



COMBUSTIBLE COIFS!

The Miss Camp America Foundation's fifth annual 'Wigs on Fire' fund-raiser is set for July 22.

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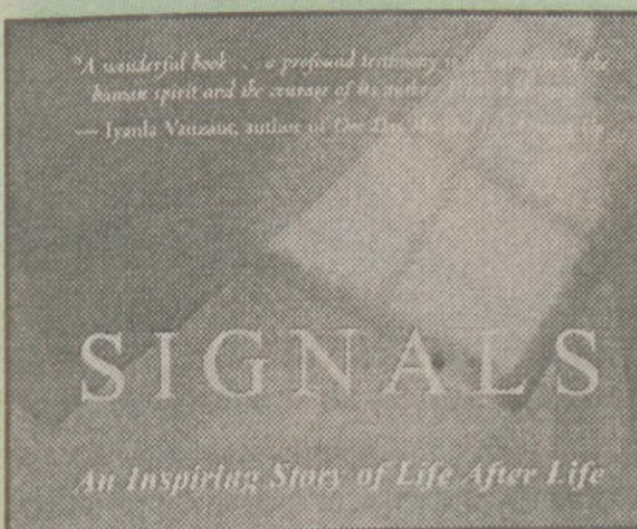
The Museum of Fine Arts Houston is paying homage to divas of the silver screen with a Film Fatale series this summer.

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An Uncommon Legacy presented its annual awards, grants and scholarships last weekend. Newly named DNC delegate Sue Lovell was among those honored.

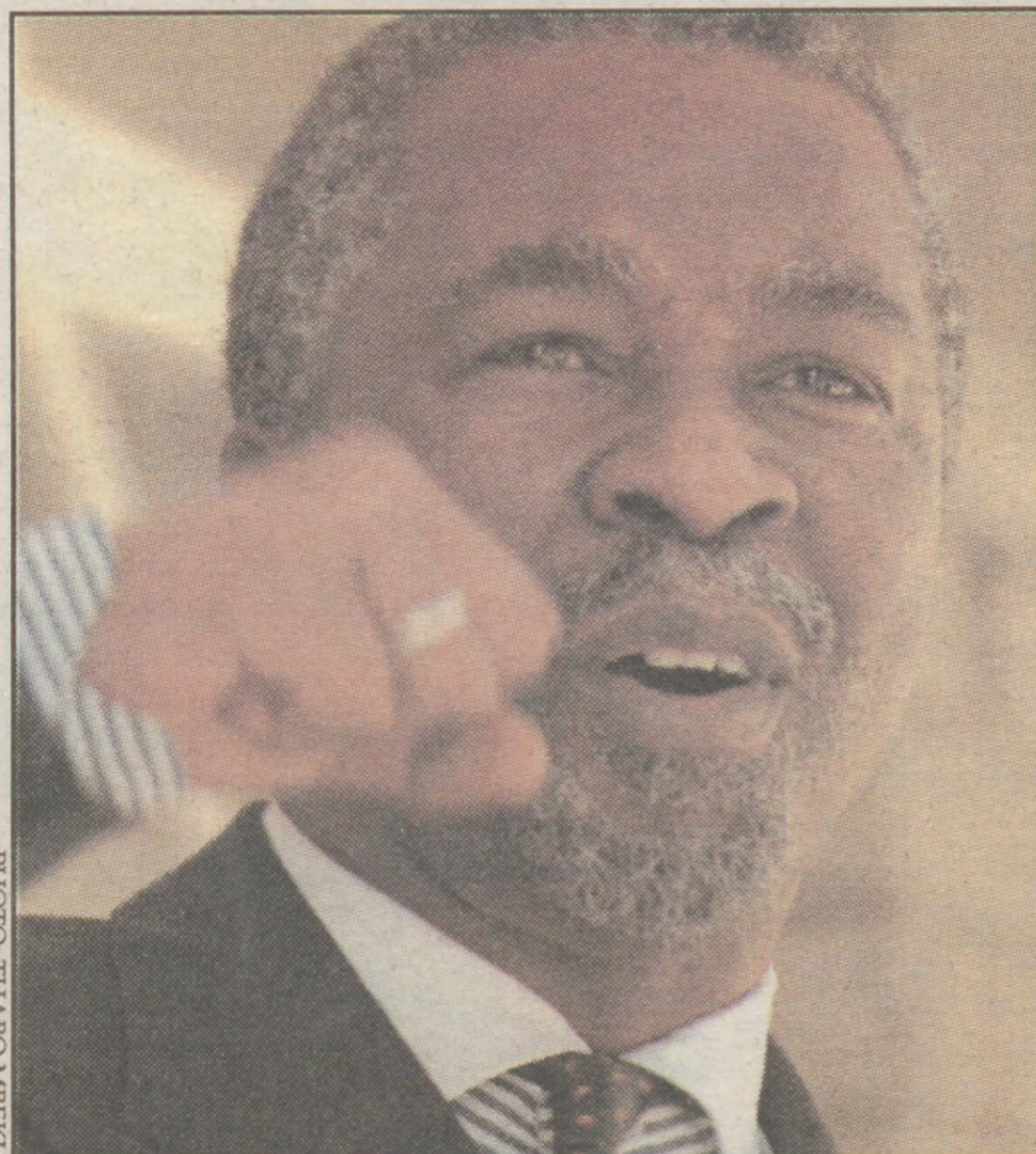
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'Signals' chronicles the return to good health of a fitness instructor who walked away with a new sense of spirituality.

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AIDS cause debated while death toll rises



South African President Thabo Mbeki is facing down bitter criticism at the International AIDS Conference in Durban, for lending credibility to scientists who question whether HIV causes AIDS

New data shows HIV infection, AIDS death rates growing worse in U.S. and sub-Saharan Africa, while international conference argues whether the virus or extreme poverty causes AIDS

by PAIGE PARVIN

South African people are contracting and dying of AIDS at a staggering rate, and the latest numbers from the U.S. portend the worst news in years about the spread of the virus and its continued death toll.

Ominous reports from the 13th International AIDS Conference this week, held in Africa for the first time this year, indicate that at least 10 percent, maybe 20, of South Africa's 44 million people are HIV-positive. The vast majority don't know they're infected.

At the current rate, half of South African 15-year-olds will die of AIDS-related complications.

Seventy percent of the 34 million worldwide infected with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than two million died of AIDS only last year, and there are an estimated 200,000 AIDS orphans.

In the U.S., the rate of new HIV infections, AIDS cases and deaths have stopped declining as they had before 1998, and are now leveling off, according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

> Continued on Page 10

'GVO' leaves legacy of action

Celebration of life planned for 25-year gay rights leader, Ooteghem

by ELLA TYLER

Longtime gay activist Gary Van Ooteghem, 58, died Thursday, July 6, 2000, at Twelve Oaks hospital. He had been in the hospital with pneumonia and had a heart attack following surgery to treat blood clots.

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

Kevin Davidson, president of H.A.T.C.H., said Monday that the scholarship endowment fund will be named in Ooteghem's honor.

"Gary helped raise \$140,000 to fund scholarships for deserving teens and this was, I think, his proudest achievement," Davidson said.



PHOTO: DALTON DEHART

> Continued on Page 11 Gary Van Ooteghem

HEPATITIS A&B...no big deal, right?

Nausea so bad you want to die
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 no vodka. No gym.
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You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis

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An Uncommon Legacy bestows awards



Roberta Achtenberg, the first open lesbian appointed to a senate-confirmed position, was named An Uncommon Legacy's Uncommon Woman of the Year at the group's fifth annual brunch held last Sunday at the Warwick Hotel.

Lovell, Achtenberg honored at annual brunch, scholarship, grants awarded to groups

by KAY DAYUS

Roberta Achtenberg, holder of numerous offices, elected and otherwise, and long time political activist, was named An Uncommon Legacy's Uncommon Woman of the Year at the group's fifth annual brunch held last Sunday at the Warwick Hotel.

About 200 lesbians, a smattering of men and some very uncommon guests attended the very elegant affair. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, State Rep. Debra Danburg, City Councilwoman Annise Parker, City Comptroller Sylvia Garcia and Democratic National Committee nominee, Sue Lovell, were all in attendance.

Achtenberg became the first open gay or lesbian appointed to a senate-confirmed position, when she was nominated by President Bill Clinton to be Under Secretary for Housing and Urban Development.

The debate was long back then, said Achtenberg, but she finally made it.

She spoke about the differences in being gay or lesbian back in the '70s and now.

"Some people have suggested that it's becoming more and more matter-of-fact that we identify ourselves openly as gays or lesbians; and that it will become completely unnoteworthy some day in the future that we openly identify ourselves."

She went on to say that she could remember the time when a group of women in a room such as those in attendance would not dare identify themselves as lesbians.

"We would not even say the word lesbian, let alone write a check in support of lesbians with less, or support young women so that they might take up leadership positions in our equality movement. And that wasn't so very long ago."

She said that by being out "we've taken another step toward our own liberation and the liberation of all people, and so I'm hopeful that very soon that there will come a day when it is completely unnoteworthy." But, she cautioned, "we're not there yet."

Congresswoman Lee gave a brief
 > Continued on Page 16

Gonzales lesbian couple ready to leave over harassment

Women, daughter hiding out from media, unfriendly townsfolk

by GIP PLASTER

A Gonzales, Texas lesbian who fought with the local school hoping to end the harassment of her fifth-grade daughter—and who made some gains on the issue—is now secluded from the media and townsfolk and preparing to move her family to Wisconsin.

Wanda "Sonny" McDaniel, the biological mother of the child who has been followed home by a boy intent on harassing her and subjected to teasing for more than two years because her parents are lesbians, said it is time for the family to leave the town.

She and her partner Sandy McGill, who has lived in Gonzales for 50 years, want to find a place where their child can be comfortable in school.

And although the family plans to leave the town of 8,000 located about 70 miles south of Austin, they want to make sure their legacy is felt in the school, in the state legislature and by other parents concerned about their own children.

"Being teased is not a right of passage," McDaniel said. "Since it's difficult to teach children the difference between harmful and harmless teasing, I think we should have a no-tolerance policy."

She said she hopes the Texas Legislature will pass a bill in its next term to stop the kind

of harassment their child suffered.

"There are 60-year-old men that sit on the legislature that were teased at one time, and they probably still remember that," she said in an interview with the Houston Voice just moments before the family left their home for a two-week stay at a borrowed house in an undisclosed location.

"faggot" and "gay bitch." McDaniel and McGill reported the incident to school administrators, and the boy was disciplined. But the harassment did not stop, according to McDaniel.

Later that school year, the daughter told her mother that a teacher stood outside her classroom and discussed McDaniel's sexual

We're dealing with attitudes and bigotry that even the law won't legislate out of a town like Gonzales.

—Dianne Hardy-Garcia,

executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

They intend to spend their time in seclusion planning a route to Wisconsin and working with a realtor to find a home in Wisconsin, where McDaniel has ties.

Some expenses for the trip are being paid by donations still coming in from around the state, and McDaniel vowed to use the leftover money to start a foundation to help other families in similar situations.

"We'll be able to help by giving them some financial and emotional assistance," she said.

Their story

"It started in September 1997 when a little boy followed my daughter home from school," McDaniel said.

The boy called her daughter names like

orientation with another teacher in a way that children could hear, according to McDaniel. That incident was also reported to the principal.

"Teachers trained in diversity don't stand outside classrooms and talk about students' parents," McDaniel said.

Fourth grade was less eventful for the child, but harassment started again in fifth grade.

On April 26, McDaniel met with Gonzales ISD superintendent Erwin Ckudre, but she was not satisfied with the result.

She enlisted Will Harrell, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, and together they presented a letter to a closed-door session of the school board May 15.

> Continued on Page 17

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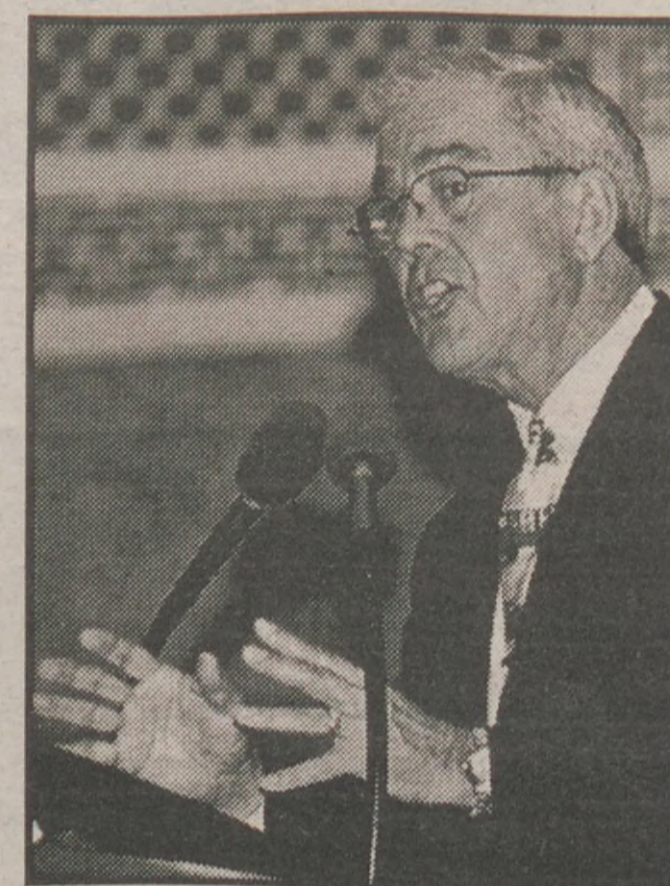
Around the South

Louisiana Supreme Court bucks recent trend, upholds sodomy law

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Louisiana's Supreme Court has upheld the state's 195-year-old sodomy law, under which consenting adults could receive up to five years in prison for engaging in oral or anal sex. "Simply put, commission of what the Legislature determines as an immoral act, even if consensual and private, is an injury against society itself," Justice Chet Traylor wrote in 5-2 decision delivered July 6. In their dissent, Chief Justice Pascal Calogero Jr. and Justice Harry Lemmon said the law represents an intrusion of government into citizens' homes. "The only apparent purpose of the prohibition is to dictate the type of sex that is acceptable to legislators," Lemmon wrote. "Two married persons should be able to choose how they conduct their nonpublic, voluntary sexual relations in the security of their own home," the ruling stated. The ruling did not affect a pending civil lawsuit, filed by gay-rights advocates, challenging the sodomy law on different issues. The decision reinstates the conviction of a man who had oral sex with a woman and had his three-year jail sentence suspended.

Ky. Baptist agency accepts contract after governor rewrites it

LOUISVILLE (AP)—A Baptist children's care agency has accepted state conditions on the renewal of its contract after a conflict over the agency's firing of an openly gay employee. The agreement means the 300 troubled children placed by the state at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will not be moved. A dispute with the agency arose after the ACLU sued Baptist Homes over the firing of Alicia Pedreira, a lesbian social worker, in 1998. In response to the suit, the state wanted to impose conditions on the renewal of the \$12 million contract. The Baptist Homes accepted the deal in June, then rejected it days later, with the president of Baptist Homes accusing state officials of being "more worried about being politically correct than teaching our children family values." But the agency decided July 6 to accept the contract after Gov. Paul Patton intervened and assured the agency that individual social workers, not high-level administrators, would decide where to place children, and that the agency's employment policies will not be an issue.



Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton backed away from pushing the Baptist Homes for Children to change its anti-gay employment policies.

Republicans urge judges who overturned Texas sodomy law to quit

HOUSTON—Texas Republicans are working to remove two appeals court judges who voted to overturn Texas' sodomy law last month, the *Houston Chronicle* reported. During the recent Texas Republican Convention, the party passed a platform that declares homosexual behavior to be "contrary to the unchanging truths that have been ordained by God." The platform targeted the two judges who voted to overturn the sodomy law, Justices John S. Anderson and Chief Justice Paul Murphy, for defeat at the polls. The platform plank caused Gary Pollard, the GOP chair for Harris County, which encompasses Houston, to draft a letter encouraging Anderson to either change his ruling or resign from the bench. But the letter was not acceptable to GOP chairs from 13 counties surrounding Houston, some of whom didn't want to second guess the opinion of legal experts. Anderson is unopposed on the November election ballot for a second six-year term on the court, and Murphy's term on the court runs until 2002.

One year later, Pentagon still working on report on soldier's death

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—A Pentagon report on how Fort Campbell officials handled the murder of Army Private Barry Winchell's death over last year's July Fourth weekend has again been delayed. The Inspector General's report, which was scheduled to be released July 8, almost exactly a year after the crime, is said to detail an investigation of harassment within the entire military, including an assessment of whether Fort Campbell officials allowed a homophobic climate to exist at the base. Winchell's mother, Pat Kutteles, is among those who believe her 21-year-old son was harassed for several months and eventually killed because it was rumored that he was gay. She has filed a claim against the Army seeking about \$1.8 million in damages. Kutteles says she's not interested in money, only change.

N.C. university radio station manager reassigned after censorship

WINSTON-SALEM (AP)—The station manager of Wake Forest University's public radio station has been reassigned after forbidding students to report on a controversy over a same-sex union in a university chapel, drawing criticism for her supervision of the newsroom. Linda Ward, station manager at WFDD since 1997, started work July 10 as the station's executive director of development, said Sam Gladding, the university's associate provost. Paul Brown, the station's program director, and Michelle Johnson, news director, resigned over the censorship order. Gladding said Ward requested the move.

—From staff and wire reports



For more news, visit
www.houstonvoice.com

Around the Nation

Clinton bans bias in 'federally conducted' education programs

WASHINGTON—President Clinton issued an executive order June 23 banning discrimination against gays and other minorities in "federally conducted" education and training programs, the *Washington Blade* reported July 7. The executive order covers farm training courses offered by the Department of Agriculture, and business-related programs offered by the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration, but does not apply to the nation's public schools, nor to armed forces classes. Len Hirsch, president of Federal GLOBE, a gay advocacy group for U.S. government employees, said he considers Clinton's June 23 order to be "extraordinarily important," even though its scope may be limited. "The president is raising the standard by saying federal agencies must take into consideration actions that may discriminate, and that they must eradicate that type of discrimination," Hirsch said. The president did not mention in his June 23 speech that the order included the category of sexual orientation, although a White House press release did mention the sexual orientation clause.

N.Y. mayor accused of sexually harassing male employees resigns

UTICA, N.Y. (AP)—Embattled and turbulent Mayor Edward A. Hanna, facing charges of sexual harassment of male employees, resigned unexpectedly July 4. Hanna, 78 and a Republican, said he was resigning for health reasons, but he also faces sexual harassment allegations made in June by four men who allege their employment was tied to their responses to the mayor's advances. At the time, Hanna denied the allegations, calling them part of a "cleverly orchestrated conspiracy to extort money, including political rewards and control." The men's lawyer, Joseph Policelli, countered: "People don't blackmail people by claiming that they had homosexual activities with somebody." The legacy of Hanna, a fiscal conservative, is peppered with similar outrageous incidents. He once proposed closing city government and he also built a Tower of Hope next to City Hall to honor Bob Hope, who has no connection to the city.

Gay 'survivor' sues over child abuse charge; another falls in U.K.

MIDDLETOWN, R.I.—Richard Hatch, the openly gay "Survivor" from the TV series of the same name, is suing a Rhode Island agency and a local police force for charging him with child abuse, the *New York Post* reported July 7. Hatch, 39, was arrested in April, shortly after returning home at the end of the CBS reality/game show. He was charged with abusing his adopted son by forcing him to run six miles with him, and hitting the boy when he faltered.

The boy was removed from Hatch's custody in April, and returned by a judge in late May. Hatch filed separate civil rights suits against the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families and Middletown, R.I., police. "He's a really, really troubled kid, and when he watches mindless bureaucrats wander around at his beck and call like pawns in a chess game, it does damage to him," said Hatch, who feels he is being persecuted because of his celebrity. But the show had not aired at the time of his arrest.

Meanwhile on the Scottish island of Taransay, the second of 36 volunteers to quit the BBC show "Castaway 2000" was a gay man, Reuters reported. Ron Copey left six months into the year-long challenge to survive on the remote island. Copey, 44, was the only openly gay man among the group, and had shown himself to be "capable of provoking strong feelings from people," said executive producer Jeremy Mills. A friend agreed. "It's typical of Ron to make a drama out of it. ... Now he's probably had an argument with somebody and minced off," a newspaper quoted Barry Gale as saying.



'Survivor' Richard Hatch is suing after his adopted son was taken from him over abuse allegations.

Conservatives angry at Gumbel's on-air comment after interview

NEW YORK (AP)—An unexpected camera shift seems to have caught Bryant Gumbel in a profane comment about an anti-gay guest on CBS's "Early Show." Gumbel had finished a tense June 29 interview with Robert Knight, spokesperson for the Family Research Council who supported the Supreme Court decision allowing the Boy Scouts of America to exclude gays as leaders. After ending the interview and introducing a weather report, the camera inexplicably switched to Gumbel, who was heard to say "What a ..." before his microphone was switched off. Knight believes Gumbel completed the sentence with the phrase "fucking idiot." The words can't be heard, but a videotape appears to support the contention. The American Family Association issued a statement calling for Gumbel's ouster, but Knight said an apology would be sufficient. "He was caught off balance," Knight said. "He didn't know he was on television." Gumbel left after the show for a vacation, spokesperson Sandra Genelius said, who said she didn't know what Gumbel said. A politically conservative web-site called Capitol Blue has said the remark was

directed toward "Early Show" weatherman Mark McEwen.

For more news, visit www.houstonvoice.com

—From staff and wire reports

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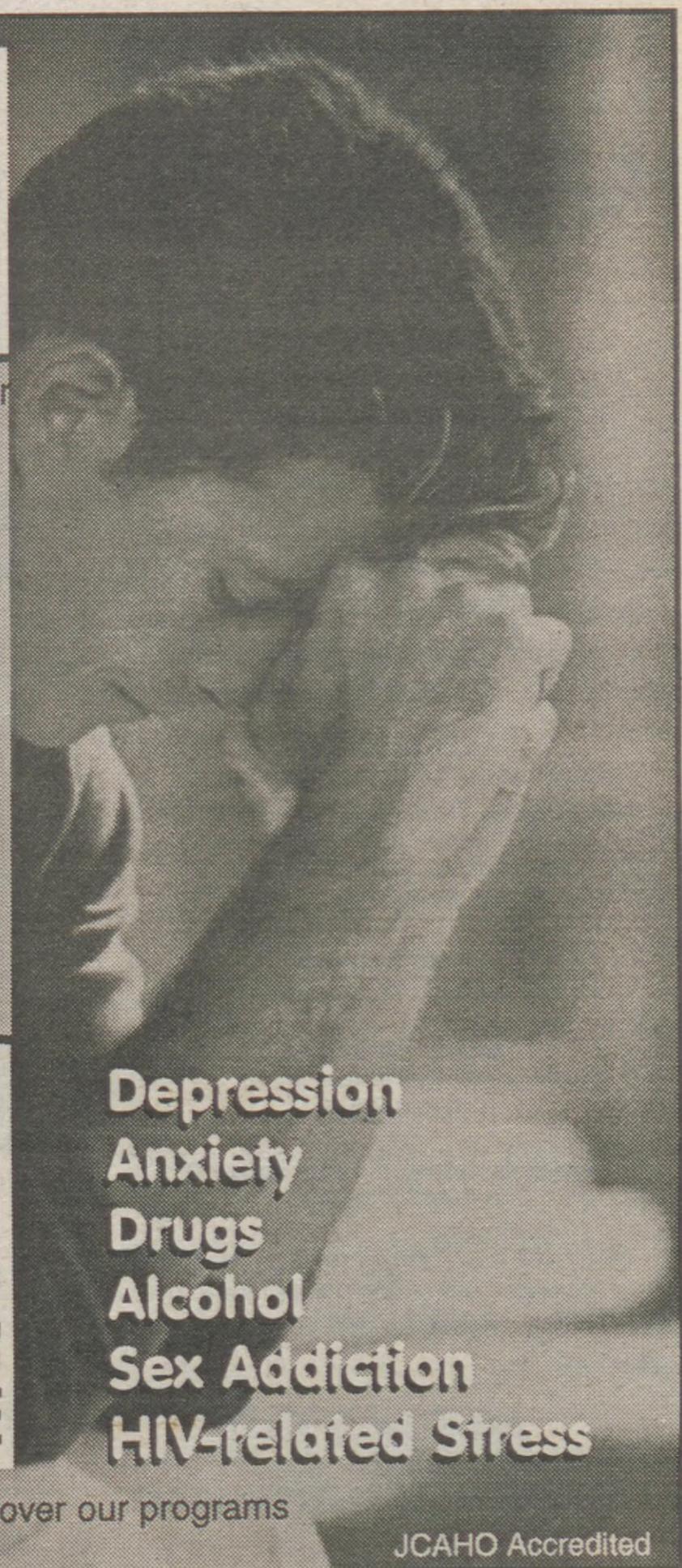
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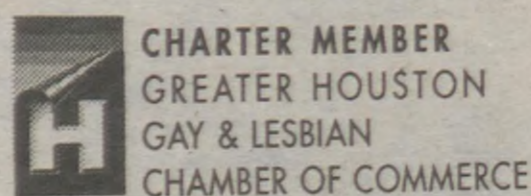
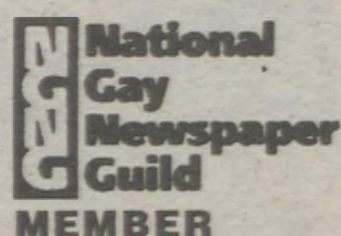


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EDITORIAL

Adventures in Say Never-land

(or Harriet Planter to the rescue)

by MELINDA SHELTON

Louisiana needs Harriet Planter to rescue us from villains who have turned the state into an intrusive Say Never-land (say never to private, consensual sex acts of our choice).

Who is Harriet Planter? She's a distant relative of a well-known, wildly popular young boy with the magical ability to capture the imaginations of just about anyone who encounters him.

Like her cousin, Harriet possesses the innate ability to see evil wherever it lurks, whether deep in the hearts of sacrilegious wrong-doers or in the spineless souls of those charged with creating and enacting laws in a land where people are supposed to be equal.

Confused? You're not alone. Perhaps an abbreviated lexicon will help guide you:

Harriet. You've already met her. By the way, don't take the pronoun "her" too literally. She possesses the ability to change genders, even become androgynous, as she sees fit (or others choose to see her).

Harriet is your ordinary hero. In fact, she's really just like most people who want to live a fulfilling life. What makes her different is she dares to challenge those who are out to destroy her and anyone like her—or who likes her. Her bravery comes at a cost: Weasels and Muddles hate her. Really, really hate her.

Weasels. They're a villainous family of sacrilegious wrong-doers who masquerade as do-gooders. Their mission is to brainwash the world into doing as they say, not necessarily as they do.

Weasels possess an evil power: rhetoric. Yes, weasels use language as a weapon against the Harriets of the world or to lure the unsuspecting into their den of inequity. "Sexual deviants." "Genetic mistakes." "Family values." "Morally straight." "Partial-birth abortion." "Homosexual agenda." "The Bible says" "Compassion."

Weasels can speak from both sides of their mouths.

Weasels seek out the weak-minded and brainwash them into seeing Harriet and her compadres as hideous creatures to be feared and cast into hell—or at least "put in their place." "Out of sight, out of mind" is the weasels' motto.

Weasels also seek out and use Muddles.

Muddles. Ah, where to start?

Muddles typically are spineless. They include elected officials, such as governors who don't wear motorcycle helmets to protect them from sudden impacts at high speeds (or from weasels who step in front of them). They are also legislators and judges.

ple of the "do as I say, not as I do" weasel. She is particularly obsessed with sex and what other people do in the privacy of their own homes—literally do. However, Lady Laura is no Dr. Ruth when it comes to matters of the libido. In fact, she's the dominatrix of straight sex—as she

Harriet, and many insightful people like her, recognize Lady Laura, other weasels, and weak Muddles for the fakes they are. She is unrelenting in the fight for justice and equality for all, and she revels in the small victories. She also vacations in Vermont when she needs a break from the action.

Muddles are easily manipulated by weasels, who taunt them with reelection promises or threaten to topple them from office.

Muddles swear to uphold the laws of the land and to treat all of their subjects, eh, supporters, fairly and equally. They also promise Harriet they will stand by her through thick and thin and will fearlessly crusade for equal rights for all people.

Muddles are prone to develop amnesia. Some have cognitive disorders that affect their ability to do the right thing when under pressure.

Muddles also can be misguided media who listen to the mother of all weasels: the evil Lady Laura.

Lady Laura. She skillfully uses rhetoric as a means of reaching Muddles and other people willing to behave like sheep. Her acts of deception reap her great bounties: Wealth. Fame. Power. A television show.

Lady Laura is the perfect exam-

ple of the "do as I say, not as I do" weasel. She is particularly obsessed with sex and what other people do in the privacy of their own homes—literally do. However, Lady Laura is no Dr. Ruth when it comes to matters of the libido. In fact, she's the dominatrix of straight sex—as she

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PLANT LIFE

Old maid to nosy niece: It's okay to be a bachelor

by DREW PLANT

I'm adopted. Not in the conventional sense. I mean, I was raised by my biological parents.

I am adopted in the sense that single people tend to bewilder those who have paired off. Couples and groups of all sorts seem to want to take in those of us who are single.

Don't get me wrong. I'm flattered by efforts to include me as third or fifth wheel, as the case may be, but I'm not sure I like the idea that someone *has* to take care of me.

It also is a little disconcerting that people tend to think there is some earth-shaking, overriding reason that you're single. (Raging genital herpes and the hump on my back aside.)

Hey, maybe I am single by choice. Maybe there's a long lost love you don't know about. Maybe it's my high standards. Or, maybe I am sleeping with my "ex" and you just don't know about it.

Still, the most endearing concern for my singleness comes "from the mouths of babes"—from my nieces and nephew.

When pre-teen Elizabeth was six years old, she announced during a visit to Uncle Drew's "papartment" that "you are a bachelor." She said it

with such authority I was taken aback.

Being somewhat surprised, I stalled for time. "Where did you hear that?" I asked.

"In school. Women who don't get married are 'old maids,'" she added.

"It's usually not a very nice thing to say that someone is an old maid," I said. "A lot of times people mean that in an ugly way."

Elizabeth considered this for a moment before submitting her follow up. "Is being a bachelor bad, too?"

