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JUNE 28, 1996 • ISSUE 818



"Pride Knows No Borders" logo comes to life.

Brother, are you there?

A Candid Conversation with Candace Gingrich

By Jon Anthony

Candace Gingrich was in town last week for Houston's Lesbian and Gay Pride festivities that culminated with her participation in the Parade. The Houston Voice caught up with Ms. Gingrich, sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, for an interview at Toopees Coffeehouse.

Gingrich was born June 2, 1966 to Robert and Kathleen Gingrich. Besides her brother Newt, Gingrich has two sisters, Susan



Candace Gingrich on patio at Toopees.

Gingrich and Roberta Brown. The elder Gingrich's U.S. Army career required the family to frequently uproot, hence, the family lived in California, Kansas, Maryland and Panama prior to settling in Pennsylvania. Today, thirty years later, two of the siblings are household names in political circles on opposite sides of the spectrum.

Gingrich acknowledges that prior to her brother's ascension to Speaker of the House in 1994, she was not active at all in the Lesbian and Gay community. "I had chosen to remain inactive. I decided to stay behind the scenes as far as gay issues went. That was not because anyone asked me to or anyone in my family requested it. At the same time, I knew how my family felt about Newt and his career...and I thought for sure that if I were to do anything, it would jeopardize his career," she commented. Candace acknowledges that had her brother not been elected to his current position, she would probably not be in the position she is today. "I would probably still not be out." It was somebody making her aware of the anti-gay things her brother has said that influenced her decision to be out and become an activist. She thought of Newt as "a nice guy" and was unaware of his political stance on Gay and Lesbian issues until it was brought to her attention during her first interview, with the Advocate.

(Continued on page 19)

Log Cabin Confronts GOP Bigotry

By Curt Morrison

Last week's decision by the state Supreme Court to deny Log Cabin Republicans of Texas a booth at the state GOP convention did not stop the gay Republican group from participating in the democratic process as delegates and alternates. In fact, despite the ruling, the group had notable success at the convention this past weekend, considering the odds against them. "The odds at the Alamo were better," remarked Gary Van Ooteghem, president of Log Cabin Republicans Houston.

News of the Supreme Court decision compelled Log Cabin to remove their exhibit

booth at the convention site. Local and national news media filmed the group dismantling their booth. Log Cabin held a protest outside the Alamodome holding up signs of the advertisement - the ad which the state GOP denied the organization from placing in the convention program - and ones that read "Let's start talking and stop shouting."

Members of the group distributed the advertisement to all 15,000 in attendance and wore pins that read: "Ask me about LCR." The Houston chapter produced a pamphlet of

(Continued on page 19)

Rain Knows No Borders - Pride Parade '96

By Deborah Bell

The much needed rain started coming down in the early morning hours and continued as downpours throughout the city until close to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The annual Pride Parade came as close as it ever has to being cancelled due to inclement weather. Jack Valinski, speaking on behalf of the Pride Committee, said they waited until 3pm to make the call on continuing the parade line up or calling it off. It almost seemed a miracle that the skies started clearing shortly before the appointed time. The festival has been hit by heavy rains and there have been sprinklings during parades of past years, but nothing as dramatic as Sunday's monsoons.

While some folks chose not to drive in from the 'burbs and a few of the delegations declined to show up, thousands still lined Westheimer, an estimated 50,000 according to the Houston Chronicle. Longtime parade attendees said the crowd was not as big as usual, mostly congregating along the curve and the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer (aka to some as the center of the universe). Others thought the turnout was

Receiving the "Founder's Award", Gingrich reminded all of us time and again throughout her visit to our state that coming out is the single most important thing we can do as Gays and Lesbians. Hyping for the Human Rights Campaign and urging our community to register and vote if we truly want to make a difference. She was so personable and friendly, it is hard to conceive that she could have any of the same DNA as her half-brother, Newt (same Mom, different fathers, her dad adopted him, thusly, the same last name).

Two of our local heroes - Bill Havard and Jeanette Vaughan were honored as this year's Grand Marshal's for their outstanding contributions to the community. They had a reception in their honor along with honorary Grand Marshal, Jack Abercia and the Organizational Grand Marshal, Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star at the Venture-N earlier in the week.

Two of the winning delegations in the Parade won due to their incredible spirit and energy. Gymnastics, human pyramids, handstands,



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee waves to constituents.

close to normal. The one sure thing is that it was an enthusiastic gathering.

Once the fear of rain passed, the day proved to be very pleasant temperature-wise, sparing the usual complaints about the heat. Almost 100 delegations passed the reviewing stand where DJs from Mix 96.5 along with Jack Valinski conducted running commentary about the colorful presentations. Highlights of the day included the presentation of Congressional Recognition from the office of Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. Lee in a striking canary yellow suit rode atop a teal convertible in the parade, but had to leave afterwards to attend a meeting concerning the current rash of arson attacks on Black churches. Her assistant, Tom Combs presented the official statement at the Pridefest rally following the parade. Jackson Lee was one of only two (both Democrats) that voted against passing the "Defense of Marriage Act" out of the Judiciary Committee on which she serves.

Another highlight of the day was of course the participation of Candace Gingrich.

flips and other gyrations were part of the repertoire of the Club Inergy delegation who were presented with the Spirit award (other than non-profit) and Cheer Dallas who won the "Pride Knows No Borders" trophy - Best Out of Town.

The Krewe of Olympus-Texas was awarded the Grand Marshal Award - this award goes to the best interpretation of the parade by a non-profit organization. Their clever depiction of the logo and huge mardi gras masks were a sure hit with the crowd.

The Brazos River Bottom whose float included a life-sized Texas Longhorn and cowboys won the Texas Award, for best professional float. Other winners were the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection with their float and walking delegation representing all the countries in the world where there are MCCR congregations. They were given the Stonewall Award for most original. The African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance was given the Unity trophy for best non-

(Continued on page 19)

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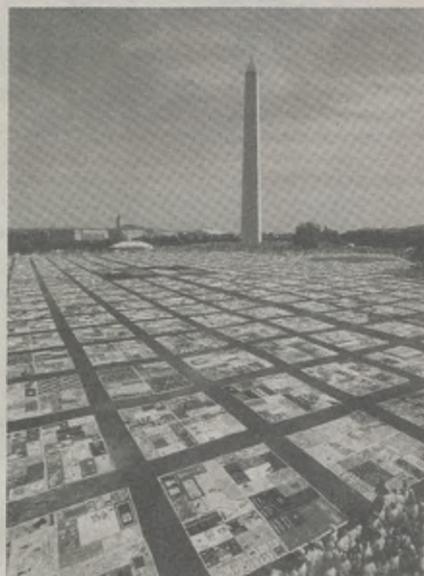
Just four weeks before the national elections, from Oct. 11 thru 13, the NAMES Project will display The Quilt in Washington, DC. It will have doubled in size from its last showing in October of 1992. The need for volunteers has grown accordingly. Hundreds of eight-person teams from all over America will unfold the Quilt starting in the early hours of Oct. 11, 1996, the ninth anniversary of its first display in conjunction with the 1987 March on Washington.

The display on the National Mall will require the participation of more than 10,000 volunteers. The display by the NAMES Project of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt which includes 45,000 memorial panels will attract an estimated 750,000 visitors. The over 26 miles of walkways will allow people to get close to each panel. The names of over 70,000 people who died of AIDS will be read, ringing out over the expanse of land from the Washington Monument to the Capitol, more names than are carved on the nearby Vietnam War Memorial.

Inspired by folk art traditions of quilting and sewing bees, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt has become an international symbol in the fight against AIDS. Although the Quilt represents only a small fraction of the AIDS deaths in the United States, it has become the most visible symbol of the epidemic.

The Houston chapter needs 1500 volunteers for the various jobs that are required as part of the national display. If you have the time and can make the trip to Washington, you are needed to be a quilt monitor, guide, support representative, education or merchandise sales volunteer. Contact Perrie Dolph, Central Region Volunteer Chairperson at 713/729-9662 or write to 4309 Stillbrooke Dr., Houston, TX 77035 for a volunteer form.

You can help open hearts and minds to the realities of the AIDS epidemic and the need for an immediate and compassionate response by lending a hand or making a contribution to the Names Project.



The 1992 Display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt

Other Quilt News

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently granted \$100,000 to the AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive Project. This grant will be used to help photograph, document and catalogue the entire quilt. By storing the documentation on CD-ROM, electronic images of the Quilt will be provided to people around the world through on-line technology and multi-media packages.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive Project is a means of ensuring that the Quilt—and the lives it celebrates—lives on. By professionally photographing every panel of the ever-growing Quilt, the NAMES Project Foundation will create a permanent visual record of the panels currently comprising the Quilt. A Quilt image database will catalogue all visual information—materials, technique, symbolism, text—appearing on each panel to serve as an invaluable education and display management resource.

Anthony Turney, Executive Director of the NAMES Project, in acknowledging the NEA grant said, "As long as this epidemic lasts, the NAMES Project is committed to documenting for posterity the personal histories of the lives it has taken. Tragically, the history recorded by the Quilt continues to be written."

Regarding Open Letter

Note To The Editor of The Houston Voice

Some crowds may think it outrageous to address an open letter to another Gay paper's publisher to the Houston Voice for printing, but as a member of the Mary's crowd I have been insulted by the Texas Triangle. I simply do not trust them to print this letter and want the largest possible circulation within our community—which means submittal to the Voice. It is my hope that you will publish this letter in its entirety.

Bar Wilson
(See page 11 for an excerpt from the letter)

Editor's Response—June 21, 1996

Dear Bar:
I am in receipt of your open letter to Kay Longcope at the Texas Triangle. I had a bit of a reaction to the statement made by

Mr. Seegers myself, thinking, "Oh, I know some folks that are going to love this!" And while we are appreciative of your kind words regarding The Voice, I hesitate to print something that could be viewed as an attack on another publication.

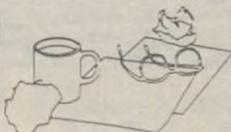
Additionally, I assumed that you had actually sent your letter to the Triangle. If they truly would not print it, then I would in the spirit of open dialog. I did check with David Elliott, the editor, since Kay was on vacation, and he said he had no problem with the letter's publication. He told me they were full for this week's issue but it should run next week. I took the liberty of faxing a copy of the letter to him. I see no purpose in publishing it in The Voice if they will be using it.

Again, I appreciate your support of The Voice and your willingness to speak out for your beliefs. It is important for all groups within our community to speak up.

Sincerely, Deborah

In My Own Voice

by Deborah Bell



Blessing of Volunteers

Language fascinates me. One of the things that I have always found interesting is the way there are different names for the male and female of a species and a different name for their babies. Example: Deer—the female is a doe, the male is a buck and the child is a fawn. A group of deer is a herd. Or another example would be chickens—the female is a hen, the male a rooster and the baby is a chick. Some animals get additional names depending on their age and sexual status—a heifer is a young female bovine who is capable of reproduction, but who has not yet been mated—a virgin as it were. A gelding is a male horse who has been neutered. Groups of animals have their own names, such as baby dogs, aka puppies are called a litter, a group of wolves is a pack, a group of whales is a pod, and for some reason a flock of crows is called a murder. You are wondering where I'm going with this aren't you? Ok, you now know one of my secrets. I was a biology nerd in high school.

So here it is. We have just survived Pride Week 1996 which is one fine example of exactly what I am talking about—volunteers. The committee is composed entirely of volunteers. The spirit of volunteerism is what makes our community what it is and is the greatest source of the pride we celebrate each year. Volunteers such as Miss Camp and Soiree Aubergine, not only entertain us, but raise funds to help other groups. Care teams from AIDS Foundation Houston and many of the churches provide direct care to PWAs. The Bering Community Service Foundation grew from the volunteer activities of church members of Bering Memorial Methodist Church when they met the crisis caused by the AIDS epidemic. Political campaigns thrive on the work provided by volunteers, especially when it is a candidate that we have endorsed. Our organizations within the community for whatever purpose, as a service, social, business, religious, arts, theatre, sports, politics, even radio shows, are all powered by volunteers. Over 80 different groups as of last count.

Some of the started as strictly volunteer organizations, and grew due to the need of the community, to a point where they had to hire staff in order to continue oper-

ation. Many of them reaching the status of business run non—profits. The Montrose Counseling Center started by Bill Scott and Jo Stewart now employs dozens of people, has its own building and is a United Way Agency. The massive project of love known as The NAMES Project needs thousands of folks to help with the work involved in the Washington, DC display of the Quilt this October.

The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard requires volunteers to staff the phone-line providing a clearinghouse of information about the community, including calendar of events; AIDS/STD information; telephone counseling and active listening, crisis/suicide intervention; referrals for community business and organizations. They are currently in great need of more people to be involved to keep this vital service active. If you have even a few hours to spare, you can help make a difference in our community. Everyone has a talent or skill that can be utilized. Some of the best training I've received in my life has been through being a volunteer. My activism in the National Organization for Women taught me skills that have been useful to me in my career and in life in general. It is kind of like the bumble bee thing (oh no, here she goes with another biology example). The bumble bee is aerodynamically not designed for flight, its body is too big for the size of its wings and the wings are too short, but the bee being ignorant of all that—flies anyway. So not knowing we couldn't do something, time and time again we have done it.

One of the things that I learned to do was to be a volunteer coordinator. This task requires recruiting others to be volunteers, scheduling works assignments, matching needs to service, designing and organizing materials, doing trainings, etc. The projects I've worked on from producing a newsletter to organizing a march of over a million people have led me to maintain that there is no such thing as "just" a volunteer. It is also the reason I have concluded that the proper name for a group of volunteers is a *blessing*. Contact the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211.



Parade Co-Chairs Howard McHale and Terri Vega strolling down Westheimer

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- Unidentified and W.C. Fields
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JAIME (J.J.) CISNEROS

Born: March 31, 1950
Died: June 13, 1996

Jaime (J.J.) Cisneros was born in Laredo, Texas. In Houston he was a Bridal Consultant and also did retail work. He was active in the community with Bering Support Group, a volunteer with the Westheimer Art Festival and a Quilt Carrier in the Gay Pride Parade. J.J. is survived by his son, Jaime A. Cisneros, brother, Felix, Shirley "Mom" Apperson and cousin Roland Anderson, along with other friends and relatives. Special thanks to Dr. Patricia D. Salvato and Dr. Ray Flores and the staff at Twelve Oaks Hospital. Services were held at Bering United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 22nd. Mausoleum Services will be held June 29th at 10:00 a.m. at Forest Park Westheimer. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Assistance Fund or Pet Patrol.

ROBERT K. JONES

Born: December 20, 1946
Died: June 20, 1996

Robert K. Jones, 49, of Houston, Texas, died Thursday, June 20, 1996. He was the son of Hazel M. and the late John K. Jones, of Tacoma, Washington. He is survived by brothers, Donald, Michael and Brian Jones of Tacoma, Washington; sisters, Carol Femright of Killeen, Texas and Barbara Hartly of Buckeye, Arizona; half brother, Jim Jones of Colorado; and 12 nieces and nephews. His friends Hector Garcia, Doctor Murphy, Jerry Jones, Blake Bass will miss him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Assistance Fund, 1116 Jackson Blvd., Houston, TX 77006.

Clinton's Interview with The Advocate

Los Angeles, CA—He never followed through on his promise to open the military's doors to gays and lesbians. He'll sign The Defense of Marriage Act. He allowed the Supreme Court to stay out of Colorado's Amendment 2 fight, and he fired Jocelyn Elders. Despite these disappointments, Clinton and his administration have done more than any other to help gay and lesbian Americans. How committed to gay and lesbian causes will he be in a second term?

With Election '96 around the corner, Clinton gives *The Advocate* his first and only interview with a gay and lesbian publication since he was elected president. In fact, he is the only president ever to grant a gay magazine an in-depth interview.

After almost four years in the line of fire, Clinton agreed to discuss a range of sexually-charged subjects that most politicians try hard to avoid. The following are excerpts from *The Advocate* cover interview with President Clinton, conducted by Washington Correspondent J. Jennings Moss:

Advocate: What do you say to those gay voters who invested so much emotionally in your candidacy but have felt let down?

Clinton: We have truly accomplished a great deal during my administration. We have also learned a lot about what we can do—and how to get it done. My administration has taken more steps than any previous in bringing the gay and lesbian communities to the table. I am proud of my record, and it is a record to build on.

I remain dedicated to ending discrimination and to protecting the civil rights of every citizen in our society. I am proud that my administration has more openly gay and lesbian individuals serving in appointed posi-

tions than in any previous administration, and their impact, both in expertise and in efforts to advocate for the concerns of gay men and lesbians, is significant. ... I am the first president ever to endorse a gay and lesbian civil rights bill, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. We have opened the door for qualified gays and lesbians to receive top security clearance. I pledge to you that I will continue striving for greater education and compassion, working not simply to tolerate our differences but also to celebrate them.

Advocate: What gay or lesbian person has had the biggest impact on your life?

Clinton: Bruce Lehman, Roberta Achtenberg, Richard Socarides, and Bob Hattoy, to name a few, have all made valuable contributions. I've worked closely with Congressmen Barney Frank and Gerry Studds and with Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign. I've had a long friendship with David Mixner, whose advice has meant a great deal to me over the years.

Advocate: If you had the chance to start over, only this time knowing the extent of the opposition to opening the military's doors to gays and lesbians, how would you approach the issue? What lessons did you learn from the right?

Clinton: It's fair to say that I have thought a lot about this and that there are some things I think I should have done differently. I now believe that we needed to build a broader consensus on this important issue before moving forward. Sometimes change comes best when it is achieved through incremental steps.

Advocate: Why do you oppose same-sex marriage? Is there a chance you could reconsider?

Clinton: I remain opposed to same-sex

marriage. I believe marriage is an institution for the union of a man and a woman. This has been my long-standing position, and it is not being reviewed or reconsidered. I also strongly believe that the issues related to gays and lesbians should not be used to tear our communities apart.

Advocate: You spoke out against the spate of antigay initiatives that were popular in past elections, yet your administration decided to sit out of the Supreme Court right on the issue. How can you justify speaking out in one instance and then staying silent in another?

Clinton: I've never stayed silent on this issue. I have continually stated my belief that those who would legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other grounds are gravely mistaken about the values that make our nation strong. The essential fight to equality must not be denied by a ballot initiative or otherwise.

Advocate: What will a second Clinton term do to right the war on AIDS?

Clinton: First and foremost, we must continue the search for a cure and a vaccine. At the same time, we will continue the search for better treatments for people living with AIDS: No president can guarantee success in science, but we must marshal all our resources, public and private, toward this effort. I will continue to stand up to efforts to dismantle this program by the Republican majority in Congress. This program is a lifeline of support for millions of Americans, including many people living with AIDS.

Founded in 1967, The Advocate is the award-winning gay and lesbian magazine of record, reporting bi-weekly on news, politics, business, medical issues, the arts, and entertainment.



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HOUSTON VOICE

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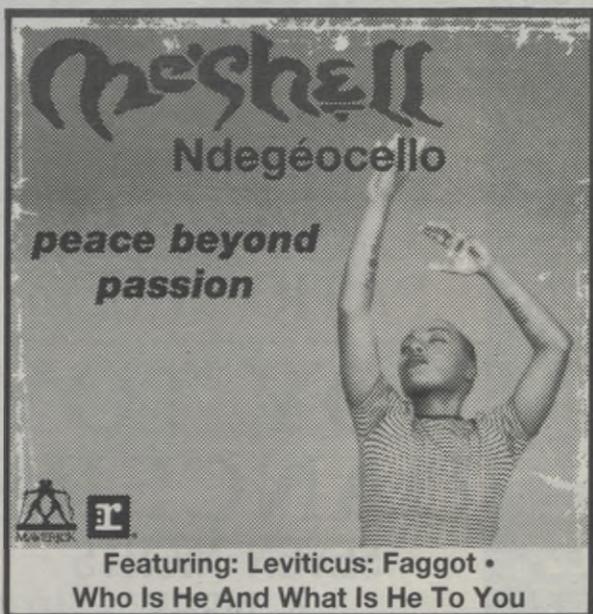
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Importance of Community

Various groups within the Gay and Lesbian community need to work together more frequently to reach the common goal of equality. As a community, it is our responsibility to make the necessary inroads to achieve our mission and to be treated with the same rights and privileges bestowed upon the rest of society. As a minority group, we should learn from our predecessors about what to do and what not to do.

