down home grace belie his devilish deception, but as Sebastian pounds home his unflinching love, Dylan's rage and self-loathing boil out of him in one fiery monologue. Norton and Marble mismatch per-

fectly, playing off each other, sending out sparks. Nicky Silver's paint-peeling comedy/dramas have a liberating effect upon audiences: everybody's life looks absolutely fabulous compared to these penitent, medieval-like flagellants, who beat up on themselves with gleeful abandon. Filled with incendiary language and situations to strip off skin, his work swirls with themes of incest, senseless violence, dysfunction, all set to paroxysms of radiant language so heart-wrenchingly beautiful and poetic that you want to weep at these flailing characters who only seek a little love to keep them whole. But first, of course, you've got to laugh out loud at their pratfalls over life. Sad, yet funny, Ashland St.'s rendition is theater of the profound.

## 'Eating Crow'

Through May 19  
Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd.  
713-524-6706

## 'Dinner With Friends'

Through May 5  
Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.  
713-228-8421

## 'Raised in Captivity'

Through May 19  
Ashland St. Theatre Co., 2610 Ashland  
713-426-3019

INFO

# Bayou Calendar

**'Femme Fatale'**

Hal (Travis Ammons) is the scion to the estate of his wealthy deceased dad. However, crusty crafty dad has bequeathed all the loot to his sexy nurse (Sara Gaston). This psychological cat-and-mouse thriller, written by Michael Wolk, screen writer of the vampire comedy "Innocent Blood," is explicitly sexual, so we are warned, and recommended for mature audiences only. That doesn't scare us. Through May 19

Ashland St. Theatre Co., 2610 Ashland  
713-426-3019

**'The Man Who Had Three Arms'**

When, at the premiere, Pulitzer Prize and Tony-award winning dramatist Edward Albee wrote this screed about fleeting fame and fortune in 1983, he was roundly given some of the worst reviews in his illustrious, but bumpy, career. The lashings were so severe that Albee removed himself from the NY theater scene for a decade. Himself, the protagonist, was once rich and famous for having suddenly grown a third arm, which sprouted from his back. When it just as suddenly withered away, so did himself's celebrity; and many in the sparse audience took Albee's scathing podium speech as an in-your-face roman à clef with reviewers and women getting the brunt of his volcanic vitriol. I think we'd better see what all the fuss was about, don't you?



**Drake Simpson is examined by Lisa Marie Singerman and Ken Watkins in Edward Albee's 'The Man Who Had Three Arms,' staged at Atomic Cafe through May 12.**

Through May 12  
Atomic Café, 1320 Nance Street  
713-222-ATOM

**'Resurrection's Disco Night'**

In celebration of their 28th anniversary (good lord, has it been that long?), Houston's "Church for All People," Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, is throwing itself a well-deserved celebration. The afternoon festivities, starting at 1 p.m., are

reserved for kids (and kids of all ages) with games, a cake walk, and a dunking booth (where's Fred Phelps?). A catered BBQ meal will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. At 6:45 until 10 p.m., disco fever takes over the swinging congregation with DJ Andra Haviland spinning your favorite white suit/platform shoe tunes from the '70s. Dress up like Mr. Travolta or your favorite Bee Gee and win the best disco costume prize.

April 28, 1 to 10 p.m.  
Resurrection MCC, 2025 W. 11th Street @ T.C. Jester  
\$5 for the dance, \$1 for the festival, or \$15 advance purchase for the works, including meal  
713-861-9149

**'Florencia en el Amazonas'**

Based upon Gabriel Garcia Marquez's writings and lots of South American literary "magic realism," Daniel Catan's 1996 HGO world premiere returns home for a second hearing. We remember it fondly: a mixture of Puccini with a dash of Werner Herzog's "Fitzcarraldo," a gigantic revolving steamship of a set by Robert Israel, and a beguiling story somewhat careened by all the supernatural transformations going on around the characters instead of inside them.

The list of good contemporary operas is extremely short. There's always room for one more. Maybe this one will make it.

