

HOUSTON

VOICE

YEAR END ISSUE

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News



Television



Music



Movies



Gay advocates laud settlement allowing gay couples to adopt jointly

by Jeffrey Gold
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. - Adam is like most 2-year-olds - quick, curious, scurrying here and there. Unlike most, his adoptive parents are both men - whose successful fight to keep their boy won the gay movement a step toward equality with heterosexuals, activists said after a landmark court settlement.

The struggle began soon after Jon Holden and Michael Galluccio began caring for Adam, then 3 months old. Last Wednesday, they won a settlement that gives gay and unmarried couples in New Jersey the right to jointly adopt children, like married couples. It only affects children in state custody.

Adam Holden Galluccio, blond-haired with rosy cheeks, scurried before the news cameras. "This is a victory about goodness and equality," Holden said. Conservatives, already fighting efforts to legalize same-sex marriages, were diametrically opposed.

A "landmark" settlement under which New Jersey will allow homosexual and unmarried couples to jointly adopt children is another step toward government recognition of same-sex marriages, gay advocates say. But conservatives assert that Wednesday's decree in a class-action lawsuit will hurt children and society.

The settlement, which applies only to children in the state's custody, makes New Jersey the first state to put gay and unmarried couples seeking joint adoption on equal footing with married couples, advocates



Liberties Union, which assisted in the lawsuit brought in June by gay couples against the state Division of Youth and Family Services.

In addition to streamlining adoption for gay and unmarried couples, the deal will provide permanent homes to more children now in foster care, activists said.

Half the states, including New Jersey, allowed each individual in a gay or unmarried relationship to adopt a child, but the "second-parent" adoption required an additional petition, taking more time and money.

Florida and New Hampshire bar adoptions by gays and lesbians.

The rest of the states allow individual

See ADOPT page 21

Nathan Lane
page 24



Special Report: Grass root politics can make a difference

Minimal effort required to run for precinct chair

by Ella Tyler

HOUSTON - Friday, January 2, 1998 is the date that will determine the course of Texas politics for the next two years and perhaps beyond. No, it's not the date that Houston's first black mayor and openly gay city council member take their oaths of office, it's the deadline for filing for a place on the Republican or Democrat primary ballot.

Positions on these parties' County Executive Committee are elected during the primary. The Republican or

Democrat Precinct Chair for each voting precinct is a member of the party's County Executive Committee. It doesn't matter whether the precinct is large or small or how many Democrats or Republicans it has. The Chairman of the Executive Committee is elected by the primary voters, too, but it is the Executive Committee that runs the local party.

If you are interested in political activism or are concerned about the direction your political party is taking, consider running for this office. Think of the possibilities. If you are a member of the minority party in your precinct, you could become a party official with fewer than 25 votes. This is the very last race on the ballot, so there are only few

voters.

The precinct chair conducts the primary election in his or her precinct so he or she is the party's representative to the voters. Successful campaigns for party nominations often begin by assembling the support of the precinct chairs. The current power of the local Republican far right is a direct result of the election of executive committee members of that philosophy, a campaign that began nearly a decade ago.

In addition, in Harris County, the election judge for the general election is usually the precinct chair from the same party as the precinct's County Commissioner. This is not a duty of the office, but the custom. Election judges

See CHAIR page 25

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

by J.C. Michelak
Houston Voice Editor

Every year as the new year approaches, millions of Americans reflect upon the year gone by. Newspapers, magazines and other periodicals compose the perennial 'Year-in-Review' issue. It is custom. Reader's enjoy taking a trip down memory lane.

Looking back, 1997 was no different than any other year. Every year, society has to deal with triumph and tragedy. It's a given. Fortunately, triumph prevailed over tragedy for the gay and lesbian community in 1997. The Houston Voice proudly provided you, the community, with coverage of the highs and lows of the year.

In my opinion, the highlight of 1997 was the historic victory of Houston's first openly gay elected city councilwoman, Annise Parker. The significance of her win will impact the political landscape of Houston for years to come. Parker ran an effective campaign and demonstrated beyond doubt that an openly gay candidate with political savvy and knowledge can win a city-wide election.

Parker's tenacity during her twenty years of community volunteerism and activism was, and is, remarkable. She has earned respect - both in and out of the community - something that will serve her well on city council. Her professionalism and willingness to work with others will be an asset.

1997 was also a significant year for the Houston Voice. The publication has doubled in size and increased circulation 30%. Through it all, we could not have attained the success we obtained in 1997 without the

support of the community.

When I became editor of the Houston Voice, it was my goal to transform the publication into an informative, fair and entertaining news weekly that showcased the diversity of the gay and lesbian community. And, I believed, it had to be a newspaper the gay community could be proud of.

If the recognition the Houston Voice received this year is any indication, we reached that goal. The Houston Voice received Press Awards from the community's two largest gay and lesbian political organizations - Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) and Log Cabin Republicans - Houston (LCR).

As in any business, success could not be accomplished without the commitment and dedication of its employees and the publication has some of the best and brightest talent working on its behalf. In addition, the staff could not have succeeded without the support of our Publisher, Crad Duren, M.D. Now, the paper can look forward to becoming part of a fledgling chain of gay newspapers, with our new owner, Window Media.

In retrospect, 1997 was a year that gay and lesbian Houstonians can be proud of. We elected one of our own to city council. We raised funds as needed for many causes, which we did with style and grace. We showed the Lloyd Kelley's of the world that gay baiting does not win elections. We helped elect the city's first African-American mayor. He promised he would be a mayor "for all the people." If mayor-elect Lee Brown keeps his promise, the gay and lesbian community will have even more to cheer about.

And, most importantly, we showed the public that the gay and lesbian community is vital part of the Houston's larger community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patrons demonstrate generosity

by Randall Jobe
Special Events Coordinator
Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc.

It is with great appreciation that the staff and management of Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc. - JR's Bar & Grill, Heaven, and The Montrose Mining Company - extends a sincere thanks to our valued patrons for their show of generosity at our recent Employee Turnabout Show, "Holly Daze."

Through performer's tips from the crowd and bartender's donations, we were able to raise \$1,470.00 for two worthy causes the 800 Pacific Employee Emergency Fund and The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard-Houston.

Employees presented a variety of numbers from the sublime to the ridiculous. Favorites from past shows once again gave stellar performances and newer employees participated to the delight of everyone. A great time was had by all, and we acknowledge each of you who donated money or cheered us on with a heartfelt thank you.

An annual event whose past recipients have included Q-Patrol and Casa de Esperanza, we look forward to next year with an even bigger show.

Cowboys know how to have fun

by Don Gill
Chairman of the Board
P.W.A. Holiday Charities

On Saturday, December 6, at the Venture-N in Houston, Don Gill Productions hosted "A Toast from the Heart" honoring Mr. Michael Gaitz, president of TGRA-Houston for three years, benefiting our TGRA Chapter.

During his presidency the Houston Chapter raised more money for people affected with HIV/AIDS than all the other Texas Chapters put together. This event was to honor his ded-

ication and hard work to unite this wonderful chapter to heights never seen before in fundraising.

Warm thanks to: Venture-N, Regina Dane, Bob Bouton, Steve Simpson, Mike Scott, D.J. Rene, David Sawyer, Kevin Bishop, Andrew Flores, Nevada, Crystal Ray Lee Love, Jamie Roberts, Special Guest Tuna Melt and all the non-profit organizations that have received donations from TGRA-Houston during Mr. Gaitz's presidency.

With the assembling of these talents, you the community allowed this "Toast" to raise \$2,062.50 for charitable causes.

Pressing Forward

by Day Without Art Committee

On behalf of the Day Without Art/World AIDS Day Committee, we would like to express a sincere thank you for coverage and interest on Monday, December 1, World AIDS Day. The attention to the issue that you provided was tremendous and helped us in educating Houston that HIV/AIDS. With your support, the 10th Annual World AIDS Day/Day Without Art proved to be an overwhelming success.

With 1 in every 90 Houstonians being infected with HIV, it is important to keep pressing forward in an effort to educate the public about prevention, treatment and the effects this deadly virus has had on Houston and the people that call it home. We thank you for your help in fulfilling that mission.

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HOUSTON VOICE

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Crystal Gayle Next Week In Houston Voice

Metro to appeal affirmative action ban

HOUSTON - The board of the Metropolitan Transit Authority has voted to appeal a judge's ban of its affirmative action policy.

Metro's program to subcontract 21 percent of its construction work to woman- and minority-owned firms was struck down last month by U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes. He said it is unconstitutional and unfair to white men in the Houston Contractors Association.

After a closed-door session with its attorneys Thursday, the Metro board voted unanimously and without comment to appeal. Board member Robert D. Miller said Metro will challenge the contractors association's standing to sue, and it will say Hughes erred in issuing a summary judgment instead of holding a trial.

It will be an uphill battle, said Tom Fitzhugh, the contractors' attorney. The appeal goes to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans - the court that issued the Hopwood ruling, banning affirmative action in college admissions. "I'll turn my license in if I lose this appeal," Fitzhugh said.

The contractors sued Metro in 1993. When Hughes issued a preliminary injunction against Metro in April 1996, the Federal Transit Administration froze all of Metro's federal funding because Metro no longer was using affirmative action, as per federal

rules. Metro officials recently were given a six-month reprieve and \$100 million by the FTA.

Teacher who challenged Phil Gramm rides again

AUSTIN - Victor Morales, the high school teacher who drove his pickup truck across Texas last year in a failed campaign to unseat U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, has officially set his sights on another Texas politician.

The 48-year-old Democrat filed papers Friday to challenge Republican U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions, a freshman member of Congress. Morales said he promised his wife he will not spend their savings on the campaign like he did in his David vs. Goliath bid against Gramm.

"I promised her if the money runs out on the campaign, I'll walk, I'll hitchhike, but I will not touch my children's savings again," he said. "That was scary, being out there with no savings in the bank. If I had died or something, who's going to bury me?"

Morales stunned the political establishment when he beat two members of Congress and a Houston lawyer to snag the Democratic U.S. Senate nomination. His campaign, in which he crisscrossed the state in a white pickup truck, spent about \$950,000. Gramm spent nearly \$6 million. Gramm won with 55 percent of the vote; Morales had 44 percent.

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Girl, 13, with AIDS has gift for public speaking

by Angie Wagner

LAS VEGAS - Her black ringlet curls fall gently over her ears as Hydeia Broadbent hunches over her math homework. With a quick tap of her pencil and a stern look toward the kitchen, the 13-year-old has had enough.

Decimals, it seems, are a bit confusing. "Mom! Mom! I need help," she yells, summoning Patricia Broadbent to the dining room table.

It's a much different scene from the educational talks Hydeia gives to audiences across the country. From the stage, she commands her audience to listen, often bringing them to tears. In the spotlight, she's a little girl with so much poise, confidence and knowledge of the disease that may take her

life - AIDS.

Mrs. Broadbent and her husband, Loren, adopted Hydeia as a baby, but didn't know of



her health condition until their 3-year-old became seriously ill. Hydeia's biological mother, now deceased, was an intravenous drug-user.

Hydeia developed full-blown AIDS when she was 5. Until then, Mrs. Broadbent, a former employee of Clark County's Social See NAT'L page 4

Voice your Opinion!

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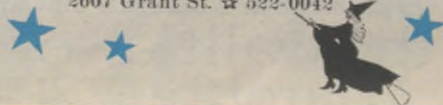
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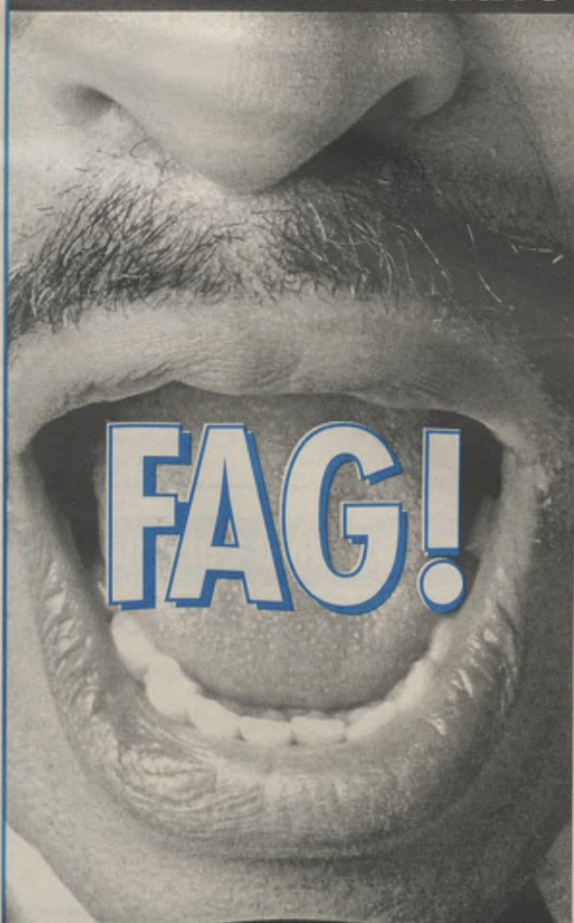
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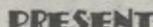
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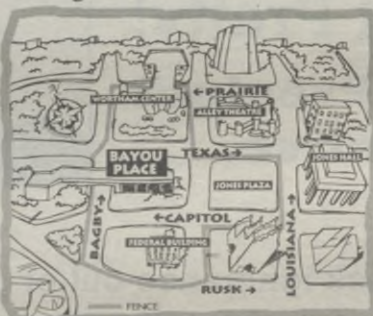
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Wright testified.