Unfortunately, history has shown that most minority groups through their own actions have contributed to the hindrance of growth and accomplishment. For example, the Texas Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) suffered loss of membership due to differences regarding the issue of pornography. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) has had bipartisan infighting result in the withdrawal of officers and member activists. Charges of racism, real or perceived have been the dividing factor in a number of other organizations. That is a mistake our community should avoid. If we are truly going to succeed in our goals for basic freedoms, it is imperative that we do so in a unified matter. Recovery from these self-inflicted wounds, has been slow for both NOW and HGLPC. We must remain focused if we are to avoid this sort of injury. We cannot allow the concerted efforts we are trying to incorporate go by the wayside because of our own actions. We have enough enemies and adversaries outside our community. It is sheer folly for us to work against each other. That will not produce the ultimate results we all desire.

There are many groups and organizations within our community in Houston and the rest of Texas. While each group may have different political ideologies, the underlying focus is achieving equality. Fighting amongst ourselves and criticizing each other does not bode well for our movement in general. It provides our adversaries with the ammunition they seek to propagate the myths and stereotypes that we are trying to dispel. Most of us have a lot in common with our heterosexual counterparts, more than they might imagine. Most of us are productive citizens who work, pay taxes and are law abiding. Yet, we are not afforded the same rights and privileges as the rest of society specifically because of our sexual orientation.

This is precisely why we need to unite and put a halt to the antagonism amongst various factions of our community, especially within the same organization. It's bad enough that we are constantly berated as a community from our opponents, must we add insult to injury by inflicting wounds amongst ourselves? There are times when we must put aside our differences for the betterment of the community as a whole. The fight for equality is not going to come to fruition from any one individual. It must be ascertained through unified support or we will lose the battle. Moreover, if we lose sight of our common cause, we run a serious risk of self-destruction, as well as losing any gains or inroads we have made to date.

In order for our community to succeed in obtaining equality, we must remain focused. We as a community often align ourselves with other organizations under the premise that it increases our

power. On the surface, this sounds like a great concept; sometimes this may not be a good practice. Here's why.

If you have three groups band together and each group has their own agenda, somewhere down the line, someone's agenda suffers as a result. There is nothing wrong with getting involved with an organization outside of our community if it involves an issue that is dear to you and you want to make your contribution on that organization's behalf as an individual. It's when our community or one of its representative organizations publicly aligns itself with another group outside of the community, we increase the odds that our agenda will take a back seat. That is not in the best interest of our community. This approach is effective only when we work in coalition with other groups with the same agenda.

We must insist that the concerns of the community are our top priority and work as a team to ensure that those concerns are addressed. Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, Independent, Libertarian, etc., is irrelevant. We are all Gays and Lesbians and must confront the animosity that society has towards us due to our sexual orientation.

As we embark on a new year and plan our next Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, we should work to make sure that we have more to be proud of than this year. This should be an ongoing objective. We cannot rest on our laurels. Many people in our community complain about the injustices that we are inundated with on a daily basis. Many of us live in fear that we will lose our jobs without legal recourse if our employer discovers our sexual orientation. Yet, those same individuals don't get involved to the degree where they could make a difference. They make excuse after excuse. "I'm too busy," or "I don't have enough money to join." However, it is difficult to accept such excuses when the individual who utters the aforementioned reasons (for their lack of involvement) has plenty of time to watch TV or go to clubs. It always amazes me when I engage in a conversation with someone at a club and they have spent more than \$50 on liquor tabs over a few hours and then in the same breath say they can't afford the membership dues and don't have the time. I question their priorities.

There are many ways to get involved in the community and make a difference. It requires commitment, dedication and some effort, of course. The pride of accomplishment will provide you with more euphoria than any drink or drug. We can still go to clubs and engage in some spirits and relaxation every now and then. I'm merely suggesting that each and every one of us realize the importance and significance of involvement in community activities. It is a group effort and must be accomplished as such. It's not about ego or power. It's about unity and success.

Failure for us to unite and work together will only diminish our capacity to achieve our goals. Haven't we worked too hard to watch it all dissipate?

Curt Morrison (a pseudonym) is a member of Log Cabin Republicans Houston and sits on the organization's state steering committee. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of Log Cabin or the Houston Voice.

Celebrating Our Families

Each year at our Annual Family Conference, the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) presents awards recognizing outstanding efforts on behalf of our families.

This year, the GLPCI Board of Directors is proud to announce the following awards and recipients—to be awarded on July 6th at our 17th Annual Conference banquet in Minneapolis, MN.

Image in Media Award—Since 1977, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) in San Francisco, California has been a tireless and tremendously successful advocate for our civil rights. As a lesbian/feminist, multi-cultural resource center, NCLR has worked through the courts, the legal system, and in the community to eradicate discrimination against lesbians and their families. Relying on community support so they don't charge attorneys fees for their clients, they have challenged old law and made new law in fighting for our constitutional, employment, and family rights. Over 50% of their legal case-work concerns lesbian family issues.

In recent years, a series of high profile custody cases involving lesbian mothers has been "discovered" by the national media. And increasingly, NCLR, as attorneys, educators and advisors, is called upon to give voice to this critical issue—custody and visitation are the #1 reasons that lesbian and gay Americans go to court. In dealing with the media, NCLR has been an eloquent and impassioned champion of our families—with the message that sexual orientation does not make one a good or bad parent. Rather, it's our family values

that count: love and nurturing; integrity and responsibility; acceptance, respect and inclusion.

Chapters of the Year—This year, GLPCI honors five local support groups, which helped found our predecessor, the Gay Fathers Coalition International, back in 1979-80: Gay Fathers of Greater Boston, Massachusetts Gay Fathers of Los Angeles, California Gay Fathers of New York, New York Gay Fathers of Toronto, Ontario and Gay Fathers Coalition of Washington, DC.

Month after month, year after year, these groups provide a supportive environment for formerly and currently married men who are "coming out" as gay men and gay parents. The support these groups provide is critical in assisting gay and bisexual men in transition to build and enhance a positive self-image and encouraging them to be loving and responsible fathers.

In addition, these five fathers' groups have consistently been distinguished leaders of their local communities: by raising money to fight AIDS; speaking for our families in the media; hosting parenting conferences, networking with lesbian mothers' groups and wannabe parents; and—working to insure that our families are fully protected in the courts and legislatures.

GLPCI is extremely proud of the long term efforts and achievements of these fathers and celebrates the unique role they've played in the lives of thousands of men, women and children in their local areas. Keep up your outstanding work!

Love makes a Family! Award—Last year,

the NBC television show, *Friends*, received GLPCI's first "Love makes a Family! Award" for its groundbreaking storyline of lesbian motherhood. This year's recipient, Momazons, is a national organization for lesbian mothers and for lesbians who want children in their lives.

In 1992, Momazons began as a small group of lesbian moms and moms-to-be in Columbus, Ohio. Because they did not live in a progressive, urban metropolis, supportive resources for diverse families were harder to identify. They found strength in sharing information and wanted to provide that same opportunity for other mothers, regardless of where they live.

Six times a year, Momazons produces a 16-page "momma'zine," celebrating lesbian families and families-to-be. This publication facilitates a national dialogue about lesbians' experiences and opinions about considering children, creating a family, blending families, child rearing and other issues of significance to our families. Other programs include an extensive directory of supportive resources for lesbian mothers, a "mom-to-mom" referral program, and phone consultations for those considering parenting options.

Through their connecting and sharing, Momazons is actively involved in increasing the strength, vitality and diversity of the lesbian mothering community. With our heartfelt thanks and appreciation, GLPCI is honored to acknowledge the work of the mommas (and children) of Momazons—work that shouts to the world "Love makes a Family!"

Regional Coordinator of the Year—GLPCI is proud to announce its selection of Steven Gaither of Kent, Ohio as its ninth Regional Coordinator of the Year. These volunteers are recognized for making an outstanding contribution to GLPCI, its mission, and to the chapters and individuals in his or her region.

During the past year, Steven has traveled to conferences—including NGLTF's Creating Change and the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum—to represent GLPCI and network with other activists, conducted several radio and print media interviews discussing his life as an adoptive father, and attended local chapter meetings in three different cities. With good humor and boundless enthusiasm, he's been a tireless activist on behalf of GLPCI and its member families—all while completing law school and raising two pre-schoolers. Congratulations to Steven and his entire family and many thanks for all your love and support!

For more information, contact the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International, Box 50360, Washington, DC 20091—202/583-8029 Fax: 201/783-6204. For information about GLPCI's 7th Annual Family Conference, contact the host chapter, Minnesota Families, at P.O. Box 11970, St. Paul, MN 55111-0970, 612/924-3049.

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Billie Ray Martin Deadline For My Memories

Described as everything from a '90's Soul Queen to the Garbo of techno, German-born, London-groomed Billie Ray Martin has been mesmerizing European audiences for years. Bille Ray recently burst onto the scene in the States with her #1 club hit "Your Lovong Arms." Her debut album, *Deadline For My Memories*, is one of the most anticipated of the year, drawing rave reviews months before release.

Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



Nobody's Child

The thrill is gone.

Our baby has been abducted. Our family is fractured into brittle, sharp shards and I am gasping for air.

Actually she never was ours, but we didn't know it then. Looking back, we didn't know anything. And we didn't know that the officials and cops and agents didn't know anything either.

Now we know. If we had known then, we would have answered the original appeal from the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services like we do other lost causes: "Sorry, we can't help you. Thanks for calling." We would have said, "If I have to answer Yes or No right now, the answer is No."

But we didn't know. We were at work when the call came, crashing in a blinding, shocking crisis. There were sirens and flashing red lights in our heads as we listened, slackjawed, to explosive, frightening words from a stranger who demanded immediate (You, have one hour to decide!) cooperation. And we heard the baby crying in the background.

"Yes, of course, we're on our way. Whatever we can do."

And we did.

We accepted an infant we barely knew from a couple we didn't trust, with the grateful approval of a young and overworked social worker who had more pressing catastrophes to resolve before lunch.

That the baby was battered and sick is to suggest that she was abused by her relinquishing parents. Brutalized, exploited, ignored and fought over, maltreated and untreated were the professionals' findings. All we knew was that at eleven months she demonstrated all the symptoms of a cold-turkey crack addict: she could not tolerate skin contact or any stimulation. She arched her back and shrieked at anyone entered or left her vision. For two weeks she threw up. She bled internally. She was berserk, and soon we were, too.

After Jan and I both lost our jobs (too many absences, too many reports to fill out, too many authorities to explain to, too many ruptured plans and schedules and "not enough dedication to your job") it got easier.

It wasn't coming off crack that made the baby suffer, it was severe, chronic, bilateral ear infections. And the emotional chaos she internalized from her home. The anxiety of anticipating routine punishment that we did not know she feared. And she was teething.

Seven months later, recovered and thriving "our" baby laughed with her whole body, like one who trusts her feelings. She learned to walk and dance, and talk and sing. She loved her school and her dog. She was a fluffy fool for hard-core femme apparel, ruffles, glitter and Mardi Gras beads, and musical toothbrushes. She did not know that her parents' hell had deteriorated in her absence, that her father had returned to his parents' home in shame, and that they were poorer than the poorest people in town. She didn't know that her mother was twisted with insanity and living in an artificially protected environment. She did not know these people at all.

But her mother knew that in order to marry the stop gap man she "loved" (and was "helping") she would have to do it between his incarcerations. And so she needed a divorce.

Another thing we didn't know when all this started was that people who have no relationship with their offspring often inflame with obsession if they think said offspring can be used to get their final bloody digs into their soon to be ex-spouse.

That is how this saga ends. One of our baby's parents got to her before the other one did. Snatched her out of our arms and zoomed away without a car seat or a change of diapers or a care for her or us, but with the prize.

The Children's Protective Services caseworkers said they could not assist us. "It was a voluntary placement," they said, "There was no court order." The police claimed they could not interfere—we were "just babysitters" as far as they were concerned, "a legal stranger."

They didn't know, either. They claimed we had no "relationship" with our baby.

They just didn't know.

Jazz persists in her perverse belief that it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. She and her partner, Jan, had temporary care of Jan's grandchild.

Houston Center for Photography

Houston Center for Photography presents the annual Fellowship and Members' Exhibitions, from July 6 to August 4. The exhibition will be on view starting at noon on Saturday, July 6 with a public reception planned for Friday, July 12, 6-8 p.m. Gallery talks will be presented on Saturday, July 13 at 1:00 p.m. by the 95-96 fellows, and at 2:00 p.m. by selected members.

The 1996 Juried Members' Exhibition showcases the work of regional and national HCP members. Trudy Wilner Stack, Curator of Photography, Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, served as juror for this year's competition. Stack comments that "HCP members have offered up a rich pool of imagery. Collectively they represent a particular devotion to photography: a combined serious and spirited approach marked by technical skill, imagination, and a

compelling respect for subject. The medium's potential to be expressive, expansive, and to both reveal experience and to be experienced, are all at play in these commendable works."

Houston Center for Photography strives to deepen the understanding and appreciation of the photographic arts. Through exhibitions, publications, and educational programming, the Center supports emerging and mid-career artists and their audiences. It provides a forum for the exchange of ideas, and promotes the study of photography, both, as a medium of expression and as a tool for cultural investigation. HCP is a non-profit organization serving as a resource to its members and the community with programs that have regional and national impact. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Friday 11-5, Saturday and Sunday 12-5 p.m.

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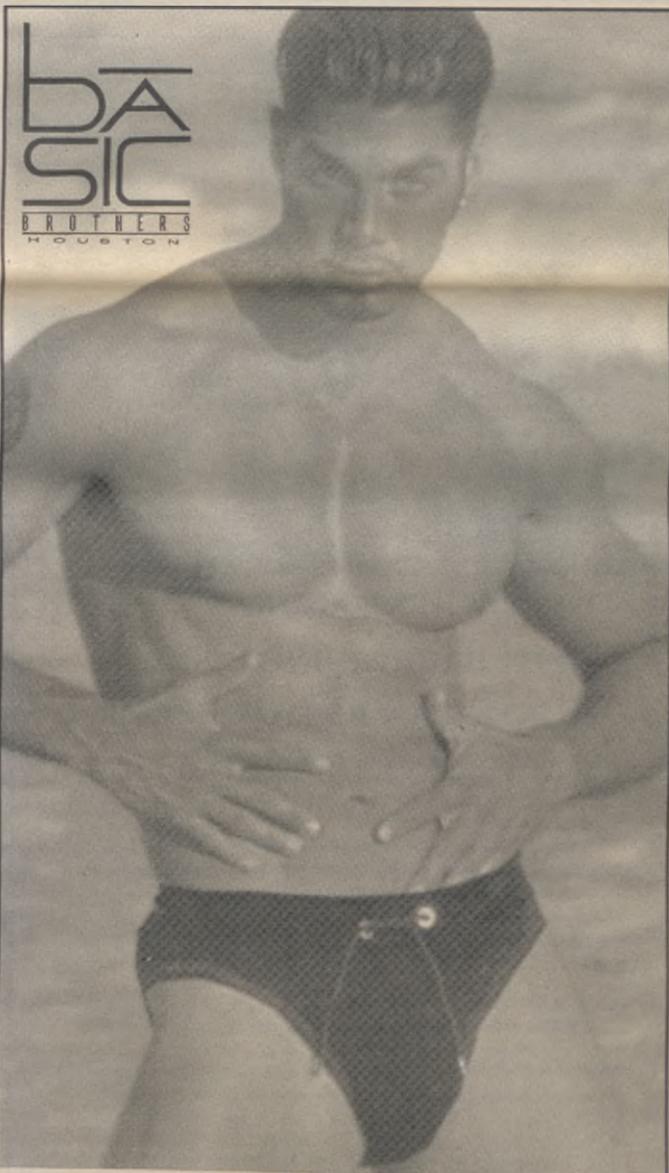
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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Before and After

I would like to thank the Pride Committee for another fabulous parade. The floats were great, the participants were cheerful and the crowd was festive. You know that the nicest part of the parade was to me, was seeing all my friends that I haven't seen in a long time. It is almost like a big reunion. I'd forgotten just how many beautiful friends I have. I have let the Glen Webber Birthday Committee know that I want famous disco Divas and the rule of no shirts enforced. I also want all of my friends to be there wishing me happy birthday.

As you may know, I moved to Montrose last week. I want to thank the American Movers Company for all their help. They are hard working and efficient and very friendly. I was having some trauma about moving. After all, I have been in my house for 15 years. It was my lover's and mine—then it was mine. I had no intention of moving but things change, with the decline in my health, I was no longer able to take care of myself and my house. Isn't that a terrible thing to say? I could no longer take care of myself. Just a few months ago I was hopping on planes traveling to far away places, now I'm hesitant to do anything. I wish it wasn't this way. I hate being sick. I hate what this illness has done to me. I hate that I've become so dependent on others. But, I do want to say how grateful I am for the help. The PWA Coalition and my case manager, Ross, have been invaluable to me.

Now I get a very nice meal at lunch every day. I have someone coming in to help me around the apartment. I am also trying to get food stamps. Let me tell you, \$600.00 a month disability doesn't go far. If it wasn't for my dad, I don't know what I'd do. As I've said before, there are many blessings that have come with my being ill.

I want to also congratulate Westmoreland Square Apartments for their fundraising picnic. Their generosity will help the PWA Coalition and the Switchboard. Thanks to Tom and Keith for arranging the whole thing. The burgers were great too.

All this parade talk reminds me of my first gay parade. It was 1981, before AIDS was so commonly known, in San Francisco. It was a fabulous city to live in. Thousands of men were moving to the city to live what

every fantasy they had. During those days, drugs and sex were the top of everyone's list. My fortune, or misfortune, was accepting a job offer out there. But I liked the city. It had the same energy as my favorite city, New York.

The parade was a very anticipated event. Men and women were arriving from every city in the world to be part of it. Early morning came, and the streets were already crowded. When I say thousands of men, I mean it. It was a feast for the eyes, beautiful men dancing in the streets, waiting for things to happen. My friend and neighbor, Warren, was as excited as I was. We were there to check out the men. Finally, the parade started. The crowd of marchers was a thick as the crowd. It was a sight to behold. Beautiful handsome men having a good time. For a small town Texas boy, I was overwhelmed. My nicest memory was of a stud man who came over to me and told me I was very cute. He was then on his way. I was so excited I was ready to explode. Warren told me to go after him, but he had already disappeared. After the parade, we went to the bars, but every place we went to was overflowing with people.

I do want to say this. I believe that the spread of AIDS was due in part to the bathhouses in the major cities of that era. Now the bathhouses provide condoms for their patrons as well as safer sex information. I believe drugs played a big part in the spread of the virus. No one practiced safe sex then, including me. I didn't know and all the men I looked to for guidance weren't giving me any. If we had only discovered the virus earlier and put out the warning sooner we could have saved thousands of lives.

But you know how people are. We beg and plead for you to play safe, and yet, no one seems to be listening. AIDS is on the rise, and we can't stop it. I don't want any of you to go through what I'm going through. We don't want you to lose your independence or the ability to take care of yourself.

I wish I could get better. I would trade anything to not be sick. But since I can't, I hope writing about it will help you. Writing about it helps me cope. I love all of you and want you to enjoy life without the boundaries caused by AIDS.

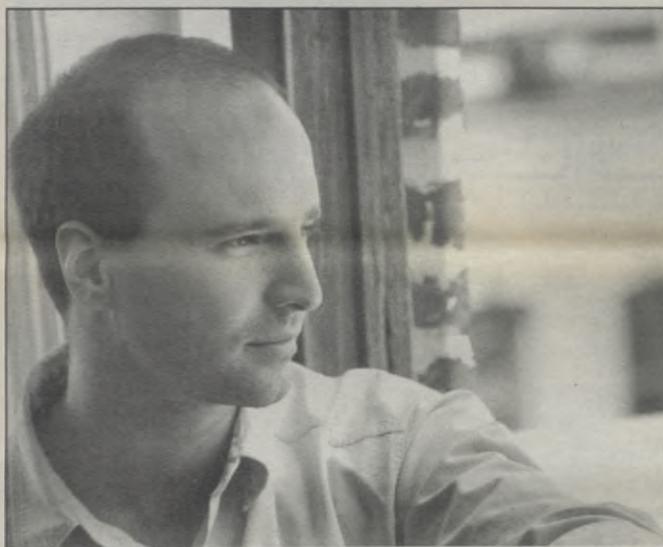
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Colliding Divas at New Heights

New Heights Theatre announces "When Divas Collide," a benefit performance on July 10th. Featured are over thirty of Houston's musical theater divas: past, present, and "in training," both male and female.

