

## A Weekly Community News Publication



What's so funny about lesbians?  
...See Page 6

## Subcommittee votes to eliminate AIDS research budget

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—A House subcommittee late Tuesday night voted to eliminate the federal government's budget for AIDS research. The appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education voted along party lines to gut the Office of AIDS Research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and eliminate \$1.4 billion targeted for AIDS research for Fiscal Year 1996.

The move by the subcommittee, one of several already meeting to make initial decisions as to how much funding various programs will get in the next fiscal year, comes as a bill to reauthorize the \$880 million Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, the federal program for care and treatment of people with AIDS, is stalled in a House committee. Eight Republicans and five Demo-

crats sit on the Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee, considered a key subcommittee on AIDS funding issues in the House of Representatives. The proposal now goes to the full House Committee on Appropriations.

"This move seriously threatens efforts to find a cure for AIDS," said Winnie Stachelberg, Senior Health Policy Advocate for the Human Rights Campaign Fund and co-chair of National Organizations Responding to AIDS. "Despite unprecedented public support for national leadership on AIDS, the subcommittee voted to shirk that responsibility. This is no time to retreat on AIDS."

The Office of AIDS Research oversaw \$1.33 billion in AIDS research this year, and the Clinton Administration requested \$1.4 billion for Fiscal Year

1996. AIDS is the leading killer of all Americans between the ages of 25 and 44.

National polls show strong voter support for federal AIDS research. 66 percent of voters said AIDS research should be a high priority of the federal government, in a poll conducted in May by Lake Research, Inc. A bipartisan poll conducted in February by Lake Research and the Republican Tarance Group found that 69 percent of Republican voters favor maintaining or increasing federal funds for AIDS research.

"Clearly, the American people support federal efforts to find a cure for AIDS," Stachelberg said. "Too many men, women and children are threatened by this disease for us to turn our back now. AIDS research should remain a top priority."

## Attacks on cultural programs reach new level

By STEVE CHRYSLER

Special to the Houston Voice

(This article is the first in a series examining the arts and media programs targeted by the G.O.P. and the politics involved in the ongoing debate).

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), PBS stations, and many other federal programs, are fighting for their very survival as the Republican-controlled Congress and Senate push to slash funding and/or eliminate the programs altogether. Much debate exists as to why these programs are being cut.

"The Christian Coalition Campaign and related types of coalitions like the Christian Action Network have stepped up their social agenda

issue campaigns—one being elimination the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities," reported Nina Ozlu of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies. "They began a postcard campaign for their constituents to send in to members of Congress, asking them to eliminate the cultural agencies. At this point the type of mail that members of Congress are getting now are heavily weighed in opposition of the cultural agencies."

Ozlu explained that personal, handwritten letters are more valuable than any postcard and encouraged lesbians, gays and anyone else concerned about the loss of the NEA or PBS to set up appointments with their elected officials when they return to Texas from their official recess between Aug. 15 and Sept. 6.

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New York City theaters are showcasing new gay-themed plays, on and Off Broadway...See Page 16

## Houstonians among 6 to die in Alaska plane crash

## FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

(HAINES, Alaska)—A small sightseeing plane crashed into the side of a mountain in southeast Alaska last Friday, killing all six people aboard. Among those killed in the tragic accident were two prominent Houston attorneys who were known as community leaders, involved in an array of charitable, professional and religious organizations.

Ronald G. Pearson and Alan Lawrence ("Larry") Schechter of Houston were killed when the single engine Piper Cherokee slammed into a mountain about 500 feet above Pyramid Harbor and burst into flames.

The plane, owned by the LAB Flying Service, was giving a sightseeing tour to five passengers from the cruise ship Sea Spirit, officials said.

The Sea Spirit, owned by Sea Spirit Cruises of Minneapolis, was scheduled to leave Haines on Friday night.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Q-Patrol: Summer peak time for bashers

By GLEN WEBBER

Houston Voice/Houston

The month of July is a sad anniversary for the Houston gay community. It was July, 1991 when Paul Broussard was savagely beaten and murdered by nine gay bashers. It was July, 1994 when Mike Burzinski, newly arrived from the midwest, was abducted, robbed, then murdered by four local teenagers.

Violent crimes against gay people are often committed by young men who view the gay community as an easy tar-

get for crime sprees. According to Glenn Holt, co-president of Q-Patrol, they are partly right.

The upcoming summer and early fall months are historically the busiest time for gay bashers, and for the gay community, the most dangerous. With the bars so close together, and very few lighted parking lots available, many people must park many blocks away.

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- Songfest '93**

# Community Calendar

by Carolyn Roberts

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

## Friday, July 14

- \* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- \* HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 225-9411.
- \* Lesbian/Gay Voices on KPFT 90.1 FM 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- \* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- \* CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- \* "Ministry Within the Gay Community"—workshop at Kingdom Community Church. 11:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.
- \* "The Dance of Spirituality and Sexuality" presentation at Kingdom Community Church. 7:00 p.m. Call 862-7533.
- \* "Will Rogers Follies" at Miller Outdoor. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.
- \* Film "The Last Hero in China" at the MFA. Call 639-7300.

## Saturday, July 15

- \* "Uncommon Callings" Discussion at Kingdom Community Church. 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533.
- \* "Coming Out to God" by Chris Glaser at Kingdom Community Church. 3:00 p.m. Call 862-7533.
- \* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 520-1809.
- \* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- \* Midnight showing of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" at the River Oaks 3. Call 524-2175.
- \* Dignity Houston meets for liturgy and social hour. Mass at 7:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872.
- \* Colt 45's Bartend on the patio at the Brazos River Bottom.
- \* "Will Rogers Follies" at Miller Outdoor. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.
- \* Film "and the Earth Did Not Swallow Him" at MFA. 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- \* Exploring the SM Lifestyle demo at the Ripcord. 10:00 p.m. Call 521-2792.
- \* Michael M. as Androgeny performs at Heaven. Midnight.

## Sunday, July 16

- \* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 520-1809.
- \* Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection worship services. 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- \* Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis Center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- \* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services at 10:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.
- \* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.
- \* Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
- \* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Chris Glaser speaking. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. Book signing will be after the service.
- \* Dignity Houston Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. 1307 H Yale. Call 880-2872.
- \* "Eye of 3rd Ward" art exhibit at MFA-Masterson Jr. Gallery. Call 639-7300.
- \* Family Day at Bayou Bend. Young Audiences of Houston presents tribute to Harriet Tubman. Free. 1:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

- \* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- \* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- \* General membership meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Bering for the African-American Lesbian/Gay Alliance of Houston. Call 864-2242.
- \* Christmas in July party at Rich's. 4:00 p.m.
- \* Christmas in July Carnival at the Brazos River Bottom. 3:00 p.m.

## Monday, July 17

- \* AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- \* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
- \* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- \* Pool Tournament at the Ripcord. 8:00 p.m.
- \* "Why Does Safe Sex Suck?"—Discussion hosted by Bart Loeser of AFH. 7:00 p.m. Montrose Library. Call 623-6796.
- \* "Will Rogers Follies" at Miller Outdoor. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.

## Tuesday, July 18

- \* MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group and pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- \* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- \* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
- \* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 1509 Fairview. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.
- \* Fundraiser at Los Tios (9527 Westheimer) for FIRM. 6:00 p.m. Call 784-1900.

## Wednesday, July 19

- \* MCCR: BiNet Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series and Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.
- \* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
- \* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
- \* Toopee's Coffee Bar has "Activity Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 522-7662.
- \* "A Course in Miracles" at Kingdom Community Church. 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.
- \* "Getting to Know You" discussion by Tony Carroll. Call 529-0037.

## Thursday, July 20

- \* Biggers Lecture Series "Africa, The Positive Shock" at MFA. 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- \* Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 6291432.
- \* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.
- \* Art Classes sponsored by AFH. The Art League. 1:00 P.M. Call 526-1118.
- \* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- \* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- \* Computer Nerd Session. 7:00 p.m. 529-1223.
- \* En\*Light\*en Up meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 528-6174.
- \* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- \* "Will Rogers Follies" at Miller Outdoor. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.

# MCA hosts 'Rhinestones and Studs II'

## Quick Notes

Glitz, glitter, feathers, silent auction, a raffle, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and complimentary admission awaits those who attend "RHINESTONES AND STUDS II," the Miss Camp America Foundation's Pre-Pageant Party, this Saturday evening from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

The Texas Medical Center Ballroom (formerly Shamrock Ballroom) is the venue for this very special event which precedes the annual Miss Camp America Pageant, a charity production that parodies the Miss America Pageant in September.

Entertainers for the evening include cabaret singer Marsha Carlton, Houston City Limits,



'Nazimova,' the reigning Miss Camp America

Clay Howell, Bubba McNeely, The Miss Camp America Top Nine for 1995 and "Nazimova" the sov-

eign reigning Miss Camp America.

During the event, prizes including a round trip for two anywhere in the continental United States, a year membership from The Fitness Exchange or two nights in Key West at either Big Ruby's or Newton Street Station, will be given away. Tickets will be available to this year's MCA pageant at the "RHINESTONES AND STUDS II" box office. Those who purchase the tickets now will avoid the later service charge.

The pageant is scheduled to be held Sept. 16. Designated charities selected by the membership for 1995 include the Bering Dental Clinic, Colt 45 Trouble Fund, Names Project Education Program and the PWA Coalitions Warehouse Program.

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## COMMUNITY

# Community forums set for HIV prevention plan

## Quick Notes

The Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, in conjunction with the Houston Department of Health and Human Services' (HDHHS) HIV/STD Prevention Program, will be sponsoring two community forums to seek input from the community to develop a prevention plan and provide guidance to HDHHS related to HIV priorities and the development of HIV prevention interventions.

A community forum is scheduled from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on July 12 at Kashmere Multi-Service Center, 4802 Lockwood.

"We would like to invite the community of Houston to take part in the HIV prevention community planning process by participating in the forums," said Glenda Gardner,

Acting Chief of the HDHHS Bureau of Communicable Disease. "This is a wonderful opportunity for people to voice their opinion and provide valuable information which will be used in the developing of an effective HIV prevention plan."

The purpose of the HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, which must be reflective of the current and projected HIV epidemic in Houston, is to assess existing HIV prevention activities and assist HDHHS in developing an effective HIV prevention plan for the department's HIV/STD Prevention Program.

For more information about the forums, or if you are interested in participating as an active member of the Houston HIV Prevention Community Planning Group, call Melissa Shelton at 794-2834 or Pauline Deverson at 794-2904.

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All copies of *Memnoch the Devil* must be purchased at either Brazos Bookstore or Crossroads Market in order to be signed at these events. Proof of purchase required for admission to book-signings.

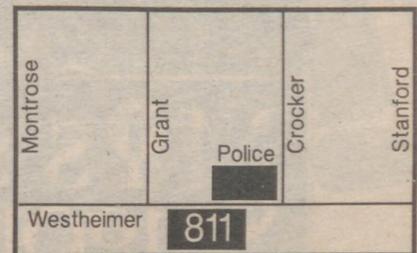
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## IN MEMORY OF

**ROBERT H. CASE**  
 BORN: May 21, 1945  
 DIED: July 2, 1995

Bob is now tending in the Garden of Our Lord. He was raised in New England and served in the army during the Vietnam era. After the service he graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in New York. Following a brief marriage, he settled in the Detroit area where he became a florist opening his own business. He moved to Houston in 1983 where he worked as a Floral Designer. For 3 years he was Floral Manager at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. During that time he designed for the President, the Queen of England and many other celebrities. At the time of his death Bob was employed by Wolfe Garden Center, Meyerland, as Floral Manager. Mourning his death are: his mother, Genevieve Farnsworth of Bellows Falls, Vt; his father, Clarence of Crystal River, Florida; his half brother, Chip also of Florida; his Lifemate of 9 years, Tim McNally; best friends, Rickie Keister, Richard, Jim in Atlanta, and many others, here and around the country. Not to be forgotten, his cherished pets, Charity, Maggie and Frankie. Contributions, in his memory, can be made to the AIDS charity of choice. A memorial service will be held at our home, in August. You're the one who made my dreams come true.  
 Always, My Love Tim

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## HOUSTON VOICE

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## Accident kills 6 sightseers

(Continued from Page 1)

The plane crashed Friday afternoon in a thick stand of trees 500 feet up the mountain near Pyramid Harbor along the Chilkat Inlet just south of Haines. The site is 80 miles northwest of Juneau.

Both of the Houston men killed in the accident were 39 years old.

Pearson specialized in health law and was a shareholder in the Health Law Section of Jenkins & Gilchrist. He had served as a leader of several community organizations, including the Executive and Professional Association of Houston, HATCH, the Assistance Fund and the Texas Human Rights Foundation.

At the time of his death, Schecter was a partner in the law firm of Stern, Gordon & Schecter and a prominent Houston trial lawyer. He was known for his love of travel and adventure.

Also killed were pilot Jeff Bradley, 25, of Haines; and passengers George Drumheller, 62, and Daniel Shea, 37, both of Walla Walla, Wash., and John Degregorio of Palm Springs, Calif.

Authorities have not determined what caused the crash, but witnesses from a second LAB sightseeing plane reported seeing the first aircraft maneuver for a look at some bears, then slow and appear to stall.

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HOUSTON

## VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

*Clinic's Founders had Broader Vision*

FROM GARY W. BREWTON, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Houston, Texas

I write to respond to your article about alleged problems at the Montrose Clinic and Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN). I am an interested observer, not involved in day-to-day operations there.

I can write about what the founders of the Clinic intended, because I was one of them. We created Montrose Clinic in 1981 to address the lesbian and gay community's needs for health services which were not available anywhere else. Back then, these needs were not limited to sexually transmitted diseases (STD's). Now, there is a tremendous need among gay men with HIV in Houston for access to experimental treatments. Treatment for adults with HIV has not been a priority in Houston's academic medical centers—witness the disgrace of University of Texas/M.D. Anderson closing its AIDS program in 1987. Thus it is totally appropriate for the Clinic through HCRN to meet these needs. Those who view this as an "attempt to steer the Clinic away from its historic role" don't have the much broader vision we had at the beginning.

Critics of the new administration apparently believe Montrose Clinic should only continue its role as a treatment center for people—gay and straight—with STD's. We, the founders, never would have guessed that the city would close its Central Clinic for STD's, but years ago the city did. This is part of the reason why so many heterosexual women and men choose Montrose Clinic for care—the city abdicated its role to take care of them directly. Fortunately, Montrose Clinic is there for straight people, too, but this isn't "what the Clinic was set up to be."

The other complaint to which I take exception is that doing research with drug companies in some way taints the Clinic by its association with for-profit enterprises. This point of view is not well thought out and reporting it uncritically serves only to inflame public opinion. Research is done with drug companies because they are the only ones who have these new drugs and can provide them to the Clinic's patients! Also, drug companies pay for costs of routine testing of patients on controlled research studies. Without drug company support, these routine tests would have to be paid out of people's own pockets. Drug company funding to do AIDS research covers the basics, not luxuries.

Yes, the Clinic has to grow and change to keep pace with the community's needs. Yes, change is painful. And yes, non-profit entities move from an all-volunteer to part-salaried, part-volun-

teer structure as they grow—if they are serious and they want to be taken seriously.

