

The infamous Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, helped open the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival with a sneak preview of her latest flick.
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INSIDE



Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, joined a chorus of gay activists in denouncing a new report from the Family Research Council.

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House Majority Leader Dick Army stalls a bill to make domestic partners of law enforcement officials able to qualify for federal death benefits.

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Alley Theatre's production of 'The Invention of Love' offers a stellar cast including Philip Lehl, Ty Mayberry and Jamison Stern.

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Death penalty case to be retried

U.S. Supreme Court refuses to wade into case of gay man on Texas death row

By MIKE FLEMING

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to intervene in an ongoing case of a gay Texas death row inmate whose lawyer slept through portions of his 1984 capital murder trial.

The high court decision told Texas authorities to either retry Calvin Burdine or set him free. Burdine was found guilty of murdering his male lover during a 1983 domestic dispute in the trailer home they shared.

"He's in a real good position to retry," said Roe Wilson, who handles capital case appeals for the Harris County District Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case.

Burdine originally confessed to the crime, but has since said he did not commit the killing and tried to stop the killer, a man who has already served a prison sentence for his role in the slaying.

The Supreme Court rejected an appeal from Texas authorities, who argued that the inattention of Burdine's lawyer, Joe Cannon, did not necessarily equal an unfair trial. Cannon is deceased.

But Burdine should not be retried for capital murder, according to Robert McGlasson, a Decatur, Ga.-based attorney who's been handling Burdine's death penalty case.

"The state of Texas should not be allowed to retry the case, especially as a

capital murder," McGlasson said. "The state of Texas took almost 20 years defending a case that no conscientious person could have rationally defended. They took a gamble defending his case and they lost.

"As a result, they should lose their right to retry this as a capital case," McGlasson added. "We'll be raising this if the state doesn't make its own unilateral decision."

Burdine has been on death row since February 1984, 10 months after his live-in lover, W.T. Wise, was found fatally stabbed in their Houston home. Burdine, then 30, confessed but now contends an accomplice killed Wise, 50, stabbing him in the back twice with a hunting knife while Burdine tried to talk him out of it.

"I was involved," Burdine has said. "I did

Please see BURDINE, on Page 6

MCC allowed convicted molester as clergy

Gay denomination cites 'zero tolerance' on sexual abuse and misconduct, but cases in two states highlight sexual ethics questions

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

Barely a year after the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches defrocked the lesbian founder of an Atlanta church for alleged misconduct with a 43-year-old woman, officials with the gay denomination acknowledge they allowed the ordination of a man who pled guilty to molesting a 15-year-old boy.

News that MCC ordained Rev. James Forsythe, with full awareness of the conviction that took place in 1989 when he was a Catholic priest, became public in mid-May.