April 28 to May 13  
Houston Grand Opera, Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas  
713-227-ARTS

**'Betty's Summer Vacation'**

After Betty rents a vacation house with her friend Trudy, who blabbers incessantly about her childhood abuse, the seaside cottage is invaded by four very strange tenants (a gay serial killer, a sex obsessed stud, a sleazy flasher with raincoat, and Betty's mother). The house comes equipped with a nattering off-stage Greek chorus that snickers and comments on the rotten situations, as if watching television. Christopher Durang's gay sensibilities take very dark wing as rape, incest, and dismemberment are given tabloid-TV treatment in this horribly funny, Jerry Springer-type send-up. A comedy black as dried blood.

May 2 to 27  
Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway (Waugh @ D'Amico)  
713-527-8243

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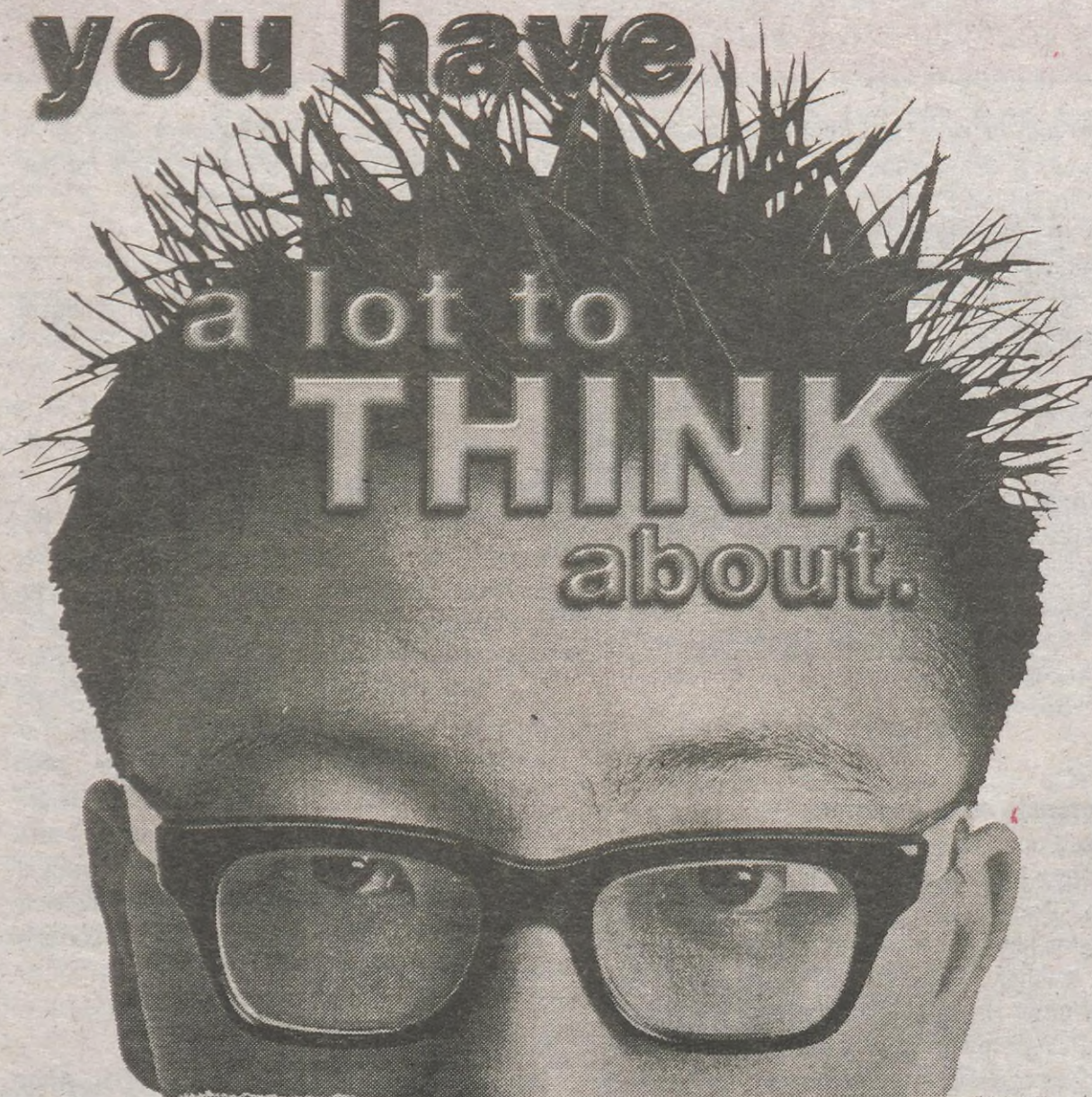
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# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Concept cuisine