I am proud to have been a founder of Montrose Clinic, to volunteer on the Scientific Advisory Committee, and to work as a principal investigator on an HCRN study. The Clinic needs and has earned the support of the community. I urge your readers to recognize growing pains for what they are, and continue to vigorously support the Montrose Clinic/HCRN for the broad vision its founders saw.

*Open Letter to the Houston Community*

FROM LYNN LAVNER

Brooklyn, New York

I would be remiss not to tell you of events that relate to the Spectrum "Concert of the Stars" produced by Town Meeting Inc. at the AstroArena on June 18, 1995:

I was engaged as a headline act by Alan Bourgeois in March, 1995 and was paid by check following my performance. My paycheck, and that of Romanovsky and Phillips, bounced. My follow up calls to Bourgeois, who had personally assured me that the checks were good, have never been returned. This financial loss alone is devastating to "out" performers in Pride Month, but the story gets worse.

Further phone calls to local people have made me aware of the fact that fraudulent dealings were a well-known pattern in Bourgeois' background, and that choices were made to conceal this from us. (One man wasn't ashamed to tell me that he knew we were being screwed, but had been "threatened with harm" if he warned us. Maybe I can give him butch lessons on my next trip to Houston).

Suffice it to say that we are pursuing criminal charges against those responsible. Meanwhile, it continues to amaze me that not one word of acknowledgment, apology, explanation and redress has come to me from anyone on the board of Town Meeting or connected with any part of the event.

Maybe it would be a good thing to remember, next time you wonder why closeted performers choose not to publicly affiliate with gay events, what Pogo said in the comics: "I have seen the enemy, and he is us."

*Wrong About Transgender Rights*

FROM JAZZ PAZ

Houston, Texas

Daryl Hyatt and Dale Carpenter are wrong! The lesbian and gay movement should welcome transgender as one of us. We are all as one, and if they doubt it, I refer them to the groundbreaking work by Leslie Feinberg, "Stone Butch Blues." This book is available in libraries and bookstores, but I personally welcome them to borrow my copy.

## BOY TOY DANCERS

THU 9PM • FRI 6PM • SAT 10PM

## SUNDAY

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*Helms: gays 'disgusting, revolting' conduct causes AIDS*

NEW YORK (AP)—Sen. Jesse Helms says the government should spend less money on people with AIDS because they got sick as a result of "deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct." The New York Times reported last week.

Helms, who has often spoken of his disgust for gays, spoke to the Times as the Senate considers whether to renew a federal program for the care

and treatment of AIDS patients. "We've got to have some common sense about a disease transmitted by people deliberately engaging in unnatural acts," Helms told the Times.

The Republican from North Carolina argued that AIDS gets a disproportionately large amount of funding for medical research despite being only the ninth-leading cause of death in the United States. Actually,

Public Health Services statistics show that heart disease receives the most federal funding, at \$36.3 billion annually, followed by cancer, \$16.9 billion, and AIDS at \$6 billion, the Times said.

Furthermore, AIDS is the leading cause of death among both men and women from 24 to 44, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Times said.

The \$880 million Ryan White Care Act of 1990, named for an Indiana teenager who died after contracting AIDS through a blood transfusion, expires at the end of September.

A reauthorization bill has yet to reach the Senate floor, and in the House, the measure is stalled in committee.

Helms denies he has tried to stop the bill.

# Introducing the 'Lesbian Ladies of Laughter'

## Entertainment Notes

From the producers of "The Gay Comedy Jam: Freedom Tour," starring Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye—the most successful nationally touring, all gay, multi-act stand-up comedy show—"The Lesbian Ladies Of Laughter," starring Nancy Norton, Laurie Davies and Houston's own



Nancy Norton

Nancy Ford, hits the stage for a one-night-only performance in Houston on Monday, July 24 at The Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray in the River Oaks Shopping Center. This all-lesbian stand-up comedy show is a great night of "out"standing comedy for not only for the lesbian and gay community, but the heterosexual crowd as well.

These are not just lesbian comedians, more so, they are comedians that happen to be lesbians. "The Lesbian Ladies Of Laughter" is a night of non-stop laughs from three of the best comedians touring today. Like The Gay Comedy Jam, this show fills a void in the lesbian and gay entertainment community that until now has never been available. But it



Nancy Ford

shouldn't be generalized as a "lesbian night out," according to the performers. Their humor is of course influenced by their lesbian culture but is widely enjoyed by the non-gay/lesbian crowd as well. The show is "male and hetero-friendly."

Nancy Norton has been seen on A&E's "An Evening at the Improv," she's a veteran of many of the top rated comedy clubs in the nation. Nancy resides in Denver when she is not on the road, which these days isn't often. Laurie Davies is a veteran of different sorts. She has proudly served our country as a member of our National Armed Forces. She has put down her weapon and picked up a microphone, much to the delight of audience members across the country. Laurie is from Indianapolis.



Laurie Davies

Houston's own Nancy Ford is always a hit with her song parodies about gay/lesbian life. Nancy has been very active in local and national gay/lesbian causes for years. She is a regular performer at community events in Houston, and hosts her own comedy night at the Ranch when she isn't touring.

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$15 on the day of the show. For more information or to charge tickets by phone call (713) 524-2333.

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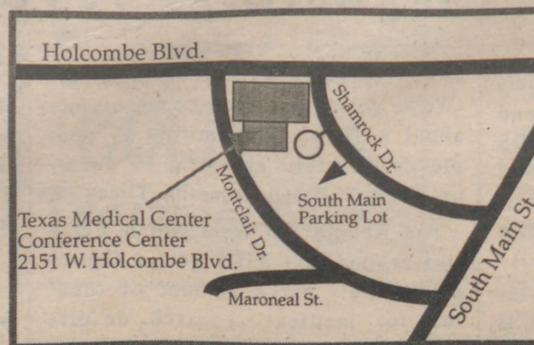
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**VOICE MAIL**

Letters to the Editor

*Not Treason to Criticize*

FROM LARRY LINGLE

Houston, Texas

I have no desire to enter a public debate with Alan Bourgeois about his Spectrum '95. However, in his letter to the Voice, the only name mentioned, other than his own and his financial benefactors, was mine. The reason for that is Alan was, in fact, responding to a letter of mine which appeared in The Texas Triangle. And from that Alan chose to make me the poster boy for all his critics.

First, to clear the record, early in the formation of Town Meeting II, later called Spectrum '95, I met with Alan and had to respond negatively to my business becoming a sponsor for one simple reason—sponsorships were quoted to me at \$10,000, well beyond the means of a gay and lesbian bookstore. As Spectrum 95 became a reality we signed on for the business expo—and had the largest booth there—and voluntarily sold tickets to the event at our store.

My leading the pack of critics, as Alan sees it, was my "Triangle" letter, a letter which was intended as one of my occasional columns for that publication but for reasons known only to whatever powers that be at the "Triangle" was run as a letter to the editor. The premise of my letter was that reading the gay press one would conclude that these publications were writing of different events. I concluded that Sheri Cohen Darbonne's reporting in the Houston Voice was by far the most accurate.

Again, Alan, answers his own challenge—he notes that he furnished the "facts" to all the gay press and they reported it as they chose. Alan's "facts" are better known in the trade as a press release, by which the best possible spin is put on the "facts," much as Alan was doing in his letter to the "Voice."

As I noted in my earlier letter, Spectrum '95 was originally Town Meeting II, an obvious reference to the Town Meeting in 1978 which drew 4,000. From the beginning Alan spoke of this figure as his starting point—the expo and the show were only to further enhance the crowd, to the point that the promoters began to talk of a figure closer to 8,000. And in the beginning Alan had grandiose plans for a big headliner for the show—failing that he seems to have gone for quantity. The reality—fewer than 2000 for all events.

The reality set in that Saturday. Ticket sales were nearly non-existent. The boast of 400 booths at the expo became 200, and the reality was less than a hundred manned booths. The

seed of the event, the Town Meeting, mustered fewer than thirty-five persons and most of these were transgenders and their supporters who swept the day with endless resolutions. Reality that night set in with canceled performers, fewer than a thousand tickets sold, a late running event which played out to a rapidly diminishing audience.

Now Alan's scapegoats: The gay and lesbian community itself and "those people within the community who are more concerned about their status than they are about the community." If Alan must blame the "community" then he must explain the lack of inclusiveness of his board and his own failures to reach out to all segments of that community. Low turnout, poor ticket sales, a diminishing business expo, a Town Meeting which was a non-event, and a disastrous show, combined with a \$72,000 loss can only be turned into a "success" in a press agent's mind, and Alan's.

And, finally, Alan, it is not treason to criticize within our community, it is not irresponsible to demand an accounting of an event which banners itself in the name of the community. The sad fact is that for too long our community has not demanded an accounting from those who would use the good name of the community for self-promotion.

What is responsible behavior is the willingness of the "Voice" to seek the true facts beyond the press agency. Frankly, I am further astonished and pleased to note that Sheri's reporting of Spectrum 95 was not a fluke—witness her fine piece of journalism last week on the Montrose Clinic. I am not known as a fan of the Voice, but I perceive the beginning of truly responsible journalism and would be hypocritically remiss if I did not note the emergence of a new "Voice" in the wasteland of Texas gay journalism.

*Thanks from LiB*

FROM MADELYN MCNEIL

President, Lesbians in Business, Houston

LiB (Lesbians in Business) would like to thank the Houston Voice and our many supporters of "Breast Cancer Prevention Day." The day was a success. We were able to service many of our sisters, with 40 percent of them never having had a mammogram before. It took the efforts of everyone, from the folks that donated the food, the volunteer workers to the members of the press who enabled us to get the word out. Without everyone's help we could not have made this day successful.

Again, thank you for your support.

The Houston Voice welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point commentaries for our opinion/editorial pages. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in articles we have already run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and clarity. The views expressed in guest commentaries and letters to the editor published in the Houston Voice are those of the writers. We seek to provide a broad-based forum which reflects the varying points of view of our rich and diverse community. Selection for publication is at our discretion. Send articles to: The Houston Voice, Attn.: Editor, 811 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713-529-9531.

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## Arts and media programs targeted by G.O.P., right wing

(Continued from Page 1)

The attacks on these federal programs that began in March are complicated, multi-pronged and expected to continue until October. A variety of different methods of shutting off money are being attempted. Further, by attacking the funding of one project, funds are indirectly cut to other projects. For example, cuts being attempted in either the NEA or CPB would devastate PBS.

Virginia Cohen, NEA Public Affairs Specialist in Washington, D.C. explains, "The agencies aren't linked, except politically now only, in the way Congress wants to cut or eliminate our agencies. The NEA and the CPB have no direct link. However, through its media arts programs, the NEA does fund some arts programming on public television and on radio. For example, 'American Playhouse,' 'American Masters,' and 'Live From Lincoln Center,' are all programs which exist due in part to the NEA."

Deanna Martin-Mackey of KPBS, one of the nation's most watched public television stations, explained that the NEA provides grants and other funding for PBS program-

ming and that PBS would also be harmed by cuts in the CPB. While only 12 percent of KPBS' budget comes from the CPB, the CPB provides many costly services for free to PBS stations, such as the satellite interconnect and copyright fees. If the CPB was to be zeroed out, Martin-Mackey felt the actual loss of funding support would be closer to 50 percent. Further, she explained that many smaller PBS stations would fail altogether without the CPB and then the shared cost of PBS' national programs, such as the nightly news report would be much higher at a time that surviving PBS stations would be much less able to pay. She is very concerned that besides talk of eliminating the CPB altogether in 1998, the House appropriations committee has recommended rescinding funds that were already appropriated for the CPB by 15 percent for 1996, and 30 percent in 1997.

Judith Golub, executive director of the American Arts Alliance in Washington, D.C., sees the pending threats as very real and dangerous to

*"The radical right are using a pretext of cutting government spending to wage ideological war against anyone not marching in lock step with their anti-gay, anti-environment, and anti-liberal world view."*

the nation. She also stated, "The NEA helps nurture a small number of promising artists at a time in their careers when they need help the most and when the market may not be supportive of their unique work. Over the years, scores of artists who went on to receive Pulitzer Prizes, National Book Awards, MacArthur "genius" awards, Academy Awards, Emmys, Tonys and other prestigious national honors were supported at a crucial point in their artistic lives by the Endowment."

Cohen declared, "The NEA has taken cuts, cut after cut after cut. We've lost 49 percent of

our purchasing power since 1979. The people of the United States get a pretty good bang for their buck, if they look at what we fund in our own communities."

Republicans such as Gingrich and Pressler assert they simply want to save the taxpayers money and that it is unfair that all Americans should pay for services that not all Americans want. Activists in the arts strongly disagree with fiscal and fairness explanations given by Gingrich and Pressler.

One federal employee who couldn't be directly quoted due to the Federal employee gag laws leaked this information to the Houston Voice, "Many Americans dislike various military expenditures BUT are forced to pay about \$1,100 per capita per year for them. Huge amounts of federal money are given away as foreign advertising allowance tax-breaks for fast food restaurant's expansion into overseas markets. Other billions are given away that benefit most Americans in no positive way. The NEA costs each American about 64 cents a year and that money is then spent

inside the USA. It benefits the domestic economy, and also benefits Americans with classical symphonies, TV arts presentation and many other services."

One activist unafraid to be quoted is Carl Lange, executive director of GLAAD Atlanta: "The radical right are using a pretext of cutting government spending to wage ideological war against anyone not marching in lock step with their anti-gay, anti-environment, and anti-liberal world view. If they were truly serious about cutting government waste they would start with the billions of tobacco subsidies, or perhaps a cap on the \$51 billion a year to subsidize mortgage interest deductions, 95 percent of which subsidy goes to the top five percent of income earners."

The American Arts Alliance is asking people to call their representatives through the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and demand a stop to the funding attacks on these programs.

(In the second part of this report, Houston Voice investigates the people, agendas, and stories behind these cuts).

## SPORTS NOTES

### Gay & Lesbian Skate Night

Lambda Rollerskating Club will host the next Skate Night on Wednesday, July 19 from 8:00-10:00 p.m. at Dairy Ashford Skating Rink, located at 1820 Dairy Ashford. Admission is \$5, which includes skates. In-line skates welcome. For more information, call 933-5818.

The group's next outdoor skate is scheduled July 23, 11:00 a.m. in Memorial Park. Look for the LRC banner; refreshments will be available.

### Bowling League Standings

The Inner Loop Sunday Evening League reports Sticky Wickets is now in first place, Another Ex is second and Bayer, Babb, Benson & Sikes is third. High Scratch game of 254 was bowled by Ralph Sikes and series of 639 by Brian Elley for the men. For the women High Scratch game of 268 and series of 673 was bowled by Diann Thomason. For League info, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A standing of Lube It or Lose It in first place, Doggie Style Too is second and Four Blonde Beavers is third. Division B is headed by Striking Beauties and in second is Duck Sausage. Third place is taken by So...What's Your Point. High Scratch game of 240 and series of 741 was bowled by Rodney Seiler. For more info call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Monday Nite Women's League reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is second, Nine Is Fine is third and Walking Wounded is fourth. For info call Pat at 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

The Wednesday Nite Mixers report first place is taken by Tongue Wrestlers, second place by Daisy Mae & Seedlings and third by Gutter Girls. High Scratch game of 256 and series of 679 was bowled by Tom O'Dell for the men and for the women Susan Snider bowled scratch of 199 and Tricia O'Neal bowled series of 573. For more info call Tom at 522-9612.

