



Photo by Steven David

Trick or Treat...
Happy Halloween from the Batty Bunch at the Houston Voice! For a list of Houston's most festive costume contests, see Page 9.

HOUSTON VOICE

OCT. 27, 1995
ISSUE 783

A Weekly Community News Publication

President backs gay anti-bias bill

By DIANE DUSTON
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE
WASHINGTON, Friday, Oct. 20 (AP)—President Clinton announced his support Friday for legislation that would bar most job discrimination against gay men and lesbians. "This is wrong," he said of such bias, becoming the first president to endorse a bill on the politically charged issue.

"Individuals should not be denied a job on the basis of something that has no relationship to their ability to perform their work," said Clinton in a letter to Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a sponsor of the measure.

The proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act, sponsored by Sens. Kennedy and James Jeffords, R-Vt., and Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., would prohibit

job discrimination, quotas or preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation.

Approval of the bill seems unlikely in the Republican-controlled Congress, but the president's announcement was received enthusiastically by its supporters there.

The endorsement is part of a continuing effort by Clinton to end discrimination against gay men

and lesbians, presidential adviser George Stephanopoulos later told the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, which held its convention in Washington last week.

Stephanopoulos said the administration had "brought gay and lesbian issues out of the closet and into the open."

(Continued on Page 7)

Ross headlines AmFAR benefit at Arena Friday

Raquel Welch to Host Event

By JON ANTHONY
Houston Voice/Houston

The legendary Diana Ross will perform in Houston this Friday, Oct. 27, at 8:00 p.m. at the Arena Theatre to benefit The American Foundation for AIDS Research. Miss Ross, who is currently on a national tour to promote her new album, "Take me Higher," will be the main entertainment at this fundraising gala.

It will be Diana Ross's debut performance at the Arena Theatre. The Theatre offers a more intimate setting for a concert and allows Miss Ross to perform in the round. The 2800 seat theatre is designed for an evening of enchanting music to be heard in surround sound. Diana Ross has not appeared in Houston for several years and her performances are historically electrifying.

Diana Ross has earned the distinction of being recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most successful female artist of all time. Her repertoire has included the works of such divers and legendary writers as

Sam Cooke, Jules Stein and Rodgers and Hart. She has amassed a string of 18 number one hits both with the Supremes and as a solo-artist and has had over 70 top 40 hits in her career. She has recorded with Marvin Gaye, Michael Jackson, Julio Iglesias, Lionel Richie and performed with Jose Carreras and Placido Domingo (two of the worlds greatest tenors) in a 1992 Christmas concert seen around the world.

(Continued on Page 18)



Diva deluxe Diana Ross takes the stage at the Arena Friday to benefit AmFAR.

THRF kicks off 1995-96 membership campaign

Congress Member Guest at Wine Tasting

The Texas Human Rights Foundation, a statewide nonprofit gay advocacy group that works on legal issues related to sexual orientation or HIV, is launching its 1995-96

membership drive with an event here in Houston.

THRF planned the campaign as part of a long-term growth strategy, according to Michael Garbarino, executive director. The organization's budget grew 30 percent last year, but is still considerably smaller than any of the legal projects of the Radical Religious Right, such as the Heritage Foundation or the Eagle Forum, he noted.

"The strength of any advocacy group lies with its members," Garbarino said. "We're building on a twenty-year base of support to strengthen our membership."

The first event THRF is sponsoring to recruit new members will be a wine-tasting at the Butler Gallery, 4520 Blossom Street in Houston, this Friday, Oct. 27, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Congress Member Sheila Jackson Lee will attend as guest of honor. Current THRF members and those who sign up for membership at the event get in free; admission otherwise costs \$15. For more information on the event or membership, call 800-828-6417.

Feds sue mover over AIDS hysteria

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The Justice Department filed suit Wednesday against an Illinois-based moving company that allegedly refused to provide services to two former Philadelphia residents, because a neighbor with HIV was present at the moving site.

The complaint, filed in U.S. District court in Philadelphia, alleged that in July, 1994, the Bekins Van Lines Company of Hillside, Illinois, and Schloer Enterprises, its local agent in Philadelphia, violated the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) by refusing service to two people who were moving from Philadelphia to Scottsdale, Ariz.

Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval L. Patrick said that a Bekins crew arrived at the home of David Homan and began assessing the property to be moved. When the employees encountered a neighbor whom they believed had AIDS, they refused to load any of the belongings.

(Continued on Page 18)

Clinton will hold AIDS conference

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Oct. 18 (AP)—President Clinton will convene a conference on HIV and AIDS at the White House on Dec. 6.

Press secretary Mike McCurry said 130 participants were expected to attend the conference, which will address the latest trends and issues involving AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, that leads to it.

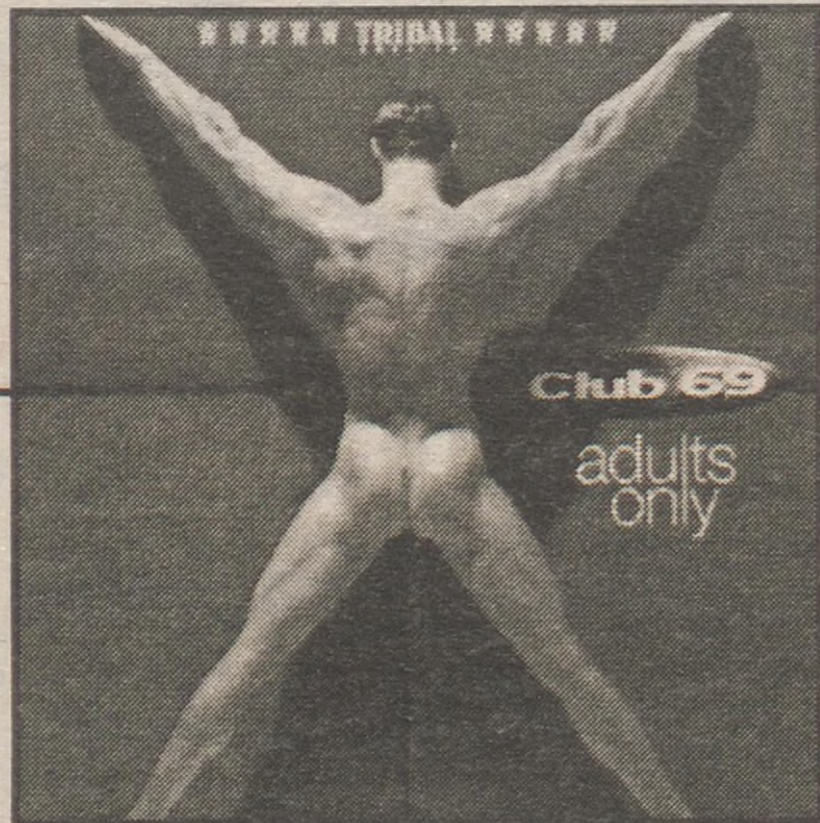
White House conferences are designed to focus attention on major national issues, and highlight the president's concern. Earlier this year, Clinton convened a Blair House conference on welfare reform.



IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

- Honoring Eleanors Pg. 3
- Why man marched Pg. 6
- Sobering Info Pg. 10
- World class waffles Pg. 11
- Rapture reviewed Pg. 25

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Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the facts to me at 529-9531.

Friday, Oct. 27

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- * HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.
- * Men's Network-discussion group meets at 7:00 p.m. Understanding grief. Call 529-0037.
- * Diana Ross at the Arena Theater benefiting AmFar. Call 988-1020
- * Houston Ballet 24th Season presents "Multiple Bill Dance" at Miller Outdoor. 8:00 p.m. Free. Call 520-3290.
- * Lisa Kron in "101 Humiliating Stories" at DiverseWorks. 8:00 p.m. Call 223-8348.
- * Film at MFA "A Question of Color" 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * "My Beautiful Laundrette" at Rice Media Center. 7:30 p.m. Call 527-4853.

Saturday, Oct. 28

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- * Delta/Omega Coalition Diaper Drive for Loving Arms Foundation. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Hanks Ice Cream, 9291 Main. Call 297-9540.
- * NLA:H's Halloween Steak Out. 8:00 p.m. 710-A Fairview.
- * Houston Ballet 24th Season presents "Multiple Bill Dance" at Miller Outdoor. 8:00 p.m. Free. Call 520-3290.
- * "Pumpkin Time" at MFA. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Film "Eyes Without a Face" at 2:00p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Texas Association for Transsexual Support monthly meeting at Kingdom Community Church. 7:00 p.m. Call 827-5913.

Sunday, Oct. 29

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.
- * Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- * Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.
- * Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. \$3
- * Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- * Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.
- * Yea!Buffet! at the Venture-N. 5:00 p.m. Benefits the Colt 45's.

Monday, Oct. 30

- * AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
- * HeartSong open rehearsal at the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.
- * Agora meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 623-6796.

* Gay and Lesbian Readers group meets at Barnes and Noble, 3003 W. Holcombe. 7:00 p.m. October's selection is "Pagan Babies." Call 349-0050.

* "Zoo Boo" at the Zoological Gardens 10:00 a.m. Call 845-1108

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 1509 Fairview. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
- * Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.
- * Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- * Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
- * Tootie's Coffee Bar has "Activity Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00p .m. Call 522-7662.
- * HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.
- * Men's Network meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.
- * Women's Network meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.
- * Art Opening "Serial Imagery" at the G.R. Brown in conjunction with the International Quilt Festival. 7:00 p.m. By Houston Women's Caucus for Art. \$7. Call 520-7840.

* Collector's Auction at the Art League of Houston. 8:00 p.m. Also, Art Opening "Earth and Ink" work by Leah Harding and "Relief/Frottage" by Mark Ritche. 6:00 p.m. Call 523-9530.

Thursday, Nov. 2

- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 629-1432.
- * Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
- * Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 P.M. Call 523-8817
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.
- * Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- * Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.
- * Rainbow Ranglers give dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.
- * Safer Sex for Lesbians at Ms. B's 9:30 p.m. Call 666-3464.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.
- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.
- * "Paris is Burning" at Rice Media Center. 7:30 p.m. Call 527-4853.

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LOCAL/STATE

Groups urging moderate Republicans to run against right wingers on Education board

Hopes High for at Least One Challenge

By GLENN STEHLE

For the Houston Voice

(San Antonio)—The leader of a church-state separationist group has announced hopes of a moderate candidate being found to challenge one of four "Radical Right" members of the State Board of Education.

Larry Schoenfeld, president of the San Antonio chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State and a Republican Precinct Chair, said he is encouraging moderate Republicans to challenge Richard Offutt in next year's Republican primary. Offutt, who lives in San Antonio, represents the board's District 5, a 23 county district that includes the northern part of Bexar County.

The radical religious right currently holds four seats on the 15-member state board of education, according to Dianne Hardy-Garcia, director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Besides Offutt, the right-wing members are Donna Ballard (The Woodlands), Randy Stevenson (Tyler) and Richard Watson (Gorman).

Three of these—Offutt, Ballard and Stevenson—serve on the Committee on Students, through which all textbooks and curriculum must pass. "This gives them a pulpit for talking about their extremist political agenda," said Cecile Richards, director of the Texas Freedom Alliance.

As an example, Richards cited last year's highly charged battle over health textbooks. The State Board of Education approves textbooks from which local school districts may

choose, and Richards said more than a thousand changes were requested to the proposed health textbooks.

Most of the requested changes dealt with how the books discussed homosexuality, abortion or contraceptive sex education. One textbook publisher, Holt-Rhinehart, withdrew its book from consideration rather than attempt to make all the changes.

A representative of the Texas Family Planning Association said polls show nearly eight of 10 Texans solidly support expanded sex education in public schools. "The changes that were proposed were not consistent with what the people of Texas have indicated they want their children to be taught," she said.

"They even wanted the textbook supplements dealing with self-examination and testicular cancer removed," said Casel.

Textbook supplements are loose leaf folders of printed information, not included in the textbooks, that are furnished to teachers. Teachers can optionally make copies of the supplements and distribute them to the students.

Donna Ward, director of primary prevention education for the San Antonio chapter of the American Cancer Society, was surprised to hear of the proposed deletions. "We have a teachers resource guide," she said, "that we furnish to many local high school teachers. It describes in detail how to make those examinations.

Although breast cancer is relatively rare among young girls, testicular cancer is the most common cause of cancer death for young males between the ages of 15 and 25, Ward said.

(Editor's Note: Glenn Stehle is a freelance reporter and gay activist who lives in San Antonio).

'The Great Eleanors' honors Tinsley and Munger

Tribute is also a Benefit for Omega House

Retiring City Council Member Eleanor Tinsley and Omega House Founder Eleanor Munger will be honored at a unique fund-raising event, "The Great Eleanors," on Nov. 12 at Rockefeller's. The cabaret-style event will benefit Omega House, Houston's only hospice where terminally ill people with AIDS can stay for more than 30 days.

"The Great Eleanors" will feature live performances of humorous musical skits such as those performed in cabarets and highlights the lives of Houston's "Great Eleanors," as well as those of some other "Eleanors" of note. Among actors are Mark Albright, Terri Benson, Deborah Hope, Paul Hope, Randy Jobe, Christianne Mays, Ed Morris, Marianne Pendino, Roxanne Shaw, and Jerry Welsh. Jazz stylist Cy Brinson will open the evening, and the accompanist for the cabaret performance is popular pianist Bill Bartlett. The vocal duo, West 42nd Street, will also entertain. The event

will also feature gourmet food from fine Houston restaurants and caterers.

Omega House is the only residential hospice beyond 30 days available to medically indigent people with AIDS in the Houston area. Munger founded Omega House in 1986 on a shoestring budget, with the same hearty spirit with which she had started young children on the road to bright futures as a kindergarten teacher in her early career. Tinsley has supported Omega House almost from its inception. She served on the Steering Committee for the campaign which raised the funds to purchase a larger building, enabling the hospice to expand from three to eight beds in 1993.

"The Great Eleanors" debuts at Rockefeller's, 3620 Washington Ave., at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12. Tickets begin at \$75 per person.

Underwriters for the event include Bank United and Fulbright & Jaworski. Omega House is located at 602 Branard; the executive director is Margot T. Morris. For more information, please contact Imelda Dykes, 225-0007, or Margot Morris, 523-7110.

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In Memory of



MICHAEL COLL

Born: December 28, 1958
Died: October 20, 1995

Our dear friend Michael Coll made the transition to a different realm on the evening of Friday, October 20, 1995.

A spiritual leader in the gay and metaphysical communities, Michael touched many lives and gave us rich gifts of humor, understanding, acceptance and courage. He asked to be remembered as a person who saw beauty in all things. His passion and love for life inspired us and we will always be blessed by the memory of this angel who walked amongst us.

Michael's family asks that donations be made in his name to AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., 3202 Wesleyan, Houston, TX 77027.

A memorial service will be held at 2pm, Sunday, November 12, 1995, at Toffee's Coffee Company, 1830 W. Alabama, Houston.

In remembrance and celebration of Michael's spirit, why not walk in the Rose Garden at Hermann Park, visit the butterflies in the Cockrell Center, hug your mother, encourage a child, smile at a stranger, dance a dance of gratitude for the joy of living? We will miss you, Dear Friend, and you never lose yourself.

SAM K. CARPENTER

Sam K. Carpenter, 44, born November 6, 1950 in Syracuse, Kansas, passed away October 14, 1995 at his home in Houston, Texas.

Sam attended secondary school in Brewster, Kansas where he graduated from high school in 1968. He also furthered his education by attending Kansas State University and Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas where he graduated in 1972 with a degree in business. Sam had a military career with the U.S. Army serving in Germany and at Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas having attained the rank of 1st Lieutenant.

At the time of his death Sam was a member of Krewe of Olympus, Texas, Diana Foundation, Executive and Professional Association of Houston, Four Seasons, Gamma Mu and the First Presbyterian Church of Houston.

Sam had a love for Texas Longhorn Football being a season ticket holder for 15 years. Another interest he had was in travel having been to Great Britain, Spain, Egypt, Costa Rica and the Caribbean in recent years.

Sam is survived by his life-partner, David Mathis; parents, Elmer and Lois Carpenter of Colby, Kansas; and brother, Harry Carpenter of Las Vegas, Nevada.

A funeral service was held October 17, 1995, 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Houston. Entombment, October 18, 1995, 9:30 a.m., Earthman Resthaven Cemetery. A memorial service will be held November 5, 1995, 3:00 p.m. in Colby, Kansas.

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Local Physicians Honored at AIDS Conference

Robert J. Awe, M.D. was one of two recipients of the First Annual Bradley-Scott Award presented by the 4th Annual Conference on HIV/AIDS Impact on Health Care during a luncheon Oct. 20 at the Marriott Hotel.

Dr. Awe has served as a volunteer Medical Director of Omega House since its creation in 1986. Omega House is a Houston hospice for medically indigent persons in end-stage HIV disease. He also serves as Attending Physician in Pulmonary Medicine at Ben Taub Hospital and at the Veterans administration Medical Center. He also serves as an Associate Professor for Clinical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Awe began working with AIDS patients early in the HIV epidemic during his tenure as Chief of Pulmonary Medicine for Harris County Hospital District's Jefferson Davis Hospital. He has published numerous articles on pulmonary disease, tuberculosis and HIV in the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association and numerous other medical publications.

The other award recipient was Robert J. Wallace, M.D. of Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida.

The Bradley-Scott Award is named after two individuals who served the HIV-affected community with distinction. Steven Bradley established the first Thomas Street Clinic Citizen's Advisory Council and served on the Ryan White Planning Councils, which oversees and decides the allocation of funds from the Ryan White Care Act in the Houston area. William A. "Bill" Scott, a social worker and psychotherapist founded several HIV service organizations, including the Montrose Counseling Center and Body Positive/Houston.

Black Tie Dinner to Feature HRC Ex. Dir.

Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director for the Human Rights Campaign, will be a special guest at the 1995 Houston Black Tie Dinner, Houston's premiere formal event which will be held Nov. 4 in the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Galleria Hotel.

As the former Worldwide Litigation Director and Human Resources Counsel from Apple Computers Inc., Birch was instrumental in the implementation of Apple's landmark benefit policy providing dependent coverage to live-in partners of gays and lesbians—a move which has been followed by many large corporations, including, most recently, Disney. She has nearly doubled membership in HRC (they recently dropped the "F" word) in her short time as executive director of the Washington, DC-based organization.

As previously announced, the keynote address will be given by the Honorable Barbara Roberts, former governor of Oregon. As Oregon's first woman governor, Ms. Roberts has been a leader in the fight for human equality and civil rights.

The evening will include an open bar

cocktail hour and silent auction at 7:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 8:00 p.m. During the dinner, there will be a live auction, a comedy performance by Rob Nash and musical entertainment by Ezra Charles and The Works.

Proceeds from the event will benefit ten local non-profit organizations, as well as the Human Rights Campaign, in the pursuit of Equal Rights for All. For ticket information, please telephone 523-9611.

MCC Chemical Dependency Programs

The Montrose Counseling Center, as a result of revised funding in the fields of Chemical Dependency and Substance Abuse programs, will be offering a revised schedule of services Nov. 1.

Designed to offer the best services at the most efficient prices, the services are available at the 701 Richmond facility. Please telephone 529-0037 for more information, or look elsewhere in this edition for a more detailed information.

Gay Veteran's Day

The Houston Chapter of the Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America is having its Annual Veterans Day celebration Nov. 11 at The Venture-N, 2923 Main Street, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The 6 o'clock meeting will kick off events for a night of fun and social gathering celebrating Veteran's Day. All current members are asked to attend.

From 10:00 p.m. until later in the evening, current co-chairpersons will be in attendance to greet perspective members and to hand out applications.

New AIDS House Opens

Magnificat House Inc. will celebrate the opening of Morning Star Hostel at 11:00 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27 at 3207 Austin Street. The facility will provide housing for five persons with HIV/AIDS; renovation was made possible by an \$82,754 grant from the City of Houston through the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS (HOPWA) program.

The HOPWA program provides monies for housing and related services for low-income persons with AIDS/HIV or related diseases and their families, in an effort to prevent their becoming homeless. Tom Combs, HOPWA coordinator for the city Department of Housing and Community Development, said "There is a critical need for AIDS housing in Houston, and the completion of this project as well as other HOPWA projects will go a long way toward meeting that need."

Magnificat House is a private non-profit organization established in 1968. In addition to the Morning Star Hostel, the organization runs six other group residences providing long term housing to Houston's homeless population. Magnificat house also owns and operates the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, which serves lunch six days a week for 250-400 "street people" in downtown Houston, and provides bi-monthly AIDS awareness seminars to the homeless.

HALLOWEEN MADNESS

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MIDNIGHT COSTUME CONTEST

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PARADE OF COSTUMES AT 11PM

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HOUSTON VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Why I Attended The Million Man March

FROM STEVE L. WALKER

Houston, Texas

I am writing this letter in response to the OUTsider article written by Curt Morrison in the Oct. 20 issue of the Houston Voice. I attended the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., Oct. 16. I did so in spite of the fact that I am an openly gay, African-American man. Many of my friends and colleagues have repeatedly asked me why I chose to attend the march saying it would either affirm or endorse Louis Farrakhan and the National African-American Leadership Summit (NAALS). Actually my decision to attend was not at all difficult.