The doors will open at the West University piano bar, located on Times Boulevard at Kirby, at 7:00 p.m. The entertainment will begin at 7:30 and continue non-stop until approximately 10:30. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be a cash bar.

Paul Hope, of the Riley Theatre and Theater Under The Stars, has agreed to coordinate the entertainment. He will emcee along with Associate Artistic Director Claire Hart-Palumbo.

Hope has secured the services of well-known Houston pianist/music director, Bill Bartlett. Hope has been overjoyed with the response from local singers. "With only a couple of exceptions, everyone we've contacted has said yes, and the ones who said no had out of town

commitments."

At present the following people have agreed to perform: Marge Carroll, Sylvia Froman, Diane Tobola, Marsha Carlton, Deborah Hope, Ann James, Daria Dunne, Helen Ackerman, Joyce Anastasia, Michelle McCarell, Tricia Cox, Jessica Calvello, Belinda Simmons, Jenny Lee Wax, Susan Shofner, Jennie Welch, Pauline Hecht, Bettye Gardner, Colleen O'Kit, Kiera O'Keiff, Alissa Alban, Roseann Curtis, Kimberly Lane, Denise Thorson, Jennifer Doctorovich, David Dubowy, Randall Jobe, Joe Kirkendall, Jonathan McVay, David Holeman, Christopher McDowell, and Joel Sandel.

Jim Alba of Galveston Outdoor Musicals has agreed to stage some of the choreography.

Tickets to the benefit are \$30.00 for individual tickets or \$50.00 per couple. For reservations and information call 869-8927. Seating is limited.

Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, June 28

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- * HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 527-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.
- * Using the Resources of Business Incubators to Accelerate Business Growth Luncheon at 11:45. Call 932-7495 X 42.
- * Workshop: How to go on Disability. Call 522-5428.
- * Houston Symphony Chorus Auditions. Call 238-1443.
- * Houston Chronicle Summer Symphony Nights at Miller Outdoor. Call 224-4240.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: The Legend of Suram Fortress at 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7515.
- * Lesbian and Gay Pot Luck at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-5200.
- * Cafe Maison-Live Music by Donna's Dream. Call 528-6750.

Saturday, June 29

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. Call 780-4282.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 a.m. Call 583-8408.
- * Determining Your Entrepreneurial Exponents for Starting a Business. 9:00 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 40.
- * Galveston Bay-Multiple Uses, Multiple Resources by Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 0032.
- * Automobile Literacy-A Car Care Seminar (for beginners) at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 1005.
- * Professional House Cleaning for Amateurs by Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 1100.
- * Houseless No More-How to Obtain a Mortgage Loan by Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 9625.
- * Houston Chronicle Summer Symphony Nights at Miller Outdoor. Call 224-4240.
- * Films at the Museum of Fine Arts: Shaft at 7:30 p.m. and Penitentiary at 9:15 p.m. Call 639-7515.
- * Improve Your Voice at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 6640.

Sunday, June 30

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- * Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- * Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 a.m. Call 537-1348.
- * Films at the Museum of Fine Arts: Shaft at 5:00 p.m. and Penitentiary at 6:45 p.m. Call 639-7515.
- * Bending Gender Barriers panel discussion at 5:30 p.m. Call 864-2242.

Monday, July 1

- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
- * HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.
- * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their caregivers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Free Lecture: Alleviate Asthma & Allergies at 7:00 p.m. Call 492-6077.

Tuesday, July 2

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.

- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

- * Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.

- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * AIDA Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 488-4492.

- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. Call 861-9149.

- * PROTECT support group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.

- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. Call 520-2083.

- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Survivors of loss support group meets at 8:30 p.m. Call 778-2677.

- * Free Dance Lessons and Karaoke at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.

- * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call 782-6066.

- * Queer Nation meets at 2700 Albany at 7:30 p.m.

- * Easy Yard Maintenance for the Homeowner at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 1211.

- * New or Used-Successful Car Buying Made Easy at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 9700.

- * Pride Committee of Houston meets at 6:30 p.m. Call 529-6979.

- * Holistic Solutions for Cancer and Candidiasis Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Call 492-6077.

Wednesday, July 3

- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. Call 537-1348.

- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.

- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.

- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.

- * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 537-1348.

- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.

- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.

- * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.

- * Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 467-4380.

- * Developing Business Skills workshop. 7:15 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 48.

- * 1996 Tribute to Houston's Entrepreneurial Community Business Breakfast. Call 932-7495 X 48.

- * Getaway and Play-A Brazos River July 3 & 4 Celebration at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 0018.

- * FUNDamentals of Faux Finishing at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 111E

- * Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

- meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 521-1000.

Thursday, July 4

- * Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 p.m. Call 523-8817

- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.

- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.

- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.

- * Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.

- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.

- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.

- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0923.

- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.

- * Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

- * HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050

- * Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. Call 738-RACE.

- * Houston Chronicle Summer Symphony Nights at Miller Outdoor. Call 224-4240.

MARY'S

1022 WESTHEIMER 713/527-9669

An Open Letter to:
Ms. Kay Longcope, Publisher
The Texas Triangle

Dear Ms. Longcope:

In Volume 4, Issue 35 The Texas Triangle ran an article by Clarence Bagby titled, Twenty years of Houston Pride. In that article Mr. Bagby quoted "Gay Republican Precinct Judge Jay Seegers as stating: A lot gay people think that a lot of people who go (to the Pride Parade) are outrageous gay people, the Mary's crowd, and don't identify with that group".

From the very beginning, Mary's has supported the Community and the organizations that are it's heart. No one could possibly remember how many times the then -GPC met upstairs at Mary's or how many times the Mayor, City Comptroller, State Senators, City Councilmen, U.S. Representatives, County Commissioners, Etc. have been to Mary's to meet the Gay Community and ask for our support. No one could count the amount of money that Mary's has donated to Community organizations over the years nor can anyone count the amount of money raised for charities by that outrageous Mary's crowd. Mary's has been at the Heart of the Community, Pride Week and the Parade from the beginning.

Let me introduce you to a few members of the outrageous Mary's crowd: an insurance agency owner, a real estate agency owner, professors, waiters bar tenders, lawyers, architects, engineers, priest, pastors, cowboys (real ones & drugstore), a south Texas rancher, artists, bakers, secretaries, salesman, sailors, maintenance men, hustlers (just visiting-not allowed), a witch, drag queens (Lady Victoria Lust is one, Ouisa is another), the WolfPack (handsome devils all), leather men, Lesbians, cooks, crooks, PWAs, young men, hair benders, old men, craftsmen, actors, auto mechanics, stock brokers, bankers, geologists, apartment owners, nurses, homeless persons, millionaires, restaurant owners, musicians, apartment managers, retail clerks, law clerks, gym bunnies, judges, a rabbinical student, disabled persons, writers, printers, reporters, DJ's, ad men & women, college students, business owners, pool players, drunks, draftsmen, teachers, maids, athletes, doctors, and city workers. In other words a cross section of the entire Community.

Sincerely

Bar Wilson

Human Rights Campaign Action Alert!

The Defense Of Marriage Act

Religious political extremists have orchestrated the introduction of anti-gay marriage bills in at least 34 states and the U.S. Congress in an election-year strategy to score political points through gratuitous gay-bashing. DOMA, the "Defense of Marriage Act" is now before the U.S. Congress, defining marriage in federal law as a "legal union between one man and one woman," and also attempts to give states the authority to reject the legality of same-sex marriages performed in any other state.

Marriage between two individuals of the same sex is not currently legal anywhere in the United States. The Hawaii courts are currently considering whether the state of Hawaii will extend equal marriage rights to same sex couples, but a final decision is not due for about two years. The opposition will claim that a decision is imminent, however the court action scheduled for this September is a lower court trial. The Hawaii Supreme Court will probably not consider this issue until 1997, with a final decision coming as late as 1998. Thirty-four legislatures have considered this issue. Seventeen of those states decided against moving forward with legislation.

DOMA is another example of the general, pervasive discrimination gay men and lesbians face in society. Not only can we not marry each other anywhere in this country, we can be fired from our jobs simply for being lesbian or gay. No federal law protects people from

discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Talking Points

—DOMA is clearly an election-year ploy by religious political extremists—it purports to address a Hawaii court decision that is still years away.

—Congress has bigger, more important issues to contend with. Anti-gay members of Congress are introducing mean-spirited and inappropriate legislation to create a wedge in the American electorate.

—The so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" is nothing more than gratuitous gay-bashing. It does not provide any positive defensive measures for marriages or families. Contrary to the rhetoric of the religious political extremists, one can honor the relationship between a man and woman without attacking lesbian and gay people or their relationships.

Take Action

It is clear that the Defense of Marriage Act is an election year strategy attacking lesbian and gay Americans in order to bolster support for Congressional extremists that lack a proactive, positive agenda. Write or call your member of Congress today and urge them to strongly oppose and refuse to co-sponsor the "Defense of Marriage Act,"—introduced in the House as H.R. 3396 by Representatives Bob Barr (R-GA) and Steve Largent (R-OK) and in the Senate as S. 1740 by Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK).

Sample Letter

Dear Representative or Senator:

I am writing to urge you to strongly oppose H.R. 3396, the so-called "Defense of Marriage" introduced by Representatives Bob Barr (R-GA) and Steve Largent (R-OK). (If writing to Senators, this sentence would read—I am writing to urge you to strongly oppose S. 1740, the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act," introduced by Senator Don Nickles (R-OK).) This legislation is nothing more than a coordinated election year strategy by religious political extremists to score political points on the backs of gay men and lesbians.

Same sex marriage is not legal anywhere in the United States. A court case in the state of Hawaii is currently looking at the issue, but a final decision is not expected for about two years. This kind of premature legislation is nothing more than an attempt to divide the country by beating upon gay men and lesbians. Congress should be attending to the business of the country, not attacking American citizens.

Marriage is a basic human right. The decision of whom to marry is a deeply personal one that should not be interfered with by the federal government. Despite the rhetoric of the religious political extremists, one can honor the relationship between a man and woman without attacking lesbian and gay people or their relationships. I again urge you to oppose this unnecessary and divisive legislation. I look forward to hearing your views on this matter.

Letters To The Editor

The battle will largely be fought in your home-town newspapers in the Letters to

the Editor columns of your newspapers. Please send letters to your newspapers and personalize them with information relevant to your state or city—this will increase the likelihood that they will be printed.

Dear Editor: The debate on same-sex marriage has now, inappropriately, reached Congress with the introduction of the so-called "Defense of Marriage Act." Same sex marriage is not currently legal anywhere in the United States, even though (info from YOUR state such as: our own legislature just passed another unnecessary bill prohibiting it!) A court case in the state of Hawaii is currently looking at the issue, but no one expects a final decision for another two years. I'm writing because I'm tired of religious political extremists orchestrating the introduction of anti-gay marriage bills—in 34 states to date!—to create a wedge among Americans in an election year when our country needs unity, not more division. Congress should be attending to the business of the country, not attacking American citizens! Marriage is a basic human right. The decision of whom to marry is a deeply personal one that should not be interfered with by the federal government. It's time for our elected officials to stop bashing lesbian and gay Americans so that they can appear to have a political agenda: marriages and families can not be protected with hatred. Despite the rhetoric of the religious political extremists, one can honor the relationship between a man and woman without attacking lesbian and gay people or their relationships.

Mark Your Calendars
Fri., July 19th
 &
Sat., August 10th
 10-2pm
Rick Stancil & Band will be at the BRB

Coming July 7th
Colt 45s present

Sunday, July 14th
 2-7pm
Christmas Carnival In July benefiting LVL PWA Fund



HOUSTON (713) 528-9192

Sunday, June 30th, 8:00pm
 Misfits present
 The Ed Cellophane Show
 benefiting
 Casa De Esperanza

Hope Everyone had a Safe & Happy Gay Pride week

Don't forget Sunday, July 28th Garden Party at Heaven & Denim Party at the BRB



Come on Down
July 4th, 3-6pm
 for the BRB's
July 4th Buffet
Dance Lessons at 9:30 with Scott & Drink Specials till 11pm

Don't forget our Daily Drink Specials
Monday 7am - 2am
Tuesday
\$1.00 Domestic Longnecks 7am - 2am
Wednesday 7am-9pm
\$1.75 Domestic Longnecks 7am-2am
Thursday 7am-11pm

Come on Down & Dance your Boots off and Party at the New BRB

COMMUNITY

HGLPC Stages Mock Screening

HOUSTON—A standing room only crowd enjoyed the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Mock Screening and Open House Wednesday, June 19.

"We are thrilled at the level of interest shown by the community in our screening process," said Matthew Huston, chair of the HGLPC PAC Board of Trustees. "This Pride Week event was designed to focus attention on the political process required in our fight for equal rights for gays and lesbians."

Houston City Councilmembers John Castillo and Jew Don Boney participated in the mock screening along with State Representative Jessica Farrar and Harris County Constable Victor Trevino.

Farrar, key to getting the Hate Crimes bill out of the House Criminal Justice Committee she serves on, represents Houston's First, Second and Sixth Wards along with the Near Northside and part of the Heights.

"Gays are represented in all ethnic and socioeconomic groups," Farrar said, "and certainly in my district, but I fought for the Hate Crimes bill because it was what was right." Farrar also said the HGLPC endorsement "put me over the top. I couldn't have won this without you guys."

When questioned by Screening Panel chair Annise Parker about his department's sensitivity training, Trevino said that he personally leads the sessions dealing with sensitivity to the gay and lesbian community. Panelist

Clarence Bagby extracted a promise from Trevino that he will include sexual orientation and gender identity in his non-discrimination in hiring and employment policy.

Boney reiterated his previously stated commitment to continue his work with state legislators to garner their support for stiffer hate crimes legislation. He also pledged to continue working to establish "a multiracial coalition to fight for civil rights for all people."

Castillo, a longtime political activist who ran against Kathy Whitmire for city controller and against Trevino in his first race, condemned the federal government's shift toward block grants to replace specific federal programs such as the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department's Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program. "We've seen over the years that block grants simply don't work," said Castillo, the first head of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department.

Castillo pledged to work to find funds to replace lost federal moneys and said he would support a bond issue for AIDS housing dollars.

"Our screening process gives the gay and lesbian community an opportunity to pin down politicians and forces them to make definite commitments on our issues," said Pat Gandy, HGLPC President.

Poor Super Man

Theater LaB Houston will be holding a performance of "Poor Super Man" by Brad Fraser to benefit Houston's new gay TV soap opera: "Secret Lives," Sunday June 30 with curtain time at 6:00 p.m. This play is for adult audiences.

Poor Super Man features Celeste Charanie and Anne Quackenbush who also have starring roles in Secret Lives. Also featured are Rodney Walsworth, Paul Nicely, and Adrian Cardell Porter.

Secret Lives t-shirts and baseball caps will be available on the night of the benefit performance. Stay and mingle with the casts of Secret Lives and Poor Super Man after the show.

For more information, contact the Theater LaB Box Office at 868-7516. Tickets are \$20.

Stone Soup Gets Van

Stone Soup, AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.'s food pantry, will receive a new cargo van as the result of generous donations from three charitable organizations, The Krewe of Olympus Texas, Inc., The Diana Foundation and The Four Seasons Club.

The van will be 'dedicated' June 29 at 1 pm at Stone Soup, 608 Westheimer. Reception and tours of the food pantry will follow.

The primary goal of the Stone Soup Food Assistance Program is to provide non-perishable food items as well as toiletry items to HIV symptomatic individuals.

Thanks to the generosity of Houstonians who donate food, toiletries, household supplies, and cash, Stone Soup is able to provide no cost food and toiletry items to more than 1000 qualified clients on a regular basis throughout the year.

Women's Center

Saturday, July 6 at 5:30 p.m. "Women in Combat—at Home and Abroad," a special tribute to women in the armed forces, benefiting the Houston Area Women's Center, will take place at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood.

The cocktail attire or military dress uniform reception will feature the world premier of "Soldier Mom" a national award winning play written by Houstonians, Fred Stawitz and Dolores Mortman. The play addresses domestic violence faced by women "at home" while taking audiences behind military lines for a graphic look at the changing role of women in the military.

The evening will feature an actor's reception, entertainment and specialty desserts. Tickets for the evening are \$30 in advance and \$40 at the door. A portion of the proceeds from the world premiere event will be donated to the Houston Area Women's Center. For reservations and additional information call 551-7255.

Steven's House

Steven's House has a new house and now are in desperate need of assistance to accomplish the necessary renovations. Old fashioned cash will work wonders, but donations of time, energy and skill will also accomplish the goal of making the dwelling serve it's clientele.

Included on their wish list are skilled volunteers with carpentry, plumbing, heating & AC, electrical and floor refinishing experience; heavy duty washer and dryer; 60 gallon hot water heater; five smoke detectors; complete bathroom renovations; large size kitchen appliances (24 cu.ft. refrig); and on and on.

For more information or to donate or to volunteer, please contact Jim Griffith at 522-5757.



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Sat BLUE Light'n' shots \$1.00 a bang
Sun \$1.50 Well & Domestic Beer

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KOLBE PROJECT

A house of spirituality and ministry for the gay & lesbian community.

Healing Service with Anointing
 Thursday, July 11
 7:30pm

POT LUCK DINNER
 Thurs., July 18, 7:00pm
 Please bring food. Community Concerns:
 "Let Go, Relax & Feel Good"
 by Dr. Charles Perroncel

MOVIETIME FRIDAY NITE
 July 12th, 7:00pm
 "The Sum of Us"
 Movie provided courtesy of LOBO

MUSICALS MOVIE NITE
 July 26th, 7:00pm
 "The Wizard of Oz"

Catholic Mass - Every Mon. 7:30pm - Wed. 8:30am - Fri. 10am
 1509 Fairview Street * (Montrose) * Houston, Tx 77006
 Additional Parking on Hyde Park cu-de-sac.
 (713) 522-8182

(Paid Advertisement)

ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "Why did Jesus have to die?"

A: In the Gospel of John 15:13, Jesus tells his disciples, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Jesus said this in reference to giving up his own life in a matter of days. He would be dying for his friends. He would also be dying for those who hated and despised him. In the book of Romans 5:6 we read, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrated God's own love for us in this way: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

In the garden of Eden, right after the creation of humanity, the relationship between God and humanity was broken. Humanity was the initiator of this broken covenant through disobedience. Humanity tried to cover up their shame with fig leaves. It was not their physical bodies that were shameful, but humanity's excessive awareness of self that made them "self-conscious." God offered a covering of animal skins for their shame. This meant that a life had to be given in order for humanity to have a covering. God had to sacrifice a life to save a life. This blood sacrifice offered a covering for sin (separation from God). This became the ongoing plan to enable humanity to commune with God.

It was not God's original design to have animals continually sacrificed forever because of humanity's sin. The sacrifice would only cover a person's sins for one year. It was only a temporary solution. It had to be repeated again and again. God had a better plan in mind. At the heart of this plan was the love of God. It was God's love that reached out to humanity. It was the final effort to restore God's relationship with humanity.

Jesus was THE PLAN. He was and is the Son of God. Jesus was Divine and yet human. He came into the world and did not know sin. Jesus was in full obedience to God. It was His sinless nature that made the sacrifice of His life so valuable. It was as if He was giving us a transfusion. His blood would be shed so that we could be fully restored in communion with God.

Some people say that we killed Jesus, and that it did not have to go that far. Jesus could have showed us a more excellent way without dying. I don't think this is true. God knew that we would not be able to accept God's unconditional love unless we could first see how much God loves us. This was demonstrated in His willingness to give up His life for you and me-- for the entire world.

