

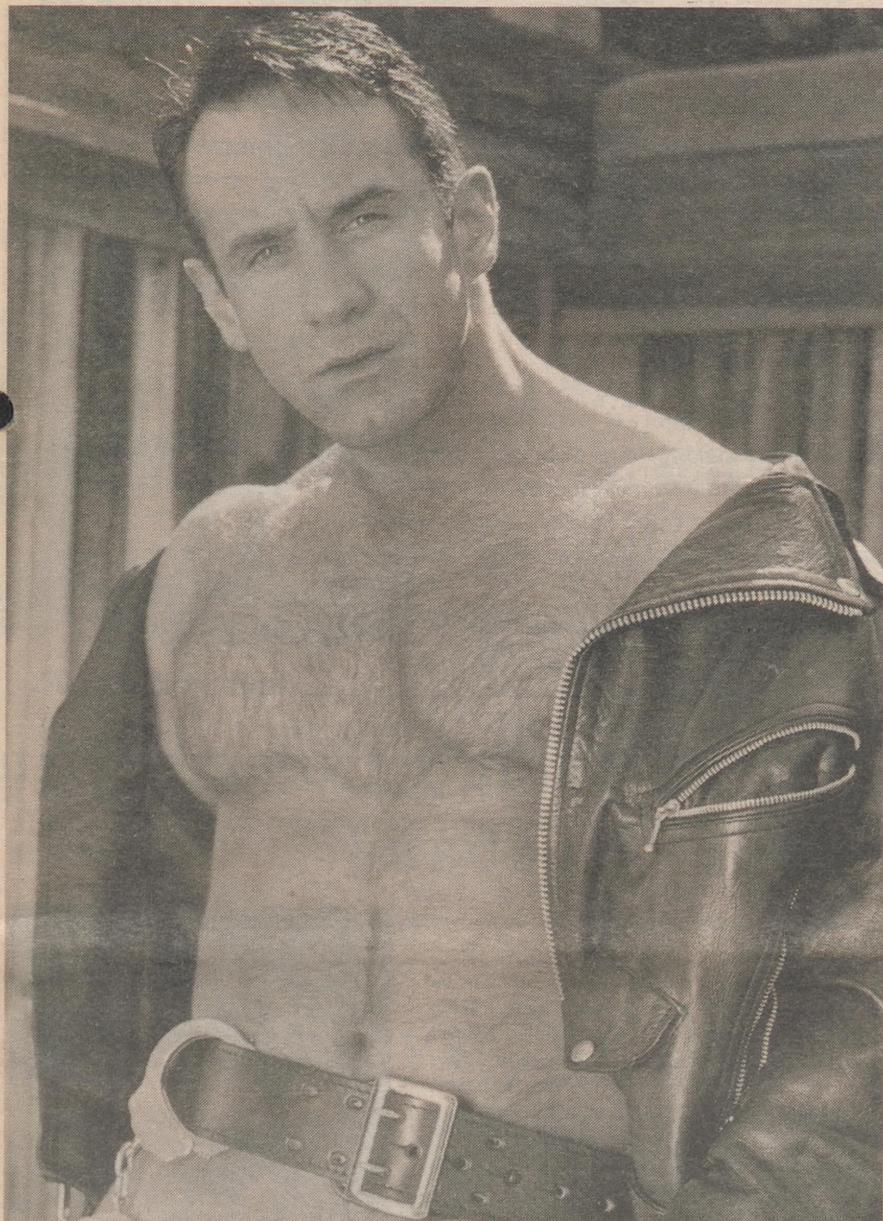
HOUSTON VOICE

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NOVEMBER 22, 1996 ■ ISSUE 839



Calendar Model Steve Kelso appears at Lobo on Saturday, November 23.

Second-Rate Justice

By Paul Varnell

Jonathan Schmitz got away with, well, not murder exactly. It seems clear that Schmitz got away with something, but it is hard to say precisely what it was.

Schmitz was found guilty of second-degree murder for shooting a gay man, Scott Amedure, who had revealed "a crush" on Schmitz during a taping of The Jenny Jones Show three days earlier.

The verdict bristles with difficulties.

First-degree murder is premeditated murder, killing with the deliberate planning of the act in advance. Second-degree murder generally refers to spontaneous, spur-of-the-moment killing.

Schmitz clearly had deliberated and premeditated. The night before the killing, according to court testimony, he stayed up all night drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. The next morning he drove to a gun store, bought a shotgun and some shells. Then he drove to Amedure's home, where he sat outside in his car for a while, then he went to the door and shot Amedure.

Clearly, some time during that night, if not in the days before, Schmitz formed the intention to kill Amedure. Otherwise, he would not have taken each of the subsequent planned, deliberate steps that led him to Amedure's door with a shotgun in his hand.

The jury knew all this, yet they voted for second-degree murder. What they seemed to be trying to get at, in a rough-and-ready way, was some

mitigation of Schmitz's responsibility for his actions. They seemed to be trying to take account of what they took to be his diminished capacity for rationality, of the partial responsibility of The Jenny Jones Show, and quite likely, the upset they believed a rational man might feel if told that a gay man had a crush on him.

In doing so the jury seemed to willfully misunderstand "premeditated" to mean only "uncaused" or "unprecipitated," or even "uninfluenced" by any personal considerations or external events. But the jury was surely wrong. There are always social circumstances and preceding actions that influence all of our decisions and behavior. But people are not just billiard balls rolling around, reacting to impacts or stimuli. If that were true, no one could be blamed (or, for that matter, praised) for anything.

People, unlike billiard balls, can think, consider, weigh and "get ahold of themselves," as we say. They can alter their own velocities and trajectories. The point is not whether there are outside (and inside) influences but whether we try to get some perspective on them, how we process them, and how we choose to respond to them—whether we try to resist them (or learn from them) or yield to them.

The jury apparently took note of claims that Schmitz had a history of periodic depression, suicide attempts and an alleged thyroid condition.

It is just amazing the number of people who commit serious crimes, particularly young men who commit crimes against gays, who are suddenly discovered to have apparently serious

(Continued on page 5)

Gay Man Slain in Houston

No Arrests To Date

By Curt Morrison

The young men, about 13 of them, were enjoying themselves behind the nightclub Rich's last Thursday, when their joy turned into tragedy. The men were listening to a car stereo and engaging in spirits when they were approached by two African American males who demanded that they give them money and the car radio. The young men refused to comply.

Their anger turned to shock when one of the assailants pulled out a gun and fatally shot one of the men. The suspects fled the scene. The police were called and arrived promptly. The incident occurred at approximately 3:30am when staff members at Rich's heard the cries for help. "I just got all employees in the office for a safety meeting," said Lonnie Allsbrook, the General Manager of Rich's. Allsbrook contends that he was concerned about his employee's safety and wanted to go over proper procedure for staff members leaving the establishment near dawn to go to their cars.

Similar incidents occurred throughout the Montrose area last week as well. On Wednesday a gay man was robbed on Grant street near Baba Yega's and on Thursday, just one hour prior to the incident at Rich's, a man was robbed near Missouri Street close to Cafe Noche. In both cases the descriptions of the suspects and their vehicles were similar to that of the men who killed the young man behind Rich's.

"It's definitely a group that is targeting the gay community," said Scott Lewis, Promotions Director for JR's, Heaven and Mining Company. Lewis informed the Houston Voice that Constable Jack Abercia's office is indeed taking the situation seriously and will begin a "saturation" effort in the immediate future. According to Lewis, the Constables office would like the community to know that the saturation patrols are in the interest of protecting the community's welfare and not intended as a method of harassment. Saturation patrols monitor neighborhood activity to locate any suspicious behavior. They are seeking the community's cooperation in this effort to apprehend the suspects that have committed the aforementioned crimes.

Be Safe

And Thanks to the Q-Patrol

See page 20 for story

Edgar Signs Order Barring Discrimination Against Homosexuals

From Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Gov. Jim Edgar, who had been the lone state constitutional officer without a specific anti-discrimination policy for gays and lesbians, has issued such an order for offices under his control. Edgar issued an administrative order to all agency directors, emphasizing that sexual orientation be included in prohibitions against discrimination in recruiting, hiring and promoting state workers. "We are not aware of any cases of discrimination on the basis of sexual

orientation, but this clearly reiterates the governor's non-discrimination policy," Edgar spokesman Eric Robinson said Tuesday. The director of a statewide gay rights group on Wednesday welcomed Edgar's action.

"This demonstrates that the governor recognizes that a discrimination free workplace is a productive workplace," said Rick Garcia of the Illinois Federation For Human Rights. State personnel rules prohibit discrimination on the basis of

(Continued on page 5)

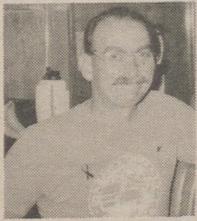
Voice Wins Award

See page 5 for story



Miracle on Main Street - Story on page 25

In Loving Memory



CHRISTOPHER REED

Our dear friend, Christopher Reed, passed away unexpectedly on September 4, 1996.

Born in Pineland, Texas, he was a 1972 graduate of Lamar University. Chris held a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and was a long-time employee of Sperry/Unisys where he was instrumental in developing Harris County's election returns system among the many other amazing

systems he developed. During the past four years, Chris was employed by The Blood Center where he leaves many good friends behind. Chris is survived by his loving parents, three brothers, and a host of close friends. He was preceded in death by his partner, Ron Bratten, who was cared for lovingly by Chris until the very end. Chris was a brilliant man and the most loyal and helpful friend anyone could have. A lover of parties, Chris was an active member of the Classic Chassis Car Club, and he could be found wherever the party was, be it New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York or on the slopes in Europe. He loved the outdoors and

was an avid camper and kayaker, having gone camping in the same campgrounds on the Guadalupe River since he was a small boy. Chris was buried in a small cemetery near his parent's home in San Augustine, Texas, with many of his closest friends in attendance. Chris was loved and remains in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him. He is sorely missed.

Sleep well dear friend!

Love Mark, Dan, and Steve.



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Oscar Wilde's Comedy 'An Ideal Husband'

By LEO BOUCHER

Oscar Wilde's comedy, AN IDEAL HUSBAND, currently a Broadway hit, will be presented by Main Street Theater Nov. 21 through Dec. 22, at its Chelsea Market location. Directed by former Alley Theatre company member Peter Webster, AN IDEAL HUSBAND is a one-hundred-year-old jewel from the pen of one of the English language's wittiest playwrights. A perfect example of how very little ever changes in politics and society, AN IDEAL HUSBAND has proved its widespread popular appeal with the extended Broadway run of the production by England's Peter Hall Company. In his review of that production, Vincent Canby of the New York Times called AN IDEAL HUSBAND "the most effervescently serious comedy Wilde ever wrote, as well as one of the funniest."



Joel Sandel and Celeste Cheramie are featured in Main Street Theater's production of "An Ideal Husband" (photo by Doug Killgoe)

"Scandals used to lend charm, or at least interest, to a man—now they crush him. And yours is a very nasty scandal." With these chilling words, the amoral Mrs. Cheveley (Celeste Cheramie) attempts to blackmail Sir Robert Chiltern (David Grant) by threatening to reveal to his adoring wife (Erica Garrison), and to the world, that insider trading was the source of his wealth. Meanwhile, Lord Caversham (Ted Pfister) urges his foppish, seemingly shallow son Viscount Goring (Joel Sandel) to marry Lord Chiltern's sister Mabel (Shannon Emerick), with whom he has carried on an extended flirtation.

The cast of AN IDEAL HUSBAND also includes Sara Chambless, Andrew Dawson, Julia Jay, John Kaiser, Robert Leeds, Che Moody, and Devin Williamson. The scenic design is by Karen Hoffman, the costume design by Margaret White, and the lighting design by Sam Jones.

Oscar Wilde is one of the great authors of this century. His plays include LADY ERMERE'S FAN, SALOME, A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, and THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST. He was also the author of the novel THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY. The first self-styled star of English letters, Wilde was famous for his epigrams, and AN IDEAL HUSBAND is

rife with them; when Lord Caversham criticizes his son for his superficial conversation, Lord Goring replies "I love talking about nothing, father. It is the only thing I know anything about." One of Wilde's theatrical spokesmen, Lord Goring seems to live by Wilde's dictum "Treat all trivial things seriously, and all serious things with studied triviality."

AN IDEAL HUSBAND will play Nov. 21 through Dec. 22. There will be no performance Friday, Nov. 22. The performances are Thursday at 7:30pm, Friday and Saturday at 8pm, and Sunday at 4pm. There will be a half-price preview Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30pm; tickets are \$5. Tickets are \$10 to \$15, with discounts for students, senior citizens and groups of 10 or more. The performances will be held at Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose, in the Museum District. For tickets, call 524-6706.

Main Street Theater's productions are made possible in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council and Texas Commission on the Arts.

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Musician and Mom to Be

Melissa Etheridge Rocks The Summit

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Amidst a stage strewn with bras and flowers thrown by adoring fans, a large Texas style cowboy hat is tossed on stage and picked up by a performer, who after a brief hesitation turns her back to the audience, dons the hat and turns to the audience with an "aw shucks" grin before launching into a hard rocking number that has the crowds on their feet. Such is the phenomenon that is singer Melissa Etheridge.

Performing to a largely female group at the Nov. 18th concert at the Summit, Melissa performed many of her chart busting hits on the large stage until a moment of darkness and a pause, when she suddenly appeared on a smaller



Melissa rocked out at the Summit (photo by Richard Silva)

stage closer to the crowd on the other side of the auditorium.

While much of her material has a very similar hard rocking sound to it, there is no denying that this woman is also able to pull off a tender ballad with a message that seemed to reach all of those gathered at the Summit.

Her stage presence, both friendly and warm, made this reviewer think that she was much more at home on the small stage, closer to those who love her. She has an aura not of a superstar, which she is, but of someone you would like to have over at your house to have as a friend, and that, I believe, is a star quality all of its own. I am sure the audience at the Summit would agree. As a mother to be (she and partner Julie Cypher are expecting their first child in January of next year), an out lesbian, and a musician, Melissa is someone who's window I would come to in an instant.

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Tough Guys Do Dance

Aussie Tap Dogs Unleashed On Houston

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Think of tap dancing for a moment and what images spring to mind? Perhaps Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers gracefully hoo-fing in tails and gown respectfully. Maybe Shirley Temple and Bill Robinson tapping out a melody on a staircase or even Gregory Hines gliding across a polished wooden floor in a large dance studio. What about six muscular men in construction boots, jeans and work shirts dancing on planks, ladders, suspended platforms, etc., while wielding machismo like a sword?

Not many people would probably envision the latter, but award winning choreographer Dein Perry has created just such a spectacle, which has delighted Houston audiences this week with a limited run at the Wortham Center. What makes this unconventional show so amazing is not merely the costuming, but the contemporary choreography, modernistic stage design by Nigel Triffitt, and the fact that the dancers were all former blue collar workers who found expression through move-



Tap Dogs Tapping!

ment. Amidst the wood, chrome and metal scaffolding, these six young men give a bravura performance of tap that is both exhilarating to watch, and also to hear—as the music they create with their feet overwhelms the simple percussion used by two musicians in the background.

Highlights of the show included a performance piece done on electronically enhanced drum flats, a tap number beat out in a large water filled tray, and one segment where a man was harnessed and suspended above the stage upside down to tap out a rhythm on a raised flat.

As of the date of this publication, readers will still have the opportunity to catch the final performance of this innovative group of performers on Friday, Nov. 22nd. So tap your way to the Wortham Center for an evening with the Tap Dogs.

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The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

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Volunteer of the Week



Robert L. Meyer

This week's volunteer was nominated by the organization which he helped found, *Soiree Aubergine*. Since 1990, *Soiree Aubergine* has raised funds to benefit the Bering Care Center Meals Program. Robert L. Meyer, "Bob" has tirelessly devoted his time, effort, blood, sweat & tears to making the most of *Soiree Aubergine's* activities.

Born in Boston and raised in Iowa, Bob is one of those persons who doesn't ask "how high" when told to jump! Give him a task, and he not only completes it, but adds in a few extra measures you never thought about. You can not call Bob an overachiever because he achieves everything he sets out to do!

Through *Soiree*, Bob can be seen counting money from benefit shows, car washes, silent auctions, garage sales and many other activities. Why always counting money? He is and has been since 1990 the Treasurer of *Soiree Aubergine*. In his spare time (when is that?), Bob works at the Bering Community Service Foundation's Development Office. You can usually find him once again counting money, stuffing envelopes, answering phones—o.k., you could once again say Bob does anything to get the job done.

The staff of the Houston Voice salutes you, Robert L. Meyer, and congratulates *Soiree Aubergine* for being fortunate enough to have found you!

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physical and emotional problems that suddenly and just in this particular instance-cripple their capacity for sound judgment: They were alcoholics, or they were depressed, or they were under stress, or they had not been eating right (Dan White's "Twinkie defense"), or they were physically or sexually abused when they were younger, or they had a drug problem.

One wonders how such people were even able to function with some semblance of a normal life up to that point, what they (or their parents) were doing about their "problems" (there are thyroid medications and drugs to combat depression), and how it is that other people with similar problems are not out killing gay men.

The jury also took note of the fact that Schmitz stayed up the previous night drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. They considered this an "extenuating circumstance." They got it backwards: It should have been considered an "aggravating circumstance." When a driver who has been drinking causes an accident, we do not say, "Oh, well, he's not so much at fault since he was drunk." We add an additional charge of "driving while intoxicated."

In most people, alcohol clouds the judgment, reduces prudence and allows a greater role for the emotions in what remains of a person's thinking. Marijuana alters or disturbs the usual way of looking at things; in some people it can generate anxiety and even paranoia. Someone who is troubled is the very last person to handle these substances responsibly and in moderation.

Let Schmitz deliberately chose to start drinking, and he chose to smoke marijuana.

That is, he deliberately acted in a way that reduced his capacity for good judgment and control of his emotions, and that he knew would do so. This is an aggravating circumstance, not a mitigating one; juries should not reward such behavior by reducing punishments on its account.

Everyone seemed to agree that The Jenny Jones Show was in some way involved in Amedure's death. As Schmitz' father said, "Had she [Jenny Jones] not done this, this would never have happened."

The television program was no doubt involved, but how?

Apparently the jury believed that finding out that a gay man has "a crush" on you can be very upsetting. The "reasoning" seems to be that the knowledge of such a crush invites imagining what the other person has in mind sexually, which means imagining the admired party in sexual activity with the admirer. That comes close to imputing a kind of imaginary or "virtual" homosexuality to the admired person, which could feel embarrassing and discomforting, even threatening, to a person who is disturbed by homosexuality. The television program, then, invited a large audience to imagine such a thing of Schmitz.

If it reasoned this way, the jury no doubt accurately assessed Schmitz's state of mind. But there is a problem.

Most people would agree that heterosexual males should not be so sensitive, that they should get over what is, after all, an irrational aversion to homosexuality in others or even the (playful) imputation of it to themselves. And they would agree that the law should not support and uphold such irrational and immature anxieties, but should try to discourage them. The point of the law, after all, is to uphold a standard of conduct, to teach people the right and wrong ways to behave toward others, regardless of how they feel.

But by taking Schmitz's heightened irrational anxieties into account and voting for a reduced charge, the jury signaled that these irrational and immature anxieties can have legal standing. By doing so, the jury did not live up to the law. They recognized a fact, but made it a norm. In doing so they served justice ill.

Houston Voice Receives National Award

By CURT MORRISON

The Houston Voice was this year's recipient of the prestigious Friends of the Quilt Media Award. The national award is given to a gay and lesbian publication whose media coverage best exemplified the organization's national display.

The national organization in San Francisco perused all community publications and bestowed this coveted prize to the Houston Voice due to their in-depth reporting and exposure of the project. Houston Voice

editor Deborah Bell accepted the honor at the awards presentation this past weekend at Sausalito's.

"The Voice made a big difference as far as the Names Project is concerned. Due to their coverage, we received numerous volunteers. As a result of their experiences and involvement, these volunteers will now hopefully remain in active with future endeavors with the Names Project. And that is crucial," said Perrie Dolph, a Board member and the Regional Volunteer Chair for D.C. 96.

*Edgar continued...**(Continued from front page)*

religion, race, national origin, sex, age, handicap or any other non-merit factor. "I want to re-emphasize the policy of this administration prohibiting discrimination and further clarify that any other non-merit factor includes, but is not limited to, sexual orientation," reads the order, which Edgar issued Friday.

A letter from Edgar's chief of staff, Eugene Reineke, said marital or parental status and physical stature are also included in the order. Edgar's order comes as gay rights advocates are preparing for another effort to pass a gay rights bill in Illinois. "The governor's policy will help us in our effort to pass a bill to make

anti-gay discrimination illegal in Illinois," said Lana Hostetler, chief lobbyist for the Illinois Federation For Human Rights. The bill would add sexual orientation to the list of factors for which discrimination is banned in areas such as housing and employment. Edgar has said he would sign a gay rights bill if one reached his desk. So far, though, efforts to enact one have failed.

Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra, Attorney General Jim Ryan and Comptroller Loleta Didrickson all had policies in place earlier. Secretary of State George Ryan adopted the policy in September.

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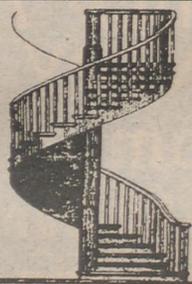
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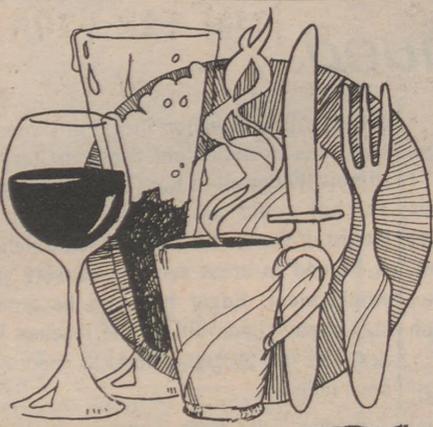
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by *Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz*



Remember when we were in school and every year an unimaginative teacher required us to write predictable essays like 'What I Did Over My Summer Vacation,' or 'The True Meaning of Christmas?' (Okay, I went to Catholic schools. Wanna' make something of it?) I always hated those assignments because I felt that Teach was only making us do "busy work," and that after reading two or three that were almost exactly the same (there was only one True Meaning, after all), she would discard the rest out of boredom. I never put much heart into them, certainly not as much effort as I put into my weekly column, but then I did not have as appreciative an audience back then.

Appreciation is the theme of this week, being Thanksgiving and all, and there are some things I am mighty grateful for. I'm thankful for being lesbian, because otherwise I would not be married to the luscious and wantonly romantic Fantasy Jan. And I'm thankful for her courage, and her confidence in us that she left a good job and a happy life in another city to join me in Houston. I'm thankful that when our happily ever after was not so happy at first, she stayed anyway. And I'm grateful that those disheartening times were brief, and a long, long time ago.

I'm appreciative that our kids are good kids, working hard at their chosen jobs and academics. When they were all little (and easily manipulated) I used to congratulate myself on having such smart and mannerly kids. (Parents always get the kids they deserve, I'd smugly observe.) When we had three teenagers, two of whom were temperamental artists, with at least one always plotting against the others, my motto deteriorated to, Parents get the kids they get. None of them live with us anymore and I'm occasionally pretty well thankful for that, too, as well as for their cheerful cooperation in allowing me to exploit their foibles for my readers' entertainment.

I'm thankful that my friends Brandy and Claude are in my family, and I'm proud and happy that my brother Greg is back in

my family, too.

I'm grateful that because of my friends who have more energy than I do, there is a well organized, spectacular, gala Pride parade in my own hometown every year, and a band to march in it, and extravagantly gay well-wishers to cheer it on. I'm grateful that Out Vote! and Pet Patrol and After Hours on KPFT radio (90.1 FM, midnight to 3am) are staffed primarily by volunteers because we could never pay people enough money to encourage them to inspire us like they do.

I'm thankful for diet root beer that tastes like not-diet, for pizza deliveries, for my other employer letting me cover Jan on my health insurance, and that I can't tell costume jewelry from real gold, because if I could, I'd want the real gold. I'm full of thanks for Houston City Council for granting uniforms and instruments and music and marching lessons to kids for the Marching Thunder program. I'm thankful for programs like Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Houston that make it possible for people who want children in their lives to coexist amicably with their partners who do not.

I'm thankful for the customers who call me at home, or stop me in the neighborhood and comment on my articles. There is no greater delight a writer hears than, "You know that column got us to talking. . . ." or "I'm still thinking about what you wrote last spring about your best friend Pat." And I'm still real thankful for Pat.

I'm thanking my lucky stars that I live in Houston, where we have had a free community weekly newspaper for over 22 years, and that I have an editor who lets me turn in an essay like this every once in awhile and call it a column.

Happy Thanksgiving, friends.

Jan is thankful that Jazz got through this whole column without once referring to the hoax of Thanksgiving as the Day of Murdered Indigenous People, or mentioning that the terrorism committed by the European "settlers" to their "hosts" was done to bring glory to the Catholic church. Even if it is all true, you do not want to get her started.



Hearing in December on Genetic Evidence

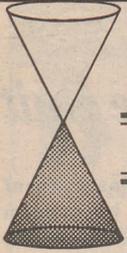
FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP)—The most important ruling in the trial of Richard Schmidt, a doctor accused of injecting his girlfriend with AIDS virus taken from one of his patients, may be handed down even before the case goes to trial. District Judge Durwood Conque is considering a December date for a hearing to decide whether the jury should hear the prosecution's key scientific evidence. Trial is set for Jan. 27.

Schmidt is accused of attempted second-degree murder for allegedly injecting Janice Trahan, a Lafayette nurse with whom he had an affair, with the AIDS virus under the pretense that he was giving her a vitamin shot in 1984. He has pleaded innocent. Prosecutors say the scientific evidence, which is based on comparisons of viral genetic material, proves Schmidt's AIDS patient is the source of the virus that now infects Trahan's blood.

Defense attorneys have moved to keep the evidence out of the trial.

On Thursday, defense team leader Michael Fawer compared the scientific evidence linking the patient and Trahan to "shooting at a constantly moving target" because the AIDS virus mutates rapidly. The prosecution evidence relies in part on blood samples of local AIDS patients to establish the way the AIDS virus has mutated locally. Fawer said two-thirds of the prosecution's blood donors were homosexuals, a statistic that he said skews the results of the study into the way the virus mutates in this area. Assistant District Attorney Keith Stutes said the defense is arguing with the procedure because it doesn't like the results. "The very argument they make is the argument the jury should hear," Stutes said. "Is the DNA (genetic) evidence admissible? We argue that the science is acceptable."



PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

Adapting Brings Unity

The changing face of the national media toward lesbians and gay men is revolutionary; the evolution of gay media had vanquished the Dark Ages. Three decades ago the Closeted Ones—and in most cases this only appealed to gay men—could either seek out those small photo magazines “aimed” at body building or “One,” the publication of the One Institute of Homophile Studies.

“One” provided thoughtful, often scholarly, articles by writers using pseudonyms, but did provide useful information on the rare book with a pro-gay slant and directions to gay-friendly places. Here one could learn of raids on Fire Island where truck drivers were deputized to sweep the dunes, or find a letter from Little Rock detailing the friendly bars in Tulsa (whether they were still friendly after the postal authorities culled that issue is another matter.)

One of the first attempts at a full-fledged gay magazine came in July of 1969. Called “In,” it was the product of gay traveler Bob Damron who the previous year had debuted his now famous travel guide. The magazine appears mainly to serve as an advertising tool for the travel guide, and its primary focus is a photo spread on a now infamous production by Sal Mineo of “Fortune and Men’s Eyes” which included the nude simulated rape scene between Mineo and a then young man from the midwest, Don Johnson.

This staged incident of homosexual rape hung over Johnson’s career for years and many a gay man thought, wrongly, that Johnson appeared in the later filmed version of “Fortune.” Interestingly, Johnson, at the time, shared a rented house with a gay man who later assured me that the young actor was truly a good actor and sincerely heterosexual.

“In” also survived, rather briefly, on limited advertising and a rather steep cover price, two dollars and fifty cents, for approximately seventy thick pages. It did, however, take advantage of the then recent Supreme Court rulings on obscenity and presented nudity—of course, in a tasteful fashion.

During the years of revolution, from Stonewall to ACT-UP, gay magazines tended to be primarily political and relied on advertising from within the community and, eventually, on sexual ads. From The Advocate to Outweek the gay press ventured into the gay mainstream while remaining politically correct. From such publications came the leading gay and lesbian journalists of our time.

Over time The Advocate adjusted to change, first segregating the sexual ads in a center pullout section and, finally, separating that portion into a publication of its own, aptly named “Classified.” Outweek was too politically correct and suffered an agonizing death, but not before spawning “outing,” Michelangelo Signorile and Gabriel Rotello, among others.

Gay evolution is like a speeded up time sequence. A decade of gay history cor-

responds to a century in the life of mankind. In less than five years the world of “Outweek” has been replaced with “Out,” a glossy, nearly two hundred page tribute to the gay mainstream.

Where “Outweek” and its kin fostered pages of sex phone lines, “Out” offers double-page tributes from today’s leading producers of gay friendly products, from clothes lines to designer water. The current issue offers my favorite, a two page spread from Johnnie Walker Red Label with a picture of a properly mixed race gathering of gay men and a simple caption, “For the Last Time It’s Not a Lifestyle, It’s a Life.” It was enough for me to switch from J&B.

Such glossy productions as “Out” and “Genre” have incurred the expected criticism of “selling out.” By catering to such mainstream advertisers the publications must, of necessity, surrender a politically correct position. Only if you are hooked on phone sex.

The former hotheads of gay journalism, such as Signorile, are now in “Out” and The Advocate. And the coverage is perhaps even more inclusive. The current issue covers same-sex marriages, gay families, even Samuel R. Delany’s fascinating memoir of cruising 42nd Street.

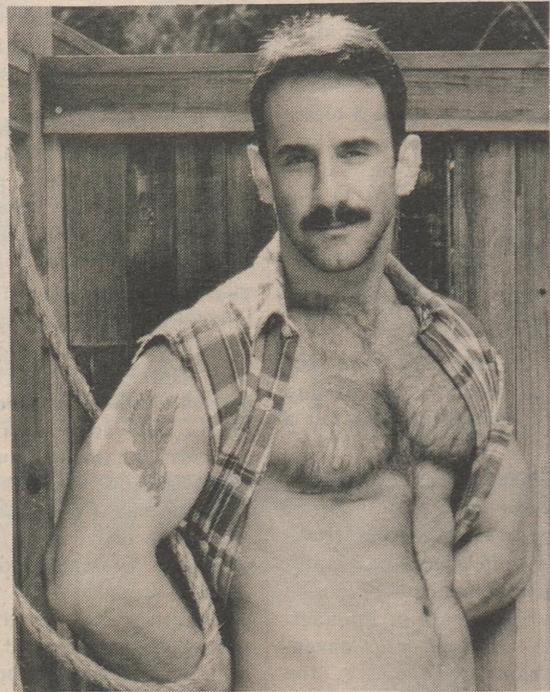
Granted, the photos are less revealing but if that’s your taste, rent a video (and you know where I would suggest). More importantly, the national gay magazines attempt to cover the entire community. Witness Howard Feinstein’s article on the trials of filming Dorothy Allison’s “Bastard Out of Carolina” in “Out.”

The Advocate still received letters from gay men who object to the inclusion of lesbians into a magazine once so exclusively male. The Advocate has survived for nearly thirty years for just this reason: It has adapted to the significant changes within our community.

The epidemic known as AIDS has vastly changed the landscape of our community but nowhere as profoundly as the coming out of the lesbian community. First as the necessary support for their dying gay brothers and then with the growing realization of their own strength and power. And just as the progress of gay rights over the last two decades cannot be reversed, this new awareness of lesbian visibility is here, it’s real and it’s lasting. And most important, it is essential to a healthy gay community. If we ask women to tolerate our male fascination with the physical, then gay men must appreciate the concerns of lesbians, be it their health concerns or political issues such as choice.

The revolution of the gay consumer is only begun. Just as the mainstream enters our magazines, so it is appealing to our dollars and our patronage. The challenge for the gay and lesbian community is not to deny the changes but adapt those changes to strengthen the infrastructure of our community. This is the ongoing struggle as our community moves into a new age of political responsibility and AIDS as a chronic illness.

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in Houston's Gay and Lesbian News

Gay Unions to Be Blessed by Episcopal Diocese

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP) A month after Pennsylvania passed a law banning same sex marriages, the state's Episcopal Diocese has voted to create a blessing for gay and lesbian relationships. At the diocesan convention Saturday, clergy delegates voted 101-43 and lay delegates voted 75-53 to develop "a rite or rites for the blessing of committed relationships between persons of the same sex." The Pennsylvania Diocese plans to urge the national church to do the same. The combined 176-96 vote "was a surprise to me," said Bishop Allen Bartlett, who had expected a closer margin.

The 65,000-member diocese, which has 163 parishes and missions in Philadelphia and four surrounding counties, will submit the approved resolution to the church's national governing convention, which meets in Philadelphia next year. If the General Convention's two chambers approve, the church's Standing Liturgical Com-

mission will be asked to devise an appropriate rite. Such a blessing would have no legal standing unless a state legislature chose to recognize it. That appears unlikely in Pennsylvania. In October, Gov. Tom Ridge signed legislation banning gay marriages in the state. The law, which takes effect in December, also says the state will not recognize such unions performed elsewhere.

The Rev. David Moyer, rector of Good Shepherd parish in Rosemont, sharply criticized the gay blessing resolution. "How can I now lecture young people and tell them my diocese says fornication and sodomy are not to be avoided?" But the Rev. Ruth L. Kirk, who co-submitted the resolution, said Christian moral codes cannot be developed purely on the moral codes of the first century. "As I said at the convention: Can God do a new thing? And can God use the church to do a new thing? For centuries we have condemned gays and lesbians. It is time to support committed, loving relationships."

Woman Loses HIV Negligence Suit

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) A Victoria woman who contracted the AIDS virus through unsuccessful artificial insemination has lost her civil suit against the Vancouver doctor who performed the procedure. Kobe ter Neuzen now fears she could lose the home she bought with an interim payment from the doctor's insurance company. It was the second time she had sued Dr. Gerald Korn of Vancouver for negligence. "I don't think this is so-called justice, but that's what the system does," ter Neuzen said after the verdict. "I'm entirely disappointed. It's not right, but that's how the system works."

A British Columbia Supreme Court jury decided Thursday that so little was known about AIDS in early 1985 that Korn was not negligent. Ter Neuzen underwent artificial insemination by Korn from 1981 through 1985. During her last treatment, in Jan. 1985, she received sperm from a donor who had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ter Neuzen, 51, tested positive for HIV in Nov. 1985 but has not yet developed AIDS. She originally won \$883,800 when she sued Korn in 1991,

accusing him of using insufficient methods for screening his sperm donors. Korn appealed, but in the interim, his insurance company was ordered to give ter Neuzen \$200,000 as an advance against a successful claim at the retrial.

She used the money to buy a home she says is key in dealing with being HIV positive. "It's the healing environment for me that supports my thinking about this particular virus, the house and the garden, the serenity," she said. The B.C. Court of Appeal overturned the 1991 award, saying the B.C. Supreme Court jury's reasons for finding negligence were not clear. A new trial was ordered. The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the appeal ruling, rejecting ter Neuzen's argument that Korn should have known in Jan. 1985 about the risk of transmitting HIV through artificial insemination. Because the jury at the retrial ruled there was no negligence, the insurance company could ask ter Neuzen to repay the advance. There was no word from the insurance company Thursday. Ter Neuzen's lawyer, Sandra Harper, said an appeal is being considered.

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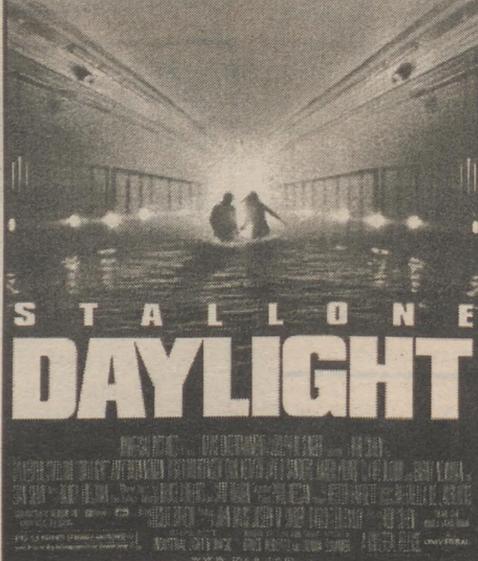
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THE OUTsider

by *Carl Morrison*

The Height of Stupidity

The San Francisco Chapter of ACT-UP's recent stunt of dousing the executive director of an AIDS Foundation with kitty litter containing 14 day old feline feces clearly demonstrates the absurdity of this organization's methods and seriously questions their genuine intent as an organization. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation's (SFAF) held a forum last month for the candidates in the race for city supervisor. ACT-UP members, upset over the organization's promotion of protease inhibitors, stormed the stage and showered SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen with the excrements. Are these people imbeciles? The entire incident is without foundation, totally meritless and ridiculous beyond any reasonable comprehension.

ACT-UP believes that the protease inhibitors are toxic and hazardous to the health of those infected with HIV/AIDS. That may well be, not being a doctor I can not judge the truth of their views. But the logic of their actions escapes me entirely. While I do not know whether the protease inhibitors are toxic or not, I am fully aware of the dangers of 2 week old cat manure and it's impact on those who are inflicted with the virus. For years, the medical profession has been warning HIV+ individuals to avoid the cat defecations because it has been proven to be harmful to their immune system. The feces is laden with crypto syridium which is lethal substance.

ACT-UP purports to be working towards ending the epidemic and helping PWA's. They do nothing of the kind. This type of idiotic and childish behavior is dangerous and does nothing whatsoever for the community but cause consternation. It reinforces the religious right's assertions of our communities behavior and certainly does not strengthen our case with mainstream America who have just recently begun to come around on gay and lesbian issues. Such behavior perpetuates stereotypes and makes the entire community look absurd. The candidates were forced to leave due to the stench, the individuals with AIDS were gagging and coughing. If ACT-UP truly cared about the welfare and treatment of those infected with the virus, they would not have jeopardized the PWA's with their stunt.

SFAF is contemplating legal action against ACT-UP. Unfortunately, there are no laws for stupidity. If ever there was a legitimate case for filing a suit based on ignorance, this is it.

Clements Opposes McKenna

Al Clements is on a mission to stop Dolly Madison McKenna from being elected in her race against Ken Bentsen for Congressional District 25. Clements, who was the chair of the state's GOP platform committee at last year's convention and is the current program director for the Texas Right to Life Committee, opposes McKenna because she is pro-choice. "I'm going to make sure I do everything I can to make sure Dolly doesn't win," Clements told the Houston Chronicle last Saturday. While Clements' tactics may not upset many in our community, it should for the following reasons.

For those of you who don't remember, Clements was ousted by Log Cabin Republicans in conjunction with other moderate Republicans during last year's tenuous precinct convention in Senate District 13. Lynda Paukune was elected senate district chair. Clements is still reeling from remarks that McKenna made in a letter back in 1994 when she was running against arch conservative Gene Fontenot that

included the following: "It is hate-filled agenda of gay bashing and intolerance that is much like the fundamentalism that has recently swept the Middle East, the neo-Nazis in Germany and now the neo-fascists in Italy."

It is precisely this type of maneuvering on the part of right wing extremists that will ruin the gains the Republican party has made nationally in the last several decades. Clements and his ilk may end up derailing McKenna's chance of winning the seat. That would be unfortunate. If the Republican party doesn't start becoming more tolerant, they will become the minority party. Unfortunately, it is difficult to rouse voters to the polls for special elections. For that reason alone, the religious conservatives will have an impact on the election. If McKenna does win the run-off despite Clements efforts to the contrary, it will be a major victory. Like it or not, the United States Congress is controlled by Republicans and we as a community would be better off with a moderate Republican who does not have a hate-filled agenda in our camp. Texas' is different from the national landscape in terms of conservatism. The likelihood of Texas becoming majority Democrat is not realistic in the near future. As such, it would be in our best interests to make sure that individuals like Clements know that we are a force to be contended with and that we will not sit by the wayside while he promotes his right wing extremism. In the long run, we will gain nothing if we continue to ignore Republican candidates when they are being attacked by the religious right because we support the opponent. If Republicans are in control, what possible benefit do we receive supporting Democrats who will not have the clout or leverage to deliver on our issues.

GOP Homophobes Blasted

In the Nov. 11 Sunday edition of the Scottsdale Progress Tribune (Arizona), the lead front-page story read Gay Candidate Says County GOP Shut Him Out. Written by David Leibowitz, it was a powerful testimony to the courage of one openly gay Republican candidate for the State Senate and the ignorance of local party leaders unable to reconcile their ideology and his sexual orientation. The article talks about how Steve Mays, a relentless worker and donor for his local party since his teens, had his campaign systematically torn apart by party leaders. For example, GOP chairperson Bernice Roberts refused to give May the same donation in the amount of \$1,300 that the other candidates received. "I do not support that homosexual agenda. ... I feel that it's wrong," quips Ms. Roberts. Other examples include Republican committee members going door-to-door to denounce May. For his part, May says he was "outed" by religious radical Charlotte Reed (the districts party chairperson) during the primaries and describes her as "an ignorant, under educated liar... The truth is, she has handed our district over to the Democrats... because she won't support anyone unless they adhere to her radical, right wing philosophy." May is publicly attacking his own party's homophobia. "This is my mission in life, I guess. I have to help teach the voters that you can be gay and Republican. I have to teach Republicans that and I have to teach gay people that." Indeed!