Fire and Ice offers do-it-yourself meal creations with wide variety of options

by KATHREEN LEE

Standard denizens of theme park resorts, giga-malls like Katy Mills and other tourist traps, concept restaurants rarely receive a fair shake when trying to compete with other "normal" dining establishments, especially with those in Houston.

**FIRE AND ICE**, an "improvisational grill," is the newest concept restaurant to hit Houston and eagerly awaits in the former hallow quarters of the Hard Rock Café, yet another concept restaurant, to initiate virgin patrons into their culinary cult.

When you go for the first time, it is best to choose a quiet evening when you know you can monopolize your server's time. The night my friends and I went, I knew from the copy of D.H. Lawrence's "Sons and Lovers" tucked away in our server's apron pocket that we would have an omnipresent waitress holding our hands through every step of our dining expedition.

Once you've composed your fantasy meal, you head over to the sauce station where you select from an assortment of sauces to complement your dinner. With sauce and food in hand, you go to the central grill post where you hand your ingredients over to the chef who will grill your concoction for you.

The concept of Fire and Ice, as our server thoroughly and patiently explained, is as follows: you have a choice between the Market (\$15.95) and the World Feast (\$24.95). For both options, you start at the salad bar with your choice of salads ranging from the typical garden variety to the fancier endive "spring mix" salad.

After that initial teaser, you head over to the Market counter where you can select from an extensive selection of vegetables, raw meats and seafood and create your own panoply of entrees. Fresh peppers, mushrooms, scallions, ground beef, shrimp, mussels, scallops and other ingredients are available for you to mix and match into your own delicious or monstrous creation.

## FIRE + ICE

2801 Kirby Drive  
713.522.4500

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

FOOD FILE

Once you've composed your fantasy meal, you head over to the sauce station where you select from an assortment of sauces to complement your dinner. Choices abound from a variety of ethnic cuisines, ranging from a spicy Red Thai Curry sauce to the milder Mediterranean Marinara (A friend wants me to note: Unless you're sure of what you're doing, do NOT mix sauces.) With sauce and food in hand, you go to the central grill post where you hand your ingredients over to the chef who will grill your concoction for you.

For those who ordered the World Feast, this is only the beginning.

The World Feast option offers all that the Market offers. In addition, you are periodically visited at your table by the skewered-meat fairies who carve off slices of an array of different meats and vegetables onto your plate, including grilled lamb, chicken, tenderloin, salmon and cinnamon-pineapples. Suddenly, button flies have become very important.

While the friendly open atmosphere and the incredibly attentive service received rave reviews from my friends, many noted that after a while the food, especially the meats from the World Feast, began to take on a ubiquitous taste. We could no longer distinguish between the lamb and the tenderloin and many of us returned to the Market to experiment with new tastes.

Whether you concoct Frankenstein or Galatea, you can return to the Market as many times as you need in order to satiate your gastronomical urges.

With 17 different sauces and a wide variety of fresh ingredients to choose from, I assure you will not have any problems creating your dishes catered to your own unique tastes. However, whether or not you enjoy your meal will be wholly dependent on your amalgamating know-how.

I would advise future patrons to fast the entire day in order to be able to fully appreciate the culinary extravaganza that Fire and Ice has to offer.



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## "quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER



"In very few places outside of the hard-core South and more right-wing parts of the West it's not okay to be outright anti-gay."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to the *Fresno [California] Bee*, April 10

"I went and tried to have a trendy haircut and now I look like a lesbian on the female tennis circuit."

—Actor Hugh Grant (left) to *Talk* magazine, May issue

"Straight culture encourages its members to find all their emotional needs (lover, best friend, confidante, roommate, vacation partner, parent of their children) in one person—with predictable strains and horrible endings. Gays and lesbians tend to divvy out the emotional ties between different people—lover(s), roomies, fuck buddies, best friends, 'sister(s)', and ex-lovers who become key members of our support network."