Let me share the words of this song to help you see that Jesus' death represents God's ultimate love for you and me. The song is entitled, "He Became Sin." He was born in a stable so I could live in palaces; made lower than angels so I could rise to the heavens. He gave His all so I could have everything. He humbled Himself as a servant so I could rule and reign with Him. He became sin so I could know right standing with God. He bore the pain of a crown of thorns so I could wear crowns of glory. He died on the tree of death so I will inherit the tree of life. Every stripe on His back wrote my healing song. He was forsaken by all He loved so I'd never have to be alone. I have a right to stand in the presence of God. I march with boldness right into God's throne. No longer a slave, no longer condemned, but a joint heir with Christ. I am a child of God. All glory to Jesus, the veil (of the temple that separated humanity from God) has been torn. He who was sinless bore the sin of the world. Jesus became sin so I could know right standing with God!!

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

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 6/28

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

SATURDAY - 6/29

* Services at 7:30 p.m., Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872

SUNDAY - 6/30

* Service, 11 a.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
 * Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by brunch. The Kolbe Project, 522-88182
 * Grace Lutheran Church - Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30am.
 * First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30am and 11:30am. 526-5200.
 * Services at 5:30 p.m., Dignity Church, Call 880-2872

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship, 528-6756.

* MCCR worship services with Rev. Jim Burns. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Call 861-9149.

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Call 880-9235.

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. Call 529-8225.

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. Call 526-8095.

* Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 p.m. and education hour at 3:00 pm. Call 668-8830.
 * Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. Call 526-1017.

MONDAY - 7/1

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe Project, Call 522-8182
 * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m., Call 861-9149.

TUESDAY - 7/2

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
 * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
 * Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.. These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

WEDNESDAY - 7/3

* Service, 7:30 p.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
 * MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 861-9149.
 * "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-8095.
 * Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.. These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

THURSDAY - 7/4

* Bible Study, 7 p.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
 * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. Call 880-9325.
 If you want an event listed in this section, please call (713) 529-8490.

KINGDOM COMMUNITY CHURCH
 Catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of God
 Sunday School - 10 A.M.
 Sunday Worship Service - 11 A.M.
 Wednesdays: A Course in Miracles - 7:30 P.M.
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 713-862-7533

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 The Light Company sings this Sunday
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 Sun. • 7:00 P.M. EVENING SERVICE
 Thurs. • 7:30 P.M. MIDWEEK SERVICE
 * Signed for the Hearing Impaired
 Pastor - Chris Chiles
 (713) 880-9235

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 PRAISING • TEACHING ENCOURAGING
SUNDAY 11am
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 An evangelical ministry with celebration services of Praise, Prayer and Study of God's word.
 Bible Class: 10am
 3400 Montrose, Suite 600 (Handicap accessible) (Montrose at Hawthorne)
 For info. on weekly home groups, call
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Alley's 'Black Coffee' is Strong

Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ
Houston Voice/Houston

At one point near the end of "Black Coffee," the first half of the Alley Theatre's Summer Chills 96, Hercule Poirot (James Black), the diminutive Belgian detective that is behind the solution of so many Agatha Christie whodunits, says, after perpetrating an entrapping ruse, "I think I played the part well." At which point, the opening-night audience burst into spontaneous applause. Though the hand-clapping was primarily intended in appreciation for Black's performance, it was also evidence that the production as a whole had worked, and it worked very well indeed.

As a story, "Black Coffee" is as marvelously crafted as any of Christie's works and unfolds in a largely similar fashion given that it follows a standard formula. Characters are introduced, one of them is killed, fingers are pointed, Poirot steps in, suspects are grilled and the killer is caught. Here the characters are the members of the Amory family: Sir Claud (Noble Shropshire), a grizzled, family patriarch well on his way to curmudgeon-hood, who made a fortune as an inventor; Caroline (Betty Fitzpatrick), Claud's amiable sister; Richard (Robert Sella), Claud's disgruntled and financially troubled son; Lucia (Enid Graham), Richard's comely wife with secrets from her past; Barbara (Shelley Williams) Claud's fun-loving (read loose) niece; Edward Raynor (Paul Hope), Claud's loyal secretary; Tredwell (Jonathan McVay), the reliable (and seemingly obligatory) butler; and Dr. Carelli (Philip Hoffman), an unexpected guest.

Following a family dinner, Claud gathers everyone in the library and informs them that one among them is a thief, who has appropriated the secret formula for an explosive more powerful than any the world has ever seen. Unwilling to trust matters to the local constable or Scotland Yard, Claud requests the services of Poirot in determining the identity of the thief. Poirot arrives with his able assistant Hastings (John Feltsch), only to discover that he must now solve a murder as well as a theft, for Claud has been poisoned. This, of course, is where the play's title comes in.

It should come as no surprise that if one is already a fan of Dame Agatha and her suave sleuth, then the play will be all the more enjoyable, but familiarity with the playwright or her most prolific character is hardly necessary. Christie's crisp dialogue is part of a brisk, but not heady, pace that is maintained throughout the production, and she succeeds in doling out legitimate suspicion to several of



Robert Sella and Enid Graham in "Black Coffee"

the characters. Moreover just trying to guess the culprit (and keep up with Poirot) is entertaining.

Director Gregory Boyd did a fine job with this one. There are, to be sure, areas that needn't have been quite so unconvincing, such as the coffee scene: while the coffee is poured the dialogue ceases and music fills the theater. Interesting, but serving coffee, even as completely germane to the play as this is, does not make a good scene in and of itself. That aside, Boyd does exceptionally well in creating a period ambiance. His staging is smooth and, for the most part, free of needless bits. As is his custom, Boyd also went straight for the laugh at every opportunity, but in a subdued, rather understated manner, so the genteel essence of the play is never disturbed.

There were strong performances from several of the cast members. James Black is just terrific as the irreproachable Poirot. He exudes a confident conceit that is present with every pensive stance, and he does so in a completely endearing manner. All the trademark characteristics of the detective that are found in the novels are present in Black's portrayal. For instance, Poirot's meticulous appearance and persnickety preference for placement of bric-a-brac are ideally realized by Black on the stage.

Betty Fitzpatrick practically stole the show as the adorably gracious Caroline, speaking in prim tones with a slightly nervous propriety that becomes irresistibly funny as the woman becomes drunk. Enid Graham is wonderful as Lucia. She has a lovely grace and captivating presence that veritably glows from the stage. John Feltsch as the goofy sidekick Hastings and Shelley Williams as the vixenly Barbara are also worth note. Covering the nadir of the cast are Robert Sella and Philip Hoffman, both of whom give near lifeless performances.

"Black Coffee" is one strong (giggle) play.

What: "Black Coffee"

Where: The Alley Theatre—Large Stage

When: Tuesday-Sunday through July 7

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This & That!

by Jon Anthony

The planned tribute to **Ella Fitzgerald** will take place July 9 and 10 at Carnegie Hall. Originally slated as a tribute in her honor, due to her death, the event will transcend into a retrospective and appreciation for her contributions to the musical spectrum.... A new book, *Jack and Jackie*, by **Christopher Andersen** (former editor of People magazine) asserts that **Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis** had an affair with actor **William Holden** to counteract her husband's penchant for philandering. The book quotes **Gore Vidal** saying Jackie engaged in a "brief affair" with Holden circa 1955. Other revelations: Jackie had an affair with married **Roswell Gilpatric**, then Deputy Secretary of Defense. "We loved each other," revealed Gilpatric, who died last March. Andersen also claims that JFK dated **Audrey Hepburn** at the same time he was dating Jackie. In addition, the book alleges that Jackie went to great lengths to avoid public knowledge of her affinity to cigarette smoking and that she loved JFK very much, despite his shenanigans. Jack and Jackie promises to provide juicy and controversial water cooler conversation. The author conducted interviews with many Kennedy intimates who were willing to discuss the family more freely since both principles were now deceased. Published by **William Morrow**, Jack and Jackie is available at most bookstores.... **Kris Kristofferson** returns to the big screen in the upcoming feature film *Lone Star*, the latest work of director, **John Sayles** (*Lianna*, *Passion Fish*). **James Earl Jones**, **Frances McDormand** and the soon to be hot commodity (take my word on this - he will be a household name by the end of summer) **Matthew McConaughey** co-star.... CBS' *60 Minutes* has canned the point-counterpoint segment featuring Texas columnist **Molly Ivins**, **P.J. O'Rourke** and **Stanley Crouch**. There have been rumors flowing through the halls at CBS that veteran commentator **Andy**

Rooney was not pleased with the trio's weekly diatribes. CBS and Rooney scoffed at the innuendo and official word from Minutes producer **Don Hewitt** indicates the segments cancellation was a direct result of viewer response.... **Kelsey Grammar** (*Frasier*) plays a gay character in NBC's updated version of the Neil Simon classic *London Suite* slated to air this fall as a movie of the week. Suite is currently filming in London.... **Larry King** agreed to portray himself in the planned satire, *An Alan Smithee Film*, by famed scriptwriter **Joe Eszterhas**. Last week, TNT reported that Eszterhas was seeking financing and distribution for his pet project and that **Whoopi Goldberg** was on board. The prospects keep looking better for this film considering all the talent willing to participate for a nominal fee. Besides King, critically acclaimed Macedonian director **Milcho Manchevski** (*Before the Rain*) has come on board as well.... After months of speculation, ABC officially announced this week that **Jamie Tarses** will head its entertainment division marking the first time a woman has been at the helm of one of the big three networks. Tarses, 32, has earned a reputation for her knowledge of the television industry. As an executive at rival NBC, she helped develop hits like *Friends*, *Mad About You* and *NewsRadio*.... **Shania Twain's** debut album, *The Woman in Me*, has become the top selling album by a female country western recording artist in history. Rounding out the top five all time best-sellers in descending order are *Greatest Hits* (**Patsy Cline**), *Greatest Hits* (**Anne Murray**), *Wynona* (**Wynona Judd**) and *Greatest Hits, Vol. 2* (**Reba McEntire**).... **Jeff Getty** was



fined \$15 last week for blocking traffic at an animal rights rally. **Getty**, who has AIDS, made history by receiving a bone marrow from a baboon in a controversial treatment procedure earlier this year.... **Andrea McArdle** will definitely return to the current revival of *State Fair* on Broadway. McArdle, Broadway original *Annie*, broke her foot and is at home recuperating.... **Noah Wyle** (*ER*), **Frances Fisher**, **Jeanette Lee** and a host of other notables competed in Pool AID '96. The perennial event, created by **Stephen Baldwin** and **Jason Gedrick**, benefits the AIDS Project L.A. **Erik Estrada** won this year's competition winning a \$1,100 pool cue.... Add **John Goodman** to the list of actors who have removed themselves from Emmy consideration. **Candace Bergen** removed her name from the nominating list last week.... **Michael Kinsley's** foray into the new dimension known as *Webzine* (on-line magazines) made an impressive debut this week. The Microsoft-backed *Webzine*, *Slate*, from the former *New Republic* editor and CNN *Crossfire* co-host, garnered impressive reviews from critics and cyber folks as well. Kinsley will also distribute a monthly edition titled *Slate on Paper* for those who prefer that mode of reading.... PBS' *American Playhouse* will air **Stephen Sondheim's** Tony Award-winning musical *Passion*. Playhouse will air the lavish production on September 8.... Jazz enthusiasts rejoice. **Mel Torme** has released a 20 year retrospective of his recordings of 92 songs. The four disc collection is available on Rhino Records.... CNN's **Christiane Amanpour**, the most sought after correspondent in network news, inked a new deal with her network that allows her to work for a competitive network. Terms of the agreement were not disclosed at press time, however, this much is known. Amanpour will be chief foreign correspondent for CNN and will be allowed to provide five stories a year

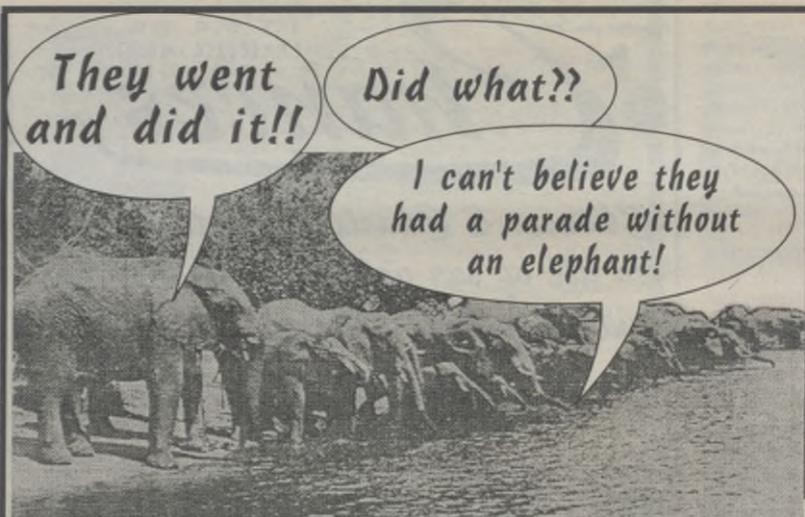
for CBS' *60 Minutes* program.... The U.S. Postal Service inaugurated their **James Dean** stamp sans cigarette, which was airbrushed out. Dean's stamp is the second in the series based on "Legends of Hollywood." **Marilyn Monroe** was the first.... **Top of the Charts: Arnold Schwarzenegger's**



Warner Brother's release *Eraser* rubbed out the competition at the box-office last week. *Eraser* penciled its way to a hefty \$24.6 million opening weekend gross, and Disney's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was second with an equally impressive \$21 million take. *The Rock*, *Cable Guy* and *Twister* rounded out the top five. NBC's *Seinfeld* was the highest rated show of the week according to Nielsen. **Dennis Rodman's** *Bad As I Wanna Be* and **John Grisham's** *The Runaway Jury* continue to dominate the non-fiction and fiction New York Times best-sellers list, respectively. **Bone Thugs-N-Harmony's** *The Crossroads* remains at the top of the singles chart. **Metallica** holds steady at #1 on the album charts for the second consecutive week. **Quote of the Week:** "Madonna and I are close friends. But we're very different. She sleeps with her trainer; I ignore mine." - **Rosie O'Donnell** on her daily talk show.

(Shania Twain photo courtesy of Keith Benfield at SoundPlus 520-7323.)

James Dean photo courtesy of Crossroads Market 942-0147)



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PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Why Do More Than 20 States Still Have Sodomy Laws?

June 30, 1996 marks the 10th anniversary of the devastating decision by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Bowers v. Hardwick*, in which the Court held that sodomy laws were constitutional.

Before the *Hardwick* case, civil rights attorneys had spent nearly a decade looking for an ideal case with which to challenge the constitutionality of laws forbidding sodomy. In the last several decades, such laws have rarely been enforced, and arrests have almost never been made without complicating factors such as coercion or sex with a minor. So when Michael Hardwick was arrested for sodomy in Georgia in 1982, gay and lesbian activists latched onto the case even though the charges were soon dropped. Hardwick's case seemed tailor-made to show how sodomy laws violate a person's privacy: a police officer intent on serving a warrant entered Hardwick's bedroom and arrested him after observing him engaged in mutual oral sex with another man.

Influenced by the right to privacy established by previous cases including *Roe v. Wade*, one court of appeals held that sexual activity in private between consenting adults was protected by the Constitution from government interference. The Attorney General of Georgia, right-wing Republican Michael Bowers, appealed the case to the Supreme Court in order to defend his state's sodomy law.

Georgia's sodomy ban applies to same-sex and opposite-sex couples, including married heterosexuals, and Hardwick's attorneys found a married Georgia couple, "John and Mary Doe," who claimed that the sodomy law invaded their privacy as well. But the Supreme Court quickly rejected their claim, and ruled on the narrower question of, in the words of the majority opinion, "whether the Federal Constitution confers a fundamental right upon homosexuals to engage in sodomy and hence invalidates the laws of the many States that still make such conduct illegal and have done so for a very long time."

Justice Byron White (succeeded in 1993 by Ruth Bader Ginsberg) penned the 5-4 majority opinion, which used sweeping, derisive language to mock the idea that gay Americans have a right to sexual privacy in their homes. Judge Harry Blackmun's dissent strongly disagreed, arguing that "depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our Nation's history than tolerance of nonconformity could ever do."

But these two opinions don't tell the whole story of the ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. When the case first came before the members of the Court in April, 1986, there were four justices who considered sodomy laws unconstitutional and four who thought them totally legitimate. In the middle was Lewis Powell, Jr., a moderate jurist who in several previous cases had sought compromises between extreme positions. Powell initially indicated support for overturning the sodomy laws, but was ultimately convinced by Chief Justice Warren Burger to switch his vote. In the meantime, Powell received heavy pressure from both sides among his law clerks, including a conservative Mormon and a liberal, somewhat-closeted gay man.

Powell's gay clerk on several occasions considered coming out to his boss, but instead settled for an impassioned

argument in favor of sexual freedom. In light of Powell's remark after the decision that he didn't know any gay or lesbian people, some activists have suggested that the clerk's coming out could have made the difference in Powell's vote. Indeed, in 1990, Powell indicated that, upon further reflection, he regretted his vote in the case.

The ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick* was handed down on June 30, 1986, just one day after gay and lesbian pride celebrations took place in major cities across America. The reaction among the organized gay and lesbian community was one of outrage, and was one the major factors, along with the government's sluggish response to the AIDS crisis, in the decision to call for a March on Washington in Oct. 1987.

Did Bette Midler Really Get Her Start By Singing In A Gay Bathhouse?

Indeed she did. In the early 1970s, Midler was a featured performer at the Continental Baths in New York City, where her popularity reached beyond the men who had sex in the cubicles and playrooms of the upper floors of the bathhouse. Straight and gay audience members in full evening dress would sit in the basement dance floor/theater and watch Midler sing and camp it up, sometimes accompanied by Barry Manilow at the piano. Particularly after the favorable comments of Rolling Stone in 1973, watching Midler at the Continental Baths came to epitomize chic decadence, and hundreds of New Yorkers would line up for the chance to watch "the Divine Miss M" perform (and to gawk at handsome young men in towels at the same time).

Her popularity at the Continental helped her land a guest spot on the *Tonight Show*, and Midler was soon starring in feature films, including *The Rose* (1978) in which she did a lesbian scene. Midler also performed at gay and lesbian pride celebrations, most notably at New York City's 1973 pride rally, in which she helped smooth over tensions between two segments of the gay and lesbian community. Some drag queens were furious at lesbian feminist Jean O'Leary's speech attacking transvestites for mocking women, and Midler's performance of "You Got to have Friends" aimed to appease the ruffled feathers.

But Midler has had a mixed relationship with the gay and lesbian community, particularly given some of her statements reported by the media. In 1976, she denied having gay fans and told the *Chicago Tribune* that she "wouldn't know a homosexual if (she) saw one." She also told *Vanity Fair* in 1987 that she felt sorry for what she considered to be her contribution to the spread of AIDS by performing at a bathhouse: "I was helping to make it seem fun."

Still, Midler has performed at a number of AIDS fund-raising events, and is widely considered a gay icon for her campy sensibility. She remains one of the most popular targets for impersonation by drag performers.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history and politics at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of gays and/or lesbians you've always wondered about, contact him care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com. "Past Out" appears twice a month.

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SPORTS NOTES

IBL Summer Season

The Independent Billiard League (IBL) will begin its 1996 Summer Season with the first registration planned for Jo's Outpost Saturday June 29 from 2 until 4:00 p.m. The first night of play is July 18.

The teams consist of three players each and the cost per player is \$35, payable at the first monthly meeting in August. Substitute fees are \$10 payable with the application. Team sponsorships are \$40 per team. A second registration is planned for E/J's Saturday July 6 from 2 until 4:00 p.m. The organizational meeting will be held Sunday July 14 at 611 Hyde Park Pub beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The new officers for the upcoming year are: President, Gilbert Vargas; Vice President, Vicki Jo Fraychinaud; Secretary, Scott Greathouse; Treasurer, Bruce Arnold; and Sergeant at Arms, Raymond Ray.

For additional information telephone 524-9261.

Bowling Notes

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A Standings in first, second and third are A Frickin Fairy Tale, Eight Balls and Hot Dogs, Nice Buns.