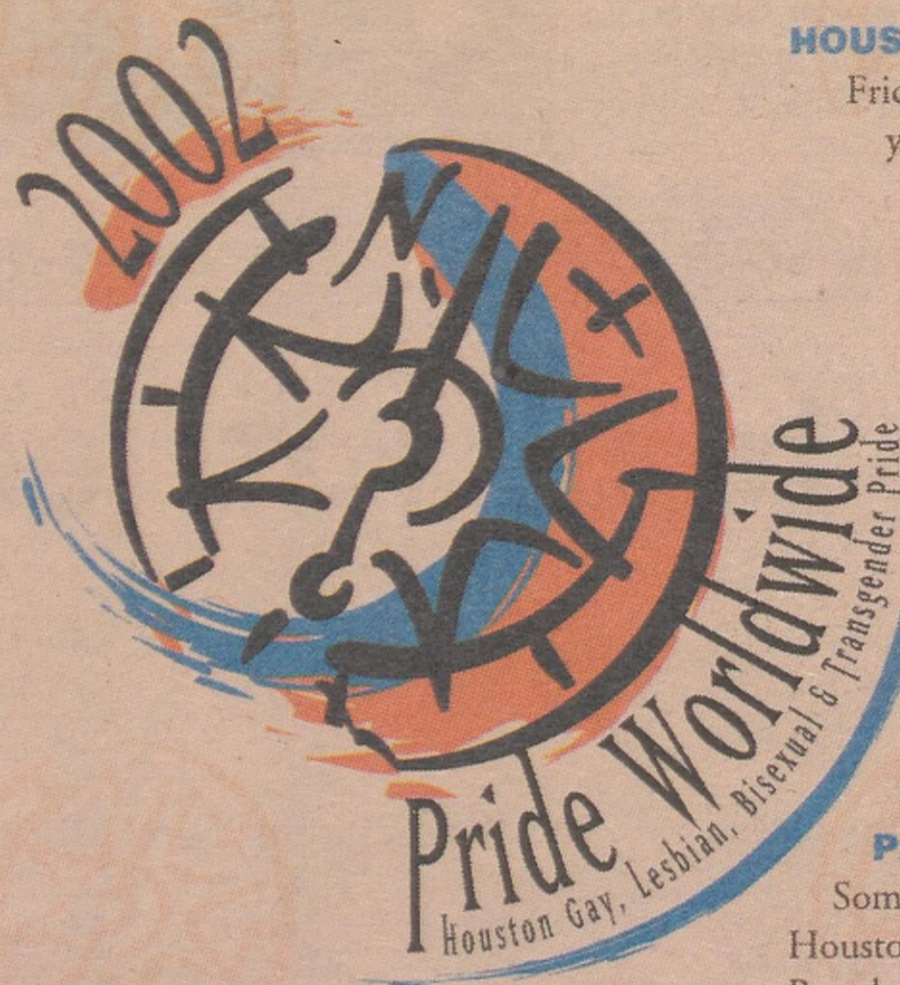
The story broke in a Kansas City



The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches ordained James Forsythe (right) despite his conviction on a child molestation charge, while the gay denomination defrocked Glenna Shepherd when she was suspected of a sexual relationship with an adult that she briefly supervised. (Photo of Forsythe by Rapid City Journal; photo of Shepherd by Cindy Sproul; photo illustration by John Nail)

Please see ZERO TOLERANCE, on Page 6

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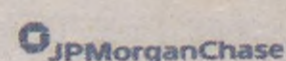
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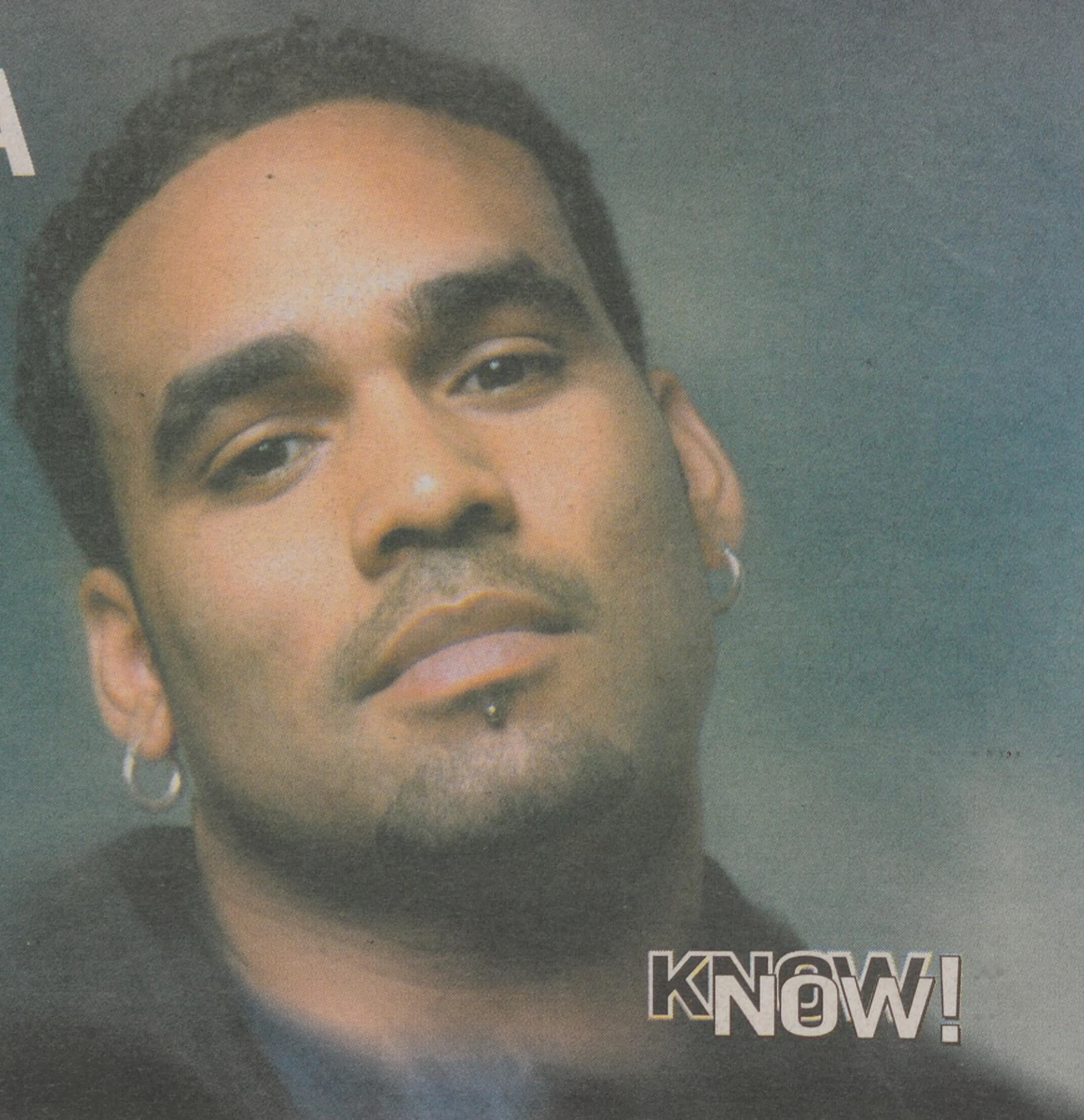
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national news

Pedophilia report draws backlash from gay critics

Gay leaders describe Family Research Council paper on homosexuality and pedophilia as 'political propaganda'

By RHONDA SMITH

WASHINGTON — The Family Research Council issued an eight-page report May 30 alleging "a disturbing connection" between homosexuality and pedophilia, prompting a swift round of denunciations from gay-rights advocates.