—Gareth Kirkby, editor of Vancouver, Canada's *Xtra West*, April 12

"If one kid coming out can say to their parents, 'Hey, you know the woman who sang "At Seventeen," she's gay too,' then I have achieved something good."

—Janis Ian (right) to the *Adelaide, Australia*, gay newspaper *Blaze*, April 6

"Do you honestly think Elton [John] could have managed to get on the Grammy's without a stunt like that [the duet with Eminem]?"

—Singer Janis Ian to the *Adelaide, Australia*, gay newspaper *Blaze*, April 6



"[We] have resolved to exterminate the human rubbish that you are, so our country will be seen as an example in the world, and we won't have to run into perverted queers. [Gay] people will be shot in the ass when they don't expect it. ... Our objective is to exterminate this plague of queers. ... We are well-organized to achieve this social cleansing."

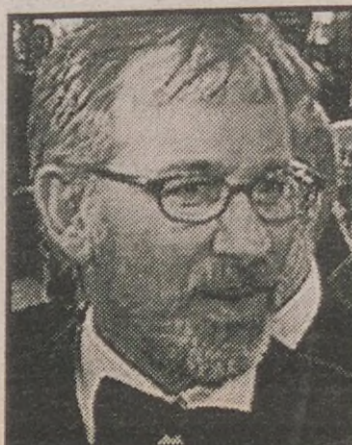
—From a March 23 e-mail to the Ecuadorian gay group Quitogay, according to Amnesty International

"This is the beginning, I bet, of Bush's tack to the center, having shored up his conservative base in the last couple of months. It's not the first gay appointee: there are already several in the Bush administration but so far they have all sadly been closet cases. Not Evertz. Come to think of it, I can't recall any openly gay person higher up in the White House hierarchy ever (and I'm not counting J. Edgar Hoover or Janet Reno)."

—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan writing at [www.andrewsullivan.com](http://www.andrewsullivan.com) on President George Bush's appointment of Scott Evertz to head the Office of National AIDS Policy, April 9

"We're not that happy about it. Not even Clinton appointed an openly homosexual person in this position. We've had signs from the beginning that the Bush administration was not going to help us that much in our efforts to stem the tide of homosexual activism."

—Heather Cirno, spokeswoman for the Family Research Council, on the appointment of Scott Evertz as AIDS czar, to *Salon.com*, April 10



"The last few years in Scouting have deeply saddened me to see the Boy Scouts of America actively and publicly participating in discrimination. It's a real shame. ... Once Scouting fully opens its doors to all who desire the same experience that so fully enriched me as a young person, I will be happy to reconsider a role on the advisory board."

—Film producer and director Steven Spielberg (left) resigning from his position on the Boy Scouts of America advisory board, April 16

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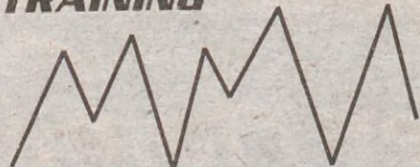
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**saturday, april 28**

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.713-880-9235.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Texas Association for Transexual Support. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Dining with Friends & Cinema night • www.AsiansAndFriendsHouston.com 713-626-6300.  
Houston Outdoor Group • Clean-up • 713-290-0220.

**sunday april 29**

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy-Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.  
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service.

Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930  
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Pot Luck dinner. 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. 13-797-8615.

**monday, april 30**

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVE5. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.  
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.  
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037  
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.  
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
StoneWall Democrats • 7 p.m. stonewallhouston@hotmail.com.

**tuesday, may 1**

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

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# calendar

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
 CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## wednesday, may 2

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.  
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.  
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380  
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.  
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-33-5818.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.  
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.  
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.  
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.

## thursday, may 3

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.  
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.  
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.  
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • What Lesbians Do? 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## friday, may 4

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.  
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. • Lesbian Film night • "Late Bloomers." 7 p.m. • 713-524-3818.  
 To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

You're invited to:  
**MARANATHA MCC'S  
 FIESTA BALL EXTRAVAGANZA 2001**

When: April 27 at 7:30pm  
 Where: Kim Son Grand Ballroom, 1503 St. Emanuel

Let's come together as a community and have the time of your life!

Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction and Raffle

Attire: Dressy Casual  
 Cost: \$30.00 per person, contact the church office for details on purchasing tickets at 713.528.6756



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meets in the home of Central Congregational Church

6:30pm Sunday Evenings

April 29<sup>th</sup> "The Compassionate Way Is the Patient Way" Rev. Janet Parker

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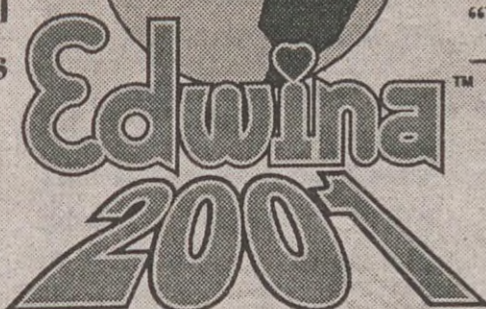
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# Classifieds

## Announcements

### RUMMAGE SALE

**STAGE DOOR DIVAS**  
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### TGRA

Texas Gay Rodeo Associations meeting and BBQ May 6 2 p.m. New members welcome • Call Michael 713.523.7663.

## Education

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Houston's newest nightclub **South Beach** is accepting applications for all positions.

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Gay owned and operated Deli in the Heights looking for reliable counter person • Call Doug @ 713-864-3354 for appointment.

### MILAM HOUSE

Housing assistance needed for transitional living program • Knowledge in the areas of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse (recovery) preferred • Fax resume to 713.522.2674.

### ROMAN HAIR SALON

Independent cosmetology Barber stylist to lease space • Montrose area • Frank 713.522.8576 • Very reasonable.

### BERING MEMORIAL UMC

Church-based AIDS Spiritual Support Network serving a diverse community including GLBT and minorities seeks Program Director. Qualifications: Creative, dynamic professional with experience in community outreach, GROUP and individual counseling program development and management • LPC or MSW-ACP preferred. Interested individuals should forward resume and qualifications to: Bering Memorial UMC, c/o COSM, 1440 Harold, Houston, Texas 77006. • No phone calls please.

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

High Linen Rental company seeks Operations Manager with demonstrated track record, attention to detail, sewing and Spanish knowledge a plus. Fax resume to 713.522.4876.

### CLUB NSOMNIA

Now hiring part time floor help • Please cal 713.521.1613

### PACIFIC STREET

Now accepting applications for all positions • Apply in person at 710 Pacific • Monday-Friday, 11am-3pm • Recent photo required • No phone calls please

### EJ's

Now accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks, Clean-Up and Door Security • Applications accepted Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm only • Recent photo helpful • Absolutely no phone calls, please • Apply in person at 2517 Ralph

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Nightingale ADC offers free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals • Including job preparedness training, resume development, job search assistance • For more informations call 713.981.1543

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Occasions

### Birthdays

Ed M. Jr. member of Asians & Friends is smiling in his birthday on April 29.

Michael S. (4/28) and Malcom P. (5/1) motor in birthdays this week.

Ed M. Jr. (4/28) and Eddie C. (4/29) toast in birthdays this week.

The one and only Mike Zizza will lift his birthday glass to cheer him on his April 29 birthday.

Woody Stiner will be looking for his birthday cowboy on May 3.

The wonderful, tall and talented Jim Benton will sneak in a birthday on May 4.

## Sammy is still lost!



My humans Chuck and Tim really want me back, and they are offering a \$5,000 reward for my safe return. Call 713-621-0882. I wandered off while we were running in Memorial Park a couple weeks ago. I am 7-years-old and I miss my humans. Please help me get home!