A recent poll in The Advocate demonstrates that Mr. May's should focus more on educating Republicans than the gay community. According to the poll, 68% of gays and lesbians think gay Republicans have a positive role to play in advancing civil rights for lesbians and gay men. Ignorance may be prevalent, but it does not prevail.

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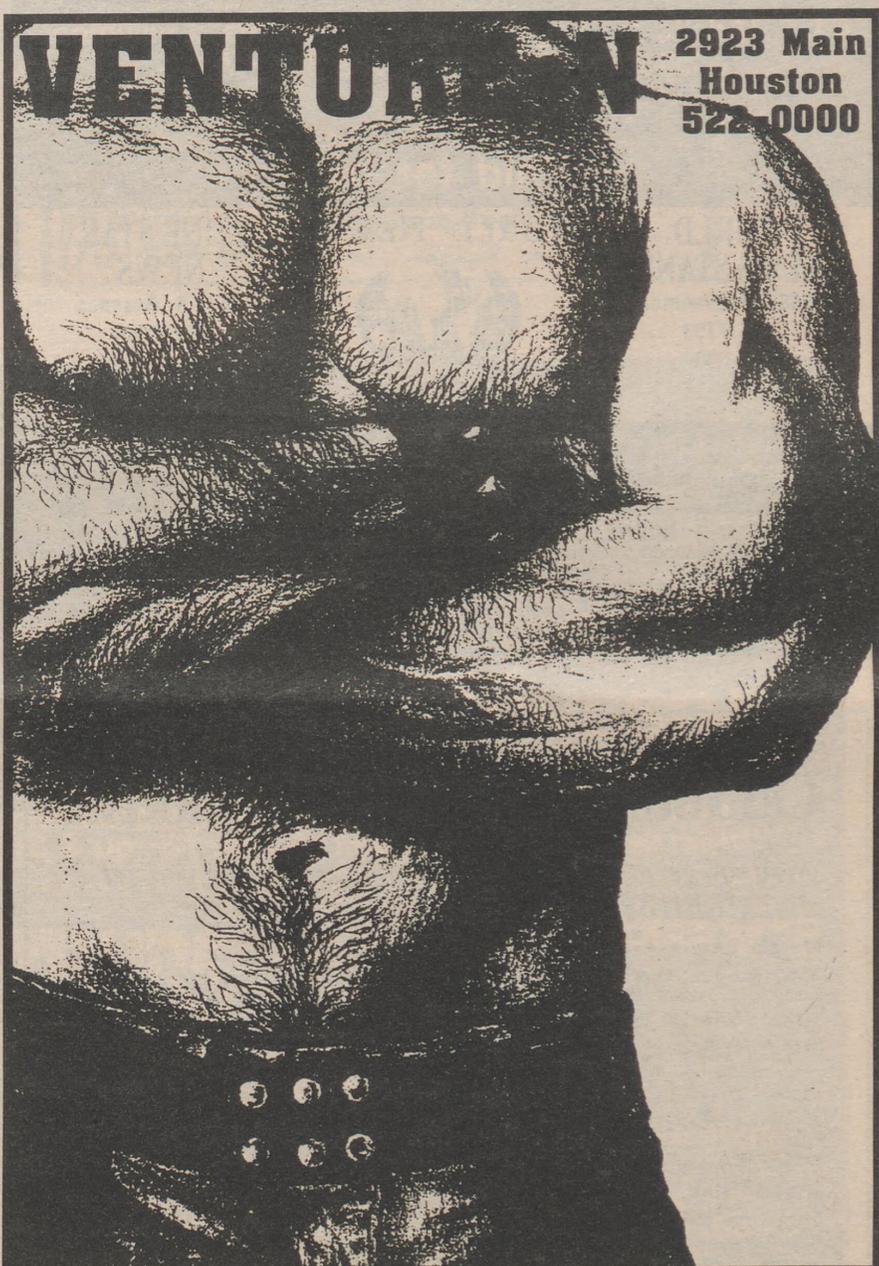
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Red Cross' HIV-AIDS Program Expands

Volunteers Needed for Instruction and Education

By MIKE RUGGERIO

The American Red Cross Hispanic HIV/AIDS Program has developed a culturally conceptualized education instructor course for outreach in the Hispanic community. The program materials were created by Hispanics in Spanish and then translated into English. This program, developed in cooperation with national Hispanic organizations, is one in a series of Red Cross programs in tandem with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Needed are volunteers to assist with educating the Hispanic community about AIDS awareness issues. An instructor course is being offered for those who wish to participate. The program, based on a culturally specific six module training course, helps bilingual, bicultural instructors gain skills to make interactive presentations on HIV/AIDS issues to Hispanic audiences. The course builds on the basic Red Cross instructor course and provides you with the necessary knowledge to educate and instruct accordingly. Individuals who successfully complete the training receive certifications in both courses. An additional level of training is available to prepare instructors to become instructor trainers.

The program's goal is to provide unbi-

ased HIV/AIDS information to Hispanics in a culturally relevant manner, taking into consideration the psychosocial issues that surround this disease in the Hispanic communities and families. Its philosophy, based on the teachings of Brazilian educator Paul Freire, is one of empowerment. Instructors involve audience members in dialogue or "platica" by exchanging knowledge and encouraging them to share their interests, concerns, and everyday experiences. In this way, the facts of prevention are more meaningful to participants' own lives.

Red Cross collaborates with other organizations to deliver the program wherever there is a need—in classrooms and churches, farm fields and factories, social gatherings and community centers. The program has been extremely successful in the Hispanic communities throughout the United States, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

The HIV/AIDS Hispanic Education Instructor Course will be offered by the Greater Houston Area Chapter Dec. 12, 13 and 14 from 8:30am-5pm. For more information about this program, registering for this course or other HIV/AIDS programs offered by the Red Cross, please contact Michael C. Ruggerio at (713) 526-8300, ext. 621.

In The Life Explores AIDS

BY JON ANTHONY

The December edition of In The Life explores the state of AIDS in America—the toll, the challenges, the hopes and the progress. The program shows how the epidemic rages on and the different way that people respond. The responses range from activism on the street, artists on stage, families laying down quilts or people with AIDS searching for hope in new treatments.

In The Life is a non-profit newsmagazine series that airs on over 90 public television stations nationwide. Its primary focus is chronicling the history and contemporary experience of gay America. The show is hosted by Katherine Linton. Tanya Barfield, Hal German, and Darius de Haas are the correspondents. This month's edition features the following topics:

AIDS in 1996, a Look Back, a Look Ahead—A retrospective on the AIDS epidemic that runs that gamut from its inception to current events such as the protease inhibitors.

In Memoriam: Of Rage and Remembrance—Composer John Corigliano provides a powerful choral work called Of Rage and Remembrance, which stemmed from an emotional catharsis after viewing the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington, D.C. A fascinating piece.

A Day In the Life...of Michelle Lopez—An African-American lesbian mother of two who has AIDS, Michelle Lopez, story is chronicled. Her plight is poignant and disavows stereotypes of who is afflicted by the virus.

In the Arts: RENT—A synopsis of the current Broadway smash musical RENT and how it materialized. The production celebrates queer culture with honest introspection.

In the Community: That Business of "He" or "She"—A look at a burgeoning activist movement where people who challenge traditional gender roles are



Fredi Walker and Idina Menzel in a steamy number from the show.

coming out and fighting for visibility and equal rights—the transgendered community.

The International Gay Rodeo—The International Gay Rodeo Association is profiled from its humble beginnings in 1976 to the fixture it has become in gay culture. Filmed on location in Albuquerque, NM, the viewer sees first hand the excitement of bull riding, chute dogging, and calf roping at the national finals.

POWARS: Pet Owners with AIDS Resource Service—The final edition of this provocative show offers us a different perspective concerning AIDS. Pet Owners with AIDS Resource Service (POWARS), is an organization of volunteers that helps people with AIDS provide help for their beloved animals.

In The Life airs in Houston on PBS affiliate Channel 8 (KUHT) on Dec. 1 at Midnight. Dec. 1 is World AIDS Day. The program is a first rate production that everyone should experience.

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Time For Thanks

I would like to thank all of you dear readers for your kind words about my recent columns. It is very gratifying indeed. I would like to add something to the column a couple of weeks ago about me getting naked and climbing up on a statue when I was eight. After that escapade, my dad gave me a nickname. Monkey boy. Twenty four years later, he still calls me that. I know it is said with love. We also heard from one of my mom's cousins, who said that the museum matron who pulled me of the statue still talks about that day. I guess I have become infamous.

For those of you who were asking me about my decision to join MCCR church, I will explain. I feel it is important to make a connection with my spiritual side. It will become one of my weapons against my AIDS. On my first visit, I was greeted by the most friendly people I have ever met. I feel MCCR will help me fill a lot of empty spaces in my life. The choir sings beautiful songs. The pastor, Reverend Johnson, is one of the most dynamic speakers I have ever had the pleasure to hear. The love for God is very evident. It is nice to meet people in a non-bar environment. I am now going through membership classes to become a member. I think, except for getting naked in the museum, this is the best decision I have ever made in my life.

With Thanksgiving coming up, I think I will take a little time off. I plan on flying up to Kansas City as guest of the family who I helped last year. If you recall, the family got word that their son and brother was seriously ill and in a coma from AIDS, when the sister arrived, she was shocked to find her brother was not only gay, but had AIDS. She saw my col-

umn in the Voice that was sitting in a reception area, and called me for advice. She also asked me to be with her the next day when Greg's mother arrived. She didn't want to be alone when she told her mother the news.

I spent the week with them, trying to help them cope. When Greg died, there were no more tears. Well, we all have become friends. They want to thank me for my help. They have invited me up to celebrate Thanksgiving with them. Because this is the first anniversary of Greg's death, it will have a lot of meaning for all of us. They sent me a plane ticket, since they know my only income is social security. I am grateful for that. Last time we talked, I asked them if it would be cold and snowy. They started laughing. Guess I will take my long-johns with me.

Thanksgiving at my family home was different from most families. We never had turkey. My dad always made pot roast. The meat was tender and juicy. I like smoked ham myself. I don't eat turkey regularly. But if I am invited to join nice people for Thanksgiving dinner, I will pig out. I know I will pig out in Kansas City. When they described all the food that will be served, I started drooling. She said there will be about twenty family members present. My folks are happy for me. We will have our Thanksgiving dinner before I fly up there.

I do want to wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving. As you celebrate with friends and family, remember all of our gay brothers who have passed on. Don't do it with sadness, but with the joy you had in knowing them. And go ahead, have seconds of everything. Then it is back to T.V. dinners.

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ICE/Cineplex Odeon Theaters Coming Soon



Pictured after a recent press conference with Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to announce the development of three multiplex cinemas in several Windy City neighborhoods are (from left) Allen Karp, president and CEO Cineplex Odeon, Donzell Starks, president and CEO Inner City Entertainment (ICE) and City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development Commissioner Jeff Boyle. The new state-of-the-art multiplexes, which will feature first-run Hollywood movies, will be developed and owned by ICE and operated by Toronto-based Cineplex Odeon. ICE plans to develop over 100 movie screens in underdeveloped communities of major U.S. cities during the next three years, making it the first African-American owned theatre chain in the country.

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The Assistance Fund provides financial assistance for payment of insurance premiums enabling Persons Living with AIDS to maintain continuity of their medical or dental insurance until they qualify for Medicare. Also provided is an emergency medication assistance program for those clients in transition from private insurance to Medicare.

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Star Trek First Contact

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Resistance is futile, you must see this movie! In the Science-fiction action thriller, captain Jean-Luc Picard leads the crew of the newly commissioned Enterprise E in a battle against the Borg, an insidious race of half-machine, half-organic aliens, to restore the rightful future of Earth.



Picard comes face to face with the Borg Queen.

This flick has all my favorite things in it that I love about Star Trek! It has time travel, great dog-fights in space, phaser rifles, sexy aliens, cool special effects, gravity boots, a new sleek bridge, big kabooms, disobeying orders from Star Fleet, holodecks, the Borg and Vulcans! Star Trek First Contact is directed by Jonathan Frakes and stars Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent

Spiner, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis, Alfre Woodard, James Cromwell and Alice Krige.

Star Trek First Contact opens in theaters on Friday, Nov. 22. Seeing Counselor Deanna Troi under the influence of 5 or 6 shots of tequila is worth the price of admission alone!

The Samsons are Back

A British Farce Set In France!

By MIMI HOLLOWAY

Farce demands the talents of very special directors and actors—and Theatre Southwest has both these elements. Anita and David Samson, both well known in Houston for their love of farce and for their directing talents, will direct "DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER" by Marc Camoletti as the 3rd show of this 40th Anniversary season at Theatre Southwest. The show opens on Jan. 10,

1997 and runs on Fridays and Saturdays through Feb. 8 with curtain at 8pm. There will be one Sunday matinee on Jan. 19 with curtain at 3pm.

This farce, set in France, has all the hallmarks of popular British farce—a husband who plans an intimate little catered dinner with a special friend in his wife's absence, a caterer who is definitely not Julia Childs, plot twists and turns with the return of his wife—and an extra surprising twist at the end. Definitely a recipe for intrigue and action!

For reservations and group rate information call 661-9505

FORK AND SPOON

Restaurant Review

By WILMA SOMMERS LEE LOVE

Okay girls! I've found a new way to eat a meal! I'm going to melt my flatware into piercings because now you suck your dinner through a straw! All right, all right—so if I pierced one more part of my body every metal detector in the Northern Hemisphere would go off! And when was the last time you sucked dinner through a straw??

Head on down to Chills at 3939 Montrose and tell 'em Wilma sent ya! Owners John & Lisa Michas, of Niko Niko's fame are ready to prepare for you healthy drinks at low, low prices. Remember, all items include pure honey. Some of the drinks and their ingredients are Pineapple Paradise, composed of banana, pineapple, papaya, turbinado, fiber and soy protein equaling 325 calories or .08 grams of fat for \$2.75. Cuervolyn's favorite, the Raspberry Surprise for \$3.25, consists of raspberry, turbinado, fiber and soy protein for 225 calories or .02 grams of fat. Hold on to your wigs—she even enjoys the Raspberry Surprise sans the Cuervo! The Hawaiian Breeze, my favorite, sells for \$2.75 and contains banana (go figure), strawberry, papaya, turbinado and fiber at only 275 calories (she can wear Fat Cher

again—be very afraid!) and .06 grams of fat.

Friendly taste testers helped me out on the next two items. The Quencher for \$3.25 included banana, strawberry, papaya, orange, soy protein, energy powder and electrolytes at 375 calories and .04 grams of fat. Felicia Flintstone sucked this one down and said "Yum, yum—better than a brontosaurus steak!" Regina, Damita and Stephanie all shared the

Creamy & Smooth, a delicious mixture of banana, strawberry, turbinado, fiber, soy protein, non-fat milk and vanilla. At only 275 calories, .04 grams of fat and at \$2.75, I got a three thumbs up! "It wasn't heavy or too sweet like some smoothies can be" said Damita. Regina was one that gave it a "thumbs up sign" and Stephanie, well we all know Stephanie as she quipped "it was soooooo smooth." Thanks to everyone for your assistance in this endeavor.

Chills has everything from A to Z, that's Alfalfa to Zinc! They have extras for you like yohimbe (no, I'm not swearing in Swahili!), fat burners, amino fuels, ginkgo biloba and DHEA. Their hours are 10-9pm Monday thru Saturday and from 11-6pm on Sundays. Like I said, you go girls and tell 'em who sent you! I give Chill's four triangles!



RATING SCALE

▲▲▲▲ Pack my bags, I've died and gone to heaven!
 ▲▲▲ Pack my bags, I think I'm dying!
 ▲▲ Pack my overnight case, I'm only temporary!
 ▲ Forget the bag, call 1-800-PIZZA!





And There You Have It!

By David Richardson

Homo for the Holidays

O.K., I'll be the first to admit it. There is a very special feeling that overcomes me every year at the holiday season. I believe the correct terminology for it is...nausea. I know what you're all thinking. There must be something wrong with David if he doesn't like the holidays. Well, that is very true, but really beside the point. (I was acquitted.)

Look at the whole thing from my point of view. First off, there's this whole business with the decorations that starts in July. On Independence Day, I expect to see Uncle Sam's stars and stripes and red, white and blue everywhere I turn. Santa has no place in my summer. Agreed?

Thanksgiving generally finds me at Luby's giving thanks for not having to cook and wondering why I still haven't sent out the Christmas cards I bought back in July. Speaking of those cards, have any of you noticed that it's getting harder and harder to find the boxes with 1,800 cards for under \$5.00. Now there all designer cards. Why would I want to buy cards (or clothes) with someone else's name or initials on them? Status or stupidity, you be the judge.

Thinking that a great big ol' live tree right in the middle of my living room might put me in a more festive frame of mind, I ran out to the woods and got me one. So, I set it in my house and started flinging decorations at it as if they were Ninja stars, meanwhile, feeling for all the world like Burl Ives as the pudgy snowman singing Silver and Gold (just an obscure movie reference here folks), until something I hadn't counted on started leaping out of the tree at me. Can you say tree squirrels? Can you say rabid? Can you say three weeks in the hospital and numerous shots in the stomach? I knew you could.

I do have a very strange quirk which seems to manifest itself at this time of year. It is that feeling of superiority that overcomes you when you go to the mall and are able to easily pull into an available

parking space that others have driven around trying to find for hours. If you gloat when this happens, know now that you are not alone.

Holiday television movies often give me reason to take animal tranquilizers. Do you really think babies would ever come out of the womb if they knew that for two months of every year for the rest of their natural lives, every television station in creation would endlessly broadcast Frank Capra's *It's A Wonderful Life*? I think not!

Then, of course, there's the family thing. This involves getting together with those you haven't seen in ages (possibly because they are still criticizing your lifestyle and hinting for grandchildren?). Of course, there are some families that get along just fine and are happy. I've never seen one personally, but I guess if I can believe in God and the Easter Bunny, why stop there. Right?

Lastly, let me talk about gifts. Someone once said that "it is the thought that counts." This person was, to put it politely, full of it. To be more accurate, the thought counts if you are given a sports car, a deed to a house or a lot of money. The thought does not count for tickets to a Shaun Cassidy reunion concert, ugly not-in-your-size clothing and subscriptions to magazines you wouldn't even read in a fit of desperation at the doctor's office. The latter is to be excused if the publication in question has one of my columns in it, in which case you should build an altar to it and worship it daily.

So, now you all know that I have joined Scrooge, the Grinch and a long line of others in blasting the holidays. Yet, like them, I may have a change of heart. You can aid in this by sending the sports car keys to me c/o this publication. If you have to send a tacky gift—don't worry, as it will give me something to hurl at the tree squirrels besides my nuts (no—it's too easy, don't go there!). Happy holidays to you and yours...And, there you have it!

Twelfth Night is First Rate

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Cross dressing, gender bending, passion and comedy are usually confined to movies with a modern theme, however the late William Shakespeare may have very well penned this season's most exciting film to deal with these issues to date.

Two fraternal twins, Viola (Imogen Stubbs) and Sebastian (Stephen Mackintosh) are separated during a shipwreck, where they happen to be performing a drag show for entertainment of the passengers. Both end up in country known as Illyria and both believe the other to be dead. Viola disguises herself as a boy in order to serve the Countess Olivia, who is in mourning as her own brother has died. In order to do this, Viola becomes a soldier in the house the Duke Orsini who is relentlessly pursuing the Countess (played by a beautiful Helena Bonham Carter). The Duke sends Viola, now known as "Cesario" to woo the

Countess in his behalf, but somehow the Countess falls in love with Cesario instead. Cesario meanwhile, is having affections for the Count and it sets up one of the most hilarious love triangles in recent years. The hilarity is aided by a marvelous supporting cast which includes Imelda Staunton, Mel Smith, Richard Grant and a surprising comic turn by Ben Kingsley (Ghandi).

Mayhem, merriment and a happy ending result when the brother thought dead arrives at the home of the Countess. Also not to be missed is Nigel Hawthorne (The Madness of King George) as the snooty steward Malvolio who gets his comeuppance at the end of the film.

Not as maudlin or dark as many of the Bard's works, this movie makes one wish the sun would never come up on the Twelfth Night. This movie rates ****.

Volunteers Needed

The Houston Voice has need of a number of people to work on a voluntary basis. Positions include artists, cartoonists, reporters, reviewers, proofreaders (needed on Wednesdays), help with distribution, and various other tasks as needed. We offer a progressive "Out" environment, some job training and a great group of folks to hang out with, besides it will look good on your resume some day to have this work experience. Interested? Contact the Editor, Deborah Bell at 529-8490.