The paper, titled "Homosexuality & Child Sexual Abuse," cites scientific studies and reports addressing various aspects of sexuality and pedophilia, and its author concludes that disproportionate numbers of gay men seek adolescent males or boys as sexual partners. The report contained 76 references to studies and commentaries intended to support the anti-gay organization's claims.

"Many parents have become concerned that children may be molested, encouraged to become sexually active, or even 'recruited' into adopting a homosexual identity and lifestyle," wrote Timothy J. Dailey, the paper's author and a senior writer and analyst for cultural studies at



Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, denounced the Family Research Council's report as 'misleading' and 'hateful.'

the Family Research Council. "Gay activists dismiss such concerns — in part, by strenuously insisting that there is no connection between homosexuality and the sexual abuse of children.

While predominant research shows the majority of child molestation cases are heterosexual in nature, Dailey argues that "the evidence indicates that homosexual men molest boys at rates grossly disproportionate to the rates at which heterosexual men molest girls."

Dr. Jack Drescher, chair of the American Psychiatric Association's Committee on Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Issues, described the report as a "public relations measure designed for political purposes." He also noted that the Family Research Council is

not a scientific organization.

"The current scientific thinking is that there is no linkage between pedophilia and homosexuality," he said. "Homosexuality and pedophilia are thought to be two separate types of sexuality."

Drescher also said a male pedophile who molests male children is not necessarily a gay man, because homosexual pedophiles can be married to women.

Gay civil rights organizers at the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force said the information presented in the Family Research Council paper is highly distorted — not because it makes reference to various scientific studies, but because Dailey used certain parts of the studies to draw conclusions that the original authors did not make.

"The American people must recognize this so-called report for what it truly is: nothing more than hateful, pathetic, and misleading propaganda that has little to no basis in fact," said Lorri L. Jean, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Bill Murray, a spokesperson for the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., declined interviews.

Wayne Besen, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, described the report as "an incredible misrepresentation and distortion of the science."

"The basic problem with their research is that they [identify] every adult male who

had sex with a male minor as gay. But many identify as heterosexual or married," he said. "That should bring them to the complete opposite conclusion."

The Human Rights Campaign issued a fact sheet on sexual orientation and child sexual abuse that cites various studies that conclude there is no connection between the issues. The fact sheet states that a 1994 study by Dr. Carole Jenny, a researcher in Rhode Island, concluded that "a child's risk of being molested by his or her relative's heterosexual partner is 100 times greater than by someone who might be identified as homosexual."

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force also has a fact sheet that clarifies the difference between homosexuality and pedophilia.

"When a man abuses a young girl, the problem is not heterosexuality. Few would characterize such abuse as a heterosexual act similar to consensual sex between an adult man and woman," it states. "Similarly, when a priest sexually abuses a boy or under-age teen, the problem is not homosexuality. The problem is child abuse."

The HRC fact sheet says that the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Academy of Child Psychiatrists and the Child Welfare League of America all have policy statements that say there is no correlation between homosexuality and child abuse.

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national news

DP bill for law enforcement stalls in House

GOP leader holds measure named after gay priest killed on Sept. 11

by LOU CHIBBARO JR.

WASHINGTON — House Majority Leader Dick Armey on May 22 put a hold on a bill that would allow the domestic partner of a police officer, firefighter or other public safety officer killed in the line of duty to receive a federal death benefit payment through a program created by Congress in 1968.

Rep. Donald Manzullo (R-Ill.) introduced the legislation last November to enable a broader category of survivors of public safety officers killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to receive a \$250,000 death benefit payment that is limited under a 1968 law to surviving spouses, children and parents.

Manzullo and Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), the bill's only co-sponsor, named the bill after gay Catholic priest Mychal Judge, the chaplain for the New York City Fire Department who died Sept. 11 after being struck in the head by falling debris from the World Trade Center. Judge had been administering last rites to a firefighter who died from injuries sustained at the disaster site.

The bill does not specifically mention domestic partners. Manzullo has said his objective in introducing the bill was to make sure public safety officer chaplains like Judge — who are not married and don't have children or surviving parents — are not excluded from the provisions of the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, which provides a one-time federal death benefit to law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

But Rich Carter, Manzullo's press secretary, said Manzullo knew that wording the bill in a way that allows survivors of unmar-



A bill providing death benefits to domestic partners of law enforcement officers has been stalled in the House by Majority Leader Dick Armey, who cited cost concerns. (Photo by AP)

ried chaplains to qualify for death benefits under the 1968 statute would also open up the benefits program to non-traditional survivors of all public safety officers, including same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partners.

Carter said Manzullo has no objection to broadening the program in this way, although his main objective was to make sure chaplains who lose their lives while ministering to firefighters or other public safety officers aren't excluded.

Carter noted that in Judge's case, the law was ambiguous about whether Judge's two surviving sisters could qualify. Judge never married, had no children and outlived his parents. The U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance, which administers the program, eventually decided to allow Judge's sisters to receive the death benefit payment, according to a House committee report that accompanies the Manzullo-Nadler bill, called the Mychal Judge Police & Fire Chaplains Public Safety Officers' Benefit Act of 2002.