"Well, people can mean it in a bad way, but it doesn't have to be bad," I told her. "It depends on what you say with it."

"So are you a bachelor?" she said, narrowing the conversation, as usual.

"Well I guess I am," I said, laughing at the urge for a label.

"Are you one in a good way?" my small friend wanted to know.

"I think so."

As is often the case, Elizabeth didn't let go of the subject entirely. A couple of weeks later we were watching a video together as her mother put her little sister down for a nap.

Tiny, beautiful Elizabeth is a real thinker and I could tell that, even



Will Drew find his Captain and dash off into the mountains, singing?

though her eyes rested on "Babe," her mind was elsewhere. Her revelation didn't take long to surface.

"You know you can still get married?" she told me very seriously.

"I know I can," I said, hoping for more time for an Elizabeth-appropriate answer. "Life gives us a lot of choices and I'm glad that we all have choices about relationships and that we can change our minds if we want to."

My global answer was too broad. Elizabeth was only worried about the here and now. About Uncle Drew.

"Yeah, the Captain in 'The Sound of Music' had a wife and lots of children and then his wife wasn't living anymore," Elizabeth recounted for me. "He met Maria and they got married and ran off into the mountains and sang. That's the best part. And the Captain was old like you are."

When you are six, anyone older is old. It's a nice, easy, even dividing point.

I just hope hanging around this old guy will teach Elizabeth that it can be wonderful to run off to the mountains *by yourself* and sing too. And that that's okay.

Sometimes life isn't just about choices—it's about the way we help explain those choices to sharp young minds like Elizabeth.

In the meantime, I know I am lucky to have family and friends who ensure I don't have to be alone if I don't want to be. Being adopted—and adoptable—has its advantages.

Drew Plant is available to absorb your extra ticket or to round out your next dinner party. He says he might even bring a date. Drew can be reached at drewplant@sovo.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Orner

Tired Guy versus Fresh Guy

Tired Guy cruises in analogue.

Fresh Guy does it digitally.

Fresher Guy, however, knows something the other two do not, and that is this:

It never hurts to keep a hard copy on file.

I'M STOKED. WHAT'S YOUR ADDRESS?

AIDS death rate growing

> Continued from Page 1

Researchers are predicting a resurgence of cases among gay men, especially, who remain at dangerously high risk for AIDS. Numbers have already begun to climb in San Francisco.

"We have seen troubling signs over the past year that we fear could signal a resurgence of the epidemic among gay men," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention.

As one bleak statistic after another emerges from the conference in Durban, South Africa, an overall tone of turmoil was set by Sunday's opening speech by South African President Thabo Mbeki.

Many hoped Mbeki would take the opportunity to put to rest an angry debate he had joined over whether the HIV virus causes AIDS, a fact undisputed by most scientists.

But Mbeki took no position on the issue, despite mounting criticism of his approach to the AIDS epidemic. In May, Mbeki appointed a panel of scientists, including American Peter Duesberg, who believes HIV does not cause AIDS, to explore the question and advise him on the effectiveness of treatments.

Many accused Mbeki of wasting time and resources while HIV and AIDS rage through the world's poorest continent.

Mbeki told attendees Sunday he's looking for an African solution to the devastating epidemic, one that addresses the role of extreme poverty in the spread of the disease. He also defended his decision to appoint "dissidents" to his advisory panel so a wide range of opinions could be heard.

"There is not substance to the allegation that there is any hesitation on the part of our government to confront the challenge of HIV/AIDS," Mbeki said.

Hundreds of the 10,000 AIDS experts present walked out during his speech. Many activists expressed bitter disappointment in Mbeki's defense of his policies, which include withholding the drug AZT to pregnant women with AIDS.

A South African High Court Justice, who is openly gay and HIV-positive, roundly condemned Mbeki for entertaining the controversial ideas of scientists on the fringe of AIDS research.

"It has created an air of unbelief amongst scientists, confusion among those at risk of HIV, and consternation amongst AIDS workers," he said in a speech Monday, to loud applause.

Just days before the conference, 5,000 scientists, doctors and other AIDS professionals released the "Durban Declaration," an unprecedented statement claiming the link between HIV and AIDS is "clear-cut, exhaustive and unambiguous." Authors call for an end to the debate, claiming it "will cost countless lives."

Yet some continue to assert that HIV does not cause AIDS, including spin-off branches of the activist organization ACT UP.

In a recent local skirmish, members of a group calling themselves "the new ACT UP Atlanta" challenged "the old ACT UP Atlanta" to a debate with medical professionals.

Africa: Mortality 'hard to comprehend'

While some branches of ACT UP call for an end to U.S. government AIDS funding they say is wasted and misspent, UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot called Sunday for dramatically increased funding in Africa.

It will take \$3 billion a year to effectively provide basic prevention education and care, he said—10 times what is being spent now.

Many have attacked Mbeki and the South African government for allowing economic problems higher priority over funding AIDS treatment.

At a protest before the conference, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, head of the African National Congress Women's League and ex-wife of former president Nelson Mandela, called on the government to allow the import of cheaper, generic AIDS drugs and to allow local firms to produce the drugs without patents.

Since the conference began, several massive funding initiatives have been announced, including \$500 million from World Bank and \$50 million from Bill Gates' charity, to be matched by pharmaceutical giant Merck and Co.

But drug companies continue to be criticized for high prices. An offer by a German firm to supply medication that may help prevent mother-to-child transmission was received coolly, because no one consulted African health officials about the proposal, according to Reuters news service.

Researchers say a vaccine is the only way to effectively stem the tide of AIDS worldwide, but that may be more than a decade away.

AIDS poses a major threat to security in Africa, according to a Reuters news story. South Africa already has one of the highest rates of violent crime in the world, partly attributed to the scores of AIDS orphans growing into wild, hungry youth.

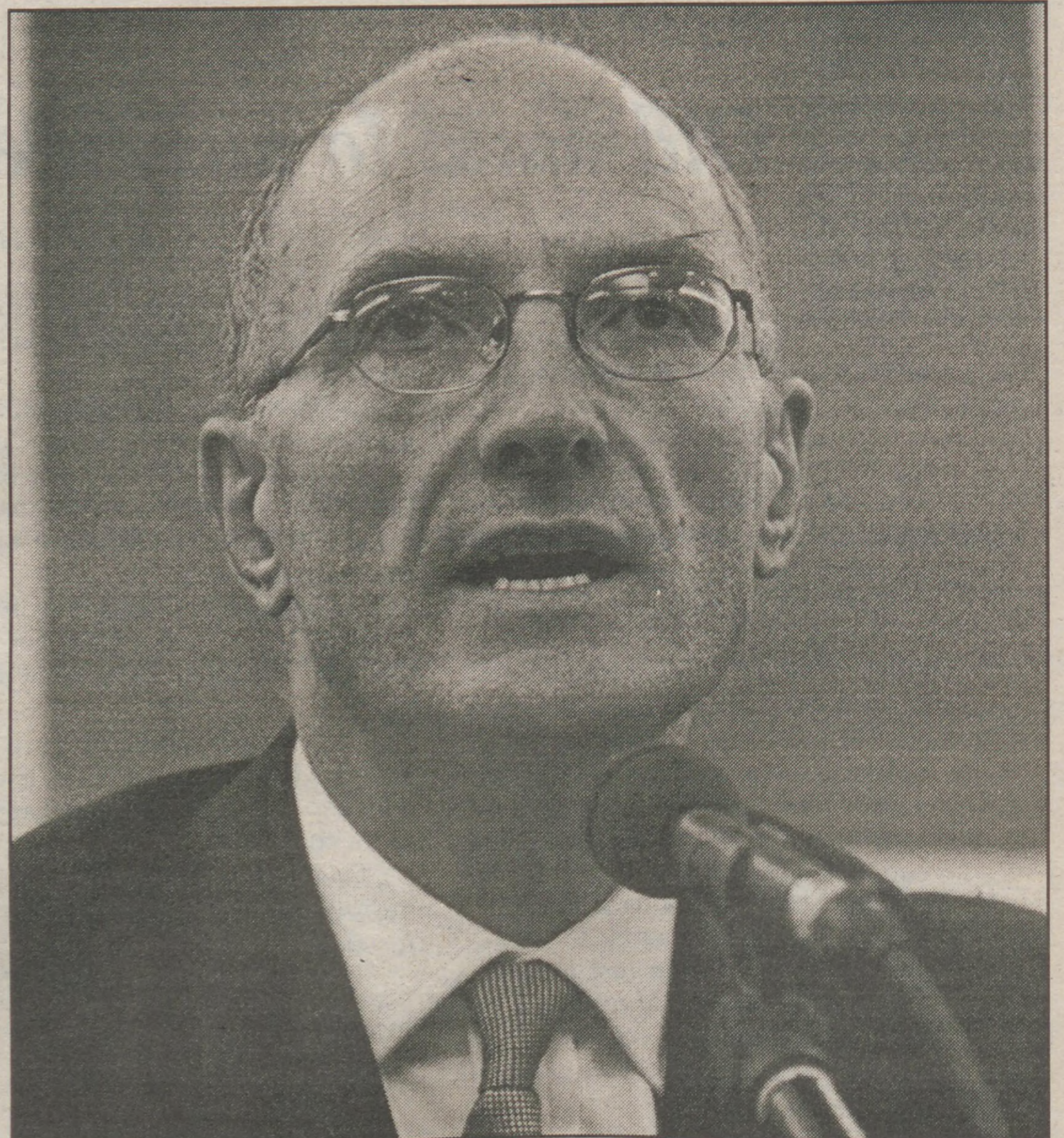
Life expectancy in the African countries worst hit by the AIDS epidemic is expected to fall to about 30 within a decade.

"It's hard to comprehend the amount of mortality we will see in these countries," said Karen Stanek of the U.S. Census Bureau, which compiled the projections.

About 15 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have died of AIDS and 25 million more are expected to die in the next few years. For the first time, the Census Bureau has projected negative population growth due to AIDS in a handful of countries.

U.S.: Prevention 'now more than ever'

In America, about five million people have habits that put them at high risk for getting HIV/AIDS, including male-to-male sex. Experts fear a surge of new infections and are stressing the importance of prevention, an effort that has lost momentum in recent years.



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

"Despite the dramatic benefits new treatments have had in extending the lives of individuals with HIV, the overall shortfalls of AIDS treatments are becoming increasingly apparent, and HIV infection and risk behavior continue at levels far too high," said Gayle, from the CDC.

"Now more than ever, it is critical that we expand successful HIV prevention programs to bring infection rates down."

Infection rates among gay men have stopped their decline, and are climbing in some populations, including African American and Latino gay men, according to the NCHSTP report.

David Holtgrave, director of NCHSTP's HIV Prevention Division, is scheduled to present evidence at the Durban conference indicating that gay men remain the population at greatest risk for HIV infection in the U.S.

"The evidence continues to mount that gay men of all races remain at alarming risk for infection," he said. "In fact, risk may be increasing in some communities."

"To address the urgent need for HIV prevention in this population, we will need to address multiple factors, including prevention burn-out among older men, beliefs that HIV is no longer a serious disease, a new generation of gay and bisexual men who must be reached, and cultural issues for gay men of color."

Last week, the San Francisco Department of Public Health reported a sharp increase in new HIV infections between 1997 and 1999.

Additional findings show that unprotected anal sex is on the rise among gay men; bisexual behavior is increasing the spread of infection; confidence in new drug treatments

continues to contribute to unsafe behavior; and testing rates are low among young gay men. High-risk behavior appears to be dropping among adolescents in general, though.

A spokesperson for AID Atlanta said he's concerned about the CDC's newest findings, especially since Atlanta tends to follow larger cities like San Francisco and New York when it comes to trends in HIV/AIDS.

Chris Parsons, education director for AID Atlanta, said he hopes urgent and innovative prevention efforts can help stem the tide of infections in Atlanta.

"We have focused so much on condoms, and a lot of people just don't use them," he said. "It's a lack of self-esteem, almost like putting yourself at risk willingly."

"One thing we can do is talk about what is going on behind the lack of condom use," Parsons continued.

Because of efforts to reduce the stigma of HIV, there has been little focus on the benefits of actually staying HIV-negative, Parsons pointed out. "Another thing we can do is present being negative in a more positive light," he said.

13th International AIDS Conference

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INFO

Celebration of life set for Ooteghem

> Continued from Page 1

His close friend Marion Coleman said, "I know Gary did not want a traditional funeral. So, his friends are invited to attend one last meeting called by GVO at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. at noon on Saturday, July 15, the Honorable Debra Danburg, presiding."

Danburg said, "The meeting will be run the way Gary taught us. It will start on time. Please arrive early to sign in and bring your checkbooks."

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

Davidson said, "I didn't know Gary then, but when he tells the story, he says that his knees were shaking so badly he could barely stand up. He went to work the day after he was fired as if nothing had happened, and two deputy sheriffs came to escort him from the office."

Van Ooteghem organized the Houston protests against Anita Bryant in 1977. Ray

Hill said, "Gary was the overall leader of that event and it was well and successfully coordinated. Our argument over the turnout at the Anita March in 1977 has endured through the years."

"Gary claimed 12,000, I estimated 8,000. In either case that was more queers than

I know Gary did not want a traditional funeral. So, his friends are invited to attend one last meeting called by GVO at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. at noon on Saturday, July 15, the Honorable Debra Danburg, presiding.

-Close friend Marion Coleman

anyone had dreamed possible in Houston before it happened," said Hill.

"There are thousands of living Houstonians who mark that event as their rite of passing from the shadows of the closet into the light of pride. In respect to his contributions, I will acquiesce to his 12,000

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estimate."

Although Van Ooteghem was an accountant, he had an artistic and literary side. During the late '70s he published the gay newspapers, *Upfront* and *Upfront America* and produced three plays for the Montrose Players.

Van Ooteghem served as co-chair of National Gay Task Force and of Gay Rights National Lobby (now Gay Rights Campaign) in 1976 and 1977. He was a founder of the Texas Human Rights Campaign; the Montrose Activity Center, a gay community center opened in 1976; and also a founding member of Executive Professional Association of Houston (EPAH), a gay business organization. He served on the American Civil Liberties Union Board.

Van Ooteghem also helped found Log Cabin Republicans of Houston and served as its president from 1995 to 1998. He organized the well-publicized rally outside the state Republican Convention in 1998 that protested the exclusion of the Log Cabin booth from that convention.

Van Ooteghem was raised in Michigan, and after serving in the Navy Reserve, moved to Chicago to work for Arthur Andersen & Co. He came to Houston in 1975 when he was recruited to work for the Harris County Treasurer. He had been CFO



of The Doctors' Club and controller of Prentice Color, Inc. and Allied Health Network.

He is survived by his brother William (Bill) and six nieces and nephews, and numerous friends.

INFO

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Police Beat

China arrests 37 at gymnasium in crackdown on homosexuality

BEIJING (AP)—Police have arrested 37 gay men in southern China at the start of a nationwide anti-vice campaign, a rights group and police official said July 7. The July 3 arrests at a gymnasium in Guangzhou city were the largest detention sweep against homosexuality yet in China, the official said by telephone. The owner and manager of the Heroes' Gym will face criminal charges, but the other men might be released, said the official. The Heroes' Gym had become a popular meeting spot for hundreds of gay men since it opened in February. The Guangzhou police press office confirmed that the arrests took place but refused to provide other details or give a reason. The case comes during a three-month nationwide crackdown on prostitution, drugs and vice that started July 1.