Wright said chloroform and a shocker were also on the list. Wright testified that some of the items on the list were recovered, but it was unclear in the transcript how many or where the items were found.

Charles Anthony Markovich, identified by prosecutors as Norman's longtime friend and lover, testified that Norman's day planner contained "a picture of a naked man which had his head cut off" and Spielberg's face pasted in its place. He is a schizophrenic, Markovich testified. Norman, charged with one count of stalking, is scheduled to go to trial Jan. 13.

Superior Court Judge Robert Perry unsealed the transcripts Wednesday after news organizations argued for their release. Spielberg is not identified by name in the 208-page transcripts, except as "John Doe."

"Neither he nor I want to make a comment," Spielberg spokesman Marvin Levy said after the papers were unsealed.

Norman admitted an "obsession with raping" Spielberg after being caught several times near the director's Pacific Palisades home last summer. Deputy District Attorney Rhonda Saunders told jurors during hearings Oct. 8 and 9. When he was arrested on July 11, Norman identified himself as Spielberg's adopted son, the prosecutor said.

Wright testified Norman cut out articles about Spielberg and DreamWorks SKG partners David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg and had a list of Spielberg's children and other relatives. The planner also contained a list of Spielberg's movies, including *Jurassic Park*, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Jaws* and *Schindler's List*.

It was unknown how long the obsession had been brewing, but Wright testified that Norman told him in a July 21 jailhouse interview that he had taken large amounts of methamphetamine three days before his arrest and he had not slept during that period.

When asked about the sex toys, Wright testified: "He said he believed that (John

Doe) wanted to be raped by him, meaning Mr. Norman, and that's why he had brought those items along." Wright said Norman told him he had been "pacing off distances to determine how best to get into the property or how best to carry out this act of rape that he intended to do."

Spielberg testified that he and his family were not home on June 29 and July 11 when Norman was alleged to be at the house because he was filming *Saving Private Ryan* in Ireland. He was told about the case by his attorney by phone.

"He (Spielberg's attorney) said that the man came stating that he was in some way related to me; that later he said he had a desire to hurt me, to rape me," Spielberg testified. "Well, disbelief was my immediate reaction," Spielberg said. Later on in the conversation with his attorney, "I became completely panicked and upset and very afraid to tell my wife."

Saunders asked him about his reaction when he learned that Norman was allegedly planning to use handcuffs and duct tape. "What anybody's reaction would be," Spielberg responded. "I really felt my life was in danger."

Spielberg was particularly frightened for his seven children, so he increased security and instructed guards to accompany his children while sightseeing and attending school in London, he testified.

"I was shooting a war movie and we had a thousand soldiers ... firing guns and firing blanks," Spielberg said, "and I was very upset that he could have shown up in Ireland, put on an American uniform, gotten access to a gun with live ammunition and created an international incident."

Local authorities let San Jose marijuana club stay open

SAN JOSE, Calif. - The Santa Clara County Medical Cannabis Center can keep its doors open despite a court ruling barring such clubs from selling pot, local law

enforcement officials said.

The Santa Clara County district attorney, San Jose city attorney and city police chief said Monday that the state appeals court ruling was aimed only at a San Francisco club. State agents said that they saw marijuana sold to people without prescriptions at San Francisco's Cannabis Buyers' Club, that its pot was later resold on the street and that children were on the premises.

But City Attorney Joan Gallo said clients don't smoke or bring children to the Medical Cannabis Center in San Jose, which resembles a doctor's office more than a club. "We have a very different model here," she said. "We don't think this ruling really impacts us."

State Attorney General spokesman Matt Ross said the decision by the State Court of Appeal on Friday applied to all such organizations. "Cannabis buyers clubs are not allowed. Plain and simple," he said. The ruling takes effect in 30 days from the time it was issued.

Marijuana clubs opened in more than a dozen California cities after voters passed Proposition 215 in November 1996. The initiative allows possession and cultivation of marijuana for AIDS, cancer and other diseases upon a doctor's recommendation.

The appeals court said Friday that the only way patients can use marijuana legally was to grow it themselves or, if too sick to do so, get it from a primary caregiver who grew it.

According to the court, Prop. 215 defines a primary caregiver as someone designated by the patient who has assumed consistent responsibility for the patient's housing, health or safety. The court said that does not include marijuana clubs. But local officials maintain that the Medical Cannabis Center meets the definition of a primary caregiver.

Peter Baez, co-founder and executive director of the center, said clients are required to declare the center as their "alternative medical provider" working with their primary doctors. The center, which has worked closely with local authorities, also is away from schools and churches and bans juveniles, Baez said.

New law lets doctors notify partners of HIV-positive patients

MADISON, Wis. - A new Wisconsin law allows physicians to alert the sex and drug partners of patients who carry the virus that causes AIDS.

The law was prompted by a Milwaukee man's refusal to tell his wife he was infected with the HIV virus.

The legislation was signed into law Friday by Gov. Tommy Thompson. It lets doctors give the state the names of those known to have had sexual contact or shared drug needles with an HIV-positive patient.

The state Division of Health's partner notification program will then contact them and let them know they have been exposed to HIV. The state cannot disclose who is responsible for the exposure.

The law will "end the nightmare that sometimes faces doctors in Wisconsin because they cannot notify those at risk," said Rep. Sheldon Wasserman, D-Milwaukee, a physician who sponsored the measure. The change will help protect the public from HIV exposure and preserve the anonymity of HIV-positive patients, Wasserman said.

The state's notification program now contacts partners when an HIV-positive person reveals their names but does not want to notify them directly. State or local health workers meet with partners face-to-face to inform them they should get tested for HIV.

Physicians risk lawsuits for violating patient/physician confidentiality requirements if they inform partners of a patient's HIV infection while the patient is living. They can reveal the test results if the patient dies.

The unauthorized release of a person's HIV-positive status is a violation of the state's confidentiality law that carries a penalty of up to nine months in prison and a \$10,000 fine. At least 32 states have partner notification laws.

Activists protest state's health care assistance to AIDS victims

HARRISBURG (AP) - Calling Gov. Tom Ridge a "grinch," AIDS activists marched through the Capitol, chanting in unison for better health care from the state.

About 20 members of ACT UP, a Philadelphia coalition, said Pennsylvania does not pay for any of the newest anti-HIV medications through the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program, which covers people who are not eligible for Medicaid.

They demanded the state Welfare Department give access to all AIDS drugs within 60 days of approval by the Food and Drug Administration last week. The protestors also said state-funded HMO's do not always allow doctors to prescribe the drugs patients need.

Welfare Department spokesman George Yanoshick said state allocations to the program have grown from \$2.4 million in 1993-94 to \$6.3 million. About 2,250 people are currently enrolled in the program, and there are no waiting lists, he said.

"Until a cure is found, Pennsylvania will be thoughtful and judicious in its review of drugs. We want to assist people who might not otherwise be able to get medications to survive," Yanoshick said.

Colorado Springs settles suit with gay men for \$10,000

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - The city of Colorado Springs has agreed to pay \$10,000 to two gay men who filed a civil rights lawsuit against the police department.

Michael Mahair and Dwayne Arellano
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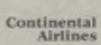
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had sought \$1.1 million. They said they hope the case sends a message. "We were openly gay and were in a better position than a lot of other people to pursue a case like this," Mahair said.

The pair alleged that former Colorado Springs police officer Daniel Gonzalez violated their civil rights during an undercover operation when he tried to entrap them by soliciting sex in a city park. The two were eventually arrested for hugging, but later cleared of charges.

Police officials declined to comment. Gonzalez no longer works for the department, but spokesman Lt. Steve Liebowitz would not say if his departure was related to the incident. City officials said they decided to settle the lawsuit because it was economical.

"It costs a lot to go to trial," said Shane White, the city's senior litigation attorney. "This suit was economically feasible. We weren't going to give them what they asked for."

Mahair and Arellano said they settled to save court fees and on the advice of Judge Zita Weinshienk of U.S. District Court. "We were told by the judge that suing a government entity would be impossible in this case," Arellano said.

Arellano said the judge told them that since neither of them was handcuffed during their arrest, they would have a hard time convincing a jury to rule in their favor. Handcuffing would have shown malicious intent on behalf of the police, the judge said.

Police denied targeting gay men through their patrols in Palmer Park, often considered a haven for illegal homosexual activity. "We're targeting a violation of a city ordinance. That activity is unlawful in a public place," said Sgt. Matt Martin. "We're not targeting any group or lifestyle."

Anti-gay crusader bringing protest to Duluth

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) — An anti-gay crusader whose demonstrations prompted Duluth's gay city planner to turn down a job in Topeka, Kan., is bringing his protests to northeastern Minnesota.

Duluth Planning Director Darrell Lewis said last week he would refuse the city-county planning director's job in Topeka because of persistent anti-homosexual demonstrations by the Rev. Fred Phelps and his followers from the Westboro Baptist Church.

Last Wednesday, Phelps said he is busying about 25 of his followers to Duluth on Dec. 26 "for an old-fashioned street preaching," likely on the steps of City Hall where Lewis works. When he turned down the job in Topeka, Lewis said that making his reason public "would be an important repudiation of Phelps."

"I didn't anticipate this would be an issue in Duluth at all, either in the media or with Mr. Phelps," Lewis said. "I don't think Duluthians think much of people like Phelps filled with so much hate. I've had

nothing but positive reaction since this all came out."

Phelps says his "mission" in Duluth is aimed not only at Lewis but at the city for letting a gay man hold a position of authority. "From the fact that a militant, openly gay crusader is employed as Duluth's city planner it appears that Duluth, Minn., is another antichristic municipality going the self destructive way of Sodom and Gomorrah," Phelps wrote in announcing his trip to Duluth.

Lewis said he turned down the job because Phelps has created an aura of hate and fear of gays in Topeka that generally doesn't exist in Minnesota. Phelps said Lewis' comments about the general acceptance of homosexuality in Minnesota shows "further evidence that Duluth's spiritual and moral condition is dangerously decadent and depraved."

Mayor Gary Doty said Wednesday he doubts his city's residents will accept Phelps' message. "I'm a Baptist, I went to Baptist church for years and that's not the kind of message real Baptists espouse," Doty said. "I don't think he'll draw much interest in Duluth."

Navy Secretary won't comment on Pearl Harbor gay case

HONOLULU — Navy Secretary John Dalton had declined to comment on the case of a Pearl Harbor sailor accused of being gay. Dalton said Wednesday at Pearl Harbor that it would be inappropriate to comment on the case because it is under administrative review.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh said last month that the Navy's effort to discharge him is a violation of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. McVeigh, a crewman aboard the nuclear submarine USS Chicago, said he was charged with sodomy and indecent acts based solely on an ambiguous America Online user profile.

McVeigh, who declined to say if he is gay, said the Navy has never substantiated the charges against him. Dalton was at Pearl Harbor at the end of a four-day stay in Hawaii. He defended President Clinton's 1993 administration policy that allows homosexuals to serve in the military as long as they don't disclose their sexuality.

Professor: 'safe zone' stickers may divide campus

CASPER, Wyo. (AP) — The display of stickers denoting sympathy to gay students on the doors of some faculty offices at Casper College may end of dividing the campus, a professor said. About 70 of the college's 330 full-time staff members participated voluntarily in an hour-long session designed to sensitize them to "lifestyle issues."

Faculty who attended the session were offered stickers showing an inverted triangle in a circle to indicate gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender students are welcome in their office. Robert Carlson, a humanities professor, has written a letter to college president Leroy Strausner discussing the program.

"(People) think it will divide the faculty in a way that will be harmful to the institution," Carlson wrote. "The issue of sexual orientation, which underlies this program is very controversial...each side will resent the other side." Carlson said faculty who do not display the triangle may appear to be uncaring and unkind.

If the situation becomes a problem, the administration will hold meetings, said Strausner. He also said no one else has come forward to talk about it. "It's one of those things where there was some sense...that might suggest that those who did not have stickers were in some sense bigots," Strausner said.

The college has held similar sessions on minorities, age differences, and disabilities. The next session will focus on Indians.

National gay-rights group throws support behind S.C. festival

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. — Calling South Carolina the last frontier for bigotry and discrimination, a national gay rights group has committed to support this spring's Gay Pride Festival along the Grand Strand.

Tony Esoldo, a Human Rights

Campaign regional organizer, spoke Tuesday at a fund-raising dinner at the Metropolis nightclub. "What we've seen here is that it's OK to deny people rights, access to certain things, because of who they are," he told a crowd of more than 70 who paid \$35 a plate to help fund the four-day festival.

National and state gay-rights leaders chastised developer Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc. for what they called "blatant discrimination in its rawest form."

The company recently told tenants at its Broadway at the Beach entertainment complex they could not sponsor a Village People concert in conjunction with the ninth annual festival because it would conflict with traditional family values.

Burroughs & Chapin also has discouraged other tenants, including Hard Rock Cafe and All Star Cafe, from supporting festival activities. Festival organizers have said the developer could face a lawsuit or a boycott.

"This might be the last great frontier for bigotry and discrimination in America," state HRC director Dan Burch said. "And it might be coming to a head here in Myrtle Beach."

Estimates of attendance at the April 30-May 3 festival has grown from 15,000 to as many as 40,000, according to Tony Snell, co-chairman of the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement. Snell said he has gotten commitments from gay groups across the nation, including New York and Washington, D.C.