I agree with some goals of the march, which closely mirror my own goals. I strongly believe that black people need to organize and take control of our current financial and political situations. Also, the media should be held responsible for delivering a more positive image of Black men. Mainly due to these improper media portrayals, many people think black men are genetically predetermined to commit murders, thefts, rapes and other crimes. Nothing could be further from the truth, as these incidents have very little to do with a person's race and are more tied to their individual economic situation and personal value system.

Too often in our society, those who have money and political power enjoy the spoils of great America, those on the opposite end of the spectrum are abandoned and left to relish in impoverished ghettos. Many times this is simply due to skin color.

I also participated in the march to send a message to the other black men and women present. I wanted my brothers and sisters to see me as I am. I am neither Nozzeema Jackson of *To Wong Foo*, nor am I Blaine and Antoinne from *In Living Color*. Just an ordinary black man, who cannot declare pride and begin to be proud of my blackness, without including the exact same pride in my gayness.

I marched in a contingent of several hundred openly gay, proud and expressive black men and women from all walks of life, and all sectors of our country. We were loud and proud of both our existence as gay and lesbian people, and proud black men and women. Open participation of our contingent was supported by but not endorsed, by black gay and lesbian organizations among them the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership forum (NBGLLF) and the African-American Lesbian Gay Alliance of Houston (AALGA).

We represented the many thousands of other gay men who were present at the March but because of the homophobia that exists in our society and in the black community, feel the need to remain in the closet. I personally began dialog with Louis Farrakhan and the Million Man March organizers back in June, following their visit here to drum up support and participation. During perhaps a most nerve racking, yet power building exchange I have ever been part of, I came out to Farrakhan, and among other things, called for him to end making homophobic statements, because they directly affect my existence and role in the black community. The fact that NO homophobic statements were made from any of the

MMM speakers is confirmation of our efforts.

I have to take issue, however, with the continued efforts of non-black America to determine leaders in the African-American community. Many times the media coronates certain persons who are either more palatable than a Jesse Jackson or a Louis Farrakhan, or conceived to be less "threatening." Case in point is your statement that "They need to look harder, there are many more respected individuals who the African-American community can embrace..." You later complete your thought by mentioning Clarence Thomas and Colin Powell as examples of black leaders.

Clarence Thomas has not by word or deed done anything that African-Americans can be proud of. He has absolutely no accountability to the Black community. Yet, his position on the Supreme Court makes Thomas perhaps one of the most powerful men in America. However, based on his record, and more recently his vote, the deciding vote on the Affirmative Action issue, eliminated any trace of respect I personally had for him. Yet he remains touted by much of conservative White America as a man Black Americans can all be proud of. NO WAY!

Fact is, the majority of the one-million plus persons at the march, myself included, diminished Farrakhan's importance and reported "new power" as a leader. More important were the spirit and goals of the march, not any one individual speaker, Farrakhan or otherwise. Though I in no way agree with his rhetoric, Farrakhan should receive credit for pointing out the severe problems created by the great racial divide. Many leaders have discussed this issue for years and years.

The Million Man March was able to energize many thinkers to realize that no solutions to the racial problems can be achieved without open and honest dialogue toward that end.

Thanks From Mr. Texas USA

FROM CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM

Houston, Texas

As with all thank you letters, I realize that this should have been written long ago. This last weekend, winning Mr. Texas USA was the highlight of my competing endeavors.

Competing against some of the most talented and beautiful men in Texas, I was bestowed with a great honor and responsibility, and without the following people sponsoring, promoting and loving me, I could not have done it.

Thank you Craig Henderson, Jerry Bird, Scott Free, D'Andre, Kristian Lee Kline, and Chachi, whom I hope to follow in as a gay role model in the USA system. Thank you to my mother and my brother and his wife, Mary, being my biggest fans. My dress, Noel Rodriguez, thank you for making me look the best I can be.

Thank you to all my all-American sponsors and brothers, without you, I would have not been so prepared to present by best. Last but not least, thank you Richard Wiederholt, owner of Basic Brothers. Without your sponsorship, love, advise, guidance and friendship, I would have never been able to win, not only as Mr. Texas USA, but in life. Thank you and I love you.

President Clinton endorses Employment Non-Discrimination Act

(Continued from Page 1)

Clinton noted that in 41 states, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is legal.

"Men and women in those states may be fired from their jobs solely because of their sexual orientation, even when it has no bearing on their job performance," Clinton said in his letter.

"Those who face this kind of job discrimination have no legal recourse, in either state or federal courts," he said. "This is wrong."

The bill would exempt small busi-

nesses, the military, religious organizations and educational institutions that are substantially controlled or supported by religious organizations.

"The provision, which I believe is essential, respects the deeply held religious beliefs of many Americans," said Clinton.

The measure also would not require employers to provide equal benefits to the same-sex partners of employees. Stephanopoulos said Clinton does not support federal sanctioning of same-sex marriage.

"It's a reaffirmation of his fundamental and core belief that we as a society should free ourselves from the negative forces of discrimination and bigotry," said Kennedy.

He pointed out that laws already exist against discrimination based on race, religion, gender and disability.

Twenty-nine senators are co-sponsoring the Senate bill and over 100 House members are backing the House version.

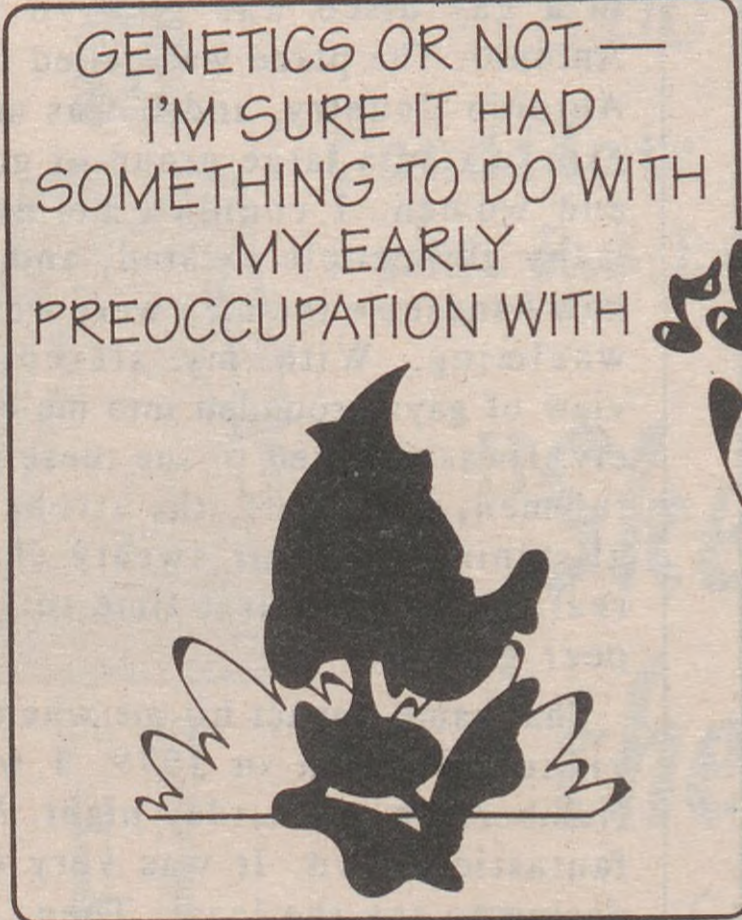
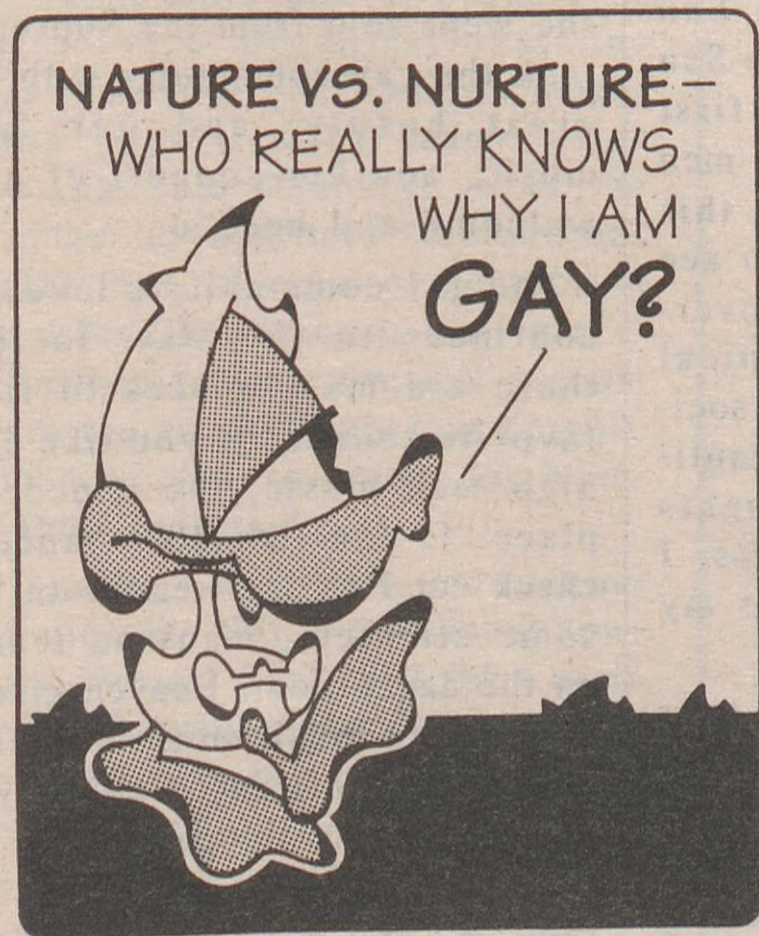
Kennedy said half the members of the committee with jurisdiction over

the measure in the Senate support it, putting it "a lot further along" than many bills. In the House, however, the bill has not even received a hearing.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., one of three openly gay members of Congress, said Clinton's endorsement of the legislation was of "historic proportions."

He said that just as John Kennedy was the first president to actively work to change laws discriminating against black people, Clinton is the first to do the same for gays.

such is LIFE!



©EARL STORM

In the upcoming election for City Council for District D, it has become increasingly clear that some Montrose leaders have positioned themselves to miss an important opportunity.

Since redistricting moved from the predominantly anglo District "C" to the predominantly African-American District "D", many of us have felt that our neighborhood has not received the attention at City Hall that it deserves.

But now that we finally have a candidate from Montrose . . . Saundria Chase Gray . . . a smart and capable Black woman with a clear chance to win . . . what happens? Our leaders, at least some of them, endorsed the candidacy of an individual whose concern for Montrose has never once surfaced in all of his years of soundbite politics.

Saundria Chase Gray, on the other hand, is an exceptional woman schooled at Tufts and U.T. Law. She has been both a defense and plaintiff lawyer, an associate municipal judge, and provides legal commentary on a local network affiliate.

An insider? Hardly.

A political newcomer? Perhaps.

Sophisticated and hard-working? Without a doubt.

What better chance have Montrose voters to insure that our votes are not cast in vain than to elect a savvy, well-educated African-American woman who both understands and appreciated Montrose and proves it by residing in Montrose?

We say vote for Saundria Chase Gray. She gives a damn about Montrose.

Ian Cain
Ian Cain

JoAnne Downes
JoAnne Downes

Ken Newberry
Ken Newberry

Steve Power
Steve Power

Jerry Settle
Jerry Settle

Paul Touris
Paul Touris

Saundra B. Wilkins
Saundra B. Wilkins


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for City Council · District D

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Welcome to Bartertown
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Saturday October 28, 9 p. m.

Thunderdome Caged
Nearly Naked Men
HUNG in Nets Above You

Sunday October 29, 7 p. m.

Thunderdome Exposed
No Shirt, No Cover, No Kidding

Monday October 30, 9 p. m.

Master Blaster
The Aftershock Master has Treats for You to Swallow

Tuesday October 31, p. m.

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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Diana Brings Back Disco Dreams

This week the hottest concert of the year will be happening at the Arena Theater. Diana Ross, queen of Disco, and Raquel Welch, one of Hollywood's most beautiful women will be entertaining the masses in the name of charity. I can't afford a ticket, so I will miss it, but I hope all of you who go have a great time.

I got to thinking about the impact the disco era had on my generation of gay men and women. I believe disco shaped a whole generation by giving them an identity. My first memory of being in a gay disco was in 1978 in San Antonio. The place was called the San Antonio Country, and it was my first exposure to a large group of gay men and women. I couldn't believe this many gay people existed, and to see how handsome the men were was overwhelming. With my stereotypical view of gays grounded into me by society, I was shocked to see these beautiful men, shirts off, the strobe lights glistening off their sweaty chests. I realized for the first time this is my peer group.

That same impact hit me when I first visited Houston in 1979. I went to Numbers on a Saturday night. What a fantastic crowd. It was very intimidating to say the least. Then, during the evening, as I stood in the background watching them dance, a very handsome tall man came over to talk to me. Well, I didn't know what to say until he asked me home. I asked him if Houston was like this, all these men, and he said yes. With the Old Plantation, the Copa, and the Loading Dock, there were plenty of places to dance the night away.

me, and probably every gay man in America was outstanding. Here they were, living their fantasies on stage for all to see. They sang about the gay meccas at the time: San Francisco, Hollywood, New York, Key West, and more songs I can't remember. Imagine the courage of gay men living in small town America, desperately trying to live an unborning life—then here comes this group, with an important message: you're not alone. Many of these men packed their bags, and moved to these gay meccas. I thank the Village People for helping to give a whole generation the courage to live their lives their way.

Let's not forget Diana Ross. When she went solo from the Supremes, she took the gay community with her. Her great beauty, and her fantastic music, and her support of gays was welcome and needed.

The gay community's love of music continues to this day. In Houston, there are many places to find your favorite sounds. If you like excellent high tech music, the Ripcord is the place. If you like 80's dance music, check out Pacific Street, with its handsome clientele, many in leather, all on the dance floor. Heaven gives us the latest Euro-music in a very fun atmosphere. The Mining Company's Sunday parties are the place to be for 80's disco and a very lively crowd. The Venture N, my favorite bar, plays an excellent mix of oldies and new songs; and has plenty of room to party. And don't forget Rich's, with their strobe lights and energetic dance crowd that makes every night a party. Their Friday night Oldies Night is very nostalgic and sometimes it brings back a lot memories for me. Many of us attach songs to specific events in our lives, and hearing this music can take us back in time.

What was the impact of the discos? Well, in an era of having to stay in the closet, of having to conform to society's outdated rules, of pretending you were divorced so people wouldn't get suspicious of your secret, the music and the dancing became the total release of stress. Hundreds of men, dancing with their shirts off, dancing in small groups, moving erotically to the beat for hours was exciting. There was so much underlying sexuality, so much bonding, that I would leave those places feeling gay and proud.


I first heard disco music in the mid-seventies in college. The popular song of the time was *The Hustle*, also a dance with complicated moves. On Friday nights, I would go along with the other guys in the dorm. We would put on our beautiful leisure suits and three-inch heels and go dancing. There on the floor the group would line up and dance. It was great to watch. Even though I couldn't do it, I still felt part of this group of college students. I thought of it as a bonding experience.

And what is it about dance music that makes it so appealing? I think going dancing is the one release in many people's lives...You can go dancing, and forget all the problems and stress of everyday life. It is also pretty neat to be able to bond with all these people in ways that are hard to describe. After all, these men and women are part of our society and part of who we are. And it's great to see all these men dancing with their shirts off.

Oh yes, I have one more disco memory I would like to share with you. In 1980 I lived in San Francisco. I made friends with someone whose roommate was just putting out a dance album. He invited me to a party honoring the album's release. The artist's name was Sylvester. When we were introduced, he asked me where I was from. I said Texas. He smiled and said, "I love those men from Texas." Well, Sylvester's impact on dance music was intense, and until he passed away, was a major force in dance music. For those of you who have never heard of him, go buy one of his albums. You will be amazed at how talented his music was.

It was in 1978 that the Village People first came into my life. My mother and I were watching a New Year's Eve program and there was the group of (I think) six men. You know them, the handsome and very popular construction man, the very butch leather man, the Indian, the sailor, and I forget the other one. But the impact they made on

And even though I mostly listen to KQUE, I still like to get out my disco tapes out and listen. It brings back memories of times when everyone was alive, the music was exciting, and the ability to let go was encouraged. Thanks, Disco, for the memories.



Chances

Friday (27th), Saturday (28th) and Sunday (29th) COSTUME CONTEST

\$25 Cash for best costume each night at 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Halloween Night 10 p.m.

\$50 Cash Grand Grand Prize

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October 28th Big Red - AKA Jim
November 1 - Jeanette, Imperial Queen Mother for Life

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RECYCLE



Early voting in Montrose

Quick Notes

Houston's newest early voting location is also the first such site in Montrose, and a familiar address to many in the gay and lesbian community: the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray.

Early voting opened last Wednesday, Oct. 18. Harris County is divided into four zones, and anyone residing in State Representative Districts 131, 132, 134, 137, 146 and 147 is allowed to vote early, in person, at the Multi-Service Center.

State Rep. Debra Danburg, whose district includes Montrose and who chairs the House Elections Committee, said she is particularly excited to finally have an early voting site that is centrally located in the district. It is convenient for clients and employees of nearby service organizations, for shoppers and movie goers and for neighborhoods populated by many older Houstonians, said Danburg. Also, she added, "Our (committee) research has found that most charges of corruption and fraud involve the early voting system by mail-in ballot process. I encourage everyone to early vote in person, rather than by mail, to protect the integrity of their ballots."

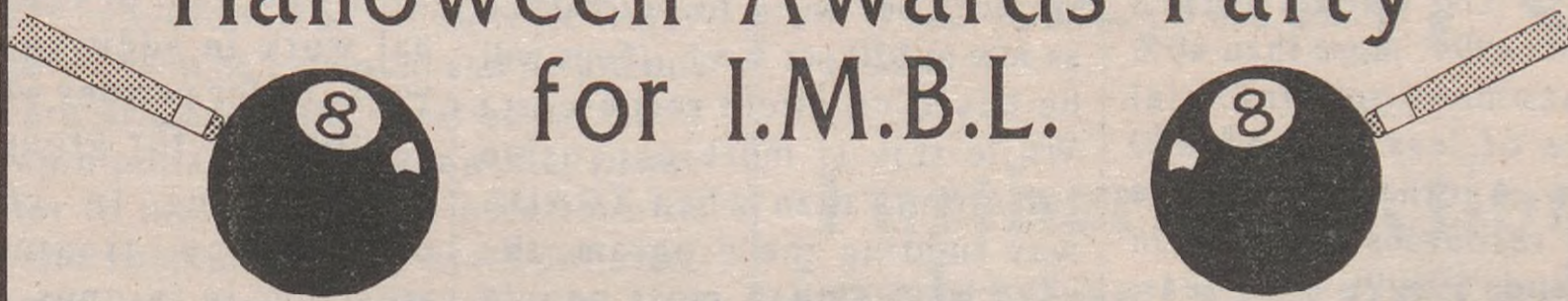
Early voting continues throughout October and ends Nov. 3 with the following hours: Friday, Oct. 27, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 28-29, 1:00-6:00 p.m.; Monday, Oct. 30 through Wednesday, Nov. 1, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 2-3, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Saturday, October 28th
8:00 pm



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HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST CALENDAR

October 27

Chances 10:30 pm
Cousins 11:00 pm
Rich's Midnight

October 28

800 Pacific Street 9:45 pm
Venture-N 10:00 pm
Chances 10:30 pm
J.R.'s 11:00 pm
Heaven 11:30 pm
The Mine 11:30 pm
B.R.B. Midnight
BriarPatch Midnight
Gentry Midnight
Lazy J Midnight
Mary's Midnight

October 29

E/J's 10:00 pm
Chances 10:30 pm

October 31

800 Pacific Street 9:45 pm
Chances 10:30 pm
B.R.B. 11:00 pm
Gentry 11:00 pm
J.R.'s 11:00 pm
The Mine 11:30 pm
Heaven 11:30 pm
Mary's Midnight
The Ripcord Midnight
Club 403 Midnight

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HOW DOES A SETTLEMENT WORK?