Ore. jury rejects insanity defense, convicts man of killing lesbian

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A fit of jealous rage led a Portland man to gun down a lesbian couple in a bar in 1998, a Multnomah County jury decided July 5. Jurors rejected the insanity defense of Eric Walter Running, 49, charged in the Feb. 24, 1998 killings of Jacqueline Anderson—his former girlfriend—and her lover, Barbara Gilpin. After deliberating for just an hour, the jury unanimously convicted Running of aggravated murder. They will meet July 17 to decide whether he should be executed or face life in prison. A waitress said Running tracked Anderson down at her restaurant, found her with Gilpin, and told her "to come outside or I'll kill you." The waitress testified that Running returned with the gun sometime later and shot the two women. Jurors determined that Running knew exactly what he was doing when he killed the women in front of almost 20 witnesses at the karaoke lounge.

Queens D.A. won't charge Mets fan who threw back Rocker ball

NEW YORK (AP)—The Queens district attorney has exonerated the New York Mets fan who threw John Rocker's baseball back onto the field. District Attorney Richard A. Brown said Gregory Sweeney of Brooklyn did nothing illegal during the July 2 game between the Mets and the Atlanta Braves. "It would appear that Mr. Sweeney had no criminal intent and was doing nothing more than following tradition in returning the unsolicited and unwanted souvenir," Brown said in a statement. In the middle of the seventh inning, Rocker—who bashed New York City and its residents, including "queers with AIDS," in a 1999 *Sports Illustrated* article—tossed a warm-up ball into the Shea Stadium stands. A New York City police captain caught the ball and handed it to Sweeney. When the crowd began chanting "Throw it back! Throw it back!," Sweeney did so. It landed about 12 feet from Rocker and rolled to the outfield wall. Seven officers descended, handcuffed Sweeney and escorted him out of the ballpark.



A Queens district attorney refused to bring charges against a man who threw a ball back at Rocker, saying the man was merely following a baseball tradition of returning errant balls to the field.

Trans inmate sues Pennsylvania prison for hormone treatment

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A prison inmate who began taking female hormones to prepare for sex-change surgery is suing state prison officials, claiming their decision to stop treatment is unconstitutional "cruel and unusual punishment." James Elliot Wolfe, who changed his name to Jessica Elaine Wolfe, has been imprisoned since 1996 after pleading guilty to raping an 8-year-old girl. According to the lawsuit, after officials at the Camp Hill state prison near Harrisburg stopped Wolfe's hormone prescriptions in August 1996, Wolfe had withdrawal symptoms similar to menopause, and fell into a severe depression. Michael Lukens, state Department of Corrections spokesperson, said state prisons do not "provide sexual-reassignment surgery or related treatment." Court documents say prison officials seem to have stopped Wolfe's hormone treatment because it was begun only a month before her arrest and because they questioned Wolfe's diagnosis as a transsexual.

Former N.Y. football star gets manslaughter for gay panic killing

ALBANY, N.Y.—A former football star avoided a lengthy prison term for murder involving a sexual encounter with an old acquaintance by pleading guilty July 5 to manslaughter, the *Albany Times Union* reported. David R. Linen, 21, opted for the guilty plea just before jury selection started in his trial on two counts of second-degree murder. Under terms of the plea-bargain agreement, Linen will be sentenced to 12 years behind bars on the reduced count of first-degree manslaughter. If convicted of murder, he could have been sentenced to 25 years to life. Linen is accused of beating to death Robert T. Carpenter, 43, with his fists and a plank in a lot behind the Cohoes Bowling Arena at about 4 a.m. on May 10, 1999. The two longtime acquaintances had been drinking in a bar. When Carpenter performed oral sex on Linen, Linen flew into a rage and crushed the victim's throat with the board, prosecutors said.

—From staff and wire reports



For more news, visit
www.houstonvoice.com

Obituaries



Gary Van Ooteghem

Our community has lost one of its brightest stars. Gary J. Van Ooteghem, CPA, died July 6, 2000.

His loving heart gave out after years of illness while still fighting the good causes of the community.

Born February 2, 1942 in Bay City, Michigan, his post-military adult life in Houston was one of leadership and involvement. Professionally, Gary moved to Houston in 1975 to become the Comptroller of the Treasury and Assistant Treasurer of Harris County. He was the CFO of the Doctors' Club, and Controller of Prentice Colour, Inc., and of Allied Health Network.

In 1975, Gary was the founding president of the Gay Political Caucus. He founded EPAH, the Montrose Activity Center, and was president of Log Cabin Republicans-Houston until 1998. He produced plays and published magazines, served on boards ranging from

the ACLU to PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation, which he chaired.

He was male co-chair in 1976-77 of the National Gay Task Force. He was the first male co-chair in 1976-77 of the Gay Rights National Lobby (now Gay Rights Campaign). He was the co-founder of the Texas Human Rights Campaign. More recently, Gary was chair of a special candlelight service remembering and paying tribute to Matthew Shepard in October 1998. He also chaired the High Noon Rally for Liberty in Fort Worth, Texas in June 1998 outside the state Republican Party Convention. He is past chair of the EMA Ryan White Planning Council that distributes over \$15 million annually to HIV/AIDS service providers.

Preceded in death by his parents, William V. and Hannah Tics Van Ooteghem, he is survived by his next of kin, brother William (Bill), and the Van Ooteghem nieces and nephews; Robert (Bob), James (Jim), his dear Wendy, Heidi Maxon Van Ooteghem, Kathy Benedict Van Ooteghem, and Connie Mitchell Van Ooteghem.

One of his closest friends, Marion Coleman, is in charge of arrangements. Gary did not want a traditional funeral. All of the GLBT community including his hundreds of friends and those whose lives were made better by Gary's contributions are urged to attend one last meeting called by GVO, Saturday, July 15, 12 noon, at the Alley Theater (Rep. Debra Danburg, presiding). This meeting will be a Celebration of Life Service for Gary Van Ooteghem. A reception will follow the meeting.

Gary's cremated ashes will be shipped to Michigan to be buried next to his mother upon completion of the Celebration of Life Service. In lieu of flowers, the community is requested to make donations in his honor to the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 667010, Houston, TX 77266, or the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, P.O. Box 70286, Houston, TX 77270, or to a charity of your choice.

There are no words adequate to express the profound loss our community has suffered. Gary will be a role model for future leaders in our community for many years to come, and his many contributions to the rights and welfare of gay Americans will outlive us all. Gary was a caring member of the gay rights movement who dedicated his life to the cause. He was a great organizer and pillar of the GLBT community. Now the mantle must pass to others to continue the fight for our civil liberties.

Jack L. Benoit

Jack Benoit, of Houston, born April 13, 1951, died July 6 after a lengthy illness. He is survived by friends and family here and in Louisiana. Jack was a registered nurse while working in Houston and was a member of the choir at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Houston.

A memorial service celebrating his life was held on Wednesday, July 12 at St. Stephen's.

In lieu of flowers Jack requested that donations be made to the St. Stephen's Church Music Program.

Jack's family wishes to thank Dr. Patsy Salvato and her staff, Rev. Jim Sockton and the Care Teams at St. Stephen's and Jack's other friends, Brad, Patrick, Julia, Ken and Marlena who have helped him through the last six months.

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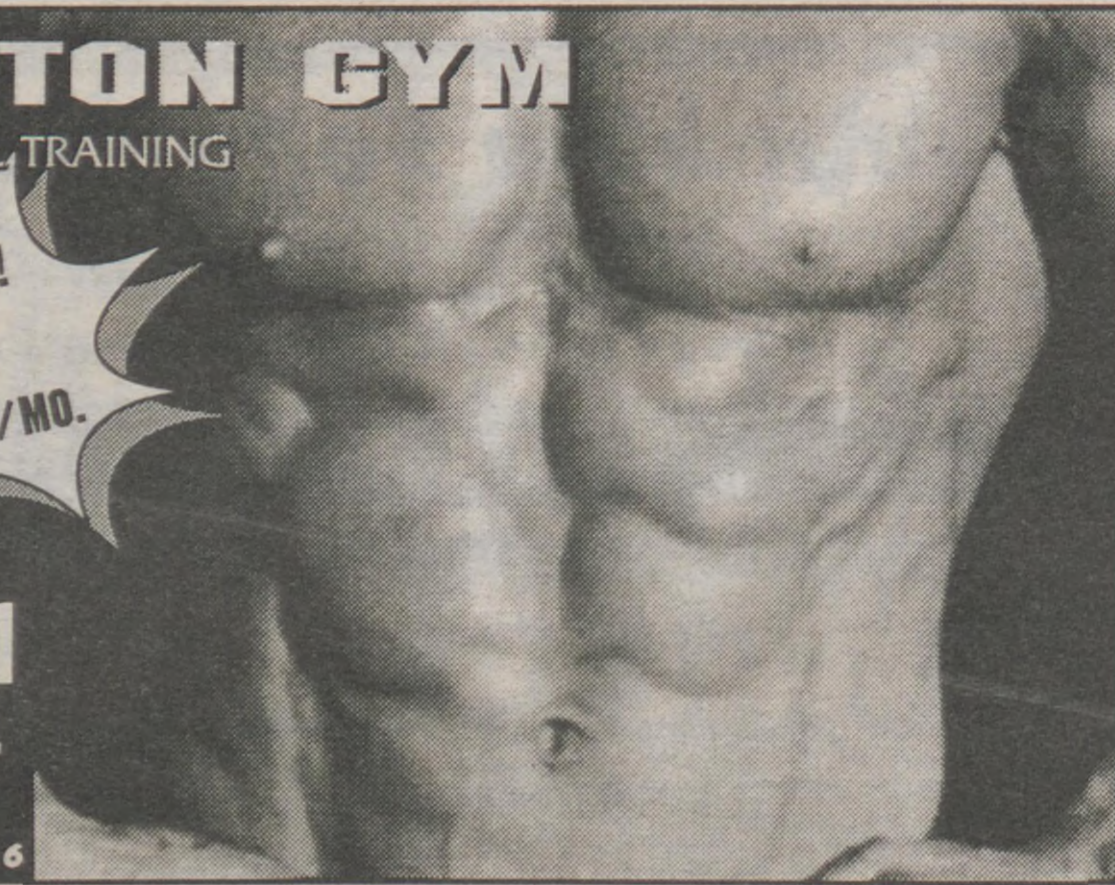
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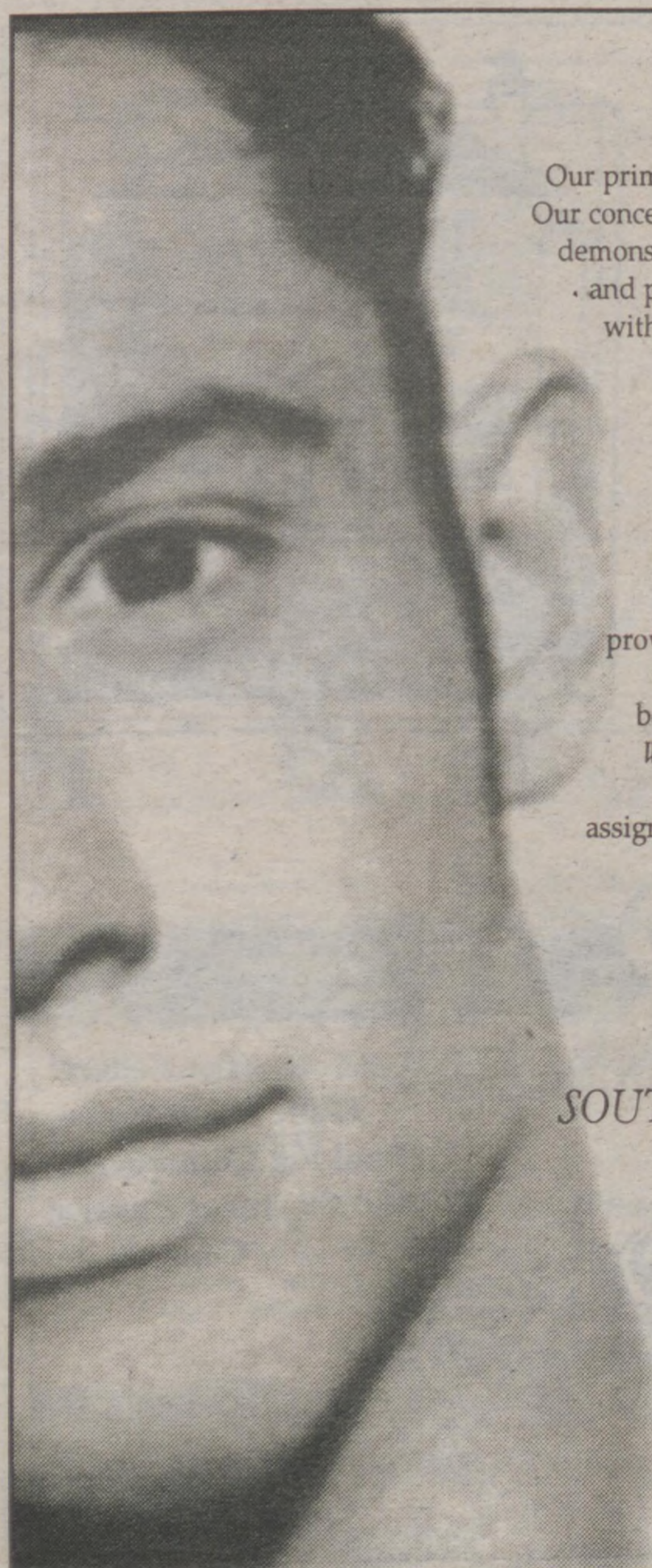
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Health News

Homosexuals are more likely to be left-handed than heterosexuals



Lefties are more likely to be gay because of some common factor that disrupts the developing fetus, according to a Canadian study.

TORONTO—Three Canadian researchers claim they have “decisive” evidence showing left-handedness is more common among gay men and lesbians than among society as a whole, the *Toronto Sun* reported July 6. One of the researchers, Ray Blanchard, said that one in five straight people is left-handed while one in four is a lefty among gays. Lesbians are even more likely to be left-handed than gay men, he added. But it is not a person’s dominant hand that determines sexual orientation. “Not only does it not cause it but it would not be a useful clue for deciding if someone was gay or straight,” he said. They argue that the common factor correlates to “developmental instability”—something disrupts the developing fetus and causes it to go slightly off course from its genetic blueprint, an established explanation for why some people are left-handed. The findings are based on an analysis of 20 previous studies done between 1983 and 1999. The findings are published in the July issue of *Psychological Bulletin*.

Study shows cancer treatment boosts effects of AIDS ‘cocktails’

CHICAGO (AP)—Adding interleukin-2, a cancer-fighting substance appears to boost the effectiveness of AIDS drug cocktails, government researchers say. The findings appear in this week’s *Journal of the American Medical Association*, to coincide with the 13th International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. Worries about drug-resistant virus strains led researchers to consider interleukin-2, which is a protein that regulates the body’s immune response. A synthetic version is federally approved for the treatment of melanoma and kidney cancer, but not AIDS. The study by the drug’s manufacturer and led by a scientist at the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases involved 78 patients on various combinations of antiviral drugs. HIV was suppressed in almost twice as many of the interleukin patients, 67 percent versus 36 percent. The researchers also measured levels of CD4 T cells, disease-fighting white blood cells attacked by the AIDS virus. After one year, CD4 levels among the interleukin group climbed an average of 112 percent, compared with 18 percent for the others.