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Homosexual Marriages in Arkansas

By JAMES JEFFERSON

LITTLE ROCK (AP) Moving to follow a new federal law, lawmakers filed legislation Friday that would ban same-sex marriages in Arkansas. The measure was among the first bills pre-filed in the House to be introduced in the Arkansas General Assembly that convenes Jan. 13. Arkansas family law defines marriage as a civil contract between consenting parties. A provision relating to issuing a marriage license to under age persons contain age requirements for the male and female, the only reference to gender. The proposed bill would declare that "marriage shall be only between a man and a woman" and would void marriage between people of the same sex. The state would not recognize same-sex marriages performed out of state by people who move to Arkansas. "What (gays) do in the privacy of their own bedroom is their business, but I don't feel like it's something that I want to recognize as being legal and right" said the lead sponsor, Rep. Doug Kidd, D-Benton. "The state of Arkansas should not recognize that as a marriage." Kidd said the bill is an outgrowth of scores of calls he received from constituents in his central Arkansas district during the hot debate on the federal ban passed by Congress.

The federal legislation, signed by President Clinton in the middle of a night in September, denies federal recognition to homosexual marriages. At the time, he said the bill he was signing "confirms the right of each state to determine its own policy" on same-gender marriage.

Co-sponsors of the Arkansas ban are Reps. Ray Stalnaker, D-Little Rock; Michael Davis, D-Ravenden Springs; Pat Flanagan, D-Forrest City; and Rep-elect Shane Broadway, D-Bryant.

Debra Bailey of the Arkansas Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the state's homosexual community was not surprised by Kidd's bill and would fight it as a matter of social justice.

She said homosexuals "absolutely" have a moral right to marry.

"The basis for the far right is that homosexual behavior is promiscuous and dangerous. Yet we have people who are building families on morals and values who want to live within those moral guidelines," Ms. Bailey said. "Whether or not a person chooses marriage to sanction their relationships, all people should have that right." Ms. Bailey said her organization has about 2000 members statewide, many of whom live in unions performed in private ceremonies that are not recognized legally.

Guidelines for community organizations or individual writers interested in having articles printed in The Houston Voice. Please stop by or send a self-addressed stamped business size envelope to:

Guidelines

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Hostess



Roxanne Lee Love

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SAT	11/23	SATURDAY SHOW at 11:00pm with Roxanne
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Hostess

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Dyan Michaels



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Looney 'Space Jam' Not In Tune

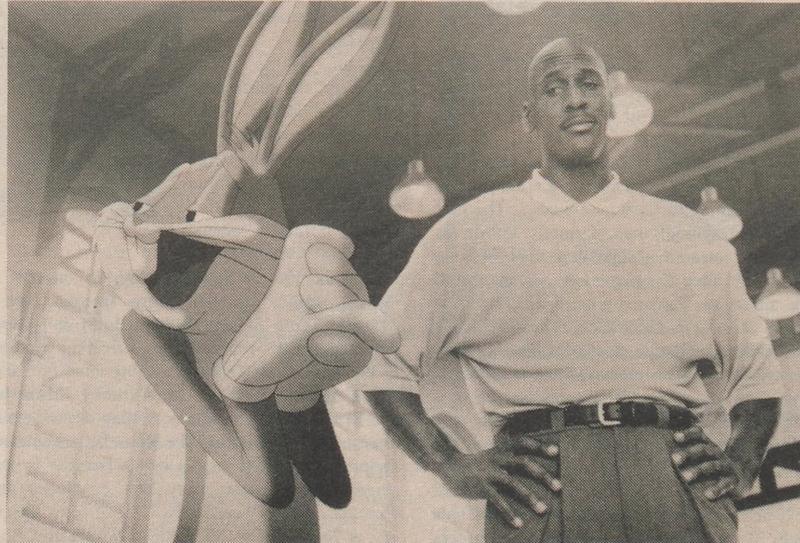
Bugs and Jordan Disappoint

By CHRISTOPHER RUNDQUIST

When Michael Jordan's business manager and personal attorney David Falk, along with his partner Ken Ross, approached Warner Bros. with the concept of having their client star in a feature film with the legendary Looney Tunes characters, Warner Bros. embraced the idea with a fervor. The studio had long been searching for a vehicle for the lucrative "Tunes" franchise. The result is *Space Jam*, which opened nationwide last weekend.

Space Jam is the latest in the line of combination 'animation/live-action' movies that have been released in recent years (i.e. *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Cool World*, etc.) Unfortunately *Space Jam* does not live up to its hyperbolic expectations, critically or commercially. This is somewhat surprising considering the talent behind this production. Produced by Ivan Reitman (*Ghostbusters*, *Twins*), the film was directed by commercial king Joe Pytko and the animation sequences were produced by Cinesite—founded by Ed Jones, who won an Oscar for his work on *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*.

This movie is a pre-sold product that will bring in huge grosses, primarily due to the stunt casting. Michael Jordan is one of the largest sports figures in modern history and the Looney Tunes gang are, arguably, the most popular cartoon personalities in the history of film. In fact the cast of characters are the most impressive thing about this movie. All of



Bugs Bunny and Michael Jordan in *Space Jam*.

the Looney Tunes gang is depicted. Bugs, Daffy, Taz, Tweety & Sylvester, and Porky Pig grace us with their presence in primary roles while the rest of the gang make the requisite cameo appearances. Danny DeVito supplies the voice of Swackhammer (the bad guy) and Billy West (of *Ren & Stimpy* fame) provides the voice of Bugs Bunny. (I will probably never get used to hearing Looney Tunes without the late Mel Blanc doing the voices). The Human characters are led by Michael Jordan (Duh), with Wayne Knight

(Newman on *Seinfeld*) and Theresa Randle in starring roles. The film is laden with cameos including: Bill Murray, Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, Charles Barkley, Muggsey Bogues, Larry Johnson and Shawn Bradley.

The premise of this misguided film can be summarized in brief due to its lack of originality. Seems our man Bugs is in a jam. When the Nerdlocks land on Earth, the tiny space creatures set out to kidnap the Looney Tunes and bring them to their

planet Moron Mountain. Their ruler, Swackhammer, has a theme park that is failing and thinks the gang can solve his dilemma. Bugs decides to challenge the Nerdlocks to a basketball tournament under the condition that if they win, they can stay on Earth and if they lose...well you get the idea. What Bugs did not count on was that the aliens have the ability to siphon some of basketballs greatest talent, hence the aforementioned NBA cameos. Interestingly, the Nerdlocks did not siphon the incomparable Michael Jordan but Bugs did. Once Jordan understands their predicament, he joins their team and the game begins with the Looney Tunes fate in hand.

The problem with this movie, is that it is nothing more than 90 minutes of one liners and basketball highlights. The real crime is that the Looney Tunes were barely used to support the story (which has more to do with the biography of Jordan's career than the battle between Bugs Bunny and the evil space aliens). This movie could have been made using Michael Jordan and the Smurfs and still had the same effect.

Space Jam is mildly amusing and most children and basketball fans will love it. However, if you are a true die-hard purist Looney Tunes fan, this two and a half star film will disappoint you.

Note: Houstonian Chris Rundquist has joined the Houston Voice as a contributing film critic. You can e-mail him at HouVoice@AOL.com.

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Tuesdays: HMBL
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Remember
Our 14th Anniversary
Monday, December 9th
9 pm

* This is not a typo.

<http://www.hic.net/ripcord/journal.htm>

This & That...

by Jon Anthony

Gay actor/comic **Jason Stuart** returns to Houston at the LaffStop this week. Stuart will be performing through this Sunday, Nov. 24. All proceeds from the show will be donated to the AIDS Foundation Houston. Call the Laffstop at 524-2333 for details. Stuart just completed filming on the upcoming *National Lampoon's Vegas Vacation* with **Chevy Chase**. **Suzanne Pleshette** has been signed to portray **Jonathan Silverman's** mother on NBC's hit comedy *The Single Guy* and **Brenda Vaccaro** has been tapped to portray Matt's mom on the networks powerhouse franchise *Friends*. Vaccaro can also be seen in **Barbara Streisand's** new movie *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. **Richard Gere** and the legendary **Sidney Poitier** have been added to the cast of *The Day of the Jackal*. **Bruce Willis** heads the cast in this remake of the 1973 classic. *The Three Tenors* will be arriving in Houston in what promises to be a major concert event. **Luciano Pavarotti**, **Placido Domingo** and **Jose Carreras** will perform live March 16 at the Houston Astrodome. The Broadway revival of the 1975 musical *Chicago* is drawing raves from the critics and generating impressive box-office revenue. Broadway legend **Ann Reinking** and **Bebe Neuwirth** (*Cheers*) helm the show. And the Oscar host this year will be **Billy Crystal**. Sorry Rosie! This marks Crystal's fifth turn as host. The gala show airs March 24. CBS has canceled the low rated **Scott Bakula** romantic spy adventure *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. The network will air specials until Jan. 3 when *JAG* premieres. *JAG* was snagged by CBS after NBC opted not to renew the series last season. ABC has reshuffled its Wednesday night line-up. Beginning Dec. 4, the network will move *Grace Under Fire* to 7pm, followed by *Townies*. *The Drew Carey Show* will anchor the evening at 8pm and *Ellen* will follow at 8:30pm. *PrimeTime Live* remains in its original time period at 9pm. Speculation abounds that by moving *Ellen* to a later



time period, ABC is seriously considering allowing the lesbian plot to unfold. Of all the shows, **Drew Carey** draws the largest viewership and ABC hopes that the rest of the line-up can ride on his coattails. The **Divine Miss M**, **Bette Midler**, will tape a concert event for airing on HBO. *Bette Midler - Diva Las Vegas* will air Jan. 19. Midler is currently on a cross-country tour that is selling to capacity crowds. The wait is over. The symbol man, formerly known as **Prince**, has released a slamming new 36 song compact disc titled *Emancipation*. Advance word on the album has garnered good buzz. The set is available at most music outlets. The first single from the disc is *Betcha By Golly Wow!*. **Tim Allen** will star in the comedy caper *For Richer or Poorer*. The Universal Pictures release, about a New York real estate hustler and his socialite wife who hide out in the Amish community to avoid the IRS, is currently in pre-production. **The Four Tops** will receive the Lifetime Achievement award at next year's Rhythm and Blues Foundation gala on Feb. 27. **Smokey Robinson** and the **Spinners** will be honored with Pioneer Award's among others. **Chaka Khan** is busy penning her autobiography, *I'm Every Woman*, due next year. During the interim Kahn has released a new album *Epiphany: The Best of Chaka Khan, Vol. 1*. *Epiphany* is comprised of 11 classic Chaka tunes and five new songs, including the R&B smash *Missing You* featuring **Brandy**, **Tamia** and **Gladys Knight**, from the soundtrack of the new **Queen Latifah** movie *Set It Off*. *Pre-Madonna* (interact Entertainment Group) will be available Nov. 29. The collection of nine songs **Madonna** recorded in 1981-82 with **Stephen Bray** prior to becoming a national icon can be ordered by calling 800-427-6669. For a sample of cuts you can log on the internet at <http://www.1800harmony.com>. Rocker **Stevie Nicks** is on unfriendly terms with the IRS. Uncle Sam is seeking \$85,887 from Nicks claiming she took improper deductions for makeup



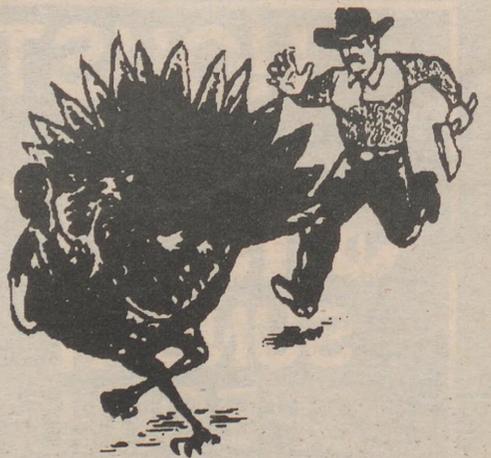
and clothes. **Bob Keeshan** will return as the host of a syndicated children's program next spring. Keeshan was known to the baby boomers as *Captain Kangaroo* for nearly 40 years. **Lena Horne** will be the subject of an upcoming PBS American Masters program. Horne is a legendary chanteuse who confronted racism during her illustrious career from Harlem's Cotton Club through major headliner and film star. **Bob Hope's** final special *Laughing with the Presidents* will air Saturday Nov. 23 on NBC. Guests include co-host **Tony Danza**, **Ann-Margret**, **Tom Selleck**, **Naomi Judd** and **Don Johnson**. CBS offers viewers a riveting remake of the compelling **Truman Capote** tome *In Cold Blood* this Sunday Nov. 24. **Anthony Edwards** and **Eric Roberts** star in this chilling tale of small town tragedy. **Making the Rounds**: A slimmer **Delta Burke** guests on this weeks *Touched by an Angel* in a two-part story that concludes on *Promise Land* on Tuesday Nov. 26 at 7pm. *Angel* airs at 7pm. on Nov. 24. Both shows are on CBS. Burke's husband **Gerald McRaney** stars in *Land, Drew & Mimi* (*The Drew Carey Show*) invade metropolis on an amusing episode of ABC's *Lois & Clark* Sunday Nov. 24 at 7pm. Visiting **Rosie O'Donnell** this week: **Glenn Cloe** and **David Copperfield** (Nov. 25); **Angela Lansbury** (Nov. 26); **Dolly Parton** and **Tyne Daly** (Nov. 27); **Cybill Shepard** and *Rent* star **Adam Pascal** (Nov. 28). **Oprah Winfrey** welcomes **Sylvester Stallone** on Nov. 25 and **Tom Hanks** on Nov. 28. NBC's powerhouse Tuesday night must-see-TV programs has line-up an impressive array of guests for Nov. 26. **Bob Barker** and **Shirley Jones** drop in on *Something So Right*, **Bebe Neuwirth** reprises her role of *Lilith* on *Frasier* and **Judd Hirsch** guests on *Caroline in the City*. **Dolly Parton** visits with **David Letterman** on Nov. 26 at 10:35pm on CBS' Late Show. Soprano **Jessye Norman** chats with **Katie Couric** on NBC's Today Show on Nov. 28



at 7am. **Scott Turow** will be speaking at the Houston Club on Nov. 25 during a luncheon. Call 225-1661, ext. 215 for details. **Top of the Charts**: The hottest selling album is *The Don Killuminati: The 7 Day Theory* by **Makaveli**. *No Diggity* by **Blackstreet** featuring **Dr. Dre** is the hottest single according to Billboard. Exhibitor Relations reports that *Space Jam* rocketed past the competition (**Mel Gibson's Ransom**) to catapult to number one at the box office with \$30 million in gross ticket sales. *Ransom* was second with \$23 million and *The Mirror Has Two Faces* grossed \$12million for third. NBC's *E.R.* was the highest rated show of the week according to the Nielsens Ratings. *The Deep End of the Ocean* by **Jacquelyn Michard** is the #1 book on the fiction chart and *The Soul's Code* by **James Hillman** tops the non-fiction list on The New York Times best-seller list. **Quote of the Week**: "What does she have to do? I think she's got showmanship, she's beautiful, she can sing. It's almost like everybody is jealous of her success and I don't like that." - **Reba McEntire** on **Shania Twain**, one of her contemporaries, not getting the award recognition she deserves despite selling 10 million copies of her debut album.



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Rainbow Reader

By JONE DEVLIN

In "Going Down" by Jennifer Belle we are introduced to a year or so in the life of Bennington Bloom. Bennington is 27 years old, Jewish, and a child of divorced parents who is obsessed with her weight, her lack of a boyfriend and living in New York. She isn't getting along with her father, doesn't want to be around her mother, and has no use for her brother. Meanwhile her second semester at NYU is coming up, and with it a \$9000 bill. So what's a girl to do? Become a hooker of course!

It all starts when Bennington sees an ad in the Village Voice requesting COEDS. She decides to apply, telling herself she will be a "non sexual escort" and besides, she really really really needs money, and fast.

Meanwhile, her gay roommate has just robbed his latest trick (a standard practice with him) and Bennington decides she's had enough. So, after spending the night in the bottom of a pool with some homeless people she knows, she cons a friend from school into letting her stay in her dorm room over Christmas vacation and becomes an "escort." Things go well at first. She doesn't mind the work, loves the money and earns enough to pay for her entire NYU semester in cash. Then the proprietress of the business decides Bennington is after her husband and fires her on her birthday no less.

At first she is optimistic, but soon money worries take over. We quickly learn that the reason Bennington needs so much money is that she spends so much money. She decides to join a "house" this time around, a place that proves to be not nearly as classy as the

escort service. She has her doubts, but she really really really needs the money and fast, so decides to stick it out. Finally after putting up with all kinds of abuse from the owner and her assistant, as well as finding herself involved in scenes that are too wild even for her, she gives up and moves on determined to get herself a "legitimate" job and to stay away from hooking for good this time.

But it seems no matter what happens, Bennington, by nature a con artist, can't seem to stay away from the business. Trips to Martha's Vineyard with a lesbian artist friend, working in an off Broadway show, seeing a psychologist, and falling madly in love with a rich country squire who is making definite noises about marriage are not enough to keep Bennington from the world's oldest profession, even as she keeps repeating her mantra that as soon as she saves enough money she'll quit for good.

Eventually her true love finds out about what she really does for a living and dumps her. She is depressed, she is devastated, she quits. ...she ends up meeting another man, and wondering to herself what she is going to do for funds since she really really really needs money and fast.

Packed with a cast of truly unforgettable characters and situations (all as seen and lived through the irrepressible Bennington) "Going Down" is not a book that you will forget easily. Especially since Belle writes about New York and it's people in a way only a native can.

Hilarious, sad, sometimes poignant and occasionally depressing, "Going Down" is a wonderful story and a lot like real life.

Controversial Film Hits Houston

Zelinsky's *FUN* Plays This Weekend

By DAVID RICHARDSON

The Rice Media Center will present the controversial new film, *FUN*, by Rafael Zelinsky. The film centers on Hillary and Bonnie (played by Alicia Witt and Renee Humphrey, respectively), two teenage girls who embark on a crime spree which includes murdering an elderly woman. Not your typical female buddy movie, this film deals with issues that border homicidal, homosocial and homosexual.

The action takes place in the suburbs of

Los Angeles, California, where the two troubled teens meet. After sharing mutual adolescent anguish and angst, the pair vent their frustrations in an increasingly violent manner throughout the film. This movie has received critical acclaim from many sources including The Sundance Film Festival, the Village Voice, the Washington Post and many more. Congratulations to the Rice Media Center for being willing to take a chance on subject matter not necessarily considered mainstream and shunned by traditional theater outlets. *Fun* will be shown this weekend only. Times are as follows: Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23 at 7:30pm and 9:30pm. Sunday, Nov. 24 at 7:30pm.

Welcome New Advertisers!

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

The Houston Voice welcomes the Fitness Exchange and Psychic Predictions by Dora to our family of advertisers. We welcome back to our family Niko Niko's, Heights Above Florist, and Java Java Cafe

The Fitness Exchange is opening a Montrose location in a few weeks. They are offering a buy one-get one free grand opening special. They have tons of new equipment. Check out their ad on the back page of this issue.

Let Dora's 35 years experience and accuracy unravel the secrets, arts, and mysteries of Psychic phenom-

enons answering all your questions on love, relationship, and career. Check out Dora's ad on page 25. Niko Niko's, a Montrose favorite invites you to do something warm and fuzzy for the holidays! Bring in a blanket or coat to be donated to the Star of Hope and you will receive 25% off your delicious meal at Niko Niko's. Check out their ad on page 2.

Java Java Cafe and Heights Above Florist is nestled in the Heights at 911 W. 11th. The atmosphere is delightful with all the plants and flowers. Check out their ad on page 25.

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Wed. 8:30am - Fri. 10am
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Church Calendar of Events

Friday-11/22

- * "Your Sacred Self" study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533
- * Catholic Mass at 10:00 am. Kolbe Project 522-8182

Saturday-11/23

- * Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.

Sunday-11/24

- * Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 am Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 am at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756
- * MCCR worship services 9:00 am & 11:00 am 861-9149
- * Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429
- * Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269
- * First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200
- * Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872
- * Community Gospel worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm. SERVICE IN NEW LOCATION, 4305 LILLIAN 880-9235
- * Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225
- * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School at 10:00 am 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am
- * Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830
- * Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 am Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017
- * Church of the XII Apostles worship service at 10:00 am. Chapel of the Santana Funeral

Home, 5352 Katy Freeway. 665-7903.

Monday-11/25

- * Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182
- * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-11/26

- * MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149
- * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- * HIV Affected group meets at 7:00 pm. Judy or Pam at 880-9235; HIV Infected group meets at 7:00 pm. Catherine or Robert at 880-9235. At Community Gospel.
- * Maranatha Fellowship MCC has home groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.

Wednesday 11/27

- * MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149
- * Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429
- * MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149
- * "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.
- * "Coming Out to Yourself" at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.

Thursday-10/28

- * Advent Service at the Kolbe Project at 7:30.
 - * Bible Study 7:00 pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429
 - * Community Gospel midweek service 7:30 pm 880-9325
- If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490.