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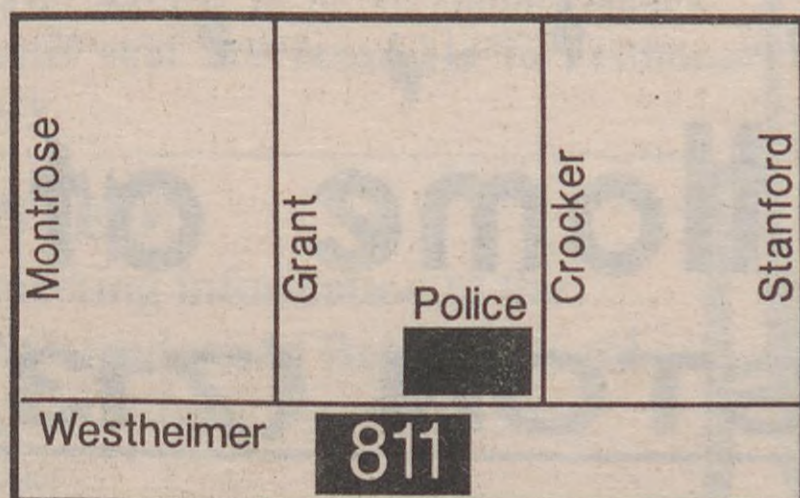
By working with you in person, but at the same time having access to nationwide financial resources, we are able to deliver the best value on your policy available today. And because of our established resources, we can deliver a settlement in less than a third of the time other companies take by mail typically, in less than 30 days.

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The price of sobriety: funding changes affect counseling programs

Guest Commentary

By BARBARA BECKER,
M.P.H.

Montrose Counseling Center

Oct. 1st, Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community faced a new challenge: that of providing affordable chemical dependency and substance abuse outpatient treatment for lower income and indigent adult members of our community. Beginning on that date, all funding from the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) for adult services has been redirected, for at least the next two years, toward residential treatment.

This change is a result of a legislative mandate, and is not a reflection on any of the ten agencies who have been defunded nor a reflection on the client base.

In the past, Montrose Counseling Center (MCC) was a recipient of TCADA funding to provide outpatient treatment services which focused on gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered persons. Between Sept. 1994 and August 1995, MCC provided treatment to more than 370 per-

sons through its Intensive and Aftercare programs. That number of clients represents a 25% increase from the number of clients served in the prior year. Services to the clients were provided on a sliding fee scale basis, often with the client's fee being as low as \$1 per week for 11 hours of treatment during that week.

Of those 370 clients served since Sept. 1994, more than 40% have incomes or financial resources of less than \$5,000 per year. Another 40% have financial resources of between \$5,000 and \$9,999 per year. None have health insurance which covers this treatment.

At this point, there is nothing to be done about the loss of treatment funding. The challenge is to continue providing these needed services, which MCC is determined to continue to provide low cost quality treatment.

In order to do that MCC is making some changes effective Nov. 1st.

MCC will provide an Outpatient Group Treatment program in which services will be available four nights per week for persons new to sobriety. Mondays there will be two hour education and process group

with fees as low as \$10 per person. Tuesdays and Thursdays, there will be a one hour education group with fees as low as \$5 per person. Fridays there will be ninety minute 12 step study group led by alumni of MCC's program which will be offered at no charge.

Therefore, clients can attend more than five hours of services per week for a total fee as low as \$20 per week. (Fees will be based on client resources.) While this is more expensive for clients than when TCADA was funding the program, the cost is less than most people spend per week on their drug of choice when not in recovery.

The Aftercare Group Treatment program will continue as it has in the past with just a few changes. It will continue to focus on treatment to persons who have completed a treatment program (MCC's or at another facility), or who have at least 90 days sobriety. The weekly groups will increase in length from 90 minutes to two hours. The fees for these groups will be as low as \$10 per person. Clients in the Aftercare program also may participate in the education groups on Tuesday and Thursday as part of their treatment plan.

Individual counseling will also continue to be part of the services provided for chemical dependency treatment at MCC. Fees for individual fifty minute sessions begin at \$25 per person. Individual sessions are primarily for persons who have completed both the Outpatient and Aftercare Treatment programs, for persons who want or need individual work in addition to group work, or for persons who are not appropriate for group work.

The focus in chemical dependency treatment is working in groups. Besides being the preferred method of treatment for successful recovery, group treatment is also the most cost effective method. The fees set by MCC are based on merely covering the cost of providing the services. Therefore, group work allows the most people to receive the most services at the least cost.

However, even with fees as low as \$20 per week, many clients find it difficult to afford these services. To meet this challenge, MCC is currently seeking other funding and donations to help offset the cost of providing services for those clients who absolutely can-

not afford even \$5 per group on a regular basis. MCC is writing grant proposals, planning fundraising events, and making personal appeals for support.

So what can you do? If you are a person in need of chemical dependency treatment, you can decide that your sobriety is important enough to you to commit to pursuing it. You can decide to spend your money and time on sobriety rather than drugs or alcohol.

If you are someone who cares about others in your community, you can commit to support them by contributing either time, energy, or money (or all three) to help offset the costs of treatment. This can be done for specific individuals, or in a general scholarship fund.

MCC is continuing the services which have been provided since 1978. There is still a safe place for Gay men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered persons to go for quality and affordable chemical dependency treatment and other mental health services. Call 529-0037 to discuss ways every one can benefit from associating with the MCC.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Cash Prizes - Judging at Midnight



Rainbow Ranglers Guest Bartend
On-The-Patio 9:30pm till ??



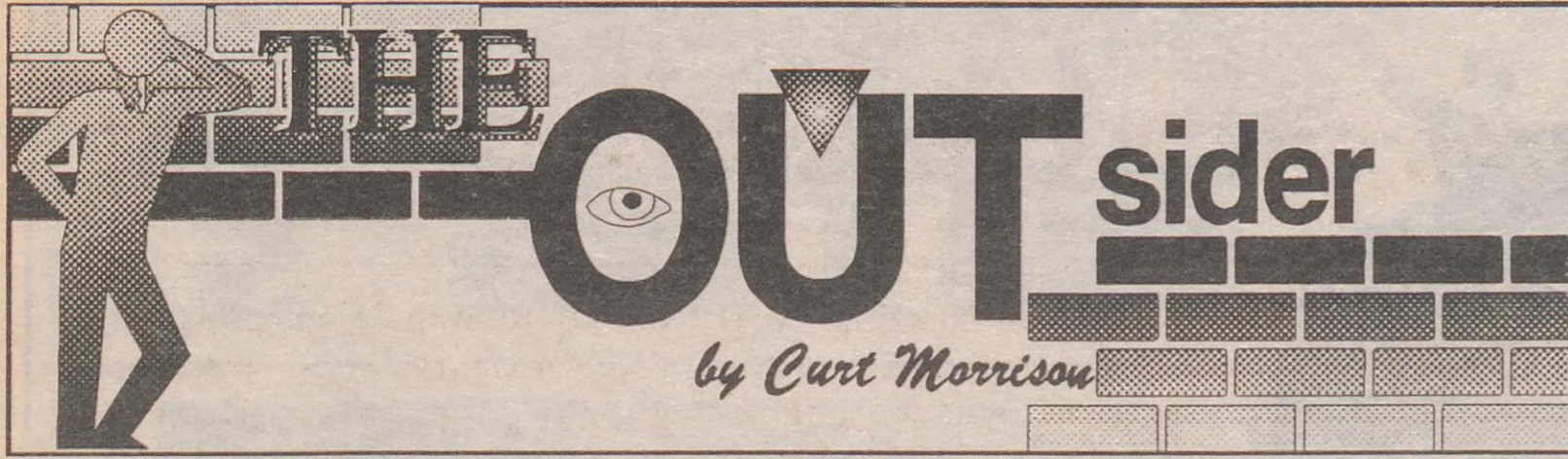
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29th

Tuna Melt & Day-Leigh Edwards
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in Revue - Showtime 8:00pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31st

Costume Contest with Special Prizes
Judging at 11pm

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In Each Party, A World Class Waffler

There he goes again. Throughout his political career he has changed his views on nearly every issue that has arisen. It's as though he licks his index finger and raises it in the air to determine which way the wind (i.e. public opinion polls) is blowing. No, I'm not talking about President Clinton, although I may as well be. I'm talking about Senator Bob Dole. Last week, the Kansas GOP presidential front-runner, displayed his inability to demonstrate to the American Public that he has any conviction.

A while back, the Bob Dole camp returned a campaign contribution from the Log Cabin Republicans, a gay Republican organization. A statement was issued to the press that the Senator does not hold the same views as the Log Cabin Republicans and therefore felt it was best to decline acceptance of the donation. That was then, this is now: Senator Dole himself, in a television interview, last week said that it was a mistake to return the check and that his staff erred in their hasty actions. The Senator apparently has no problem with the agenda of the Log Cabin Republicans and would gladly accept a contribution. I suggest the Log Cabin Republicans wait a few weeks before re-writing a check, as the Senator may change his mind again in the near future.

This entire situation is indicative of the role special interests and political action committees have in today's political climate. This type of posturing by political candidates provides sufficient evidence for the need to enact some type of campaign finance reform. The sooner the better. The gay community should be outraged. Senator Dole's use of our community as a volleyball in a tournament of political positioning should be reprimanded to the fullest. What's worse is his lame excuse for the occurrence. Blaming your staff for your woes does nothing to enhance your credibility as a leader, yet alone a presidential aspirant. Does Senator Dole expect anyone to take his candidacy seriously when he can't even control his campaign staff. Indeed, he can't even control the Senate and his party is in the majority. The American people want someone who has leadership ability, and the individual, Republican or Democrat, who demonstrates that unflinchingly will occupy the White House in 1996. Margaret Thatcher once intoned that "Standing in the middle of the road is very dangerous; you get knocked down by the traffic from both sides." Senator Dole should heed her advice before he destroys his third attempt at the nomination.

I have never been a fan of the Senate Majority Leader, precisely for the aforementioned reasons. This is my main problem with President Clinton, as well. I firmly believe that President Clinton's biggest problem, and the primary factor for his failure to muster approval ratings above the mid 40 percentile in the polls, is his inability to unequivocally show the public what he stands for. As does Dole,

Clinton changes his stance on too many issues and it resonates on the minds of the electorate. Ronald Reagan was not popular because everyone held the same views that he did. He was and still remains popular today because people knew what his views were, and he never wavered from them. He truly believed what he espoused and he did not govern or lead on the basis of the latest opinion polls. Reagan knew that it was better to mold public opinion than to try and keep up with it. Most polls are skewed and public opinion can vary depending upon circumstance, thereby not always providing an accurate perception of the mood of the electorate.

If Bob Dole or Bill Clinton want to win the White House in 1996, they had better start standing for something and steadfastly adhere to their stance regardless of repercussion. They have their work cut out for them, because their respective track records are dismal at best. Clinton has waffled on every issue he campaigned on. Bosnia. Taxes. Haiti Refugees. Etc. Dole, on the other hand, said he wanted term limits, a balanced budget amendment, tougher crime laws and campaign finance reform. None of these issues made it to the floor for a vote except the balanced budget amendment and he could not even get that passed even though 82% of the public supports it. The public want's direction and action. We elect leaders to lead not follow. Aaron Tippin, a country western singer sums it up best in the title of his #1 hit song, "You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything."

As for Senator Dole and his turnabout jockeying with respect to the Log Cabin Republicans, his manipulative posturing may actually backfire. Senator Dole knew damn well what his staff was doing when they returned that check. He was facing a straw poll vote in a conservative state and needed some thunder to ensure his first place positioning. Now that he is facing voters in more moderate states the Senator has changed his position. Nothing irritates me more than a politician who uses constituents as props to enhance their careers. I have more respect for an individual who tells me to my face that he will not support my lifestyle than some ambitious public servant who promises me the moon to obtain my vote, but doesn't deliver the goods. What's even worse is when someone plays both sides. I'm not stupid and neither are most Americans, and this is why the public has such a low regard for politicians and government in general.

If Bill Clinton is the best that the Democrat Party has to offer and Bob Dole is the best that the Republican Party has to offer as presidential candidates, then we are in serious trouble. Neither one of them merit the office and all that it entails. They are the de facto reason this country is so disgusted with the political system and looking for alternatives, i.e. Colin Powell and Perot's third party concept. The Democrats and Republicans should heed the warning signs. They're everywhere! Failure to do so could produce results that are favorable to neither party.

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SPORTS NOTES



Bruce's Yellow Team, though trailing in this week's standings, were all smiles during a break in the action last Sunday. Stay tuned for more, as MSL's fall league continues

Independent Billiard League Awards Banquet

On Saturday, Oct. 28, 1995, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., the Independent Billiard League (Thursday night league) will host its first Awards Banquet at the Toy Box. Awards and Jackets will be given out to the top teams and players for its first season of play.

The top five teams are as follows: 1st—Toy Box (Toy Box); 2nd—Triple Threat (Cousins); 3rd—Cousins We Is (Cousins); 4th—Glory Holes (Venture-N); 5th—Wet Dream Team (611 Hyde Park Pub). The top ranked player is Robert Miller, from T-N-T (Lazy J). The 1st place player for the end of the season tournament is Ricky Hines, and the 2nd place player is Dale Alexander.

The league welcomes all players and their guests to join us in this celebration. We will have applications available for our next season, scheduled to begin the first week of January. These teams are three person teams. For more information, please call the IBL at 522-4814.

LRC Skate Night

Lambda Rollerskating Club will hold its next skate night on Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 8:30-10:30 p.m. at the Starlite Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road (corner of Cook and Beechnut). Admission is \$5 plus \$1 skate rental (\$5 if you have your own skates). Everyone is welcome to skate. The evening's entertainment also includes a variety of games, plus door prizes. For more information about Skate Night or the Lambda Rollerskating Club, call 933-5818.

Bowling News

The Inner Loop Sunday Evening Mixer League reports that Screw It is currently in first place, followed by Sticky Wickets in second and 1/2 and 1/2 in third. High Scratch Game of 243 and series of 627 was bowled by Tom O'Dell for the men. For the women, Diann Thomasson bowled game of 212 and Pam Spayde bowled series of 540. For more information, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports that the first three places in Division A are taken by The Queen Sick Court, Dem Damn Dawgs and

Party of Four. Division B is headed by 9 Dirty, Mayfair Bitches and Tennis Anyone? High Scratch Game of 247 and series of 673 was bowled by Chris Bennett. For more information on this league, call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Monday Night Women's League reports its first place position is taken by In the House, second by TAZ Club, third by Maybe, Maybe Not and fourth by Lesberados. For more information call Pat, 437-6218.

First place team in the Wednesday Night Mixers league is Fish and Whips, second is To Wong Foo: Thanks for Nothing and in third place is 3 Tops and A Bottom. High Scratch Game of 264 and series of 7126 was bowled by Chris Bennett for the men. For the women, Terry Shannon bowled 192 and series of 547. League information is available from Tom at 522-9612.

MSL's Fall League Continues

The Montrose Softball League's (MSL) Fall League continued on Sunday, Oct. 22, despite the 85 degree temperatures...the show must go on, you know.

The Blue Team amassed its first two wins of the season by defeating the Purple Team 13-4 and the Green Team 10-6. The Orange Team continued their winning season after squeezing by the Purple Team 11-7 and the Red Team 12-7. The Red Team bounced back in the last game by pounding the Yellow Team 14-6. The Yellow Team tried their best in a last inning rally but fell short of defeating the Green Team 9-8.

The standings in the Fall League are as follows: Orange, 4-0; Red, 3-1; Blue, 2-2, tied with Green, 2-2; Purple, 1-3; Yellow, 0-4.

The league invites the community to join them on Sunday, Oct. 29 at Tim Hearn Field (corner of Jackson Hill & Waugh off of Memorial Drive) for the following games: 11:00 a.m., Orange vs. Green; 12:00 p.m., Orange vs. Blue; 1:00 p.m., Blue vs. Yellow; 2:00 p.m., Yellow vs. Purple; 3:00 p.m., Red vs. Green and 4:00 p.m., Purple vs. Red.

Don't forget to register for MSL's First Annual Pet Show to be held on Sunday, Nov. 19 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Tim Hearn Field. For more information or to inquire about other activities, call MSL at 867-3913.

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Moon sense and market savvy

Books and Authors

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE

Houston Voice Editor

In 1993, Nicole Conn, a former accountant and longtime partner in a then little known woman-owned production company made a pushy, splashy debut as a writer and independent film producer with *Claire of the Moon*, which she wrote, directed and co-produced. The emotionally centered lesbian romance was roundly razzed as sappy, melodramatic and behind the times in the political gay centers like San Francisco, but it packed houses when it premiered in such cities as Austin, and Conn developed a devout following of...well, emotionally centered lesbian romantics.

"My work isn't exactly political...unless you consider the saying that the personal is political," says Conn. "but if you look at it another way...there has been a political and cultural fallout from 'Claire of the Moon' in terms of what it did to pave the way for other lesbian films."

Conn, who at first had difficulty finding a distributor for *Moon*, stretched the commercial success of the movie she had made for a \$325,000 with an aggressive merchandising and follow-up effort unheard of, at that time, for a gay-themed film. Those efforts brought the independent film maker an unexpected, and unprecedented, level of respect and competitiveness in another niche:

the newly gay-friendly mainstream. Today—credited with paving the way for an unprecedented number of high profile lesbian-themed films now in release and reaping the success of the *Claire of the Moon* video, her novelization of the screenplay and the documentary *Moments: The Making of Claire of the Moon*, Nicole Conn is laughing all the way to the bank. Her first full-length novel, *Passion's Shadow*, was released this month by Simon & Schuster, with whom she has signed a two-book deal. The follow-up novel will be published next summer. And her newest screenplay, *Legends*, has attracted two big-name stars: Joan Collins and Sean Young.

"We haven't gone into production yet," Conn explained in an interview during a recent stop in Houston on her book tour with *Passion's Shadow*. "We're hoping to begin production on it in January."

The film, Conn explained, is a satiric sendup of the film industry and the media, from a woman's point of view. "It's about an out of work, aging B-actress and an aging soap opera



Author and filmmaker Nicole Conn

star...but it's really about the nature of the film industry, from the perspective of these women," Hollywood is crazy. It's an agent's town."

The project—as Conn says she expected—reaffirmed her first hand knowledge of this; it was a battle to get the script through the hands of agents to the actresses, who, when they finally got it, loved it, Conn said. "Both Joan and Sean fell in love with the script," she said.

"But at first (Young's) agent didn't even tell her about it."

Collins is to play B-movie queen Vivian Malone; Young is cast as the soap star, Delilah, Conn said. The screenplay gets its sweet revenge, too, in its characterization of the agents—all named Lou—with whom the leading ladies must interact. While not a lesbian-themed film, *Legends* will include gay characters, Conn said.

A native of Portland, Conn is a graduate of Elliott Business College. For ten years, she owned and operated Irresistible Systems, a financial consulting and accounting firm.

Her new novel, *Passion's Shadow*, draws from Conn's own experience as a driven, professional woman prone

to many of the obsessive "isms" and that often accompany success, or its pursuit. Indeed, the book is more actually more about addiction than passion, and the characters in *Shadow* each have their own life-dominating demons, ranging from alcoholism to workaholicism, with various compulsions and eating disorders thrown in for good measure. And to hear Conn reflect, she has personally experienced them all: "These are all things that I've gone through, that I'm familiar with. I wrote this book partly because I'm in recovery now. I understand what these characters are going through. When you read the book (you also learn that) there is another reason for all of these 'isms...each one of these characters is using something to divert themselves away from passion."

While the project caught the attention of the mainstream publisher because they felt it had crossover potential, Conn insists she was not trying for that effect. "It's definitely a lesbian book...don't you think?"

It's also a romance—Conn's specialty—a tender story of conflicting emotional commitments involving a complex love triangle between a workaholic architect, a designer and the designer's daughter. If she has her way, it will be followed by yet another in the same vein. Conn said she is in the process of deciding between two potential second novels; the one she is leaning toward, she describes as a "lesbian Wuthering Heights."

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The Voice Reader

Passion's Shadow, by Nicole Conn; Simon & Schuster; \$22 hardcover, 317pp.)

REVIEWED BY VADA CARROLL
For the Houston Voice

For anyone who enjoys a typical romance novel, Nicole Conn's *Passion's Shadow* is a pleasant read. This is Conn's first full length novel. She is best known for the 1993 lesbian love story motion picture, *Claire of the Moon*, which she wrote, directed and co-produced.

Passion's Shadow is the story of Lindsay Brennan, a closed off, tightly-wound, work-obsessed lesbian architect who finds herself attracted to an older divorcee—a fragile, insecure and emotionally unbalanced alcoholic (sounds like the women I used to date) named Sondra Pinchot. Work pressure, money problems and the stress of her first "lesbian escapade" soon sends Sondra over the edge and back to her old habits. Her concerned daughter, Samantha, is dealing with her own dilemma, a stagnant five-year relationship with a man she plans to marry, but she reluctantly comes to mom's rescue and sets her up in rehab. And well, while the mom's away...you know the story. Lindsay and Samantha come to the realization that they have been searching for each other their whole lives. A struggle within their own individual vortex of emotions ensues: suspicion, attraction, denial, anger, avoidance, more denial, more anger until finally—acceptance. The two come together in unrelenting passion just as mom is released from treatment. Imagine.