Candlelight No Tap Doubles is this Saturday, July 15, at Palace Lanes. Registration is from 7:00-8:00 p.m.; bowling starts at 8:00 p.m.

### REPORT YOUR SPORTS!

Send your updates, scores and information on coming events and tournaments to the HOUSTON VOICE, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105/Houston, TX 77006; Fax 529-9531; Phone 529-8490.

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# Gay Today

by Glen Webber



## Gone Tomorrow...?

I am writing this from a location I can't divulge. The year is now 2001. It has been five years since the overwhelming success of the Republican Party/Religious Right victory in the 1996 election. And the congressional elections of 1998 gave the right-wing majority total control in Congress. They replaced the remaining Supreme Court Justices with very conservative judges. Following that were the appointments of federal judges whose allegiance to the right wing was solid.

How did extreme right wing religious fanatics get control of the Republican Party and the United States judicial system? They did it by forming a grass roots effort that stretched into every state of the union. Those elected officials promised to support right wing political views if elected, and now are obligated to pass laws dictated to them, or face being recalled from office.

How did the hate filled right wing gain so much power so quickly? It was easy. FEAR. They took the fears of the average American of today, and promised an America of long ago. They took the fear of crime, and promised strong laws and more prisons to stop criminals. They took the fear of violence and promised to end it by making religion mandatory in schools (they said religion would replace gangs and drugs). They used the fear of America losing family values and said anyone not supporting THEIR values were outlaws in society and were threats to the family unit.

They said freedom of choice led to the ruin of society and that the path they set for saving America was the only path to follow. They said freedom of speech incited unrest. What did they do once they gained the White House, along with the majority of votes in Congress, state houses, and local governments? They started reshaping society by eliminating and imprisoning those opposed to their views and their agenda.

Schools are now religious institutions. Abstinence from sex is taught early, and only sex for procreation is advocated. Homosexuality, declared illegal and immoral by a constitutional amendment, is now

taught as anti-God and anti-society. Students believed to exhibit homosexual tendencies will be sent to camps for further straightening out.

All AIDS funding was halted in 1996 elections. By 1998, hospital prison camps were formed for those with AIDS. Patients were sent there to die quickly, with only pain medication to ease the suffering. Those infected with the virus are also in quarantine, with no access to the outside world. AIDS testing is mandatory, and regardless of the health of the person, all who are HIV-positive are put away. All property is confiscated and sold or destroyed.

According to those in charge, homosexuals are the reason for all of society's ills. They said we were child molesters. Since we couldn't have children, we had to take theirs. We were the reason the military wasn't effective, so we were searched out and removed from service. They said we spread the most hideous plague to hit the modern world and were the reason health care and other government services went broke. Anything promoting gay rights was called subversive, and many were imprisoned for anti-family views. Those gay men and women who were not able to leave America for sympathetic foreign countries, are now living in hiding, powerless to fight back, afraid for their lives.

Gone forever is the misleading rhetoric against big government. Now, no one dares speak out against the government. If you don't support them, it is treason, and in future elections, as the Constitution is rewritten, the freedoms many have long enjoyed will be gone.

And how did we get to this place? We weren't paying attention. We didn't vote when we had the chance. We didn't question those candidates whose views were laced with the buzz words of the right wing. We didn't care because we felt we weren't in any danger.

I'm not a negative person, and I hope this view of the future doesn't happen. But the reality is, it is happening. If we lose the next major election and if the formidably well-organized right wing continues its successful grass roots effort, our community will be destroyed and our lives changed for the worse.

## THE FEMME MYSTIQUE

edited by Lesléa Newman

A fascinating and insightful look at the world of femme identity within the lesbian community, written by femmes, former femmes, femme wanna-bes, femme admirers, and, of course, femmes fatales. Through poetry, essays, short fiction, and photography, *The Femme Mystique* explores what it means to be a femme and a lesbian in a society that often trivializes the feminine.

### THE FEMME MYSTIQUE

edited by Lesléa Newman

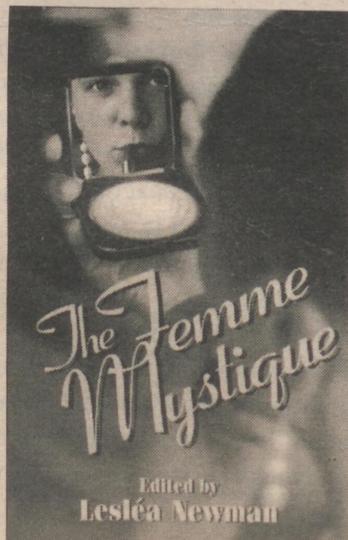
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## PLAY SAFE

### Pet Trick Search Underway

Is Fido funny? Do you have a prankster for a pussycat? Your pet may have a shot at stardom! The Houston SPCA has announced the Lone Star Pet Trick Contest and wants to make your pet a celebrity. The contest will kick-off festivities for the SPCA's first annual telethon, which will be held October 29 on KHTV Channel 39.

The entry deadline is August 15. To enter, send a videotape of your pet in action to: HSPCA Pet Trick Contest, 900 Portway Drive, Houston, TX 77024. No trick is too stupid, but tricks depicting animal cruelty, abuse, neglect or unrealistic pet behavior will be disqualified. Semi-finalists will be announced in September and the live competition and prize presentations will be held in October. For more information, please call 869-SPCA, ext. 26.

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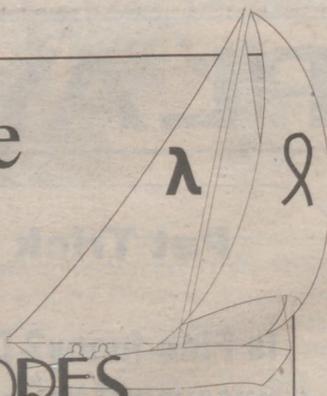
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## Community Organizations Bulletin Board

### Safer Sex Forum for Young Gay Men

While older gay men have changed their sexual behavior, a high proportion of young gay and bisexual men are having unsafe sex. Ongoing research in Los Angeles, Miami, Baltimore, Dallas and several California counties has found 44 percent of men under 25 reporting unprotected anal penetration in the previous six months. A community discussion entitled, "Why Does Safe Sex Suck?" is being organized by young queer men for young queer men, as an open and honest look at the reasons we are still having unsafe sex and as a chance to develop ideas for more effective prevention campaigns.

The discussion will deal with three primary questions: 1. What kind of sex are young men having—safe, safer, unsafe, none? 2. Why are we still having unprotected sex, and is it worth the risks? 3. How can we as young gay and bisexual men protect each other?

The discussion is set for Monday, July 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Montrose Branch Library, 4100 Montrose. The discussion will be facilitated by Bart Loeser. For more information, those interested can call Bart at 623-6796.

### AALGA Meeting Sunday

The African-American Lesbian/Gay Alliance of Houston (AALGA) will have a general membership and interest meeting on Sunday, July 16, 1995 at 5:30. The meeting will be held at the Berling Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold in the education building. Anyone interested in becoming a member, or attending the meeting, please contact AALGA at (713) 864-2242.

### Gay Trekkie E-Mail Project

The USS Harvey Milk Gay & Lesbian Star Trek Association, Planet Stonewall

Gay & Lesbian Science Fiction Association and GLAAD are sponsoring an e-mail petition drive from a new website on the Internet to persuade Paramount and the producers of UPN's new Star Trek: Voyager television series to add a positive, ongoing gay or lesbian character to the featured cast by the fall season of 1995. "We are disappointed by the fact that Paramount and the producers of the program have consistently ignored Gene Roddenberry's plans to regularly feature anonymous but identifiably gay crew members on Star Trek: The New Generation," a plan which he announced just two months before his death in 1991, said Tim Perkins, Voyager Project visibility director.

The new website and petition, co-sponsored by the three organizations, is located at: <http://www.gay-trek.com/gaytrek>.

### Chorus Gets Donation

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston (GMCH) has gratefully acknowledged a donation of \$1,500 from the 1995 Nellie Ribbons Party.

"It is...groups like the Nellie Ribbons hosts that enable non-profit organizations to continue to meet their ongoing needs and serve their communities," stated David Weber, GMCH president. "Many people do not realize that all the expenses for the Nellie Ribbons Party comes out of the hosts' pockets. No donations from the gate are used to pay for any of these expenses. Thanks, guys, and keep up the good work."

In past years, all contributions of both food and money were donated by the party, which coincides with the annual Pride Parade, to Stone Soup Food Pantry. This year, the hosts decided to donate some of the gate contributions to other non-profit organizations. Stone Soup and the Pride Committee of Houston were the other beneficiaries.

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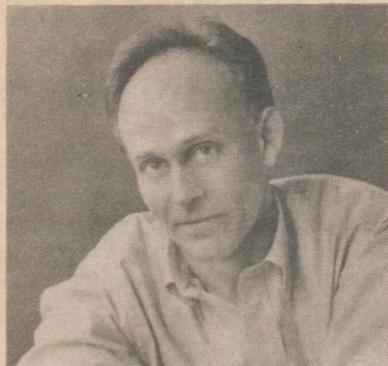
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# The Voice Reader



Author/journalist Neil Miller

## Snippets of a Century

By JAZZ PAZ  
The Houston Voice

("Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present," by Neil Miller, 657 pp. \$16.00, paperback, Vintage Books, 1995)

Over 100 years ago the word "homosexuality" was published for the first time in an anonymous pamphlet distributed in Germany advocating the repeal of that country's sodomy laws. During the Civil War Walt Whitman hiked around the suburbs of Washington D.C. with his intimate friend Peter Doyle, writing about "the love of comrades."

A few years later a Scottish woman passed as a man, called herself Murray Hall, and drank beer and smoked cigars with fellow Tammany Hall politicians in New York, as her wife stayed at home and prepared her supper.

Throughout the 1870's students at American women's universities engaged in violently passionate "smashes" with their classmates and Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote in his diaries of parties he attended where there was much "Z" (his code for homosexuality.)

In 1992, at the first-ever Gay Inaugural Ball, held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. a mob of over seventeen hundred lesbians and gays—resplendent in tuxedos and evening gowns—sang the "Star Spangled Banner." Houston's own Lone Star Symphonic Band joined with Lesbian and Gay Bands of America playing for President Clinton's inaugural parade.

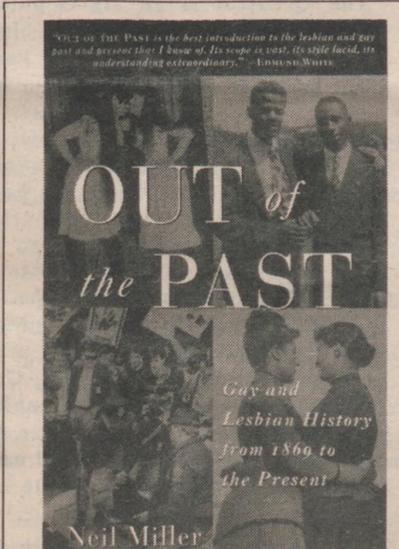
In June, 1994, observing the twenty-fifth anniversary of Stonewall and

Gay Games IV, the headlines of New York magazine asked, "Is Everybody Gay?" and The New York Times urged acceptance of "all kinds of homosexuals, not just those in Brooks Brothers suits."

Between "Z" and Now is the stuff of Neil Miller's ground breaking narrative, Out of the Past, Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present. Drawing upon his own history as former editor of Boston's Gay Community News and complementing previous award-winners ("In Search of Gay America" and "Out in the World") Miller has produced a highly entertaining, easily read record of our remote and recent pride.

From the cowboys and Indians, to the celebrants of the Roaring '20's, Jazz Age Harlem, to the bathhouses and night life of the 1970's, and the March on Washington, the Gay Games and AIDS, Miller discusses individuals and movements that define clarify ourselves. With excerpts from both contemporary and historical documents and photographs and illustrations throughout, Out of the Past covers lesbian and gay life Soviet Russia, Castro's Cuba, modern Japan and right where we live.

Although there have been several books published exploring segments of lesbian and gay history, this is one contained volume that will appeal to "in the know" as well as those readers looking for a comprehensive introduction to the history that has previously been mostly myth and shadows. Highly recommended.



## Candace Gingrich: Newt more moderate than he seems

SANTA FE, N.M., Thursday, July 6 (AP)—Candace Gingrich said her half-brother, House Speaker Newt Gingrich, is much more moderate on gay and lesbian issues than he lets on publicly.

"Newt my brother is a different guy from Newt the politician," she said Wednesday, addressing about 250 listeners at a meeting during the city's Gay, Lesbian and Bi Pride Week.

"I don't think he's homophobic," said Ms. Gingrich, 29. "But he's gotten where he is today with the help of people who are anti-gay."

As a lesbian, Ms. Gingrich said she can't support many of her brother's political positions.

"I'm not going to support anyone who thinks gays and lesbians are second-class citizens," she said.

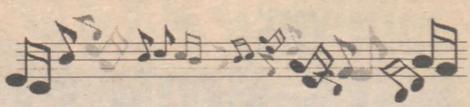
But as a sister, she said she was "proud of what he's strived for."

Ms. Gingrich is on a 51-city tour for the Human Rights Campaign Fund. She serves as spokesperson for the group's National Coming Out Project, which encourages homosexuals to let others know about their sexual orientation.

"This shows people that this is what the American family is like," Ms. Gingrich said. "There are gays and lesbians in everyone's family."

Ms. Gingrich said she doesn't harbor political aspirations, except continued participation as a gay-rights activist.

"I'm not liking politics too much," she said. "I don't like the fact that you need people's help to get into the position and once there, you need to keep bowing down to them to stay there."

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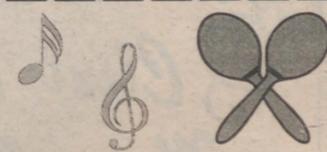
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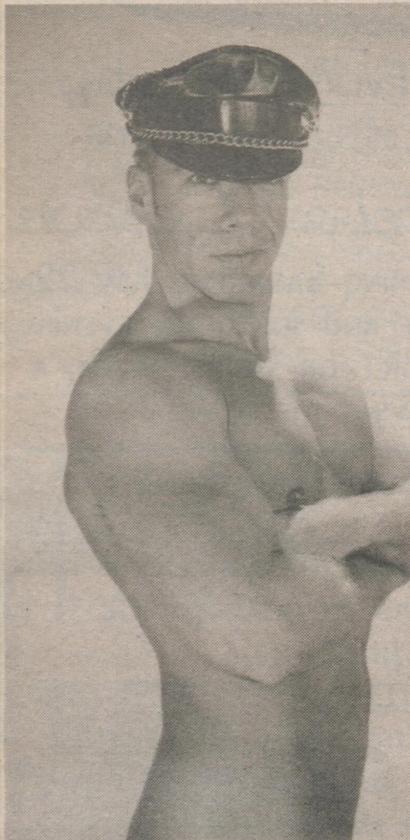
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## Anti-gay crime continues as Houston marks grim anniversary

(Continued from Page 1)

Recently, the Houston Voice received reports of two more bashings. One involved a man who was pelted with raw eggs as he crossed Fairview at Crocker by youths piled in the back of a blue and white Chevy pickup. He was not hurt, fortunately, but was shocked at how quickly it happened.