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GLAAD *lines*

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

GLAAD Honors Corporate Leaders With Fairness Awards

On Tuesday, Nov. 19 at Noon, GLAAD will honor HBO's Sheila Nevins and the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom with its first Fairness Awards, established to honor a long-term commitment to fairness by leading supporters of equal rights nationwide. The Awards will be presented during a luncheon at the Rainbow Room. "The tireless work of Sheila Nevins and the attorneys of Skadden, Arps clearly shows how our nation's corporate and cultural landscape has grown to embrace all Americans-including lesbians and gay men," said Peggy Brady, Co-Chair of GLAAD's Board of Directors. "GLAAD's Fairness Awards honor them with recognition from their peers and the public at large for their work to end intolerance and bigotry and to promote fairness." For more information contact Alan Klein (GLAAD) at (212) 807-1700.

Illinois Governor Forbids Anti-Gay Discrimination

On Nov. 13, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar issued an Administrative Order forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all employment decisions of Illinois state agencies. "This policy sends a strong message that discrimination against anyone, including gays and lesbians, is not acceptable," said Rick Garcia, Director of the Illinois Federation for Human Rights, a statewide organization for lesbian and gay civil rights. "This demonstrates that the governor recognizes that a discrimination-free workplace is a productive workplace." The Order is expected to help significantly in the effort to pass a bill against anti-gay discrimination in the state. For more information contact Rick Garcia (Illinois Federation for Human Rights) at (217) 544-3401.

Dornan's Re-Election Bid...a "B-1" Bomb

After his GOP presidential nomination bid crash landed, virulently anti-gay Representative Bob Dornan (R-Calif.) now finds himself being ambushed in his own backyard. Latina business consultant Loretta Sanchez, formerly a Republican but now a conservative Democrat, has claimed victory in the neck-and-neck struggle for Dornan's Orange County seat in the House of Representatives. Her lead has fluctuated since Nov. 12 between 700 and near 1000 votes, with only a few thousand provisional ballots left to count. "For 20 years, Dornan has just been a thorn in so many people's sides—homophobic, attacking the environment, attacking everything," said Bob Mullholland, policy advisor to the California Democratic party. Dornan, for his part, is reportedly

charging voter fraud, and suspects large numbers of non-citizens voted. He is demanding an investigation into the matter. Final county results will be announced by Nov. 26. For more information contact David Smith (Human Rights Campaign) at (202) 628-4160.

Virginia College Activists Rally As School Reconsiders Gay Center

Today, Nov. 18, students at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia, held a rally to support the formation of a lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender resource center. Citing Virginia's sodomy law, the GMU Board of Visitors voted on Sept. 18 to withhold a previously approved \$15,000 in funding for the center. The Board of Visitors will reconsider their vote to pull funding at the next Board meeting on Nov. 20. After the last vote, Board rector Marvin Murray stated that, "the activities of these (gay) people are illegal in Virginia. ...The University ought not to be spending resources supporting that sort of activity." For more information contact Beth Armitage (GMU) at (703) 993-2851 or e-mail: barm-itag@osf1.gmu.edu.

L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center Celebrates 25 Years

The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center is holding its 25th Anniversary Ball on Nov. 23, to celebrate 25 years of service to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. At the event, the Center will also honor Elton John and MTV President Judy McGrath with its highest honor, the Rand Schrader Distinguished Achievement Award. They will be presented by Elizabeth Taylor and Courtney Love respectively. The award recognizes an outstanding individual for courageously championing gay and lesbian equality, significantly promoting gay and lesbian health and/or greatly enhancing the visibility of lesbian and gay people. Over 1500 supporters and celebrities are expected to attend the gala event. For more information contact Jim Key or Mike Ausiello (The Center) at (213) 860-7357.

To report events that merit media coverage, or news stories breaking in your area, please contact us. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is the nation's lesbian & gay news bureau and the only national lesbian & gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. To subscribe contact Don Romesburg at (415) 861-2244 or at romesburg@glaad.org. "GLAAD" and "Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation" are trademarks of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Inc.

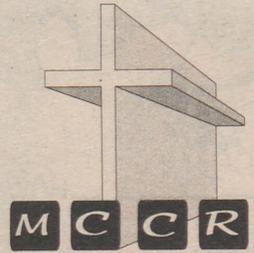
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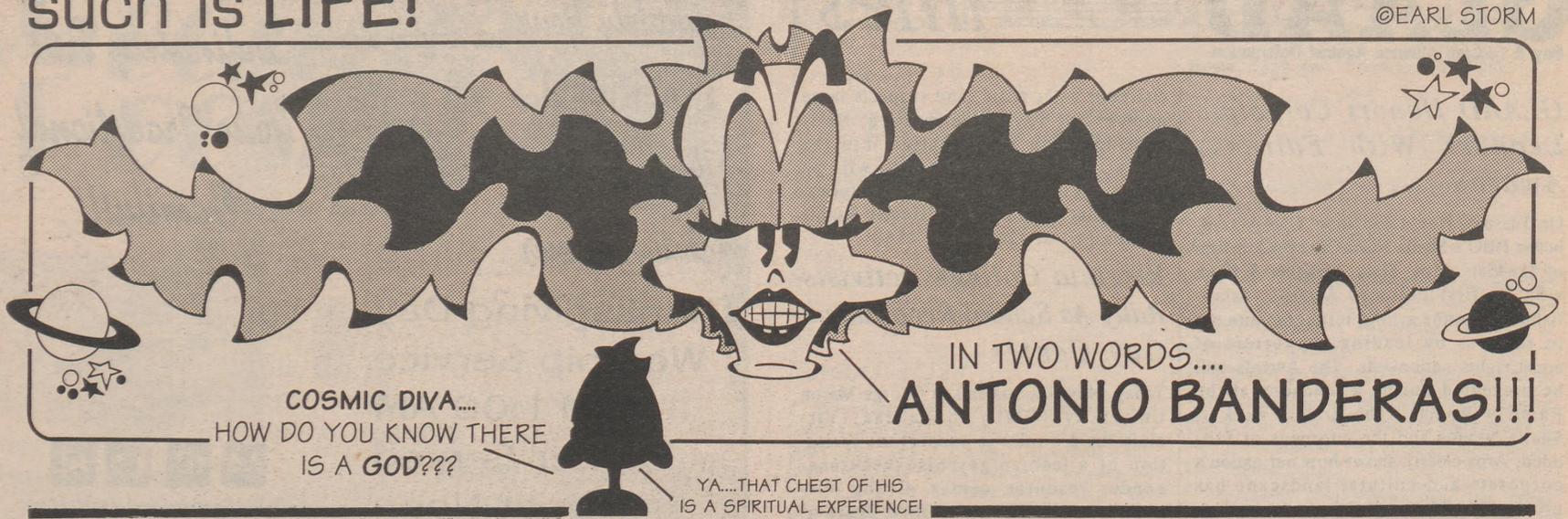
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Community Calendar

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

Friday, Nov. 22

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 782-6066.
- * HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * 12-step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * AIDS Mastery workshop starts. 861-6453.
- * Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: USSR/CIS Cinema at 7:30 pm. 639-7515.

Saturday, Nov. 23

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 am to 3:00 am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 am. 583-8408.
- * Autumn's Seasons Bondage Club discussion group meets at 10:30 am. 788-5593.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Night of the Filmmakers (Die Nacht Der Regisseure) at 7:30 pm. 639-7515.

Sunday, Nov. 24

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.
- * FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing. 523-6381.

Monday, Nov. 25

- * Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 pm. 861-6181.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 pm. 529-1223.
- * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 pm. 539-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose

- Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.
- * Gay and Lesbian readers group meets at Barnes and Nobles at 7:00 pm. 349-0050.

Tuesday, Nov. 26

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 pm. 495-8009.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 pm. 488-4492.
- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- * PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 pm. 520-7870.
- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.
- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30 pm. 778-2677.

- * FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
- * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- * "Sex or No Sex" workshop at 6:30 pm by AVES. 626-2837.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

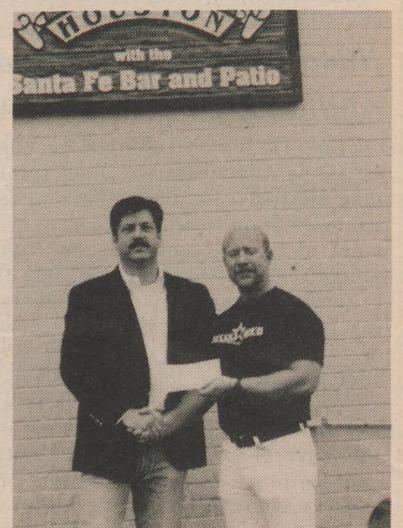
- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 pm. 537-1348.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 pm. 743-7539.
- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7:00 pm. 867-9581.
- * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skate at 8:00 pm. 933-5818.
- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group

- for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.
- * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 782-4050.
- * Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call 520-2000.
- * AVES offers free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- * Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.

Thursday, Nov. 28

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Art Labs at The Art League at 1:00 pm. 225-9411
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 pm. 521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 pm. 315-6786.
- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. 866-6505.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.
- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 pm. 528-3704.
- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 pm. 942-0923.
- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 pm. 796-2272.
- * Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 pm. 782-4050
- * Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 pm. 738-RACE.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.
- * Free HIV Testing and Counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's. 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.
- * The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.
- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's. 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.

Be Safe!



Charles Armstrong (left) presents a check to a Q-Patrol Representative

And Thanks To Q-Patrol

By SCOTT LEWIS

As we approach the holiday season the staff and management of your family of clubs at 800 Pacific and Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc., would like to remind each of you to please pay extra attention to your personal safety during this hectic time. Charles Armstrong Investments Inc., Heaven, J.R.'s Bar and Grill, The Santa Fe Bar and Patio and the Montrose Mining Company are proud to offer in memory of Paul Broussard and Michael Burzinski, a \$1,000 contribution to the Q-Patrol.

We take this opportunity to honor the memory of Paul Broussard and Michael Burzinski who were murdered by young men who came into our community of Montrose targeting their crimes at Lesbians and Gay men. We also say Thank You to the men and women of Q-Patrol who walk our streets in an attempt to make Montrose a safer place to live or visit. Contact: Scott Lewis, Promotions Director, Charles Armstrong Investments Inc. (713) 521-0107.

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PAST/OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Mishima of Japan—Gay Novelist

Nov. 25, 1970 (26 years ago this month): Openly gay Japanese novelist. Yukio Mishima commits ritual suicide with his lover at a Japanese military headquarters.

Yukio Mishima was one of Japan's most popular 20th century novelists, whose writings include some of the first modern Japanese explorations of gay identity and gay subculture. His disturbing suicide in 1970 drew attention to his unusual philosophy, which combined right-wing nationalism with the veneration of the male body and a fascination with violence.

Mishima was intensely proud to have descended from samurai warriors, and he aimed to make his life follow that of the ideal Japanese warrior, with a finely honed sense of both the martial and the fine arts. Although he generally looked down upon anything non-Japanese, even as a student he was a fan of the essays of the previous century's gay literary savant, British writer Oscar Wilde.

Perhaps his most famous—and certainly his most personal—novel was *Confessions of a Mask*. Published in 1949, it told of a boy's growing awareness of both his homosexuality and his fascination with sadomasochism. The protagonist's inability to make himself aroused by his girlfriend puzzled many post-war Japanese readers, some of whom considered the book to be an attempt at parody. Few recognized (until years later) its autobiographical nature—Japan's first "coming out novel."

Two years later, Mishima published *Forbidden Colors*, a second novel with gay themes. This one, however, had a broader setting, introducing its readers to the diverse gay subculture in 1950s Tokyo, with its bars, cruising spots, and gay parties. One of the main characters is a gay man who uses a younger man to wreak vengeance on women who wronged him in the past.

During the 1960s, Mishima continued to write, and to develop the philosophy that ultimately led to his violent death. He believed that the emperor was central to Japanese society, and indeed that no two people could love each other without first loving the emperor. He also believed that to live with honor meant to be prepared for war, to be unafraid of violence, and to be intensely loyal to one's colleagues.

Sometimes, these beliefs had bizarre manifestations. In 1967, Mishima led

a ceremony for about a dozen university students in which all of them drew blood from their little fingers and poured it into a cup. They then used the blood as ink to sign their names to a pact. The ceremony finished with Mishima adding salt to the cup and drinking from the blood, after which each of the other students followed suit.

In his writing, Mishima frequently praised the Japanese samurai who ended their own lives by performing seppuku (also known as hara-kiri), a ritual form of suicide in which the warrior takes a short knife and disembowels himself, after which a fellow warrior cuts off his head. It became clear to many who read his works (which by the late 1960s were among the most celebrated of any Japanese writings) that Mishima hoped to end his own life someday in such a fashion. Seppuku was clearly erotic for Mishima, who once called it (just months before his death) "the ultimate masturbation."

However, Mishima felt that ritual suicide was not honorable unless one's body was in peak physical condition. Though he was skinny as a young man, he started a strict regimen of bodybuilding at age 30, which he continued through his death at age 45, by which time he was extremely muscled. With such a body, Mishima posed for many erotic photographs and even acted in a Japanese gangster film.

But Mishima is probably best remembered for the last day of his life. On Nov. 25, 1970, along with some of his right-wing nationalist followers, he stormed a Japanese military headquarters (the army was then called the "Japan Self-Defense Force") and demanded to speak to the troops outside. When they assembled, he exhorted them to rise up and overthrow Japan's postwar pacifist regime and replace it with a government that once again emphasized military might. When the troops laughed at and heckled Mishima he returned to an office inside, where he shouted his undying loyalty to the emperor and proceeded to cut open his abdomen with his sword. His protege (widely believed to be his lover), Masakatsu Morita, then cut off Mishima's head and committed seppuku himself.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

Woman Loses HIV Negligence Suit

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) A Victoria woman who contracted the AIDS virus through unsuccessful artificial insemination has lost her civil suit against the Vancouver doctor who performed the procedure. Kobe ter Neuzen now fears she could lose the home she bought with an interim payment from the doctor's insurance company. It was the second time she had sued Dr. Gerald Korn of Vancouver for negligence. "I don't think this is so-called justice, but that's what the system does," ter Neuzen said after the verdict. "I'm entirely disappointed. It's not right, but that's how the system works."

A British Columbia Supreme Court jury decided Thursday that so little was known about AIDS in early 1985 that Korn was not negligent. Ter Neuzen underwent artificial insemination by Korn from 1981 through 1985. During her last treatment, in Jan. 1985, she received sperm from a donor who had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ter Neuzen, 51, tested positive for HIV in Nov. 1985 but has not yet developed AIDS. She originally won \$883,800 when she sued Korn in 1991, accusing him of using insuffi-

cient methods for screening his sperm donors. Korn appealed, but in the interim, his insurance company was ordered to give ter Neuzen \$200,000 as an advance against a successful claim at the retrial.

She used the money to buy a home she says is a key in dealing with being HIV positive. "It's the healing environment for me that supports my thinking about this particular virus, the house and the garden, the serenity," she said. The B.C. Court of Appeal overturned the 1991 award, saying the B.C. Supreme Court jury's reasons for finding negligence were not clear. A new trial was ordered. The Supreme Court of Canada upheld the appeal ruling, rejecting ter Neuzen's argument that Korn should have known in Jan. 1985 about the risk of transmitting HIV through artificial insemination. Because the jury at the retrial ruled there was no negligence, the insurance company could ask ter Neuzen to repay the advance. There was no word from the insurance company Thursday. Ter Neuzen's lawyer, Sandra Harper, said an appeal is being considered.

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SPORTS NOTES

Rainbow Fish

The **Rainbow Fishing Club's** first party will be held at the 611 Hyde Park Pub on Friday, Nov. 22 from 7-9pm. Everyone is invited. On Sunday, Nov. 24, weather permitting, the club will go fishing out of Galveston on the 70-foot deluxe deep sea cruiser, *Texsun II*. The cost for the twelve-hour trip is \$60 per person. Call John at 523-6381 for reservations.

On Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2pm, there will be a Fish Fry at the 611 Club. Everyone is welcome to come sample the catch.

Being planned for 1997 are a camping & fishing trip to Huntsville State Park & Raven Lake (Crappie, Bass, Catfish, Sunfish), a fishing trip for Rainbow Trout on the Guadalupe River and a Matagorda Bay trip for Redfish & Speckled Trout, plus numerous deep sea trips out of Galveston & Freeport.

The club is adopting the "Loving Arms Foundation" as the club's charity. Fund raisers will be planned in the future.

Turkey Skate

The **Lambda Rollerskating Club** will be skating on Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 8-10pm at Starlite Skating Academy, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is \$5 plus \$1.50 if you need skates. Inline skates are welcome.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please call 787-0625 or e-mail lrsc@neosoft.com, or visit their web page at <http://www.neosoft.com/lrsc/>

Women's Flag Football

The **Houston Women's Flag Football League (HWFFL)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for women to play football. They are still looking for players, coaches, referees, cheerleaders and league/team sponsors. Play began on Oct. 5 and continues through Feb. 1st, 1997. Four games are played on Saturdays from 9am until 1pm at Wilson Elementary School, located on Fairview, between Mandell and Yupon. On Sundays at 4pm, the league shows the videotapes of the games at Ms. B's, located on Buffalo Speedway. For info call Tonya Medrano at 315-9368.

Bowling Stats

The **Montrose Monday Night Men's League** reports Division I Standings in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are Beat the Meat Again, Dog Tired, and Pinheads. In Division II, Thirsty Wives Club, Spank My Feet

and Pearlized Sisters occupy the top spots. High Scratch game of 266 and High Handicapped game was bowled by Ralph Sikes. High Scratch Series of 705 and high handicapped series was bowled by Tom O'Dell. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9pm on Monday. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The **Inner Loop Sunday Evening League** reports Please Don't Eat the Daisy in 1st, We Go There Too in 2nd and The Four Tops in 3rd. High Scratch Game of 240 handicapped game was bowled by Allen Barrett for the men. High Scratch series of 632 and Handicapped Series was bowled by David Furlong. For the women Dian Thomason bowled High Scratch Game of 215 and series of 577. Margaret Dennison bowled High Handicapped Game and Gayle Newcomb series. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7pm on Sunday.

The **Wednesday Night Mixers** reports Gutter Bumper in 1st with Party Line and We Come When You Call in 2nd and 3rd. For the men High Scratch game of 235 and series of 644 by Tom O'Dell. Allen Barrett bowled High Handicapped Game. For the women, Nancy Wintle bowled High Scratch Game of 187 and High Handicapped Game. Lynn Kelley bowled High Scratch Series and Handicapped Series. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30pm on Wednesday.

The **Monday Night Women's League** bowls at 6:15pm at AMF Southway on Mondays. Balls R Out is in 1st with Bitches in Beautiful Shirts in 2nd, TAZ Club in 3rd and M Power in 4th. For info call Pat 437-6218.

Ranglers Dance

The **Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club**, a 501(c)(3) charity, is pleased to announce the Rangler Holiday Show will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 8pm at the Brazos River Bottom. A fund raiser for Steven's House, the show will feature the award-winning Rainbow Ranglers Dance Team and many special guests. Anyone wishing to be a financial underwriter for this event may contact Rainbow Ranglers at 880-0670.

HMBL Standings

The **Houston Metropolitan Billiards League, Inc. (HMBL)** reports the top five teams for Week 5. They are Ripcord Maniacs, Oui Cousins, Jackson 5, J.R.'s Cue Crew and Crazy 8's.

The top five players for the week are Larry Lentz, John Bowen, Chuck Willman, Kenneth Keener & Ken Bailey. For info call 299-8969.

GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22 - 28, 1996



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You usually prefer to follow the logical path rather than trusting your intuition. However, your intuition can enhance your accuracy about situations when you team it with reason. Whether you admit it or not, you have experienced intense psychic moments, which may make you a bit uneasy.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) It's a great week to improve relationships, particularly within the family. This may be the opportune time to reach out to someone who looks up

to you, possibly a child. Be alert to all money opportunities, postponing any major decisions for now.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) You are looking and feeling your best, so use this positive energy to your advantage - get out and accomplish things. Communications with others go well - you are a mind-reader with all around you. Tensions elsewhere may find you taking it out on a loved one.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Make it a point of getting chores and errands out of the way earlier, because it looks like rest, relaxation and partying is in store for later. Be aware of the helpful insights surrounding you, rapid advancement at work may be a result of heeding suggestions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Personal financial planning is favored. Your intuition is sharpened concerning money matters. You may run into an intense blow-out with a mate or lover - keep your cool, things will straighten out rather quickly. Spend some time by yourself.

LEO (July 24- August 23) It will be a busy week for you. Hard work on your part will bring you closer to your career and personal goals. Be supportive of family members, someone is going through a tough time. Resolve financial concerns you have now, before things get out of hand.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) You are eager to help out wherever needed, but avoid those who manipulate your actions. Be sure that your efforts go to a good cause. Enjoy a break from the routine for a couple days. Luck will find you with extra dollars you weren't expecting at all.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) You are ready to conquer any obstacles this week. It may not be a bad idea to spend some time alone, because your criticisms of others may get you in deep water. It's hard to concentrate, and day-dreaming won't hurt - unconscious messages have practical value.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) This week finds you in tune with your lover or mate, which makes for great fun and accomplishments for the next several days. It looks quite favorable for you to move closer to your goals. If people at work don't argue with you, they will argue around you - keep a low profile.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) You need to get away from your hectic routine to be alone with your thoughts. Be confident of success in business dealings. Avoid any unpleasant financial surprises by going over matters to clear up any discrepancies. You can reach a meeting of minds with opponents.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) A friend challenges you to break out of your shell and promote yourself for advancement. Maybe it's time - trust yourself and you'll be happier in the long run. A great career opportunity presents itself, and you'll move ahead without upsetting anyone.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) It's hard to avoid confrontations. Someone you have recently befriended may turn on you. It'll be better to remain silent than be drawn into unnecessary arguments. Travel is favored for the next several weeks. If involved in litigation, expect to win.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Career advancement seems effortless, so pursue your most cherished goal. Co-workers will welcome your great ideas. It may be a good idea to spend a little bit of time on your own, getting back in touch with yourself. Resolve differences that are putting distance between you and a loved one.