Lindsay, Samantha and Sondra are not the only characters in Conn's

story. Megan is Lindsey's secretary who is battling a weight problem and the insecurities that accompany it. Ryan is a dashing young successful man who falls in love with Megan, though she can't figure out why. Warren "Snag" Peterson is Lindsay's assistant, a stereotyped gay male dishing airs and one liners. Snag's significant other is Jared, a "GQ demigod" who along with Snag is experiencing mid-life crisis.

Although Conn's triangular relationship involving mother and daughter is unique, I found the story quite ordinary and the ending, which climaxes in the last 20-plus pages, painfully predictable. Being a realistic optimist I've grown too old for lesbian knights on white horses and happily ever after endings. It's misleading for children and an escape for adults (although everyone can use a good escape now and then). The story lacks believability.

Conn's attempt to capture as many of life's psychological ills as she could (i.e. weight, anxiety attacks, alcoholism, mid-life crisis) all in one story comes up short. Her supporting characters, who seem to appear and disappear with no real significance, are weak and undeveloped. Unusual considering the books 317 pages.

After reading *Passion's Shadow* I was left with no memorable moments or inspiring messages, but I was entertained during the time it took to read in spite of its shortcomings. For Nicole Conn fans, she signed a two book deal with Simon & Schuster so another book will be following.

New Online service features AIDS resource 'community center'

(New York City)—By consolidating an unprecedented range of AIDS resources on the Internet, a new service will become cyberspace's first one-stop shop for reaching AIDS experts, organizations, and publications nationwide.

"We want to do more than inform—we want to create a global community for people concerned with AIDS," said Jamie Marks, founder of The Body, which launches in early October. The site is available at www.thebody.com.

According to Marks, The Body will become the first place online where anyone concerned with AIDS will look for resources dealing with its medical, cultural, legal, and political aspects.

As content providers, The Body has enlisted groups in AIDS service, politics, and culture nationwide in a unique arrangement. Sources as diverse as AIDS Action Council, People For the American Way, Americans With Disabilities Act Technical Assistance Centers, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Centers for Disease Control, GMHC, the Poetry Society of America, Treatment Action Group, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the American Psychiatric Association, and Johns Hopkins University AIDS Service will contribute.

"There are some AIDS resources online, but they're fragmented, and you really have to know where to look. The Body has everything in one place," Marks said.

The Body will contain four interactive sections:

—*Forums* provide easy-to-use access to the Internet's best forums on HIV/AIDS, on Usenet. Until now, Usenet newsgroups have only been available through complicated connections on commercial services. Usage of The Body's forums also affords greater confidentiality than most online venues.

—*Insight* gives medical, legal, and mental health professionals working with AIDS/HIV a chance to comment on their areas of expertise. Contributors include Joel E. Galant, MD, of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and Catherine Hanssens, Esq., AIDS Project Director at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

—*Political Action* provides a forum to help organize constituencies seeking a political voice. The section will host groups involved in federal, state, or local political advocacy. Each group will compile, edit, and publish its own material.

—*Organizations to Join* will let users read about, join, or contribute to the organizations whose information is carried by The Body.

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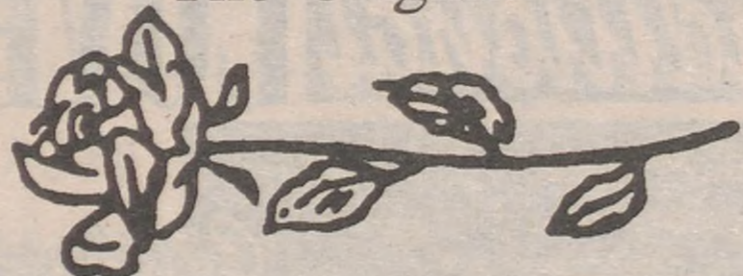
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Sounds by Sam

Four from '9' gets a '7'

It's usually a simple equation: Local bands + one good song = never-hearing-from-them-again-because-they-actually-have-no-talent.

Believe it or not, we actually have proof that this is not always the case. Houston's own Number 9 is a local band. They have made the "mark," and they are moving forward. Since 1993, Number 9 has been all over this city and has opened for several acts such as Deborah Harry, Black Box, Information Society, and the Hunger (another local miracle).

But wait! There is more...if you recognize who Number 9 is, then you perhaps recognize that they are also wonders in the visual art of band performance, using lighting and lasers that, yes, impress even me.

If you can remember, Number 9 had its CD 999-Mark of the BEAT (clever, eh?) on Ultra Trec Records. Though this was a little different for them, they attacked it with true professionalism, but more importantly, with a dance beat that moves. Now, Number 9 has a CD out with four tracts: 2 versions of *Get Down Tonight*, a mix of *Mark of the Beat*, and *Cardiac*. Each song is so different, even though they are all what we consider "dance" music. The first *Get Down Tonight* (radio mix) is a typical dance groove version of the old song. It's three minutes and 14 seconds of moving dance music, very well mixed and arranged. *Mark of the Beat* (999 mix) has no words really (except "oh yeah, yeah"), but is your basic beat mix that works great at a club or dance. In fact, it works great anywhere...provided you like dance

mixes of course.

Cardiac (thrash mix) is a bit different. It's definitely more of a "Metallica plays at Rich's" sound. It's not "light" and it's not "heavy," but at 134 beats per minute, you can't help but move. Finally, the CD ends with *Get Down Tonight* (dancing Gestapo mix). This version is a bit calmer (imagine that) but is definitely just as active.

Number 9 may be local, and may be new, but that by no means should be a label for them. As anyone familiar with the club scene and Number 9 can tell you, these people MOVE, and more importantly, they move you. This CD, as well as their previous CD is a must for the dance enthusiast, the local DJ, or any music lover. Country, rap, and alternative fans, stay away. On a scale of 1 to 10, I would rate this a 7 because of the strong ability to get the hearer to move...Personally, I can't wait to hear from this group again.

FYI: Number 9 started in August 1993 with Byron Payne and Lars Senuta. Byron performs the vocals, keyboards, and guitar, while Lars does the keyboards, bass guitar, and back vocals. Through the course of their existence, Byron and Lars were joined by Mark Laman with his guitar, and Paul Matheson on drums and electric percussion. Number 9 write all their songs (except *Get Down Tonight*) and are currently working on several music videos. If you would like more information (which I would suggest) please contact Ultra Trec Records, P.O. Box 200, Friendswood, Texas 77546. You may also call, 713-946-6728, and they'll get you set up with the CDs (which I also would suggest).

Diva Reviva

Music Review

Take Me Higher, Diana Ross
 By JON ANTHONY

Houston Voice/Houston

She's the biggest selling female recording artist in the history of music and the most successful female artist of all time who is in her mid fifties and looks like she just turned thirty. She's a Diva, a Legend and some call her "the boss" or "Miss Ross." Her name is Diana Ross and her achievements are astounding. She is revered in an industry that forgets a star as fast as they have risen. Few stars of her generation have maintained the caliber of celebritydome that Diana Ross has. Barbara Streisand, Bette Midler, Cher, Liza Minnelli and Tina Turner come to mind. They are the Diva's. They defy conventional wisdom and continue to electrify us and transcend the span of decades successfully.

Diana's milestones are legendary. Her repertoire is significant indeed. She is currently embarking on a national tour to promote her latest album, *Take Me Higher*. The title track, is the first single released from the album, and it certainly demonstrates a high energy comeback. Ms. Ross flows through this dance ditty with an energized fervor of cool seductiveness and backup vocals that chill. The song is reminiscent of the late 70's, early 80's dance hits. It encompasses such with just the right amount of 90's techno. Unfortunately, it is the only uptempo track on the album that is palatable. Diana's attempt at competing with the likes of today's hot stars, Madonna, Janet, Whitney and Mariah is embarrassing. Miss Ross does not have the vocal ability to sing those type of tunes. She never has. What propelled Diana Ross to superstardom was her smooth, almost satin like voice. She has one of the most sultry, clear and defined voices in

the business and she should utilize it more.

The best tracks on the album are her ballads. Listen to her rendition of *Voice of the Heart*. It is by far the album's greatest track. It's a beautiful song, sung with pure emotions and vibrance that resonates. It is a reminder of the Diana Ross we all know and love. When she hits her stride as she does in *Voices of the Heart* and *Gone* she demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that when it comes to heartfelt songs, no one sings them better. *I Never Loved a Man Before* is a wonderful torch song that focuses on her rich vocals. *I Thought That We Were Still in Love*, is a well written song about separating. These tracks make this album worthwhile. The rest of the material is either filler or ill-fated attempts at marketing herself as a techno funk artist.

This album is a must for die-hard fans. It is far superior to her last few pop albums, which did not sell well. As a Diana Ross fan, I hope this album puts her back on the charts, but I suspect that will only happen if they release one of the ballads. Motown should release *Voice of the Heart* immediately and use all its power to get it airplay. It is a song that could reach number #1 with ease. Diana Ross is phenomenal entertainer and with the right material could continue to have hits into the next decade. There is an audience out there for easy listening music and who better than the incomparable Diana Ross to fill that void. After all, no one does it better.

Take Me Higher, for all its faults is still worthy of purchase and Diana Ross has demonstrated that aging has not diminished her capabilities as an artist. Ms. Ross will be in Houston Friday night at the Arena Theatre for an AIDS benefit and promotional tour for this three star album.

PERFORMING ARTS NOTES

By John Reed

Houston Ballet Performs Free In The Park

From Thursday, Oct. 26 through Saturday, Oct. 28, Houston Ballet will bring the raucous sounds of the Rolling Stones to Hermann Park when the company gives three free performances, featuring *Rooster*, the Rock n' Roll ballet choreographed by Christopher Bruce, at Miller Outdoor Theater. Several other works will also be on the program.

The evening will open with Jiri Kyllian's *Sinfonietta* set to the joyous music of Leos Janacek. Next will be two works choreographed by Houston Ballet Artistic Director Ben Stevenson. *Rooster* closes the program.

Christopher Bruce's *Rooster* is set to eight classic rock tracks by The Rolling Stones. *Rooster*, five male dancers dressed in brown, red, green and blue velvet jackets and tight black pants strut and preen across the stage, while five women shake, shimmy, and slink their way through the piece in black Mary Quant dresses, sexy 1960s style mini-skirts with sassy red pleats.

The response given to the American premiere of *Rooster* by Houston Ballet in May of this year was rapturous. The opening night audience greeted the work with cheers, a standing ovation and six curtain calls.

The free performances are scheduled this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, beginning at 8:00 p.m. each evening at Miller Outdoor Theater in Hermann Park. For more information, call 520-3290.

Set Your Own Price at The Alley

The Alley Theatre has announced three "Pay What You Want" performance dates and a pre-show Informance discussion on Oscar Wilde's uproarious comic masterpiece, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which begins previews on Oct. 20 and opens the 1995-96 Large Stage season Oct. 25 through Nov. 18, 1995. The 100th Anniversary Production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* is generously underwritten by Shell Oil Company Foundation.

"Pay What You Want" performances will be on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, Nov. 11 at 2:30 pm and Sunday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. "Pay What You Want," tickets are available on the day of performance at the Box Office window. The tickets are available for selected seats and are limited to two per person, cash or check only, with a \$2 minimum for each ticket.

The pre-show Informance discus-



Houston Ballet is presenting three free performances this week at Miller Outdoor Theater. (Photo, of dancer Lauren Anderson in 'Rooster,' by Drew Donovan)

sion is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 6:15 pm, before the 7:30 pm performance. Alley Artistic Director Gregory Boyd will conduct the discussion regarding the content and creative process involved in the production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The Informance is free and open to the public.

Perhaps one of the funnies plays ever written, *The Importance of Being Earnest* set the standard for all modern comedy that followed, from Noel Coward to Monty Python to *Absolutely Fabulous*, and is directed by Gregory Boyd. Known for its brilliant dialogue and clever situations, the play illustrates Wild's masterful blending of comic technique, artistic credo and subtle social commentary. For more information, call the Alley Theatre box office at (713) 228-8421.

Council Publishes Guide To Arts Venues

The Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County's (CACHH) Management Assistance and Organizational Development Enterprise has published *Houston Performing Venues*, a resource manual for organizations and individuals interested in rehearsal, performance, reception, or meeting space for lease in the Houston/Harris County area. The guide features over 30 locations with information on seating capacity, cost, location, and contact information.

Houston Performing Venues is available by mail for \$5 plus \$1.50 for postage. Copies may also be picked up at the Arts Council, or call Sylvia LeBlanc at (713) 527-9330 for more information.

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Concert at Arena to benefit AmFAR

(Continued from Page 1)

In addition, she penned her own autobiography which was a huge success, entitled *Secrets of A Sparrow* and published by Random House. She received an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Billie Holliday in *Lady Sings the Blues* and has appeared in numerous feature films and television movies. With the release of her new album and a production deal with ABC-TV, Ms. Ross will continue to delight her fans in the years to come. Ross was unavailable to be interviewed by the press due to the demanding touring schedule she is currently embarking on.

The concert will certainly be benefiting a good cause, one that has had an impact in Houston. Since 1986, when AmFar made its first Houston-area grant to Baylor College, they have awarded a total of \$1.9 million to local AIDS organizations. The Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN), was the most recent recipient of a 3-year commitment of \$355,737.00. HCRN is a non-profit organization that tests new AIDS treatments and provides access to the newest AIDS drug to HIV-positive individuals in the Houston area. Other recipients include Rice University, Texas Southern University and St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital. AmFar has disbursed more than \$79 million since its inception.

The multi-talented actress, singer and breathtakingly beautiful Raquel Welch will be the special guest host of the evenings festivities. Tickets to Diana Ross in Concert are available by calling (713)988-1020 or at all Ticket-Master locations.

Justice Department sues moving company

(Continued from page 1)

"Denying someone service because they or their neighbor has AIDS defies both logic and the law," said Patrick.

Title III of the ADA prohibits public accommodations from discriminating against persons with disabilities or those who have an association with them. Testing positive for HIV or having AIDS is considered a disability under the ADA.

The Justice Department began an investigation after receiving a complaint from another individual present during the incident who was refused service. The department filed suit only after the defendants refused to cooperate with the investigation and rejected efforts to settle the matter out of court.

The suit seeks a court order prohibiting Bekins from discriminating against persons with disabilities or their associates. The suit also seeks penalties, and damages for the residents and their neighbors.

Last year, the Justice Department reached an ADA settlement with the Philadelphia Emergency Medical Services after services were refused to an injured person with AIDS. The department also reached settlements with dentists in Houston, New Orleans and Connecticut who refused to treat HIV-positive patients.

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New Intro Service, Publication

A new Singles Introduction Service and Publication dedicated exclusively for the HIV+/AIDS Community is targeted to debut early fall of 1995. Offering free personal ads and subscriptions to all individuals using their service, *Intropoz+ Magazine*, a division of Choice Media Group, is a gay, HIV+ owned and operated company. Offering a safe and confidential alternative to those affected by HIV, *Intropoz+ Magazine* will serve all lifestyles, introducing readers locally and nationally.

Choice Media Group staff stress the confidentiality that all personal advertisers and subscribers

receive, including the mailing of all personal correspondence in plain envelopes. They may be contacted at: *Intropoz+ Magazine*, 564 Mission Street, Box 415, San Francisco, CA 94105, or call 1-800-820-2948.

Crystal Castle Buys Site

Jane Louise, owner of Crystal Castle, recently announced that she has bought the property at 228 Westheimer where the shop has been leasing space for the past four years. "I just want to tell everyone thanks for their patronage...they (customers) made it possible," she said.

Crystal Castle sells crystal jewelry, amethysts and other large and small minerals, incense, and candles. They store has over 200 varieties of tumbled stones. They can be reached at 526-6165.

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY

- * Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection(MCCR) worship services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- * Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services at 10:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.
- * Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.
- * Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
- * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533.
- * Dignity Houston Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. 1307 H Yale. Call 880-2872.
- * Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1121 Welch. Call 526-8095.

MONDAY

- * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- * Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182.
- * Sexual Addicts Anonymous support group meet at MCCR - 7:00p.m. Call 861-9149.

TUESDAY

- * MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group and pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.

- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
- * Over Eaters Anonymous support group meets at MCCR - 6:00pm. Call 861-9149.

WEDNESDAY

- * MCCR: Bi-net Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series and Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.
- * "A Course in Miracles" at Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.
- * Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. 1121 Welch. Call 526-8095.
- * Catholic Mass at 8:30 a.m. Kolbe House 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182.

THURSDAY

- * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

FRIDAY

- * CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- * "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters and brothers, and the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church. 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7533.
- * Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

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MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday	10:15 a.m.
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Holy Days	7:00 p.m.

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Solemn Vespers every Wednesday before Mass and Scripture study every Wednesday after Mass.

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ASK THE PASTOR

Q: "Why do people I see on the Christian network fall backwards when they go up for healing? It seems to me that everyone expects them to fall backwards so they fall backwards."

A: Even in the midst of what may appear to be "Hollywood drama," there is yet some authenticity to what you witness happening on television. I would like to share with you what I have observed both from my own personal experiences and from what I read in Scripture. About twenty years ago I went to a healing service in Baton Rouge, La. It was held on the Louisiana State University campus. The auditorium was packed. I went out of curiosity to see what God would do. I had gone with my parents who were skeptical of charismatic activity simply because they were ignorant. While watching the service my mother was moved to go forward to be prayed for by the couple ministering that evening. When the couple went to pray for her she fell backward. My dad and I looked at each other and stood in amazement. We knew it had to be God for her to fall backward because we knew how she felt about this activity. My mom shared with us that a power greater than anything she had known touched her and she found herself on the floor waking up from a beautiful "rest" in the Spirit of God.

If we look at Scripture, we find several passages around people falling down in the presence of God. First of all, in the Gospel of John 18:5,6 when the soldiers went to the Garden of Gethsemane to arrest Jesus, Christ spoke to them and said, "Who are you looking for?" When they replied, "Jesus of Nazareth," Jesus responded by saying, "I am He." At his words the soldiers fell backwards to the ground. Jesus had to repeat the question again before they could gain their composure to pursue His arrest. No commentary will touch what this incident was all about. I believe that they fell backwards because of the power of God in their presence.

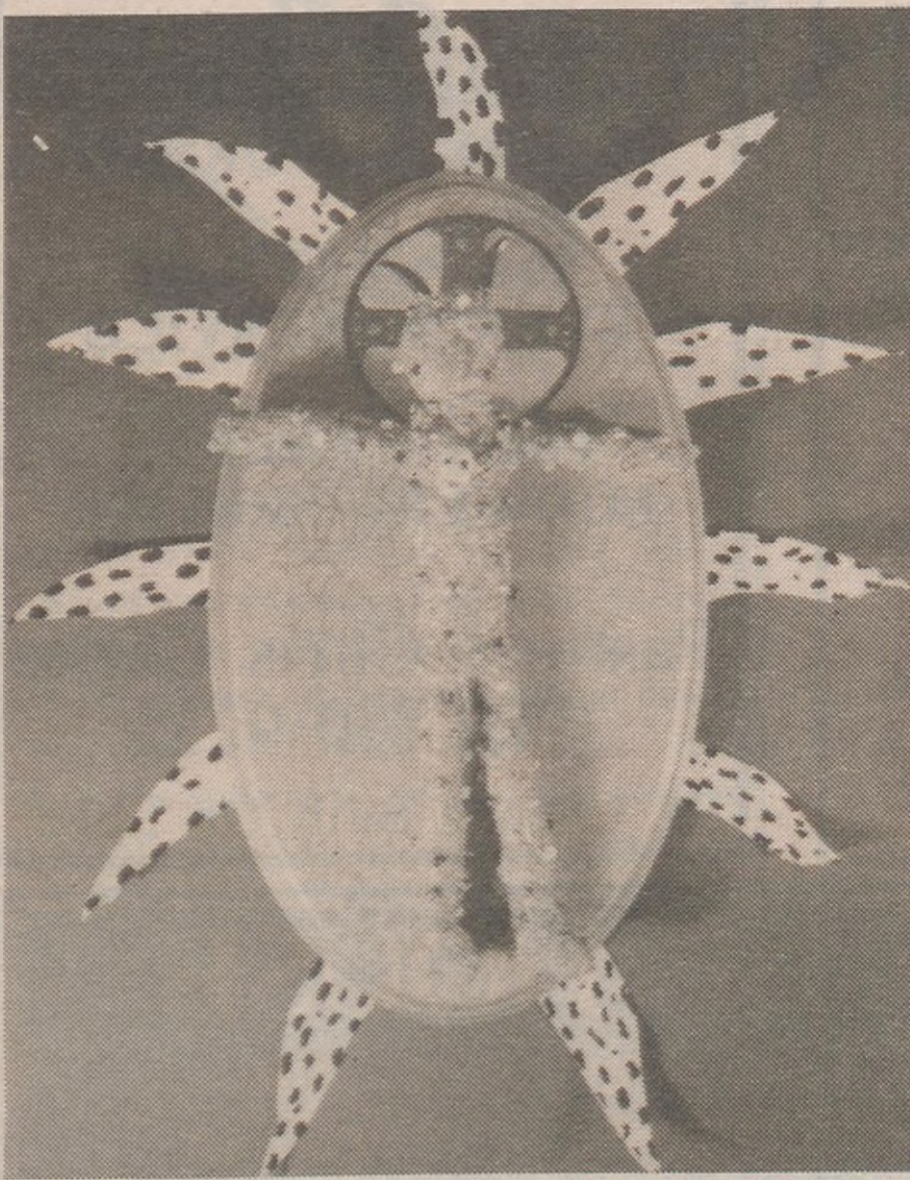
Another Scripture is found in Acts 9:4 when Saul, the persecutor of Christians was knocked down off of his horse by a bright light from God. Paul had an intense conversation with Christ and saw who Jesus was in that vision. He, too, was found in a horizontal position while communing with God. In Ezekiel 1:28, the prophet was also conversing with God and upon seeing the LORD, fell facedown. In Daniel 8:17-18, Daniel had a dream and in his dream saw the Messiah, and fell forward on his face as in a deep sleep. When the dream was over God told him to get up. In the book of Revelation, the Apostle John has a revelation while on the Isle of Patmos. When John saw Christ he fell at Christ's feet as though dead.