In the second incident, a gay man was leaving a club late one night last week when two men in a small pickup truck started taunting him. The passenger got out of the pickup and attacked the man, kicking him and punching him. The victim was able to get up, broke away from his attackers and started yelling "fire." This brought the people from their homes and caused the two bashers to leave. The victim did receive some injuries, but was not seriously harmed.

Recently there have been several bashings in the Pacific Street area during the week nights. The Patrol is only out on Friday and Saturday nights. "Whenever someone asks me why the Q-Patrol wasn't there, I point out that we are an all volunteer organization, and without the support of those volunteers, we can't be effective as we want to be," says Holt. "We only ask of the volunteers to give up one night a month to work with the group. We have no physical requirements and no specialized training."

The Q-Patrol is an all volunteer group that patrols within a four block area of Pacific Street and Hyde Park. They look for persons acting suspiciously or for vehicles seen driving around the bar areas with suspicious acting people in them. Those vehicles they determine should not be in Montrose are followed until they leave the area. They also record the license plate and send the registered owner of the vehicle a letter. The letter states the vehicle was seen in Montrose and that the occupants were observed acting suspiciously. Glen says, "We have never seen a vehicle again after we have sent the letter. We hope we have stopped a potential bashing by following the people we believe are out for trouble."

The group's relationship with the police is excellent. They credit the Q-Patrol with the decrease in some crimes and rely on them when trouble is brewing. Said one officer who patrols the area. "They know how to act in a situation when trouble happens."

Holt adds, "Our group has a great mix of men and women, both straight and gay. What matters to us is the desire of our volunteers to make a commit-

ment to the patrol. When things get rough over the next couple of months, those patrol members will make a difference in possibly preventing a bashing."

### Tips for Your Safety

The following safety tips can keep you from becoming a victim of a bashing or robbery. Keep in mind, though, it can happen very quickly, so you should always be alert.

1. Park in lighted areas close to the places you are going. If you must park far away, find a street light or porch light from a house or apartment to park by. You can also park in a lighted parking lot, like Kroger or Walgreens, then take a cab to your location.

2. Don't travel alone if possible. Look for others to walk with when leaving a crowded area. A small group can be a deterrent.

3. Don't wear flashy jewelry or expensive watches. Don't flash large wads of cash. Because there are pickpockets in the bars, don't carry a wallet. You should just carry your drivers license and a few dollars in your front pocket. Don't carry your ATM card on your person. There are thieves who watch for people at ATM machines, and target them for robbery.

4. Don't think it won't happen to you. If you are approached by someone suspicious, go another direction. Don't stop and give the time or money. Be prepared for a possible attack and yell FIRE if you are attack. Keep yelling FIRE as that will bring people out to see what is happening.

5. Women should wear fanny packs around the waist instead of carrying purses.

6. Have your keys ready when leaving so you can enter your car right away. Be aware of your surroundings. Walk in the middle of the street, especially if there is a bushy area you must walk by.

7. Those who drink too much and are not aware of their surroundings make easy targets. Please make your last drink a non-alcoholic drink.

8. If someone taunts you with anti-gay remarks, keep walking. Increase your pace and don't look back. Don't challenge a trouble maker. Try to get a description of the car to give the police and Q-Patrol. Stay cool.

9. Volunteer for the Q-Patrol. Your involvement could save someone's life.

For more information on volunteering or making a donation or to give information on a bashing or robbery, please call 871-8519.

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## Lesbian loses bid for visitation rights of child

DOVER, N.H., Friday, July 7 (AP)—A lesbian, who originally sought custody of her former partner's child, was denied visitation rights by a superior court judge.

Stafford County Superior Court Judge Edward Fitzgerald III ruled Joan Comeau should not have rights to visit the 5-year-old girl, despite her argument that she helped raise her and was involved in the decision for her partner, Lucinda Grondin, to be artificially inseminated. The ruling goes against the advice of the child's court-appointed guardian.

In his written order, Fitzgerald said his ruling was partly based on Comeau's "willingness to make this a 'cause celebre' without regard to impact on the child, instead of quietly pursuing the matter in the interest of the child."

Comeau and Grondin were involved in a lesbian relationship from 1984 to 1991, and they were liv-

ing together when Grondin was artificially inseminated in June 1989. She gave birth in March 1990, and the gay couple raised the child together until their break-up in Oct. 1991.

Comeau's lawyer, Susannah Colt of Portsmouth, said she may appeal.

"This decision basically states that my client cannot see the child ever again," she said Thursday. "The implications, I think, are serious for the child."

Fitzgerald already had dismissed Comeau's petition for joint custody of the child, saying the court does not have the "jurisdiction to determine custody of a child outside the divorce context."

Grondin's lawyer, Mark Hanlon of Rochester, said the custody decision is more significant.

During the hearing, Hanlon accused Comeau of "championing the lesbian issue" while giving media interviews.

## Five HMOs under review for handling of AIDS patients on Medicaid

BALTIMORE, Monday, July 10 (AP)—Five health maintenance organizations will be scrutinized by state health officials on how they handle care for AIDS patients on Medicaid, amid allegations of inadequate treatment and careless diagnoses.

Since tracking such cases is difficult because of privacy issues, state officials say they only have heard anecdotal reports of misreading test results and failing to give the correct medicine.

But they say what they have heard is cause for concern. Medicaid patients with AIDS have been discharged from the hospital without adequate follow-up because it took so long to get an appointment with their HMO physician, according to some officials. In other cases, children with AIDS developed avoidable complications and had to be hospitalized.

Many children with HIV and AIDS are also missing necessary primary care such as immunizations and well-child visits, according to some health care providers. And some HMO patients who come in with prescriptions for expensive AIDS medicine often face delays as long as a week while the HMO approves it.

"We've heard some concerns from both sides of the fence," said Larry Triplett, director of the state's Medical Care Finance and Compliance Administration at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

About 40 percent of AIDS patients in Maryland are on Medicaid, the federal-state health program for the poor and disabled. About 60 percent of all people with AIDS will be on Medicaid at some point during their illness.

Officials are increasingly relying on HMOs as a form of managed care. Their health plans use a "gatekeeper" physician to control and coordinate medical care.

"I think the HMOs have been surprised at the complexity of the medical

problems they've confronted. I think they haven't been ready," said Dr. Liza Solomon, the new director of the Maryland AIDS Administration.

"They're going to have to come up to speed quickly if they're going to care for people with complex medical problems."

A quarter of the 467,000 Marylanders on Medicaid are enrolled in HMOs. State health officials are planning to put the entire Medicaid population into HMOs as early as next summer pending federal approval.

HMO officials defended the care they provide, saying they have case managers and other staff to make sure patients with AIDS and HIV are getting proper care.

A case manager handles AIDS cases and physicians are sent to the University of Maryland for monthly updates on HIV issues at Total Health Care, company officials said.

Prudential Health Care Plan's officials said they have become the first and only HMO in the Baltimore-Washington area to be granted full accreditation from the National Committee on Quality Assurance, which evaluates managed care plans around the country.

Officials at Columbia Medical Plan, which operates outside of Baltimore, said they have very few AIDS patients. Officials at Optimum Choice, weren't available for comment.

Officials at Chesapeake Health Plan, which contracts with physicians in the community, said they have not received any specific complaints from the state.

"We believe that for people with chronic and catastrophic illnesses, it only makes sense to have them treated by people who specialize with that disease," said Hanita Schreiber, senior vice president of medical services at Chesapeake Health Plan.

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**Davis legend comes alive on stage in 'Me and Jezebel'**

By **JAVIER TAMEZ**  
*Houston Voice/Houston*

The distinction between a movie star's personality and the public persona she develops is easy to blur. In "Me and Jezebel" playwright Elizabeth Fuller relays her true-life account of the time Bette Davis came to dinner and stayed for over a month, and we meet a Davis that is every bit the sardonic celebrity that decades of publicity agents have made her out to be.

In the two-character play, which is having its Houston premier as a co-production of the New Heights Theatre and The Company We Keep, Fuller (Deborah Hope), who serves as narrator, recounts how an old friend in Connecticut asks if she can bring a friend to dinner, who of course turns out to be Davis (Anne Quackenbush). Fuller recalls childhood memories of watching Davis films with her grandmother—films like "Jezebel"—and she is utterly starstruck and amazed that the person is so similar to the star: "She had the whole act down," she quips.

Fuller is even more pleased when Davis asks if she can stay at the Fuller home for "one or two nights," because of a hotel strike which makes her return to New York impossible. Fuller is only too happy to make Davis at home, and initially her husband

and young son are supportive. As Davis' stay continues though, the husband grows increasingly frustrated that he is playing second fiddle in his own home, and the son begins to spout-off with exaggerated Davisisms.

Through all this, Davis, who denies resembling her screen alter-egos, proves herself to be just as strong and domineering as any of the film characters she has played, but there is also an acid-tongued vulnerability. Davis' stay with Fuller occurred not long after Davis' daughter, B.D., had excoriated the screen goddess in a "Mommie Dearest"-type tell-all book. And Davis is clearly affected by what she perceives to be her daughter's betrayal, but she conveys it (or masks it) with her trademark, biting commentary, which also extends to several of her Hollywood heyday contemporaries, including Clark Gable, Jack Warner, and of course, Joan Crawford.

And this is the strength of the play. Seeing the image of the actress and the woman come to life on stage provides gleeful affirmation of the undying luster of Hollywood legends. Even in an intimate setting such as a private visit to a home, or for that matter a two-character play, the woman is larger-than-life.

(Continued on following page)

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## 'Jezebel, continued; 'Mousetrap' a clever mystery



Anne Quackenbush and Deborah Hope give strong performances in "Me and Jezebel" at New Heights Theatre

(Stage Clips, continued from preceding page)

Where the play does not work is in its narrative construction. Fuller's work would have been far better off if she had made her husband and her son actual characters in the play instead of just anecdotal characters relayed by the narrator.

As with all plays of intimate design, the success of the production rests far more with the performances than the text. And in this production, the performances couldn't have been better. Anne Quackenbush gives a near-perfect turn as Davis. In an ideal mix of characterization and imitation, Quackenbush captures all the Davis eccentricities, yet still imbues her performance with a realistic response to situation.

Deborah Hope has an affecting giddiness as Fuller. She is an exciting and effective storyteller and she marks well Fuller's transformation from entranced fan to abused hostess.

Naturally, the play is replete with references to Davis' films, and enjoyment of the piece will be undeniably enhanced for those who remember her as Jezebel, Margo Channing, Baby Jane Hudson and Aunt Charlotte. Moreover, much of the play's considerable appeal would be lost on someone unfamiliar with Davis.

Director Ron Jones handles the play's inherent intimacy well. He uses crisp, minimal staging conventions which serves to place emphasis on the dialogue, the growing relationship between the two women and on the irrepressible Davis.

"Me and Jezebel" is a delightful story that showcases the Davis persona we've all come to love. Bette Davis may not necessarily have enjoyed this work, but she certainly would have had something to say about it. Just like the character on stage.

### *The Mousetrap*

Here's the setting: eight people are stranded in an English countryside manor, cut off from the rest of the world by a blizzard. And one of them is a killer, poised to strike again. If it sounds like the premise for an Agatha Christie whodunit, it's because it is. "The Mousetrap" is the celebrated mystery writer's most endur-

ing stage work. Indeed, the play is the longest running work in the history of the theater, and it is being presented as the first installment of the Alley Theatre's "'95 Summer Chills."

Mollie Ralston (Christianne Mays) has inherited a typical English manor from her aunt. Mollie and her husband, Giles (Paul Hope) have converted the stately home into a country inn. Their first guests arrive amid the threat of the impending snowstorm and the swirling scandal of a shocking murder: Christopher Wren (Joe Kirkendall) is a flowery buoyant bachelor who has followed his namesake's calling (the man who designed St. Paul's Cathedral) and become an architect; Mrs. Boyle (Marjorie Carroll) is a portentous, aristocratic matron with a keen eye for perceived impertinence; Major Metcalf (Charles Krohn) is a slightly befuddled, though right-proper retired army officer; and Miss Caswell (Gordana Rashovich) is a strident, acerbic English expatriate recently returned to her homeland. Joining these expected guests are two unexpected ones: Mr. Pravacini (Noble Shropshire) a mysterious man seeking refuge from the weather and Detective Sergeant Trotter (Jeffery Bean) who used cross-country skis to reach the manor and prevent a murder.

Detective Trotter, you see, is convinced that the murder of a woman in her London home is tied to a tragedy which occurred 20 years earlier. Three orphaned children were sent to live on a farm with a kindly couple, who turn out to be anything but. The children were physically abused resulting in the death of one of the brothers; the recently murdered woman was the farm wife from the child abuse case. Trotter tells the group that each is somehow connected to the crime a generation earlier and therefore each is now a suspect in the present.

Christie's mastery of the mystery genre is as evident here as in any of her other works. Tension is maintained but nerves are never frayed as suspicion is reasonably cast on each person in the manor.

Director Michael Wilson does his usual impeccable job of evoking strong performances from his cast members. He keeps the action moving at a brisk pace and makes a gag of the genre with the audience. Unfortunately the never-content-to-let-things-be Wilson has (yet again) added droning, unmelodic music intended to underscore the (SCREAM!!!) murder. He also decided to make the abused children that are central to the unseen beginning of the story actually present in this one—kind of, sort of. Against an eerie backdrop of the sound of children laughing, three prepubescent scamper about the stage at the beginning and end of each act. It all smacks of "The Twilight Zone."

"The Mousetrap" is a devilishly clever play that needs no padding. This production does have some added padding (as unnecessary bits), but it's still all sorts of fun.

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**ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT**

**New gay theater in New York City**

**Entertainment Feature**

By **ANDREW EDMONSON**  
 Special to the Houston Voice

(New York, NY)—Anyone questioning the ascendancy of gay and lesbian artists in the American theater today need only take a trip to New York City. The richness and variety of the work by queer artists—directors, playwrights, actors, and designers—is unlikely to be matched any time soon.

On Broadway, "Love, Valour, Compassion!" Terrence McNally's witty, bittersweet paean to Manhattan gay life, won this year's Tony Award for Best Play. Openly gay actor Joe Mantello directed the work in a fluidly staged, exquisitely performed ensemble production that has proven enormously moving to gays and straights alike.

At the Cort Theater, Cherry Jones, one of Broadway's few 'out' lesbian actresses, won the Tony for Best Actress for her luminous, richly textured performance in the title role of *The Heiress*.

But the riches are not limited to the Great White Way. Off-Broadway has long proven a welcome haven for plays examining the gay and lesbian experience, and this year is no exception.