Study links higher STD rates with abuse, troubled childhoods

CHICAGO (AP)—Youngsters with troubled childhoods are much more likely than others to contract sexually transmitted diseases later in life, government researchers say. Their study of 9,323 adults suggests that intervening early in life could limit later risky behavior and help curb the nation’s high rate of diseases like chlamydia, human papilloma virus and HIV. A tendency toward behavior that transmits STDs “seems to be linked to yet another hidden epidemic—that of child abuse and familial dysfunction,” said the authors, led by Dr. Susan D. Hillis of the CDC. The authors asked adult members of a San Diego health plan if they’d had any “adverse childhood experiences,” like sexual, physical or verbal abuse, or living with relatives who were substance abusers or mentally ill. The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases was nearly two times higher in adults who reported one or two adverse events in childhood, and up to five times higher in those who’d experienced six or seven adverse experiences. The results of the study appeared in the July issue of *Pediatric*.

Linking religion and medicine called scientifically questionable

NEW YORK (AP)—The trend toward incorporating religion and spirituality into health care is ethically and scientifically questionable, according to a recent article in *New England Journal of Medicine* by a group of Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim biomedical researchers and chaplains. Combining the two “leads to weak science [and] watered-down religion,” said the article whose lead author was Richard P. Sloan, director of behavioral medicine at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. The authors stated that “limited, narrowly focused and methodologically flawed studies” are leading to false conclusions that religious activity like prayer, meditation and yoga promotes healing. “Attempts to link religion to health oversimplifies both,” the authors concluded.

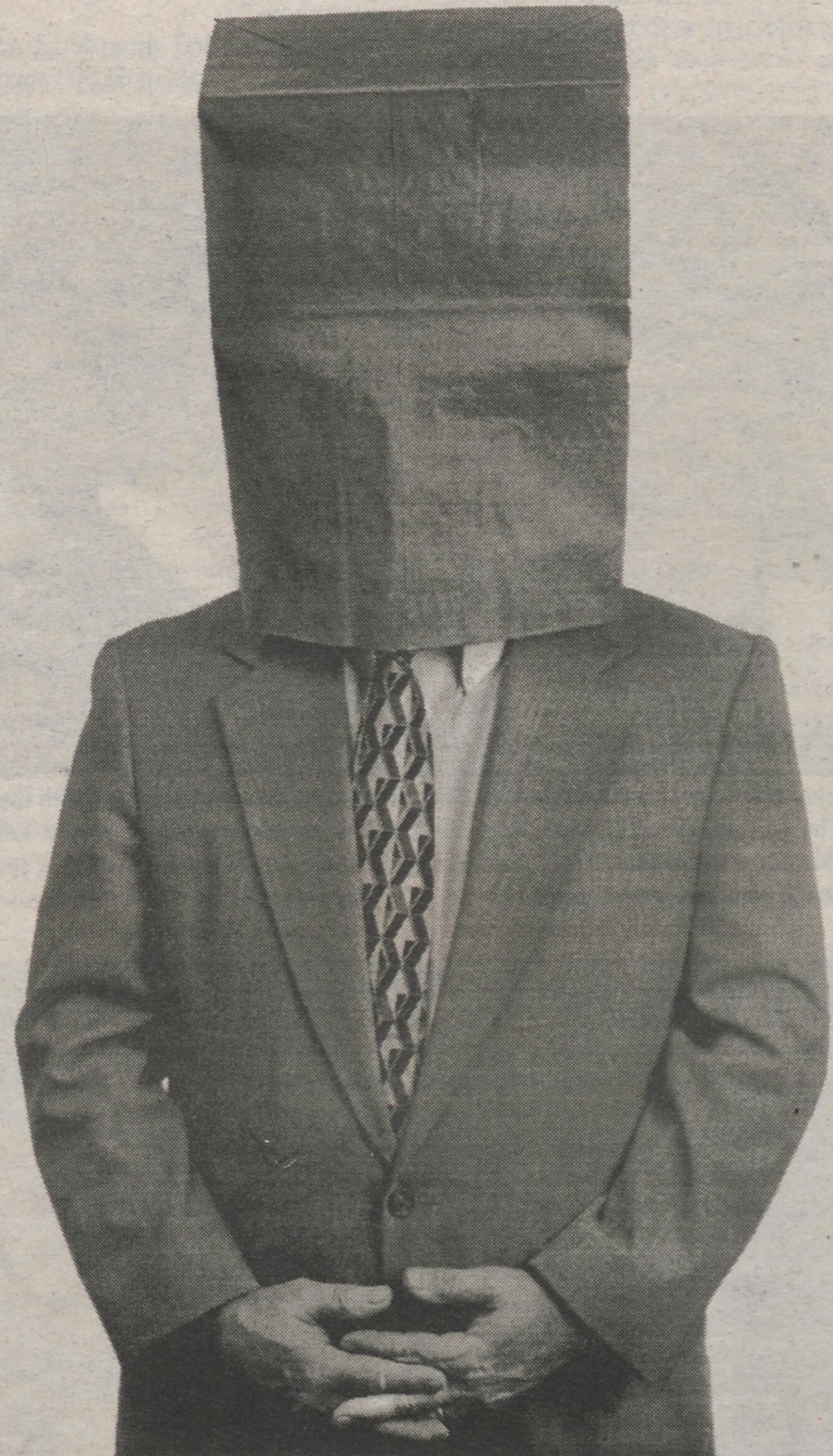
FDA may remove prescriptions from allergy, cholesterol drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration is debating major changes in how it regulates over-the-counter drugs, starting with two powerful cholesterol-fighting drugs. Hearings started at the end of June, and the decision the FDA makes could affect whether many other types of drugs make the transition from prescription to over-the-counter. Blue Cross of California wants the popular allergy reliever Claritin to be sold over-the-counter, like it does in Canada, where a month’s supply costs \$17 instead of \$60 in the U.S., plus doctor’s fees for the prescription. Non-drowsy Claritin, Blue Cross argues, is safer for drivers than current over-the-counter antihistamines. But Claritin’s manufacturer Schering-Plough Corp. is aggressively lobbying Congress to preserve its profits from the drug.

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Uncommon Legacy honors Lovell, Achtenberg for activism

> Continued from Page 5

speech, which she noted was very uncharacteristic of her. After she spoke for a while, Lee suddenly noticed Parker in the room and apologized for not recognizing her earlier. Then, jokingly she said, "As Anise caught my eye, I was reminded of my role here today. And that is to bring this to an appropriate close—just as I was getting wound up."



Sue Lovell, recently elected to the Democratic National Committee, was presented with the Extra Mile award by An Uncommon Legacy at the group's annual awards brunch last Sunday. Referring to her long history of campaigning for gay civil rights, Lovell said, "You never do it for yourself. You do it for the people in your community."

As Lee awarded a Congressional Certificate of Recognition to An Uncommon Legacy for their charitable works, she alluded to the rising power of women as she said, "There is a joy in this room and a power in this room and I guess I am propelled by the spirit you have brought here."

Legacy awarded three local non-profit organizations grants of \$1,500 each to help

them continue their work. For the fourth year, AssistHers, a group of lesbians that provides volunteer care teams for lesbians with life-challenging illness, received an award from An Uncommon Legacy.

A new initiative of the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, the Grrl Club, also received a grant along with the Lesbian Health Initiative.

Legacy annually awards scholarships to open lesbians to help further their studies. This year, Rebecca Dinwoodie, a Harvard law student was one of the recipients. Dinwoodie serves on many civil rights organizations and hopes one day to "draft gay legislation that can withstand the challenges of the court."

A scholarship was awarded to Mocha Jean Herrup, a doctoral student in media studies at the University of Texas. She has made several films and her next, "A Few Good Dykes," will be completed at the end of this year.

Abigail Heinz, an undergraduate, majoring in sociology also received a scholarship. Heinze has been active with the Gay-Straight Alliance and organized AIDS awareness weeks.

Each scholarship was in the amount of \$2,500.

The final award of the afternoon, the Extra Mile, was presented to Sue Lovell who was recently elected to the Democratic National Committee. Referring to her long history of campaigning for gay civil rights,

We've taken another step toward our own liberation and the liberation of all people, and so I'm hopeful that very soon that there will come a day when it is completely unnoteworthy.

We're not there yet.

—Roberta Achtenberg, An Uncommon Legacy's Uncommon Woman of the Year

Lovell was characteristically unassuming as she said, "You never do it for yourself. You do it for the people in your community."

Legacy is a non-profit foundation dedicated to enhancing the strength, visibility and vitality of the lesbian community. Legacy has chapters in several large cities throughout the country and promotes philanthropy among lesbians.

INFO

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Lesbian couple flee Gonzales

➤ Continued from Page 5

McDaniel appeared in a public school board session June 12 to read a statement and to ask the board to include sexual orientation in the district's policies regarding harassment.

"They sat at their desk, picked their fingernails and stared at the floor," she said.

The board took no action.

McDaniel said harassment of the whole family began after the local newspaper printed an article about the meeting with the headline "Parent challenges GISD sexual orientation policies."

The wording was ironic, she said.

"There is no sexual orientation policy, so how can you challenge it?" she said.

While some groups have circulated letters on the Internet claiming the family is no longer allowed to buy gasoline or groceries in Gonzales, McDaniel said those reports are exaggerated.

One local store refused to take a check from her, she said, and employees at other stores have been rude. A gas station clerk threw her change from a \$20 bill across the counter and onto the floor.

Another incident was less subtle.

"In [a discount store], we were smelling bottles of shampoo like you do with a little girl who like her hair to smell good, and an innocent looking blue-haired woman called me a pervert," McDaniel said.

"The atmosphere has always been tense, but it's gotten worse," she said.

Gains are not lost

Although the attempt to change the district's policies at the school board level failed, Harrell said he secured a commitment for continued action on this issue by superintendent Ckudre.

"They've accomplished 100 percent of what the law requires and about half of what I've hoped for," Harrell said. "Ckudre seems fairly professional and wants to avoid litigation, and he knows we're prepared to go forward."

As the family prepares for their move, the ACLU will continue its watch to be sure Ckudre makes good on his promises.

"In a town where sexual orientation is not a topic of conversation, it will be part of diversity training," Harrell said. "Were it not for Sonny's persistence, we wouldn't be in that situation."

Ckudre said in an interview with the Houston Voice that the school board uses policies established by the Texas Association of School Boards.

"These are based in law and have been reviewed by their team of attorneys," he said.

Districts sometimes make additional rules, but the Gonzales board chose not to do that in this case, he said. The district will use a survey prepared by the Anti-Defamation League to gauge teachers' views, then act

appropriately, according to Ckudre.

The district took all the necessary actions regarding the McDaniel situation, he said.

"We will not be deliberately indifferent.

Any harassment that's been reported to us that's verifiable has been investigated," Ckudre said.

PFLAG takes the lead

The Dallas chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has taken the lead in raising money for the family's move and for the foundation McDaniel said she hopes to establish.

Members of PFLAG chapters from across the state also plan to accompany the family as it travels by car from Gonzales to their new home.

Dave Gleason, president of the Dallas chapter, said that although other PFLAG chapters are closer, his group took the lead when no one else came forward. Within 24 hours of sending out a plea for contributions via the Internet, \$285 had arrived in the chapter's mailbox.

He said he is unsure why both the media and statewide gay and lesbian groups have, until recently, largely ignored the family's plight.

"I don't know why more isn't happening," he said. "It's kind of a mystery. It's kind of bizarre."

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said her organization has been involved with the family for months, but not all of the

group's work results in press attention.

"My staff has been working with Sonny since April. They have spent hours on the situation and have gone to Gonzales," Hardy-Garcia said. "It was a delicate thing with a junior high kid involved."

She said that while the gay and lesbian community in Texas craves publicity to help its causes, the media can do more harm than good in rural situations.

Teachers trained in diversity don't stand outside classrooms and talk about students' parents.

—Wanda "Sonny" McDaniel

"Publicity changes everything," she said. "Visibility does not always create equality."

Harrell of the ACLU said equality will be hard to get in the rural Texas town where opinions have solidified over generations.

"We're dealing with attitudes and bigotry that even the law won't legislate out of a town like Gonzales."

INFO

To contribute, send check made out to PFLAG and earmarked for McDaniel and McGail to:

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Out on the Bayou

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HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 14, 2000



FILM

fatales

Silver screen divas honored by MFAH during film fest

by D.L. GROOVER

Calling all feminists. Visit the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and experience your forebears. See the screen icons who foreshadowed the women's movement and were as influential as contemporaries Friedan and Steinem.

Watch Joan, Kate, Rita, Faye, Lauren and Roz smash through the glass ceiling and liberate each one of us while they cajole, seduce, browbeat, sass, bitch and sling hash with the best. We owe these pioneers our eternal gratitude. How about a monument to these pre-lib gals? We'll call it the Silver Screen.

3 WOMEN (1977) Directed by Robert Altman July 15, 7:30 p.m.

Without question, this is Altman's worst movie: a big fat pretentious mess, full of kitchy thoughts and too-conscious art. Sissy Spacek, Shelley Duvall and Janice Rule don't have a clue what they're supposed to be doing in this mishmash of an unintentional parody of Bergman and French "new wave."

Don't take my word for it; see this car wreck for yourself. For years, Altman opined in interviews that the idea for this movie came to him in a dream. Wake up, Bob, wake up!

ADAM'S RIB (1949) Directed by George Cukor July 22, 7:30 p.m.

In this last of the great screwball comedies, Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn, as husband and wife attorneys, face off on opposing sides while arguing for and against Judy Holliday's prerogative to shoot her philandering husband. Immaculate comic timing by all, sparkling script by Garson Kanin and Ruth Gordon, and a very gay reading by David Wayne as Kate's unmarried

"bosom buddy," conspire to make this soufflé of a movie very tasty indeed.

THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI (1948) Directed by Orson Welles July 29, 7:30 p.m.

At the end of their bizarre marriage, even measured by Hollywood's low standards, Orson Welles turned his estranged wife, Rita Hayworth, into a very blond black widow spider who all but chews up his innocent Irish sailor and spits him out. Amid the head-spinning cinemagraphics—the baroque hall of mirrors sequence and the aquarium scene are truly out of this world—this oily film noir is populated by gargoyles, misfits, and lowlifes.

This amazing movie, incomprehensible and convoluted as the incomparable Big O himself, is chock full of misanthropy and cruel humiliation. Although Welles removed the explicit homoerotic references from Sherwood King's "If I Die Before I Wake," there's still plenty left in all the sweaty glances and, especially, Everett Sloane's supremely slimy tarantula.

By the time this plagued production opened, Welles and Hayworth had divorced. When you see this transparent personal statement, you'll know why.

MILDRED PIERCE (1945) Directed by Michael Curtiz July 30, 7 p.m.

It's certainly to Joan Crawford's credit that it took more than five years after being branded "box-office poison" for MGM's Louis B. Mayer to panic and unceremoniously cashier her after decades of profitability and distinguished service. The divine Miss C sashayed to Burbank and, armed with the clout of her super-agent Lew Wasserman, convinced the skeptical Warner Brothers to engage her

> Continued on Page 22



Rita Hayworth stars in the 1946 classic "Gilda," Aug. 12 at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. The screening is part of a summer-long tribute to women of the silver screen.