But the report says that the proposed bill, HR 3297, would remove any ambiguity over whether someone like Judge is eligi-

ble and would ensure that decisions on who should receive the benefit are not based on the subjective or biased opinions of a bureaucrat at the DOJ.

Under the Manzullo-Nadler bill, the DOJ would continue to give priority to spouses and children of fallen public safety officers. But if neither of these two family members survived any public safety officer — not just chaplains — the death benefit would be paid to the individual designated by the deceased public safety officer "as beneficiary under that officer's most recently executed life insurance policy," the report says.

It says in the event that no such individual was named in an insurance policy, the DOJ would next award the payment to the public safety officer's parents.

Manzullo and Nadler chose the life insurance policy as the means through which to broaden the categories of beneficiaries, Carter said, because virtually all police and fire departments provide life insurance coverage to their members as part of an employee benefits package.

Armey has said he removed the Manzullo-Nadler bill from the House legislative calendar because he wanted to study all issues involved following a decision by the Justice Department to oppose the bill. The DOJ said it opposes the measure on grounds that it would cost too much to broaden the category of beneficiaries for death benefit payments.

Carter and Eric Schmeltzer, Nadler's press secretary, said no one has publicly cited the domestic partner angle of the bill as a reason for opposing it. But the New York Post reported on May 23 that sources on Capitol Hill told the newspaper that some lawmakers objected to the bill's "recognition" of domestic partners.

The bill passed in the Senate earlier this year by a unanimous voice vote, without debate, demonstrating it enjoys widespread, bipartisan support, Schmeltzer said.

Schmeltzer and Carter noted the bill sailed through the Republican-controlled House Judiciary Committee on April 9 by a unanimous vote, indicating it enjoys similar support in the House.

Bill sponsors remain hopeful

Manzullo and Nadler believe opposition by Armey and other GOP leaders in the House can be resolved through negotiation and that the House will soon pass the bill, the two press secretaries said.

Armey's office did not return a call seeking comment.

The Manzullo-Nadler bill retains the provisions of the 1968 law in determining the circumstances under which a survivor of a public safety officer would be eligible for the death benefits payment. The 1968 statute says the public safety officer must have died while responding to a fire, rescue or policy emergency while employed by a legally recognized public safety agency such as a police or fire department.

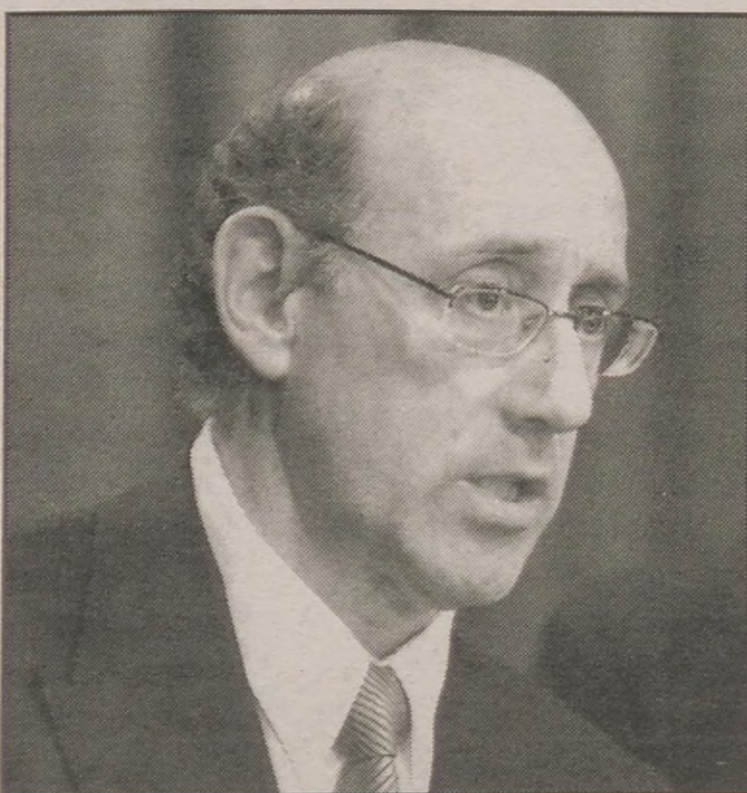
The death benefit program established under the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control & Safe Streets Act, and the changes proposed under the Manzullo-Nadler bill, are not part of a federal victims compensation fund that Congress created last year for all survivors of those who died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Schmeltzer, Nadler's press secretary, said Nadler remains hopeful that House Majority Leader Armey will soon agree to allow the full House to vote on the Manzullo-Nadler bill.

"The congressman takes Leader Armey at his word that he pulled the bill based only on the concerns raised by the Justice Department over the costs," Schmeltzer said.

"However, if anyone in the Republican leadership now or in the future decides to play on people's bigotry by using the gay and lesbian card to oppose this, that would be a new political low," Schmeltzer said.