Two very different productions that manage to be both extremely funny and enormously affirming stand out: "Party," a new comedy written and directed by David Dillon, currently on view at the Douglas Fairbanks Theater; and Dan Butler's solo performance piece, "The only Worse Thing That You Could Have Told Me. ..." at the Actor's Playhouse in the West Village.

**Party**

If you've heard anything about "Party," it's that by the end of the play the eight actors on-stage end up completely nude. They do. And they also perform a rousing kick-line finale to the Karen Carpenter standard "Close to You" completely in the buff. In "Party," eight gay white Manhattanites in their 20s and 30s gather at a friend's apartment on Saturday night and engage in "Fact or Fiction," a rowdy parlor game similar to "Truth or Dare." As the night progresses, each character draws a card in the game and proceeds to bare



David Pevsner and Tom Stuart in "Party"

himself psychologically and physically.

"Party" was originally premiered in 1992 in Chicago, where it became a cult favorite, running for over two years before moving to New York. A great deal of the fun in the production comes from identifying which characters on-stage most resemble the individuals in your social circle.

Ray is the fast talking queen with a lightning wit, razor sharp tongue and an encyclopedic knowledge of the Broadway musical. Then there is Andy, the buff, beautiful, brainless hunk who always seems to be one step behind the flow of jokes and repartee. (One of the most delicious moments of the play occurs when Ray attempts to elucidate to Andy the difference between a cast album and a sound track.)

Although it occasionally touches on more serious topics—the loss of friends to AIDS, internalized homophobia, the psychological struggle of gay and lesbian teens—Party doesn't aspire to dramaturgical greatness. It is a workmanlike piece of playwrighting that accomplishes its primary objective with ease: For two solid hours, the audience laughs long and hard at a raucous comedy.

Part of the credit for "Party's" success must rest with the superb ensemble of actors who bounce one-liners of each other with effortless comic aplomb, propelling the play breathlessly forward. Although two understudies went on in key roles the night that this reviewer saw the production, the performance was absolutely seamless.

(Continued on following Page)

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## Gay and lesbian voices take center stage in New York

(Continued from preceding page)

Several individual actors stand out in the ensemble. As the wise-cracking Ray, Ted Bales gives a tour-de-force comic performance. Bales is a tall, thin actor with a wonderfully expressive face that compels an audience's attention. As the footloose, sexually flirtatious actor Brian, Kellum Lewis gives a wonderfully fey performance.

"Party" is deliciously giddy and screamingly funny. Grab your three best sisters, head to the Douglas Fairbanks Theater, and prepare to laugh.

### *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me. . .*

Theatergoers who know Dan Butler only as the quintessentially heterosexual sports announcer Bob "Bulldog" Briscoe on the television series

"Frasier" are in for quite a surprise when they see Butler's new one man show, "The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me. . ."

Not only does Butler prove that he is an actor of enormous range and versatility, he also demonstrates considerable skill as a playwright. Butler, who composed the fifteen vignettes that comprise the evening, has an ear for the way that people talk, for the accents, rhythms and cadences of speech that betray character.

In his 90-minute solo piece, performed with minimal props and costumes on a bare stage, Butler introduces his audiences to a cast of characters who are both predictable and surprising.

There is Jimmy, the hetero party boy who had no idea that his good friend was gay (and is shocked to discover that his gay friend wasn't attracted to him).

Another character, identified only as "The Critic," gives voice to some very politically incorrect ideas that may unsettle many within the gay community. But given the clarity and intellect with which his ideas are expressed, they cannot be dismissed out of hand.

Butler caps the show with a virtuoso turn as Leslie, a forty-something out-of-work actor from the South who volunteers for an AIDS service organization in Los Angeles and discovers, much to his surprise, that he is falling for one of the patients whom he cares for.

Butler gives his audience snapshot scenes from modern gay life: a tape-recorded conversation with his mother in which he discusses whether or not he should come out to his step father; the comic, wrenching deliberations over whether to come out to former classmates at a 20 year high school reunion; the decision by a gay man to face

down someone who hurled an epithet at him on the streets. The moments that he depicts are both funny and poignant, sometimes both.

Director Randy Brenner has worked with Butler to craft a performance of effortless skill and fluidity. Evenings of the theater that are as entertaining, accomplished and thought-provoking as *The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me. . .* are rare. Don't miss it.

"Party" is currently in performance Off-Broadway at the Douglas Fairbanks Theater on Theatre Row (432 West 42nd Street). Tickets may be purchased by calling (212) 239 4321 or (212) 239 6200.

"The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me. . ." is being performed at the Actors' Playhouse at 100 7th Avenue South at Christopher Street. For tickets, call (212) 307 4100.

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COMMUNITY

# Task Force introduces 'Safety First' campaign

## Quick Notes

The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual HIV Task Force, a consortium of AIDS service agencies and individuals, has launched a new safer sex awareness campaign targeting the communities at risk for HIV infection. The task force was created to focus on the HIV education and prevention needs for these Houston communities.

The campaign addresses the lack of discussion and negotiation about sexual practices between partners. This may be due to a lack of communication skills, embarrassment, or the assumption that such a discussion is unnecessary since one should "treat every partner as if they were HIV-positive" a theory that many subscribe to, although few

actually practice it.

To confront this challenge, the group borrowed a symbol that has been used in other cities to represent a commitment to safer sex: the safety pin. It is an item that is easily available which can be worn to express dedication to condom use and other lower-risk activities. "We hope that people will wear the safety pin in social situations to start conversations or establish boundaries up front" states task force coordinator Bart Loeser. "Our slogan is 'even if you can't talk about protection DO IT!'"

The safety pins are attached to cards bearing the AIDS ribbon with a brief message describing the campaign. It also includes the phone number for AFH's AIDS hotline (524-AIDS) where callers can get anonymous

information on safer sex, HIV/AIDS, services, testing, and free workshops. The Safety First cards and pins will be distributed by the various organizations and volunteers at bars, parties, and other events throughout the summer.

The task force acknowledges with appreciation the support of Ed Bradshaw and home health care company, Infinity Care for underwriting the cost of the pins. Additional thanks go to AIDS Foundation Houston and Volunteers of America for funding the printing of the 'Safety First' cards.

*Safety First... and Always*



**A Symbol of Your Commitment to Safer Choices**

If anyone would like quantities of these pins for their events or would like more information about the project please call Bart Loeser at AIDS Foundation Houston, (713) 623-6796.

## Patrick Vachon to speak at First UU Church

### Quick Notes

Patrick Vachon, well known Imago Relationship Therapist, will speak on spirituality, psychotherapy and relationship growth at the regular 5:00 p.m. service on Sunday, July 16

at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston. Craig Ryan will provide special music.

For both singles and couples, Imago provides practical methods for working from romantic love to lasting commitment, and for using conflict in a

positive way.

First Unitarian Universalist Church meets temporarily at Central Congregational, 1311 Holman at Caroline, across from Houston Community Central College, while improved facilities are being built at its regular

Museum District location. The church affirms full participation in society, politics and religion by sexual minorities, and has been recognized as a Welcoming Congregation for gay, lesbian and bisexual persons. For further information call (713) 526-5200.

(Paid Advertisement)

## ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

**Q:** "Is there a certain age that we become accountable to God for our actions, and our sin? I think in Genesis it says age 18 or 20. Also, with such gang activity going on, who will be held accountable for the actions of a young person involved in killing another? Will it be the young person or their parents?"

**A:** The word, "accountability" is not a Biblical word though we see throughout Scripture that humanity is continually held accountable for their thoughts, words and deeds. Adam and Eve were held accountable for their actions in the Garden of Eden and were driven out after receiving the penalty of sin for disobedience. We do not know how old they were when this occurred.

They gave birth to Cain and Abel, their two sons. Cain was jealous of his brother and in a fit of anger killed Abel. God made Cain answerable to God for the action of murder and the anger. We do not know how old Cain was at the time of this incident.

In Proverbs 22:6, parents are instructed to teach their children the ways of God so that when they are grown up they will fear God and not depart from God's ways. It is hard to say when a child becomes aware of right and wrong behavior. For each child there may be a different age. The Jews were given the written moral laws of God to pass on to their children. The Gentiles were said to have had the moral laws written in their heart. They, too, passed along the laws that they were aware of.

In our society we have many states that give sanction of adulthood at age 18. Other states declare adulthood to be age 21. I believe that children have the ability to know right from wrong long before the age of adulthood is declared. If we look at developmental stages of growth we will find children capable of understanding different things at different ages. There is the "mimic what the parent does" stage. There is the rebellious stage where a child will resist authority of every kind. We know this will happen, but to varying degrees. No matter how a child learns and grows in regard to God's law and the laws of the land, we must all learn to obey and respect authority. God is our highest authority. God will be our ultimate judge for the things we have said, thought and done. Parents are held accountable for what they teach and don't teach their children. People who are placed in leadership positions (including parenthood) will have to give an account to God for what they did to set an example (Heb. 13:17). Children are not to make it difficult for parents who try to teach and lead the way. They, too, will have to answer to God for resisting the nurturing and loving instructions they received as children and youth.

Being a parent does not give the adult the right to be a tyrant or a dictator. Parents are to teach, encourage and discipline all within the context of love.

If a child can experience anger to the extent of killing someone, we must stand back and evaluate how this could come to such a tragic event. Only God understands the severity of the problem. I believe that both child and parent will be held accountable, each in their own way. God is just and fair and knows far more than you are I in being the arbitrator of justice.

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

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# GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by Al Kielwasser

## Singled 'Out,' Left 'Out'

Without a doubt, the MTV Network has demonstrated a singular commitment to covering lesbian, gay and bisexual issues. In fact, the popular television service has included lesbians and gays throughout its programming schedule. Homosexuality has been a subject of the network's diverse music videos, "MTV News" reports, "Sex In The 90's" documentaries, anti-violence specials, and several incarnations of "The Real World."

However, there is still one place where lesbians and gays remain conspicuously absent. Queer folk have not been invited to participate in the various "dating" shows that MTV has produced over the years, including its most recent series—"Singled Out"—which debuted just one month ago.

MTV plans to produce 65 episodes of "Singled Out," and the show currently airs twice each day, Monday through Friday. An on-line version of the game show is also in the works.

In each episode of "Singled Out," contestants employ various techniques to "weed out" a date from a large group of contenders. According to the official MTV synopsis: "'Singled Out' is the ultimate relationship show where contestants get a chance to choose their ideal mate from a studio audience filled with the opposite sex." The key phrase here is "OPPOSITE SEX," since lesbian and gay contestants are evidently banned from participating.

Ultimately, only one motivation underlies such discrimination: Homophobia. And it's no more palatable or defensible on MTV than it is on the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Including gay and lesbian contestants in the "Singled Out" mix would surely do justice to MTV's progressive vision. It could also offer routine and sex-positive portrayals...lesbian and gay images that are not limited to "controversial" news stories or documentary "specials."

The importance of such images cannot be underestimated, as the major television networks have consistently refused to portray lesbians and gay men as romantic (let alone sexual) characters. The "homosexual kiss" is a remarkably stubborn taboo. "And even that simple act," Vito Russo noted in "The Celluloid Closet," "is still approached with trepidation by film makers and greeted with cries of outrage from audiences and critics alike."

Until we are portrayed as people who date, touch and (gasp!) even kiss, we are seen as less than human; we are DEFINED but never DEPICTED as lesbians and gays on television. "Dating" shows are one (perhaps ideal) place where depictions could begin to replace definitions; MTV is one (perhaps ideal) network for taking the next—and necessary—step.

Offer some friendly advice to: Judy McGrath, President, MTV Networks Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, tel. 212-258-8712 or 212-258-8000, fax 212-258-8718, e-mail mtvmail@aol.com; America OnLine (AOL) users can also post comments directly to AOL's MTV message area (keyword "MTV").

## A World Of Difference

On June 21, the NBC soap opera

"Another World" featured an HIV-positive and openly gay character, who was played by an HIV-positive and openly gay actor. Keith Christopher, who plays "Bruce," joined the series as part of the annual "Day of Compassion," during which all television networks are encouraged to devote "programming to AIDS awareness and people affected by HIV/AIDS."

NBC has not yet decided if Bruce will be added to the soap opera's cast of "regulars." According to Christopher, "viewer response will determine the fate of this character."

Viewers can respond to: "Another World," 79 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016; Copy your correspondence to Warren Littlefield, President, NBC Entertainment, 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Burbank, CA 91523, tel. 818-840-4444, and to NBC Viewer Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112, tel. 212-664-3370.

## Media Briefs

\* Textbook Reform... "Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues In Education," a network of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, is working "towards dismantling heterosexism and homophobia in the curriculum and policies of our schools, colleges and universities." For more information, contact: Jan M. Goodman, Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Issues In Education/An ASCD Network, P.O. Box 27527, Oakland, CA 94602, tel. 510-530-1706, fax 510-655-4244.

\* Media Activism, By The Book... "Through the Media Looking Glass" is a new book from Common Courage Press (P.O. Box 702 N14, Monroe, ME 04951). Authors Jeff Cohen and Norman Solomon decode "bias and blather in the news."

\* E-Media Watch... "Women Leaders Online" (WLO) is a group dedicated to "opposing the political agenda of the radical right, electing pro-women candidates in 1996, and restoring civility and integrity to American politics." The group publishes an action-oriented online newsletter, "Political Woman Hotline," which features regular media analysis and alerts. Contact: WLO, 276 Chatterton Pkwy, White Plains, NY 10606, e-mail polwoman@aol.com; WLO's home page (with back issues of "Hotline") can be found at <http://worcester.lm.com/women/women.html>.

\* Act Up, Play Back!... "Gay Lives & Culture Wars" is a new video that counterposes homophobic propaganda with personal stories told by young lesbian and gay people. The tape is intended to "counter common myths and misinformation" and provide a "useful educational and organizing tool, especially in areas fighting anti-gay initiatives." Contact: Democracy Media, P.O. Box 82777, Portland, OR 97282, tel. 503-452-6500.

(To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, or to request membership information, please call our 24-hour Media Watch Hotline (415-861-4588) or write to Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad-sfba@aol.com. Let the media know you're watching!)



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# Sambvca Sisters at the ToyBox; new club 'Dreams' opens



Sambvca Sisters



Sambvca Brothers

## Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

### Past Events

The Q-Patrol received a check from the Westheimer Street Festival committee. See the photo featuring board members and local real estate tycoons Bob Ryan and Jay Allen handing the check to Jason Fulton of the Q-Patrol.

This past Sunday, the Sambvca Sisters did a benefit show for the Omega House! I have never seen the ToyBox so crowded. At press time, \$1,125 had been taken in, with more in pledges still to come. If you have never seen the Sambvca Sisters perform, well, you will have to see it to believe it! Keep up the good work, girls!

The New 611 Club was filled with talent this past Sunday. "Come Out Of The Heat," netted \$200 for the Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

Dreams, a new Latino-salsa dance bar opened last Thursday. The crowd got quite festive. I wish them luck and success! Dreams is located at 3522 Glenmont.

### Friday, July 14

The ToyBox has a mini-country cookin' buffet tonight starting around 5:30 p.m. The menu changes each week, so you never know what Mike and the staff are cookin' up!