Division B is headed by The Meat to Beat, J.R.'s Bar and Grill, and Fighting Nuns. High scratch game of 266 and series of 704 was bowled by Daisy Mae Burken. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reports Tough & Tight in 1st, FASTER Pussycats in 2nd place and Boyish Looks, Girlish Figures in 3rd. For the men Brian Elley bowled high scratch game of 259 and series of 654. For the women Dorothy Covington bowled high scratch game of 277 and Linda Dees series of 644. For more information call Tom at 522-9612.

The Wednesday Night Mixers reports 1st place is taken by 1 Gal & 3 Guys, 2nd by Charlie's Tunas, and 3rd by We Come When You Call. Jeff Charlesworth bowled high scratch game of 238 and Tom O'Dell series of 644 for the men. For the women Terry Shannon bowled high scratch game of 210 and series of 578. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30 p.m.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place team is Half & Half followed by Walking Wounded, and M Power. Fourth place is taken by Festive Foursome. For more information call Pat at 437-6218.

A special no-tap candlelight doubles will be held Saturday (June 29) at AMF Southway as the final fundraiser for the Texas Invitational Tournament. Entry fee is \$10 and bowling begins at 8:00 p.m. with registration at 7 o'clock. Join us as we prepare for the 11th Annual Texas Invitational—the biggest ever. Co-directors Andrea Black and Tom O'Dell report that a second shift has been added to accommodate the 240 bowlers registered from all across America and Canada. Team and individual applications are still being accepted now that the shifts have been added. Call Andrea at 437-8133 or Tom at 522-9612.

HMBL Continues

Play in the Houston Metropolitan Billiard League (HMBL) continues with the team Coalition leading the pack after 22 weeks of play. Coalition has lost only two of the matches played. Their won match average is .900.

Two teams, Jackson 5, J.R.'s Cue Crew are tied for second with won match averages of .762 and Briar Patch is fourth with .750. Leading the individual statistics are Ty Burns, Billy Lea, Carlos Romero and Chuck Willman.

A special congratulations goes to Chip Kine who shot a break and run Tues-

day night. The thought of the week: "At the nominations meeting, each nominee will be allowed five minutes to explain his qualifications to the general membership; a five minute question and answer session will follow."

Lambda Rollers

The Lambda Rollerskating Club holds its next Skate Night Wednesday July 3 from 8 until 10:00 p.m. at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is \$5 and skate rental, if needed, adds \$1 to the cost.

The theme for the night is "Red, White and Gay" so bring a friend and come and join us, everyone is welcome to skate and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please contact us, or simply for more information, call 933-5818, contact gayskate1@aol.com or visit the WEB Page site at <http://members.aol.com/gayskate1/lambda.htm>.

Log Cabin/GOP continued...

(Continued from page 1)

the group's mission that was also distributed both inside and outside of the convention. In addition, several members of the group attended a Christian Coalition banquet featuring guest speaker Ralph Reed and engaged them in debate prior to the convention. Log Cabin was trying to dispel the myth for those individuals who have never knowingly talked to a gay or lesbian individual.

As expected, there was some deep resentment and animosity towards their presence. One of the groups members, Brian Vezey, was confronted by an individual who took personal offense to Log Cabins participation in the convention process. "I'm offended by your presence here. It's a good thing you didn't get it [a booth], because we would have set up a rope booth right next to it," he is quoted as saying.

"We are not the Log Cabin Republicans, we love women," read a sign at another booth. The booth was occupied by the Georgia State College Republicans who placed the sign under their banner at their exhibit booth on the convention floor. "We love women too, as do some of our women Log Cabin members," responded LCR-TX state President Dale Carpenter.

Many moderate, and even a few religious right participants expressed their support of the group's efforts towards inclusion and the right to debate within the political arena. At a reception for the Supreme Court Justices, a member of the Log Cabin delegation engaged one of the justices in a discussion concerning the ensuing dispute between the state GOP and LCR-TX. The justice revealed that it had been a "difficult decision" on their part.

Additionally, Several Log Cabin members ran for delegate positions to no avail. Carpenter, Van Ooteghem, Tiry B. Counts and Dick Evans among others confronted the insurmountable odds and did not allow the animosity to overwhelm or intimidate them. "Log Cabin got up time and again and spoke to the convention anytime we could," said Van Ooteghem. "As you go to pass judgment on us via the platform, remember one thing - we all fall short of the grace of God."

admonished Counts, a member of the Harris County Republican leadership and development committee, precinct chairman and state secretary for LCR-TX.

Gay Group Crucial to Delegate Race

Ironically, Al Clements, who lost his bid to retain his chairmanship title last spring at the Senate District 13 caucus, is the state GOP platform committee chairman. Clements was defeated by Lynda Paukune due to the efforts put forth by Log Cabin Houston and other moderate forces.

Van Ooteghem believes Log Cabin was successful because they "acted respectfully" at the convention. "There was no radicalism and we worked within the system." He contends the group knew going in that it would be hostile territory. "I expected it to be worse than it was," he opined.

Perhaps the most significant event of the convention occurred during the Congressional District 18 caucus to elect delegates to the national convention. In one of the races there were three candidates representing the Christian Coalition, Dole's Delegation and Log Cabin. Neither candidate got a majority of the votes, prompting a run-off vote. The Christian Coalition candidate garnered the most votes, Dole's delegate came in second (albeit close) and Log Cabin's nominee a distant third. The Dole camp sought the support of the Log Cabin delegation, which the group granted. As a result, the Dole camp won the run-off. It was a defining moment that made all the efforts put forth by Log Cabin seem all the more worthwhile. Dole's camp came over and thanked us for our support after they won. "It was very clear we made the difference and they were eager to work with us and very grateful for our assistance," said Carpenter.

"If the GOP officials think that we are going to sit back and allow the practice of discrimination based on sexual orientation and exclusion from the political process to continue, they are sadly mistaken," intoned Carpenter.

Curt Morrison, a contributing writer for the Houston Voice, is a member of Log Cabin Houston and sits on the organizations state steering committee.

Candace continued...

(Continued from page 1)

"Even if it is partisan politics...there is still no excuse for that. And, although I may have defended him in the past, I can't defend that anymore. It is reprehensible to use one group of Americans to further your agenda."

She readily admits that as a result of her desire to avoid confrontation, she has never brought up the subject of her lesbianism with her brother or used her position as a family member to address community concerns with him. That is until recently. Once she agreed to be vocal about issues concerning the community and committed to writing a book, she has made repeated attempts to meet with her brother to discuss matters of concern to no avail. "He is the only family member who has refused to meet with me, even though I gave him a list of the questions ahead of time and explained that he was free to answer what he wanted to and what he didn't want too," she explains. Asked if she has any contact with Newt whatsoever, she replied: "not politically." She concedes there is a family bond, however, it is not casual.

Asked to comment on the Clinton administration's support of the pending same-sex marriage bill in the name of family values, Gingrich said that White House Spokesman Mike McCurry made that statement, not President Clinton and mentioned that the statement was never repeated. Informed of the ire the matter raised in gay and lesbian political circles, Gingrich relented and chastised the administration's actions. "That too is reprehensible. That is crap for them to state their position is because he supports strengthening families. That's wrong and that's inexcusable," she remarked. "Not voting is a vote for Bob Dole." At least President Clinton is can be educated she thinks. "Bob Dole is going to have ear plugs in his ears...and the idea of four years of President Dole...is terrifying to me."

With respect to President Clinton's botched attempt at allowing gays in the military and the compromise that resulted from the debacle, Gingrich replied that "he was in

over his head." She adds that had he forced the issue, Congress had a bill ready to override him. Concerning the purported agreement with Clinton and Gay and Lesbian rights advocate groups that in return for their support (in spite of his support of the same-sex marriage bill), he would make sure that legislation be proposed to offer benefits to those engaged in same sex unions, Gingrich claimed that she was not privy to any discussions of such. "I'm sure we tried. I'm sure we (HRC) and our coalition partners wanted some kind of compromise....This is one issue. What good is a wedding ring if you can still be fired if you're gay?", she asks.

Gingrich claims to "have no clue" as to whether or not she intends to embark on a political career of her own. "I'm sure down the line it's something I'll consider and I am not going to lie about that. I'm sure I'll think about it, but at this point in my life, I have no idea. Maybe," she laughs. Gingrich against Gingrich? Anything is possible.

Gingrich enjoys her work for HRC. She is touring the country to promote gay and lesbian civil rights issues and encourage the community to vote. What the future holds for the benevolent activist is entirely at her discretion. A popular speaker on the lecture circuit, Gingrich has earned a reputation for her interpersonal appeal. She is working on a new book slated for release next year. The book focuses on her experience with coming out and being thrust into the limelight as an activist. She will address the relationship, or lack thereof, with her brother, arguably the most powerful man in America. Gingrich, who lives in Washington, DC, in a relationship with a woman who is also an activist. An avid admirer of Representative Patricia Schroeder (D-CO), Gingrich says Schroeder has been her inspiration and considers her a mentor.

Asked who she would most like to meet if she could have a one hour conversation with anybody in the world, her reply was a bit shocking. Of all the people she could have mentioned, her choice speaks volumes to her commitment to our community and her family. Her reply: "My brother."

Pride Parade '96 continued...

(Continued from page 1)

motorized entry and Dignity, the Catholic group won the Pride Title for best motorized other than a float. Outrage got the Houston Award for non-professional entry.

Bringing up the end of the parade of course was Rainbow de Klown. His lighted entry of the earth and moon were a reminder that the parade planned for next year is to be a Saturday night event. The event following is being called "Lights Out", with a possible community picnic gathering to take place on Sunday.

The festive crowd followed the end of the parade over to Lovett Blvd. for Pridefest. There the trophies for the winning delegations were presented, speeches were made. Due to an inadequate sound system, the scheduled performances by CeCe Penniston and Bronski Beat were moved to Heaven (cover charge was waived). Various

community organizations had booths and merchandise for sale -- but the pleasant after rain coolness had turned steamy by them. A lovers' spat caused some small excitement when Jack Abercia's constables were called into action. It was quickly handled, lasting only minutes. The crowd started dispersing around sunset to hit the bars or make their weary way home.

Volunteer committee chair C. Patrick McIlvain says that while Pride Week '96 is gone, all the work is not finished. His committee is at work putting together a thank you event. He said public acknowledgement should be given to the members of the volunteer committee, for their work from the forum in January to the after parade cleanup this past Monday. Baytown, South Houston and all of the Greater Houston area should know what real jewels these folks are. Patrick encourages everyone who knows them say thanks to these beautiful people: Rose Gutierrez, Gina Richardson, Ray Downing,

Mary Perez, Jennifer Ratliff, Frank Barrera, Pete Contreras, and Edward Sanchez.

If you missed it or for treasured memories, this year's parade and Pride Fest activities are available on a 2 hour VHS video. Hosted by local Access Houston celeb "Mad Dog" Matt Locklin and nationally known comedienne Nancy Ford, the official Pride Committee endorsed video include footage of pre- and post parade activities. Not only does the video cover Candace Gingrich's speech but includes a message and interview with national recording artist Janis Ian. All entry groups are included, and trophy winners are indicated. The sale of the video benefits the Pride Committee of Houston and AIDS Houston Coalition. To order your copy send a check or money order to: Infinite Index Independent, P.O. Box 66690, Houston, TX 77266. Matt Locklin Entertainment can be reached at 713/902-2231.

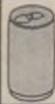


It's shaped like Texas, so it has to be good - Candace accepts award.

Thanks to Frank Parsley and Steven David for photos.



RECYCLE



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Pride Parade Photos by Frank Parsley



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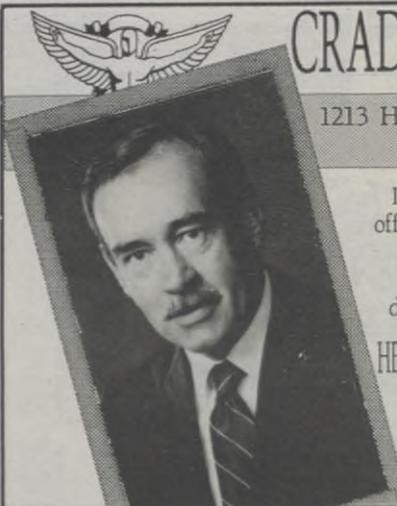
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To Have and To Hold:

Couples long for legal benefits of marriage

By DAVID FOSTER
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—One cooks, the other mows the lawn. One does the laundry, the other pays the bills. They have a house on a quiet street, a joint account at the bank and wedding rings on their hands.

Yet there's no mistaking Debbie Graham and Teresa Wood for just another married couple in the suburbs. They lack one essential piece of paper—a marriage license.

Anywhere in America, and emphatically so in Idaho, people of the same sex cannot legally marry.

Not yet, anyway. And maybe never. But the mere prospect that gay marriage may be a reality a Hawaii court case has swept Graham and Wood, along with Congress and 34 state legislatures, into this year's hottest gay-rights debate.

Would it diminish the sanctity of marriage to let gays and lesbians marry? Or does preventing them from marrying violate their civil rights?

While politicians ponder the big questions, Wood and Graham live the details, discovering they're denied many entitlements that legally married couples take for granted.

They cannot file a joint tax return. One cannot join the other's health-insurance plan or get pension benefits. Even if they live together the rest of their lives, in the eyes of the law their relationship will more resemble that of perfect strangers than that of spouses.

"Teresa and I have a very deep commitment to each other," Graham says. "Society doesn't recognize that. We've tried to protect our relationship the best we can, but we don't even begin to approximate what a marriage license does automatically."

Today's debate over gay marriage arose from a 1993 ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court in a suit brought by three same-sex couples. They said the state's refusal to grant them marriage licenses violated the sex-discrimination clause in the state constitution.

The court returned the case to a lower court, saying Hawaii officials must prove a "compelling government interest" if they are to bar same-sex marriages.

That trial won't start until September, and a final Hawaii Supreme Court ruling may be two years away, but conservative legislators in other states have been bracing for it since last year.

They worry that their own states may have to honor gay marriages performed in Hawaii because of the U.S. Constitution's "full faith and credit" clause, which requires states to honor other states' laws.

Bills denying legal recognition to same-sex marriages have been introduced in 34 states. Proposals have been defeated or withdrawn in 16 states, are pending in seven and have been approved in 11—Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Utah.

In Congress, a new bill would keep same-sex marriage from becoming legal under federal law and would authorize states to reject gay marriages performed in other states. President Clinton says he would sign the Republican-sponsored legislation, despite his belief that Republican leaders are using it as an election-year ploy to stir up anti-gay sentiment.

Even the federal legislation, if passed, would not prevent constitutional challenges from gay-rights activists, who say they're encouraged by a recent Supreme Court ruling knocking down a Colorado anti-gay amendment. But the prospect of a long legal battle does not deter opponents of gay marriage.

What Graham and Wood do every day is try

to coexist with Idaho's conventions of morality, which bounce between the state's live-and-let-live tradition and a wide conservative streak that sees homosexuality as sinful.

At home, Wood and Graham hug freely and clink their wedding rings together, playfully chanting "We got rings, we got rings." In public, they dare not walk down the street holding hands.

Idaho is not the easiest place to be gay, and the women, both born and raised here, have developed their own strategies for coping.

Graham, 40, is the romantic, a boisterous risk-taker who drops her partner's name into conversations with new acquaintances. "If they're going to reject me for being a lesbian, then I don't have time for them, and I'd like to know from the start," she says.

Wood is quieter and more cautious. Also 40, she has worked at the same large Boise corporation for 19 years, most recently as a computer-system analyst, and many co-workers don't know she is gay.

Three summers ago, surrounded by 80 friends and relatives, the women exchanged rings at a picnic area in the mountains north of Boise. A Unitarian minister presided. Graham and Wood held hands beneath a rainbow-striped banner and an icon of "Christ Sophia," the Messiah portrayed as a woman. They promised to love and cherish each other all the days of their lives. The minister then led the congregation in an enthusiastic blessing: "By the power of your love, because you have exchanged vows of commitment, we recognize you as married."

Society smiles upon such couplings between a man and a woman, bestowing legal and economic privileges in the name of family values. Wood and Graham, meanwhile, find only obstacles.

If one were comatose in the hospital, the other could be denied visitation rights. Both women are estranged from their fathers, and both worry that one of the fathers might show up at the hospital, asserting his legal status as next of kin and demanding that his daughter's partner leave.

Last spring, as Graham finished her college degree in computer science, she didn't know whether she'd be able to get health insurance because of a pre-existing condition, a lupus-like illness. She ultimately found a job and got insurance there. But if she and Wood had been legally married, she wouldn't have had to worry. She could have joined Wood's corporate health plan. Wood paid an attorney \$600 to set up a will and living trust naming Graham as prime beneficiary and successor-trustee—a step not needed by married couples to ensure that a surviving spouse inherits the other's assets.

If Wood or Graham died, the other could not collect Social Security or pension benefits as a surviving spouse. Wood's employers might not even allow her time off from work if Graham died. Company policy allows bereavement leave only for family members.

"Perhaps I would have a compassionate boss, if I dared tell him," Wood says, imagining the conversation:

"My roommate died."

"So? We need you on this project."

Beyond the legal and economic benefits of marriage, Wood and Graham long for the social blessing extended to heterosexual couples.

"If gay marriage were legalized, that implies social acceptance of it," Graham says.

"I don't think it would cause anyone to become homosexual, but it might allow people more comfort in being who they are," Wood says.

"Which can only be healthy," Graham adds.

MEDIA ALERT

by Al Kielwasser

Homophobe Shopping Network

The American Family Association continues to attack advertisers who "sponsor homosexuality" on prime-time television. Companies are blacklisted if they buy airtime during any programs deemed "pro-homosexual" by the AFA.

The AFA does not aspire to fine distinctions. ALL prime-time depictions of homosexuality are perverse. Advertisers are reprimanded for sponsoring "objectionable" broadcasts—past or present—and are advised to withhold all such support in future. Otherwise, they are warned. AFA members across the nation will boycott their products.

The AFA's most recent hit list (June 1996) accuses ten companies of "promoting homosexuality" on nine programs, which aired between March and May of this year. The following shows and sponsors have been targeted:

* "The Dana Carvey Show"—According to the AFA: "In a skit on George Washington... Ben Franklin is shown in bed with another man. 'The Ambiguously Gay Duo' is a cartoon skit with two Superman-style heroes who are also homosexual lovers. They drive a super car shaped like male genitalia. ... In a spoof of Regis and KathieLee (KathieLee Gifford is known for her outspoken Christian faith), the Kathie Lee character sings a song to a monkey: 'I didn't evolve from you, I evolved from Jesus/We're two different species, I don't eat my own feces/You're not of my genus, that's why you don't cover your penis.' Advertiser: Unilever."

* "Friends"—According to the AFA: "Ross shows the gang the 'Hers' and 'Hers' towels, a gift for his ex-wife and her lesbian lover." Advertiser: PepsiCo.

* "Good Company"—According to the AFA: "Prison/homosexual jokes appear in Jody's song: 'In a cell with some big guy named Mitch/Being his favorite little prison bi—.' Other characters are equally crude... and discuss urinals, how men use them and which man at work has the most impressive genitalia." Advertiser: Procter & Gamble.

* "Law and Order"—According to the AFA: "The homosexual agenda is promoted when a poor, misunderstood homosexual is a suspect in the case." Advertiser: Toyota.

* "Melrose Place"—According to the AFA: "Matt, regular homosexual character, turns off his date by talking about his former lover." Advertisers: Cosmair, Warner-Lambert.

* "NYPD Blue"—According to the AFA: "John, the homosexual secretary, appears in numerous scenes." Advertiser: Volkswagen.

* "Party of Five"—According to the AFA: "Claudia's homosexual violin teacher has a small part in the story." Advertiser: Mars.

* "Roseanne"—According to the AFA: "Roseanne, her sister Jackie and her homosexual business partner Leon all three are excited when a morning talk show comes to their diner to do interviews." Advertiser: PepsiCo (Taco Bell).

* "Sisters"—According to the AFA: "Norma is the lesbian boss of one of the series stars. ... Also, the story takes a politically correct turn with its stretch to highlight unfair salaries for women in the workplace." Advertiser: Revlon.