What I have observed in Scripture is that in the presence of God people have found themselves prostrate or on their backs because of the overwhelming sense of God's presence. It is a time to listen to God and hear what God wants to say to us. Certainly there are times when we can hear from God without being "knocked" down off of our high horse. But we must realize that there are yet times when God's presence is so strong that we cannot stand any longer on our feet. We are swept away by God's power. It is an awesome experience.

As you probably know, most anything that is great and wonderful can be counterfeited. There are those who would push people over to get others to assume that it is God doing it. I would suggest that you not "write off" what is in essence a very genuine, powerful experience. Even a skeptic can find themselves on their face before God! It is real!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANANTHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

'Day of the Dead' events at Lawndale



"Prayer for Ethnozeria" by Nancy Ballard, from Lawndale Art and Performance Center's Day of the Dead exhibition

(small paintings on metal) for Lawndale's popular annual exhibition and retablo sale.

The big Fiesta will be this Saturday, Oct. 28 from 7:00—11:00 p.m. at Lawndale Art & Performance Center, 4912 Main Street (between Richmond and Bissonnet). Admission and parking are free. At the fiesta, the salsa band La Generacion will play dance music; there will also be a performance during the evening by the Arte Vivo Players. Mexican dinner can be purchased, with dinner proceeds benefiting AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services, Inc). AVES provides information and services about HIV in the Spanish-speaking community. Candles will be sold to be lighted in memory of friends and relatives. Beverages available will include alcohol, but families are invited and welcome. Reservations are not necessary. This event is underwritten

Art Notes

The Eighth Annual "Day of the Dead/ Dia de los Muertos" celebration opened Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Lawndale Art and Performance Center, with a benefit preview reception honoring close to 200 Houston-area artists who made contemporary retablos

by the Art Colony Association from proceeds at Westheimer Art Festivals; Surroundings Folk Art; Sicardi-Sanders Gallery, and Space City T-Shirts.

On view from Oct. 25 through Nov. 4 will be an exhibition of contemporary retablos made by nearly 200 Houston area artists, an Ofrenda installa-

tion by Lamar High School students and a painted canvas on the ceiling by students at High School for the Performing & Visual Arts.

Lawndale is a nonprofit alternative exhibition space dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art in all media, with an emphasis on the work of Houston artists. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. Lawndale is free and open to the public.

For more information call 528-5858.

'Realism In The 90's' at Hyde Park

The Hyde Park Gallery commences its second year with a one-man show by Larry Crawford, titled "Realism in the 90's." An artist reception is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 3, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Montrose-based artist Crawford is also director of the Hyde Park Gallery, which during the past year has conducted over 14 successful showings and is dedicated to showcasing new, local artists. Crawford's paintings, pastels and drawings are drawn from life, incorporat-

ing the artist's deep feelings and pride and expressed in a very humanistic style.

Hyde Park Gallery, 711 Hyde Park, is open Sunday, Monday and Thursday from noon to 6:00 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday from noon to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call 526-2744.



"End of Day," pastel, by Larry Crawford, reflects the theme of his one man show at Hyde Park Gallery

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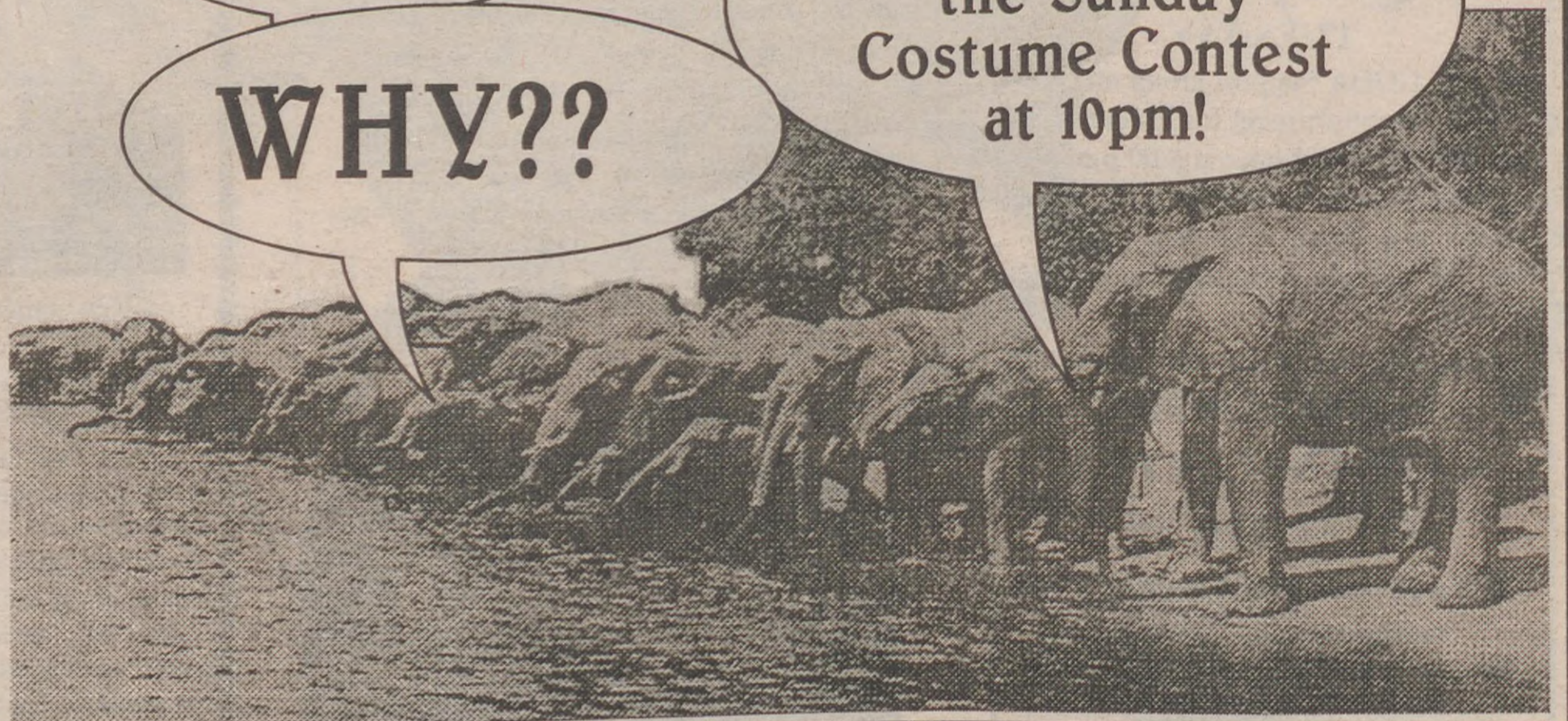
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Down the hall faintly through the fog you see him. He's coming your way...

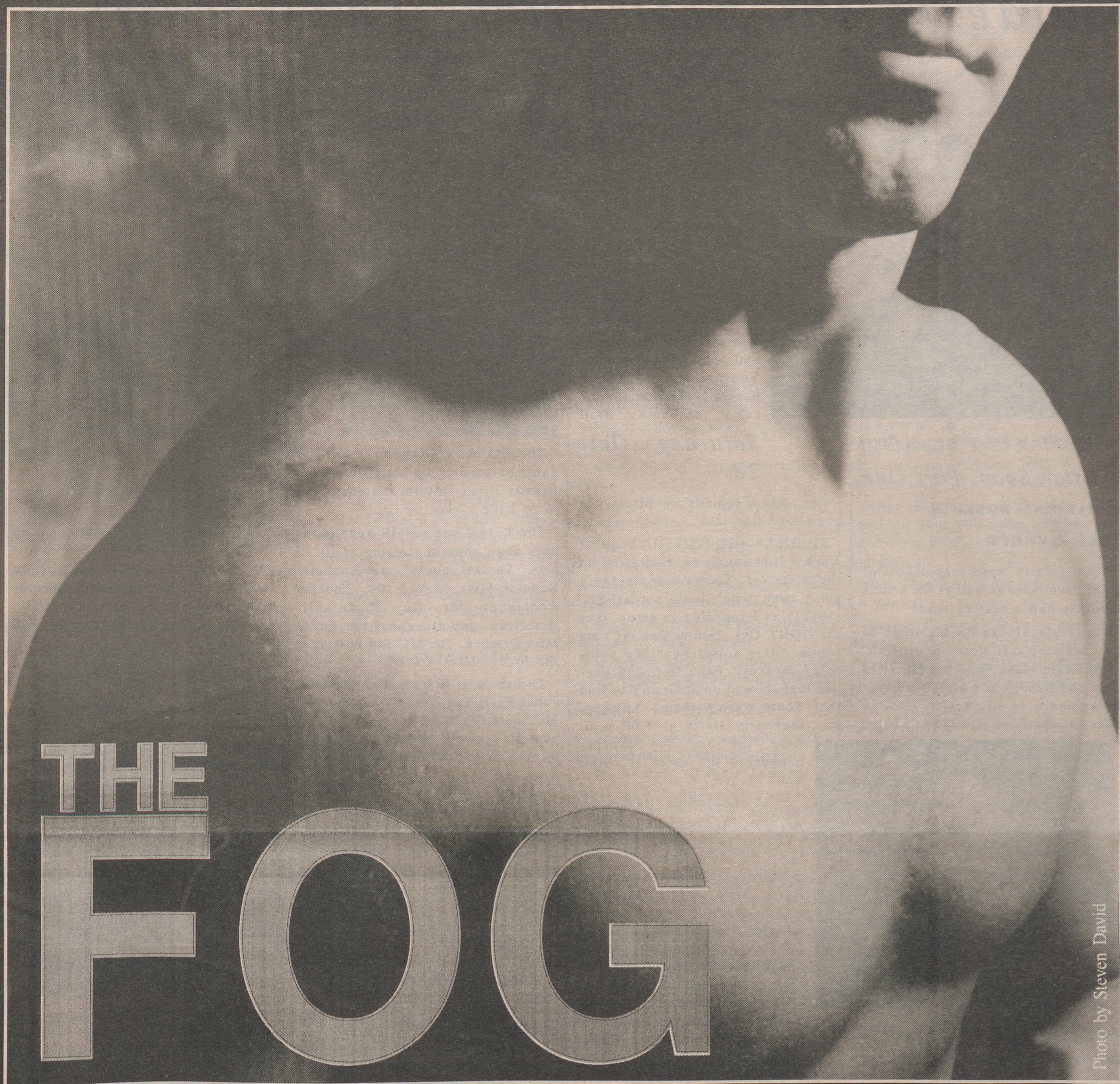


Photo by Steven David

THE FOG

*Join us for a night in The FOG!
The lights will be out, the fog
will be everywhere & so will
the MEN!*

*The Fog is coming your way on
Saturday, October 28 at 11 PM!*

*The Club Houston will be closed from
9 PM - 11 PM in preparation.*

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Oh Baby! Get in bed with me at Heaven!

Houston Soap, Part One

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

The Grey Party was packed! Lots of out of town faces as well as the hoards of locals had a festive time!

The Gaylapalooza hit the stage of the Laff Stop last week! Scott Kennedy, Kevin Maye, Bob Smith, Vicki Shaw and Nancy (Bite Me!) Ford kept the audience in stitches!



Louis is a new face behind the bar at the Ripcord

Friday, Oct. 27

This week's Fabulous Friday Revue at Club 403 features the talents of Rachelle Stevens, Adam (Mr. Club 403) and is hosted by Jessica Van Shelton. Show time is 10:00 p.m.

Welcome to Barter Town. 710 Pacific Street is the address where any old pass to Pacific Street is worth something! The doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Kick off your Halloween weekend in Hell! The Ripcord will full of fire and brimstone! Costumes are welcome all weekend long!

Tonight at Heaven, Motown presents "The Diana Ross After Con-

cert Video Party." There is no cover with your ticket stub from the AmFar benefit. A classic video mega-mix of Diana Ross will be shown at midnight. Be there to win a copy of her new CD.

The Boy Toys boogie tonight at Gentry starting at 6:00 p.m. Stop in to watch their wienies wiggle!

If you are going to the Fantasy Ball, be smart and park your car at the Venture-N, stop in, have a cocktail and call a cab to the Fantasy Ball!

Saturday, Oct. 28

For a list of contests and places, see page 9 of this issue.

SPECIAL NOTICE!!! In last week's Houston Soap, I screwed up the date of Scott Wooldridge's going away party! It was not last Sat. (10/21) as I reported in error, it is TONIGHT, Oct. 28th at Gentry! I am soooo ditzie sometimes! My apologies to Scott, Papa Del, and anyone that showed up at Gentry to find that Scott wasn't there! Anyway, the party starts at 9:00 p.m. Also, the Boy Toy dancers bounce to the stage at 10:00 p.m.

It would not be Halloween without the annual pumpkin carving contest at Mary's! Lady Victoria Lust will host this messy, but fun annual event starts from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., there will be a memorial gathering for David Lipp. Also, if you don't have a costume, party at Mary's tonight. They have a slew of costumes, wigs, makeup, masks, wigs, and, well, just about everything you might need for Halloween! The best

part is that they will have a dressing room, helpers, and a clothes check plus you get to keep the costume!

This afternoon at 3:00 p.m., the ToyBox is hosting the "End of the Season" party for the I.M.B.L. pool league. The awards start at 3:00 p.m. Later at 8:00 p.m., candidate for Emperor XII, Jim Halbert, is putting on a show called "Skeletons in the Closet" to benefit the Pet Patrol!

Outrage, Inc. hosts "Outrage '95-the Halloween Party" tonight at Rich's. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and they ask for a \$15 donation at the door. All monies donated benefit the PWA Coalition of Houston and the Loving Arms Foundation.

The Club Houston is having one hell of a party tonight! The Fog rises at 10:00 p.m. If you have never been to one of Damion's world-famous parties, this might be the one to lose your virginity at!

Mr. Club 403-Adam is having a

birthday bash tonight! Stop in to see the return of the "Lion King," and a host of entertainers, family, and friends. There will be a show at 11:00 p.m.

Nearly naked men hung in nets above you are the sight tonight at Pacific Street. Thunderdome Caged opens at 9:00 p.m.

The Rainbow Ranglers will be guest bartending on the patio of the Brazos River Bottom tonight! Stop in to have a shot or two!

The Lazy J has a Halloween Madness show tonight starting at 10:30 p.m. Special guests are Rochelle Ramone-Miss Lazy J '94, Thomas Rodriguez-Mr. Gay Pride All-American, and Queen of the Fuzz-Miss Peaches. The MC and hostess is the lovely Miss T.T.

The show at E/J's tonight the talented Paivi Lee Love as hostess and MC and a list of secret guests! You will have to stop in to find out who will be on stage starting at 10:00 p.m.

There are a couple of birthdays being celebrated at Chances tonight. Wander over and give Susan (volunteer for Lesbian/Gay Pride Week) and Jim (aka Big Red) a birthday swat!

Sunday, Oct. 29

Tuna Melt and Day-Leigh Edwards proudly present "1995 in Revue-The Best of the Best" tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. Show time is 8:00 p.m., but you can git there early and enjoy steak night on the patio.

"All Divas' Eve" hits Rich's tonight. This is a benefit for the NAACP's Joy Tabernacle AIDS Unit. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 9:00 p.m. featuring the talents of: Tasha Kohl, Coco, Jennifer St. John, Chevelle Brooks, Black Velvett and Porche Paris.

The Black and Blue Ball hits the gates of Heaven tonight. DJ Max Rodriguez from the Roxy in NYC will be spinning! Heaven offers 50¢ well drinks until 11:00 p.m. Leather/Levi attire is encouraged!

Halloween beer bust at the Montrose Mining Company! \$1 domestic longnecks and the optional \$1 buy-in and 25¢ refills of Miller Lite Draft on the patio give you a devil of a choice.

J.R.'s Bar and Grill offers 99¢ well vodka juice drinks until 11:00 p.m. Kofi hosts the male strip contest at 11:00 p.m. There will be a parade of costumes during the 11:00 p.m. contest. J.R.'s is a festive place to spend your Sunday night!

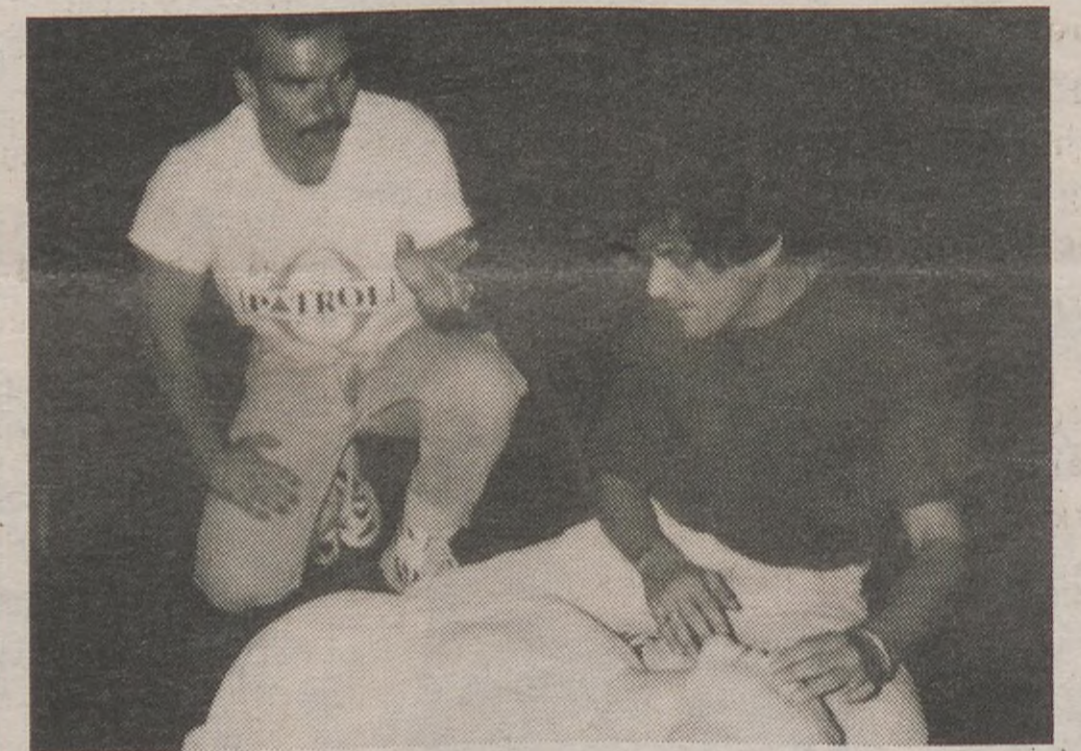


Cuervolyn's Beer Bust

At Gentry there is an 8-ball tournament starting at 5:00 p.m. The BBQ dinner also starts at 5:00 p.m. For only \$3.50 you get a heaping plate of BBQ and such. "Hollywood Halloween" howls on the stage tonight at 9:00 p.m. Candidate Ruby Stone hosts this variety show. The Gremlins and Goblins male strip contest starts at 11:00 p.m. Gentry on Sunday is a full day of food and fiendish fun!

Monday, Oct. 30

Club 403 has a dart tournament



Joel of the Q-Patrol gives free CPR classes at Pacific Street

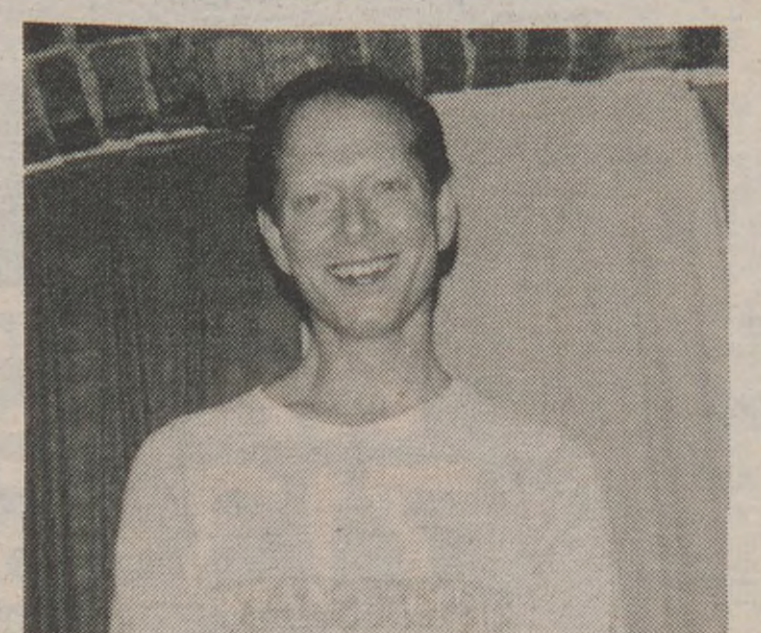
tonight at 8:00 p.m. There is a \$4 entry fee and the bar matches the pot! Give darts a shot!