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Court denies lawmakers role in same-sex legal argument

HONOLULU (AP) - The state Supreme Court says eight state lawmakers who oppose same-sex marriage won't be able to intervene in the court matter. Eight members of the state House of Representatives asked the high court to let them join the court fight on the side of the same-sex opponents.

Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang - who ruled the state to be in violation of the law for not allowing gays to legally marry - ruled against allowing the lawmakers to join the case. The Supreme Court upheld the ruling without comment on Friday.

Chang's decision in the same-sex marriage case is under appeal to the state Supreme Court. The high court ruled in 1993 that denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples was unconstitutional. The court then sent the case back to Circuit Court to allow the state a final chance to defend its position.

Chang ruled against the state last year, but delayed the issuing of marriage licenses until the appeal to the Supreme Court is decided. A ruling is expected sometime in 1998.

Superior Court judge dismisses gay marriage lawsuit

by Ross Sneyd
Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. - A Superior Court judge dismissed a lawsuit Friday in which three couples - two lesbian and one gay - sought the right to marry. Their lawyers vowed an appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court.

Judge Linda Levitt agreed with Attorney General William Sorrell that there was no fundamental right to gay marriage and that gays and lesbians as a class were not being discriminated against because they are unable to marry.

But she disagreed with a number of the attorney general's other justifications for denying gays the right to marry, such as marriage between a man and woman serves to "bridge their differences" or that the state has an interest in preserving marriage merely because of history and tradition.

"For the most part, we agree with the (gay and lesbian couples) that these rationales do not reasonably relate to a valid public purpose under the common benefits clause" of the Vermont Constitution, Levitt wrote. Nonetheless, she agreed with one of Sorrell's rationales - that marriage between a man and a woman furthers the link between procreation and child rearing - and dismissed the lawsuit.

"While all of the (couples') arguments claiming the state's public purpose is invalid are clear and sensible, none is persuasive enough for this court to determine that the Legislature is unjustified in using the marriage statutes to further the link between procreation and child rearing," Levitt said.

Three couples - Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan of Shelburne, Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles of South Burlington, and Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh of Milton - sued this summer when their town clerks refused to grant them marriage licenses. They said it was discriminatory and unconstitutional and they plan to make those arguments again before the Supreme Court.

"We had always suspected that this issue would be resolved by the Supreme Court of Vermont," said Mary Bonauto, one of the lawyers representing the couples, a sentiment echoed by Sorrell. So, even though they lost the first round, the couples were encouraged by Levitt's reasoning.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the decision. I say that because this judge clearly embraced this case and recognized that these kinds of cases belong in the courts."

Bonauto said. And she was especially thrilled that Levitt had rejected six of the seven public policy purposes the state offered to justify its refusal to recognize gay marriages.

Sorrell said he was not especially disappointed that so many of his arguments had been rejected. "You have to understand what the constitutional test is," he said.

"That is to find a rational basis for (denying marriage). ... We threw out seven possible ones that might have motivated one or more other legislators. We weren't saying in our filings that we're standing foursquare behind each and every one of these reasonable bases."

Nonetheless, Bonauto said she and her colleagues were heartened because they felt they had a good shot on appeal. "I love appealing on that issue," Bonauto said of the link between procreation and child rearing and opposite-gender marriage.

"Of course we have a couple in this case who are parents, or were parents until the death of their son this summer. So the reasoning is a little ironic. ... That's the whole reason Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles wanted to marry in the first place."

Pharmaceutical firm cleared of liability in AIDS cases

ST. LOUIS - A drug manufacturer has been cleared of allegations that it was responsible for AIDS contracted by three hemophiliacs.

A jury in St. Louis Circuit Court deliberated all day Wednesday before returning a verdict in favor of Alpha Therapeutics Corp. of Los Angeles. The hemophiliacs had taken the company's blood-clotting product, which they alleged had been tainted with HIV, which causes AIDS.

James Holloran, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, was unsure what the jury's decision means for similar cases filed by hemophili-

acs with AIDS. About 325 such cases against manufacturers are pending nationwide.

St. Louis jurors rejected the plaintiffs' claim that Alpha Therapeutics should pay millions of dollars in damages for the AIDS they contracted as a result of using the allegedly tainted blood-clotting product. Hemophilia is an inherited blood disorder that prohibits blood from clotting.

"It's clear (jurors) thought the company couldn't have done anything about it," Holloran said. "Nobody knew about HIV when it was getting all these people."

The jury decision here is the second in favor of Alpha against no defeats, said defense lawyer Phil Beck of Chicago. The other was in state court in Houston, he said. In the case here, the plaintiffs were from the St. Louis area. They had decided against taking part in a \$600 million nationwide settlement. Under the settlement with Alpha and three other manufacturers, each hemophiliac is paid \$100,000.

The settlement provides compensation to every hemophiliac who got HIV by taking tainted blood-clotting products made by the four companies in the early 1980s. The agreement, approved May 8 by a federal judge in Chicago, covers about 6,000 hemophiliacs nationwide.

The three St. Louis plaintiffs, whose identities in court records are limited to their first names, contracted AIDS from the Alpha product, their lawsuits alleged. One, Jimmy, died two years ago at age 19. Another, Chris, 28, has been gravely ill with the disease although his condition has improved recently. The third plaintiff, Jim, 44, learned a few months ago that he has AIDS.

The plaintiffs contracted the disease in about 1982, their lawyers have said. Beck argued to jurors on Tuesday that Alpha had done the best it could with the knowledge available. All three plaintiffs likely were infected with HIV before research showed a way to heat-treat the blood clotting product to destroy the virus, he said.

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Treatment plan frustrates AIDS workers in Ivory Coast

by Amba Dadson
Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast - When Desire Koua N'dah first heard Ivory Coast would be included in a pilot program to make powerful new AIDS drugs available at subsidized prices, his hopes soared. So, too, did those of thousands of other Ivorians like N'dah who are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

But the U.N.-sponsored program has mostly spread frustration among patients and medical officials. They say the poor and uneducated - the majority of Ivory Coast's 1 million HIV-positive people - will be excluded because participants still face prohibitive costs for drugs.

"I don't see how many people can have it unless it's free. This is going to create problems, deep divisions," said N'dah, president of the Friends Club, Ivory Coast's largest support group for HIV-positive people.

Ivory Coast's program decided to use a cocktail of AIDS drugs called protease inhibitors in combination with others such as AZT. When tried on patients in the United States, the combination halted the progress of the virus in some people and is credited with causing the first ever drop in the number of full-blown AIDS cases last year.

The problem for Ivorians is the high cost of the treatment chosen - \$15,000 a year for each patient. And the treatment is a lifetime thing. Even if the drug companies taking part subsidize up to 50 percent of the cost, prices for the medicines will still be far beyond the reach of most people in Ivory Coast, where the average per-capita income is only about \$500.

Christopher Assi of the Ivorian health ministry said the country was obligated to try the treatment after word of its success in the United States spread here. "People turned on their TVs and realized that there was advanced treatment out there," Assi said. "There is a moral obligation to give access to the treatment, if there is a means to do so."

When Health Minister Maurice Kacou Guikahue announced the project in November, the plan was to start it in conjunction with the international AIDS conference that was held in Ivory Coast on Dec. 7-11. Vietnam, Uganda and Chile also are in the project, but Ivory Coast was to be the first to begin because of its superior medical and research facilities. The program has yet to begin, however.

Major drug companies involved in the project - Glaxo Wellcome, Virco and Hoffman-LaRoche - have not said how much they will subsidize the drugs. They say that depends on how much medicine the government orders.

The government cannot say how much medication it needs until it figures out how to choose the 3,000-4,000 people who will take part. That choice is in the hands of a

committee of doctors, AIDS support groups and non-governmental organizations, which appears bogged down by determining clinical and medical criteria for selection, as well as the ethical dimensions.

"They said that people selected should contribute something towards the cost, but how can they if they don't work?" asked N'dah from his club's headquarters in the bustling Treichville neighborhood.

The cost factor seems certain to eliminate all but a very select and elite few. "If patients had to pay even 50,000 CFA (\$100) a month, most of our patients could not," said Dr. Marc Aguirre, an American physician who runs an Abidjan AIDS clinic chosen as one of the project centers.

Antiretroviral therapy, as the treatment is known, also is not suitable for everyone. Factors such as age, the disease's advancement and access to a regular nutritious diet must be considered before patients begin taking the highly potent and toxic drugs.

Failure to adhere strictly to the demanding regimen of taking up to three dozen pills a day can lead a patient to develop resistance to the treatment and other AIDS drugs. Once started, the treatment can never be stopped. U.N. officials say the pilot program will run two to three years and then be evaluated. If successful, the project would be extended and expanded to other countries.

Nicole Doumatey, an AIDS counselor, worries that many of the project's participants may then be faced with the dilemma of how to continue to pay for the treatment. "These are lifetime drugs," she said. "What happens after three years?"

For the majority of AIDS sufferers here - so poor they can barely afford to buy aspirin - the requirements for participation may be unattainable, said Monique Rakotomalala, chairwoman of the U.N. project in Ivory Coast. Still, she said, the challenges presented by the program will ultimately better prepare Ivory Coast and other developing countries to face the demands of caring for AIDS victims.

"I'm pretty sure that it will work, but we have to deal with all aspects of the project: research, poverty reduction, health care," Rakotomalala said. "AIDS is a tiny part of a much bigger picture."

Survey finds Chinese doctors uninformed about AIDS

BEIJING (AP) - Many doctors in China need a crash course in treating AIDS, a survey shows. It found that nearly 60 percent of doctors in eight Chinese cities mistakenly believed that AIDS could be transmitted by sharing bowls and chopsticks, the Beijing Youth Daily newspaper reported Wednesday.

The survey found that more than 70 percent of ordinary people held the same view. It also found that one in three people surveyed and one in six doctors - mistakenly thought AIDS could be transmitted through a handshake.

The survey was conducted in Beijing,

Shanghai and six other cities by the Chinese Academy for Preventive Medicine, the newspaper reported. It did not give details about how the survey was conducted or any percentage of error.

AIDS is spread through intravenous drug use, sexual contact, blood and breast milk. China has 7,253 official cases of HIV infection, but experts say the real figure could be as high as 200,000.

New Zealand court affirms ban on same-sex marriages

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - An appeal court Wednesday ruled out marriage between same-sex couples, but two judges agreed that current marriage laws discriminate against gays and lesbians.

The five judges of the Court of Appeal were unanimous in ruling that the country's 1955 Marriage Act required marriage to be between a man and a woman. But two of the five judges said the marriage laws discriminated against gays and lesbians under the Bill of Rights Act.

The court found that even if discriminatory existed, the Bill of Rights did not override the Marriage Act. The court was considering an appeal by three couples in long-term lesbian relationships against a High Court decision last year which refused their application to be legally registered as married. The judges agreed that only new legislation would allow the Marriage Act to accommodate same-sex marriage.

As the decision was read out, the Wellington couple involved in the appeal, Jools Joslin and Jenny Rowan hugged and consoled each other. Both vowed to keep fighting to have a bill introduced to Parliament to sanction same-sex marriages, and hinted they may take their campaign to international human rights organizations.

"It's a very serious day for New Zealanders who are concerned about

human rights," said Rowan.

The judges said it was the Human Rights Commission, not the courts, that had a duty to find discrimination and to recommend law changes to the government. The other couples who took the appeal were Lindsay Quilter and Margy Pearl from Auckland, and Sarah Anderson and Sam Court from Christchurch.

Court rules religious music okay

SALT LAKE CITY - A divided 10th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the West High School choir's religious selections did not violate a student's constitutional rights. In a 100-page opinion, the majority of the Denver-based court found that the choir's performance of the songs in late 1994 did not amount to an endorsement of religion.

"Any choral curriculum designed to expose students to the full array of vocal music culture ... can be expected to reflect a significant number of religious songs," Judges Wade Brorby and James E. Barrett agreed. Appellate Judge Michael Murphy, a former Utah jurist, dissented in the 2-1 decision.

At a joint news conference, Assistant Utah Attorney General Debra Moore and Salt Lake School District superintendent Darlene Robles said it would take time to review the lengthy decision - but they were pleased with the victory.

"It's nice to have guidance from the court on an issue that has caused such controversy. The Establishment Clause (governing religious freedom and expression) is not an area on which the Supreme Court has been that clear," Moore said.

Robles said the opinion affirmed the district's policy of neutrality on religious matters, and meant that "nothing is going to change" in the district's approach to the issue. School policy seeks to assure that students "are entitled to express their religious

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views" as long as they do not use school programs to proselytize, she said.

Robles also said the ruling ended the district's eight-month wait for a decision. "We were expecting a decision in May, then June and finally August, so we're relieved that there has finally been a decision," she said.

Perhaps by way of explaining the length of their deliberations, Robby and Barrett noted the case had triggered "acute public interest - issues which evoke diversion opinions and strong emotions...."

"This is no more true than in Salt Lake City, Utah - a (Mormon) community and state whose unique social and political history reveals a longstanding tension involving the separation of church and state," the court stated.

The long-awaited decision, released on Thursday, came too late to make any practical difference to the student on whose behalf the civil rights lawsuit was filed, Rachel Bauman. She graduated from a private high school earlier this year. Still, the ruling almost certainly will be scrutinized by religious and educational institutions nationwide.

"I think that teachers and school administrators will understand from this opinion that as long as it is used in a balanced and appropriate way, there is a place for Christmas carols and religious choral music in the schools," David J. Jordan, an attorney who represented West High music teacher Richard Torgerson in the suit.