Black Velvet is performing at the Kon Tiki tonight in Galveston. This is a fundraiser to help send her to Miss Texas/USA in San Antonio in August.

There is a Sinead O'Connor video party tonight at Heaven. Lots of free CD's, tapes and other give-away goodies. They will be premiering Sinead's latest and greatest video at midnight. Leave it to Heaven to keep bring us the latest in music entertainment.

Friday week-end warm-ups at J.R.'s start early. They have \$3.75 Skyy martinis, complimentary hors d'oeuvres from some of Houston's finest restaurants. There are hourly give aways! J.R.'s, the Friday afternoon hot spot!

### Saturday, July 15

It has grown! It has come! It is here! It is ready! Midtown Spa has completely renovated their facility! The grand party is tonight at 11:00 p.m., featuring America's #1 adult video star Chris Stone and many hot male dancers. There is a free buffet and beverages! Stop in and check it out!

Femme de Femme... Woman to Women tonight at Ean's Cabaret. The seductive female dancers show it all (well, almost) for women tonight starting at 9:00 p.m. Clip out the

coupon in this issue and get in free.

Miss T.T. takes the stages of the Lazy J tonight, with guests Misty Valdez, Tricia Blake, Leigh Halston, and a special guest! Show time is at 10:00 p.m.

Michael M. a.k.a. "Androgyny" will be in concert tonight at Heaven. At midnight, s/he will perform "I Could Be This," "Let's Talk About Me," and others.

"Rhinestones and Studs II" sparkles us tonight. This is the pre-pag-eant fundraiser for Miss Camp America. They invite you to join them at the Texas Medical Center (formerly the Shamrock Ballroom) tonight for glitz, glitter, feathers, a silent auction, a raffle, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and complimentary admission. If you would like further info, call 520-STAR.

Cousin's offers talent galore tonight. Their cast of regulars Brandi Houston, Civi Ross, Zack, and Kara Dion always entertain as only they can. Show time is 11:00 p.m.

The Colt 45's will be guest bartending at the Brazos River Bottom tonight, starting at 9:30 p.m. Scoot on down, dance, or say Hi! to some of our community's finest charity volunteer workers on the patio.

Beef, spuds, salad, and suds are all at Mary's today. The grill opens at 3:30 p.m., along with the movie matinee and the beer bust. Mary's... your one stop, get your fill, place to go!

Mr. Club 403 DeVohn is hosting a benefit show for Stone Soup tonight. Please bring can goods or paper products. The show starts at 10:00 p.m.

The Saturday Super Show hits E/J's with a passion tonight. This week's stars are: Veronica DeVore, Tara Dion, and Black Velvet! The lovely and curvy Brittany Paige hosts this show that starts at 11:00 p.m.

### Sunday July 16

The "Miss Kitty Litter" contest tinkles on the stages of E/J's tonight. This is a benefit for the Pet Partoll! I'll be one of the judges, so I'll see you there at 9:00 p.m.

Free Pool! All day and all night at the ToyBox.

"Love Knows No Boundary" tonight at Gentry at 8:00 p.m. This 2-hour drag-a-thon, hosted by Catia Lee Love will be followed by the Sunday night Male Strip frenzy at 10:00 p.m. As usual, Gentry never has a cover and offers a full line-up of entertainment.

Do you wake up Sunday morning's hungry and hung over? Head over to the New 611 and enjoy custom omelettes, French toast, and other yummy goodies. Watch for surprises! Brunch is from noon until 2:30

p.m.

The annual Ron Sioux's Birthday show takes the stage tonight at Cousins! This is always one hell of a good time! This year, Miss Zack, Misty Morn, Michael Smother, and Brittany Paige will be on stage to help Ron celebrate! Show time is at 10:30 p.m.

The "Christmas in July" carnival is this afternoon at the Brazos River Bottom. There will be games, booths, and entertainment starting at 3:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the LVL PWA Fund. At 7:30 p.m., Lady Victoria and the 2 Don's host a "Really Big Show." Don't miss this one!

Mary's opens at 10:00 a.m., yes 10:00 a.m. this and every Sunday morning. What a great place to start off your Sunday.

Hot Men! Cold Beer! Hot Music! Cold AC! All of this at the Montrose Mining Company this afternoon. The long, tall, cold, domestic long-necks are only \$1 all day and all night! If you would rather drink draft beer, hit the patio for \$2 buy-in and 25¢ refills of Miller Lite Draft. It's a great way to beat our Texas heat!

Blue light specials at the Venture-N tonight until 10:00 p.m. You never know just what they will be hi-lighting! Get there early and enjoy Hal and Jim's Yea!Buffet!

### Monday, July 17

Go Honky Tonkin' tonight at Gentry. \$1 domestic longnecks and free pool and jukebox make this a great time. These specials go all day and all night, Mondays and Tuesdays!

"Ab Fab" is on the screens of J/R's Bar and Grill tonight at 7:30 p.m. and at 10:30 p.m. They are showing episodes from the final season. The \$3.50 "Ab Fab" vodka martinis will keep your whistle wet!

### Tuesday, July 18

Pacific Street has a new promotion for Tuesday nights. Join the "Mile High" club in the Skyy Lounge. \$3 Absolut or Skyy Martinis will make you soar! Join Matt and see what I mean! There is no cover with your personalized business card.

FIRM (The Graduation of Interfaith Research and Ministry) invite you to "Hot Salsa Night Party" tonight at Los Tios Mexican Restaurant. Live "Salsa Sounds"

will be provided by "Uno Duo" and "Nitizia and Anibal." There will be food and fun! If you would like more information, call 784-1900.

### Wednesday, July 19

Bear's nite out... tonight at the Montrose Mining Company. It is too darn hot to don usual bear attire (you know, flannel shirts, Levi's, and boots), so just lumber out of your den in just your fur and enjoy \$1 domestic longnecks all night and free Pizza on the patio at midnight!

Shiela Lennon graces the stage of Chances tonight with her country sounds. Stop in around 9:00 p.m. and spend a delightful evening filled with song and laughter.

The Wienie Waivers War wiggles wildly at Wentry, I mean, Gentry! That is a finger/tongue twister. Stop in to see the clothes hit the floor like atom bombs exploding. General Catia Lee Love operates the battle plans. First firing is at 11:00 p.m.!

### Thursday, July 20

The Dueling Dynamic Divas Kofi and Lindsay Lee Love host "Boy Bar" tonight at Heaven. This is a male strip contest with \$200 cash prizes to the winners. Stop in before 11:00 p.m. 'cause these shows always start on time!

There is good sex at Pacific Street tonight. No cover with your Club Houston card or any other valid gym card. Arousal starts at 9:00 p.m. The towel boys will keep your temperature up and the bartenders cool you down!

The Boy Toy dancers bait and tease you tonight starting at 6:00 p.m. at Gentry.

It is week # 5 of the talent search at Club 403. Roxanne Lee Love hosts this contest. If you would like to enter, be there by 10:00 p.m.

### Other Important Stuff

For all you Anne Rice fans, she will be at the Brazos Book Store on Aug. 1, 7:00 p.m. and at Crossroads Market on Aug 2, 6:00 p.m. signing her latest book "Memnoch the Devil."

Bicknell Plumbing Company is a women owned and family operated plumbing business. If you need their service, call 649-6161.

Aphrodite Salon and Spa has a super special going on! 3 months of unlimited tanning for only \$75. Call 523-4646 to set up your tan lines!

Are you looking for some new outrageous furniture? Well, Outrageous at 9000 Richmond is the place to shop!

(Continued on following page)



Don Gill, Shelby St. John, Andrew Flores, and Don Dowden put together a great show benefiting LVL's PWA Holiday Fund

# Things to remember, birthdays to celebrate and stuff you want to forget



Lauren, Mark and Thomas, hanging out at P.S.



Handsome hunks at the 611

Chances is having a garage sale the last weekend of this month to benefit the Montrose Clinic. They need donated items or you can put up your own table. Call Marlene at Chances (523-7217) if you would like to help!

The Q-Patrol is always looking for help! If everyone would donate 1 night a year, that would enable the Q-Patrol to monitor our streets every night of the year! The patrol has just implemented a "bike" patrol. They can't do it without your support! If you would like to volunteer, call 871-8519

Have you noticed the new drink specials at Gentry? Well liquor doubles in a big glass are only \$4, well liquor singles are \$2.50, Absolut or Stolie Martinis are \$3.50, all schnapps are \$1.25 and domestic longnecks are \$2.50 every day until 10:00 p.m. Such a deal!

Get your calendar out! Damion is doing it again! Come July 22, the Club Houston is hosting one of their infamous "Moonlight Swim Parties"! There will be a host of heavenly boy dancing poolside, a Hawaiian buffet, a super special guest DJ, door prizes, and drawings throughout the night! Check this party out!

The BriarPatch continues their summer specials. Where else can you have a really tall, real strong drink for \$3... all at happy hour...daily? And, domestic longnecks are only \$1.50 every day until 8:00 p.m. The BriarPatch's Grand Piano is also the place to be this summer. Get there early to enjoy Houston's best...Clint, Marci, Cy Brinson, and the fabulous Jerry Atwood.

"Lesbian Ladies of Laughter" will be at the Laff Stop on July 24th. See the ad on page 9 for all the scoop. Call 524-2333 for ticket info.

There is a product on the market called "Juice Plus." It contains all natural fruits, vegetables, acidophilus and food enzymes that are geared to boosting your immune system. If you would like more info, call 578-3744.

## Birthday Corner

An "I'm cooking up something special" birthday to Joyce of Joyce's Kitchen!

Thumper (ToyBox) is adding another hare this week! Good luck on your trip to Puerto Rico! I hear you are taking part of the Sambvca Sister's show on the trip! I hope those people are ready for you!

Erica Lane is getting a few more wrinkles this week! Grab a jar of Oil of Olay!

Bill Gonzales, DJ extraordinaire at the Lazy J, is spinning another year

this week!

Ron Sioux is getting REALLY old this week!

Brittany Paige is using more hair color this week!

Terry Flood (611) will need a flash-flood to extinguish his birthday cake!

Bob Cypert (HMBL) will sink another one... birthday that is!!

Janie Anders (GHPBL) has cued one up this week!

Happy Birthday to Joann (BRB), also!!

## Rodent Droppings

The other night, LW and I were finished with a pizza. I put the box on the floor so Harvey and Ratrat could have the leftovers. One piece of pizza is larger than Ratrat, but that didn't stop him. In a blink of an eye, one entire slice of pizza disappeared. Sally, (our 95 lb. dog) was real jealous. Maybe someday, if I ever move the bookcase, I'll find the missing piece of pizza, and probably a lot of other missing items!

"Don't bother me with facts, I want gossip!"

Mike (Hangs at PS): So, on your recent trip to Mexico your hotel room got broken into! Can you identify the thieves? Did you buy a new toothbrush?

Q-Patrol: I see you have really "Put the pedal to the metal!"

Kim (Freedom Line): I'm so sorry I got your name wrong in last week's photo of you and your puppy Oliver. But, just think, you can always claim that you have a twin sister that has a twin dog! Call me... we'll do lunch.. me, you, Tina, Oliver and Oscar!

Pickles (Midtown): No, the Mary's bathroom is not out of order... they just don't want you sleeping there anymore!

Devin (Mary's): I hear you don't know where your cat box is, so you spread kitty litter between you 2 favorite bathrooms. But, really, why was it on Waugh Dr. also?

Bettye: Chances misses you! Is the Red Coat still coming?

Daniel (Club Houston): Have you been hanging around the House of Pies again in bad drag? Why do they call you "Helen Wait"? What does Damion think of all this?

Aunt Richard (BriarPatch): I hear you never know what you are going to make us drink! What is in this new drink... "Dangerous Dick?" I hear you served one to Wayne (your boss) and he had to take a cab home!

Tom and Kerry (Height's Tanning): All work and no play!

Marlene (Chances): Do you really think you can sneak into Ft. Worth without anyone knowing that you are the Daddy of Montrose!

Wilma (Mary's): Have you been interviewing go-go men on the patio at closing time again? Maybe you should try finding one that is not so old he walks with a cane!

Lisa (Hangs at Chances): Thanks for the button! "Don't bother me with facts, I want gossip!" really fits me!

Matt Matthews (PS): Steve (PS) tells me that you are renaming the "Leather Loft" to the "Sky Lounge!" What time do you "take off?"

Sambvca Sisters: Leave it to you! A bunch of "nellie drag queens" to finish off your show with a full costume authentic version of "Macho Man!"

JT (PS): So, you have a new nickname! Debbie? Like Debbie does Dallas? Like Debbie does Detroit? Debbie does Des Moines? Debbie does Debu-ke? Debbie does Denver? Debbie does Dickinson? Debbie does DC? Girl, you get around!

Barbara (Chances): Be sure to go right home after work! Your 55 lb. puppy misses you!

Linda (Charlie's): Thanks for taking such good care of Ray, the Wizard and me on that busy Gay Pride Sunday! That place was packed, but you took care of it!

Charlie (BriarPatch): You are off to London! I saw you in the stands watching a tennis match, but really, holding up a BriarPatch sign! Don't you

ever stop working?

Nick (Owner of Charlie's): I hear you are going to Greece! Are you going to learn to do the "Greek" way?

Ken (of the Lone Star): I heard your water broke last week! Did you ever find that shot glass? Is Jimmy Bubba Dale the daddy?

Ralph (Mine): I hear you are not going directly home after work! Where have you been "hanging" out?

Regina Dane: Thanks for clarifying that I do NOT drink Gin...just Jose Cuervo.

Catia Lee Love: You sure can throw those legs up in the air!

Bill Havard (BRB): What is the story...Men's room and green panties?

To the group from the Woodlands that came to the Sambvca Sisters Show: Thanks for all the donations to the Omega House! After all the bad press the Woodlands has gotten in the gay press, it is nice to know that not ALL people that live in the Woodlands come into Montrose to gay bash! Your generosity was well noted!

Joe (BRB): Now Miss A is getting flowers from Woody...what happened?

Carlos (PastTime): You are a mean lean dancin' machine!

Charles (I met at the ToyBox): Thanks for giving up your chair! Chivalry isn't dead!

Chuck (BRB): Who is the customer with the crew cut you have been hugging and kissing on lately?

Billy Bath House: What is this about you, an outhouse and an IUD?

Tom (Ripcord): You and I know that the rumors aren't true, but leave it to barflies to second guess who are friends and who are bed buddies! Also, you have a new nickname... Daddy Chinchilla!

Todd (BRB): Who did you "carry on" with 14 years ago? Everybody wants to know!

Jerry Moran (RSICSS): You can't tell the difference between yours and LVL's glasses? Maybe it is time YOU had your eyes checked!

Rex (Mary's): How was the Oriental buffet in Mary's T-room? And did you get Saki?

Barry (611): How was your date with Patsy? Are your boots made for walking?

Miss Alabama (BRB): I know you left your heart in Galveston last week, but you also left your douche bag. I heard they sent it back to you by bus!

David Montgomery: A new love interest?