Master Blaster Monday has treats for you to swallow! After-shock will be the treat for your trick! The doors of Pacific Street open at 9:00 p.m.

Honky Tonk nights at Gentry features \$1.50 Miller Lite longnecks as well as free pool, and music on the juke is free, too!

The Annual Freaker's Ball will be tonight at the Venture-N. Don't miss this gathering of weirdos and wackos! The strangeness begins at 10:00 p.m.

Paivi Lee Love makes hunky guys take it off for the Monday night strip contest at E/J's. The clothes start to go at 11:00 p.m.



Bye-Bye to Scott at Gentry



I found these friendly faces at the Venture-N

Halloween, birthdays and other gay occasions



Cameron performing at E/J's Monday Night Strip contest hosted by Paivi Lee Love.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

For a list of Costume Contest places and times, see page 9.

Halloween is "Live" at the Thunderdome tonight at Pacific Street. Two men enter, one man leaves! The doors open 9:00 p.m.

Heaven opens tonight for Halloween! Be there to win tickets to the midnight showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show!

Demonic dancers dare doctors, dealers, decorators, defense attorneys, D.J.'s, degenerates, Democrats, dentists, and diesel dykes. Gentry, 8:00 p.m., be there!

It is week #7 in the 8-week long search for talent at E/J's.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

Catia commands control of the stage tonight at Gentry. She orders contestants to remove their clothes! The male strip contest starts at 11:00 p.m.

The burger bitch is on the patio of E/J's tonight. So is the T.Q. Hot wet jockey short contest at 9:00 p.m. Stop in for two kinds of meat!

Cy Brinson is on the menu tonight at the BriarPatch. You might ask her to play one of your favorite songs, and you can sing along.

Chances always has a friendly crowd during the week! Stop in and meet them all!

Thursday, Nov. 2

The Boy Toys wiggle wildly at Gentry tonight starting at 9:00 p.m.

Wander out to the patio of E/J's tonight to find out just how little Arm-



Kenneth aka the "Fireman" of the BRB

and is wearing! He makes a wicked Kool-Aid as well as a wide selection of tasty cocktails!

Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch! Stop in to listen to his delightful sounds and enjoy a tasty Texas-sized Martini, BriarPatch style.

Other Important Stuff

Cafe Brasil invites you to come and see "Sex is My Religion," a one-act play by Colin Thomas. This play runs thru Nov. 9. For reservations and information, please call 522-2204.

Now and Again, a consignment shop, has a great selection of furniture, fine art, mirrors, lamps, crystal, china and accessories. Now and Again is located at 1819 Waugh Drive.

Stephen Rubin has a car for you. He is at Jack Roach Ford. A full inventory of new and used autos for you to choose from. Call him at 525-7400.

The Houston Skyline Theater at 1617 Fannin presents "Julie Johnson," one woman's humorous and poignant journey of self-discovery on stage Nov. 3 thru Nov. 25. Call 759-0701 for times and ticket info.

Runner Alert! On Nov. 18, there will be a 5K run to benefit the Omega House. For more info, call 627-0603.

Birthday Corner

A Happy (I love to spin funky sounds) Birthday to Tiger!

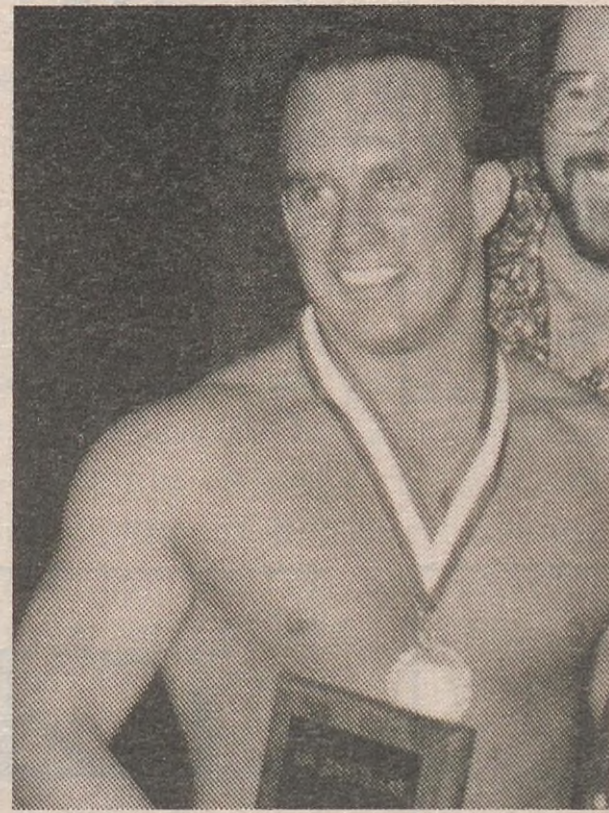
A Happy (Whip me, beat me, bite me) Birthday to my FIST sister Stacy!

A Happy (Who, me do drag?) Birthday to Marvin Davis, the infamous Lady Victoria Lust!

A Happy (I live at the Ripcord) Birthday to Tom Sawyer!

A Happy (I never do drink too much) Birthday to T.R. of the ToyBox.

A Happy (Naturally) Birthday to Cliff of Mary's.



Christopher Graham-The New Mr. Texas USofA!

A Happy (Let me tie you up and spank you) Birthday to Dean of NLA:H.

A Happy (I love to drink at Chances) Birthday to Sheri!

A Happy (Out and Proud) Birthday to Susan.

A Happy (Yeah, just call me Big Red) Birthday to Jim.

A Happy (I'm your queen mother for life) Birthday to Jeanette.

A Happy Belated (I love to cocktail) Birthday to Jennifer of Rich's.

A Happy Belated (I love my horse) Birthday to Doug Decker.

A Happy Belated (I'm always at the bar) Birthday to Karen of Club 403.

Rodent Droppings

My usual disclaimer is in force. I take no journalistic responsibility for the content of the following!

Well, the little guys have been extra frisky during the cooler weather. I have had to switch Harvey into a different cage this past weekend. He snuck out of his cage 3 times Saturday. On one of his trips out, he decided to tour some of the rooms he is not allowed into! I discovered several cabinets open and disheveled in the bathroom as well as reminders that he had been in the office. I give him about 3 days until he figures out to get out of this cage. Ratrat is now living in what was Harvey's cage. I guess they can communicate, because Ratrat has started trying to escape of out this cage the same way Harvey did! What's a mother to do? While cleaning the cages I found...

Jennifer Ellsworth (RSICSS): I understand that you did a double spin off the stage of Gentry and landed on your feet, without heels! Petite people like you should be more careful!

Cheryl (Ms. Club 403): A little birdy told me that mud wrestling is in your future!

Shaboom: I hear that you have been on a roll lately! Also, if someone asks for a quarter... give it to them!

Jennifer (Rich's): Rumor has it that you like to sit on the toilet and stroke your pussy!

Rex (Mary's):

Have you been flashing Rita again! A penis in panty hose is pretty scary!

Papa Del (Gentry): Even if you adjust the lights and music, they still won't play Monday night football on Tuesday night!

Rico: I heard that you played "construction foreman" all weekend long. Did you use a power drill?

Cora (Hangs at Chances): Have you been talking to our old friend Jose again? He tells me that you and he have a fulfilling relationship! I'm jealous!

Mary Ellen: Did I corrupt you on the patio of Pacific Street? I think not!

Henry (Montrose Inn): So, you finally did "it" on the patio of Mary's! What took you, the queen of the t-room, so long?

David Roberts (Alicia Day): Did we have too many Cuervos with Walt at the Outpost? Did we loose count?

Jimmy (Hangs at the BRB): Who was standing over you when you were passed out in the Pacific Street parking lot?

Mark (ToyBox): I don't lie (much), do you?

Woody (Gentry): So, you need a date?

Rob (VN): What is this about the angle of your dangle? Customers are searching for it!

Molly (BRB): Why don't you tell me what really happened to that four poster bed!

Good Fairy (VN): Get well soon, girl!

Bob Hill (J.R.'s): How was your vacation? I'm sure the "Best Western" will never be the same!

Devin (Mary's): Did you lose your keys again, or just give them to Robert or Bill?

Ed (BRB): What is this I hear about you, Jimmy, Scott, and a riding crop?

Grey Party Hosts: I hear you were still partying Monday night at the Venture! Jim R. tells me he really enjoyed the "Cherries" and wants to see, oops, I mean eat, oops, I mean taste, oops I mean consume a cherry or two again!

Chuck (BRB): Have you been popped by a wet bar towel lately?

Louis (CBC): Why were you sleeping on that park bench?

Susan Scott (Houston Voice): Have you rented the U-Haul yet?

Jorge (I met at PS Sunday night): So, you got that official NYPD shirt off of a passed out NY police officer! What else did you do to him? Or are you the reason he passed out?

Have a safe and fun Halloween! I'll see ya'll in the streets!

Huggs,

Cuervolyn



Tom Sawyer and the lovely TR



MSL umpires Johnny and Ray



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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

'Dark Rapture' darkly intriguing, deftly performed

Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

"Dark rapture...you never know what's out there."

The line (used more than once) comes from *Dark Rapture*, by Eric Overmyer, and a more fitting one-sentence synopsis of this play would be hard to come by. Subtitled "An American Theater Noir," the work, which is having its Houston-area premier as the opening production for Theater LaB's '95-96 season, is a darkly staged theater piece with an intricate plot and intriguing revelations.

And these revelations are in fact so bewildering that the production is better served by a review that reveals little beyond the basics. Suffice it to say that it's all about money—\$7 million to be exact. And the unending, all-encompassing duplicity that pervades the lives of everyone looking to get a share of the ducats.

The characters are a pat cross-section of cheap, tawdry, unprincipled connivers who lie more often than speak the truth. Ray (Lynn Miller, Jr.) and Julia (Deborah Hope) are wallowing in a loveless marriage. They both have Hollywood ambitions—she as a producer and he as a screenwriter, but neither has done much to achieve those ends. While Ray is present for a wild fire that destroys their northern California home, Julia is at a Mexican resort satisfying her lustful longings with a stunt man.

Lex (Matthew Harrison) and Vegas (Paul Nicely) are underworld figures who had some sort of shady deal with Julia involving the \$7 million. Julia claims the money was lost in the fire, but these junior dons think either she or Ray is attempting a double-cross.

Tony (Adrian Cardell Porter) and Ron (Travis Ammons) are bumbling, volatile, small-time hoods who have their own plans for the money and how to get it and who are stridently proud of their Armenian heritage. Rene (Celeste

Cheremie) is a seemingly innocuous tourist with a family background that stretches credulity. Max (Therese Kotara) is a comely Key West barfly with a suspicious curiosity and a shrewd sensibility.

Probably the oddest and noir-est character though is Babcock (Kit Fordyce)—a strangely, even discomfitingly, affable older guy, who pops up unexpectedly and has an almost omniscient air about the goings-on regarding the missing money.

With these striking characters as his players, Overmyer crafts a play that is brilliant in its construction. There are 16 scenes, divided into two acts, in locations as far removed from each other as St. Vincent and Seattle. The characters are slowly, teasingly woven together until the various plot strands are completely interconnected. And as each strand is tied to another, a new twist, sometimes disturbing, always surprising, is added to the increasingly baffling story.

Best of all though, the bewilderment does not end with the denouement. Rather it is glaringly underscored with an ending so thoroughly shocking and unexpected it overshadows the plot resolution that has come before it.

Director Ed Muth shows all the staging savvy that has marked his previous efforts at Theater LaB. He masterfully handles the nightmare mechanics of 15 different scene changes, representing 12 different locations, on the small venue, without adversely disrupting the flow of the presentation.

More importantly, Muth taps into the dark humor that lies just below the surface of the treachery, deceit and greed that are the readily apparent hallmarks of this play.

The acting is for the most part effective and in many cases exceptional. The principal women in the production all deliver excellent performances. Deborah Hope is great as the philandering Julia. With a devil-may-care attitude that careens between cool

detachment and calculated desperation, Hope gives her character all the punch a lead role should have. Celeste Cheremie brings a smooth innocence to her performance that emphasizes her character's ostensible decency. Therese Kotara is sensational as the knowingly sensual yet unpretentiously simple Max. Kotara gives the role a been-around-the-block essence that is beautifully highlighted with a believably maintained hick southern twang.

Lynn Miller, Jr. performs well as Ray, fitting easily into the character's outline as an ordinary everyman masking a sly opportunist. Travis Ammons as Ron and Adrian Cardell Porter as Tony give ideal turns as hard-nosed, quick-tempered punks out for the fast buck and the joyride.

Paul Nicely as Vegas and Matthew Harrison as Lex do well enough as gun-toting goons. The characters play off each other—Vegas impeccably attired with an icy composure while Lex is disheveled at his best appearance and loud and threatening at every opportunity. Fortuitously enough, neither of the actors showed the depth to establish a deeper characterization, so the use of the contrasting personalities works well enough to overcome the shortcomings in their respective performances.

Kudos for the best performance go to Kit Fordyce. His role as Babcock captures the singular peculiarities that mark the character. Fordyce's very presence on the stage is both unnerving and reassuring. He has an avuncular demeanor which seems ripe for a family reunion, but he also presents an unflappable, lurking face in all he says, as if dropping clues that mean nothing. Fordyce is superb.

A hearty ovation also goes to Cheryl Gilge for her stage design. Minimal



Deborah Hope and Christopher McDowell in Theater LaB Houston's 'Dark Rapture'

props work fine in suggesting the wide variety of locales, but more importantly Gilge adds subtext to her scene. It's all about money, and Gilge subtly makes that statement with dollar bills. Look closely and you'll see them: on the charred remains of a fireplace, on the base of a small lounge table, along the leg of a chair. They serve as silent markers to the frenzied fever that grips all the characters.

"Dark Rapture" is a remarkable piece of theater. With sharp dialogue, a dark and brooding ambience, manic characters intent on lining their pockets, stunning plot twists and an utterly dumbfounding ending, it is, to reiterate, best described in its own word: "You never know what's out there." But at least you know it's good. Very, very good.

What: "Dark Rapture"

Where: Theater LaB Houston

When: Friday and Saturday, through Nov. 25

Bridger's 'Ballad of the West' a musical testimonial

Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

There are a number of ways in which one could honor one's ancestors and heritage. One of the more appealing methods for just such honoring would be art; one of the better examples of honoring through art is speechsong—a narrative song which can be construed as poetry intended to be sung, chanted and acted. And this unique art form will be presented in Houston in the form of an epic one-man show, for four nights only, this weekend, at Curtains-Theater.

"Ballad of the West" is the creation of Bobby Bridger, who as a teenager discovered that he was the descendant of Jim Bridger, one of America's true frontiersmen.

"Jim Bridger was one of the earliest white men to live in the Rocky mountains," the current Bridger said. "In 1822 he was part of the Ashley-Henry Fur Expedition out of St. Louis. It was the first non-government, organized group to go west. Most of them were barely teen-agers, and they were the first white men to see the Great Salt Lake and the first to provide extensive reports from Yellowstone."

With a family history as rich in American lore as his, Bridger felt compelled to convey the story of his great grand uncle, and he wished to do so in music. Unable to find even a single song that told the story of his distant uncle, Bridger sought ways to relay the history, the drama and the lore, as much to fill a void for himself as to fill a historical/cultural gap for the country.

Beginning when he was 18 years old, Bridger pieced the various components of his father's story together in song and realized that he was creating something relatively new.

"There had been no interpretation of my uncle's story in music, so I took a lot of older storytelling forms—epic poetry, ballads, narrative pieces—and I fused them together, creating my own niche."

The result was "Seekers of the Fleece," a stirring musical tale that is presented as one flowing narrative. It covers the period from 1822-1881 and is composed of nine songs and 11 poetic stanzas, that tell the story of Jim Bridger against the backdrop of the great migration west for the nation.

Seeking to expand beyond the story of his uncle, to include more of the grand scale epic that is the history of the Old West, Bridger decided it was crucial to include the historical perspective of Native

Americans.

What developed was "Lakota," a tale encapsulating the Sioux nation and the great horse culture of the plains. It begins in 1850 with the rise of Red Cloud, one of the greatest Lakota Sioux elders, and ends in 1890 with the massacre at Wounded Knee, but is essentially the story of Black Elk, a tribal holy man.

Acknowledging that as an American of European descent, he might not be able to capture a Native American's perspective, Bridger had his work reviewed by one of his closest friends—Vine DeLoria, Jr., a Native American himself and a writer.

"Lakota" not only received DeLoria's blessing, the piece so impressed the many Native American authors and artists who read it or saw it, that it is now being translated into the Lakota tongue at Sinte Gleska University in South Dakota.

Though the two parts of "Ballad of the West" could stand independently of one another, they also complement each other extremely well, presenting two different chapters of a gigantic story.

Bridger has been consumed by and dedicated to his work. For all practical purposes, he has devoted his life for the last 32 years to his brainchild, and it is still evolving.

"There is a third part called 'Lahaska,'

which means long-hair. It's not a part of this show, but is a part of the big picture."

For 23 years now, Bridger has been presenting his show in venues all across the globe, in the U.S., Canada, Australia, throughout Europe and in Russia, and there are times when he encounters the popular notion of the American West around the world.

"Buffalo Bill was the first global celebrity, and his wild west show set in motion the myth of the American West."

Still, Bridger believes his story reaches across cultural divides. "In Australia, the treatment of the Aboriginal people is very similar to how Indians were treated here. And in Russia, there are still locals in Siberia, whose lives are like those of the Indians."

It is easy for the stuff of legends to span cultures and continents. What's not easy, is dedicating one's life to a timeless story, and doing so in a fashion like no other. Bobby Bridger does just that and "Ballad of the West" is a musical testimonial to him, his uncle and Native Americans.

What: "Ballad of the West"

Where: Curtains Theater

When: Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 26-29

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Landers V. Helms

Advice columnist Ann Landers refused to back down when one of her readers wrote to complain about her opinion of Jesse Helms' opinions. The reader who wrote was Jesse Helms himself!

In a previous column, Landers questioned the Senator's views on AIDS. Helms has frequently condemned funding for research and care related to this "homosexual disease."

In her Oct. 15 column, Landers printed a letter from Helms, who wrote to clarify his record. "I have indeed called for a fairer and more equitable balance in federal funding for AIDS and a number of other diseases including heart disease and cancer," Helms claimed, "As for AIDS being transmitted through blood transfusions and by unsterilized needles, you are, of course, correct. But as has been made clear by many medical authorities long ago, the ultimate origin of all such AIDS-tainted blood has been homosexual contact."

Landers replied: "Dear Sen. Helms—Your statement 'the ultimate origin of all such AIDS-tainted blood has been homosexual contact' is patently incorrect. The Centers for Disease Control does not know where the virus originated, but it infects both homosexuals and heterosexuals alike." Landers also refuted Helms' claim she mistakenly asserted that he wanted to reduce AIDS funding. Landers reminded the Senator of his own despicable record: "You have sponsored four amendments to the 1995 Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources and Emergency (CARE) Act that would severely cut funding for AIDS."

Landers reminds Helms that he has indeed voted for legislation that would restrict "funds from being used for organizations that provide life saving services, counseling...and accurate medical information for gays and intravenous drug users." After detailing each of the amendments, Landers pointedly asked the Senator: "Are you aware that AIDS is the leading killer of Americans ages 25 to 44?"

It is especially gratifying that a columnist with Landers' clout has refused to capitulate to the stupidity and hate of Jesse Helms. Landers is the most widely-syndicated columnist IN THE WORLD. Her daily advice appears in over 1,200 newspapers and reaches 90 MILLION readers.

Landers' first column was printed on Oct. 16, 1955. In that premiere piece, she offered some advice to an adulterous husband. That advice could easily be given, today, to Senator Jesse Helms. "Time wounds all heels," she wrote. "You'll get yours."

*** ACTION ALERT! Ann Landers has specifically noted that letters from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender readers—and our allies—have helped open her own, previously-homophobic eyes. Keep the mail coming! Write to Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, IL 60611-0562.

TV Guides

The fall television season opened with the promise of unprecedented queer visibility. Some of that promise has been kept—some has NOT.