Home and business telephone numbers for Eric and Cheryl Bauman, who had filed the suit on behalf of their daughter, have been disconnected. US West directory assistance reported no new listings for them.

However, Bauman's New York-based attorney, Andrew C. Hruska, said no decision had been made on whether a new appeal will be filed in the case.

Hruska said he would study the opinion in detail and discuss it with his clients before making any comment. He also intends to consult with the lawyers representing a number of national religious organizations that intervened in the suit on Bauman's

behalf.

The West High debate began in 1995, when Bauman, who is Jewish, challenged her music teacher's selection of Christian choral music and devotional songs. In a U.S. District Court lawsuit filed that year, she sought to ban the performance of the song Friends at West High School's graduation ceremony.

Her suit also asked that West High's performance of mostly Christian songs and carols be ruled as promotions of the Christian faith. U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Greene dismissed the suit. He also rejected a later attempt to amend the complaint to show a pattern of conduct by Torgerson and the school district that endorsed and promoted religion.

Filing legal briefs in support of Bauman were the American Jewish Congress; Americans United for Separation of Church and State and People for the American Way; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ; the American Jewish Committee; Anti-Defamation League; General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists; and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Robby wrote that the U.S. Supreme Court has never specifically addressed the constitutionality of a public school teacher's conduct in selecting course materials with religious content as part of a broader, secular curriculum.

"The Constitution does not require that the purpose of every government-sanctioned activity be unrelated to religion. Courts have long recognized the historical, social and cultural significance of religion in our lives and in the world generally," he concluded.

In his dissent, Murphy argued that, "A proper reading of Supreme Court precedent establishes that the Establishment Clause prohibits public school teachers from utilizing their positions for the deliberate purpose of endorsing or disapproving religion."

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The Year In Politics

by Steve Labinski
Houston Voice Austin Bureau Chief

Although 1997 was an off-political year, plenty of things happened. The year began with several disappointments to the Republicans. Social conservatives watched their agenda stall in the Legislature. Governor Bush's ambitious proposal to significantly lower property taxes also failed. But the tide seems to have turned against the Democrats as the 1998 elections get closer.

The year marked a number of firsts for gays and lesbians. Dallas attorney John Loza became the first openly gay Republican officeholder in Texas when he won a seat to the Dallas City Council. Loza won a special election in a district that includes a large number of gay voters.

Loza publicly thanked the Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas in his campaign. Loza did not receive support from other gay political organizations. "They did a lot of good work for me. And Log Cabin's support was especially gratifying since I did not get the support of the main gay political establishment," Loza said, noting that his opponent outspent him 3-1 and garnered many more endorsements. "Log Cabin stepped up to the plate. They were willing to put their necks on the line for my campaign when others wouldn't," Loza added.

Annie Parker became the first openly gay person elected to the Houston City Council in an election where her opponent seemed loath to mention her sexuality. Parker reached out beyond the gay community, and solicited support from the entire district.

"Our districts are so large and the community is so diffuse, that the gay community cannot single-handedly win a City Council race," Parker told the Houston Chronicle. "So, like any candidate that wants to win in Houston, I had to build a

large coalition that crossed racial lines and crossed gender lines.

Other openly-gay candidates are considering running for office in 1998. 25 year old Francisco Sanchez is considering running for the open seat currently held by Rep. Diana Davilla (D, Houston) as a Democrat. Republican Fred Ebner announced a bid against openly gay Rep. Glen Maxey (D, Austin), who last year suffered the embarrassment of filing for bankruptcy after charging \$60,000 on his credit cards.

Texas Legislature

Bills relating to gays and lesbians went nowhere in the Texas Legislature. A bill defining marriage as between a man and a woman languished after the bill's opponents used House rules to prevent it from being scheduled for a vote on the floor.

On the flip side, bills protecting gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination, the repeal of the 21.06 sodomy statute, and increasing criminal and civil penalties on hate crimes received committee hearings, but stalled otherwise.

In a rare vote, a hate crimes bill that provides individuals remedies in civil court passed the House Civil Practices committee in a 5 to 2 vote. HBO 2836, sponsored by Rep. Senfronia Thompson (D, Houston) allowed a claimant who is victim to a hate crime to sue for damages.

LGRL Director Dianne-Hardy Garcia said, "It's very important that we take a full approach to deterring hate crimes in Texas. We must have criminal and civil statutes with penalty enhancements. Civil penalties give victims some relief to pay for their financial loss."

The House State Affairs committee held Texas' first-ever hearing on legislation by Rep. Debra Danburg (D, Houston) protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination in the workplace. The hour-long hearing, which began shortly before midnight, fea-

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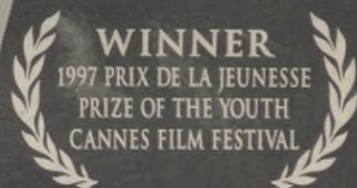
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tured lively testimony in support and in opposition to the legislation. Although no votes were taken by the committee members, many felt it was a breakthrough for the Texas Legislature and significant progress.

Rep. Kim Brimer (R, Kennedale) expressed concern the bill opens a "one-way street" to litigants suing employers. "I'm against any type of discrimination, but there has to be some balance," said Brimer, who wanted to see protection against frivolous lawsuits written into the bill.

Sony a Mohammad, President of the Young Conservatives of Texas in Austin, testified, "In Texas, sodomy is illegal." Holding the entire Texas Penal Code, Mohammad read aloud section 21.06, which criminalizes "homosexual conduct." Rep. Danburg asked Mohammad if she has received a traffic citation, which carries the same penalties as section 21.06. Mohammad answered that she had. Danburg concluded that if Mohammad were to hold herself to her own standards, she would not be employable.

In other news, Disney received media attention when the Southern Baptist Conference voted to urge its members to boycott the entertainment conglomerate because of its gay-friendly employment

policies. Consequently, the American Family Association of Texas began a push locally to instruct the State's Permanent School Fund to divest themselves in Disney - about 350,000 shares around \$25 million. Executive Director Wyatt Roberts stated there was precedent for such an action. "In February the school board divested themselves of Seagram's stock, who owns MCA," Roberts said.

So far, the Texas Board of Education has not taken any action on the issue. One reason may be that religious conserva-

tive leader Donna Ballard (R, The Woodlands) resigned her position to move to Amarillo. Ballard made a mark as a vociferous supporter of local school control and perceived threats to prevent parents from homeschooling their children. Ballard has filled to run for the Board of Education in her new Amarillo district in 1998.

Scandals

Thirty-something accountant Sen. Drew Nixon (R, Carthage) was arrested in Austin on South Congress Ave. for soliciting oral sex from an undercover female police officer. The trial featured Nixon's wife of two years making an emotional plea to the jury not to send him to jail. It even included Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock testifying in support of his Senate colleague, because Nixon claimed to have been acting under the influence of alcohol that evening. The Austin jury recommended a 180-day jail sentence and a \$6,000 fine.

Until this year, Nixon was a rising star for the state's social conservatives. He fought bills such as the Hate Crimes Bill on the Senate floor, and received PAC money from the American Family Association of Texas and similar groups.

The Dawn of Republicans?

As the year continued, Texas Democrats

learned that they could be in for difficult times. Land Commissioner Gary Mauro mounted what many believe is a quixotic campaign to defeat the popular Republican Governor. More importantly, a series of retirements by influential Democrat legislators revealed a weak new generation to fill their shoes.

At the top, Lt. Governor Bob Bullock announced his retirement. Known as the last of the "old guard", Bullock operated the Senate in a tightly controlled, bi-partisan manner. Immensely popular with both Democrats and Republicans, he won elections easily.

In November, the announcement by Attorney General Dan Morales that he would not seek re-election in 1998 left Democrat operatives in a stunned silence. Morales's announcement also left his party without any incumbents seeking election to

statewide executive office.

Four high-ranking Democrats announced that they would not seek reelection in 1998: Rep. Alan Place (R, Gatesville), Rep. Allen Hightower (D-Huntsville), Rep. Keith Oakley (D, Terrell), and Rep. Hugo Berlanga (D-Corpus Christi).

"I think some of the Democrats are leaving, because they are worried that we will have a Republican majority," said Chris Vinklarek, a legislative assistant to Republican Rep. Terry Keel (R-Austin).

With the exception of Berlanga's seat, Republicans are confident that they can win the open seats because the districts already lean Republican, giving Dole/Kemp a majority of votes over Clinton/Gore in the 1996 Presidential election.

Not only are Democrats not running for reelection, many have decided to switch parties and become Republicans. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Chief Justice Mike McCormick made the switch in a public ceremony that included a dozen other down-ballot officeholders in a press conference with

Governor Bush last Fall. Speculation swirls again now, because the Governor's office has announced another press conference for even more party switchers for January 2. The names involved are to be announced.



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Parker, Clinton and Princess Di top list of news for 1997

HOUSTON - 1997 was a year of tragedy and triumph for the gay and lesbian community. From AIDS, to civil rights, to murder and mayhem, gays were in the forefront of the media. Following are the top ten gay and lesbian news story's of the year.

1. **Annis Parker** - The third time's the charm. Parker proved the adage was true. In a landslide victory, Parker became the first openly gay city councilmember in the history of Houston. Parker's victory is historic on many fronts. She has paved the way for other serious gay candidates to run for city wide office and win. Her campaign was a model of how to reach out to all constituents and not sacrifice who you are in the process.

2. **Princess Di** - The world suffered a great loss when Diana, Princess of Wales died in a car crash in Paris. Her sudden death was shocking beyond belief. Princess Di's death also meant that the world was losing one of its strongest AIDS advocates. She made a point to bring attention to the disease when no one would and did so much to the chagrin of the Royal Family. Her legacy will live on for centuries. Rarely has one person had such an impact on a



world wide level. She was the "people's princess" and she will be missed.

3. **Ellen DeGeneres** - "Yep, I'm Gay." Those three words sent the media on a frenzy. DeGeneres' announcement that she was gay, coupled with the revelation that the title character, Ellen, on her self-titled ABC sitcom would "come out" wreaked



havoc on the minds of Southern Baptists, who were besides themselves. The "coming out" episode was the highest rated show of the week and earned Super Bowl size ratings. Subsequent squabbles with the network over rating content kept the issue in the news for several more months.

4. **Clinton Convenes Hate Crimes Summit** - President Clinton convened a Hate Crime Summit at the White House and assembled leaders from the African American and gay and lesbian community to participate in the process. One of those leaders was Texas' own Diane Hardy-Garcia of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. This marked the first time a sitting president convened such a meeting.

5. **Clinton Speaks at HRC Event** - President Clinton's speech to 1,500 attendees at the Human Rights Campaign first National Dinner marking the first time a sitting president ever addressed a lesbian and gay civil rights event. The event raised over \$300,000 for the nation's largest and most powerful gay rights organization. "...When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or

religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact," Clinton told the crowd. "It is wrong. And it should be illegal."

6. **National AIDS rate decline** - The good news is that less people are dying of AIDS than anticipated. The bad news is that all the good news is causing a decline in much needed money to continue research and education so the trend does not reverse itself. According to the CDC, death rates as a result of complications from AIDS declined drastically this year. What is not known, however, is the exact number of people who have contracted the disease and are unaware they carry it.

7. **Mother Teresa** - Mother Teresa's charity transcended religious boundaries.



She was respected by every denomination imaginable. Her tenacity towards dedicating her life to the poor and sick was beyond comprehension. She also was the first Catholic official to embrace victims of AIDS and, much to the chagrin of the Vatican, opened AIDS hospices throughout the world. Not even the Vatican would take on this demure saint.

8. **Gianni Versace** - The heinous murder of Gianni Versace by alleged serial killer Andrew Cunanan kept America glued to their televisions watching the FBI manhunt for the elusive killer, while he was sitting on a houseboat two miles away from

the murder site. Cunanan, who was gay, allegedly killed four men before he allegedly murdered Versace. It wasn't until Versace was murdered however that authorities took real notice. The ensuing brouhaha caused a rift between the FBI and gay advocates. Cunanan fatally shot himself. Meanwhile, Versace's legacy will live on. Ironically, Princess Diana, who attended the funeral along with hundred of other dignitaries and celebrities, died within weeks after Versace's death.

9. **John Loza** - Against all odds this openly gay Republican Dallas City Councilmember won his race against a Democrat opponent in a Democrat district. How? Loza campaigned in the gay community and garnered the endorsement of Log Cabin Republicans of Dallas. Loza won without the support of other gay groups, who endorsed his opponent.

10. **Empower '97** - It was Houston's first gay and lesbian exposition that was a true success. The event drew several thousand spectators despite inclement weather. After years of failure by other's, the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce coordinated an event the gay and lesbian community can be proud of. And, they paved the way for the event to become an annual staple that shows signs of promising growth.

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Television's dizzying prime-time shuffle shows no signs of slowing

by David Bauder

NEW YORK - When they drew up this fall's television schedule, network bigwigs might as well have used a pencil - with a big eraser. There have been cancellations, time slot flip-flops and replacement series as NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox struggle to halt the steady erosion of viewers looking elsewhere for entertainment.

But all the changes risk destroying one thing the networks have going for them - the relationship of trust built with their audience, one expert said. "I think a lot of people just figure, 'I don't know what's going to be on television tonight,'" said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University.

For television programmers, the decision can be tough: Stick with a show that's a dog in the ratings in the hopes it will build an audience or cut and run. On an average prime-time night, the top four networks have about 2.3 million fewer viewers than they had last year, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Ratings races are becoming so close, with one or two hit shows making the difference between first and third place, that the temptation to shuffle is becoming almost unbearable. Struggling ABC is the least consistent: five of the seven nights are changed.