"It's all in the Hair"

Miss Camp America Foundation's AIDS fundraiser, Wigs on Fire, scheduled for July 22

by KAY DAYUS

It doesn't matter what you wear; it's all about the hair—wigs that is. And if you want to see some wild and woolly wigs, head on down to Rich's on July 22 when Miss Camp America Foundation presents its annual Wigs on Fire night.

Although organizers of "Got Wig" hope many participants will be wearing wigs and drag, it is definitely not required. "Wigs are optional," said MCAF president, Ray Allan West, in a recent telephone interview.

> Continued on Page 23





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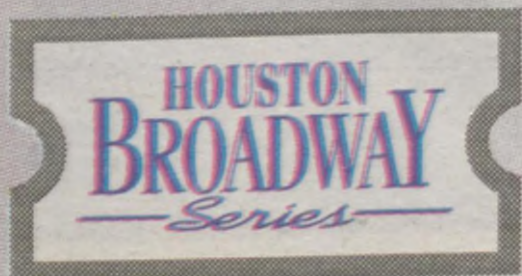
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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Argentina, Texas-style

La Estancia offers up fine fare for meat lovers

by TRAYCE DISKIN

La Estancia, located in a somewhat isolated cozy brick structure on W. Gray, has arrived to fill the shoes of the flash that was Capriccio's, a rather good Italian bistro that left behind its charming and subdued decor. La Estancia, which made little changes other than replacing the bar with more open-kitchen space, fits perfectly into the space. The hardwood floors and soft yellow lights dominate under a festive, primary colored mosaic that runs along the border of a far wall.



LA ESTANCIA
ARGENTINE GRILL

La Estancia may not just be the "Finest Authentic Argentine Grill," as the menu claims, but one of the only ones. Although more than several area restaurants infuse menus with South American accents, the word grill here earns equal billing with nationality. In fact, a quick glance at the menu reveals the dominant and recurring motif—grilled meat and more grilled meat.

What distinguishes this Argentine cuisine from just another steak house, however, is the strong fusion of Italian and Spanish influence, evident in seasonings with rich olive oil, basil, fennel, peppers and smoky vinegars.

In other words, my non-vegetarian friends had their work cut out for them. They started with the Matambre de Pollo (\$5.95), a rolled chicken appetizer stuffed with red bell peppers, carrots, eggs, ham and mozzarella. The aesthetic effect was a colorful, geometric pastiche of textures and colors and both diners complimented how each ingredient retained its singular taste, yet combined to lend the chicken a fresh, vegetable-broth-like flavor.

For a small group appetizer, The Empanadas La Estancia (\$2) are worth ordering in several offered variations—especially chicken, ham or cheese. While the beef filling wasn't seasoned particularly well, the empanadas themselves were crispy and toasted golden.

With a quick but direct wink to Italy, there are three pasta choices. The first two, Capeletti a la Caruso (\$13.95) and Ravioli a la Gruyere (\$12.95) seemed like they may as well be as hefty as the meat entrees with added ham, chicken, béchamel sauce and Swiss cheese. I chose the Cintas Rio de la Plata (\$18.95) with Fettuccini, shrimp and crab served with mushrooms, tomato and green onions in a Vodka cream sauce. The shrimp was well-cooked although I lamented the absence of much crabmeat, while the pasta was tender and fresh. What won me over with this dish, however, was the sauce—rich, tangy and ripely infused with fresh tomatoes.

The famed roll chicken from our appetizers appear as entrees as well, as do pork and beef rolls. Those of us who long to see a little fish included in a list of grilled dishes will appreciate the Pescado a la Plancha (\$17.95), a simple, yet impressive red snapped cooked in herbs, lemon and olive oil. We all found the side of new potatoes, topped with chopped garlic, a tad wanting for as the advertised "mixed vegetables," and would have appreciated some greens to contrast the weighty meats and sauces.

For dessert, we shared the Panqueques de Dulce de Leche (\$4.95), a sweet and delightfully burnt crepe with caramel sauce. As one friend detected the old boy scout trick of Kraft caramels melted with sweet and condensed milk, the combined effort was delicious and decadent, if a bit crude and pedestrian for a restaurant like La Estancia.

The service was uneven. Although it took quite a while to place our drink orders and receive refills of wine, soda and water, several manager or owner types repeatedly paused to ask after our meal.

While, as a new restaurant, La Estancia has a few kinks to work out, overall, it makes an excellent alternative for Texas meat lovers who crave something more unique and sophisticated than the usual T-bone. And, oh yes, there's just enough to please tagalong vegetarians, too.

FOOD FILE

LA ESTANCIA

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Film fatales feted

> Continued from Page 19

for James M. Cain's best-selling potboiler (the Bros. Warner wanted Ann Sheridan).

Stripped of her country-wide shoulder pads, enveloped by the shadowy thick lighting by master cinematographer Ernest Haller, and given a rather smart rags-to-riches story wherein her ungrateful bitch of a daughter (Ann Blyth) first puts the make on Crawford's useless play-boy husband and then murders him, our St. Joan justifiably won the Oscar for best actress.

This only goes to prove that unselfish love for children and slaving away at a fulfilling career in the restaurant business, becoming filthy rich, can eventually lead to inner peace, once your child is sent up the river.

THE WOMEN (1939) Directed by George Cukor Aug. 6, 7 p.m.

You wouldn't wish these girls on your worst enemy, but, boy, are they entertaining. In the annals of gay film history, this movie is the mother of them all. With camp bitchy wit supplied by Anita Loos's spirited adaptation of Claire Booth's Broadway smash, this all-woman cast goes to town—and then Reno.

The distaff side of the species dish, gossip, and generally stab every back in sight, all while wearing the most ghastly wardrobe ever created by Adrian. His witch's hat look never went anywhere, but Mr. Janet Gaynor had enough clout at MGM to insert a Technicolor fashion show sequence which is less haute couture than it is more Halloween.

George Cukor, Hollywood's gayest director,

lets his hair down with a vengeance after being fired just a few weeks before from "Gone With The Wind." Clark Gable, the big scaredy cat, feared Cukor would spill the beans about his closeted early career as rough trade on Hollywood Boulevard, and with very bad manners yelled that he wouldn't be directed by a "fairy"!

Gable's revenge didn't hurt GC, who enlivens this bitch-fest with snappy pacing and overlapping dialogue, wringing beautiful performances from all, except Joan Fontaine, who acts as if she's just had a lobotomy.

Populated by what seems an entire world of drag queens, with Mary Boland and Rosalind Russell delivering definitive delicious performances, this movie smoothly spools out with nary a hitch. "And put some gin in it."

GILDA (1946) Directed by Charles Vidor Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Glenn Ford embodies an enticing macho slicker in this Buenos Aires nest of gamblers and war profiteers, but ultimately he's no match for the peerless bad/good girl of Rita Hayworth.

"If I would've been a ranch, they'd have named me the Bar Nothing," Gilda purrs with erotic authority, while shimmering under Rudolph Mate's white-hot photography and encased in Jean Louis's cantilevered gowns.

Everything's a double entendre: that mane of hair, her mezzo whispers, the love/hate affair, the washroom attendant's epigrams, the goofy voice-over, Hayworth's "Put the Blame on Mame" striptease, the husband's reappearance. Even the dubbed singing voice of May Wynn captures Rita's special smoky sex appeal. After an hour, the intrigue pales, turning into a poor

man's "Casablanca," but Miss Hayworth's lustrous allure never wanes. She is incandescent.

What really seems like the ultimate double entendre, though, is George Macready's attraction and pickup of Glenn Ford. The subtle impression is that this world-weary creepy Nazi sympathizer marries Gilda to keep Ford close by, promoting him from hired thug to head of his casino and heir apparent. Just who's tricking whom down Argentine way?

TO HAVE AN HAVE NOT (1944) Directed by Howard Hawks Aug. 13, 7 p.m.

Undeniably, this is the only movie ever made with the participation of two Nobel Prize winners, but you'd never know it. William Faulkner helped adapt Hemmingway's novel, but it's really the work of Hollywood veteran writer Jules Furthman, who created the soignée Dietrich and other memorable pre-liberated gals. But, of course, the true authors of this satisfying adult adventure yarn are the Warner Brothers, whose low-gloss proletariat sympathies created the "underdog" movies for which this studio was so noted.

The personal code of loyalty and honor comes from director Hawks, a recurring theme in all his films, while Lauren Bacall is entirely responsible for herself. What a screen debut. Languidly propped at the doorway, she seductively asks for a match, tossing her own Hayworth mane off her sculpted face. She even catches the matches Bogart throws with one hand. She can purr or growl with the best of the cinematic goddesses, and finds her best husky singing voice with the dubbing help of a young Andy Williams. It's no surprise that Bogart and she fell in love on the faux Martinique seaside



Sissy Spacek and Shelly Duvall star in Robert Altman's nightmarish "3 Women."

set; you can actually watch it happen.

With Bacall's timely assistance, this is one of Bogart's finest characterizations: an existential hero that even the French would be proud to call one of their own. His ultra cool masculinity warms up considerably in the steamy arms of Miss Bacall, who was an impossibly mature 19-year-old at the time. Arm in arm at the conclusion, they leave the nightclub (where else was WW II fought at Warner Brothers?) to places unknown, but Bacall does an extemporaneous little jaunty wiggle of a dance as she exits. It's the perfect visual metaphor for this jaunty little fun-filled film. And, yes, they don't make 'em like this anymore. How could they? Who could possibly replace such a team?

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Swamp Waters

Documentary tells story of Divine

by DL Groover

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the mother of all femme fatales, that deliciously decadent diva, that orca of screenland—Divine.

You can see all of Glenn Milstead's 300 pounds of drag pulchritude this weekend when the Rice Media Center shows Steve Yeager's award-winning documentary on John Waters, "Divine Trash," coupled with a special midnight screening of the revised, remastered, unexpurgated "Pink Flamingos."

Yeager's 1997 backstage documentary is a polite worm's eye view of Waters and his gang of cinema crazies as they create film history with their epic of the bizarre, "Pink Flamingos."

By far, "Pink Flamingos" could easily be subtitled "The Trash of Trash" and still not be entirely accurate. If you've never experienced this low-rent underground classic of sleaze, sex, dog droppings, and chicken love, then you're in for a wonderful treat.

This campy cult B-movie from 1972 is so hilariously over-the-top and politically incorrect that you'll scream with delight (and disgust, too) as neighboring all-Americans vie for the coveted title of "Filthiest Family Alive."

Just don't eat beforehand.



Divine

INFO

"Divine Trash"

July 14, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.
July 15, 7 and 9 p.m.

"Pink Flamingos"

July 14, 11:30 p.m.

Rice Media Center
Rice University
Entrance #8, University Blvd &
Stockton Dr
713-348-4853

Combustible Coifs

> Continued from Page 19

"We don't want everyone to think they have to dress up and wear a wig. There's a new genre of gays out there; they are younger and more intimidated by 'accessorizing.'" West says he wants everyone to know, "It's not in the drag; it's all in the hair."

By encouraging everyone to come as they please, says West, "we are trying to remove those barriers."

But, for those courageous and daring enough to don a wig, there may be a prize. Not only is Wigs on Fire a chance to show off an excessive hairdo; there is also a contest for the most outrageous wig. So there are sure to be some crazy coifs.

West says he remembers the time when Wigs was originally a big party organized by a bunch of guys. "I can remember limos pulling up and guys getting out dressed in full drag and big wigs and then other limos pulling up with leather guys getting out; some with wigs, some without."

The parties dwindled after a time says West. "So many people died of AIDS." Three years ago, MCAF got permission to resume the wig party, and it's been successful, West says.

West says there will be complimentary well drinks from 7 until 11 p.m., and dancing until the club closes. DJ for the night is Lydia Prim, who says West, is "well-known in the dance party scene."

Wigs on Fire is the second of three annual fun events sponsored by MCAF and money raised is contributed to eight AIDS-related organizations. Debunight, an affair where new MCAF members are introduced, happened earlier this year. The crowning event—literally—is of Miss Camp America, which will be held at the Wortham on Sept. 16.

The Wortham event is a spoof on Miss America says West. Contestants wear evening gowns and swimsuits, and there's



Though wigs are optional at the annual Miss Camp America Foundation fund-raiser Wigs on Fire, prizes will be awarded for the most outrageous coif. The event takes place at Rich's nightclub, July 22 at 7 p.m.

even a talent show. "It's no run-of-the mill drag show. It's high quality and highly serious," says West, referring to the fact that it's an AIDS benefit. "But, it's hard to be serious in high heels and big hair," he adds with a laugh.

West says that MCAF "is extremely proud of putting \$417,000 back to HIV causes in Houston since 1992." Recipient organizations include, PWA Holiday Charities Fund, The Assistant Fund, Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund, MCC Client Assistant Fund, Body Positive, AIDS Foundation Stone Soup, Steven's House and Montrose Clinic-Frost Eye Clinic.

MCAF is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to providing funds and volunteers to people with HIV/AIDS.

INFO

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“Quote/unquote”

compiled by REX WOCKNER and from staff reports



“What a fucking idiot!”

—Bryant Gumbel (left), host of CBS’ “Early Show,” after interviewing Robert Knight of the Family Research Council, who defended the Boy Scouts’ ban on gays. The FRC has demanded Gumbel’s resignation after the remark was picked up by a studio microphone and a portion of it broadcast

“People of Liberace’s generation were different. He reached his own accommodation with the world. This kind of accommodation may speak to others. I think of gays in Valdosta, Georgia, going to gay bars in Atlanta. I’m not sure they’re politically, sexually identified gays.”

—Darden Asbury Pyron, author of ‘Liberace: An American Boy,’ explaining the entertainer’s decision to stay in the closet and sue journalists who suggested he was gay, *New York Blade News*, July 7

“They follow sports, wear flannel shirts, smoke, drink, belch and make crude jokes. Oh, one other thing. They’re gay.”

—Headline for an article about “regular guy” gays in the *San Francisco Weekly*, June 21

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

—Actress Whoopi Goldberg (right) to the AIDS magazine *A&U*, June issue



“The whole barebacking movement, I mean, what do you say to somebody who’s made that choice... It’s great that scientists are making these advances and that people with HIV and AIDS have a longer and better quality of life. But that shouldn’t be a license for people to stop practicing safe sex and think that it’s okay to go ahead and contract the disease because it’s no longer looked at as a big deal.”

—Activist Chastity Bono to the AIDS magazine *A&U*, June issue

“I always assumed I would be with an older writer—or a model. I mean, I’d been dating models! I didn’t think I’d be going out with a punk rocker who was 10 years younger! We’ve really just taken it a day at a time, and every day has been great.”

—Singer k.d. lang on lover Leisha Hailey to the *Advocate*, June 20



“The biggest response I get when I talk to the Rotaries, the Young Republicans, the Log Cabin Republicans, the Republican’s Women’s Club is, ‘Why don’t you run for governor?’”

—Ga. School Superintendent Linda Schrenko (left), who once caused a firestorm for withdrawing support for PTAs because they supported homosexuality, a lifestyle she “disagreed” with

“We have vaginas and penises. We were biologically meant to give birth to more people. Not being able to relate normally to a member of the opposite sex is some kind of error. I do not see that as insulting at all. It is a statement of biological fact.”