N.Y. law backs Sept. 11 domestic partners



By INGA SORENSEN

NEW YORK — Gov. George Pataki signed into law May 21 a measure designed to ensure that surviving family members, including same-sex partners, of Sept. 11 victims receive benefits.

The legislation, which is the first New York state law to recognize domestic partners, unanimously passed the state's legislature before being signed by the Republican governor; it takes effect immediately.

Among the measures in the legislation is one that makes federal victim compensation fund awards exempt from New York state taxes. The language included in the legislative intent section of the bill specifies that the legislature would like for same-sex partners to be eligible for federal fund awards.

The U.S. Department of Justice has previously declined requests by gay advocacy groups to add language recognizing the eligibility of domestic partners in its

final regulations governing a multimillion-dollar federal compensation program for survivors of the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The final DOJ regulations, released March 7, leave it up to state probate laws to decide which survivors are eligible for a federal compensation payment that could exceed \$1 million or more. Except for Vermont and Hawaii, state probate laws don't recognize domestic partners.

Kenneth Feinberg, the attorney named by President Bush to administer the compensation program, has said he would exercise his authority to overrule state law if he believes an "injustice" would occur if a gay partner were denied compensation under the program.

"I do have a provision in the regulations that allows me, on rare occasions, to prevent an injustice by allocating the federal money regardless of what state law says," Feinberg said in a March interview.


The Sept. 11th Victims & Families Relief Act was introduced May 1 by Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, a Democrat, Republican Gov. George Pataki, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, a Republican, and Democratic Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Gay groups hope the language in the legislative intent part of the bill provision will provide Feinberg an additional basis in law to distribute federal fund awards to surviving same-sex partners living in New York.

Ross Levi, legislative counsel of the Empire State Pride Agenda, a statewide lesbian and gay civil organization, said the provision is important because Feinberg has said he will defer to state law when making determinations of awards for surviving same-sex partners.

According to ESPA, of the 21 known surviving lesbian and gay partners of Sept. 11 victims, 11 live in New York and could be helped by this language.

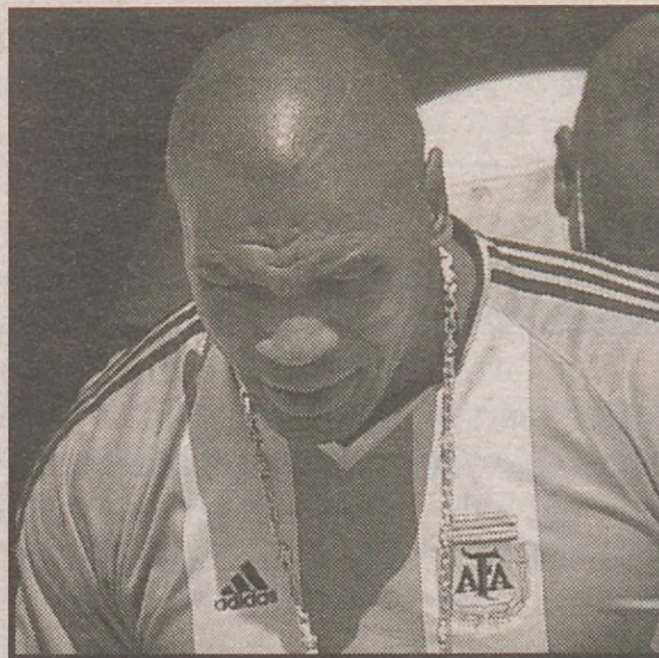
Gay rights advocates in New York hope a new measure will persuade Kenneth Feinberg, special master for the Sept. 11 federal victim's compensation fund, an additional basis in law to distribute federal fund awards to surviving same-sex partners living New York. (Photo by Rick Bowmer/AP)



around the nation

Tyson target of gay protests as Tenn. fight nears

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Boxer Mike Tyson hugged a gay demonstrator outside a fitness center on June 2 where protesters were shouting “stop homophobia” at him. Tyson is in Memphis this week preparing to fight Lennox Lewis on Saturday at the Memphis Pyramid. “I was shouting ‘stop homophobia’ and holding up my sign, and then he just came up and hugged me and said he wasn’t homophobic,” said Jim Maynard, vice-chair of Equality Tennessee and one of three demonstrators. “I was totally shocked.” Tyson signed autographs for approximately 20 people and then went inside for his workout. After Tyson finished his session, he got in the vehicle, rolled down the window and said, “Listen. Listen. I’m not homophobic; I told them I’m not homophobic. So if I use a homophobic term... I’m not homophobic.” Tyson also joked about the protests when he arrived at another training session the next day. “Where are my homosexual friends?” he asked. At a news conference in New York in January, Tyson launched into an obscene tirade in which he called a reporter a “faggot” and threatened to rape him.