NBC is in position to be the top-rated network again this year. But its executives can sheepishly offer a nominee for worst programming decision of the year. Much of the audience for its hit, *3rd Rock From the Sun*, didn't follow the show on its switch from Sunday nights to Wednesdays.

Instead, NBC became the fourth-place network on Sunday nights with the shows

Jenny and *Men Behaving Badly*. NBC hasn't announced where *Jenny* will land in the new season. Already, NBC has changed its schedule on two of the seven nights, with Tony Danza's self-titled sitcom the most high-profile casualty.

Sometimes schedule switches can seem like high-stakes poker games. CBS this month plugged its Tuesday drama *Dellaventura* into the Thursday time slot occupied by *48 Hours* and traded Dan Rather's newsmagazine to Tuesdays. But when ABC said it was moving Thursday's *20/20* to Mondays, CBS switched *48 Hours* and *Dellaventura* right back to where they started.

CBS has pulled switches on three of the seven nights. Next month, it will premiere the sitcom *Style and Substance* on Monday nights. It features a tyrannical style queen loosely based - although CBS won't say so - on Martha Stewart. Also on CBS, Bill Cosby returns as host of a weekly series of funny film clips, *Kids Say the Darndest Things*, on Fridays.

ABC has completely changed its Saturday night schedule since September. It will move its two highly praised but struggling Thursday night dramas, *Nothing Sacred* and *Cracker*, to Saturday night and start a new news show. Its acclaimed drama, *The Practice*, will move to Monday nights, joined by *America's Funniest Home Videos* and a new drama, *Prey*, about an evil new species of man.

The relatively young Fox network stays consistent on five of the seven nights. It resurrected the venerable comedy, *Living Single*, this fall only to cancel it again. Fox's new January series include *Ask Harriet*, about a male sportswriter who poses as a woman to write an advice column, and *Beyond Belief*, where the audience ponders whether certain improbable episodes are fact or fiction.

Confused? Join Thompson, who's convinced that Americans are getting riled. For all the buzz about interactive entertainment, he believes many people want to sit passively for a dependable evening of television.

And it's not so dependable any more. "Television is becoming complicated," he said.

Best and Worst of 1997

by Jon Anthony

The Best



1. **Frasier** - This ensemble comedy is still fresh, witty and intelligent in its fourth season. David Hyde Pierce is the most talented comedian working in television. His antics as Niles Crane are brilliant. Pierce, a Broadway veteran, is on par with some of the industry's best physical comedians, i.e. Tim Conway, Lily Tomlin, Lucille Ball, Bette Midler and Carol Burnette to name a few.

2. **Ellen** - I must confess I never was



a fan of this show until I watched the legendary 'coming out' show. Prior to the revelation, the show was just not funny. In fact, it was insipid. Since then, the show has allowed DeGeneres to utilize her impeccable comedic timing and provide the audience with an adult sitcom that has some verve, racy dialogue and side-splitting comedy.



3. **Mad About You** - Yes, I know this sitcom is beginning to show its years. The

addition of Mabel has been tiresome. Yet, this show managed to present America with its first non-stereotypical gay relationship. Long before it was trendy to have gay characters on television, this sitcom incorporated the lesbian relationship between Paul's (Paul Reiser) sister and Jamie's (Helen Hunt) gynecologist, with little fanfare. Best of all, the relationship is depicted intelligently and treated as if it's nothing more than a natural part of life. In other words, its portrayed honestly.

4. **Law & Order** - There is a reason this show was voted Best Drama at the Emmy's this year. It's good. That's quite a feat, considering it has undergone numerous cast changes in its eight years as a Wednesday night staple. The episodes are concise, crisp and riveting. Rarely, do the producers deliver a dud.

5. **The X-Files** - Fox's decision to move this Friday stalwart to Sunday night was one of the riskiest moves of the new season. It was a risk that paid off, however. Since it's move, the show has double its ratings. In the process, it has transformed from a cult classic to a modern day phenomenon. The trials and travails of Scully and Mulder deliver gripping television week after week.

6. **Just Shoot Me** - This sitcom is one of the best written shows to hit the small screen in recent memory. The ensemble is fresh and their zany antics are riotous. Of all the shows with a newspaper or magazine as a backdrop - *Suddenly Susan*, *The Naked Truth*, *Fired Up* - this is the funniest. This show has legs.

7. **Murphy Brown** - After writing this show off several seasons back, I decided to tune in to see how the venerable sitcom would treat the delicate subject of breast cancer. Much to my surprise, the show treated the subject with respect and honesty. In fact, this season the series has come close to the greatness it once represented during its first three seasons. The episode dealing with medicinal marijuana was classic television at its best. This will probably be the series last season. At least, it will leave the schedule with its reputation intact.

8. **NewsRadio** - This sitcom has aired on more nights than any other show currently on the air. It consistently delivers dismal ratings and rarely gets press coverage. Yet it's still on the air after four seasons. And, it should be. It is funny and unpredictable. The cast is superb. A comedy classic on par with *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *M*A*S*H*, *Barney Miller* and *Taxi*.

9. **Veronica's Closet** - While this sitcom does not have the best writing team in town, the seasoned supporting cast more than makes up for their shortcomings. Kathy Najimy is divine as Kirstie Alley's assistant, Olive. Najimy can make even the worst material somewhat funny. She is a true gem. With a better writing staff and more polished scripts, this could be the smartest sitcom on television.

10. **ER** - Okay, the season premiere live episode was a bad idea. Nevertheless, it is by far the best ensemble drama on televi-

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REVIEW/

from page 14
sion. The big question, of course, is whether NBC is willing to fork over \$5 million per episode to Warner Brothers Television next season. If not, there are several networks waiting in the wings who would gladly pony up.

The Worst

1. **Union Square** - If this show ever moved out of its cushy time period sandwiched between *Friends* and *Seinfeld*, it wouldn't even register a Nielsen rating. Television at its worst.



2. **The Tony Danza Show** - This show disproves the theory that blondes are dumb. Everyone on the show had dark hair and this show is dumb. Wisely, the series has been canceled. The premise was tired and the entire cast was unbelievably irritating.

3. **Melrose Place** - Been there done that. It's time to move on. Enough said.

4. **Michael Hayes** - Please. What did we ever see in this guy? Caruso is annoying when the entire show evolves around him. He is best when he is part of an ensemble.

5. **Cybill** - This once promising sitcom has become so stale, its not even worth watching for the multi-talented Christine Baranski. Despite the denials by CBS and

Shepherd, there obviously was a tiff between Shepherd and Baranski. The series is focusing entirely too much on Shepherd and her talent as a comedic actress is limited. It's probably too late to save this show. Baranski will be back. Count on it.



The Best of Books

by Ella Tyler

I've agonized for the past six weeks (well, furrowed my brow a few times) about my list of ten best books of the year. However, when it came down to my deadline, the selection method became clear. Which of the approximately 500 books I read in 1997 did I remember anything about at years end? And the winners are:

Audrey Hepburn's Neck
by Allen Brown
Pocket Books, \$12.00



This is a wonderful book about a

Japanese young man who works as a comic book artist and his life in Tokyo, where he has come after life in a tiny village in the North. He is curiously isolated, so much so that his best friend is an older gay American and his crushes are on American girls. The book is totally non-linear, filled with glimpses of modern life in the city and his life as a child with his uncommunicative parents. It is beautiful like Japanese paintings and written with the grace and precision of haiku.

Courage to Love,
by Will Leckie and Rev. Barry Stopfel
Doubleday, \$21.95

This is about Barry Stopfel's struggle to become an Episcopal priest. Will Leckie, his partner, became a minister in the United Church of Christ, which allows non-celibate gays to be ordained. Barry, however, wanted to be ordained in his church. His two choices seemed to be to leave his faith or go back into the closet. He chose neither, and was finally ordained and hired by a church. However, the bishop who helped with the process was tried for heresy. Although the charges were dismissed, Barry and Will's life together was also on trial.

I admire people who persist in being true to themselves and the people who surround and support them. I admire books by or about them only when they are neither preachy or overly sunny. This book avoids these pitfalls and is well written, too.

Death Wore a Smart Little Outfit
by Orland Outland
Berkley Crime, \$5.50

The cover of this book features a blonde in a red feather boa and said "Murder's a Drag" so I bought and reviewed it even before we were sent a copy. It's a campy, original, and very funny mystery, set in San Francisco. It's main characters are a well bred young woman with a too-small trust fund and her two best friends, gay men. One wears women's clothes because they're more

comfortable, the other is a typical accountant. They team up to find out who is murdering artists. One of the wickedly funny scenes is an art gallery opening where the buyers all had their accountants in tow. I'm waiting for the next one in this series. Maybe not one of the best, but the funniest.



Elton John's Flower Fantasies
An Intimate Tour of His House and Garden

by Caroline Cass
Bulfinch Press/Little, Brown & Company, \$35.00

This is one of the prettiest books I've ever seen. It is delightful not only for its beautiful pictures of flower arrangements, gardens and furniture, but for its conversations with John about his life, homes and friends. His childlike enjoyment of his gardens is a real pleasure to read. A bonus is the discussions of the history of floral design and a complete list of the flowers used the arrange-

See REVIEW page 16

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REVIEW/

from page 15
ments.

Farewell Symphony
by Edmund White
Alfred A. Knopf, \$25.00

One of the real pleasures of this gig is finding writers who I would have never encountered on my own, and White is an incredibly gifted and talented writer. I don't care if this book fairly depicts life for gay men before AIDS, and don't care that it spends a lot of pages talking about sex, I just want to read his words. This book really is a work of art—a masterpiece.

HIV Law
by Paul Hampton Crockett
Three Rivers Press, \$2.95

This book is a complete, up-to-date, and practical guide for anyone suffering from a serious illness or anyone who isn't part of a '50's family. Crockett has obviously been in many, many hospital and court rooms dealing with the complex legal and emotional issues surrounding AIDS. I was impressed by both his legal knowledge and his ability to write about this material in thoroughly readable manner. However, I loved the book because Crockett obviously cares very deeply about his clients.

Rita Will
Rita Mae Brown
Bantam, \$23.95

I stayed up way to late reading Rita Mae Brown's memoirs and haven't quite finished them. However, the book definitely deserves to be on my "best" list. When Rubyfruit Jungle was published in the early '70's, Brown became the most famous lesbian in the country. However, Brown was an activist before she was a well known writer. She talks about the early days of the feminist movement when she was kicked out of NOW for being a lesbian, and tells stories of her life as a Tri Delt at a Florida university and leaving the school. She talks a lot about

her family. Her mom and aunt show up as characters in some of her books. Brown is wordy, and highly opinionated, but she's an interesting person who has lived in interesting times.



"The Oldest Gay Couple In America"
by Gean Harwood
Carol Publishing, \$22.50

This is the very readable account of the lives of Gean Harwood and Bruhs Mero. They met and fell in love in 1927 and lived together until Mero's Alzheimer's Disease forced his confinement to a nursing home in 1991. The relationship grew and thrived despite constant insecurity, particularly about jobs and housing. They lived in a carefully constructed closet. Mero says "we were careful to be as inconspicuous as possible. We strictly avoided obviously gay people". However, by the '80's they became more public as a couple and enjoyed this life despite problems with illness and age. Harwood, now 89, avoids

preaching, regrets and sentimentality in favor of presenting the honest love story of two otherwise ordinary gay men. It is worth reading.

The Queerest Places
by Paula Martinac

Remember the slogan "We are everywhere". This book proves it. Martinac, a novelist, biographer and editor of The Gay Almanac and The Lesbian Almanac, has compiled a list of 500 places across the country that are important to gay history. Her list is both imaginative and far reaching. The entire town of Salem is included, partially because several of the women accused of witchcraft were "suspiciously unmarried" and because of the importance of "witch-hunts" in gay history. Was gay history made in Lodi, California? You bet. This book makes it fun to read about.

The Shared Heart
Adam Mastoon, ed.
William Morrow and Co

This is a set of portraits of gay and lesbian teenagers, accompanied by their own essays about being young and gay. The essays are simple, honest and direct. It's aimed at teens, but adults will enjoy it also. They're a group of kids to be proud of.

Whoops- The correct name for Sex and the Cyber Citizen, by Cleo Odzer, Ph.D. which I talked about last week, is Virtual Spaces. I really did look at the book several times and read some of it, but the jazzy graphics on the front cover make the title inconspicuous. It wasn't till I looked at the spine that I found out the correct title.



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I read that in the Houston Voice last week!