Even the Muppets could not escape the AFA's consumer wrath. The association cites PepsiCo for advertising during an April 5 broadcast of "Muppets Tonight," which featured "frequent sexual innuendo." Specifically, the AFA reports, "a mouse muppet sings 'I'm Too Sexy,' and a bear muppet uses blatant double entendre."

Several of the companies targeted by the AFA have also been attacked other homophobic shopping campaigns. Empower America, the Right Wing pressure group attempting to "clean up" TV talk shows, has assailed Procter & Gamble, Unilever, Warner-Lambert and Mars. According to Empower America, the group adopted the tactic of "going directly to the advertisers" because direct appeals to programmers "received little response."

The strategic merits of "advertiser advocacy" remain debatable, however. Tactical effectiveness has yet to be determined.

Jeff Cohen—a progressive media activist and founder of Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR)—has suggested that boycotting advertisers "smacks of censorship." Moreover, he cautions: "Right-wing groups, because of their ideological closeness to certain corporate sponsors, have an easier time of getting their attention."

Whatever the merits, this tactic is certainly grounded in a realistic assessment of market influences. "Selection of programming for network prime-time television is almost exclusively tied to the advertising marketplace," observes Fred Williams, a well-known media researcher. As long as mainstream television is commercially-driven, program content will be heavily-influenced by advertiser interests.

**** ACTION/OPTIONS: Encourage corporate responsibility; urge these companies to publicly and forcefully repudiate the AFA's censorious efforts to promote homophobia. Contact: James A. Nixon, Vice President, Cosmair Inc., 575 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10017, tel. 212-818-1500, fax 212-984-4999; Roger Enrico, Chair, PepsiCo, 700 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, NY 10577, tel. 914-253-2000, fax 914-253-2070; Richard A. Goldstein, President, Unilever United States Inc., 390 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022, 212-888-1260 or 800-598-1223, fax 212-906-4411; Melvin R. Goodes, Chair, Warner-Lambert Co., 201 Tabor Rd., Morris Plains, NJ 07950, 201-540-2000 or 800-223-0182, fax 201-540-3761; Jerry W. Levin, Chair, Revlon Group Inc., 21 E. 63rd St., New York, NY 10021, 212-527-6300 or 800-334-8332; Forest E. Mars, Chair, Mars Inc., 6885 Elm St., McLean, VA 22101, 703-821-4900; Clive Warrilow, President, Volkswagen of America, P.O. Box 3951, Troy, MI 48007, 313-340-5000 or 800-822-8987, fax 313-340-5025; Shinji Sakai, President, Toyota Motor Sales, 19001 S. Western Ave., Torrance, CA 90509, 310-618-4000 or 800-331-4331, fax 310-618-7800; John E. Pepper, Chair, The Procter & Gamble Co., P.O. Box 599, Cincinnati, OH 45201, 513-983-1100 or 800-435-9254, fax 513-945-9155.

Re/Sources: Jeff Cohen's observations were made during an interview, which has been transcribed as "A Call To Media Activism" in Martin Lee and Norman Solomon's book "Unreliable Sources: A Guide to Detecting Bias in News Media" (New York: Carol Publishing Group). Contact: FAIR, 130 W. 25th St., New York, NY 10001, 212-633-6700, fax 212-727-7668, e-mail fair@igc.apc.org. URL: <http://www.igc.apc.org/fair/>.

Briefs

** SUBMIT! ... The "Electronic Journal of Law" (E Law) is now seeking submissions for a special issue on "Sexuality and the Law." The editors indicate that: "This issue, planned for October, will include papers presented at a conference to be held at Murdoch University on August 3 concerning sexual orientation and the law. The special issue will also be produced in digital multimedia format to include audiovisual as well as textual materials and will be made available for distribution on CD-ROM disks. Consequently submissions in a variety of formats are welcome." Contact: Editorial Board, Electronic Journal of Law, Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia, e-mail elaweditors@central.murdoch.edu.au.

Web Watch

** COOL CAT ... The Children's Animated Television Homepage (<http://www.qcfurball.com/cat/>) has announced its welcome return. The CAT site has been moved, and revamped. Highlights include "AIDS Daily Summaries" (<http://www.qcfurball.com/cat/aids.html>) and "The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Advisor" (<http://www.qcfurball.com/cat/glb/glb.html>). "The CAT Chronicle" newsletter is also scheduled to return soon. Contact: Claude DiDomenica, e-mail claudede@qcfurball.com.

** MEDIA WATCHDOG ... "The Liberty Tree"—subtitled "An Independent Tele-Journal of Comment on Media"—deals with various aspects of the media, "news, comment, and critical analysis." Contact: Liberty Tree, P.O. Box 382, Urbana, IL 61801, e-mail libertytree@prairienet.org. <http://www.prairienet.org/libertytree/>.

** THIS BEAT GOES ON ... "Queercore Beat" has set new sites and "joined on with The Youth Arts Project" (<http://www.qcc.org/yap/>) to bring queercore music news to gay youth. The Youth Arts Project "provides an opportunity for young people to get hands on experience with the web. To check out the Youth Arts Queercore Beat pages, go to the above URL and find 'music' in the table of contents. Click on and voila... Queercore Beat!"

** SHELF HELP ... "A Different Light"—billed as "America's largest lesbian & gay bookseller"—can be browsed at: <http://www.adlbooks.com/adl>.



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ALL WELL/BEER/WINE \$1.75

NEVER A COVER CHARGE

Cuervo Shots \$2.50

Everyday All the Time

FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 9:00pm till ??

Guest Bartenders on the "TOP"

National Leather Assoc.:Houston

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 5:00pm till ??

Guest Bartenders on the "TOP"

Houston Area Bears

Thurs: 4-8pm HIV Testing - Free & Confidential

It Did Not Rain on OUR Parade!



The Staff of RockyJava

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

With Pride week commencing this past Sunday, there are way too many events to list! But, congrats to all and keep up the good work!

Friday, June 28

The members of the National Leather Association: Houston will be whipping out cocktails tonight at the Venture-N. Join them "Top" side tonight starting at 9:00 pm.

There is a fundraiser tonight at Chances. "Pink and Red! Ribbons... That is," benefiting the Red Ribbon Reading Room and the Marion Panzer Breast Cancer Awareness Fund, will go on stage at 9:00 pm. This show is hosted by the Court, King Father Marlene, and Queen Mother Jackie Thorne.

Tara Dion is hosting the male strip contest tonight at E/J's. The butts are bare starting at 11:00 pm.

There are more bare butts tonight at Gentry. Those wickedly wild Boy Toy dancers gyrate starting at 6:00 pm.

China Doll Productions and the Lazy J present a talent/strip night tonight. The contest starts at 10:30 pm.

The Trading Post has \$1 draft today and every day. Stop in this more-than-an-icehouse at 11410 S. Post Oak and enjoy the neighborly atmosphere.

Headlining tonight at Cousin's are Miss Zack, Leah Halston, Kara Dion, and a special guest. The curtain rises at 11:00 p.m.



Birthday Bash at BerryHill III!

Saturday, June 29

The star studded super show at E/J's tonight features the talents of Kelly Lauren, Chavelle Brooks, the talent night contest winner, and Cameron. Tara Dion is the MC for this 11:00 pm show.

Don't forget that there is never a cover at the Venture-N.

Miss T.T. hosts the Saturday Super Show at the Lazy J. Join Miss T.T. and her guests Frankie Lane, Erica Lane, and Ashlee Houston for this 10:30 pm show.



So There!

Saturday nights are "new music" nights at Incognito. Listen to the latest sounds spun by DJ Tony Powell.

Miss Zack, Brandi Houston, Rage, and a special guest will fill the stage of Cousin's tonight. The show starts at 11:00 pm.

Sunday, June 30

The Misfits present "The Ed Cellophane Show" at 8:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom. This is a benefit for Casa De Esperanza.

\$1 Budweiser and Bud

Light! Ed of E/J's must be crazy. This beer special runs all day and all night! Stop in for a cold one!

The furry men of the Houston Area Bears will be guest bartending "Top" side this afternoon at the Venture-N. They lumber up the stairs starting at 5:00 pm.

No shirt, no cover, no kidding! The Sunday "Overload" parties continue at Pacific Street. The doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Sundays are for drag shows at Cousin's. Tonight's 11:00 pm show features the talents of Miss Zack, Sivi Ross, Kara Dion, and a special guest.

Gentry has a full lineup today! The Boy Toys take the stage at 5:00 pm. There is a pool tournament at 5:30 pm. At 9:00 pm, the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star presents "Around the World." Then at 11:00 pm, Black Velvett hosts the male strip contest! Gentry, your one stop Sunday playground!

Get in free until 11:00 pm with a canned good donation at Incognito. At 11:00 pm,



Rogers is the new face behind the bar at Chances!

sharp, Cookie LaCook and the Incognito Divas perform!

The 611 Hyde Park Pub serves up Brunch this and every Sunday. The tasty treats are from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm.

There is always a drag show at Bacchus II every Sunday night! The curtain rises at 10:30 p.m.

Monday, July 1

Longer power hours and lower prices at the Venture-N today thru Thursday. All well cocktails, beer, and wine are only \$1.75. This special runs all day and all night!

Tonight at BerryHill II you can enter the Karaoke contest. The winner gets \$50. Come on, give it a try!

Tuesday, July 2

\$1 domestic longnecks are on special today at the Brazos River Bottom! What a deal!

Do I have to remind you that Mary's offers \$2 shots of Jose Cuervo this and every Tuesday? I bet not!

Tuesdays are terrific at the BriarPatch. Stop in for a tiny (not) Martini! Seriously, the BriarPatch's Martinis

are Texas-sized. Big Mama Marci plays the songs you want to hear!

Wednesday, July 3

Do something different tonight! Stop at your favorite liquor store, buy a bottle and head to The Trading Post. Sip on your own bottle as you enjoy 5 pool tables, electronic darts, big screen TV, and tons of air conditioning!

Start your Independence weekend off early at Pacific Street. There is no cover with an out-of-state ID. The doors open at 9:00 pm.

Wednesday nights are for stripping! The Boy Toys dance gaily on stage at 7:00 pm. At 11:00 pm, the male strip contest, hosted by "new" MC Miss Gay Houston US of A at-Large, Miss Regina Dane! I know Regina can make those courageous contestants cast clothing to convivial customers!

Fall in love with the "Two of Hearts" tonight and Sunday



Tammy, your secret is safe with me!

weekend long! The Club Houston, work out, lay out, or just hang out!

Marilyn Marx hosts "South of the Border" tonight at E/J's. Join Marilyn and her guests Susan Maser, Tiffany Powers, Blanche DeBris, and Rochelle Stevens at 11:00 pm as they shout ole! Be sure to try one of Granny's tacos and the \$1.25 test tube shots of Tequila!

Sexx explosion tonight at Pacific Street. Get it hard, get it on and get in free tonight with your valid Club Houston or any other valid gym card. The towel boys dance in the cages of steam heat all night long! Pacific Street, where real men still dance.

Free wienies roasted today at Gentry. The grill glows at 3:00 pm. At 9:00 pm, wienies, I mean, the Boy Toy dancers take the stage!

The Ripcord kicks off the Fourth of July weekend with "It's a Redneck, White Light'N' Blue Collar." Tonight there are "red" wienies and Wonderbread from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Tomorrow features "white" Light'N' shots at \$1 a pop. Saturday offers "blue" Light'N' shots for \$1 a bang, and Sunday you can get your fill of \$1.50 well cocktails and domestic beer! Sounds like a great weekend at the Ripcord!

The Fourth of July parties kick off tonight at J.R. Video Bar. The Independence Day Blowout features \$3.75 on all top shelf liquor and \$2 for imported bottled beer. Tomorrow, J.R.'s has happy hour until 10:00 pm with ice cold doubles in big tall glasses. On Sunday, the 800 Pacific Block Party starts!



They read the Houston Voice at Gentry!

The Parade is Over, but the Trash is still here!



CJ at the Trading Post!

Other Important Stuff

Did anyone notice the great floral arrangements at the Grand Marshal's Reception held at the Venture-N last Tuesday? They were donated by Botanical Accents! Call them at 367-9638 if you need their services!

We would like to welcome Cortes Mexican Restaurant to our family. Cortes is located at 1512 W. Alabama (the old Kad's, Museum Restaurant location.) They open for breakfast every day at 7:30 am and have a private dining room available for parties up to 50 people. Be sure to tell them you saw their ad in the Houston Voice!

Red, white, and you! Heaven salutes this holiday weekend with 75¢ well cocktails and \$1.75 Miller products all night long on July 5. On Sunday, "International House" with DJ/VJ Shawn Byrne and 75¢ well drinks until 11:00 pm.

Mark your Brazos River Bottom calendar July 4 for a buffet, drink specials, and dance lessons; July 7 for a show by the Colt 45's; July 14 for the Christmas in July carnival; July 19 for Rick Stancil and his band; July 28 for the Garden Party and Denim party.

Check out the web page for Pacific Street. The address is <http://isis.iah.com/pacific-st/>. The Ripcord's address is <http://www.hic.net/ripcord/journal.htm>.



Girl's night out!



Toddy lights up the stars at the BRB!

Did you miss the parade? Were you on a float and did not get to see the parade! Just want it anyway? Call Matt Locklin at 902-2231. This year's Parade and Pride Fest are available on tape.

News flash! The Gentry "Social Club" is a place to meet new friends and dish your old ones! The "Social Club" is every day from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm and offers \$1.50 well cocktails, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, and \$3.50 Absolut Martinis!

Tickets are now on sale for "Poor Super Man," the controversial play by Brad Fraser. Call Theater LaB at 868-7516 for times and ticket info.

"Ten by Ten," ten short plays written by ten new playwrights, will be at Stages Repertory Theater opening on July 12. Ticket info is available by calling 707-5194.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Love Money" and "The Journey."

Photographer Steven David is looking for print ad models. If you are interested, call 787-0625.

Hanging out on street corners again? The "guys" and "gals" of the Garden Party invite you to the "Hooker's Ball" on July 28 at Heaven.

Tickets and this year's t-shirt are available at Basic Brothers!

Leather by Boots is moving into their new location on July 1. The new location is that old auto parts store on the corner of Crocker and Fairview. There is a grand opening bash on July 13!

Be sure to check out the Mary's ad on page 11!

Have you tried RockyJava yet? Well, they have mile-high sandwiches and a bunch of coffee flavors! RockyJava is located at 220 Avondale!

Birthday Corner

A happy birthday to retired Daddy of Montrose, King Father Marlene!

A happy birthday to Trudi of Alternative Visions!

Rodent Droppings



Devin and his Mom!

A friend of mine called last week to tell me he had seen a flyer for a Ferret Owners Club! Well, of course I called. Their next meeting is July 13. I can't wait!

Harvey and Ratrat have been a little more feisty than usual. This past weekend, I had both of the little creatures out in the living room! Ratrat was chasing Sally (our dog) around the room and lurching for her tail. I'm truly surprised that Sally did not bark, growl, or bite the little heathen. I don't know what got into him!

My disclaimer is in force! This is lies, gossip, and trash! Wanna dish one of your friends! Call me, I can keep a secret! Not! I never let the truth get in the way of a good story!

Ronnie (Garden Party): I'm sure glad you got such great news

this week!

Day-Leigh Edwards: I have a message for you: "You are the shining star atop the crown of life!"

Nicole Blake: I hear you did a great job hosting the Mr. Montrose Contest and you were great as Reba!

Brian Keever (TWT): And I quote: "I'm wearing 34's." and the rebuttal "Yeah, on both legs!"

Judy (BRB): The truck did not go straight to the BRB last Tuesday. It stopped at St. Anne's first to burn a candle for you!

Rainbo de Klown: And I quote: "All I wanted was a simple dress!"

Doug Lake (Houston Area Bears): Moink! Moink!

LuLu (E/J's): So, you "just get out of the tub" behind the bar?

JT (PS): So, how is the "Itchy and Scratchy" show going?

Tywonnn Onn (Maleman): I understand that your latest fling was caught with your roommate on the dining room table, and they were not having dinner!

John (Venture-N): Why is it that you could not remember how big Michael's wienie is? After all, you two have bathed

together!

Don (BRB): Why do you want to go to New Orleans without your husband?

Creath (Garden Party): Are you "doing" Curtis?

Bob (hangs at E/J's): No, you don't get paid for personality!

Glen (Gentry): How did you get warts from a bicycle seat?

Sam (BRB): I heard your cat took one look at you, packed, and left home! I bet your cat has mental problems!



Ronnie is the newest face at the Venture-N

John Paul (hangs at E/J's): You give head quietly, no pig noises?

Earl (OutSmart): I heard that you got quite a "leather etiquette" lecture last week!

John (BRB): Is that real hair on your legs, or did you glue it on?

Papa Del (Gentry): Is it true that you used to be a Snowball Queen?

Jim Roberts (Venture-N): I hear that you are developing a "cherry" habit!

John (VN) can fit 14! What about you?

Scott Lewis (Heaven): You can work miracles, darling!

Rod (Basic Brothers): Is it true that when you went to Hotel Riesner you had packed your pockets with condoms?

Ken (Daddy of Montrose): I hear that you lost an article of clothing at the Ripcord!

Mark (PS): A word of advice! Don't use your forehead to "z" the registers!

Nelly Kelly (Texas Riders): No, Mary's does not take the Lone Star card!

Devin (Mary's): Another birthday?

I hope all had a fulfilling Pride Week! Keep in mind that next year, the Pride Parade will be at night! I think Houston is the first city to hold a night time Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade!

TTFN

Cuervolyn



Vera, when she had hair, a waistline, and personality!



Boys will be boys!

RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Pasta anyone? I know I have given you a lot of pasta recipes lately, but it's sooo good, usually easy to prepare, and can also be used by those that are vegetarians. This lasagna dish I prepared, and I think it is quite good. I did alter the recipe a little, but I will give it to you the way the original is, and then I will tell you what I did differently. There really isn't that much altering that I did.

Classic Lasagna

- 1 (8 oz) package lasagna
- 1 (26 oz) jar Classico Pasta Sauce
- 1 pound Italian sausage (I used the hot Italian- it was not too spicy)
- 1 (15 oz) container Ricotta cheese-I used fat free
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 Tbs. parsley flakes
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. sugar
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Cook sausage for 20 minutes, drain fat, cut into small pieces and set aside. Cook lasagna strips according to package directions for parboiling, put drained strips in single layer on sheet of wax paper until ready to proceed with recipe. In a large bowl mix together the Ricotta cheese, egg, parsley flakes, nutmeg, sugar, salt and pepper to taste. To assemble lasagna-pour 1-1/3 cups sauce in bottom of 9x13 baking dish, then a layer of lasagna strips, 1/2 of the ricotta cheese mixture, Mozzarella cubes and sausage and another layer of lasagna strips. Repeat layers ending with final 1-1/3 cups of sauce. Sprinkle with 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese. Cover with aluminum foil and bake in 375 degree oven for 30 minutes. Remove foil and bake for 15 more minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting. Refrigerate leftovers. 6-8 servings.

To parboil: Bring 4 quarts of water to a boil, add 1 Tbs. salt (optional). Cook 7 or 8 strips together. Remove with slotted spoon and put in cold water to stop cooking action. Strips can be kept in cold water or drained and put in single layer on a sheet of wax paper until ready to proceed with recipe.

I added an 8 oz. can of tomato sauce to stretch the pasta sauce. I also used "barilla" and used the green & black olive sauce (very good). Also to the recipe I added non-fat cottage cheese, and sprinkled some Parmesan cheese into the Ricotta cheese mixture. The next time I prepare this I will increase the nutmeg slightly.

For something really different and interesting, you may want to serve the lasagna with a dollop of lard. Be sure to do this when still warm so it can run all over your plate!! Just kidding!!! Now Steve, here is a recipe that mentions lard. Next time you see the Kuntry Kidd, you will know what you are talking about!