Mike Tyson, who in January called a reporter a ‘faggot,’ embraced a gay protester in Tennessee this week. The boxer then said he wasn’t homophobic. (Photo by AJ Wolfe/AP)

Turnout for embattled Calif. AIDS Ride suffers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Organizers of the California AIDS Ride said this week that a competing ride and a lawsuit claiming the event doesn’t give enough of its proceeds to research have cut by half the number of participants in this year’s trek. About 1,200 people signed up for the grueling seven-day ride between San Francisco and Los Angeles that started June 2. Last year, the AIDS Ride attracted 2,600 participants. The competing AIDS/LifeCycle Ride, a new event which took place two weeks ago, likely drew participants away from the AIDS Ride, according to Craig E. Thompson, an AIDS Ride organizer and executive director of AIDS Project Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation organized the LifeCycle Ride after claiming that not enough funds are going toward their programs. In 2000, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation received 65 cents of every dollar raised. Last year, spokesman Gustavo Suarez said, that went down to about 50 cents. Expenses generally should not exceed 35 cents per dollar, according to the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance. A Berkeley bicyclist has also filed a lawsuit claiming that Pallotta Teamworks, organizers of AIDS rides around the country including the upcoming event in California, misrepresents the amount of money distributed to non-profit agencies.

Trans candidate wins student post in Penn.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Alberta Hamm, who was a man for nearly 50 years, became Harrisburg Area Community College’s first transgender Student Government Association president last week. “I want to educate, embrace, empower everyone, every day, everywhere. And I think that should be a model for our student government,” said Hamm, 61. Hamm, who said she feels accepted at the college, married and had a daughter before making the decision to become a woman. She then resigned from her position as an elder at church and moved to another part of the state, she said.

Mich. gay pol under fire after Memorial Day protest

FERNDALE, MI — A gay Ferndale City Council member may face a recall effort over actions he took during a public Memorial Day observance, the Detroit News reported. Council member Craig Covey kept his hat on and turned away during a prayer delivered by Rev. Tom Hansen of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Hansen had appeared at a City Council meeting earlier in the month to denounce Motor City Pride, a local gay event. Gay people need to “repent,” Hansen told the Detroit News. Six residents told the City Council on May 28 that they would launch an effort to recall Covey. “I have no tolerance for people who have no tolerance for others,” Covey said at the meeting, adding that he did not mean to insult veterans with his protest.

Federal judges throw out Internet anti-porn law

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Public libraries cannot be forced to use Internet filters designed to block pornography, three federal judges said May 31 in overturning a new federal law. In a 195-page decision, the judges said the Children’s Internet Protection Act went too far because the filters can also block access to sites that contain protected speech. “Any public library that adheres to CIPA’s conditions will necessarily restrict patrons’ access to a substantial amount of protected speech in violation of the First Amendment,” the judges wrote. The law, signed by President Clinton in 2000, would have required public libraries to install the filters by July 1 or risk losing federal funding. The ACLU argued the law denied poor people without home computers the same access to information as their wealthier neighbors because the software could mistakenly block Web sites on issues such as breast cancer, AIDS and homosexuality. At press time, the Justice Department had not said whether it would appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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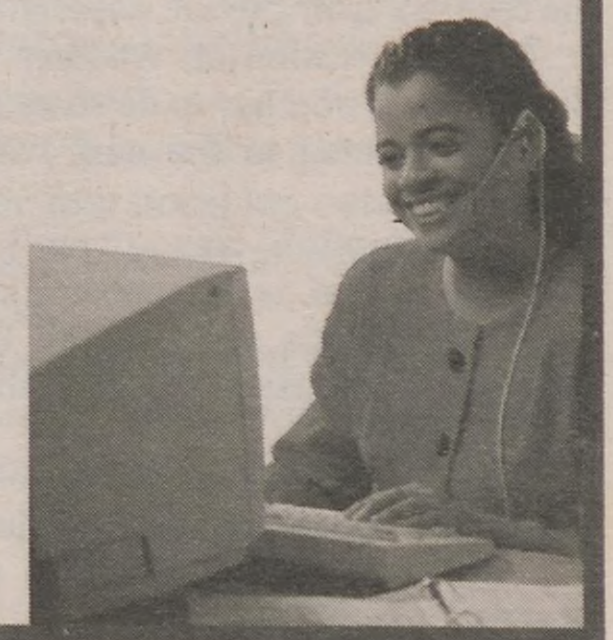
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national news

MCC's 'zero tolerance' policy comes under fire

ZERO TOLERANCE, continued from Page 1

newspaper just weeks after the denomination issued a statement decrying sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and touting its own "zero tolerance" policy "for all forms of child sexual abuse."

"All sexual abuse is morally abhorrent... and sexual misconduct with minors is particularly abhorrent," founder and moderator Rev. Troy Perry wrote in his April 18 public statement titled "On the Sexual Mistreatment of Children in the Roman Catholic Church."

Three days after MCC publicized Perry's statement on the Catholic Church controversy, the denomination also quietly released a statement saying it had restored the clergy credentials of Rev. Glenna Shepherd, a founder of Christ Covenant MCC in Decatur, Ga.

While MCC officials have consistently refused to say why Shepherd was defrocked, citing personnel confidentiality, Shepherd said she was accused of a sexual relationship "with someone who I was their supervising pastor for five weeks while they were a clergy candidate."

Shepherd maintains that her ongoing relationship with Jane Acuff, who was 43 at the time, began after they ended her supervisory role, and that MCC officials erred by defrocking her without firsthand testimony from her alleged victim.

A new investigation agreed, cleared her and restored her ordination, retroactive to the day it was taken away.