The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

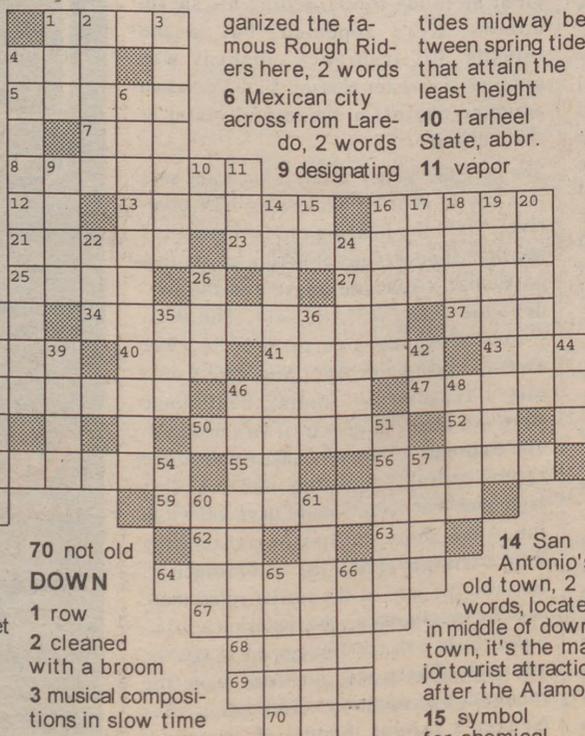
By Henry McClurg
ACROSS

- 1 Occupational Safety & Health Administration
- 4 beheld or espied
- 5 scene
- 7 small dog with snub nose
- 8 putting up an ante
- 12 direction Texas to Indiana, abbr.
- 13 popular pieces of music for a singer
- 16 fortune-telling playing card
- 21 edible roots of a tropical plant
- 23 Texas 1st colonial capital had 200th birthday salute to Stephen

- F. Austin in 1993, 2 words
- 25 gem with delicate colors
- 27 deer horn
- 28 Texas county with Morton as seat; sounds like 'cock ran'
- 34 city Houston Oilers are working on moving to
- 37 before
- 38 W. Africa country with Monrovia as capital
- 40 the edge
- 41 continues
- 43 time zone of 99 percent of Alas. not during daylight savings, abbr.
- 45 used to coax pigs to run at

- Houston Rodeo
- 46 major seaports in Texas, most in the nation
- 47 shut out; forbid
- 49 former French coin
- 50 Tchikovsky, Ustinov & Graves
- 52 Spanish for 'the'
- 53 U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, former San Antonio mayor
- 55 Beehive State, abbr.
- 56 famous for roses, area nurseries propagate more than half the nation's field-grown rose bushes
- 58 French mas-

- culine pronoun
- 59 insolent; bold
- 62 Keystone State, abbr.
- 63 late comedian
- enne Ball, initials
- 64 site where the first Congress of the Republic of Texas met
- 67 seized & pinched
- 68 male horse for breeding
- 69 small particle



- ganzed the famous Rough Riders here, 2 words
- 6 Mexican city across from Laredo, 2 words
- 9 designating

- tides midway between spring tides that attain the least height
- 10 Tarheel State, abbr.
- 11 vapor

- element tin
- 16 principle of belief
- 17 computer keyboard key next to the space bar
- 18 anger
- 19 usable; suitable for surgery
- 20 Mother ?????? awarded honorary American citizenship Nov. 16, 1996
- 22 dashed
- 24 more false
- 26 unit of electrical resistance
- 29 a version of 'ole'
- 30 organized labor group that merged with A.F.L. in 1955
- 31 entertainers Belafonte or Bogart, initials
- 32 spring back
- 33 awaken from sleep
- 35 female kin
- 36 wash

- 39 African tropical tree
- 42 Coyote State, abbr.
- 44 put to a test
- 46 medieval political order
- 48 snakelike fishes
- 49 Palmetto State, abbr.
- 51 having little emotion
- 54 initials of Texas city that is home of the Alamo
- 57 city in north central Calif.
- 60 on
- 61 calculate
- 65 Texas county with Rankin as seat; sounds like 'up ton'
- 66 to wet with dew

TheaterLab Houston Presents a Well Performed 'john & jen'

By RICH ARENSCHIEDT

TheaterLab Houston, purveyor of small but spicy theatrical performances from off the beaten track has provided us with a slightly more traditional offering, *john & jen*. This musical by playwright Andrew Lipa premiered in 1995 and was originally produced at the Goodspell Opera House. It offers us an interesting 'generational retrospective' of the lives of a brother sister duo during the 1960's.

Given its intimate setting, TheaterLab has always been 'spatially challenged' with regard to the size and scope of works it presents. It has, for the most part, surmounted these obstacles and at the same time produced good quality regional theater. The recent presentation of Brad Frazier's 'Poor Superman' was one of the latest triumphs in the 'art over space' dilemma.

john & jen faces a slightly more quixotic challenge. The work itself is perfect for the physical plant of this 'way off Wortham Center venue' but needs emotional room for its own textual substance to move around in. Fortunately the team of Paul Nicely (*john*) and Elizabeth Byrd (*jen*) give the play that added space and impact.

Central to *john & jen* is the nature of the relationship maturation process shared amongst siblings and, to a lesser degree, parents. This is explored musically (and there is a lot of music) in numerous ways. As the two characters youthfully discover themselves (and each other) we are embraced by clever libretto and tune; first from the sweet introductory lullaby moving to a humorous 'ode to adolescent sibling loathing' and then, finally, on to the more serious and mature relational representations.

The two actor/musicians involved are



john (Paul Nicely) & *jen* (Elizabeth Byrd).

the strongest draw of the evening. Both possess strong, clear and expressive voices that handle everything from childlike innocence to adult rage with confidence. Their ensemble works well and they compliment each other vocally across the musical and dramatic range of the play. There is extensive singing in *john & jen* and they offer it to us convincingly. Dramatically, director Jimmy Phillips has done a good job at keeping the audience interested in the stage action, and in so doing, has kept the actors hopping. The machinations of the two 'youngsters' made me smirk at their realness. Particularly goofy are the spastic superhero-like antics of the little brother *john* paired with the false maternalness of his older sister.

john & jen turns serious however, as the characters grow up and the issues they confront become more complex. Some of these issues are hinted at and then more fully explored as the show progresses. The two siblings continue to seek parental approval (even though the parents, much like the central character in Horton Foote's

The Young Man From Atlanta, never materialize) and much of their energy is focused on obtaining it. There is also an extensive and witty political commentary as brother and sister take opposing viewpoints on the Vietnam war and other issues specific to the 1960's and early 1970's.

Paul Nicely and Elizabeth Byrd as *john* and *jen* offer us an interesting glimpse of sibling/parental life at a time in history when authority was in direct juxtaposition with personal freedom. Their portrayals serve to focus the movement and message of *john & jen*.

john & jen runs weekends through Dec. 22nd. For tickets please call (713) 868-7516.

Theater LaB Houston & Bunnies on the Bayou cosponsor Benefit

Day Without Art

Theater LaB Houston and Bunnies on the Bayou will cosponsor a special benefit performance of short plays on Sunday, Dec. 1st at 6pm and Monday Dec. 2nd at 8pm with proceeds from the performances benefiting THE NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON.

Sunday, Dec. 1, 1996, Day Without Art is the 8th International Day of Action and Mourning in Response to the AIDS Crisis. Organized by Visual AIDS and thousands of other cultural institutions, Day Without Art's goal is to increase AIDS awareness and education, mourn the community's losses, acknowledge AIDS caregivers and activists and initiate action to care for people living with AIDS.

Under its banner NEW VISIONS/NEW WORKS, which spotlights Houston playwrights, Theater LaB Houston presents Houston playwrights' response to the AIDS epidemic in four 10 minute playlets. This is the fourth annual Day Without Art event in which Theater LaB Houston has commissioned Houston playwrights. Theater LaB Houston is the only Houston theater company to annually produce an entire program in observance of Day Without Art. This year's event

includes TIME by Sam Havens. Park Bench by Gary Laird. Ed Muths' Wrong Way and May I Have This Dance? written by Dana S. Colson. In addition, this year's program will include a special workshop production of a new musical—The Weekend When Pon Met Perry, book and lyrics by Gerald Blaise LaBita and music by Mary Carol Warwick.

Proceeds from this evening will go to the NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON which is dedicated to using the AIDS Memorial Quilt to help bring an end to the AIDS epidemic, by providing a creative means for remembrance and healing. The Quilt is used to increase public awareness of AIDS and assist with HIV prevention education and to illustrate the enormity of the AIDS epidemic. Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc. is a volunteer Texas non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization established to support local charitable, educational, cultural and scientific purposes with particular emphasis on AIDS service and support organizations.

Proceeds from the evening will go to THE NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON, tickets are \$15, and are available by calling 868-7516. Theater LaB Houston is located at 1706 Alamo, off the 21 00 block of Houston Ave. Secure parking is provided, and the theater is handicap accessible.

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NATION/WORLD

Britt Says a Four-Letter Word

In the Nov. 1 edition of the Washington Post, columnist Donna Britt described coming to terms with her own homophobia and the realization that when straight people call gay people "them," it is the same as white people calling black people "them" to distance themselves from the basic humanity of others. The column details the discomfort that she and those around her felt upon seeing the Melissa Etheridge/Julie Cypher "Having A Baby" Newsweek cover, and how many people simply shrug and say, "I just don't understand them." Britt notes, "As a black woman, I know about 'them.' The ultimate four-letter word, 'them' has unrivaled, unrecognized power to separate. It's the them thing, the easy thing, the thing that makes us feel wary of, or superior to, faceless folks whom we don't know." She continues, "Just as many whites know better than to confess their ongoing struggle with racist feelings, few people publicly discuss their sense of gays as 'them.' Instead, we feign enlightenment, make whispered jokes, or say nothing." She then describes several lesbian and gay people she has known, loved and respected in her life, and how, when it comes to a personal friend, the feeling of "them" doesn't exist. Britt sums up by saying, "Whoever they are, they're a lot like us, doing what they must for love in an us-against-them world."

Please commend the Washington Post

for a heartfelt, honest and thoughtful discussion of how personal feelings of discomfort can translate into societal discrimination. Contact: Leonard Downie, Editor-In-Chief, The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC, 20071, e-mail: webnews@washpost.com.

Sparks Fly: Education 1, Stereotypes 0

Last week the new UPN (Universal Paramount Network) sitcom Sparks, starring James Avery and Robin Givens, took a comical swipe at all brands of stereotypes. On its Nov. 11 episode entitled "Good for the Gander," African-American attorney Maxey Sparks (Miguel A. Nunez, Jr.) crudely attempts to turn-on the openly gay judge, Judge Parker (Richard Bradford), when his defense of a hip-hop artist starts to go awry. He unbuttons his shirt, sprays on too much cologne, swaggers around the court, winks at the judge and uses an effeminate lisp to address the entire court. This, and the announcement that the judge wants to see him alone in his chambers, is met with delight and laughter by the audience.

In chambers, attempting to make the point that the defendant could not be recognized in a stocking mask, the judge hands Sparks stockings. Sparks, misunderstanding, horrifyingly begins to put them on his feet. When the judge questions why he is putting the stockings there, Sparks screams, "I don't know how you like it!" The judge then turns the tables on not only Sparks but the audience, when he tells

him that as an African-American he should know how hurtful and wrong stereotypes are. He asks how it feels when Sparks sees an old movie that portrays blacks as lazy and stupid, and then proclaims to Sparks, "that's how I feel when you prance in my courtroom." The stunned audience's silence turns to boisterous applause as Sparks apologizes.

Please thank UPN and Sparks for reminding its audience that all stereotypes are degrading. Contact: Lucie Salhany, President-CEO, UPN, 11800 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90025, fax: 310.575.7201.

Coming Out in the Wall Street Journal

In Hal Lancaster's "Managing Your Career" column in the Nov. 5 Wall Street Journal, he looked into the question, "Should Managers Tell Colleagues That They Are Gay?" It examines several issues, including possible discrimination and harassment by others, the discomfort and inconvenience of being in the closet and the appropriateness of the venue for coming out. Additionally, the article gives strategies for how to determine whether or not coming out is the right decision for a person, and, if so, some tips for how to do it. "Map out a plan. Use role-playing to practice the conversation with friends," Lancaster writes after speaking with Sharon Silverstein, author of Straight Jobs, Gay Life. "Also, have some realistic career options in mind, just in case." Lancaster adds to

"keep in mind that the longer you work somewhere, the more likely it is people will know or strongly suspect, anyway," and ends by noting that the corporate environment is becoming increasingly gay-friendly.

Let the Wall Street Journal know that articles like this one are incredibly helpful not just to closeted lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers, but also the people with whom they work. Contact: The wall Street Journal, 200 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10281, fax: 212.416.2658, e-mail: editor@cor.dow-jones.com.

Kansas City News Views Gay Marriage

On Nov. 11, WDAF-TV, the Kansas City, Missouri Fox affiliate, ran an overwhelmingly positive and balanced story on the 9 p.m. news about three same-sex couples who hope that one day they will be able to legally marry and adopt children. On the whole, the coverage was both positive and sensitive, including comments not only by the couples but also by Unitarian minister Duke Tufty, who supports the sanction of any committed relationship, regardless of the genders of the couple involved. One couple included GLAAD member Randy Hate and his partner Rick Fisher. The daughter of one lesbian commented that she didn't understand how anyone could think that her child spending time with her lesbian grand-

mother could be wrong. Additionally, television cameras followed a gay male couple as they walked their dog, facing homophobic slurs from passersby. Finally, a telephone survey conducted by WDAF found that, despite national polls to the contrary, a whopping 58 percent felt that same-sex marriage should be legally recognized.

The only flaw with an otherwise well-executed story was the obligatory interview with an antigay religious radical, Kansas State Representative Kay O'Connor (R-Olathe), who said, "It's very unnatural and very unholy and I don't want to do anything to encourage it!"

Inform WDAF that they did a great job with the story, but explain to them that it is inappropriate to include an antigay perspective for so-called 'balance.' Contact: Mike McDonald, News Director, WDAF-TV, 3030 Summit Street, Kansas City, MO 64108, fax: 816.531.4444, e-mail: wdaf-tv4@wdaftv4.com.

Turning Point Does Gay Marriage A Good Turn

On Nov. 7, ABC's Turning Point looked at the issue of same-sex marriage by featuring four gay and lesbian couples and their families leading up to and following their marriage ceremonies. The show, by focusing on the love and emotions involved, put gay marriage into an appropriate context without clouding the issue with anti-gay hate-mongering. One ceremony was Jewish, one Episcopalian, and the other two were non-denominational, and the show explored a controversy among the Episcopalian diocese that arose when ABC wanted to film the ceremony within the church. While most family members were supportive, several struggled to adjust to the idea of same-sex marriage. In the end, however, they embraced their gay and lesbian loved ones and endorsed their weddings. Even the one fundamentalist Christian, who was completely opposed to her sister's marriage to another woman, and, for that matter, her sister being a lesbian, attended the reception and told her sister that she loved her. Most significantly, the program conveyed the love that the couples felt. It showed the all-important ceremonial kisses and emphasized that, whatever some people in society might feel, and whatever religious radical doomsayers might say, these unions are based upon love and commitment.

Congratulate Turning Point on finding an excellent angle to sensitively cover the misunderstood issue of same-sex marriage. Contact: Turning Point, ABC, 77 West 66th Street, New York, NY 10023, e-mail: abcaudr@ccabc.com.

"Gay Animal House?"

Boyfriends, a romantic comedy set in a gay fraternity house at a conservative Midwestern college, is currently in development at New Regency Productions' Regency Vision division and getting wide support from within the film industry. The executive producer of the film, Joel Schumacher, has produced such past hits as A Time to Kill, Batman Forever and The Lost Boys, and Warner Brothers has plans to distribute the film worldwide.

Please praise New Regency for developing a major lesbian—or gay-themed Hollywood film and urge them to follow suit with other films involving lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters. Contact: Alexandra Milchan and Elin Milchan, Regency Vision, New Regency Productions, 4000 Warner Boulevard, Building 66, Burbank, CA 91522-0001, fax: 818.954.3295.

Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at 213.658.6775 (Los Angeles), 212.807.1700 (New York), 415.586.8928 (Northampton), 202.986.1360 (Washington, DC) or 415.861.2244 (San Francisco). Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334)

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

The Supporting Cast

Theatre Southwest presents "The Supporting Cast" written by George Firth through Nov. 30. The play's title refers to the friends, relatives and lovers of famous people. The non-famous people are invited for a weekend to read advance copies of a book written about them. Friday & Saturday shows begin at 8pm. Theatre Southwest is located at 3750 S. Gessner @ Westpark. For reservations call 661-9505. Tickets are \$10 and \$9 for seniors & students.

Simple Gifts

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston will present its holiday concert, "Simple Gifts" Dec. 14 & 15. GMCH members Rex Gillit & John Hall are conducting the concert, with piano accompaniment by Neal Massey and a guest appearance by Marsha Carlton. Nancy Busch will provide sign-language interpretation at the performance.

The concert will begin at 7pm Saturday, Dec. 14, and at 2:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 15 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. For \$10 tickets call 713-521-SING or stop by Crossroads Market, Inklings Book Shop, or LOBO Book Shop.

Turkey Dinner

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) will hold their annual Thanksgiving service & dinner on Nov. 28. The worship service will begin at 11am. The dinner will follow at 12 Noon. No expense or culinary talents will be spared for the preparation of the meal. All are welcome to both the service and the dinner to follow regardless of their background. Located at 1919 Decatur one block off of Washington & White, call 861-9149, or on the Internet at <http://www.neosoft.com/mccr/mccr.html>.

Different Kind of Cat

Through Saturday, Dec. 7, the Actor's Workshop presents "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." The cast features Cheray Martin as Maggie the Cat, Hosea Simmons as Brick, Tanya Lunstroth as Bib Mama, and C.F. Jarmon from New York's Billie Holiday Theatre in the role of Big Daddy. The play is directed by Manning Mpinduzi-Mott. This steamy classic becomes explosive when fueled by an interracial marriage in segregated times. Show times are 8pm Fridays & Saturdays, 3pm Sundays. For reservations & ticket prices call 236-1844.

Miracle On Main Street

In 1995, more than 75,000 people turned out to see the Miracle on Main Street with their own eyes! Houston's first outdoor ice-skating rink, surrounded by fantastic holiday lights, was the rage

of the holiday season. Southwestern Bell and the Downtown District have already turned down the thermostat to accommodate more visitors than ever! Not only will the rink be bigger, but will start earlier and stay up longer!

Located in Downtown Houston at 1000 Main Street at Lamar, across from Foley's, skating will take place from Friday, Nov. 22 thru Sunday January, 5. They are Sunday thru Thursday Noon til 11pm; Fridays Noon til Midnight and Saturdays 10am til Midnight. Week-day skating is \$5, weekend and holiday skating \$6 and skate rental is \$2. Plan to have a great time!

Discussion Group

The Gay & Lesbian Readers Group is seeking romantic spirits to share passionate conversation on "Patience & Sarah," based on the life of artist Mary Ann Wilson. Be at Barnes & Noble in Vanderbilt Square, 3003 W. Holcombe Blvd on Monday, Nov. 25 at 7pm. For info call Erik at 713-349-0050.

Art Show & Sale

Artwork created by local artists living with AIDS/HIV will be on display and for sale at Bering United Methodist Church on Friday, Dec. 6. Art displayed will include oils, acrylics, ceramic, photography, crafts, etc. Profits from sale of art will go directly to the artists struggling to survive and continue to contribute to society by utilizing their artistic talents. Please go by and enjoy the evening with them. Bering Church is at 1400 Harold. The event will be held in the Fellowship Hall.

Switchboard Training

The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard (GLSH) is conducting training for new phone staff volunteers from Dec. 6-8. The GLSH is staffed entirely by volunteers & is upon its 15th year of serving the community. A non-profit, information & referral service providing information on organizations, services, events and matters of interest to & about the gay & lesbian community in the Houston area, GLSH also provides info on AIDS, peer/active listening and when necessary crisis intervention. The hate crimes/hate incidents hotline is also maintained and operated by GLSH. To volunteer or for more info call 713-529-3211 or leave a message at 713-529-9615.