According to a report in *Variety*, the original concept for the new prime-time soap opera *Central Park West* included a homosexual character. However, CBS executives ordered producer Darren Star to change the role to a straight woman.

The lesbian, African-American judge on CBS's *Courthouse* has been all but invisible lately. The character and her partner have not been featured prominently in recent episodes, and the show is reportedly undergoing "some revamping."

On a positive note, the new NBC sitcom *The Pursuit of Happiness* continues to provide ample character space for "Alex," a gay series regular (played by stand-up comic Brad Garrett). One recent episode gave a twist to a sitcom storyline staple. Alex secured a "set-up" date to impress his ex-lover, a construction worker, who was attending a party with his new boyfriend.

*** ACTION ALERT! The vitality of queer TV characters depends on your feedback! Share your displeasure (with Lawrence Tisch, President, CBS, 51 West 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019), concerns (with Deborah Joy LeVine, Producer, "Courthouse," Columbia Pictures Television, Sony Pictures Plaza, 10000 West Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232, tel. 310-280-8597, fax 310-280-4398) and compliments (with David Lee and Peter Casey, Producers, "The Pursuit of Happiness," Paramount Domestic TV, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Trailer 33, Hollywood, CA 90038, tel. 213-956-4830, fax 213-956-1393; copy your correspondence to Warren Littlefield, President, NBC Entertainment, 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91523, tel. 818-840-4444).

Media Briefs

* SICKO STICKERS...The "Albuquerque Journal" (Sept. 24) reports that a number of highly offensive bumper stickers were prominently for sale at a recent convention of the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW). Among the tacky stickers were those with these slogans: "Roosevelt-A Chicken in Every Pot; Clinton-A Fag in Every Pot; Tent," "The Miracle of AIDS Turned Fruits Into Vegetables," "Work-It's the White Thing To Do," and "Renuke Japan." As one observer noted: "If this is the attitude of Republican women, one can only guess at that of Republican men." Demand that the NFRW repudiate the message of these stickers and apologize for allowing them to be sold! Contact the National Federation of Republican Women, 124 N. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3011, tel. 703-548-9688.

* QUEER (ALIEN) NATION...A recent made-for-television movie based on the sci-fi series "Alien Nation" has boldly gone where no homophobe has gone before. Not only did the movie include gay aliens, but the script made a point of condemning homophobia and promoting sex-positive attitudes. "Alien Nation: Body and Soul" aired Oct. 10 on "The FOX Tuesday Night Movie." Kudos should be directed to the Fox Broadcasting Company, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-0900, tel. 310-369-1000, e-mail foxnet@delphi.com.

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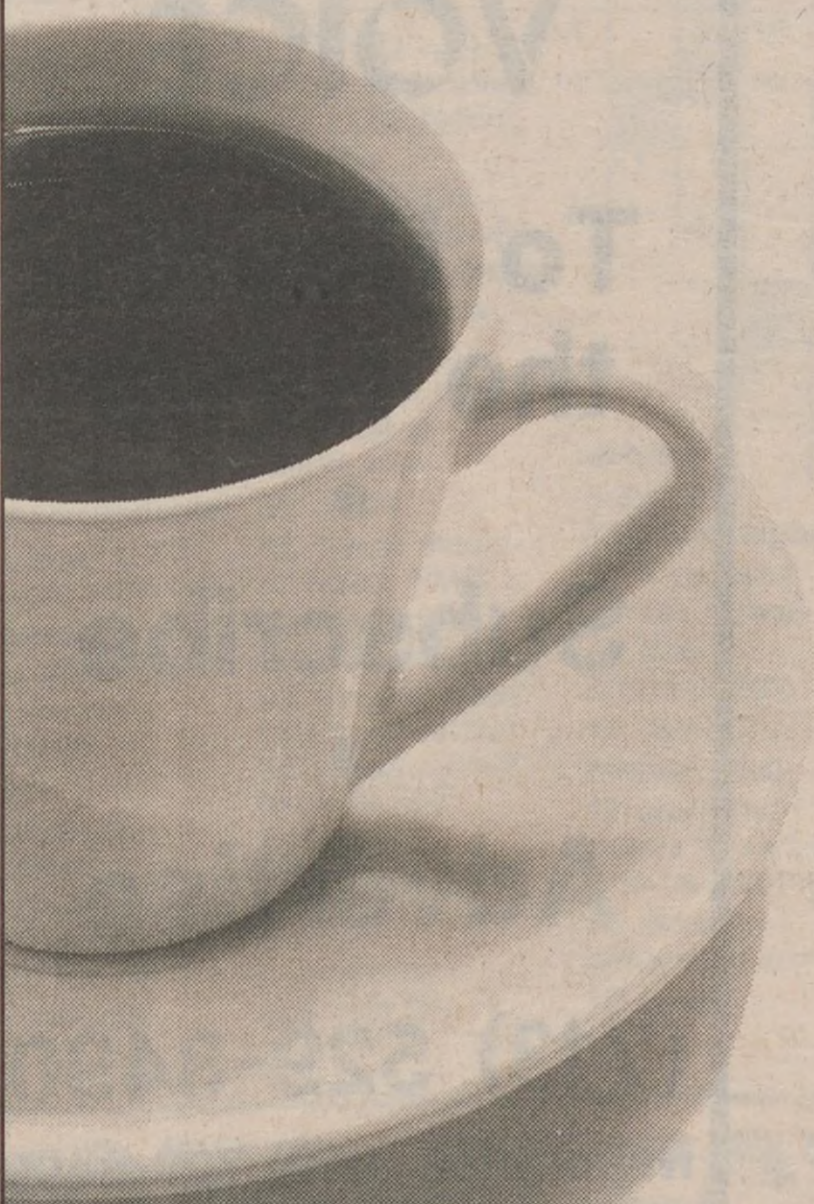


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required. No telephone calls please.

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Immediate opening for retail salesperson with experience in pet retail. Please call 529-9450 or 721-8435.

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The **CLUB HOUSTON** now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2205 Fannin

GENTRY is accepting applications for *door, barbacks and bartenders*. Please apply in person at 2303 Richmond Ave. from 2 pm to 6 pm. A recent photo is required. No telephone calls please.

The **BRB** is accepting applications for doorman, floor & barback positions and security. Applications accepted daily until 4:00pm at 2400 Brazos. Photo required. No phone calls.

Flower Shop. Entry Level.
Some experience necessary.
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LET ME BRING YOU HOME TO MOTHER
SWM, 45, lives at home, seeks SWF to be my girlfriend. I'm smart, funny, good looking and a real catch. At least, that's what my mother says. And mother's always right. She picks my clothes, fixes my hair - she's really my best friend. Just wait'll you meet her - you'll love her! And if she likes you, then maybe we can go on a date together ... My mother's a terrific dancer. Life is harsh. Your Tequila Shouldn't Be. SAUZA CONMEMORATIVO. The smoother, oak-aged Tequila.

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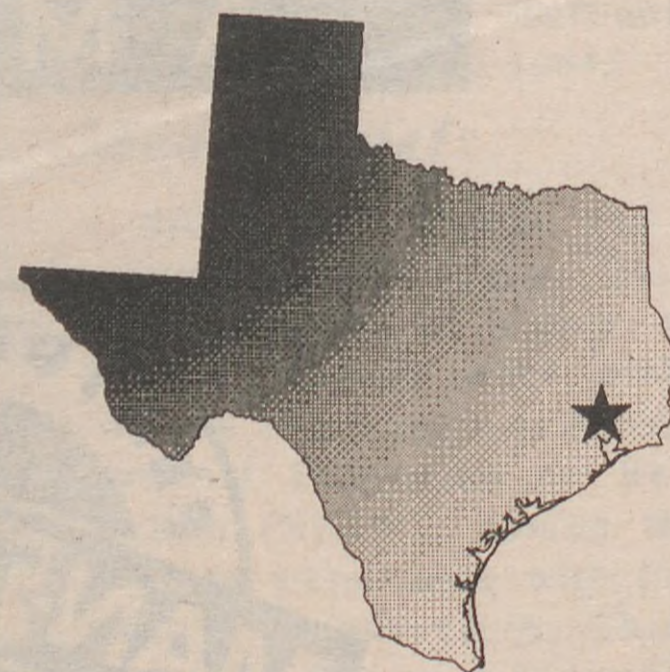
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initialled names: Albert Einstein, Adlai E. Stevenson. Have an idea for a national or state clue? Write us c/o this publication.

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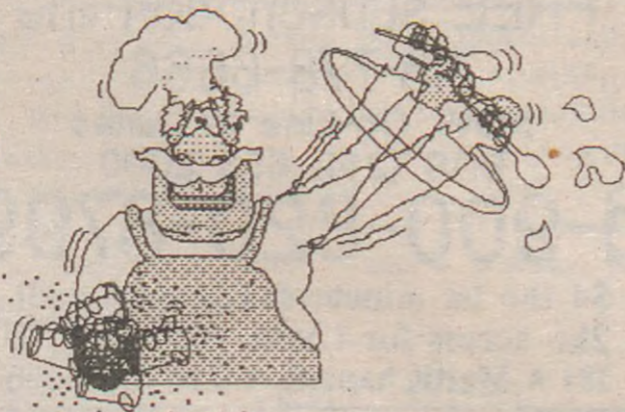


RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Hi y'all! Hope all of you are happy and in good health. My significant other and I went shopping last week, and we stopped at the Marshalls store at The Woodlands. I can't say that I am overly impressed with Marshalls, but they do have a lot of interesting pastas, jellies, chips, etc. We bought several kinds of their pastas, and on one of the bags was a recipe that you can now try yourselves. We enjoyed it, I hope you will also. The brand we used was Al Dente, Inc.

Fettuccine with Mushrooms and Artichoke Hearts

- 4 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 lb mushrooms, sliced
- 3 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 large bell pepper, chopped
- 1 9-oz package frozen artichoke hearts (I used canned, not marinated, drained)
- 1/2 C. whipping cream
- 1/2 C. vegetable stock or milk
- 1/2 C. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tsp. salt
- 12 oz al dente pasta (I used the tomato fettuccine noodles)



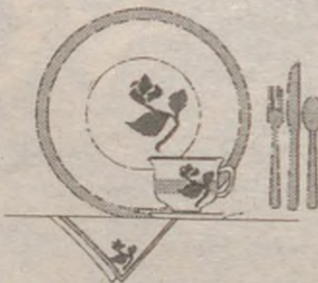
Sauté mushrooms and garlic in oil over medium-high heat for 6 minutes. Add peppers for 3 more minutes. Add artichokes, cream, stock and cheese. Simmer 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Cook pasta for 3 minutes. Drain. Toss pasta with sauce. Add additional cheese if desired.

I found that 3 minutes is really the max for cooking pasta. I will admit that mine was a little over al dente, but still very tasty.

To add a little color, you can mix the peppers. I used half green and half red. Would have been more colorful if I had a yellow one on hand, but hey, I don't run a grocery here. My significant other thinks I do, but if I should ever get called away, he won't starve. Believe me!!

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 complete circuits around the track
- 4 a bunch of people named Dan
- 5 up to the time of
- 7 solemn lyric poem
- 8 quartz used as a gem
- 10 Mexican city across from El Paso
- 12 130-mile river of E. central Texas running east of Bryan
- 19 wailing whistle
- 20 mongrel dog

- 46 crazes
- 48 related to the horse
- 49 subservient
- 50 showy ornament

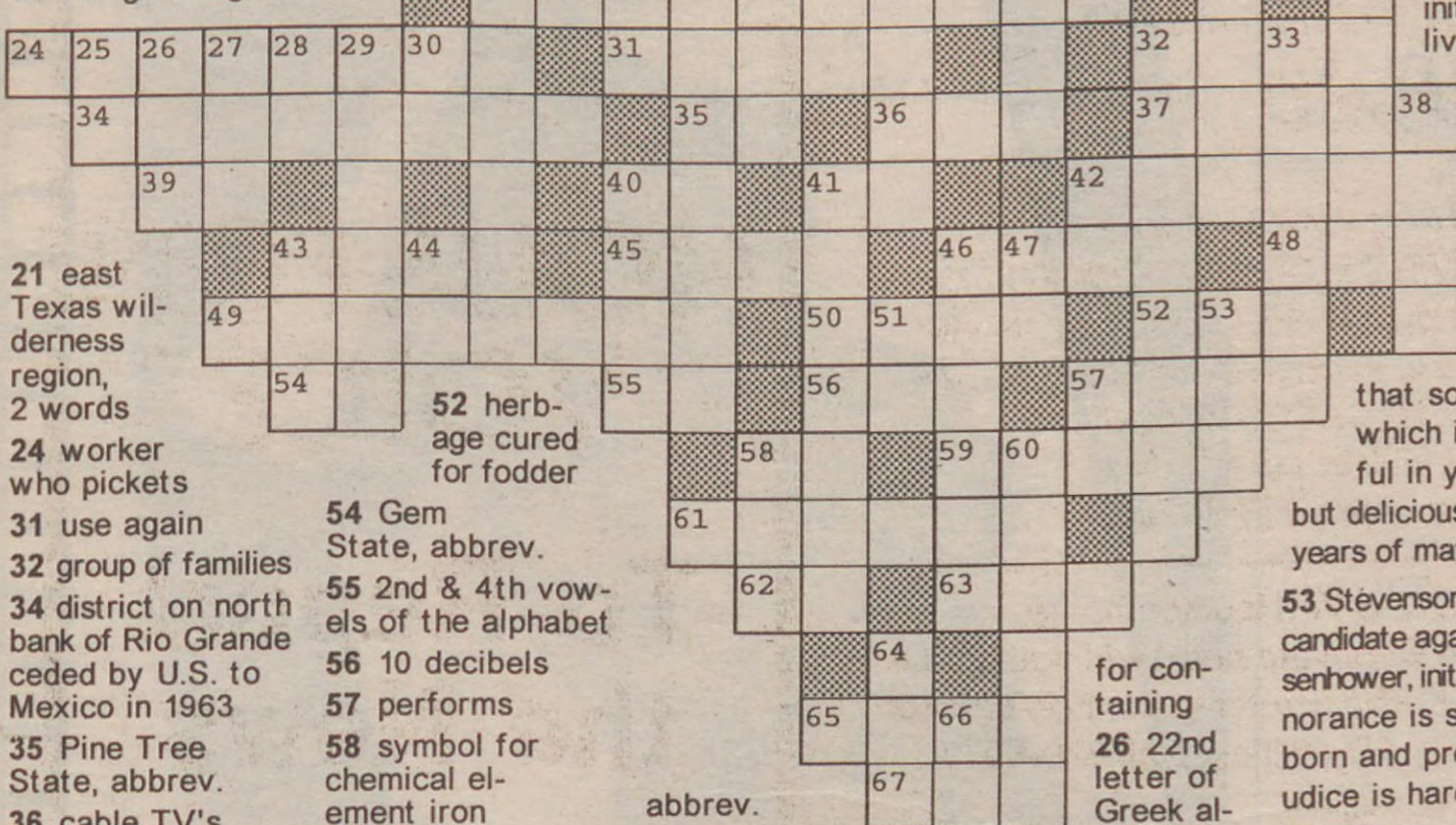
- ing passenger seats
- 2 wager
- 3 lbs. per sq. inch
- 4 couple
- 6 it was part of the Contract With America but GOPers are stalling it, 3 words
- 8 Beaver State,

- social insect
- 16 medium-sized American wildcat
- 17 2nd day of the workweek, abbrev.
- 18 pass (channel) near Corpus Christi
- 19 female kin
- 21 950-mile river in E. New Mexico & central Texas
- 22 Greece abbrev.
- 23 color
- 25 adjective suffix

- community
- 40 18th century queen of Great Britain & Ireland
- 41 west Texas nat.

- park in Rio Grande triangle, 2 words
- 42 Old Line State, abbrev.
- 43 Justice Dept.'s bureau of law enforcement
- 44 Roman numeral 2
- 46 state political leader Stephen Austin's middle name
- 47 commercial in this publication

- 51 German-born American theoretical physicist Einstein, initials ("I live in



- 21 east Texas wilderness region, 2 words
- 24 worker who pickets
- 31 use again
- 32 group of families
- 34 district on north bank of Rio Grande ceded by U.S. to Mexico in 1963
- 35 Pine Tree State, abbrev.
- 36 cable TV's Atlanta superstation
- 37 Trigger & Silver were each one
- 39 Hoosier State, abbrev.
- 40 audio-visual abbrev.
- 41 near
- 42 pertaining to a miter
- 43 220-mile river of S. Texas flowing into the Nueces
- 45 birthmarks

- 54 Gem State, abbrev.
- 55 2nd & 4th vowels of the alphabet
- 56 10 decibels
- 57 performs
- 58 symbol for chemical element iron
- 59 calms
- 61 Texas mounted police force
- 62 Flickertail State, abbrev.
- 63 conglomerate that once owned NBC, now owned itself by G.E.
- 65 cab
- 67 gained victory
- DOWN**
- 1 closed carriage with fac-

- abbrev.
- 9 last 2 letters of alphabet
- 10 a younger person, abbrev.
- 11 New World cuckoo
- 12 dainty, elegant thing
- 13 state that shares Texarkana with us, abbrev.
- 14 swerves, changes course
- 15 small

- after phi
- 27 Sunflower State, abbrev.
- 28 the letter M phonetically
- 29 made like steps
- 30 the way 'easy' is pronounced
- 32 cattle trail from San Antonio to Abilene, Kansas
- 33 arrangements
- 38 Hidalgo County

- that solitude which is painful in youth, but delicious in the years of maturity.")
- 53 Stevenson, Demo candidate against Eisenhower, initials ("Ignorance is stubborn and prejudice is hard.")
- 57 Roman numeral 550
- 58 enthusiastic follower
- 60 mischievous boy
- 64 stomach, etc., of a voracious animal
- 66 letters used in Tic Tac Toe



GALAXY GAYZER

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HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 27 - NOV. 2, 1995



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Make the extra effort to welcome change into your life. When you do, it's not as likely to upset your daily routines. It's time to start trusting others. You will be surprised at how much easier things become.

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Your thoughts turn to your career and the goals you want to achieve. A hunch you have could very well be right on target. Your imagination is very active and it's all too easy to get off on a tangent from which

it will be hard to return to the daily routine.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) It may be necessary to make some sacrifices in order to meet a deadline, but it has to be done. Try to complete your routine chores, spending more time with the people you love. You need some time to unwind and relax. You have a very practical outlook on life.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) There is some tension between family members - keep your cool and try to assimilate what is really going on. People are basically cheerful around you, and a new idea of yours will be well-received by others. Your energy level is low, don't overplan this week.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) There could be some disagreements over money with those you love. Try to meet everyone half way, and everything will be much easier. Continue to exercise patience and tolerance in family matters, even though you feel that someone is pushing you. Avoid haste or extravagance.

LEO: (July 24- August 23) It's just as important to give out love instead of always receiving it. Not much will get accomplished because your energy level seems low. Finish up work you have already started. It's time to rid yourself of any old emotional baggage, you won't grow spiritually until then.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) It would be much better to go with the flow than to resist any changes that are coming steadily into your life. You will feel better in the long run. Pay close attention to those you love. Stay calm in any emotional situation which presents itself, you will prevail.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) Share some of your creative ideas with someone who can take them one step further in a practical way. It will be a hard week to begin any new project, so it's best to stick to the routine. Don't push yourself instead just sit back and go with the flow - see how good it feels.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) You have great emotional depth, although you keep those feelings hidden well. Someone close longs to know how you feel. The door to romance opens wide, and you're ready to run right through it. Let your intuition guide you when it comes to harmony with others.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) Move ahead with confidence and you will get everything done you try to achieve. Take some quiet time for yourself, you deserve it. Since you love a challenge, you will leap right into it with gusto and do a bang-up job. No sacrifice is too great for those you love.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) Your best laid plans may meet a snag, particularly when you are talking to a partner or close friend. Don't be inconsistent, even if you are feeling discouraged about any recent setbacks. Start again. Have confidence in your intuition, you won't go wrong concerning money.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) Stretch your imagination, don't get stuck in old ways of thinking, it should be easy for you. Relationships with a co-worker will finally straighten out. You feel relieved by this turn of events. Feeling very self-assured in everything you do will make the week go nicely.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) A difficult phase in a close relationship is finally at an end - and you are ready to celebrate. Take time to renew old relationships. You will meet some new friends in the process of getting into a group venture. Avoid extravagance or waste. If you get into debt, it'll be hard getting out.

MCA calls for Letters of Intent

Quick Notes

The Miss Camp America Foundation Inc. has announced a call for Letters of Intent from local organizations who wish to be considered as beneficiaries for 1996. The mission of The Miss Camp America Foundation is to raise funds for Houston based HIV/AIDS related charities.

The Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, will accept Letters of Intent from all local charities that provide assistance to persons with AIDS; no particular program area is excluded from participation in the grantmaking. Program areas include: Services, Advocacy for Services; Supportive Housing, Housing Services; Support services; Treatment, Education and Public Policy.