—Dr. Laura Schlessinger to *Time* magazine, June 24

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POWER TOOL TIME: HOME IMPROVEMENT

A drip can go a long way

Dripping faucets can make a big difference in conserving energy, natural resources

by DARLENE DRURY

No drips here.

Dripping faucets can create an enormous waste of water. If you want to know how much, try this: Stop up the sink or tub that has the drippy faucet, and leave the stopper in place for an hour.

At the end of that hour, scoop out all the water in a measuring cup (or a bucket if needed—how shameful). Multiply this by 24 and you have your daily water waste; multiply this by seven for a weekly total, and multiply that by the number of weeks that the faucet has been dripping, and you have your true total.

The following directions apply to the old-fashioned two-handled faucets. Those newer one-handled affairs are another installment altogether. A word to the wise: If one side is dripping, the other is not far behind. Plan to replace both sets of washers to reduce the inconvenience to your household.

A leaking faucet is fairly easy to fix, and in most cases does not require specialized tools. The first step is, of course, to turn off the water supply. The sink should have small cut-off valves underneath. The tub may or may not have cut-off valves, but if it does, they will be behind an access panel on the back of the wall where the faucet is located.

If there are no cut-off valves, you must turn off the water supply to the entire house to repair the leak. This can be done at the

water meter. After the water has been turned off to the fixture, take off the hot and cold water handles. The handles are easily removed with a screwdriver (usually Phillips as opposed to flat).

Sometimes the screw is hiding under the decorative cap in the center of the handle (the cap may be red or blue or have an "H" or a "C"). Set all screws and other small parts aside away from the fray. The last thing you want to do is dismantle the drain because something got lost down there.

After the handles are removed, next out is the valve stem. Pliers or an adjustable wrench will do just fine for this. The valve stem is unscrewed in the same manner as almost everything else—righty tighty, lefty loosey.

With the valve stem removed, look at the end. There should be a small washer held in place by a small brass screw. The washer should be smooth and flexible. If it has any tiny gouges or has lost flexibility, this is most likely the source of the drip.

Take the valve stem, washer and all, to your nearest hardware store and ask for a replacement. Some of the newer faucets will have a rubber O-ring that rests in a small groove at the base of the valve stem. The friendly plumbing guy can help you with the replacement for this, too.

Go home, put the faucet back together, turn the water supply back on and check for drips. If the drip still exists, it may be time to call a professional as the problem requires tools most homeowners probably don't own.



Eliminating water waste from a drippy faucet can be a pretty easy repair job.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Aspiring to synchronicity

'Signals' chronicles the return to good health of a fitness instructor who walked away with a new sense of spirituality

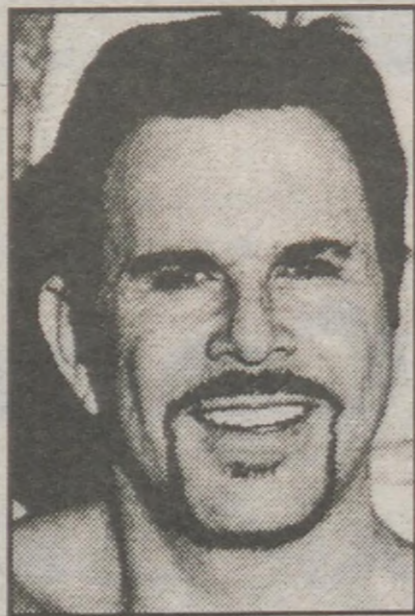
by RON SURESHA

In 1986, fitness instructor Joel Rothschild was diagnosed with AIDS. Eight years later, following the death of his closest friend, Albert, he experienced a "psychic awakening."

SIGNALS: AN INSPIRING STORY OF LIFE AFTER LIFE chronicles Rothschild's return to health along with a corresponding heightened sense of spirituality—"spiritualism" is more accurate here—which manifested in paranormal abilities (primarily foreshadowing and channeling), along with a heart-stirring panoply of synchronicities.

Rothschild comes to Atlanta July 22 for a seminar and book-signing that benefits AID Atlanta.

Amid the catastrophe of early '90s AIDS-

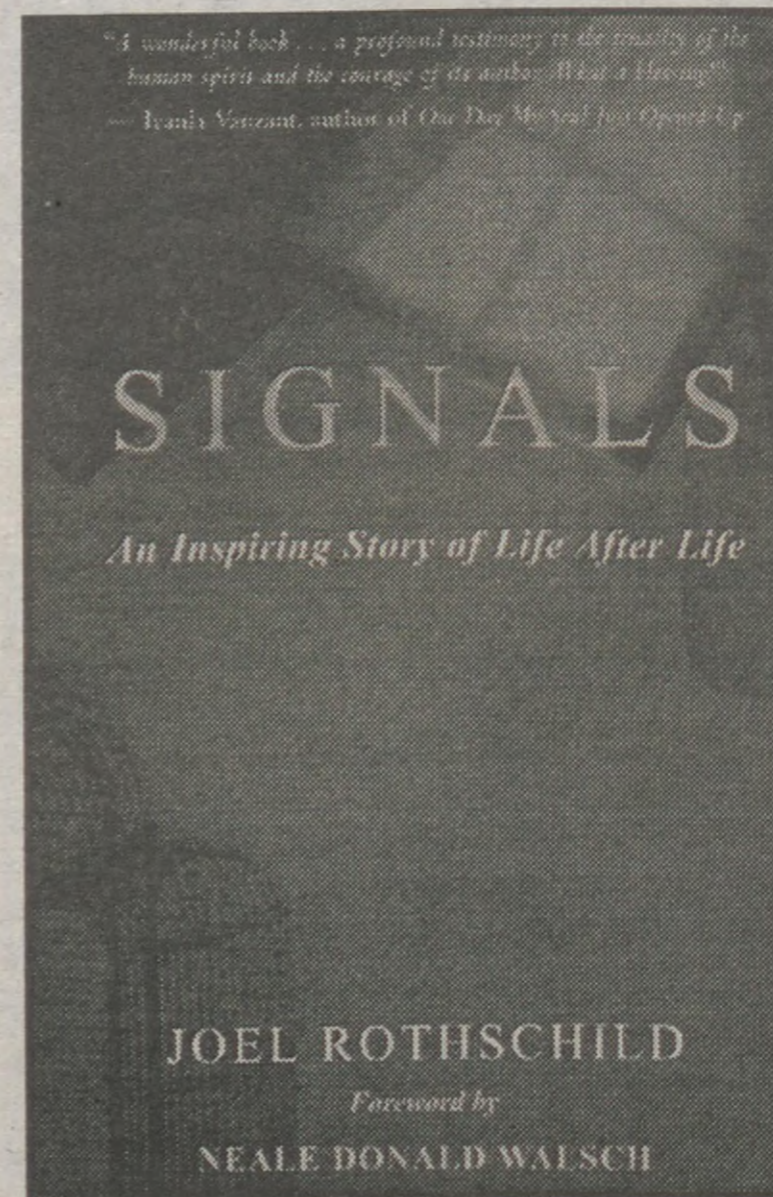


Joel Rothschild

ridden Los Angeles, the two men struggled in the face of their failing health to grow a thin measure of faith. They pledged to return, whoever died first, to this earthly realm somehow to give the other a signal of their afterlife presence.

Unexpectedly Albert committed suicide, only to then promptly reappear first as voice, then as glowing visage, to affirm and guide Rothschild's continuing existence.

While simultaneously trying to make sense of Albert's death and regain his own health, Rothschild experienced various phenomena, which he interpreted as signals from his buddy beyond. Many of these events, like incongruous appearances of a hummingbird, or a voice commanding the author to stop



suddenly at a green light and thus avoid a five-vehicle pile-up seconds later, seem magical. Some would say miraculous.

He also exposes some not-so-spiritual traits, like empty digressions about his looks and his house that betray mock-humble posturing and vanity. In his Amazon.com appeal to prospective readers, the author implicates the dozen shining back-cover endorsements gleaned from the New-Age blurb circuit as validation of his own spiritual experiences.

Some of the incidents ascribed as synchronicities, which Jung defined simply as "meaningful coincidence," also tax the author's credibility. It's somewhat a stretch, for example, to construe the recurrent playing of "Wind Beneath My Wings" or "That's What Friends Are For" as synchronous. Although people decide individually what they find meaningful, how much can you truly ascribe to Top 10 hits receiving incessant airplay?

But these minor discolorations don't overshadow the impressive evidence of the author's other luminous paranormal experiences. The balance of Rothschild's story shines with believable, heartfelt simplicity.

'Signals: An Inspiring Story of Life After Life'
by Joel Rothschild, New World Library,
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Out in Music

by MARGARET COBLE

All that matters to Mark Weigle

Gay singer's sophomore album expands his range without losing his special touch

Upon first listen, the most noticeable difference between California-based, out-gay singer and songwriter Mark Weigle's recent sophomore album **ALL THAT MATTERS** and his 1998 debut CD "The Truth Is" is the incorporation of more pop-rock instrumentation.

Not that the country-folk rooted Weigle is necessarily "rocking out" now, but many songs do feature electric guitars and heavier bass and drum grooves, making this disc accessible to a wider audience beyond folk and country fans.

"I wanted to sound a little more contemporary," Weigle said in a recent interview with New York public radio station WJFF. "I didn't want to alienate people who like what I already do. Hopefully I stretch a little bit, but not too much."

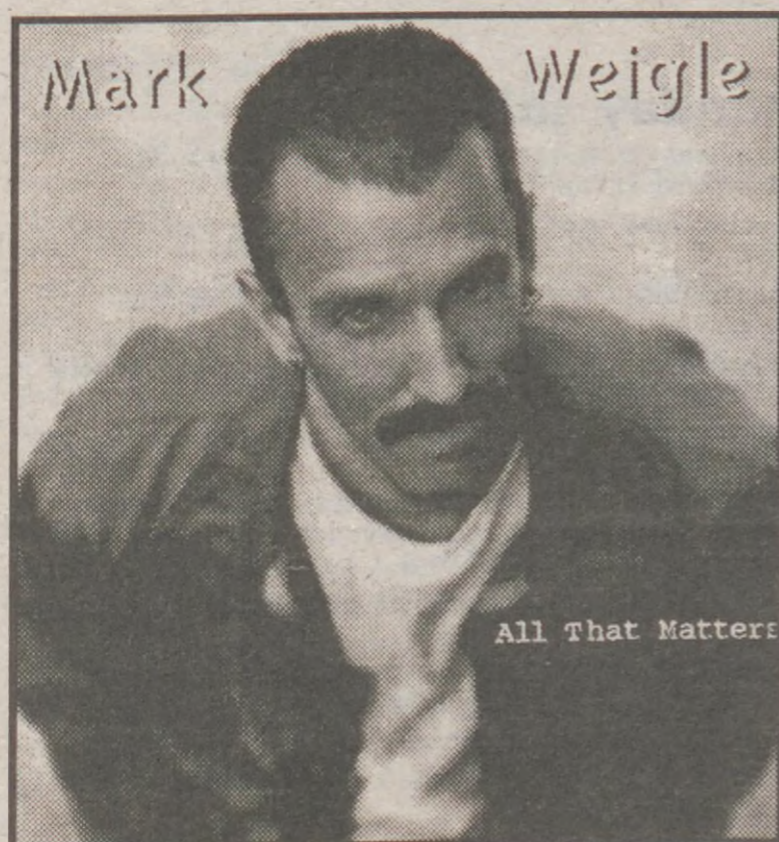
A little stretching seems to have worked. The happy-go-lucky opener "A Good Day," is an upbeat song about that giddy "morning after" feeling following a fun-filled night of romance, which sets the pace for the entire album.

With its bouncy, southern-rock tinged basslines, snappy drum beats, and prominent electric guitar solos, it's very different than Weigle's previous folky work, but it's also perfect fodder for triple A radio and very well could be his first "hit."

A different sounding cut, "Other Houses," his duet with Disappear Fear's Sonia Rutstein, carries a dense, Melissa Etheridge-like rock feel, with searing electric guitar solos and thick basslines. Its musical drama creates a fittingly somber atmosphere for lyrics that deal with the turmoil of growing up gay.

But that's not to say that Weigle's abandoned his laid-back and luscious acoustic sound. Ballads like "Shatter," "I Confess," and the title track "All That Matters" are excellent examples of the quality acoustic productions that have garnered Weigle two Gay & Lesbian Music Award nominations and repeat write-ups in music industry bible *Billboard Magazine*, as well as local and regional gay and folk publications.

Other songs on "All That Matters" fit closer to the country end of the acoustic continuum. The fiddle and banjo filled



Gay singer Mark Weigle doesn't abandon his laid-back acoustics, but shows that his style is evolving in 'All That Matters.'

"Green" is a sweet, country-with-a-dash-of-bluegrass, radio-friendly love song that's perfect for your next road trip mix tape. Ditto for "Like So," with its rolling-down-the-highway percussion and country-blues slide guitar licks.

Lyrical, not much has changed, as "All That Matters" is full of introspective, confessional tales about life as an out gay man, much like his former album. A highlight of "All That Matters" is the title track, a poignant ode to a lost loved one, of which Weigle is particularly proud.

"It is sort of that story that the Buddhists call 'the slap of awakening,'" Weigle said. "He comes to understand what is really important when he is in that much pain."

Weigle's biggest gift, beyond his smooth baritone voice and impeccable production skills, is his ability to broach out-gay topics honestly without being militant. A perfect example is "John," a rather surprisingly candid tale of anonymous sex with a married man, which still manages to engage the listener emotionally by depicting the inner angst of its main character, John.

Overall, "All That Matters" is a superb follow-up album that shows Weigle growing and evolving, without losing what has made his work so special.

INFO

'All That Matters' by Mark Weigle

<http://songs.com/markweigle/>
Rating: B+

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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.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. 713-528-3818.
Houston Area Bears. Social. 10 p.m. 713-867-9123.
Krewe of Olympus-Texas. Celebrates Bastille Day. 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, july 16

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

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.
PFLAG-Woodlands. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

monday, july 17

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

tuesday, july 18

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. 281-495-8009.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational develop-
ment 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.
Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink.
713-410-7215.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to
9 p.m. Lesbians Island Young Women's Group meets 7 p.m. 803
Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.
Center for AIDS. Women's Mixer. 6 p.m. 713-527-8210.

wednesday, july 119

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015
Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES.
713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's,
Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.
BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion
group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual
women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
936-441-1614.
Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-
933-5818.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom.
7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-
6665.
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection
MCC. 713-861-9149.
Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1
to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center.
713-692-2703.
Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-524-0218.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to
9 p.m. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political caucus meeting. 7:30 p.m. 803
Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Grace Lutheran Church. Vacation Bible School. Supper 5:30 p.m.
Classes at 6:30 and 8 p.m. Adult & children. 713-528-3269.
Houston Area Bears. Dine-out. 6:30 p.m. 713-867-9123.

thursday, july 20

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-521-
7464.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom.
7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-
1017X211.
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight.
Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
281-633-2555.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-
1118.
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.
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston.
(GLOBAL) Meeting. 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to
9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. "How to Create a Foundation for Your
Relationship to Thrive & Endure." workshop for men. 7 p.m.
713-524-3818.

friday, july 21

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. 9:00 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.
Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6
p.m. to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Behavioral Theories for the HIV Prevention. Seminar. 8:30 a.m.
713-861-6667.