Holiday Artists

Archway Gallery located at 2013 West Gray invites all to ring in the Holidays with their 15 diverse artists on Saturday Nov. 23. Celebrating their 20-year anniversary, Archway's hours Monday-Wednesday are 10am-6pm; Thursday-Saturday 10am-8pm and Sunday 1-5pm. For info, call 713-522-2409.

How To Reach Members of Congress & The President

Call the Capitaol switchboard - even if you are not sure who represents you, just ask the operator and you will be connected. Ask for their fax numbers and e-mail addresses as well. Call: U.S. Capitol (202) 224-3121 (Senators & Representatives)

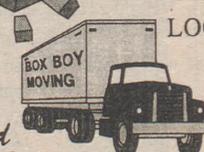
Write:

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U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The President of the United States
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Where To Go and What It Will Cost!

Friday, Nov. 22

- * \$1 well and \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.
- * Drink specials until 9:00 pm; Buffet at 5:00 pm at Brazos River Bottom.
- * Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.
- * Shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.
- * Steve plays for Happy Hour: Wayne Gray tickles the rest of the night! Blackjack tables open at 9:30 pm at the BriarPatch!
- * Free hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; \$1 Schnapps at Rascals.
- * Bad Boys dance at 6:00 pm: \$2 Kamikazes at Gentry.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo! Birthday Blow-out and Drag Show by Jennifer Ellsworth, candidate for Empress XIII at 9:00 pm at Chances.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.
- * \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10:00 pm: male dancers 8:00 pm to 2:30 am; After hours until 4:00 am at the Montrose Mining Company.
- * Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * Boyz night out at Club Incognito.
- * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm. The Houston Area Bears guest bartends starting at 9:00 pm.
- * Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.
- * Happy Hours 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Male Strip Contest at 11:00 pm at E/J's.
- * Friday Foreplay at Pacific Street. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 7:00 pm. No cover until 9:00 pm.
- * Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9:00 pm at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.
- * Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; After Hours until 4:00 am at the Ripcord.
- * Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * 8-ball tournament at the Lazy J.
- * Fizz Fridays! 18+ welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Rich's.

Saturday, Nov. 23

- * Leather and Flesh night at Pacific Street; Doors open at 9:00 pm.
- * Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * Drink specials until 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.
- * Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.
- * \$1 well 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; \$1.50 domestic longnecks 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm; \$1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.
- * Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch.
- * Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Absolutly anything at Gentry.
- * Drag show at the Lazy J at 10:30 p.m.
- * 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well and \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9:00 to 9:30 pm at Santa Fe Bar and Patio, 9:30 to 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10:00 to 10:30 pm at J.R.'s Bar and Grill, and 11:00 pm to 11:30 pm at Heaven.
- * "Down and Dirty" hosted by candidate Jerel McNeil and Don Gill; \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks at Mary's from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. After Hours until 4:00 am.
- * Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks and premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * After hours at the Ripcord until 4:00 am.
- * \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9:00 pm to 2:30 am; happy hour until 10:00 pm; After hours until 4:00 am at the Montrose Mining Company.

- * 21 and up tonight! No cover before 10:00 pm; \$1 well drinks 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Rich's.
- * Ladies' Night at Club Incognito.
- * Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.
- * Wayne Gray and others play live at the BriarPatch!
- * \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm at E/J's.

Sunday, Nov. 24

- * Cookout and Females in Search of Trouble (FIST) guest bartend at 5:00 pm; \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * 99c well vodka juice drinks noon until 11:00 pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6:00 pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.
- * Super Sunday Show at Club Incognito. 11:00 pm.
- * Drink specials until 5:00 pm; Steak night from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm; at Brazos River Bottom.
- * 50c draft beer; \$1.75 Well drinks and longnecks from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.
- * Pool tournament, Bad Boys dance at 5:00 pm; "Oh My God, It Is Purple Balls" Show at 9:00 pm; Male Strip at 11:00 pm; \$2 Kool-Aids at Gentry.
- * Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.
- * Happy Hour Noon to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * Male Overload at Pacific Street. Doors open at 7:00 pm; No shirt, no cover! \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from noon to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.
- * \$2 Mimosas and \$1.75 well drinks; Tea Dance; Best Basket and Buns Contest 10:00 pm at Rascals.
- * 18 and up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Klub Kamp with Simply Divine and Lana Blake at 10:30 pm; Doors open at 8:00 pm at Rich's.
- * Brunch at noon at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.
- * \$1.50 well and domestic beer all day/all night at the Ripcord.

Monday, Nov. 25

- * Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Male Strip contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.
- * Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; Martinis and Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * Escape at Pacific Street! \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps; No cover until 11:00 pm.
- * Half price lockers from noon to midnight at Club Houston.
- * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Crown Royal at Gentry.
- * Wheel of Fortune and Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Clint plays topless: Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.
- * Monday night football on the big screen; free pizza; Miller Lite products for \$1.50; Cuervo shots \$2. Rascal's.

- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; \$1 longnecks at 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Mary's.
- * \$1.75 well and domestic beer at the Brazos River Bottom.
- * Half-Price night at Midtowne Spa.
- * Open pool tables at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.
- * Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza at the Ripcord.
- * \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30 pm; male dancers 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

Tuesday, Nov. 26

- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.
- * Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Female Dancers at Berry Hill II. 10:30 pm.
- * Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2 well, wine, domestic longnecks and frozen Margaritas; Jockey short contest at 11:00 pm; Grab for Cash at midnight at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * Executive Night at Pacific Street. No cover with your personal business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9:00 pm.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.
- * Bad Boys dance at Gentry at 9:00 pm; \$2 Windex shots at Gentry.
- * Happy Hour all day and all night at Rascal's.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; \$2 Cuervo at Mary's.
- * Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Amateur talent contest at 11:00 pm at E/J's.
- * \$1 well 7:00 am to 11:00 pm; \$1 domestic longnecks at the Brazos River Bottom.
- * \$1.75 longnecks, \$2.50 well, \$3 any drink in the house; male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and \$1.50 domestic longnecks at Rascals.
- * Half price lockers, rooms and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.
- * Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Ripcord.
- * Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour: Marci holds court at the keyboard at the BriarPatch.
- * Mr. and Ms. Black Gay Houston contest at Incognito. Call 237-9431 for details.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Saloon singer Beverly Sisco tickles the ivories at the BriarPatch.
- * Mr. and Ms. Black Gay Houston contest at Incognito. Call 237-9431 for details.
- * Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; Male Strip Contest with Dyan Michaels at 11:00 pm; \$1.25 Schnapps at Gentry.
- * Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.
- * \$1.50 domestic longnecks; Lil' Rascals strip contest at 10:00 pm; Free happy hour buffet at Rascals.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour

3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

- * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * Prime Meet at Pacific Street. No cover with a "Be My Guest" pass. Doors open at 9:00 pm.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Drink specials all day and all night at Mary's.
- * Drink specials until 9:00 pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks at the Brazos River Bottom.
- * Half-Price night and shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.
- * Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II. Free Pool Tables.
- * Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm: \$1.40 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Burger night at E/J's.
- * \$2 well and domestic beer all day/all night at the Ripcord.
- * Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks at XT.
- * \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser and 75c Miller on tap; CD drawing; DJ Michael DeGrace takes you to the Edge: Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

Thursday, Nov. 28

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Burger Night at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.
- * Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Male Dancers at Berry Hill II at 10:30 pm.
- * Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Tacos on the patio; South of the Border night at E/J's at 11:00 pm.
- * Sexx Thursdays at Pacific Street. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- * Half-price lockers, rooms, and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.
- * Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3 Skyy vodka. Thanksgiving buffet hosted by Jerel McNeil, candidate for Emperor XIII and Sean Carter at Gentry.
- * Retro Rewind; \$1.50 vodka drinks at Rascal's.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; 75c Schnapps at Mary's.
- * \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, and wine; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.
- * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * BRB Thanksgiving Buffet at 3:00 pm. Drink specials until 11:00 pm; Burgers on the patio from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; dance lessons at 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.
- * Ripcord Buffet at 3:00 pm. Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Classic Rock night at the Ripcord.
- * Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.
- * Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold and Micro brewed beer; Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9:00 pm. Thanksgiving Buffet at 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.
- * Nancy Ford at Ms. B's at 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm, open mike and karaoke 10:30 pm to 1:00 am.
- * Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo! Thanksgiving buffet at Chances.
- * Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour: Wayne Gray, Laurie Gage and new to the BriarPatch Edith Head perform live at the BriarPatch.
- * La Cage, a night of Illusions at Incognito. Call 237-9431 for details.

Rodent Droppings wearing faux leather....



It must be snowing in Hell! Ed tends bar!



Oh, Miss Ouisa!



Uncle Phoebe enjoys a cocktail!

By CUERVOLYN

Important Stuff!

Matt Locklin at the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston has some empty rooms! They offer furnished rooms in a home-like atmosphere as well as free laundry, food assistance, and bills paid. You must be HIV + and drug and alcohol free. Rooms rent for \$75 per week! Call Matt at 713/521-1613 for more info!

Santa Claus visits 219 Marshall on Dec. 7 The Pet Patrol will be there and you can have your pet's photo taken with Santa for only \$5. (Yeah, can you see me trying to get Harvey and Rarat to sit still for that long!) They will also have a holiday buffet! See you there!

The Ripcord's 14th Anniversary is coming up on Dec. 9. I can taste the shrimp already!

This Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom, Byron Norton-Mr. Montrose will present "Bam!" A totally upbeat show, no slow drag! Join Byron and his guests dynamic Nicole Blake, Day Leigh Edwards and Shawna St. John as well as others!

The guys and gals of the Houston Council of Clubs (You know they gang that brings you LUEY weekend) will be guest bartending "top" side of the Venture-N on Nov. 29!

Wow! Incognito, the club has a ton of stuff going on this weekend! Check out their ad on page 8 to all the scoop!

Theater Lab has the southwest exclusive premiere of "John & Jen," a new musical about one sister, one brother, one mother, one son! Call for more info at 868-7516.

Basic Brothers has a new "Under Wear Boutique." Stop in and check it out!

There is a new reason to go to Heaven on Sundays! Register to win a pair of tickets to see Madonna as Evita! Evita opens on Jan. 1, 1997! Also on Sundays,



Come on down to PastTime and have a cocktail with me!

Kofi and Kourtney Van Wales host the super Sunday show! Be nice to these two, they are the ones pulling the winning names!

Milestones!

A get mended soon wish to Lee (formerly of the Ripcord) Brown! He was hit by a car and has a broken leg!

A get well hug to Marlene's (Chances) brother who is recuperating from a heart attack.

A happy 10 year anniversary hug to John Dye and Dan Linquist of the Colt 45s.

A happy anniversary to Ofilia and Janis!

Happy birthdays to Janee Johnson and Crystal Rae Lee Love of

Miss Ouisa (Mary's): And I quote: "Your concubines are the reason you can afford custom made leather gorilla jackets."

Helen: I hear that you are now a truck driver's widow! What do you think Cindy is doing while hanging out in truck stops?

Eddie (handsome man that hangs at the BRB): Watch what you say around me, especially if I have a pen in hand!

Steve (Chances): Do you really sweat that much, or was it the Cuervo?

Tom S. (Ripcord): And I quote: "You can lick it for free, but I charge for the other hole!"

Little Don (BRB): Why is there no coaster stuck to the

performance Friday at Chances was a show stopper! And then again on Sunday at Gentry! When you come out, you do it in a big way!

Stacy Gruemmer: If you kept them covered, then the dog wouldn't bite them!

Johnny Montgomery: If you are going to wear clothing that has zippers, then be prepared to be unzipped!

Jesse: You should be very careful what you say in mixed company! It will come back to get you! By the way, how is checks or is it tricks!

Guy and Skip: I love what you have done with your apartment!

George (hangs at Outpost):

BRB): Are you a "real" cowboy? Darla K. (hangs anywhere they serve Bourbon & 7): I heard you can still "hit" the headboard! I hear some say that is because you are short!

Jennifer Ellsworth (RSI-CSS): I'm sorry honey! As I hear it a recent copy of the Houston Voice got your husbands attention more than you did while singing "God Bless America!"

Spike (hangs on every bar stool): I have a message from Don P: "I wish someone would buy me a drink!"

Carlos (PastTime): You would think a bar owner would know how to spell Vodka right! Check out your flyers! Just what is "vodca?"

Don P (BRB): I hear you got a little tipsy last week and in your stupor you opened Pandora's Box! Why were you surprised when Robert fell out?

Scotty (Club Houston): Can't get it out?

Tommy Sue Ellen (BRB): On Sunday you get a trick. On Wednesday your looking in the yellow pages for Jiffy Lube! Are you dried out that quick? And yes, there really is a Santa, but he don't visit bad little boys like you!

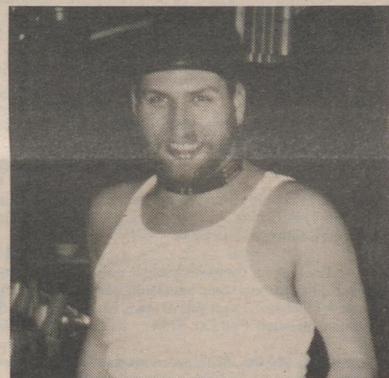
Dave Williams (hangs at Gentry): How is that bank account after your 3 "appointments?"



Lovely ladies!



Sammy strips, but not for money!



Jeff guest bartends at PS for HCC.

the Court, Todd B., John E., and Jeff C. of the Houston Area Bears! Buddy Jackson has a birthday this week, too!

Trash, Lies, and Gossip!

My usual disclaimer is in force! Rarat was not real happy while wearing his new faux leather biker jacket! It took me almost 30 minutes to wrestle the little critter into it and it took him less than 10 seconds to get out of the jacket! Rarat kept running and hiding during our photo shoot! Poor little rat! I am such a mean mommy!

Rodent Rooter: I missed you! I'm glad your back!

bottom of your glass?

Don Dowden: How did you sleep thru water sports?

Devin (formerly of Marys): I just love your baby, too!

Jerry Morin (RSICSS): I hear you moan a lot!

John B. and Don W. (Mr. Gulf Coast Leather): Did you like your hot wax bath? I hear Carmen likes to play with fire! What about you two?

Gimmie Pillsen Licker: And I quote: "I may wear dresses, but I am a butch man!"

Animal (BRB): You are a southern HO!

Jason (formerly of PS): Watch it, I have spies everywhere! And

Nope, no airport gift shop in Jackson?

Jody B. (BRB): Hey, Bobby, do ya wanna huh do ya wanna huh huh?

Evalita: What is this about you and toothpaste on your legs?

Devon DeVasquez: What is this I hear about you and Nicole cruising a man on I-45 last Friday night?

Lane (Pacific Street): How many bartenders does it take to change a light bulb?

Jeff (Houston Area Bears): And I quote: "No wonder I can't get it open, it is on backwards!"

Kip (Gentry): Rest up honey! I hear you are going out of town with Reno (J.R.'s).

Chester (611-J.R.'s-E/J's): So, you are a little roasting ear now! Congrats "Nibblet!"

Kody (Chances): Have you been using the casting couch again?

Tuna (BRB): Just where is the Eiffel Tower?

David Duke (hangs at the

Sam (BRB): You have been overheard singing "Little Things Mean a Lot." I wonder who you have been thinking about?

Ken Claude (Daddy of Montrose): Why all of a sudden do you like San Diego?

Kenny (Rascals): No, Chastity is not your middle name!

Bunny O'Hare (BriarPatch): Why do they tell me you are a mess?

Drew (BRB): Welcome back from your "quick" vacation!

Steve Nally (TWT): Don't you know what the words "Duty Free Shopping" mean!

Dana (hangs everywhere): How much PSI does that pump have?

Jerry Atwood and Steve Newsome: I hear you have been making "late night" appearances at the BriarPatch!

Wesley (Rascals): So, I have to dial 976 to reach you by phone?

Day Leigh Edwards: What is this I hear about you living with a twit? And I quote: "If it has a hole, you can put a flower in it!" Kinky, huh?

I spoke with Ray Downing this week! He is having a wonderful time in San Francisco! He has been experimenting with rubber!

Have a great week and enjoy Turkey Day!

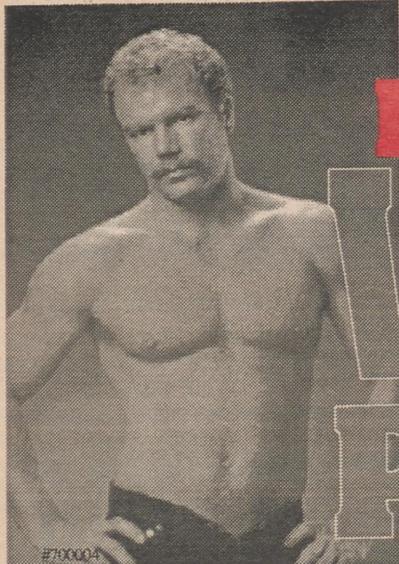
Cuervolyn



Dancing at Richs!



Get me out of this silly jacket!



Women Seeking Women

DF Bisexual. I need a woman. When I was married, I had a great relationship with my husband & our girlfriend. She got into drugs, so I had to let her go. I need a woman & I know how to treat one. Blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'4", 130 lbs., large breasts. I'm so sensuous. I'm a stand-up comic & a poet. I want to get to know you. Call Ext. 5245

SWF My hobbies are playing pool, shooting darts, dancing & clubbing. Looking for a female in the age group of 25-40. I'm 190 lbs., 5'11" & a security guard. Call Ext. 5173

SF If you like to be wined & dined, I'm the one. I'm cute, with a wonderful personality. Check me out. Desiring a sincere, honest & intelligent female. Call Ext. 5161

SWF 43, non-smoker. Enjoy cooking, the mall & parks. Looking for love. Should be interesting & White or biracial. Call Ext. 5208

SF 37, butch. I have a soft, romantic streak on the inside. I'm honest, intelligent, sincere & passionate about life. Looking for a butch top who is honest, upfront & trustworthy for fun & friendship. Maybe we can get together. Call Ext. 5251

SF 44, 5'11", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. 5138

SBF I'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. 5164

SWF Late 40's. Looking for a White female to help me come out. I like fishing, hunting, dancing & boating. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5237

SBF 45, 6'. Looking for companionship & romance. I like sex. I'd like to meet some interesting people. I like music & I live on the west side of town. Looking for a woman, no butch. Call Ext. 5194

SWF Late 40's, 160 lbs., 5'8", green eyes, gray & brown hair. Seeking a relationship with a single gay female who is height/weight proportionate. Race is not important for companionship, friendship & possible romance. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. I'm considered soft butch. I'd like to meet a very feminine female. Call Ext. 5162

SF College student, mature. Looking for a professional, mature woman who knows what she wants & is not afraid to go after it. Call Ext. 5262

SWF 33, 5'3", 135 lbs. Looking for a single White female, soft butch or fem to hang out with or date. I like to dance, theaters & going to antique stores. Call Ext. 5169

SWF 30, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a female, 28-40, who is a soft butch. Wanting to date or hang-out. Like going to movies, boating, fishing, etc. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & a non-smoker. Call Ext. 5215

SWF 35. In search of a single White female, 30-45, for companionship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5248

HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Men Seeking Men

SWF 5'7", 130 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, 20. Looking for a beautiful, feminine woman who is preferably the same as me. Wanting to share life. Should like going to the beach, the movies & anywhere our hearts desire. I'm very attractive, so you must be also. No jokes or running around. Call Ext. 5207

SF Looking for a feminine Black female to have a relationship with. I would like for her to be gay, height/weight proportionate & in her mid-40's. I'm available for a long-term relationship & friendship. Please call. Call Ext. 5197

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. 5171

SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. 5200

SWM 5'7", 195 lbs., 45, furry, Italian, brown hair, attractive, easygoing, romantic. Enjoy the quiet life, movies, dining, entertaining & being a homebody. Looking for someone to develop a special friendship & long-term relationship with. If you're my ideal guy you'll be 35-40, able to support yourself & enjoy being a bottom. Blonde hair & blue eyes are a huge plus! Give me a call. Call Ext. 5170

SWM 38, 190 lbs., 6', HIV+, healthy, active. I enjoy the arts & having laid-back fun. I'm retired & enjoying life. Looking for friendship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5253

SWM 60, 5'8", 290 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. I'm a bottom. Looking for guys in their 20's or 40's. Race is not important. Honesty & sincerity are prime factors. Let's share respect, love & an active physical relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, dancing, traveling, the beach, dining in, dining out & the company of an affectionate friend. Call Ext. 5187

SM 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Cuban/French. Interested in guys who are versatile & 20-30. Race is not important. Looking for someone to really have a good time with. Sex would be great! Let's get good & nasty. Call Ext. 5177

SBM 27. Seeking other Black males. I'd like to meet a top. I enjoy swimming, bowling, reading & having fun. I'd prefer to meet someone 20-30. Call Ext. 5158