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PHOTO CREDIT: ANDY FESTA

by Ella Tyler

If your fingers are itching to get out in the yard and prune the winter damage from your plants, resist the urge. Don't Do It. Leaving the damaged limbs on the plant protects it from further damage the next time it freezes. It also keeps the plant from producing new growth which will surely freeze. You may pull out your annuals like impatiens and begonia. They're gone anyway. If its something like a banana tree which really looks horrid, cut it down. I've convinced my mom to move her banana trees to the side of the yard. Her den has a wall of glass doors

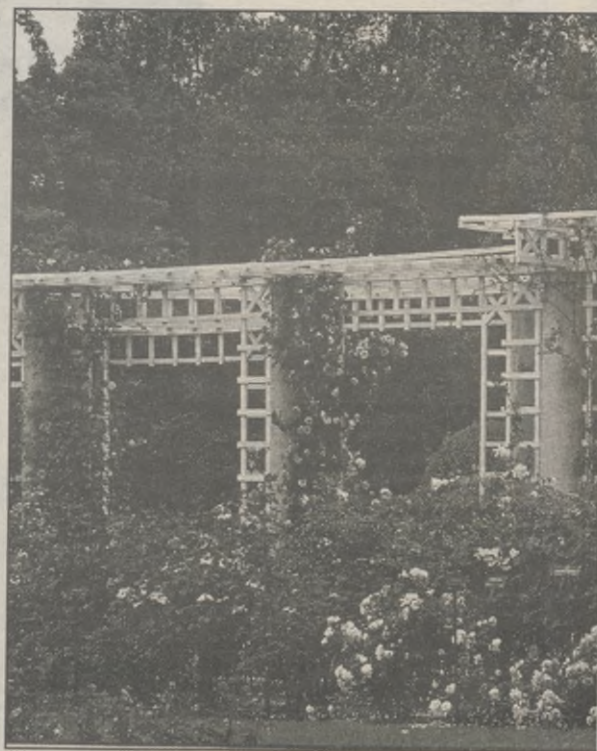
and they dominate the scene in the back yard. The ones on the side can be seen when she sits on the patio, but not from the house. I'm putting

the bundle in a knee high. Plant them as deep as they are. Plant any other bulbs you haven't gotten around to planting yet.

project. Rice University Art Gallery is soliciting your holiday packaging to be used in construction of "Dona Provi's Garden (a cardboard fanta-

sy)" to be built by Puerto Rican artist Antonio Martorell. Drop it off at the

gallery from 10 to 4 January 5 to 7. The gallery is reached from entrance one, at Main and Sunset. All cardboard is welcome, and it's even better if its gaudy. The number for more



climbing roses in that space and will build their bed as soon as I get rid of the banana trees. You may now plant your tulips. I'll be glad to get them out of the frig. It's still a surprise to see their odd lit-

I keep seeing signs about Christmas tree recycling, but keep forgetting to write the information down. Keep an eye out for a notice about this

information in 713/527-6069. Enjoy the New Year's celebrations and remember not to give your plants too much to drink.

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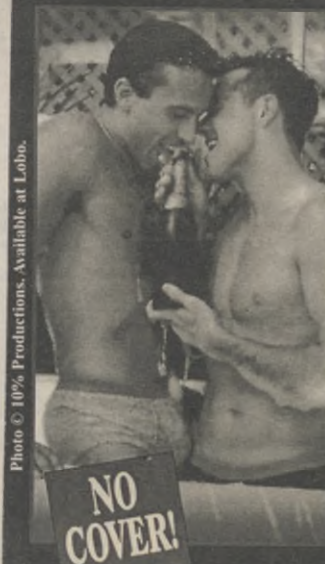


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"GET A NIGHTLIFE"

Bent

Nazi Germany exposed

by Leslie Ramsay

The good people at Landmark Greenway 3 Theatres and the new Angelika Film Center will offer the Channel Four Films/MGM film *Bent* for viewing this holiday weekend. The film is probably the most powerful film I have ever seen. It is not for the casual moviegoer. This film requires an alert and visual orientated audience. The film is rated NC-17 for a very good reason.

The film opens with Mick Jagger (*Freejack*) dressed as "Greta" swinging from the "moon" in a war torn Berlin nightclub. The decadence of Berlin is displayed for all to enjoy. Drugs, alcohol, and promiscuous sex are the order of the day.

The Nazi's have other plans for the care-free homosexuals of 1943 Berlin. The infamous "Night of the Long Knives" is played out in graphic detail. The secret police make it very clear that Germans are not allowed to be "perverts".

Max as played by Clive Owens (*The Rich Man's Wife*) is the main character of the film. He is a wealthy playboy type that lives a decadent social life with his dancer boyfriend, Rudy.

When Max decides to bed a beautiful German soldier on the "Night of Long Knives", he inadvertently brings the secret police into their lives. The soldier's throat is slit and Rudy and Max are on the run. They run to Greta who is burning his dresses and going back to wife and children as "George". There is no place for "perverts" in Hitler's Germany.



Max and Rudy are left to fend for themselves in the Black Forest. They are eventually chased down by the SS and sent to Dachau, a Nazi Concentration Camp. On the train to Dachau, a fellow prisoner, Horst, gives Max a life lesson. Lothaire Bluteau (*Jesus of Montreal*, *I Shot Andy Warhol*) plays Horst.

The love that develops between the Horst and Max is a testament to the strength of the human spirit. While the Nazi's are trying to drive them insane with redundant tasks they are able to retain their sanity through the powerful bond they develop for each other.

Clive Owens has the most intense eyes. His portrayal of Max is Oscar quality. Lothaire Bluteau is amazing as Horst. This is my film of the year. I believe that it should also be Oscar's.

Mouse Hunt

Hunting for Profit

by Leslie Ramsay

Mix *Home Alone*, *Jumanji*, and *The Money Pit* together and you have the DreamWorks Christmas release, *Mouse Hunt*.

The film is a study in greed. The Smuntz boys, Ernie and Lars, find themselves with an inheritance that is more of a hindrance than a serendipity. Their father, as played by William Hickey, leaves them a string factory and an old house. The factory is very outdated. A mouse inhabits the house. The mouse is truly the mouse from hell.

Nathan Lane (*The Birdcage*, *Jeffrey*) stars as the really greedy Ernie Smuntz. He wants to immediately liquidate the factory and house.

Lee Evans (*Funny Bones*) plays the sentimental brother, Lars Smuntz. He wants to honor his father's dying wish to keep the string factory open.

The brothers find themselves homeless within the first fifteen minutes of the film and are forced to live in the house their father left them. In the middle of the night they hear a scratching noise coming from the attic. They go to investigate. In the process they discover the original architects plans for the house. The house turns out to be an architectural treasure and worth millions of dollars.

Being the greed meisters that they are, the Smuntz brothers set about to fix up the house and put it up for auction. In the process they must get rid of the mouse. The mouse has other plans.

Christopher Walken (*The Comfort of Strangers*, *King of New York*) plays the exterminator. Vicki Lewis (*TV's*



NewsRadio) plays the greedy wife of Lars Smuntz. Maury Chaykin (*The Postman*, *A Life Less Ordinary*) plays the wealthy buyer that was interested in buying the house from the boys.

Eric Christmas (*Harold and Maude*, *All of Me*, *Air Bud*) plays the lawyer. Michael Jeter (*The Fisher King*, *Waterworld*, *Drop Zone*) plays the historical society representative that confirms the authenticity of the house.

William Hickey (*Prizzi's Honor*, *The Name of the Rose*, *Wise Blood*) plays the father, Rudolf Smuntz. William Hickey passed away only weeks after filming *Mouse Hunt*. The film is dedicated to him.

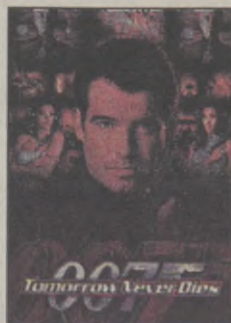
The special effects and film quality are extremely high in the film. DreamWorks has once again produced a quality looking film. For a amusing time at the theater run on down to the multi-plex. The film opens Christmas Day.

MOVIE ROUND-UP 1997

by Leslie Ramsay



1. *Bent* (MGM) Lothaire Bluteau, Clive Owen, Brian Webber, Ian McKellen and Mick Jagger
2. *In & Out* (Paramount) Kevin Kline, Tom Selleck
3. *Contact* (Warner Bros. Pictures) Jodie Foster, Matthew McConaughey
4. *Fire* (Zeitgeist Films) Shabana Azmi, Nandita Das
5. *Tomorrow Never Dies* (United Artists) Pierce Brosnan, Michelle Yeoh
6. *Alien Resurrection* (20th Century Fox) Sigourney Weaver, Winona Ryder
7. *Eve's Bayou* (Trimark Pictures) Samuel L. Jackson, Lynn Whitfield
8. *Shall We Dance* (Japan) Koji Yakusyo, Akira Emoto, Tamiyo Kusakari
9. *Flubber* (Disney) Robin Williams, Marcia Gay Harden
10. *Twilight of the Gods* (Avalance) Jennifer Beals, Faye Dunaway



Remembering The Music Of 1997

The More Things Change . . .

By Steve Underwood

1997 will be a year remembered as the year that new music artists eclipsed the old guard, leaving many record companies to reflect on their long-term strategies. No genre of music was left undisturbed and things really seem to be changing.

But maybe they're not. The old guard has its winners this year and one of the biggest selling albums in America was a bunch of inspirational songs and patriotic tear jerkers.

While no list can truly reflect the tastes of any one culture or person, I hope you find at least a few of your favorites here and if you find something new to listen to, that can be just as important.

If you don't see any of your favorite artists here, relax, this is just one list. And if you really think about it, the only list that truly matters is the one you make up yourself.



Number One
Candle In The Wind
Elton John *Rocket/A&M*

Elton John's tribute to Princess Diana is the biggest seller of all time, raising over \$30 million dollars for the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Queen Elizabeth has taken note: Elton will be "knighted" by the monarch next month, giving him the right to be called "Sir." Of course, given Britain's paranoid preoccupation with social position and class, how could the Queen pass up the opportunity to top Elton with regal attention when her own popularity is waning like a mist? The Queen (Elizabeth) seems to get the big picture after all. Oddly enough, maybe Elton is the first gay/bisexual man to receive the honor — well, at least the first publicly out one, that is.



Number Two
You Light Up My Life — Inspirational Songs
LeAnn Rimes *Curb Records*

If you watched the made-for-TV movie, maybe you've got enough of her already. But it doesn't seem so for a vast majority of Americans who ravaged their favorite record stores to get this retrospective assortment of songs dear to the heart of Mid-America. Two million units and counting — wow, what a hit! Can LeAnn sustain her phenomenal success? Perhaps, but why should she care when she's rich already? Rest

assured, LeAnn's popularity will endure much longer than Milli Vanilli or Barney.



Number Three
Un-Break My Heart
Toni Braxton *LaFace/Arista*

Incarnating a diva is such a challenge but Toni Braxton handles it with perfection. Rocking radio and dance charts throughout the world, Toni filmed a video finding herself poised center stage in a skin-tight white dress with a full symphony playing to a packed house. If this wasn't a page out of Donna Summer's playbook, I don't know what is. Her following is becoming cultic and *Braxtonism* is gaining respectability as a legitimate form of worship on the internet. But Toni earns the title in her own right and expect Arista to have her out full force again real soon.



Number Four
Spice
Spice Girls *Virgin Records*

With a splash and a splash, the Spice Girls came out of nowhere and now they want to take over the world. Anti-Spice Girl zones are popping up all over the planet but the masses have been swayed. Will the world be safe for sugar with so much Spice? And is it true that Spice is what makes little girls so nice? Stay tuned: same Spicetime! same Spicechannell!

Number Five
No Way Out
Puff Daddy and the Family
Bad-Boy/Arista



Frankly, I have such trouble emotionally connecting to rap, but millions of people around the world don't. *Puff Daddy's* album sold like a dragon, topping sales charts in the US, Europe and Asia. With a huff and a puff, the hip-hop generation parties down to the sampled musings of its new step-daddy. But don't piss Puffy off or he just might blow your house down.



Number Six
Romances
Luis Miguel *Wea/Latin*

Latin men are sometimes the most beautiful men in the world — Luis Miguel

would fit in the category of *gorgeous*. Fortunately for Luis, he can sing. And whether you can understand a word he's saying or not, it all sounds divine just the same. If you have an active imagination, see yourself curled up in Luis' arms as he serenades you as if he were Apollo himself. Ah, Luis, mas por favor!



Number Seven
The Evita Soundtrack
Selections Sung By Madonna
Warner Brothers

When Madonna got wind that Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Evita* would be made into a full-length movie musical, she had to have the part. Madonna got it, but she also faced the task of singing Lloyd Weber's difficult arrangement. She may not have delivered the score as powerfully as the original Broadway cast, however, the performance was respectable. But if you can't admire Madonna for her attempt to portray Eva Peron, you can at least admire her for getting what she wants.

See MUSIC page 20

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THE MUSIC OF 1997

MUSIC/ from page 19

Number Eight
Falling Into You
Celine Dion Sony/550 Music



The set to the video of *It's All Coming Back To Me Now* seemed like a tour through the Haunted House at DisneyWorld. With a phantom lover playing hide and go seek, Celine finds later that she really isn't all by herself. She is one of the world's most beautiful performers — and so much sound out of such a petite frame. Why, who knows, just maybe they'll put out a Celine Dion Barbie next season.



Number Nine
The Preacher's Wife Soundtrack
Arista Records

Whitney shined as the principle feature in the star-studded release. Dance floors got a chance to dance to an up-tempo remix of *Step By Step* after waiting through several ballads for the past few years. True to form, Whitney delivered her trademark diva vocals — solid as a rock. And praise the Lord, the soundtrack is more entertaining than any sermon I've heard!



Number Ten
Aquarium
Aqua MCA Records

When MCA released *Barbie Girl*, Mattel got mad as hell that it's wholesome, all-American-pie-in-your-eye image of its biggest seller might become a culturally molested tragedy. Well, most women in America probably want to sue Mattel for creating an the "perfect" look — an impossible, titanic image for little girls to emulate. Haven't many thought at some time or another Barbie needed to become a bit more *risqué*? And besides, she's got to grow up someday. All those years in plastic — has it all been that fantastic?