But even if Shepherd had been guilty of the charges leveled against her, her actions may have paled in comparison to Forsythe, ordained by MCC in 1996 although he was convicted of attempted indecent liberties with a child while serving as a priest at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Overland Park, Kan.

So why was Shepherd kicked out for alleged conduct with a middle-aged adult, while Forsythe was welcomed to the gay ministry after admitted criminal conduct with a young teen?

MCC leaders point to technical interpretations of their policies. But Shepherd said this week the contrast smacks to her of "inequalities on the basis of gender."

Gay Christian scholars, meanwhile, said the incidents within MCC highlight the difficulties of defining sexual ethics for people whose sexual orientation already gets them branded as sinners by many mainstream religious denominations.

"It points not only to a problem in LGBT religious groups, but to a famine/feast logic in much of queer life," said Mark Jordan, a professor of religion at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and an acclaimed scholar of sexuality in the Catholic Church.

"Either I follow these homophobic rules to the letter, strangling my deepest desires, or else I acknowledge no rules at all, drowning my deepest desires by acting out every momentary impulse," Jordan said.

Defining 'zero tolerance'

As leaders of the Roman Catholic Church prepare to debate a "zero tolerance" policy on sexual abuse at a meeting in Dallas next week, MCC national officials say they already have such a policy in place.

"Sexual activity between adults and children can never be condoned by the [MCC] under any circumstances," according to the policy adopted by MCC's board of elders, the denomination's governing body.

MCC leaders also insist they followed their policy in the case of James Forsythe.

"Our policy refers to allegations during the time someone is clergy with us," said Dr. Justin Tanis, MCC director of clergy development.

Forsythe resigned May 11 as volunteer pastor of MCC of the Black Hills in Rapid City, S.D., after the Kansas City Star revealed he had not registered as a sex offender when he moved to the state.

Forsythe and his attorney, Timothy Rensch, did not respond to interview requests.

The former priest was sentenced to one to five years in prison in 1989 after he admitted to about 20 sexual encounters with a 15-year-old boy while he served a Roman Catholic high school in Kansas, according to press reports and MCC officials.

He served three months in prison before release on probation for seven months of residential treatment at a Catholic facility.

Forsythe was approved for ordination by MCC's Mountains & Plains District in 1996 and his "ministerial activities were restricted to prohibit participation in any ministry which involved minors," according to a statement from MCC's national office sent to local churches and clergy after the story broke.

"It is vitally important to note that there have been absolutely no allegations of any further sexual misconduct involving minors by Rev. Forsythe since the 1989 incident," the statement said.

The "zero tolerance" policy has three "very specific applications," according to MCC: Church leaders will be "proactive" in reporting "credible accusations of child sexual abuse" against MCC clergy to police; they will "fully cooperate with authorities" in such a situation; and they would launch an internal investigation and remove the person's clergy credentials if the minister is found guilty.

"It is important to note that this policy applies to any current credible allegation of child sexual abuse — as such, it did not apply in a case like James Forsythe's," the statement said.

Forsythe had "pleaded guilty, served his sentence, undergone therapy, been fully open

about his past... at the time of ordination and with his current congregation, and had absolutely no further allegations or charges against him for more than 13 years," it said.

The letter cited "only two" other allegations of child sex abuse involving MCC clergy since the denomination revamped its clergy policies in 1995, and said MCC officials reported both cases to police and stripped both pastors of their credentials.

Second chances or double standards?

Under scrutiny in newspapers ranging from the Rapid City Journal to the Denver Post and New York Times, MCC leaders have stood by the decision to ordain Forsythe, who resigned from his unpaid ministry and relinquished his clergy credentials after losing two secular jobs in the wake of the press coverage.

"It wasn't necessarily our role to punish him for the previous situation," Tanis said.

Jim Birkitt, MCC communications director, has repeatedly stressed that MCC, home to many gays ostracized by mainstream religious groups, believes in being a "church of a second chance."

Still, Birkitt said MCC leaders are not aware of any other clergy currently serving who have been convicted of sexual activities with a minor, and the denomination may be unlikely to admit such a person again.

"The tension is between wanting to know that people can have forgiveness and restoration, and the reality of the societal conditions we are living with right now," he said. "My personal opinion is it is doubtful someone like this would be ordained in the future."

Shepherd, given a "second chance" at being an MCC clergy only after a new investigation ruled that firsthand evidence

ZERO TOLERANCE, continued on Page 7

'Sleeping lawyer' case may see new trial

BURDINE, continued from Page 1

participate 100 percent in the burglary... I did not participate in the stabbing."

Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal has said that if the high court ruled against Harris County, the case should be retried because to not do so would be a disservice to jurors who initially heard the case, according to the Associated Press.

A final decision on whether to retry Burdine and whether to do so as a capital case is expected in the next two weeks, Wilson said.

"A confession was given," Wilson said. "A retrial is the most likely outcome, and that's as it should be when someone is accused of taking the life of another person."

McGlasson said that there are lost witnesses who are either unavailable or dead and lost evidence, all of which makes a new trial impossible.