SWM 44, 5'9", 165 lbs. I'm a bottom, with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm clean-shaven, with short hair. I'm straight-acting & discreet. I enjoy giving blow jobs & receiving anal action. Looking for a White male who is a top man. Someone who is taller than me. Must be muscular, with above-average endowment. Smokers & light drinkers are okay. Call Ext. 5244

SWM I'm a certified sailing skipper. I lost my captain to the North Carolina waters. Looking for a captain with a crew. I'm also interested in forming a gay sailing club. Call Ext. 5149

SBM Handsome, 26, new to Texas. I hear things grow big in Texas. I'm very straight-acting & looking. In search of a 20-30-year-old who is straight-acting & appearing. Race is unimportant. Must be in shape. Call Ext. 5242

SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. 5145

SWM Attractive, 5'11", 180 lbs. Would like to meet a female impersonator. Call Ext. 5261

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. 5171

SWM I'm a chubby nudist in search of other chubby nudists. I'm 38, 5'7" & 228 lbs., with strawberry-blonde hair & blue eyes. Race is not important. Call Ext. 5157

SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. 5200

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. 5171

SWM 5'7", 195 lbs., 45, furry, Italian, brown hair, attractive, easygoing, romantic. Enjoy the quiet life, movies, dining, entertaining & being a homebody. Looking for someone to develop a special friendship & long-term relationship with. If you're my ideal guy you'll be 35-40, able to support yourself & enjoy being a bottom. Blonde hair & blue eyes are a huge plus! Give me a call. Call Ext. 5170

SWM 38, 190 lbs., 6', HIV+, healthy, active. I enjoy the arts & having laid-back fun. I'm retired & enjoying life. Looking for friendship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5253

SWM 31, muscular, tan, smooth, 156 lbs. Like to meet a man who is stockier than I am. Not looking for a chubby guy. Would like to meet a top. If I sound attractive, leave a message. Call Ext. 5175

SM I'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. I enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. 5203

SWM Attractive, early 40's, 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeks femme-looking cross dresser or transsexual, 21-45, for dating, fun or a possible long-term relationship. Please respond. Call Ext. 5258

SM Top man who is demanding, sane & safe. Looking for specially skilled bottom boys who like to serve & take what's coming to them. Should be 26-40. No training is necessary. I will take care of that myself. Call me quickly. Call Ext. 5257

SHM Attractive, outgoing, 34. Searching for a special friend. Someone who is willing to understand my living with HIV for 10 years. Call Ext. 5255

SWM 20, bi, brown hair, hazel eyes. I enjoy camping, fishing & more. Looking for someone who has a sense of humor who likes to party. If you think you are the one, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5236

SWM 29, 6', 160 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth chest, tan body. I'm a construction worker from Louisiana. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male to show me around, in more ways than one. Friends first, possibly more. No games. No chubbies or above. If you are 21-35, a brunette & 5'4" or taller, call me. I will bring you there. Call Ext. 5238

SM 46, 6', bi curious. I have one or two experiences that were not satisfactory. I would like to meet someone to help me investigate it more. Contact me. Call Ext. 5266

SBM 33, 6', slender, smooth, HIV+, very healthy & active. I love music, sports, dining in, dining out & cuddling. I'm very flexible & willing to try other things. Looking for Black males for friendship & a possible relationship. I'm honest, sincere & trustworthy. Must like to have fun. Call Ext. 5265

SWM Brown hair, very blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs., very muscular, 34. Looking for a very sensuous, feminine TV or TS. Let's have a really good time & see where it goes. Call Ext. 5232

SWM 27, 6'3", 195 lbs., in very good shape. Looking for a gay White man who is 27 or older, tall & masculine, to have fun with. Call Ext. 5231

SWM 37, dark olive complexion, very muscular, husky, 168 lbs. Looking for a guy who is larger than myself, very masculine & enjoys being a top. I would like to talk to you in person, if this fits your description. Call Ext. 5201

SWM 40, 5'11", 230 lbs., football player build, professional, HIV+, excellent health. Looking for someone 30-50, for friendship & a possible relationship. Enjoy traveling, the theater, cooking & quiet evenings at home. Prefer a non-smoker, non-drug user who can enjoy life to the fullest. Call Ext. 5223

SBM 22, 5'11", 143 lbs. In search of a single White male, 18-30, who is pretty masculine, handsome & not into games. Call Ext. 5229

SWM 36, HIV+, 6'2", 160 lbs. Looking for love in all the wrong places. I'm fun-loving, humorous & open-minded. I'm a light drinker & smoker. I'm somewhat Bohemian with an appreciation for the finer things in life. I enjoy quiet evenings at home with an occasional night out on the town. Call Ext. 5264

SWM Handsome, 37, 5'8", 172 lbs. I work out frequently & I'm muscular. I'd like to meet a guy in his late 30's to mid-40's who is good-looking. Must like to have a lot of fun. He should enjoy being a real top guy. If you want to play with my nice, smooth muscular body, give me a call. Call Ext. 5201

SM 37, 5'8", 165 lbs., attractive, brown hair, dark-complected. I'd like to meet a guy my age or older who is in good shape & attractive. Should prefer to be a top. Seeking a fairly active guy. If you have a good sense of humor & you like to have fun, give me a call. Call Ext. 5123

SM 46, 6', 280 lbs., graying hair. Seeking a gay White, Asian or Hispanic male, 25-50, who is drug & disease-free. He should be slim-to-medium-built, with fuzzy legs. I enjoy friends, music & honesty. I'm compassionate & affectionate. Call Ext. 5192

SWM 34, 6'1", 275 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. I own my own business. I enjoy movies, dining in, dining out & intimacy. I have a lot of love to give. Looking for someone to love & get to know. Possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5186

SWM 41, 6', 190 lbs. Looking for a top daddy who is 40-50, to take care of. Also looking for a top cowboy to ride me all night & then hold me. Must be open-minded, with above-average equipment. Willing to wear collar for the right daddy. Call Ext. 5163

SWM Attractive, 38, HIV+, long brown hair, brown eyes, mustache & beard. I'm straight-acting & appearing. I like to enjoy life, concerts, movies, traveling & good friends. I'm retired, healthy & financially secure. Looking for that special friend who is also straight-acting & appearing, with similar interests. Looking for someone who wants to get out & enjoy life. Call Ext. 5178

SM Leave me a message & I will call you as soon as I can. Call Ext. 5233

SWM I'm a very young 43-year-old, sailing skipper looking for a sailing captain. I'm a 6', 220 lb. teddy bear. I'm considered stocky, beefy & a linebacker build. I have red, strawberry-blonde hair, hazel-green eyes, a mustache & a hairy chest. Looking for guys with similar qualities, or those who are attracted to my qualities. Also looking for a gay sailing club & interested in forming one if one is not out there. Call Ext. 5212

SBM In search of other masculine Black males who are 19-45. Seeking someone who is well-endowed & masculine. Call Ext. 5154

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. 5141

SM 35, 5'10", 175 lbs., blue-gray eyes, dark brown hair, goatee. Considered very attractive & well-endowed, with an athletic build. Gentleman, I'm only looking for this & the description must be precise. You're handsome, under 35, muscular, with a small waist & 10" or more. Call Ext. 5172

SWM Gay, 41, 5'5", green eyes, reddish-blonde hair. Enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, rock 'n roll music & playing board games on occasion. Looking for a White or Hispanic male to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5220

SWM 31, 5'5", 145 lbs. I'm very boyish-looking. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male, 21-32, who likes sports, rock music, cars, traveling & casinos. Call Ext. 5252

SWM 5'7", brown hair, brown eyes, 43. I like music, arts, opera, the theater, museums & quiet dinners at home. I also enjoy kissing, cuddling & touching. I'm open to new & varied interests. I'm a laid-back, sensitive & down-to-earth person. I'd like to meet Hispanic, White or Asian males who are between 25-50. Call Ext. 5240

SHM 32, thin. Seeking a gay White or Hispanic male who is 32 or older. Seeking a lifemate. Serious replies only. No games. I don't drink or smoke. I need sincerity & stability. Call Ext. 5160

SWM 5'8", brown hair, smooth muscular body, olive-complected. I'd like to meet a top who has body & facial hair. Must like to have a lot of fun. Call Ext. 5190

SWM I'm 5'9", 130 lbs. & masculine. Looking for a Black brother who is the same. Someone who is 18-28, self-assured, masculine & not into games. Call Ext. 5094

I'm a married man, 40's, 5'9", 165 lbs., clean, discreet & HIV-. Looking for sexual buddies who are the same & want to go out & have fun. Call soon. Call Ext. 5228

White male, 38, blonde hair, blue eyes, athletic. I'm wealthy, married & bored. You must be young, hot & a little wild. I'm a healthy, imaginative top. Call Ext. 5227

SM 5'11", 190 lbs., goatee, blue eyes, salt 'n pepper hair, hairy body. Like to have fun with friends. Interested in Hispanics. Leave a message. Call Ext. 5219

Gay male, 23, 6'1", 172 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, well-toned, smooth. Looking for bodybuilders to have good times with. I'll call you back. Call Ext. 5195

SWM 5'11", 155 lbs., blonde hair, bluish-green eyes. Looking for Hispanic males 18-35. I enjoy going to the beach, the gym & hanging out with friends. Call Ext. 5155

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. 5143

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV- & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Please leave a message. Call Ext. 5137



Find that special someone today. Just call!



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Aspen Ski Week

Aspen, Colorado, USA—Jan. 25th to Feb. 1, 1997 Gays and Lesbians will descend on the town of Aspen, Colorado for a week of world class skiing, shopping, dining, partying and socializing. Aspen Gay Ski Week, the largest and longest running Gay and Lesbian winter event on the Planet, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in this world class ski town. Organizers of the event expect more than 5000 people during the week.

"It is difficult to believe that this event has grown so huge," says Dave Lendon, reflecting on the evolution of Ski Week. Lendon, organizer of this year's event, remembers when the week had less than 500 participants mostly from Colorado, "Now we have thousands from all over the world."

Touted as a charitable and educational event, Aspen Gay Ski Week has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity over the last several years. Jim Tomberlin, past organizer of the event and Aspen business owner says, "Ski Week has always been an event run by volunteers for the soul purpose of educating ourselves about Gay and Lesbian issues and raising money for charities of Gay and Lesbian interests." However, don't let the serious purpose underlying Ski Week scare you into thinking that it is a bore. "There are so many events during the week that there is no way to get bored," says Lendon.

Each day is packed full of events like "The 2nd Annual Coors Light Aspen Mountain 'Bump Your Buns' Downhill Costume Party and Competition," a drag and costume competition and party on skis. The costume competition is so huge that nearly the entire town of Aspen gets involved on some level, dressing up at work and school. "Store owners close their shops to see this event," says Tomberlin.

In addition to the costume party, there

are Apres ski parties and Tea Dances each day attracting thousands of people, special women's events, ski and snowboard competitions and benefits. "One of our most popular benefits is the Caribou Club AIDS benefit. Each year the very exclusive Caribou Club, a private millionaires club, opens its doors to ski week participants with all the money from food, drinks and admissions going to AIDS charities," says Lendon. Other activities include comedy nights, ballets, ice skating, special dinners, a week long film festival, cross-country skiing, the Aspen Human Rights Summit II and even a fashion show.

Of course there are parties. Lots of them. In addition to a huge opening party and closing party, this year will play host to a '70's retro night complete with Stars and acts from the disco days. "We will be booking a few acts that were popular in the 70's to perform for the crowd," says Tomberlin. Each night has at least two parties including special women's only parties.

Organizers hope that Aspen Gay Ski Week can increase its international crowd. "We are getting a lot of exposure overseas, especially in Europe," says Lendon. "Aspen is a place that everyone should visit and Ski Week is a party that no Gay or Lesbian should miss."

Anyone interested in attending Aspen Gay Ski Week or finding out more can call the Aspen Ski Week Information and Reservation Hotline, a service of Circuit Event Travel, by calling 800.984.8863 or 970-925-9500, X625, or e-mail to "GaySki-Week@aol.com."

The organizing committee has a Ski Week office set up in the Aspen Gay & Lesbian Community Fund office which can be reached by phone at 970-925-4123, by e-mail at aspengay@rof.net, or check out the home page at <http://www.rof.net/yp/aspengay>.

With Election Year '96 End Comes Time to Act on AIDS

By CHRISTINE LUBINSKI

In an era in which political actions are determined by polls and surveys, the deafening silence around AIDS issues was truly disappointing, as was the failure by candidates to articulate a coordinated response to an epidemic that has claimed more than 320,000 American lives and threatens many more. A Sept. 15 Washington Post poll revealed that silence on AIDS is a tragic mistake. When 61 percent of Americans polled indicate that the worry that "AIDS will become more widespread" ties at No. 2 with the worry that "crime will increase," and ranks only one point below concerns about our educational system, silence should be considered unacceptable. Yet, silence is exactly what was delivered by politicians and the media alike.

Now that the election year frenzy has ended and the American electorate has re-elected Bill Clinton to a second term and maintained a Republican majority (albeit by a narrow margin in the U.S. House of Representatives) in both chambers of Congress, it is once again time to go about the business of fighting the battle against AIDS. In the wake of election year 1996, AIDS Action looks forward to nurturing our relationships with key Clinton administration officials and with members of the Republican-controlled 105th

Congress, relationships which in the 104th Congress resulted in significant AIDS funding increases and successes in defeating blatantly discriminatory measures aimed at people living with HIV and AIDS.

We also look forward to educating new members of the 105th Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, and Clinton administration officials about the importance of fortifying an already fragile AIDS care and social services infrastructure and protecting hard-fought AIDS anti-discrimination gains. With campaigning finally over, AIDS Action urges our elected officials to roll up their sleeves and work in a bipartisan way to find a cure and vaccine for this terrible epidemic, prevent new infections, and adequately care for those already infected. The American people have sent a clear message to our newly elected officials and to those already sitting in an elected office: Your priorities had better reflect what really matters to the American public, and that includes AIDS.

Founded in 1984, AIDS Action Council is dedicated to defeating the AIDS epidemic and improving the quality of life for HIV-infected Americans. AIDS Action Council represents all people with HIV and AIDS and over 1400 community-based AIDS organizations that serve them.



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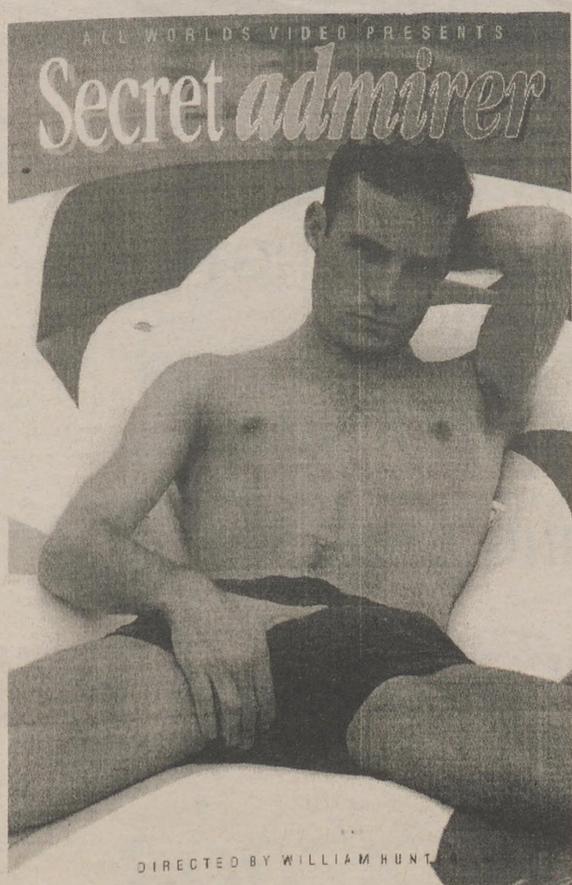
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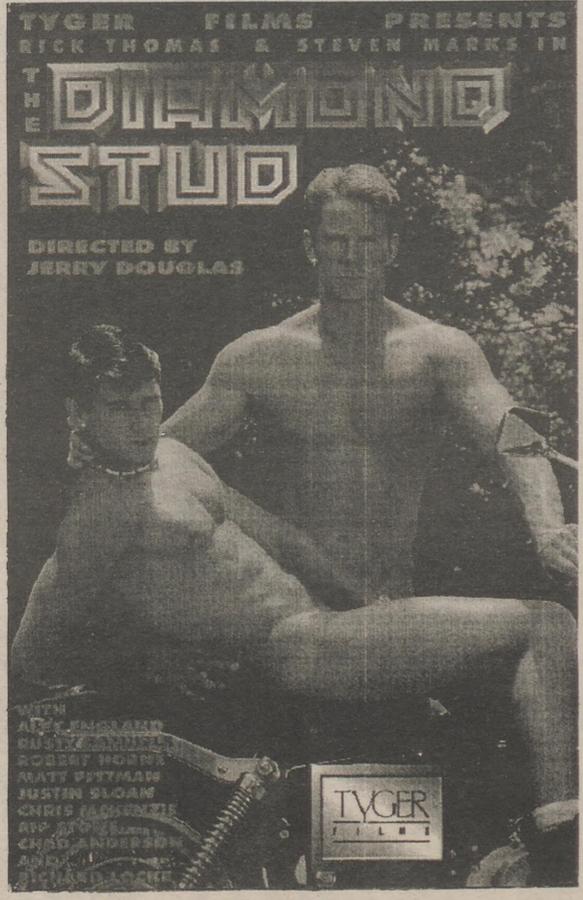
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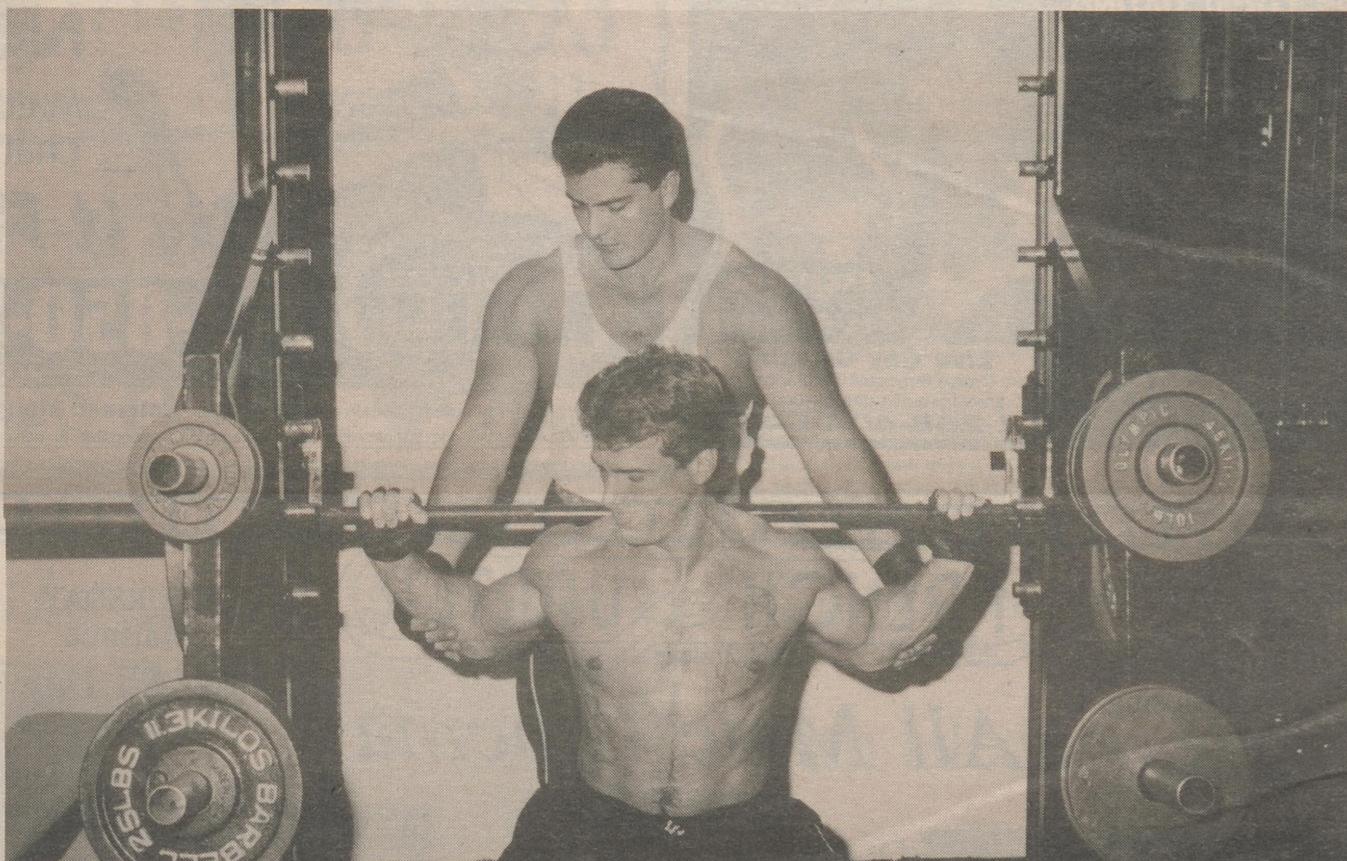
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