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!
KUNTRY KIDD



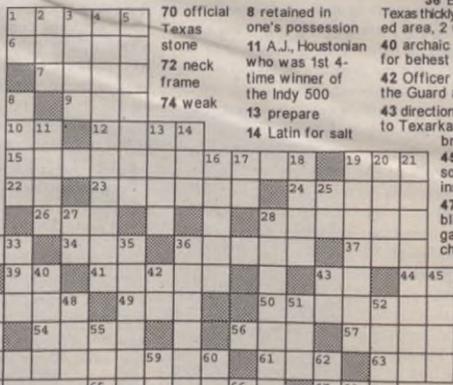
The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 not swans, not ducks
- 6 Texas county with New Braunfels as seat; like the head of a comet
- 7 months the O.J. trial lasted
- 9 waste cloth
- 10 way the letter



F is pronounced

DOWN

- 12 Imbibes
- 15 at the tip of Mustang Island, once known as Ropesville, 2 words
- 19 videocassette recorder
- 22 noun suffix for quality
- 23 American wildcat
- 24 Australian mammal
- 26 change hide into leather
- 28 deceived
- 29 state building built of donated pink granite
- 34 interjection for distaste or shock
- 36 to be suitable
- 37 IOU in a mirror
- 38 one skilled in healing arts, abbr.
- 39 20th century American author Hemingway, initials ("A man can be destroyed but not defeated.")
- 41 egg-shaped
- 43 Garden State,

- 44 Gold-en State, abbr.
- 46 used to coax pigs to run at Houston Rodeo
- 49 ??? on, urge to action
- 50 Montana group that staged an 81-day standoff
- 53 corrosive alkaline substance
- 54 pointed device for urging a horse forward
- 56 vacuum abbr.
- 57 slant
- 58 new hard-line Israeli prime minister
- 61 in India, the British rule prior to 1947
- 63 animal related to the horse
- 64 archaic spelling of woe
- 65 fan of someone
- 67 MAO in a mirror
- 69 cable TV old movies channel

- 70 official Texas stone
- 72 neck frame
- 74 weak
- 75 socially inept person
- 77 8-legged blood-sucking insect
- 79 Roman numeral 201
- 80 perform
- DOWN
- 1 22nd & 24th President of the U.S., initials ("Honor lies in honest toil.")
- 2 indefinitely long time
- 3 native ruler in the Middle East
- 4 Roosevelt organized the famous Rough Riders here, 2 words
- 5 mournful

- 8 retained in one's possession
- 11 A.J., Houstonian who was 1st 4-time winner of the Indy 500
- 13 prepare
- 14 Latin for salt
- 16 defeated by a small margin
- 17 abbr. for saint
- 18 brief stage play
- 19 airline that suspended operations June 18
- 20 could be a nickname for Cleopatra
- 21 extremists
- 25 the letter O plural
- 27 flying U.S. military branch, abbr.
- 28 Woody Allen's ex-beau, 2 words
- 30 V.P. Gore
- 31 objects of devotion
- 32 system of weights based on

- 33 necklace of flowers
- 35 commonplace; ordinary
- 36 East Texas thickly forested area, 2 words
- 40 archaic for behest
- 42 Officer of the Guard abbr.
- 43 direction Killeen to Texarkana, abbrev.
- 45 small social insects
- 47 gambling game of chance
- 48 water-ing place
- 51 original parent of NBC
- 52 MAIM in a mirror
- 55 Spanish for 'an' or 'one'
- 59 ancient country of the Ammonites
- 60 ancient city of Sumer in present-day Iraq
- 62 actress Crawford, born 1906 in San Antonio
- 66 time zone of D.C., abbr.
- 68 Grand Canyon State, abbr.
- 71 tablet of paper
- 73 feminine form of Eric
- 76 Roman numeral 800
- 78 set of tools or parts
- Solution elsewhere this issue
- c.1996 GULF FUTURES, PUZZLE TX165



GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 1996

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: This spring and early summer will bring lots of time to share with loved ones and friends, and time to advance in your career. You will accomplish much at work and your co-workers will have a positive influence on your career.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) There seems to be changes afoot in regards to something which seems almost like an institution. The results of such a change will only benefit you - be ready to say yes. There will also be changes on a personal level, so learn acceptance.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) New ideas need to be shared with others and improved during the week. Your plans may upset a few established folks, but the whole shakeup is long overdue. It may be time to give your primary love relationship a breather, love may not always overcome boredom.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) If you feel the need for quiet and solitude this week, make a few compromises to meet your responsibilities, but try to stay out of the limelight. You may have the tendency to be over generous when money is concerned, and this may end up leaving you short-handed.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Use all available resources during the week in the most economic way possible in order to reach your goal. You might have to do some juggling, but the end result will be well worth it. Others just may be amazed at how much you've done with so little. Reorganization is a key.

LEO (July 24- August 23) Diplomacy will no doubt be necessary later on this week if you want to preserve old friendships and support. If you assume a "better than you" attitude, it will definitely aggravate those around you. Even though perfection is required, it will be impossible.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Try to resist any type of manipulation or suggestion that will try to get you to give more time or money than you have. If you stand up for yourself it will give you a feeling of success which will have great impact on your confidence. Stay on equal footing with a loved one.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) You have lots to give and share with those you love. And this giving will create a sudden appreciation for family members and good friends. Doing your work this week because it is your duty and your job will bring about some marvellous results for you.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) Another's loss this week will definitely be your gain. Use your good fortune on substance and not fluff. Someone of authority can help you build a strong foundation for successful future plans. Wise management is going to be absolutely essential to accomplish what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) A love relationship may seem to be on the rocks during the week. Temporary separation may be needed to bring this coupling a happy ending. Your trust needs to be renewed, because old slights are very hard to forget. Share your ideas and problems with a close friend.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) Any investments this week, especially in the area of real estate or health will probably provide you with excellent returns. Make sure to communicate clearly with experts in these fields before making any decisions. Don't blame yourself for any financial difficulties.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) If you feel like you are sitting on top of the world this week, it is all thanks to your own efforts. Don't forget the hard work which has gotten you to this point. You need to remain diligent in order to stay in step with any future developments.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Memories may set you off during the week. Use what you have learned from them to help you with any present difficulties. Unrealistic expectations on your part may be to blame for feeling that someone close to you has let you down - give in a little.

For live horoscope reading see ad on page 17.

Personal Instructions

TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD:

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

response. This service costs \$2.00 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with the Houston Voice Personals.

TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE -

Call 1-900-454-3576 (\$1.49/min.). Listen to the instructions. You will then actually be listening to the advertisers recorded message and can leave a voice message with your name and number. You can respond to more than one personal during the phone call. As individuals check their messages, they can respond to yours. OR you can pre-pay a special 800 account, listen and respond without the cost appearing on your phone bill. Call 529-8490 for more information.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

To place a Houston Voice personal ad you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personals by calling the special 800 toll-free number. You must record, in your voice, your Ad. If you do not participate in the voice aspect, your ad may be discontinued without reimbursement. The voice message can be as simple as "You read the ad, leave a message" to complex and informative. The ads, both print and voice, can not contain references to sexual acts or organs (FCC et al. regulations). If you are having difficulty recording your message, phone 1-800-780-4947, for assistance. Ads should be positive, describe what you want, undesirable qualities/characteristics need not be listed.
G - Gay, M - male, F - female;
W - white; B - black;
H - hispanic, A - asian,
HWP - height, weight, proportionate,
DDF - disease, drug free

TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL:

Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address place. Place your sealed response and \$2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will affix a mailing label and the intended person will receive your

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According to the Simmons Market Research Bureau, our 600,000 Gay and Lesbian readers earn an annual average income of \$41,300, a 24 billion dollar market. Advertising in mainstream media is not enough to reach this loyal consumer group. Simmons discovered that 91.9% of our readers are likely to purchase a product or service advertised in our publications. For greater impact, target this dream market directly by advertising in the National Gay Newspaper Guild.

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HOUSTON
VOICE MAIL
 Letters to the Editor

Offended By Word "Queer"

FROM ORLIN CULLEVER

The reason I am writing this letter is maybe I am being sensitive, but I have been an OUT and GAY man since 1974. I really thought we had moved forward and left the bigotry of using words like "queer." I would expect to see/hear such a word from street persons or closed minded bigots in the fundamentally religious right. But not from within our own community. We have so many more things from which to heal than this.

I am a native Houstonian and remember well the time in High School when a fellow classmate called me a queer as I was walking down the hall. (He is now a detective in the Houston Police Department.) I would expect it from someone like him.

But times change. At my 20th class reunion he was the first person to come over and shake my hand.

I am sure I am not the only person that finds this offensive and look forward to your thoughts about this and other issues that can make us a better community.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Orlin, I'm sorry you take offense at my use of the word Queer. I am sending you via e-mail a copy of PASTOUT writer David Bianco's explanation of the use of "Queer." According to him, the term has been in use by some segment of the Lesbian and Gay community for at least 80 years. Most recently it has had popular usage among younger activists, most notably by the group Queer Nation. It is viewed as inclusive of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgendered people, and sometimes, supportive heterosexuals. The idea was to reclaim a pejorative term and use it in a positive sense. I hope you understand the spirit in which it was used. I appreciate your input. —db

More Controversy On Language

TO DEL MCGEE, VICTOR SABATER & "A CONCERNED READER"

Regarding your complaint about the language used in the article on the play *Poor Super Man* (June 21): Content of material used in the paper is at the discretion of the editor. The use of strong language (graphic, profane, cursing, etc.) in an article is not the standard of myself or this paper. The article was about a play which contains graphic images. It is acknowledged in the headline of that piece that the play is controversial and that the theater where it will be appearing also warns in its advertising flyers that it is "for adult audiences." Moreover, the language used is completely in context as a quote of the playwright. It was not used for shock value or as an advertising ploy, but more as a matter of artistic license. Normally a story that included language such as this would not appear on the front page (if at all), but as *The Houston Voice* is a sponsor of this production, it warranted front page coverage. So in this case, it falls into the "exception to the rule" category.

The words are contained within the article after fair warning to the reader of the type of material being discussed. Use of profanity is not appropriate for either display or written advertisement. The *Houston Voice* seeks to use attractive, well-designed ads that will be suitable and effective for our advertisers. Thank you for expressing your concerns and opinions, as well as your continuing support of *The Houston Voice*. —db

Thanks For Inclusion

FROM: PHYLLIS FRYE

I stopped at Mary's (Naturally) to get a copy of the "Voice" after the Pride Parade. I knew that you were going to inclusify the masthead, even so, this was the first I'd seen. As I walked down the sidewalk and read the word, transgender, in the masthead, I mentally reviewed over two plus decades of struggle and began to weep. It has been such a struggle to get the l-g-b community to do the same thing for us tg (trans-

gendered) folks that they demand the world do for them—recognize us and accept us openly and by name as part of the community. As our banner read in the Pride Parade, "We threw the first stones at Stonewall."

Thank you again for including transgenders in the title.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Matthew Pennington, our production manager, designed the new masthead. The decision to use inclusive language was made by the entire staff of *The Houston Voice*.

Thanks To Westmoreland Residents

FROM TOM RICHARDS

I want to thank the residents of Westmoreland Square Apartments on our First Annual Pride Party. We raised \$155 for the PWA and an additional \$58 for the Switchboard.

We of course wanted to raise more, but we realize that this was our first attempt. We are now planning on a Bigger and Better one next year. It was brought to my attention that perhaps we could have a block party and we will be looking into that possibility.

Our goal for this year is to raise \$2,500 for the PWA Coalition, as well as other organizations within our community.

Again, many thanks to Westmoreland Square for their show of love. And a special thanks to Keith Jermain for his help. For without it, our party would not have been the success that it was.

My promise to you is that year next will be beyond our wildest dreams. Check us out!

Thanks To HPD—letter To Chief Sam Nuchia

FROM GUUSJE MOORE

I am writing to commend the prompt response and actions of several of your officers on Friday, June 14, 1996. On that evening I had an unpleasant domestic disturbance at my house involving an ex-lover. I called 911 and 3 patrol cars arrived within 5 minutes.

It was obvious that all the women involved were Lesbians, yet the officers displayed not a hint of homophobia. They were all so kind and considerate and treated me with the same consideration as if it were a Heterosexual situation. There has been a lot of negative publicity regarding the Houston Police and the Gay & Lesbian Community, but I have nothing but praise for the way the affair was handled.

Thank you to the Houston Police Department for being there when I needed them.

Miss Camp Says Thanks!

The Program Committee and the Community Affairs Committee of Miss Camp America Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that attended our "First Kiss" event on Thursday, June 6th at the Arjang Galley. This event was a BIG success and we hope that it will continue to grow over the years to come. We would especially like to thank the following:

Past Miss Camp Americas for their willingness to help, as always! The Board of Directors and Trustees, The Community Affairs Committee Members, Miss Camp America's Membership, The Top Nine, Our Illustrious Queen; Randall Stripling, Our President; Perrie Dolph, Arjang Galley, Mandola's Liquors, Graphic Ink, and our 1996 designated charities: AIDS Foundation Houston—Stone Soup, The Assistance Fund, The Bering Care Center, Body Positive—Positive Program, and The NAMES Project—Houston, and especially the Program committee Members, Mark Brown, Troy Primeaux, A.J. Simpson, and Edwin Duran.

It is always a pleasure to hold an event and invite our community. Thanks for your continued support to Miss Camp America Foundation. Remember the number to call is 940-STAR for more information on Miss Camp America Foundation!



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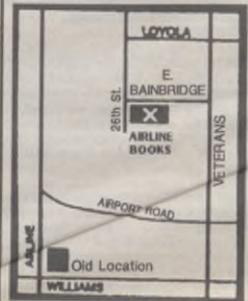
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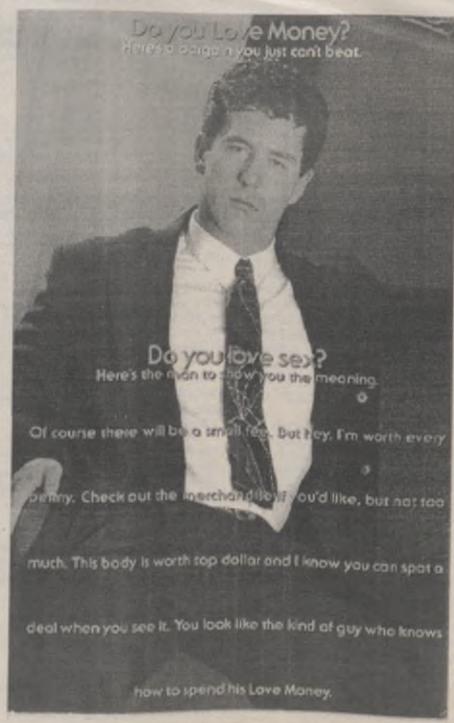
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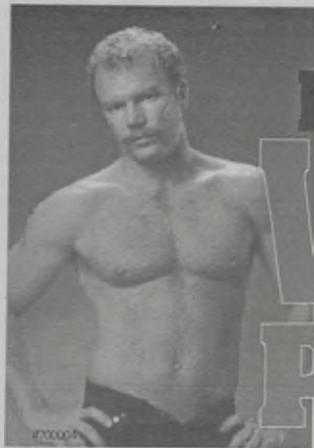
Of course there will be a small fee. But hey, I'm worth every penny. Check out the merchandise if you'd like, but not too much. This body is worth top dollar and I know you can spot a deal when you see it. You look like the kind of guy who knows how to spend his Love Money.

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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

SWF I'm 5'3", with blonde hair & brown eyes. I'm a professional in the health care field. I enjoy the beach, the woods, the theater, movies & different restaurants. I'm a soft butch. I'd like to meet some new friends. I enjoy the company of a feminine woman. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & smoke-free. Call Ext. 5119

SF I'm sexy, 21, 5'6" & 152 lbs. I'm bi-curious & in search of a sexy, bisexual female of any race. She should be 120-170 lbs, big-breasted & very elegant. Call Ext. 5117

SWF I'm 40, I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. 5114

SF Do you like dumpster diving, junking, camping or biking? I'm gainfully employed & looking for the same. She should be 35-50 & a non-smoker. No drugs. Call Ext. 5108

SBF I'm bi-curious & I've had all of the satisfaction I can get from a man. I'm 5'7" & 162 lbs. I have big lips & a small waist. I'm looking for a woman of the same build who has blonde or brunette hair, for a night of fun. Call Ext. 5105

SBF I'm lonely, 34 & 5'4". I have short, black, curly hair. I enjoy outdoor sports, biking, swimming & fishing. I play the drums. I'm looking for a single, feminine Black female who is serious about life. She should have career goals. Call Ext. 5092

SF I'm from England. I'm 5'2" & 32. I'm new to Houston. I'm looking for friends to hang out & spend time with. I enjoy the theater, films & more. I'm open-minded. If I'm lucky, I hope to find someone who is more than a friend. Call Ext. 5062

SF I'm a short 5'2" brunette who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dining out, the outdoors, bike riding, etc. I'm looking for friendship & to have a lot of fun with people. Call Ext. 5025

SF I'm 23, 5'2" & 93 lbs. I have very short brown hair & blue eyes. So, if you're looking for a cute GQ-looking little boy, it's me. Call Ext. 5048

SBF Kidnap me. Take me on a hot air balloon ride. Seeking a female. Race & age are not important. Call Ext. 5037

SF I am 36, 5'4" & 115 lbs. I have gray hair & hazel eyes. I like outdoor activities, camping, kayaking, canoeing, walking in the country & riding my motorcycle. I love animals. I like all music, except rap & hard rock. I'd like to meet someone 35-45, for friendship or dating. I'm not looking for a hard butch, but for a soft butch, androgynous or feminine woman. I would prefer to meet a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Light drinking is okay. Call Ext. 5020

Men SEEKING Men

SBM I'm a professional. I'm 36, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I'm looking for someone to spend some time with. I enjoy movies, listening to music, cooking & quiet nights at home. Call Ext. 5124

SM I'm a smooth, tan, muscular & good-looking 32-year-old. I'm 5'8" & 150 lbs. I have brown hair & hazel eyes. I'm healthy & active. I like sports, cars & outdoor activities. I'd like to meet a larger man who has a hunky, hairy physique. He should enjoy being a top. He should want a handsome, rear-submissive man. Call Ext. 5123

SM I'm 6'2" & 210 lbs. I'm looking for a hairy-chested top who would be interested in a lot of anal intercourse. Call Ext. 5115

SM I'm 27, 5'7", 155 lbs. & from Spain. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm looking for friends. I'd like to meet a blonde guy who is under 30. I'd prefer to meet a bottom. Must be straight-acting. Call Ext. 5113

SM I'm 5'6". I have blue eyes & blonde hair. I'm looking for a guy who is a jock. I like to give blow jobs. I enjoy anal sex, kissing & hugging. Call Ext. 5104

SM I'm 28, 5'6" & 128 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I enjoy music, cooking, wine tasting, walking on the beach & quiet nights at home. I'm an accounting professional seeking someone 30-40. A beard & a mustache are a plus. I'm hairless. I have a slight mustache. Call Ext. 5110

SBM I'm 26. Race is not important to me if it is not a problem to you. Give me a call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5087

SWM I'm 25, 5'11" & 198 lbs. I have masculine build, brown eyes, a military cut & a goatee. I'm straight-acting, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy working out, movies, reading & self-improvement. I'm in search of a stockily-built man who is masculine, with a goatee. He should enjoy being a top & be 25-35. Call Ext. 5103

SM I'm 5'9" & 160 lbs. I have dark hair & blue eyes. I'm a physical education teacher. I enjoy all sports. I'm looking for a masculine man who enjoys sports. Call Ext. 5118

SM I'm 25 & straight-acting. I'm ready to experiment with the bottom since I have been on the top. Give me a call. I'm looking for well-endowed Black men to have a good time with. Call soon. Call Ext. 5116

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 137 lbs. I have black hair & brown eyes. I'm very cute. I like dining out, movies, walking on the beach, jogging & going to the gym. Looking for a gay White male 20-38 who is height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5049

SM I'm 40, 5'6" & 155 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a mustache & a hairy chest. I'm a loving & caring, but demanding guy. My son must be young, handsome, healthy & masculine. He must be intelligent, self-supporting & willing to satisfy my every need. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5083

SAM I'm 32, 5'4" & 140 lbs. I'm looking for a single White male for a possible long-term, monogamous relationship. I would prefer to meet someone who is straight-acting. I'm outgoing & looking for the same. I'm organized, flexible, romantic & loving, with a strong personality. Call Ext. 5106

SM I'm 5'8" & height/weight proportionate. I'm in my 40's & relatively new to Houston. I have brown hair & blue eyes. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are my age. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5102