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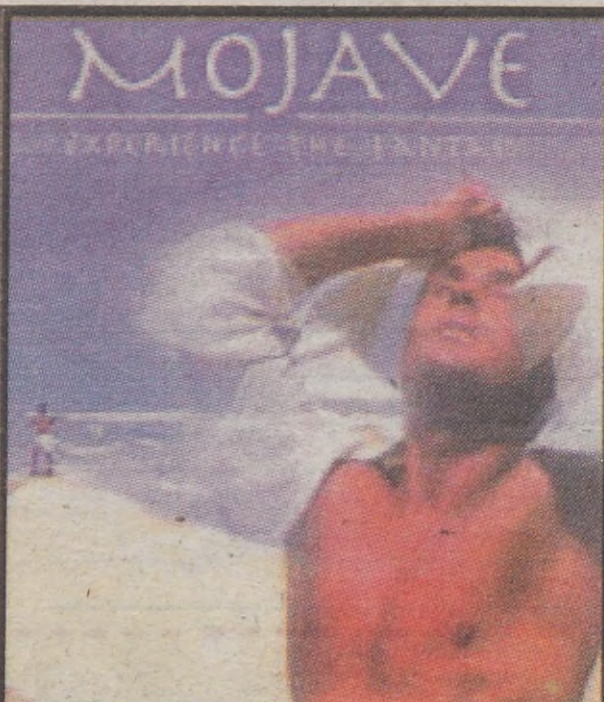
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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

April 27 – May 3



**ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)**

Go after what you can get while Venus is in your sign, sweetheart. You know what you have to do on the job, so just do it. You've got the gift of charm and an extra bit of artistry now. You can get away with murder (or at least grab some cheap feels off a coy Gemini) during this cycle. Restraint is so five minutes ago. Why wait?



**TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)**

May is a mondo lucky month for you, Taurus, if you are willing to roll the dice and put your money down on one number you believe in. Instead of playing the role of passive bottom, why not be assertive and confident? Your career and your love life (particularly if you're involved with a Sag) need some top energy.



**GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)**

This is the best time for you to find a friend to dance, dine and drink with, as well as desire. You and a pal have a special connection that can only be described as hot. It's best to say the truth—the whole truth—or say nothing if you're not sure. An Aries can handle what you really think and feel.



**CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)**

It's best to push yourself to do the work at hand while you've still got work to do, sweetie. Seriously, don't sabotage your career while Venus is squaring you. Don't repress your anxieties. When you release your angst verbally, you have better bedroom antics with a Libra.



**LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)**

If you are looking for the one who has all the qualities of your movie-star dream date and your old high-school sweetheart, you just might find somebody. Be a little cautious where money is concerned while the Sun and Mercury are squaring you. If you have to out-charm an ex or a colleague to get the attention of an Aquarius, go for it!



**VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)**

With Jupiter and Saturn at the top of your chart, it's best to meditate on your career—then make that creative visualization a reality. A little distance could help you figure out a complex relationship. A Capricorn seems to understand you best during this cycle.



**LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)**

The Sun and Mercury are both pushing you to discover the deeper desire beneath the obvious longings. Serious relationships take precedence over inconsequential ones. Give it all and more to a Scorpio. You'll get just what you need in return.



**SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)**

There's no reason to suffer in silence if a recent flame has dissed and dismissed you. This is the time to cry the blues to a bunch of understanding babes. Instead of trying to control every aspect of what goes down in your bedroom, why not let a Taurus take charge?



**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)**

As Mars moves forward in your sign, you may feel a combination of sexual drive and career ambition that is overwhelming, to say the least. It's worth it to wait for a colleague to come to you with some great contacts or a job offer. By night, you might engage in some games with a Pisces.



**CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)**

You may have an unconscious desire for children or to give birth to something, dear. Perhaps to the novel inside you or some other piece of creative genius. Write your share of witty e-mails, scathing memos and brilliant puff pieces while the spirit moves you. A Leo is charmed by your words—and your woozy-making charm.



**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)**

Don't even think of trying to raise hell on the home front or with your family. You have a chance to work through an old family issue, babe, so please go there. Instead of repressing angst and anger, endure it. Do something to distract yourself. A Virgo could help.



**PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)**

If you're thinking about settling down, think again. You may get a brilliant idea in the middle of the night that surprises and shocks you. It might have to do with exploring a foreign part of the world or expanding your communications empire. A Cancer could be the guardian angel of your dreams—you devil!

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

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