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
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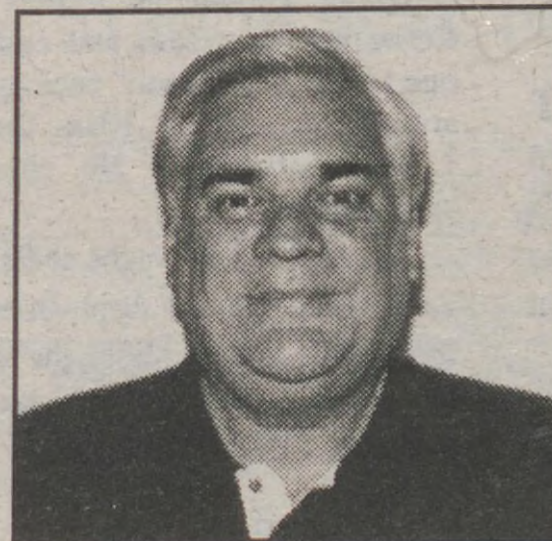


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Classifieds

Announcements

SEG&LS

Southeast Area Gays & Lesbians is a social group (21 and up) in the Clear Lake area. call 281.488.0537.

Introduction to Liberal Catholicism • Sunday, July 16 @ 2:00 p.m. • Blessed Sacrament Liberal Catholic Church • 4606 Mangum • Call 281.398.9646 for information.

JUSTIFIED PRIDE COMMUNITY RESALE 515 RICHMOND

Club Nsomnia

New Fridays! Live rock bands at midnight. • Thursdays - Amateur male strip contest, \$100 cash prize at midnight • Wednesdays - \$25 prize for best old campy drag contest at midnight.

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How to adopt internationally and domestically. • Family to Family Adoption Services is a Non-profit adoption agency dedicated to find loving homes for thousands of orphans. • Single men, women, and couples from 25 - 60 years of age are eligible to adopt. • For more information please call 713.249.5941.

The Blood Center

Donors, who would like the location and hours of operation of a donor facility close to them, may call the Blood Center at 713.790.1200 or www.giveblood.org.

PWA Coalition

Desperately needs the following items: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, chairs and small appliances. Pick-up available, call 713.522.5428.

Project L.E.A.P.

Are you interested in advocating for funding and services for people living with HIV and AIDS? The PWA Coalition-Houston announces start of Project L.E.A.P., an intensive training program for HIV positive individuals and others who want to become advocates for HIV/AIDS related services and funding. Classes for Project L.E.A.P. will begin in May. Participants must complete an application and a limited number of spaces are available. To receive an application or to obtain more information please call Rich Arenschielt, Project Coordinator at 713.522.5428, ext. 28 or 800.999.0325.

Body Positive Wellness Center

is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower those with HIV infection, through nutrition chiropractic services, yoga, and peer counseling. If you are interested in participation or volunteering, we want to speak with you! Visit our website at www.bodypositive.org or call 713.524.2374.

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2000 Chrysler Sebring JX Convertible • Low miles • 10,000 to 16,000 miles • 6 to choose from starting at \$18,888 • River Oaks Chrysler Jeep • Richard Sisco • 713.524.3189.

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Organizations

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www.bearsonthebayou.com

www.montrosesoftballleague.com

www.iblhouston.net

Pets

The Homeless Pet Placement League is a Houston area, non-profit animal welfare organization. HPPL provides for the rehabilitation of stray and abandoned dogs and cats through its unique foster care program. All animals are spayed/neutered and have their first set of shots. For more information call 713.862.7387 or view website at www.HPPL.org

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Publications

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

to give four (4) hours per month for in-home care visits to people living with HIV/AIDS • For more information on Bering's Sentry Program call Craig Overstreet at 713.523.7110 EXT 119.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Eva Luchak at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

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is looking for volunteers to serve on the council. The primary responsibility of the council is to determine what services are most needed. Last year's Council received over \$17 million from the federal government for use in the greater Houston area. Your participation DOES make a difference. Contact Tori Williams at 713.572.3724 or email www.rwpc.org.

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Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

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 Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 Roommates
 Personal Websites
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 Real Estate For Sale
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for other categories

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Occasions

Birthdays

Belated birthday hugs to Christian DeVreis. Naked, he sang his birthday song on July 13.

Carl Riedel celebrates his birthday on July 14.

Wayne B. wants to collect a bunch of birthday hugs on July 15.

Ron Souix of Cousin's drags in his 21 birthday again and again and again and again on July 16.

The fabulous JoAnne of the Brazos River Bottom scoots in her boots for her birthday on July 17.

Animal lover Robert looks for a fuzzy birthday hug on July 18.

Leatherman Don Woods whips in his birthday on July 19.

Toddy lights up his birthday on July 20.

The birthday fairy is looking for Terry Flood on his July 20th birthday.

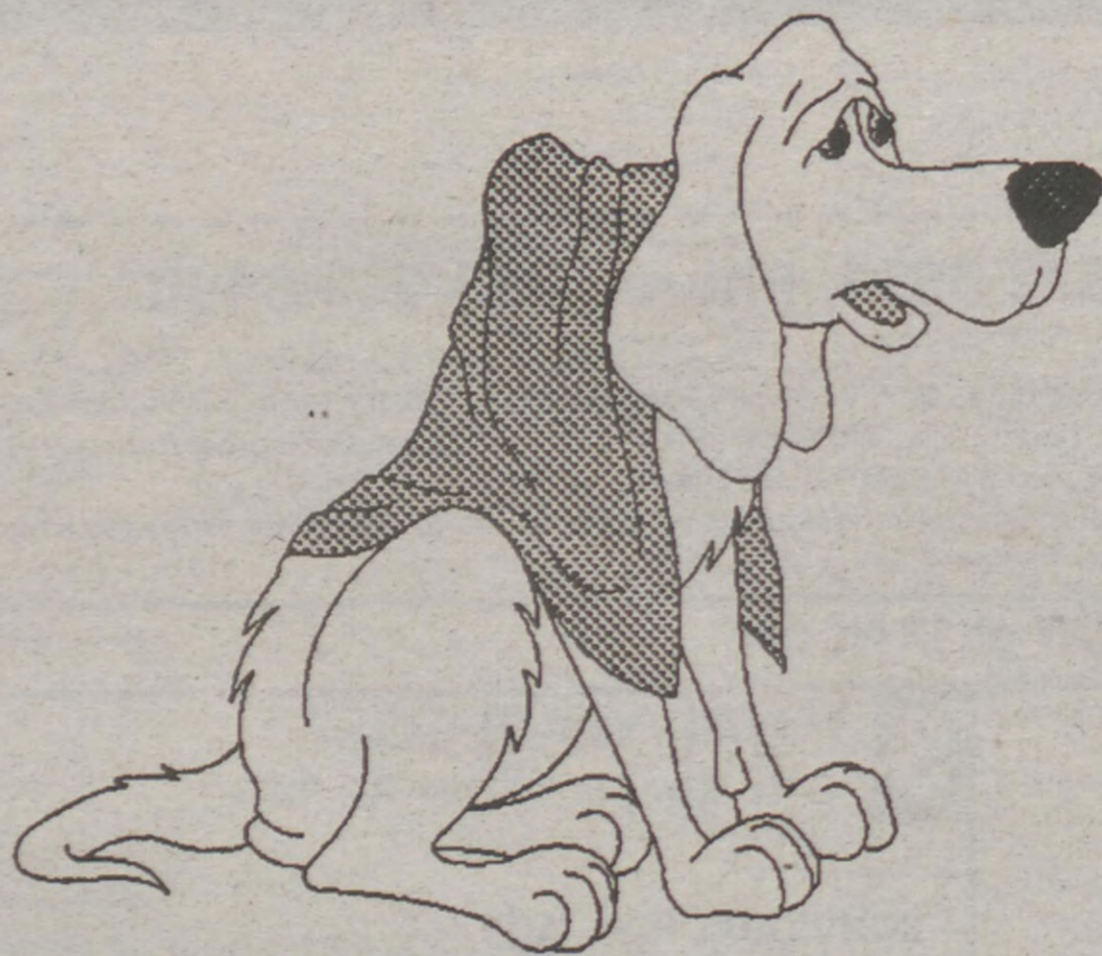


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by JILL DEARMAN





YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE


July 14 - 20


- 


ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Wait a full three days after July 16th's eclipse before making any bold announcements on the work front, darling. More information is coming your way, perhaps from the lips of babes, such as a certain Taurus in question. Once the Sun shifts into your creative and thrilling fifth house July 22, you can get past your fears.
- 


TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Get a hold of yourself, babe. Your life is more under your control than you realize. Mercury goes direct in your communication house on July 17, so there couldn't be a better time to sign contracts, wheel and deal, and meet and greet a more fascinating class of people. An Aries likes you wise, witty and wild.
- 


GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Don't worry so much about money. Once the Sun shifts into a lighter more fun-loving sector of your chart on July 22, you'll be too busy enjoying the high life to count your pennies. Finally, people get your ideas and return your phone calls! Don't lose momentum with an Aquarius.
- 


CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Charon is close to Pluto in your health/day job sector, which means it's time to let out your real feelings about your job and your body. The two are strangely related now. Your love life is in flux, but it's definitely getting more and more fascinating. A Virgo wants to play a key role.
- 


LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Put old business to rest, because you have a lot of new and exciting challenges to throw yourself into as July winds down. The Sun moves into your sign on July 22, and a brand new solar year begins for you. You're allowed a few more New Year's resolutions. Make 'em good. An Aries can help you discover the long-lost you.
- 


VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Enjoy the fact that Mercury, your ruler, is going direct on July 17. You can make up for lost time in your business dealings by setting up many mega-meetings. You can reap the wonderful benefits of investments you've made in recent months: practical and romantic. A Libra is your first dividend.
- 

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
The moon in your house of love on the 22nd could bring you more than one caller, you two-timing vixen! Your friends are confused lately, and it's your fault. It's time for several heart-to-heart talks, and with one special Cancer pal, an over-the-knee spanking.
- 

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
The Sun moves to the top of your chart on July 22, and you should begin to feel the excellent career vibes. This might be a good time to focus on one major goal, rather than 20 smaller ones. Choose carefully who you should reveal yourself to in a deep way. You can count on a Leo, though... for more than you realize.
- 

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
With your ruling planet Jupiter moving rapidly through your house of love, it's no wonder you're suddenly inundated with choices and hot new opportunities. Don't make too many rules that you know you're going to break. Live loose. Another Sag will be your partner in crime.
- 

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
The Sun moves into your serious partnership house on July 22, so it's time to get real about your love life. If you've been holding back emotionally, now's the time to come out. Clarify your own confusion by committing it to paper. You can also trust a Scorpio with your secrets and your sex drive.
- 

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
Several new cuties could enter your life at the same time, but none are what they seem. As Jupiter passes slowly through your creative sector, you can really make amazing work if you put your heart into it. This is your big opportunity to show your warmth. A Gemini is craving your heat.
- 

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
Get your body back in shape and your life will get back in shape too. You've been a mess, honey, and it's time to put some discipline back into your world. Go to the beach, swim, and learn how to dig the simple pleasures—again. Another Pisces wants to take you on a destruct-a-thon weekend. Why go?

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



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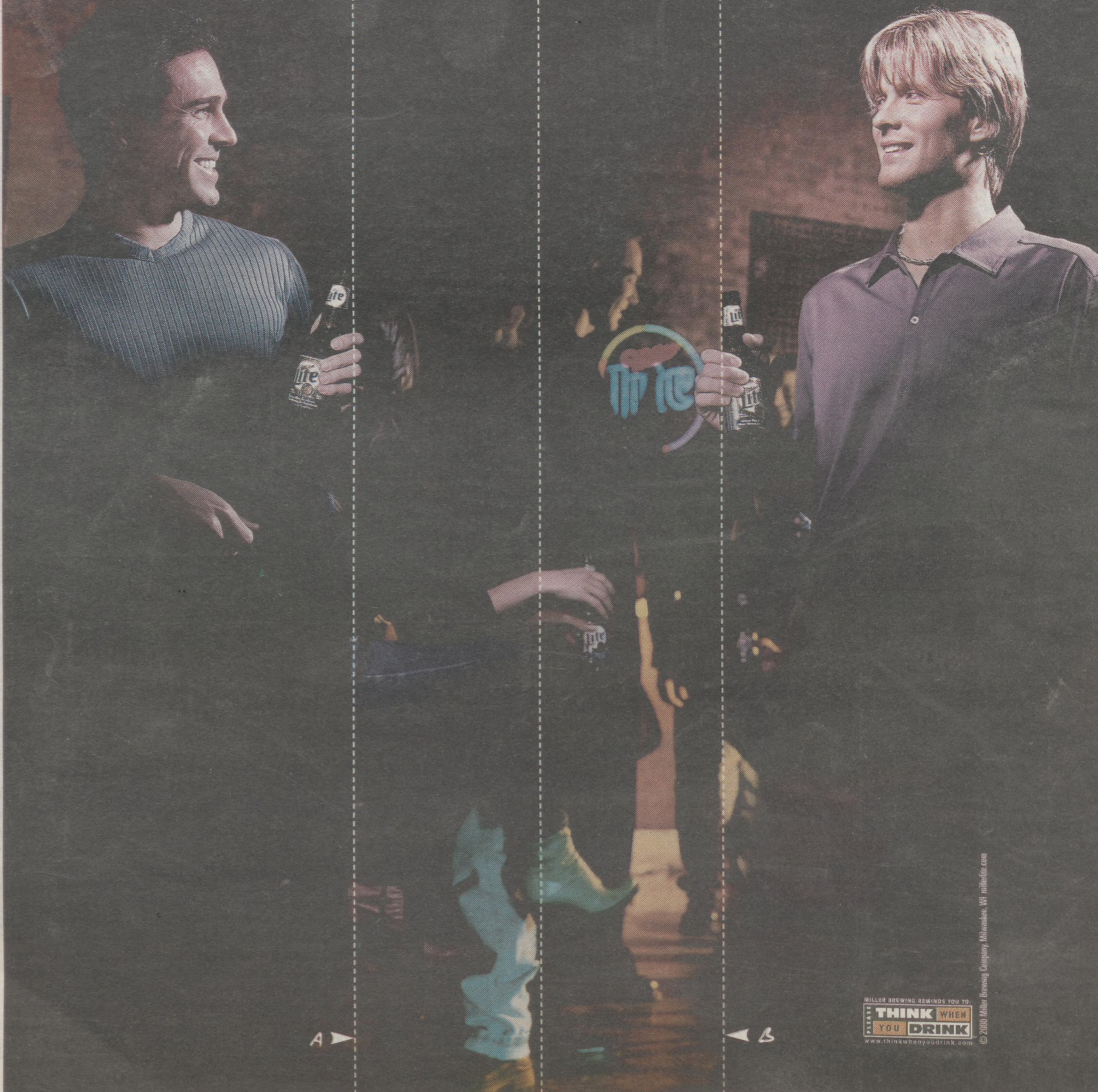
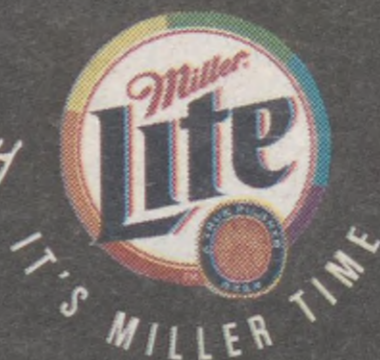
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