SM I'm 43, 5'10" & 175 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm a professional man in the administrative field. I enjoy a quiet lifestyle. I enjoy movies & dining out, to name a few things. I'm nice-looking, drug free & disease-free. I'd like to meet someone 30-45 who is masculine, with dark hair. Call Ext. 5101

SM I'm 32 & 200 lbs. I'm a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5095

SWM I'm a professional in my 40's. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & eyes. I'm darkly tanned & nicely shaped. I enjoy movies, cars, music & dining out. I'm in search of a younger Hispanic, Latin or Asian for dating which could lead to a monogamous relationship. I'm a social drinker & a non-smoker. I prefer the same. I have a lot to offer. Call Ext. 5099

SM Please give me a call. Call Ext. 5097

SWM I'm 35. I'm looking for a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5096

SM I'm 5'9" & 130 lbs. I'm masculine & outgoing. I'm looking for a Black man who would be interested in different cultures, since I come from Europe. He must be masculine & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5094

SWM I'm 45, 6' & 160 lbs. I'm healthy, down-to-earth & HIV-. I'm seeking an older Black male who is a non-smoker, for friendship. Call Ext. 5089

SM Where are you? If you are like me, you are getting tired of driving to the bars every Friday night to meet guys. I would like to meet some nice guys from this area. Call Ext. 5082

SHM I'm 31, 5'11" & 240 lbs. I'm seeking an older White male who is 55+, for discreet encounters. I'm disease & drug-free. I have nice legs. I like to kiss. Call Ext. 5085

SM If you know how to follow orders & you want to discuss possibilities, you can call me. Call Ext. 5018

SM I'm a hot, hunky bear cub looking for aggressive & demanding men who can satisfy me. If you are looking for a 220 lb. linebacker-type who is 6' & ready to serve you, give me a call. I will worship you. Call Ext. 5063

SM Can a high-grade guy like me, 6' & 182 lbs., find a super guy around here? I would like to find a friend & a top lover. You must be professional, sincere & normal. Must act straight & talk straight. I would prefer to meet someone 38-50. If you are out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5080

SWM I'm 6' & 150 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & brown eyes. I'm 38. I'm looking for guys who are into bare-bottom spanking. Call Ext. 5079

SM I'm 50, 6' & 180 lbs. I can walk & talk normally. I'm looking for other tops who are normal & who would want to meet me. Please leave me your phone number. Call Ext. 5078

SHM I'm 5'4" & 130 lbs. I have light skin, brown hair & hazel eyes. I have a semi-muscular build. I like playing tennis, movies & working out. I'm looking for a single White male 20-35 who has a semi-muscular build. Call Ext. 5075

SM I'm 31, 5'10" & 155 lbs. I'm seeking someone who is interested in having fun. I'm looking for someone who is not a bodybuilder, but who works out on a regular basis. He should be 5'10" or taller. A sense of humor & a sense of adventure would be great. Call Ext. 5072

SM I'm 19, 5'7" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are 18-30, I'm a college student. I have brown hair & brown eyes. Call Ext. 5069

SM I'm looking for a masculine man who is height/weight proportionate & 40-50, for a possible relationship. I'm 34, 5'11" & 145 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm easygoing, energetic & new to Houston. I would like to walk on a moonlit beach with someone special. Call Ext. 5067

SHM I'm seeking a 35-50-year-old White male. I would like to share ideas & more. I'm 35, 5'10" & 167 lbs. I have a mustache, black hair & brown eyes. If you are this White man, call me. Call Ext. 5066

SHM I'm seeking a one-on-one, monogamous relationship with a male who is older than I am. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have a swimmer's build. I work out on a weekly basis. I have short brown hair & medium-brown skin. I enjoy dancing, going out, staying home & cuddling. I'm a bottom. I'm seeking a 100% pure top. I'm seeking a 25-35-year-old male who is masculine. He must have a nice body & a nice personality. Call Ext. 5065

SM I'm 25 & 5'6". I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a gymnast's build. I'm looking for someone 25-35, for a long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5064

SBM I'm middle-aged, 6'1" & 190 lbs. I'm interested in meeting a height/weight proportionate, middle-aged White male 35+. He should want to get together for fun & a possible friendship. I'm not looking for a relationship. I'm looking for pure indulgence. I'm versatile. If you are healthy & masculine, give me a call. I would prefer to meet a versatile man, but at least someone who is capable of being a top. Call Ext. 5057

SM I'm a 39-year-old native Houstonian. I like dancing & 70's disco. I love hanging out & walking. I love art & writing. I also love festivals & politics. I'm a libertarian who is interested in global topics. I'm a Virgo & I'm really looking for a Taurus. Age is not important to me. I'm 5'5" & 120 lbs. Everyone says that I look about 10 years younger than my age. I can speak Spanish, I love French, German & other languages. Call Ext. 5052

SWM I'm 37, 5'8" & 160 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm in good shape. I play tennis & golf. I also enjoy watching basketball. I'm looking for a guy 30-45, who enjoys sports, movies, dining out & the theater. He must be employed & have direction in his life. Call Ext. 5060

SM I'm 50, 5'9" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for someone who likes to cuddle. I would like to meet someone who lives in the Waco or Houston area. Call Ext. 5054

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 135 lbs. I have brown eyes & black hair. I'm looking for a White male 24-30 who is handsome. Call Ext. 5051

SWM I'm 40. Seeking submissive men. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5050

SWM I'm a muscular, professional, endowed man. I'm 39, 5'10" & HIV negative. I enjoy bodybuilding, sports, the arts & romance. I'm seeking a long-term, monogamous relationship with someone who is honest, passionate, endowed & HIV negative. Please, no bar flies, smokers or one-nighters. A Black male is a plus. Call Ext. 5045

SM I'm a snowbird in Houston, Texas. I'm a snowbird in search of Texas cowboy snowbirds who are gay White males, gay Hispanic males, 21-41, non-smokers, drug & disease free & masculine. I'm looking for someone to share love & life with. I'm a gay White male who is 45, 5'9", 191 lbs., a non-smoker & disease free. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm an honest, caring & loving man. I enjoy movies, theater, country-western music, dining out & quiet evenings. Let's melt our lives together as soon as possible. Call Ext. 5039

SHM I'm 30-year-old, HIV+, single Hispanic male. I'm very healthy & active. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs., with a 29" waist. I have brown hair, dark eyes, long eyelashes, a goatee & a tan line. I'm looking for an honest & sincere Black top man who is 6' or taller & HIV+, preferably. I enjoy the outdoors, picnics in the park, walks along the beach, the indoors, watching movies, etc. Call Ext. 5044

SM I'm 35, stocky & 200 lbs. I have a goatee & brown eyes. I enjoy quiet dinners, movies & occasional nights at bars. I would like to meet someone who has a nice personality & who is fun to be with. Call Ext. 5041

SBM I'm 5'11" & 185 lbs. I'm looking for a Black male 20-30. Looking for a possible long-term relationship. I like going out & bowling. I also enjoy spending quality time at home. Call Ext. 5038

SM There is a memory that lives & flows through my veins. I'm looking for an attractive & muscular bottom. Can you help me? Call Ext. 5036

SM I'm 6'4". I have brown hair, blue eyes & a mustache. I'm nice-looking & masculine, with a football-player's build. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are 40 or younger, for a good time. Call Ext. 5036

SHM I'm 32, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I have black hair & light brown eyes. I love the outdoors, sports, cooking & dining out. I'm full of joy. I'm seeking a White male for friendship or a possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5055

SWM I'm a masculine White male who is 40, 5'6", 140 lbs. & HIV-. I'm looking for Black males who are preferably feminine. Call Ext. 5035

SWM I'm 40, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. I'm looking for a Hispanic or Black male who is 35-50, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5034

SM I am 5'10" & 185 lbs. I am well-built & good-looking. I'm looking for men who are 30-45. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5016



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HOUSTON VOICE *Personals*

LOOKING FOR A TALL GUY

Well built GWM, over 6', HWP, DDF/NS, 40's seeks aggressive G/B/H/M of similar size. You are HIV-, HWP, 35-50, employed professional and know what you want. I'm discreet, masculine, well-dressed, stable and employed. Also romantic, versatile and attractive. Brown/brown/mustache. Inside the loop home owner. All responses answered promptly. Ad 25759

ATTENTION -NUDIST

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

BOYISH & SMOOTH

GWM, 28, HIV+ seeks GM over 30 for friendship, dating, and more. Interests include boating, bicycling, video games. Prefer large, endowed, hairy men. Photo please. Ad 25771

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs, stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bear, linebacker, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Preferly daily challenged encouraged. Reply. Thanks! Ad 25777

HISPANIC WANTED

GWM 34, black hair/brown eyes, 180 lbs, attractive masculine looking, great sense of humor, down to earth, enjoys dancing, movies - a true romantic ISO a very cute hispanic male who has a smooth swimmer's build, great personality and who is looking for a best friend and lasting relationship. Ad 25769

TICKLE-BONDAGE

Do you want to play? Reciprocation okay. You, Masculine white, oriental, or hispanic. Average or above average looks, HWP Ages 18 through 45. Sex not necessary so non-gays welcome. Me: Handsome GWM, masculine, HWP, 185#, 5'11", good body, 42" chest, 32" waist, nice legs, brown hair, med body/chest, brown arms. Strong hair, creative mind, good sense of humor. Mail preferred. Ad 25776

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN ISO AMERICAN STUD

Very handsome European, 5'10", 165 lbs, nice body, HIV-, masculine, very sexy & hot, seeks good looking bi-males for fun times & more. You must be good looking, nice body & "big", dominant, straight acting, age 20-40. I'm looking for American honky-tonk, com-fed type. I'm 29 yrs. old & ready to satisfy. Ad 25760

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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

WANTED: BOY

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

GIVING MY HEART

GWM attractive, spiritual, realistic, looking for new contacts for friendship and future romance. Discover within this loving heart the great chances of meeting, talking, and sharing with me the magnificent gift of all times LOVE. Respond soon, letters are greatly appreciated. Ad 25756

LONELY GEM

31, 5'7", 135#, seeks GW or GWM for life-mate, monogamous relationship. Must be honest, sincere, 32+ year of age. I'm HIV-, short black hair. Enjoy travelling, being adventurous. You must be the same and very fit. No games. Photo please. Physical must be terrific. Ad 25739

NO STRINGS -NO RINGS

GWM, 31, 5'10", 155, seeking someone who doesn't want or desperately need to be married but would like to just have fun. I would prefer someone who isn't necessarily a bodybuilder, but at least works out on a regular basis as I do. If you have a positive attitude and a sense of humor, I would like to hear from you. Written responses with phone numbers preferred. Ad 25768

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

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

GO FOR IT!

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

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

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

UNCLE SEEKS NEPHEW

GWM, 60, 5'8", 300, br/bl bearded, BOY/GM seeks 20s-40s any race TOP nephew-friend. Honesty-sincerity prime factor rather than physical attributes. Let's share respect, love, active physical-social relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, shopping, travel, beaches, cooking, dining in/out and the company of an affectionate nephew or chubby chaser. Letters preferred (photo appreciated). Ad 25775

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

I can't be defined in a personal ad. It's merely an introduction. You must listen to my voice, look into my eyes, feel the gentle touch of my hand to truly get to know me. I am a man who enjoys being with a man. I'm 31 GBM who sports goatee and short hair. I'm employed, have several other interests and there's a bit more to me than meets the eye. Want to find out how much more, drop me a detailed letter. My only request is that you are attractive, sexy, intelligent and compassionate. I have a slight preference to fuzzy navels and goatees. C'mon, cross over. Ad 25755

SPECIAL BOTTOMS, GIVE ME A CALL

Submissive? Provide dedicated service and do it right? Take instructions and behave obediently? Boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline? Enjoy it all and more? Need put in your place with a demanding top? If serious GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, you call now! Ad 25653

QUALITY MAN...

That's what I want. Dark complexion, Middle East/Mediterranean a big plus. Me: GWM, 160lbs, average looks, 5'8", 155 lbs, good looking. You: Masculine, "addiction-free", SERIOUS. I'm educated, professional, stable, healthy, great morals/values. Desire same. Letters preferred; all answered. Take a chance; let's talk, meet, dance. Photo gets mine. Ad 25694

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

I'm in my 40's, married, 5'10", 160lbs, average looks, DDF, clean, top-out-discreet. Ad 25598

LET ME MAKE YOUR HEART SMILE

I'm 5'10", 165 lbs, extra nice legs, warm smile, big heart with lots of love to offer if our chemistry is right. I'm open to all inquiries, but prefer 25-35 bottom with smooth skin as I have a hairy chest. Now please note I'm also HIV+, but very healthy, active & loving. Please give me a chance & I promise you won't be disappointed. Prefer mail response. Ad 25754

EAST SIDE GWM SEEKS FRIENDS/POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

I am 35, 5'8", 145, brown hair, blue eyes, healthy, HIV-, happy, well built, attractive, masculine, and successful with strong work ethic. Interested in movies, music, plants, pets, dance, intimate evenings, versatile "top." Seeking HIV-honest, sincere, attractive, healthy, financially stable GM with strong work ethic for friendships and possibly loyal, long term monogamous relationship. Not looking for someone well endowed, just intelligent with a kind heart. Send photo -mail responses preferred. Ad 25750

GHM, 31, 5'11", 170, BLACK HAIR/BROWN EYES

My interests are cooking, working out, jogging, sports, the outdoors and gardening. I would like to spend time with that special man. Oh, by the way, it's so hard to meet men in Houston who are honest and sincere. I am seeking GWM for friendship/relationship. I have a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25763

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

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

GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

Attractive GWM physician, 35, 5'10", 160, new in town, seeks boy 18-24 with interest in light S/M, B/D. Very understanding and patient. If you ever thought of getting into "leather" with a gentle but firm master, give me a call. Ad 25744

POSITIVE MIND, BODY & SOUL

Extremely handsome Gay Latin Male, 34, 5'6", 165#, bk/bw, mustache is currently seeking special friend. Me: Financially stable, very healthy, swimmers build, smooth body, versatile bottom, romantic, honest, passionate with high pos. attitude & self esteem, easy going man with great sense of humor & sensitivity. You: GWM 28-45, 5'8" plus, HWP, good looking, financially stable & healthy versatile top. If you've been searching for a man above average, with similar values & sincerity, here's your chance! No feds or drugies. Letters preferred, photo requested. Ad 25748

FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE ...

are searching for you. All female SM8D/fetish social group. We might have the answers to your questions. Ad 25736

GWM PROFESSIONAL

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

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

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

TWICE THE FUN!

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

KIDNAP ME

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

EUROPEAN GUY

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

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

AFFECTIONATE TEDDY BEAR WANTS CUDDLY CUB

GWM, 56, 6'2", 285, big bear, professional, clean cut seeks loving cub for companion, fun, and a devoted monogamous relationship. I want what I am: sincere, loyal, sense of humor, honest, masculine, caring, sensitive, trusting, lots of TLC, respect, genuine and unlimited passion. Interests: Movies, art galleries/museums, dining out, quiet evenings at home, and lots of candlelight conversation and sharing. Discreet, NS, and DDF U B 2. If you can relate, please respond. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25745

WANTED: WHITE MALE

Indian male, 30, attractive, very shy and not into an active gay lifestyle. DDF, enjoys hiking, sports, long drives in the country, quiet evenings at home, interesting conversation and an overall active lifestyle. ISO white male over 35 with similar interests for long term monogamous relationship. Looks not important. Let's exchange letters and photo. Ad 25752

FULL SERVICE BOTTOM WANTED

Should be compulsive GM whose needs can only be met by one-to-one relationship with mature, stable GWM top. Prefer slim, quiet type, but am not racist or ageist. I am 6'2", 175, brown hair & eyes, DDF, mature, stable and like quiet times with compulsive bottom rather than bars. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25773

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE

Looking for someone to share life with me. A home, pets and comfortable closeness. Would like monogamous, almost platonic relationship. Tired of dinner alone? Respond. Maybe we can both finally "exhale." Please be over 30 years. Photo will get mine. Ad 25757

WANTED: BLACK MAN

GWM, 29, 5'5", well proportioned, hazel eyes/dark blond hair, and big smile. I love outdoors, cooking, walking, movies, novels, and working out. Most of all I love to spend quality time with someone special. I am honest, caring and sincere. I would like to meet a GBM, 29-45, who is single, funny and charming, but most of all has a sense of possibly meet give me a call. Maybe you can add a little laughter to my life. Ad 25770

DAD WANTED (FOR REAL)

Loving, professional, attractive white lesbian couple seeking a willing, loving, giving GWM or couple who wants to share and enjoy the gift of parenthood. Joint custody or custody to the lesbian couple with visitation rights for the male frequently. We love children and want to bring one into this world. Share in the joy! Ad 25765

WANTED: MASCULINE WHITE MALE COMPANION

HIV-Negative, 18-45, not overweight, to play dominoes, cards, ETC. 10am-2pm, weekdays, in my home. I am divorced masculine WM, 5'11", 155# ("skinny"), 40+ short brown hair, receding hair line, brown eyes, glasses, clean-shaven, smooth. Will exchange (revealing) photos. I have a Polaroid. Mail responses preferred. Immediate reply. Ad 25766

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

TOPS LOOKING FOR SEX TOY

Two GWM lovers, both tops, one 42, one 26, trim, HWP, seeking a rear end submissive bottom for three way - just plain trashy fun. Mail responses preferred or phone. Ad 25709

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

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

PARENTING, ANYONE?

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

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED EXCEPT YOU!!!

GWM executive, 40, 5'10", 170, attractive, seeks special guy for serious dating relationship. Enjoy movies, theater, dining out, quiet romantic evenings. Prefer mature younger guy, 24-30, who needs that special person to make their life complete. If you think you deserve the best, call. Humble/Kingwood area a plus! Ad 25741

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

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

WHERE'S MY EMILIO?

GWM, 29, 5'10", 198 lbs, brown/hazel, HIV-, non-smoker. Likes to travel, movies, eating in or out, C&W and top 40 music, animals, anything outdoors, hunting and fishing, shopping, going to the beach, and especially cuddling. Looking for a GWM w/similar interests. Letters preferred. Photo appreciated, but not necessary. Ad 25774

MAN OF PASSION

Hi quality GWM, 6'1", 178, 38, brown/blond, stable professional, healthy, honest, adventuresome, fun, intelligent, passionate, warm heart and soul. HIV-. I'm looking for one GWM who is 30-45ish, HIV-, stable, reasonably well adjusted, and compatible. I hope to share excitement, laughter, support, intimacy and growth. Ad 25720

LISTEN TO THE WIND BLOW

WATCH THE SUN RISE. GWM, good looking and professional seeking soul mate. Come out of hiding and enjoy the good life! Two males together can form a synergism and conquer the world. What are you waiting for? Ad 25761

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Professional GWM, 49, blonde-blue, clean shaven, 5', 185, swimmers body. I.S.O. part-time play buddy. You are good-looking, 30 to 50, HWP, drug free, without hangups. CALLS ONLY. Ad 25704

IF YOU KNOW...

Drop an envelope, me. I am 46, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

CARING FUNNY & GOOD-LOOKING

Attractive & muscular, GWM, 38, 5'8", 175, HIV+, masculine, smooth skin, and clean shaven with dark brown hair and green eyes. I am a romantic, very healthy, active and love the outdoors. I'm a versatile bottom and prefer a masculine, lean or muscular, top with a hairy chest, mustache or beard a plus. Prefer mail response. Ad 25767

SEEK SUBMISSIVE OLDER WHITE MEN

Oriental male looking for submissive older white men. Possible long term. I'm 34, 5'6", 160#, clean, discreet and HIV-, aggressive and HIV-, demanding. Letters preferred. Phone and photos a plus. Let's fulfill both of our fantasies. Ad 25737

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

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



THE CLUB HOUSTON

2205 Fannin (713)659-4998

JULY 4th

FOUR DAY WEEKEND

POOL PARTY

THURSDAY ★ FRIDAY ★ SATURDAY ★ SUNDAY

Poolside Catered Buffet
Ice Cold Beverages Poolside
Water Volleyball
Door Prizes

1:00PM - 3:00 PM

Private membership club. Not open to the general public.