For the fifth consecutive year, the foundation will earmark all profits from next year's September Pageant and yearly fund-raising events to its designated 1996 charities.

"The 60 members of the Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc., with your support, are proud to be assessing our community," said MCAFI Vice President Perrie Dolph. "Together we can make a difference."

Past recipients of grants include The Assistance Fund, The Pet Patrol, The Houston Names Project, The Colt 45's Trouble Fund, The Bering Dental Clinic, The PWA Coalition and Body Positive/Houston.

All information should be sent to The Miss Camp America Foundation, Post Office Box 742, Bellaire, 77402 Texas.

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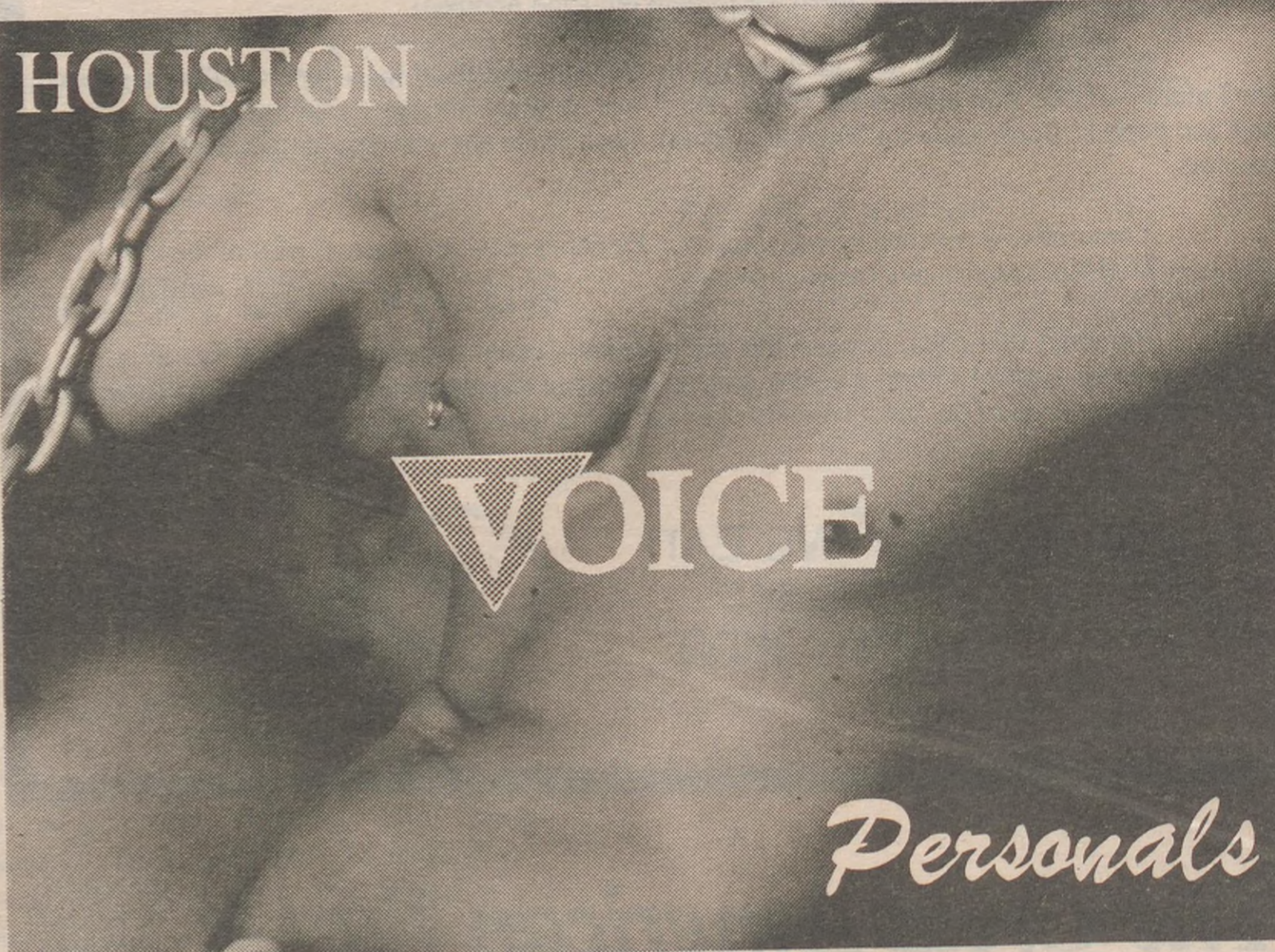


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40's, 5'11", 165 lbs, good looks, nice tanned body (HIV-). Enjoy movies, sports, cars, the beach, music & dining in & out. ISO younger HWP hispanic for dating. Desire monogamous relationship. Be DDF. I've a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25705

PARENTING, ANY-ONE?

Sincere, mature, responsible, stable, attractive, professional GWM desires to be apart of the parenting process. Lesbian couple, or lesbian single preferred to participate in one of life's greatest treasures. Joint-custody or custody to the couple with visitation for male frequently. With so much to give to a child, why waste it when gay couples and singles have proven that we are unbeatable as parents with more depth and love to give. Ad 25723

SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

I am in my early 30's, healthy, HWP and am interested in developing a relationship with a sincere, honest and caring man. You must be professional/business-like, able to speak spanish and have proper documents to travel out of the country. Ad 25712

READY FOR A STEADY

Interesting GWM looking for a special gentleman. I'm 38, 6'2", 175, brown/blue, professionally employed, healthy, happy, emotionally & financially stable, warm, caring & relationship oriented. I enjoy travel, Nautilus, family, friends & more. I'm seeking a compatible GWM, 30s to 40s, height/weight proportional, who is single, smart, funny, charming, HIV-, clean-cut & happy. Respond today -I'm ready! Ad 25720

HOMEBODY

GWM, 41, 5'9", 145, looking for a younger man that's always wanted to be that devoted "housewife" type. Someone a little happy go lucky to offset my seriousness. Looking for that man that wants to make a long-lasting home life together. Bedroom eyes a plus. Ad 25709

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, country and western music, the beach, and the outdoors. If interested, respond to Ad 25674.

SUBMISSIVE MEN

I seek submissive men 21-45 years old, HWP, any race. While I am interested primarily in Houston-area men, I travel on business frequently, and men outside of Houston and Texas are also welcome to respond. I am 45, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

"NOT ONLY ON WEEK-ENDS"

Single, black, female romantic seeks friend for possible relationship. Seeks woman who is certain of herself, her wants and desires. Interests include: movies, parks, special getaways, moonlit nights. Quality time very important; also hand-holding, good conversation, and a sense of humor. Must be stable, sincere and spiritually motivated. Ad 25740

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

SBF seeking healthy happy woman. I am looking for a loving friendship. Enjoy dancing, candlelight, music, laughing and a Southern Lady. Put a little spice in your life! I do want truth in all correspondence. Ad 25731

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

And lot's of fun! GWC, barely 30's, one's versatile, one's top only. Both well endowed, HWP, DDF, tired of bars. You: GWM, 18-30, HWP, DDF, versatile or bottom. For: Safe 3-Way Fun, Friendship and Companionship. Ad 25695

SPECIAL BOTTOMS WITH SPECIAL SKILLS

Submit! Provide service and do it right! Take instructions and behave exactly! You're a boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline! Take it all and say thank you! Know your place with a demanding top! If GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, then call now! Ad 25653

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

Tall/Handsome/GWM. Loves to look, dance, & shop. Former LSU student turned paraprofessional. I.S.O. spontaneous, intellectual, politically incorrect friends. You must keep up w/ fashion, latest dance music, and mel HWP & DDF. Ad 25702

LOOKING FOR LIKE/ PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

Looking for a fellow professional with a strong work ethic. Interested in a long term relationship with someone who enjoys nice quiet weekday nights, followed by busy weekends. I'm 36, 6'1" and 175lbs., DDF. You should be between 28 and 38, established in your career, DDF and proportionately built. Life is good and I would like it to get better with the right man. Ad 25656

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs. stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bear, linebacker, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Physically challenged encouraged to reply. Thanks! Ad 25727

ATTENTION -NUDIST

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/ hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, smoker and a nudist. This nudist would like to get together for social non-sexual encounters. Just the enjoyment of viewing each other's bodies. Ad 25772

VERY WELL ENDOWED

Attractive GWM, 39, 6'1", 175 and HIV-. Dominant top/daddy type. Seeking the intimacy lacking in a world of casual encounters. I.S.O. younger masculine bottom "boy" that's muscular and attractive. Interests include movies, clubs, intimate evenings, and camping. Respond by letters only; with phone and photo please. Ad 25700

GO FOR IT!

GWM seeks man of color to make my dreams come true. Looking for love. Tired of games and one night stands. You can't lose what you don't have. Ad 25692

TOP SEEKS BOTTOM

Top needs to satisfy/eliminate basic urges and seeks bottom to use for this purpose. I'm HWP, mature, good looking, HIV+, generally nice and I enjoy doing it especially when the bottom gets happy. Mail responses, please. Ad 25706.

KIDNAP ME

Take me to your playroom. Bind me, use me, then release me in a couple of days. My captor(s): attractive, HWP, HIV-, serious master(s) and/or mistress(es). I am a successful intelligent WBIM, handsome, nice body & highly sensual, HIV-, HWP, with a weakness for the smell of leather who desires to be totally dominated. Ad 25711

MATURE MASCULINE TOP

Seeking meaningful relationship with masculine bottom. Me: GWM; good looks; lean, firm body; professional; HIV-. You: sensuous; good shape; employed; no addictions. Latin, Mediterranean a plus. I want what I can deliver: honesty, trust, respect, love, monogamy, intimacy, commitment. Letters preferred; include phone. Photo optional. I'll respond. Ad 25694

ATTRACTIVE MALE, 32, 5'9", 145#, sincere professional. Seeking monogamous relationship with someone who is sincere, HWP, non-smoker, and values family life. Interests: museums, traveling, dining out, and quiet conversation. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25722

IMPOTENT?

Me too, but with Prostag Landin E1 I'm ready to go again! I'm open, loving, monogamous. Seeking another impotent GM or potent top who needs love. Personal growth important. What's inside more important than outside. Hairy a plus. I have a lot to give. Let's find love! Ad 25707

THE FOREVER MAN

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun loving gay white male, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive, dark hair and deep grey blue eyes, and interested in a very long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, honesty and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing else quite like it... to be devoted and committed to that one special person who is as equally into you as you are into him. Ad 25718

FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE ...

are searching for you. All female SM/BD/Fetish social group. We might have the answers to your questions. Ad 25736

GEOVANNY V. WHERE ARE YOU?

Contact David K. in S.F. Ad 25726

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

GWF, early 30's, non-smoker, looking for GWF, 30-45. I enjoy movies, intimate dinners & the outdoors. Mail response preferred. Ad 25730

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

Mid 30's, professional, healthy, sincere, good sense of humor. Seeking other HIV+ men for friendship but I'm primarily interested in entering a serious relationship with an honest, caring and loving man. Ad 25632

SNOW SKIER WANTED

GWF seeks GF, 35 to 55. Due to the discriminating nature of the travel industry towards singles, I need someone to do the "Double Occupancy" thing to Santa Fe or Lake Tahoe in February. Can you keep up with me on the slopes? Ad 25734

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

GWM, 33, 6'1", 285, christian, professional with big heart. I'm nice looking, short brown hair and mustache. Seeking that special someone with lots of love to give for monogamous relationship. Interests include movies, intimate evenings, helping people in need, yard sales, flea markets, and my church. Ad 25708

FREE TO LOVE

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun loving gay white male, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive, dark hair and deep grey blue eyes, and interested in a very long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, honesty and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing else quite like it... to be devoted and committed to that one special person who is as equally into you as you are into him. Ad 25718

BUBBLE BATHS BY CANDLELIGHT

I'm a GWF, 35, trained massage therapist, romantic, sincere, spiritually oriented (Fox, Ponder, Hay), dog owner. Can't cook! Wannabe lesbian activist but unsure how. Shy about the first move. Seeking friendship or possible romance with GWF or GAF, 32 to 42, north or northwest. Ad 25732

GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

Lesbian couple in our mid-30's looking for a single person, or couple, for a non-sexual friendship. We enjoy movies, music, the Rockets, Reba and Melissa. Ad 25641

LOOKING FOR BILL:

Your name is Bill, a GBM I met in the Ripcord. You said you were taking a friend home, but you were late in returning to the bar. I would like to get in touch with you. Ron Ad 25134

FOR \$29.95 PER YEAR YOU CAN HAVE AN AD IN THIS SECTION

To establish your own advertisement in the Houston Gay Personals call (713) 529-8490 (or if outside Houston (800) 729-8490) or come by our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. Please have your ad written out. You will be given a box number as soon as we receive payment along with all instructions. Happy love making!

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

I.S.O.: Masculine, hairy, H.W.P., HIV-, well endowed GWM for safe fun. No strings. Pure indulgence. ME: 40 yr., HIV-, 5'7", 160 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, w/S & P beard. Average guy. No hang-ups. Photo w/letter for response. Ad 25724

BLACK MALE SEEKS WHITE MALE

37 year old black male, HIV+, 30 waist, 6', 155, healthy and active. Seeking GWM HIV+ age 25-40 for monogamous relationship. Must be sincere. No one nighters please. Ad 25681

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Professional GWM, 49, blonde-blue, clean shaven, 6', 165, swimmers body. I.S.O part-time play buddy. You are good-looking, 30 to 50, HWP, drug free, without hangups. CALLS ONLY. Ad 25704

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

Mature, professional, very hairy body/hairy chest, Edwardian beard, (sign of Cancer). You, mentally mature, non-smoker, into safe fun. Please respond to Ad 25916.

WANTED: BOY

For long-term monogamous relationship with "gifted" GWM in early 40s. I am 6', 170#, auburn/hazel, w/moustache. A true "daddy". I am healthy and HIV-. You should be younger, attractive, masculine and DDF. Letter only w/photo and phone #. Ad 25719

ABANDONED EXPECTING FEMALE SEEKS LIFE PARTNER

I am an attractive, feminine, 25 y.o., GWF w/long hair. I am 4 months pregnant, 5'7", normal weight of 135#. Taking time off from erotic dancing and college to have baby. I am ready for a long term love. Prefer mail responses w/ photo. Ad 25738

NOT A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

GM, 53, own home SW, college degree. Hobbies: gardening, genealogy, roses. Interests: cinema, dining out, cooking, travel. Seeking a few good friends to share activities. Discreet, n/s. Age/gender/race not a barrier. Ad 25703

ALL ADS IN THIS CATEGORY SHOULD BE STRICTLY INDIVIDUAL TO INDIVIDUAL. NO COMMERCIAL OFFERINGS. NOTHING FOR SALE. NO PROMOTIONS.

WHO KNOWS...

Seeking conversationally stimulating, visually appealing, physically active, socially acceptable person to first take a walk with, then whatever comes next. I'm mature, the aforementioned and HIV+. Mail responses, please. Ad 25710

EUROPEAN GUY

I am 27 years old, 5'7", 132, brown hair and brown eyes, healthy (HIV-), warm and caring. I enjoy movies (foreign), music, animals, cars, etc. I'm looking for a compatible, masculine, professional man who is single, smart, funny and charming. Ad 25715

LOOKING FOR MASCULINE MALES

I'm a W.M., single, clean cut, 59 y.o., 205 lbs. I'm a loving, caring, trusting, person. My interests are movies, good food & cozy home life. I'm looking for single W.M., that's masculine, clean cut, loving, caring, trusting, 130-50 for friendships & long term relationships. If interested contact me so we can meet and get to know each other. No dope/smoking/alcohol. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25725

TWICE THE FUN!

Two good looking masculine guys, 25 & 30, interested in meeting business professional (25-45) for occasional hot, safe, discreet fun. Must be successful, masculine and in shape. Prefer mail responses, letter/photo. Ad 25721

SEARCHING FOR KEN!

Met you in Club Dallas Texas O-U weekend. Cannot get you off of my mind. You expressed interest in seeing each other again. Call & leave a message. Bruce. Ad 25728

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

Affectionate older GWM seeks a young man for discreet and safe fun. I like to please young men, especially if they are slender, boyish and smooth. DDF please. Ad 25693

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUD-DIES

I'm 43, married, 5'10", 160lbs., average looks, DDF, clean, top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598.

PLAY SAFE

PLAY SAFE

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND '95 THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
75¢ WELL DRINKS 9-11pm
COSTUME CONTEST
11:30pm • Houston's Biggest Money
*Best Costume • Most Outrageous
Best Couple or Group*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

THE BLACK & BLUE BALL

A LEVI/LEATHER HALLOWEEN BALL
Special Guest from NYC's Roxy
DJ MAX RODRIGUEZ
will make you dance with devilish intent!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
10TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST
11:30pm • Houston's Biggest Money
*Best Costume • Most Outrageous
Best Couple or Group*
Doors Open 9pm • 18+ Welcome

HEAVEN

Register to win passes to see The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Landmark River Oaks III playing every Saturday at Midnight.

Orange Creme "Scream" Frozen Ritas only \$2.50 ...All Night ...Each Night.

810 PACIFIC ▼ HOUSTON ▼ 713.521.9123

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH and TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
800 PACIFIC HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY
Outdoor Judging of Costumes begins at 9:45pm
OVER \$10,000 IN CASH, PRIZES, TICKETS & TROPHIES!
"Follow the Searchlights"

THE VAMPIRE CHRONICLES HALLOWEEN WEEKEND 1995

JR's will be transformed into a literary museum of the macabre with horrific scenes from the pages of Anne Rice's best known works. The Santa Fe Bar and Patio becomes The Theatre of The Vampires ...where all hungers are met!!!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
Street Party and Costume Contest
Outdoor Judging at 9:45pm
JR'S COSTUME CONTEST
Indoor Judging at 11pm
Drop Dead Male Dancers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
Broadway Show Tunes Group Sing-Along and Scary Karaoke 6-11pm
Swimsuit Contest at 11pm
with Costume Parade for Prizes!
Ghoulish Male Dancers

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH
Martini Madness & "Melrose Place" at 7pm
Best Buns Contest at 11pm
with Costume Parade for Prizes!
Bloodthirsty Male Dancers

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY
Street Party and Costume Contest
Outdoor Judging at 9:45pm
JR'S COSTUME CONTEST



HOUSTON
with the

Santa Fe Bar & Patio 804 & 808 Pacific • (713)521-2519

Indoor Judging at 11pm
Vampire Male Dancers



ANNE RICE'S "THE VAMPIRE CHRONICLES" GIVEAWAYS

Register nightly to win autographed collector's editions of Anne Rice's epic series, "The Vampire Chronicles" plus additional collector's book sets all signed by the author.

Courtesy of our friends at
Crossroads Market & BOOKSTORE



Nightly Drawings at Midnight

No purchase necessary. However, you must be present to win.

NEVER A COVER

Orange Creme "Scream" Frozen Ritas only \$2.50 ...All Night ...Each Night.



HALLOWEEN WEEKEND AT 800 PACIFIC

The Men of The Mine invite you to their

LITTLE House of Voodoo Halloween Weekend 1995

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
11:30PM COSTUME CONTEST
Cash & Trophies to Winners
Halloween After Hours
Ghoulish Male Dancers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
\$1.00 LONGNECKS (Domestic)
Texas' Largest Beer Bust
\$2 Optional Buy-In • 25¢ a Cup Refills
Ghoulish Male Dancers

**HALLOWEEN TUESDAY
OCTOBER 31ST**
11:30PM COSTUME CONTEST
Cash & Trophies to Winners
Ghoulish Male Dancers

Orange Creme "Scream" Frozen Ritas only \$2.50 ...All Night ...Each Night.

MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

805 Pacific • Houston • 529-7488

800 PACIFIC HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY
Outdoor Judging of Costumes at 9:45pm
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH & TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST
"Follow The Searchlights"
Over \$10,000 in Cash, Prizes, Tickets & Trophies!!!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

THE BLACK & BLUE BALL

A LEVI/LEATHER HALLOWEEN BALL

Special Guest DJ
MAX RODRIGUEZ
from Roxy & Splash in New York City

Levi/Leather Attire Encouraged

50¢ WELL DRINKS
7pm until 11pm
\$3.50 Absolut Vodka Cocktails
\$1.50 Longnecks & Frozen Ritas
...All Night Long

Orange Creme "Scream"
Frozen Ritas
only \$2.50
...All Night Long

HEAVEN

810 PACIFIC ▼ HOUSTON ▼ 713.521.9123

Don't miss Max Rodriguez's first appearance in Houston. Come dance the night away and enjoy the Circuit Party sound by one of New York City's hottest disc jockeys.

SATURDAY & TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH & 31ST
THE 800 PACIFIC HALLOWEEN BLOCK PARTY
Outdoor Judging of Costumes begins at 9:45pm
Over \$10,000 in Cash, Prizes, Tickets & Trophies!!!
HEAVEN COSTUME CONTEST • Indoor Judging at 11:30pm