I'm off to judge the weekly talent finals at E/J's. See ya next week

Huggs and Kisses,

Cuervolyn



Bob Ryan (left) and Jay Allen (right) present a check to James Fulton of the Q-Patrol—from the Westheimer Street Festival



Selling raffle tickets for Milam House

## Judge says Mississippi feminist camp not a private nuisance

OVETT, Miss., Thursday, July 6 (AP)—A feminist retreat run by lesbians was allowed to stay open after a judge ruled that it poses no "private nuisance" to nearby residents who sued to shut it down.

Chancellor Frank McKenzie said Wednesday that the camp broke no law, but he warned that its activities will be subject to scrutiny. He said plaintiffs' "fears and concerns" were "genuine and justified under the evidence."

Camp Sister Spirit opened two years ago on a former pig farm, and residents have complained that its music festival seminars have disrupted this once-tranquil southern Mississippi town.

The residents also grumbled about media attention brought on by camp complaints of gay bashing. Some neighbors claimed campers had tried to

recruit their daughters.

Eleven neighbors sued in 1994. By the time testimony began in May, all but five plaintiffs had dropped out of the case.

Michael Barefield, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said the ruling "misses the point of our entire lawsuit."

"What we were asking for was an injunction of future intended use, and the judge says that if they continue towards their goals it may become a nuisance," he said.

McKenzie's seven-page ruling warns Brenda Henson and her partner, Wanda Henson, who operate the retreat, that courts may later determine whether camp activities "have risen to the level of a civil nuisance."

"We're just going to keep on doing what we've been doing," Brenda Henson said after the ruling.

## New York town's city council endorses same-sex marriages

ITHACA, N.Y., Thursday, July 6 (AP)—Ithaca's Common Council has approved a non-binding resolution in support of issuing marriage licenses for homosexual couples.

The city council voted unanimously Wednesday to endorse same-sex marriages, and is expected to decide in a few weeks whether or not to grant the marriage licenses.

The move stemmed from an Ithaca couple's quest for a state marriage license. Toshav Greene and Phillip Storrs, who recently moved to Ithaca from Elmira, had applied for a license last month, but were rejected by a city clerk.

Ithaca Mayor Ben Nichols, a Socialist, said the U.S. Constitution guarantees all citizens equal protec-

tion under law, and said that right extends to gay and lesbian marriages.

City Attorney Charles Guttman said he is consulting with a gay-rights lawyer on the issue. He said the state's marriage law, which dates from the 1800s, does not preclude same-sex marriages, but the state could block any city action with a court injunction.

Legal experts from the American Civil Liberties Union and national gay activist groups have been investigating state law concerning homosexual marriages. A similar case has reached state Supreme Court in Hawaii.

Greene and Storrs went ahead, without a license, and held a Jewish commitment ceremony on June 22.

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**RECYCLE**

**RECYCLE**

## Gingrich says scientific panel should decide AIDS funding

WASHINGTON, Thursday, July 6 (AP)—House Speaker Newt Gingrich says scientists, not politicians, should decide how much money the government spends fighting AIDS and other diseases.

Responding to a suggestion by Sen. Jesse Helms that the government should spend less on AIDS, the speaker said Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press that a scientific panel should make that decision based on where medical advances are most likely to be made.

"It's got to be done by scientists," Gingrich said.

Gingrich said such a panel might say: "Here are the next seven major breakthroughs—we ought to make sure we have the money going into these places. If AIDS is one of the seven, then it ought to go into AIDS. But I think I'd like to de-politicize research decisions about biology as much as we can."

President Clinton on Wednesday sent a letter to Gingrich, R-Ga., and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., seeking a five-year reauthorization of the government's main aid program for AIDS sufferers. He said government must help people with the disease because an average 220 Americans are diagnosed with AIDS each day and an average 109 die of the disease daily.

"At a time when AIDS is the leading cause of death of young adults, we cannot let reauthorization of the CARE Act be held up by divisive arguments about how people contracted the disease," Clinton wrote.

Helms' comments in an interview with The New York Times prompted outrage from AIDS activists.

"I think the majority of the American people want to help people who are sick—whether they're sick with cancer or with AIDS, said Mark Barnes, executive director of the AIDS Action Council. "What he said was un-American."

Helms, R-N.C., suggested the government should think about spending so much money fighting a disease brought on by "deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct," the Times reported.

"We've got to have some common sense about a disease transmitted by people deliberately engaging in unnatural acts," Helms said.

Gingrich, asked whether he agreed with Helms, said: "In the first place it's clear that there's a lot of people with AIDS for whom that's not true, and secondly, I'm not going to get involved in an argument with Jesse Helms."

In a broadcast interview Wednesday night, Gingrich described himself as "a strong supporter of the Ryan White Act."

"I think that the example of Ryan is one we can all identify with," Gingrich said on Mutual Radio's "Jim Bohannon Show," simulcast on the C-SPAN cable TV network. "He was a young person who through no fault of his own ended up contracting AIDS. And many hemophiliacs have AIDS."

The Senate soon will consider reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, named after an Indiana teen-ager who died after contracting AIDS in a blood transfusion.

The act, for which Congress authorized \$633 million this year, provides grants to communities to help people with AIDS. It expires in September.

Reauthorizing legislation was approved unanimously by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee in March, and has 61 Senate sponsors, including Dole. The House Commerce Committee plans to take up similar legislation soon.

Since 1993, AIDS has been the leading cause of death among both men and women age 24 to 44, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Poll: third of voters say same sex marriages should be ok

By JEFF HOLYFIELD  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LANSING, Mich., Thursday, July 6 (AP)—A third of the nation's voters believe that two people of the same sex should be able to get married if they love each other, a new poll showed Wednesday.

The poll found 33 percent believed same-sex marriages should be allowed, while 63 percent disagreed, EPIC-MRA-Mitchell Research said. Four percent were undecided.

Robin Kane, a spokesperson for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, found the 33 percent figure encouraging, even though gay marriages are banned in every state.

However, Glenn Clark, executive director of the Michigan Christian Coalition, said allowing the marriages would be "just another step toward eroding the moral fiber of our nation."

EPIC-MRA founder Ed Sarpolus said he expected the question on same-sex marriages would get only single-digit support because voters are becoming more conservative.

Younger voters, those with higher incomes and those with more education were more likely to say such marriages should be allowed, he said. Only 21 percent of those with a high school diploma or less agreed, compared to 44 percent of those with college degrees.

Of those earning \$25,000 or less a year, only 24 percent agreed with same-sex marriages, while 38 percent of those making \$60,000 to \$75,000 agreed with the idea, as did 48 percent of those making more than \$75,000.

In age groups, 56 percent of the 18- to 24-year-olds said "yes," and that gradually declined over various age groups to only 18 percent for those 65 and older.

Jeffrey Montgomery, president of the Detroit Triangle Foundation, said the higher percentages for younger people showed a cultural shift, due in part to the media.

"Younger people are seeing more and more popular entertainers who are willing to come out and have done so and seeing other entertainers who aren't gay or lesbian who are giving the strong message that it doesn't make any difference," he said.

The telephone survey of 1000 voters nationwide was conducted June 21-26. It has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

About a dozen or so cities, including New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis and Madison, Wis., allow same-sex couples to register in a domestic partnership.

Marriages, however, are regulated by the state and allow couples to file joint tax returns, cover each other on their medical insurance and other benefits.

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Breakfast Cereal  
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Paper Towels  
Pasta (dry)  
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Rice  
Saltine Crackers  
Shampoo  
Shaving Cream  
Side Dishes (rice or noodles)  
Soup (canned or dry)  
Soap (dish, hand, laundry)  
Sugar - 2 lb. bag  
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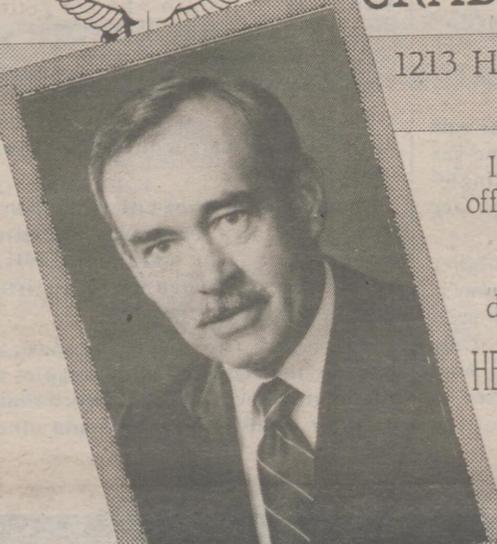
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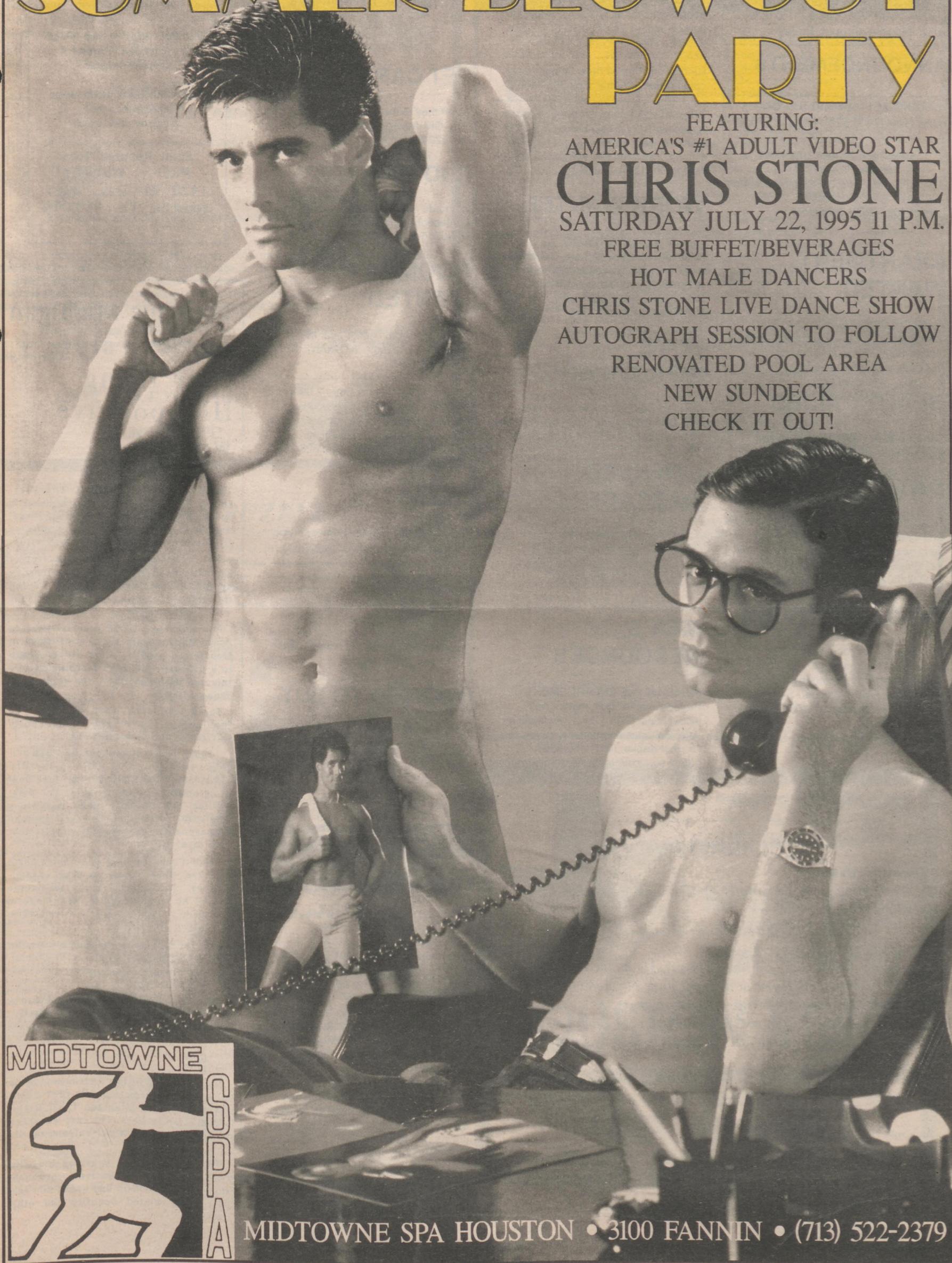
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## Feds sue Michigan grocery store over firing HIV-positive worker

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich., Thursday, July 6 (AP)—The federal government is accusing a local grocery store of illegal discrimination against an employee fired after contracting the AIDS virus.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Prevo's Family Market, saying the store had violated the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In a statement, EEOC regional attorney Adele Rapport said Prevo's management transferred produce clerk Steven Sharp to a different job after learning he was infected with HIV, the virus believed to cause AIDS.

Three days later, Sharp was placed on involuntary leave and subsequently was fired, the statement said.

"There is no competent medical evidence indicating that AIDS or the HIV virus can be transmitted in the food handling setting," Rapport said. The disabilities law "simply does not allow employers to fire people based upon an unreasonable and unsupportable fear of a disability."

Rapport said the store also wanted Sharp to have unnecessary medical examinations. In general, disabled people cannot be singled out for special tests and medical exams unless it is related to the job, Rapport said.

"We believe this is an important case for Mr. Sharp and for the public in general, and we intend to aggressively prosecute it," Rapport said.

Michael Snapper, attorney for Prevo's, said: "Prevo's has always maintained it has not violated Mr. Sharp's rights, and that continues to be their position. We disagree with the EEOC's conclusions."

Sharp, 29, said he had been advised by his attorney not to comment. He filed a complaint with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in 1993. The case was transferred to the EEOC, which enforces the disabilities act.

The federal agency is asking U.S. District Judge Richard Enslin to order the store to re-hire Sharp and award him back pay, work-related benefits and other damages.

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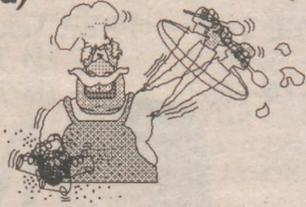
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## RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD

Hey Ya!!! Last weeks "Voice" gave me a little boost. Since I have been doing recipes for the "Voice", I have often wondered if it was just taking up space. Well, last week one of the readers sent in a letter to say how much he enjoyed the Kuntry Kidd's recipes and also the Texas Puzzle. Thank you Roy McCarthy!! Now I know that sitting here at the typewriter each week, and also trying new recipes is worth my time. I hope others have also tried some of the recipes I have shared with you. This one is from a little boy I saw on the "Donohue Show" a couple of months ago. It was a lot of fun watching him prepare this dessert.

### Justin Miller's Cheese Cake (Five Years Old)

- 3 8-oz packages cream cheese (softened)
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 Tsp vanilla
- 3 eggs
- Nilla Wafers
- Reynolds Foil Bak Cups (For making cupcakes)

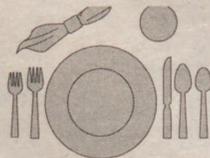


Justin used a blender, I used my mizer. Put in the cream cheese and the sugar and blend well. Then add the flour, vanilla and the eggs, and again blend well. If you use the foil cupcake holders, you will not need to use a cupcake pan, the tins will stand on their own. Put one Nilla Wafer in the bottom of each tin, and pour the cheese cake mixture over the top to about 3/4 full. Bake in a preheated oven, 350 degrees, for about 20 minutes.