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WORKPLACE HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

ADOPT/from page 1

adoption by gays and have not been tested for second-parent adoptions by a gay partner, said Michael Adams, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

State Assemblywoman Marion Crecco, R-Essex, called the settlement "a sad commentary. ...I think every child deserves to grow up with a mother and father. It's a very natural thing. It's not something we are pulling out of a hat," she said. Crecco is the prime sponsor of a bill banning same-sex marriage that has not yet made it to the Assembly floor.

Robert Knight, director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council, a Washington think tank, said, "Placing a child in a household, that by design, lacks a father or a mother, places a child at a severe disadvantage, regardless of the parenting abilities of the adoptive parents." He also criticized adoption by unmarried couples, declaring, "That's a pretty strong signal that the household lacks the commitment to a permanent marital relationship that affords a

child the most security."

Under the settlement, DYFS must scrap its policy barring joint adoption of its wards by gay or unmarried couples. It may deny consent to them only by applying the same standards it applies to married couples, including "considerations such as the stability of the prospective adoptive couple's relationship," the settlement said.

In addition, it allows any gay or unmarried couple who believe they are denied joint adoption based on marital status or sexual orientation to ask a state judge to enforce the decree and award them legal fees.

This gives the agreement teeth, said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, in San Francisco. She estimated there are 8 million to 13 million children being raised by gay or lesbian parents in the United States.

The ACLU said settlement talks in the New Jersey class-action case began after state Superior Court Judge Sybil R. Moses approved a petition for joint adoption by a gay couple from Bergen County, Jon Holden and Michael Galluccio.

They also were the lead plaintiffs in the

class-action lawsuit, brought by Lambda Families of New Jersey. That case also was before Moses, who signed the settlement Wednesday. On Oct. 22, Moses permitted the Maywood men to jointly adopt their 2-year-old foster child, Adam, who they had cared for since he was 3 months old.

They are believed to be only the second homosexual couple in New Jersey to win a joint adoption. The state maintained that the previous such case was approved in error, said lawyers involved in the case. The state did not oppose the petition of Galluccio and Holden to jointly adopt Adam.

The judge's approval applied only to Adam's case, while Wednesday's decree removes a roadblock for any gay or unmarried couple seeking to jointly adopt. The class-action lawsuit charged that the state policy violated constitutional guarantees of equal protection, and was inconsistent with state adoption law, which required that a child's best interest take precedence.

Vickie Riggs, a member of Lambda Families, said, "Experience has shown that gay and lesbian people make wonderful, lov-

ing parents, and that children in these families fare as well as children raised by heterosexual parents." The group has about 200 gay and lesbian parents and people who would like to become parents around the state, Riggs said.

Wendy Berger, vice president of the New Jersey Lesbian & Gay Coalition, said the settlement is another step toward same-sex marriage. "It makes less and less sense to continue the discrimination," Berger said.

DYFS Director Michele Guhl said the settlement removes "ambiguity" on whether unmarried couples could jointly adopt. There are 15 unmarried couples among the 200 couples or single people currently seeking to adopt children in DYFS custody, the agency said.

Wendi Patella, a spokeswoman for the state Division of Youth and Family Services, said the agency now has custody of about 100 children who are legally eligible for adoption. In 1996, 687 children in the division's care were adopted, she said.



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CHURCH

Friday-December 26

- Low impact aerobics, certified instructor, done to christian music at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Kolbe Project Communion Service at 10:00 am. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-December 27

- Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday-December 28

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at Suzanne Anderson Realty, 239 Westheimer.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Join us for the coming of The Advent Season and the celebration of Love. 528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel, 4305 Lilian 880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Monday-December 29

- Low impact aerobics, certified instructor, done to christian music at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Tuesday-December 30

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Wednesday-December 31

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Catholic Mass at 8:30 am the Kolbe Project.

Thursday-January 1

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

If you want an event listed in this section,
please call Connie at 529-8490 by 12 Noon
Mondays.

TOUR BUS

The Artist Formerly Known As Prince will perform New Years Eve at the Compaq Center. Contact the venue or Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com for ticket prices and information.

Here is a list of upcoming tours and concerts to the Bayou City. Please contact the venue for ticket prices and information

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Arena Theater

The Artist Formerly Known As Prince
12/31 Compaq Center

Crystal Gayle 1/2-4
Jones Halliburton Shared Services

Jimmy Vaughan 1/2
Bayou Theater

Elton John 1/30
Compaq Center

Pat Metheny 2/6
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Nathan Lane - Smart and Funny

'Birdcage' star, Nathan Lane, on his new film 'Mouse Hunt'

by Amy Selwyn
Associated Press

NEW YORK - Nathan Lane says a very powerful somebody just happened to make him an offer he couldn't refuse. So he said OK to the part of Ernie Smuntz, a loser chef with a thing about string.

"Well," says Lane in an interview, "I was sent this script for a movie called *Mouse Hunt*, and I read it. I thought, 'Well, this is funny. But I don't know whether I'd want to be the guy who has to chase a mouse for two hours.'

"I mean, I thought this would be a nightmare to make. Plus, all that humiliation and abuse on a daily basis - losing out to something that weighs less than a pound. I just didn't want to deal with it. Plus, I didn't exactly see myself as the Jacques Pepin type. I mean, I don't even cook. Are you kidding? I use a smoke alarm as a timer."

"But then," Lane says, his voice dropping to an ominous whisper, "Jeffrey Katzenberg called me up. He is the Don Corleone of DreamWorks, you know." And along came the offer.

"Listen," Katzenberg said, "I think

you're gonna do this movie.' And I said, 'Oh, I just don't know.'

"So Jeff said, 'I'd like you to meet with Gore Verbinski.' And I said, 'WHO?' Katzenberg said, 'Gore Verbinski.'

"And I said, 'WHO IS GORE VERBINSKI, pray tell?'

"And Katzenberg said, 'Did you see that commercial with the Budweiser frogs? He did that.'

"THE BUDWEISER FROGS?' I asked. 'Well, sure, I've seen that commercial. Not since Orson Welles has there been such a visionary. OK, bring me to Verbinski.'"

The meeting went well. Lane says he was impressed and pleasantly surprised by the young director's ideas for *Mouse Hunt*.

"Gore Verbinski turned out to be this very nice, very smart man. He wanted to do a whole take on the material, giving it a Coen Brothers meets Charles Addams look, and a mean-spirited quality to the humor. I thought, 'Well, he's going in a very different direction. And that sounds fun.' I thought *Mouse Hunt* could be interesting to do. ... So that's what sold me: Gore."

Mouse Hunt is the story of the two Smuntz Brothers: the selfish, arrogant Ernie (Lane) and the lovable but laughable Lars, played by British comic Lee Evans. As the film opens, the Smuntzs' father has just died and bequeathed to his sons the Smuntz String Factory.

The senior Smuntz has also left behind a rickety old house, which turns out to be an architectural landmark, and

"Pop's String," a piece of twine from Smuntz the Senior's earliest days in America. By leaving this precious relic to Ernie and Lars, the father hoped to teach his sons to share. Fat chance.

Ernie has other ideas. And they don't include his silly brother Lars. Or that even sillier piece of string. Ernie is out for the big bucks. If he can persuade Lars to sell the house, they can walk away with millions. Ah, but there's a catch ... a particularly pesky mouse who calls the family house his home. Trouble is, the mouse - in actuality, played by 60 trained mice is a lot smarter than either of the brothers Smuntz.

For the 41-year-old actor, the film offered an opportunity to try his hand at physical comedy. "I've never done anything quite like this in a movie," says Lane. "Of course, I did have a stunt double. I'm very proud of that. VERY MACHO." Lane pauses. "Did you know they're mentioning my name for *Terminator 2*? 'I'll be ba-a-a-ck.'"

Standing in for Arnold Schwarzenegger may be a bit of a stretch. But with Lane, anything is possible. Known to Broadway audiences for his Tony Award-winning performance in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Lane also received critical acclaim for his star turns in *Gus and Dolls*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and Neil Simon's *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*.

In movies, Lane played Robin Williams' live-in lover in *The Birdcage*, and appeared in *Addams Family Values* and *Frankie and Johnny*.

Lane, a native of Jersey City,

N.J., says his passion for acting started at an early age. "My oldest brother took me to see my first Broadway show. I was about 11 years old. And I thought, 'That's what I'm going to do when I grow up.'"

"That first play was called *Black Comedy*. Then my brother took me to see a matinee performance of *Butley* with Alan Bates. I remember being shocked that Bates had to do the performance again.

"My brother said, 'You know, he'll have to go back to the theater and do it again in the evening.' And I thought, 'How can he do that? How can he go through all that again?' See," says Lane with a grin, "even then I was rejecting matinees!"

Lane still loves stage work, preferring a juicy Broadway part to a film role because he says the stage is an actor's medium. The actor is in control and there's the immediate audience reaction to gauge the performance. Though usually hard on himself and critical of his work, Lane admits he's pleased with his performance in *Mouse Hunt*, and he's happy with his life in general these days.

"I was at a dinner party at Steve Martin's house not too long ago. Some very funny people were there - Steve, Marty Short, the whole gang. We sat around the table, like eight of us, and we laughed so hard that we were just sitting there laughing and crying.

"And I thought, 'This is great. This is what it's like when life is really good. Sitting around with people of that quality and that caliber, people being funny. Smart and funny.' It's great."

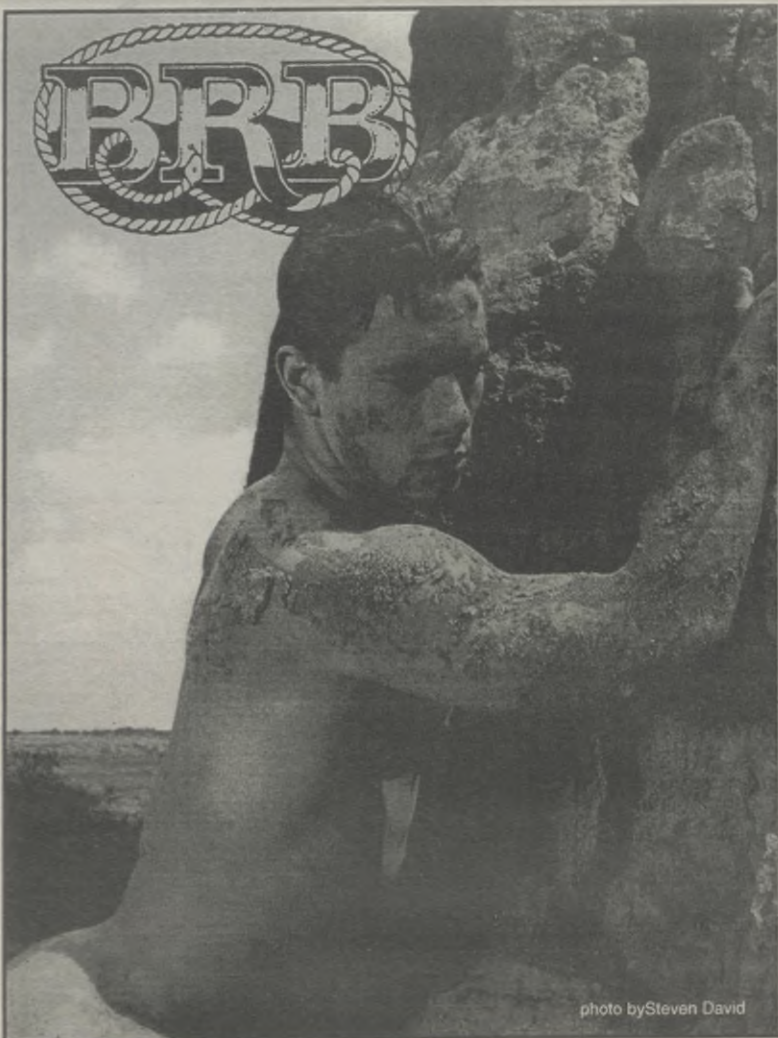


photo by Steven David

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CHAIR/from page 1

have the most direct contact with voters, and if they chose to do so, can be very helpful during campaigns with endorsements and get out the vote efforts. Even in these days of T.V. ads and big media campaigns, precinct work is a very important part of a campaign.

There are only a few requirements to run for the executive committee. You must be a registered voter in the precinct from which you are running. Your precinct number is on your voter registration card. Party affiliation in Texas is determined, not by registration as a party member, but by participating in that party's primary. If I wanted to, I, a Democrat activist since 1968 (I was a teenager) could run for the Republican Executive Committee. Barbara Bush could run for the Democratic Executive Committee.

Once elected, you should attend the Executive Committee meetings, which are held about four times per year.

The Log Cabin Republicans are sponsor-

ing "The Precinct Initiative" to encourage gay Republicans to run for precinct chair. The phone number is 713/866-4878. The Democratic Party has a number of gay and lesbian precinct chairs, but is always looking for people willing to serve on the executive committee, especially in heavily Republican Precincts. Its phone number is 713/522-9361.

Applications for precinct chair can be picked up at the Democratic Party office at 811 Westheimer, Suite 103 or the Republican Party Office at 8 Chelsea Place. Its phone number is 713/ 523-0451. The filing deadline is 5 p.m., Friday, January 2, 1998.

The primary also makes the party's nominations for county, state and federal offices. These positions will be filled by the General Election in November. Libertarians and other parties nominate candidates through a convention process and do not hold primaries. The primaries will be Tuesday, March 3, 1997.

Voice your Opinion!