After the cheese cakes have cooled, you can top with cherries, blueberries, etc. also, the batter could be divided and different flavorings added. For being so easy to make, these are just real tasty!

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



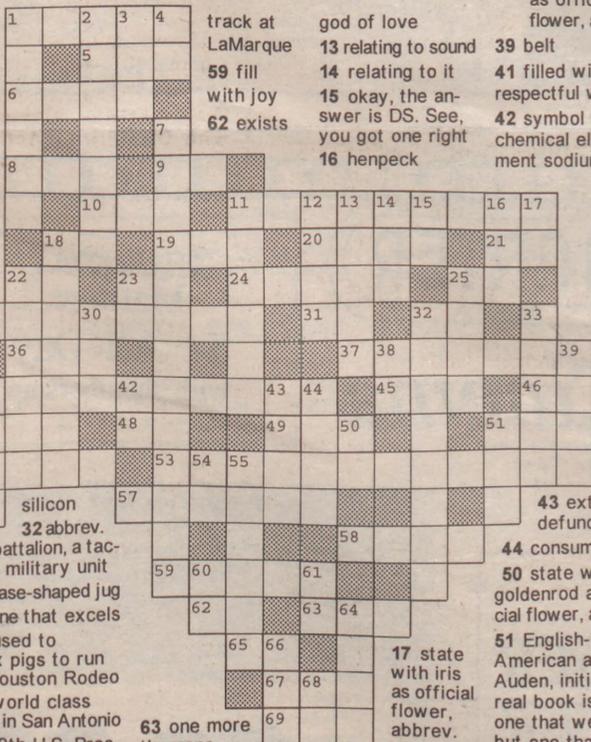
## THE TEXAS PUZZLE

Includes Clues About Texas, Current Events & Standard Crossword Clues.

By Henry McClurg

### ACROSS

- 1 Swedish prizes for peace, medicine, etc.
- 5 application
- 6 5280 feet
- 8 additionally
- 9 distinguished by
- 10 be able to



- 11 in 1836, Sam Houston became this, of Texas
- 18 Canadian province with capital Regina, abbrev.
- 19 period of time
- 20 decays
- 21 version of indefinite article used before a vowel sound
- 22 symbol for chemical element platinum
- 23 conventional title for a woman
- 24 shackles
- 25 symbol for chemical element silver
- 26 attorney general during JFK presidency, initials ("We in Government have begun to recognize the critical work which must be done at all levels—local, State and Federal—in ending the pollution of our waters.")
- 29 Texas Indians rubbed bodies with oil from this animal to repel insects
- 31 symbol for chemical element

- 32 abbrev. for battalion, a tactical military unit
- 34 vase-shaped jug
- 36 one that excels
- 37 used to coax pigs to run at Houston Rodeo
- 40 world class park in San Antonio
- 45 19th U.S. President Hayes, initials ("He serves his party best who serves the country best.")
- 46 musical syllable, 4th tone
- 47 intestine, singular
- 48 because
- 49 tree that bears acorns
- 51 Badger State, abbrev.
- 52 European country with Stockholm
- 53 Texas admission to the Union, 2 words
- 56 Sunshine State, abbrev.
- 57 furs of a particular dark brown mammal
- 58 greyhound race

- 59 one more than one
- 65 state with Columbus as capital, abbrev.
- 67 broadcast TV network owned by Capital Cities
- 69 couple
- DOWN**
- 1 WWII fleet admiral born in Federicksburg, Texas
- 2 Bob, our Lt. Gov.
- 3 direction Lubbock to Beaumont, abbrev.
- 4 French masculine pronoun
- 7 Texas' nickname, 3 words
- 11 two combined
- 12 Greek

- track at LaMarque
- 59 fill with joy
- 62 exists
- god of love
- 13 relating to sound
- 14 relating to it
- 15 okay, the answer is DS. See, you got one right
- 16 henpeck

- 35 eases off
- 38 state with oregon grape as official flower, abbrev.
- 39 belt
- 41 filled with respectful wonder
- 42 symbol for chemical element sodium

- 43 extinct, defunct
- 44 consumes
- 50 state with goldenrod as official flower, abbrev.
- 51 English-born American author Auden, initials ("A real book is not one that we read, but one that reads us.")
- 54 What you see at the start of a Bugs Bunny cartoon
- 55 ABC correspondent Sam Donaldson's Texas hometown, 2 words
- 60 symbol for chemical element lithium
- 61 movie creature
- 64 Texas Ranger Museum located here
- 66 owned
- 68 dry measure of about 35 liters, abbrev.
- Solution elsewhere this issue
- ©1995 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TXS134



## GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

### HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 14 - JULY 20, 1995

**HOUSTON VOICE** readers born this week have a special sense of beauty and grace, sharing with Antinous, born 110 A.D. the attraction of at one other person. In the case of Antinous, the special other person, was the Roman Emperor Hadrian.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) Continue to impress co-workers with your skills at producing high quality work. A pleasant smile and confident tone of voice will convey a real sense of being in charge. This is a new 'you' for you, but is definitely worth trying.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug. 22) Hope that you have begun to make travel plans, as your wanderlust will be at a new high later this summer. If only a trip to the new Butterfly Exhibit in Hermann Park, weekend in Austin or to San Antonio. Be careful so as to not fall in love when you are out of town.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Sort through your wardrobe closet and put together some new combinations of colors and patterns to give a fresh look to your appearance at work. Co-workers will respond favorably to the new styles. Take advantage of the current moon phase to enjoy a sense of contentment.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) Watch out for people who will make requests for money loans from you. In all likelihood, it will be the last time that you will see the monies. There are more losers in the world than you or I care to admit to. Be very firm with these ill advised requests.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21) Put forth an extra amount of work at the Office, as your boss is carefully observing you this coming week and you may either impress her/him favorably or cause a negative mark on your record. The choice is yours. Leaving a neat work station is also in your favor.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) If you are dating someone new, be careful about falling in love, as this week is much better for you to simply enjoy each other physically. Long term relationships are especially difficult for you to establish during the next two weeks, as there is too much turmoil in your current life.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 21) This week is a great time to seek out the garage sales, as good bargains are your for the looking. Be careful about impulsive purchases, however. Think in advance as to the new look you want to have at your home with the additions.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 22 - Feb. 18) Continue to plan a balanced diet to give to your body all of the nutrients needed. There is no need for any special food items or additives, but do avoid a high amount of processed sugar (sucrose). Take advantage of the fresh vegetables and fruits and in our local stores.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) Follow through from last week and in the future for you. This is a great week to invite someone special to your home for dinner. Try the excellent recipe on this page from the Kuntry Kidd.

**ARIES** (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19) Planning your spare time will help to organize the current burst of extra energies that you have to accomplish everything that you have in mind. Your love making skills are not at their usual best, so leave this part of your life on hold for the present time.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 - May 20) Events in your life should be rolling more smoothly at this time. Try to maintain a low profile and get caught up on loss details that are around you. Your body is looking great at the gym adds to your sense of confidence.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 21) Taking one day at a time will bring order out of chaotic circumstances in your life. Try not to add further problems to your life until you are able to sort out what is presently happening. Add a splash of color to your clothing will help to brighten your spirits.



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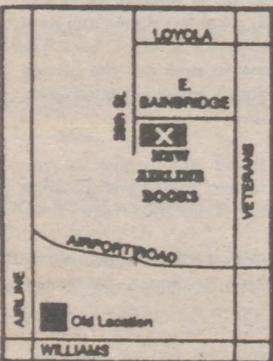
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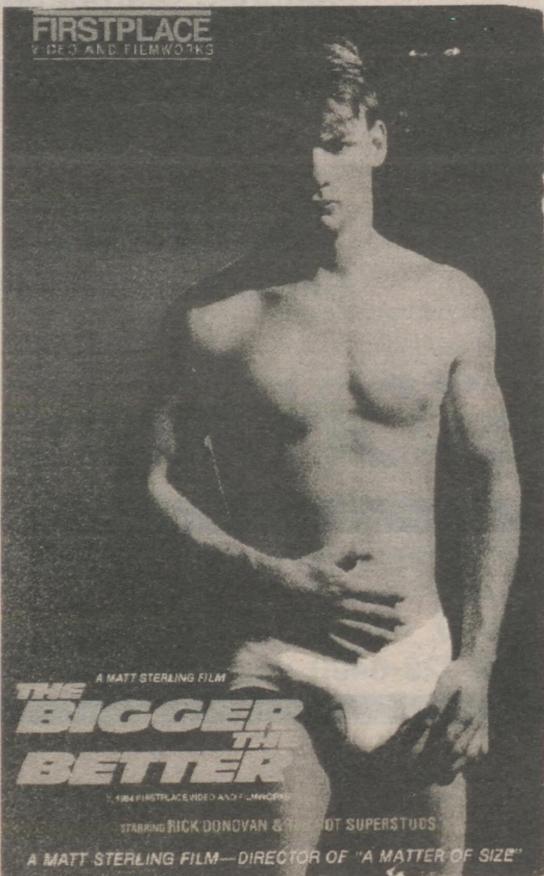
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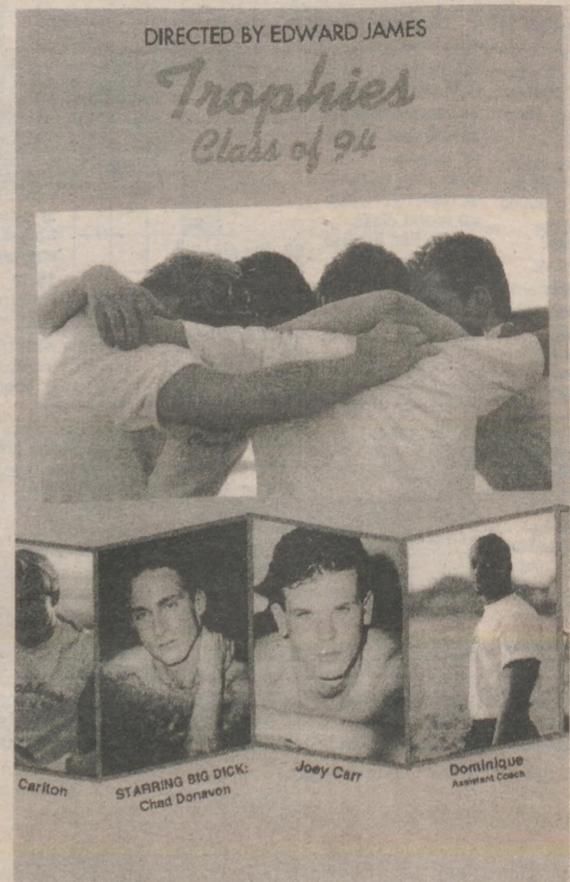


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New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings,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

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

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

## FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

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

## AFTERNOON DELIGHT

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

## BLACK MALE SEEKS WHITE MALE

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

## HAIRY DADDY SEEKS BOY

Boy should be 21-40, weight proportionate to height, open-minded. Daddy is 50, 5'9", 180, bearded. Let's discuss possibilities. Photo exchange will be required eventually. Ad 25673

## GO FOR IT!

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

## SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

## LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT MAN

25-45, masculine, neat in appearance and at home, DDF, NS, (light drinker) who wants to share apartment in a peaceful, quiet, very luxurious atmosphere, with a mature person. Must be financially responsible and able to afford. \$400 monthly for his part of rent and utilities. Ad 25700

## SPECIAL SPECIFIC SERIOUS BOTTOMS

Need to submit? Need to service and do it right? Good at taking instructions? Need discipline? Naughty lately? Need bound? Know your place with a demanding top? Your call. If GM, 25-40, fit, clean, healthy, easy going, bright, nice guy, then I am expecting your call. Ad 25653

All ads in this category should be strictly individual to individual. No commercial offerings. Nothing for sale. No promotions.

## LOOKING FOR BILL:

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

## SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

## SEEKING BOTTOM WITH ENDURANCE

Top seeks bottom for use in aerobic workout. Top is 6' tall, HWP, ok looks, not notably large but not small. Seeking someone HWP to be used, not abused. Mail response only. Ad 25706

## NEW TO HOUSTON

Under 50, fun-loving professional seeks cerebral partner to share the many things Houston offers both professionally and socially. I'm a GWM, HWP, good looking, with a tendency towards dominance. Mail response only, please. Ad 25710

## NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

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

## LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

## ATTENTION -NUDIST

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

## CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

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

## PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

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

## FIRST TIME

5'6" medium build middle aged straight black male beginning to find myself attracted to other straight appearing males, black or white, small to medium build. Not macho. Wish to talk or meet with others experiencing or those who have experienced the same. Never had an affair. Would like to hear from you. Ad 25714

## GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

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

## INSTRUCTIONS

### TO PLACE a Houston Voice Personal Ad --

Come to our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105.

It's a good idea to write out (up to fifty words) what you want to say. The annual cost is only \$29.95 -- less than one dollar per week. (You must restate [by phone] your desire for the ad to keep running every four weeks.) At the office you will be given the functioning details. Ads can also be placed by mail, with payment enclosed, phone 713-529-8490, for details.

**TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD:** A toll-free 800 number will let you know if you have recorded telephone responses. You can then listen to these responses on a 900 number using your personal code and pin (personal identification number). Responses can also be received by mail, see below.

**TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE** - Call 1-900-454-3576. Listen to the instructions. You will then actually be listening to the advertisers recorded message and can leave a voice message with your name and number. You can respond to more than one personal during the phone call. As individuals check their messages, they can respond to yours. OR you can pre-pay a special 800 account, listen and respond without the cost appearing on your phone bill. Call 529-8490 for more information.

**TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL:** Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address place. Place your sealed response and \$2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will affix a mailing label and the intended person will receive your response. This service costs \$2.00 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with the Houston Voice Personals.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:** To take advantage of the \$29.95 per year offer, you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personals by calling the special 800 toll-free number. You must record, in your voice, your Ad. If you do not participate in the voice aspect, your ad may be discontinued without reimbursement. The voice message can be as simple as "You read the ad, leave a message" to complex and informative. The ads, both print and voice, can not contain references to sexual acts or organs (FCC et al. regulations). If you are having difficulty recording your message, phone 1-800-780-4947, for assistance. Ads should be positive, describe what you want, undesirable qualities/characteristics need not be listed.

SAFE. SIMPLE. DISCREET.

Live Your Fantasies!

1-800-PRO-MALE

\$1.25/min. 776-6253. Discreetly billed to your VISA/MasterCard as TeleNet 6253.

1-900-999-8500

\$2.49/min. Discreetly billed to your phone as Voice Mail. Must be 18+.

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*W*hen I was first approached to oversee the operations of a viatical agency, I was very apprehensive. But, that changed quickly.

After meeting and talking to people who have sold their life insurance policies, I began to see just how important such options are to those living with a life-threatening illness.

This, along with my long-standing commitment to "*keeping the money within our own community*", I found my decision an easy one to make.

I am pleased to announce *Community Life...Today!*, a gay owned and operated viatical agency committed to the community and to your life.

For more information on how we can assist you, call us today at (713) 526-5807

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*"Community  
Life...Today!"*

**A VIATICAL SETTLEMENT AGENCY**

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