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From the Cousin's Staff HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Friday, December 26	Saturday, December 27	Sunday, December 28	Thursday, January 1
Miss Zack Dylan Michaels Victoria Nicole Brandi Houston	Miss Zach Tara Dion Kara Dion Sivi Ross	Kara Dion Tara Dion Victoria Nicole Brandi Nicole	Kara Dion Tara Dion Miss Zack Brandi Houston
Friday, January 2	Saturday, January 3	Sunday, January 4	Thursday, January 8
Miss Zack Dyan Michaels Sivi Ross Victoria Nicole	Miss Zack Kara Dion Tara Dion Brandi Houston	Kara Dion Tara Dion Sivi Ross Victoria Nicole	Tara Dion Kara Dion Naomi Warwick Brandi Houston

CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise in the Houston Voice Classifieds call (713)529-8490 or (800)729-8490 if not in Houston. Our office hours are 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Classified deadline is Monday at noon for the following Friday publication. All major credit cards and personal checks accepted.

Announcements

The American Foundation of Thyroid Patients (formerly known as The Thyroid Foundation of Texas) is actively seeking patients whose children (birth to 18 years of age) have thyroid disease. A pediatric/juvenile thyroid support group is currently forming. If you are interested in assisting with start-up operations or would like to attend meetings, please call 281-496-4460.

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Maintenance Position
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection seeks part-time person approx-

imately 16hr per week to do general maintenance of church building. Handy man experience needed. Retiree's encouraged to apply. Contact Jack Bell 713-861-9149.

Barbers and Cosmetologists
We have a large styling room available after 1/9/98. Call 713-961-1693

Montrose area builder needs someone to help around jobsite. No experience necessary. 713-529-5993

Hair Stylist Needed
4 Star Hair Productions 1201 Westheimer 713-524-7785

Help Wanted! Houston-Start the New Year Right! Join the friendly staff at Montrose's Favorite Men's Dance Bar: Pacific Street! Applications Now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent Photo Required. Apply Mondays & Fridays Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

Midtowne Spa - Houston

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Call 713-522-2379 for more details.

Mary's, naturally is accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks & clean-up. Apply with photo Tues. - Thurs. 9am-2pm.

General Labor: 713-942-8600

Venture-N is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time = Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

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

The BRB is accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person with recent photo. No Phone calls please. 2400 Brazos.

Houston's top three gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance, JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY are looking for honest, self motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Monday through Friday between 1pm and 5pm at HEAVEN, 810 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

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Barbers and Cosmetologists

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2 Bedroom Apartment \$350 per month
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Sharon Park Village - Galleria Area.

Offering 1 and 2 bedroom apartments with 8 sparkling pools, fitness center and on-site store and dry cleaners. A gated community set in lush courtyards will complement your lifestyle. Prices start at \$405. **No application Fee for Houston Voice readers.** Call 713-667-5620 or stop by 5600 Chimney Rock just South of 59. Open daily 9am-6pm.

AIDS Emergency Housing - Montrose

Bed Space available at TLC House for HIV infected males. Weekly rental, no deposit, bills paid, free laundry/phone. No drugs/alcohol. Social Service vouchers welcome! AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. (713)521-1613.

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If You Have to Ask...

CLASSIFIEDS

WebSites

www.HoustonGayWeb.com

www.outrightdesigns.com

<http://www.dupontmerck.com>

www.basicbrothers.com

<http://members.aol.com/creADtive>

www.communitygospel.org

<http://ticketmaster.com>

www.agouron.com

www.usagaynet.com - Click "The Guide"

www.the/clubs.com

<http://www.Roxane.com>

www.pacificstreet.com

<http://www.midtowne-spa.com/spa>

www.dudejack.com

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Dr. Stephanie Y. McGhee

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back...
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SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm

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MON 12/29

MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi

TUE 12/30

Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels

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NOTICE: Please verify your event! Some events will be canceled due to the holidays.

Friday, December 26

- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootie's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Spay & Neuter (SNAP) 522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 522-8182.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.

Saturday, December 27

- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.

Sunday, December 28

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.

- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-868-5039
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.

Monday, December 29

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.

Tuesday, December 30

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at

- 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.

Wednesday, December 31

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4pm. 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootie's at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 522-8182.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.

Thursday, January 1

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Kolbe Project outreach at 7 pm. 713-522-8182.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.

GALAXY GAYZER

A Houston Voice Exclusive

Your Horoscope for the week of December 14 thru 20

ARIES:(March 21-April 20)Use all of the resources available to you. A family argument may take some extra attention to straighten out, with no serious fallout. You may need to make some choices - between spending more quality time with family and friends, or advancing at work.

TAURUS:(April 21 - May 21)There seems to be some apparent conflict, but it is of a healthy variety, and may yield some unexpected benefits in the form of totally new approaches to routine situations. Don't make hasty decisions regarding financial matters until you know the whole story.

GEMINI:(May 22 - June 21)You and your significant other may make a wonderful connection and the sense that you are growing closer will bring both of you joy. Success will be yours, even if it is of a low-key nature. You know you've made great strides, and soon the right people will notice.

CANCER:(June 22 - July 23)Try to take it easy this week. You have been going at a frantic pace, and it will start to catch up with you. Decisions made hastily may be flawed, so put off action until you have all the facts. Treat yourself to something special, and maybe something a little frivolous.

LEO:(July 24 - August 23)You will get ahead by working hard. Nothing less than your reputation is at stake, but no need to worry since your work is usually above reproach. Expect a little bit of a delay, because soon you'll be riding on the crest of success. The spotlight is yours, you deserve it.

VIRGO:(August 24 - September 23)Prosperity is an issue, so instead of winning, take action. Work a little harder and you'll be surprised at the financial results. A surge of inspiration will enable you to get through any potentially rough situations - clear all avenues of communication.

LIBRA:(September 24 - October 23)Use your clout to get some new and different changes off the ground at work. Friends and co-workers can really come in handy now. You're working for no less than the greater good of all involved - remember this. Don't be taken in by careless flirting with someone new.

SCORPIO:(October 24 - November 22)Keeping your nose to the grindstone is admirable to a point, but you might make a better impression with superiors if your approach is more balanced. Learn to give some responsibilities to others if you are interested in a management position.

SAGITTARIUS:(November 23 - December 21)You tend to keep your emotional distress to yourself, and this might not be for the best. Allow someone close to penetrate your defenses. Your beauty comes from within, and creates a glow that is obvious to others around you. Make plans carefully to assure a positive outcome.

CAPRICORN:(December 22 - January 20)A little contemplation will get your week off on a calm and clear path. You are pleased with the results up until now, but do want to improve your work. Allow troublesome obstacles to dissolve themselves. You can't hasten this process by hovering and worrying needlessly.

AQUARIUS:(January 21 - February 19)Is your current relationship a little unbalanced? If so, playing the role too faithfully can bring resentment and boredom. Maybe a planned weekend pleasure trip is just what the doctor ordered. One or both of you may need to learn something new. Make peace with inevitable changes.

PISCES:(February 20 - March 20)When working on your financial plan for the future, avoid putting all your eggs in one basket. Anything which looks definite may not be beneficial in the end. Diversify investments and don't expect to get rich overnight. Any health problems are probably from neglect.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: Catch up on correspondence with friends. Be wary though, encounters with others may end in emotional outbursts, which may leave you a bit bewildered. You may feel that you are constantly at battle with your significant other, which leads you nowhere.

such is LIFE!



INTERNET: <http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm> E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@aol.com

Friday, December 26

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm; \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$ 1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejanos: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm, \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Klub Kamp. a comedy drag review 9pm doors open, 11:30pm show—Retro Modern Hits by D.J. Chris Sill, \$1, \$2, \$3 drinks.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00 The Long Shots Band with Becky at 9 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, December 27

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoon!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well & \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9 to 9:30pm at Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 9:30 to 10pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10 to 10:30pm at J.R.'s Bar & Grill.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejanos: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.

- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy Hour 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$ 1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard, D.J.J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, December 28

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio with guest bartending starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejanos: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: 18 & up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Deja Vu "Phat Grooves & Cheap Drinks", doors open at 9pm, 90's Retro House Disco with D.J. Chris Sill.
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; snacks on the "Far Side" & guest bartenders 6pm till???

Monday, December 29

- Berry Hill II: Free pool.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all nite 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip 11pm.

- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Tuesday, December 30

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie has em as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejanos: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am; \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

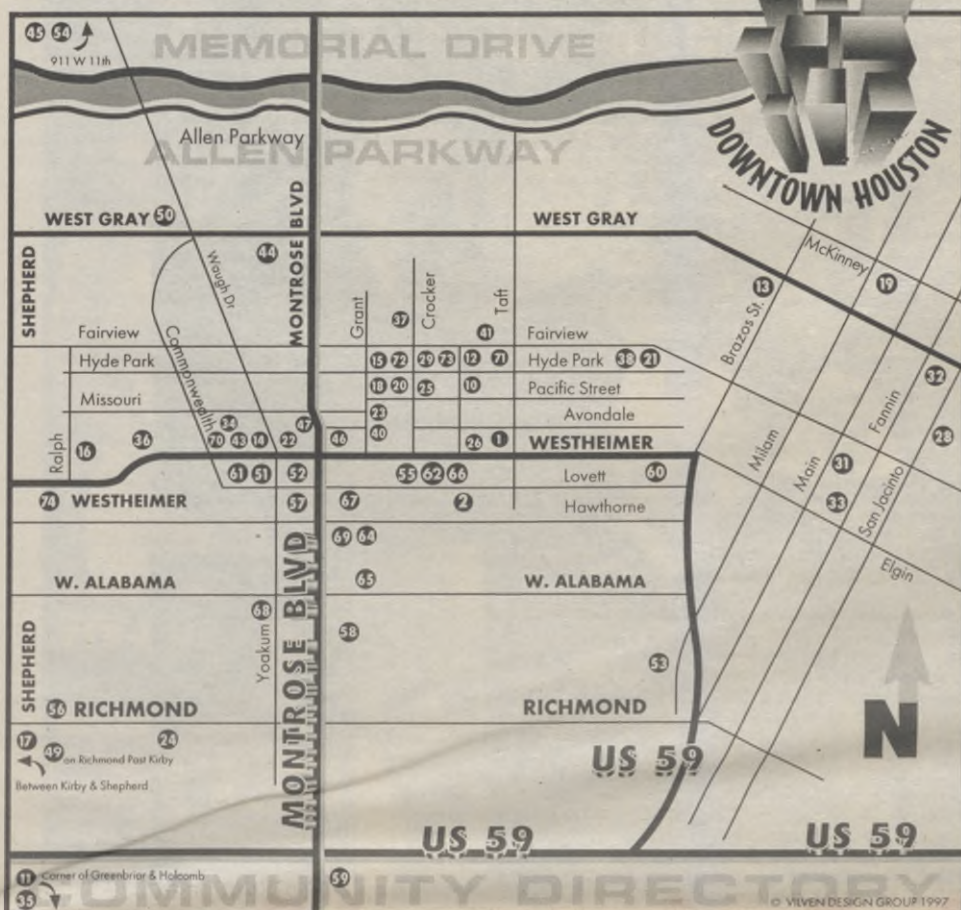
Wednesday, December 31

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00

- pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser & 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace: Doors open 9pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejanos: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight; Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, January 1

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Male Dancers at 10:30pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer. Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejanos: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9:10-30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karaoke
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays: \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!



ACCOMMODATIONS			
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd	713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS			
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7207
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	Elis	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific	713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9430
20	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam	713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/528-8113
27	Rick's	2401 San Jacinto	713/529-9606
28	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
29	Venture N	2923 Main	713/522-0000
30	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
31	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
32	The New Born	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
33	PLAZA 9200:		
34	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy	713/666-3436
35	Ravals	1388 Westheimer	713/942-3332
36	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
37	Melo's Tejana Country	302 Tuam	713/523-0347
RESTAURANTS			
40	Baba Yaga	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
42	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
43	Christy Donuts	1103 W Gray	713/524-4005
44	Java Java Cafe	911 W 11th	713/862-2683
45	Ming's Cafe	2703 Montrose	713/529-7888
46	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES			
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby	713/526-5553
50	Cineplex Odeon	1450 W Gray	713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer	713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer	713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam	713/524-9932
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th	713/862-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer	713/529-8490
56	Inklings Bookstore	1846 Richmond	713/521-3369
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939 S Montrose	713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose	713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer	713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer	713/524-7785
62	CreA Drive Unlimited	811 Westheimer (102)	713/526-5910
63	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
64	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama	713/523-2521
65	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer	713/521-7741
66	Walgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
67	KAD Computer, Inc.	1437 W. Alabama	713/522-7813
68	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (AS)	713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS			
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Taft	713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

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Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.

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Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Rooms start at around \$50.
Montrose Inn: Rooms start at around \$50.

Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine.

Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.

Motel: Cruise the parking lot? Whoa! You're taking chances.
Montrose Inn: Meet our other guests. Please!

Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.
Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.

Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?
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Motel: Full size bed, plastic flowers.
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Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.

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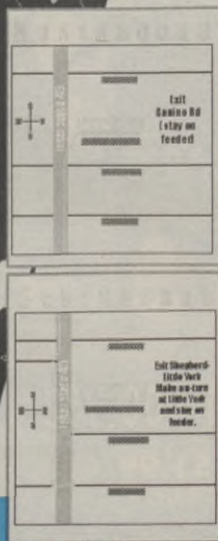
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