"There is no way at this point, 20 years later, that the judicial system can make a reliable judgement," he said. "A man's life is at stake who was not given a fair shake and who is now seen as not found guilty."

Jurors and a court clerk testified during appeals that Cannon, a court-appointed lawyer, slept for up to 10 minutes at a time during the 1984 trial and sentencing phase that followed. Cannon was also found to have used anti-gay slurs during the trial. He denied falling asleep on the job.

In arguing for the death penalty and against life imprisonment following Burdine's conviction, the prosecutor told the jury, "Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary [for life] certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what he's asking you to do."

The prosecutor also said, in seeking the death penalty during the sentencing phase of the trial, that Burdine's 1971 Texas conviction for sodomy, a consensual offense,

was evidence of his "likeliness to commit criminal violent acts in the future."

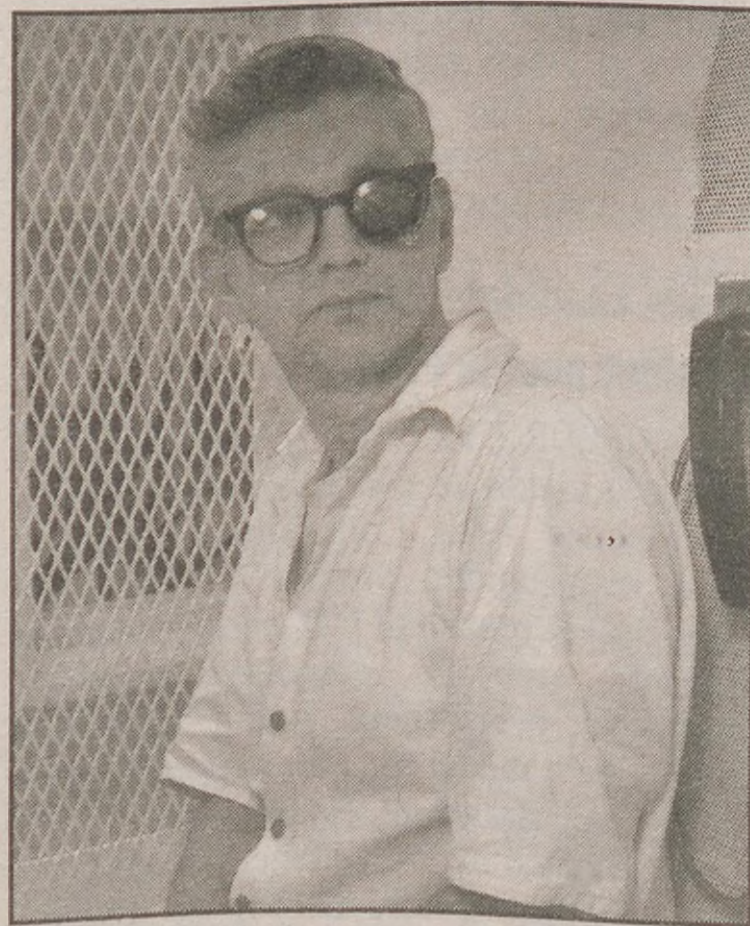
In 1987, Burdine came within moments of execution before receiving a court-ordered reprieve based on the accusations against Cannon's inattention at trial.

Now 49, Burdine lost several rounds of appeals before a federal district judge in Houston agreed in 1999 that Cannon's performance violated his constitutional rights.

A federal appeals court panel first reversed that finding in a 2000 ruling, but the full court last year found that Burdine's right to fair representation was violated.

The state appealed to the Supreme Court, which sat on the case for months, waiting to hear a similar case about fair representation. Last week, the court ruled against the Tennessee inmate in the other case, but said that decision would not affect the Burdine case.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



A U.S. Supreme Court decision this week may mean a new trial for gay Texas death row inmate Calvin Burdine. (Photo by AP)

national news

MCC controversy impacted by Catholic scandal

ZERO TOLERANCE, continued from Page 6

against her should have been considered, said she was "hurt and angry" when she saw the extensive letter sent out by MCC leaders in the Forsythe case.

"Here was a long, compassionate response that actually defended his behavior since coming to MCC and had quotes from him, so his voice was heard in it," Shepherd said.

She compared the document to the terse statement — little more than snippets of meeting minutes — sent out when MCC restored her credentials.

In the midst of the controversy surrounding her clergy credentials, Shepherd took the non-ministerial post of director of music and worship at Cathedral of Hope MCC in Dallas, where she drew praise before leaving last week to move back to Atlanta to be closer to her family.

Shepherd's supporters — including Cathedral of Hope Pastor Mike Piazza — have noted that the charges against her were brought by two men, despite the fact that the woman she allegedly took advantage of did not believe she had been victimized.

"I was proven innocent, yet MCC sent out only this very business-like, legalese, cut and dried thing," Shepherd said. "Something happened with a man, and he got this compassionate response, and I didn't get that."

Asked about discrepancies in the handling of the Shepherd and Forsythe cases,

Tanis said only that one was a disciplinary process and the other was an ordination, and they were handled by "two different groups of people": Shepherd was defrocked by MCC's Gulf Lower Atlantic District, while Forsythe was ordained by the Mountains & Plains District.

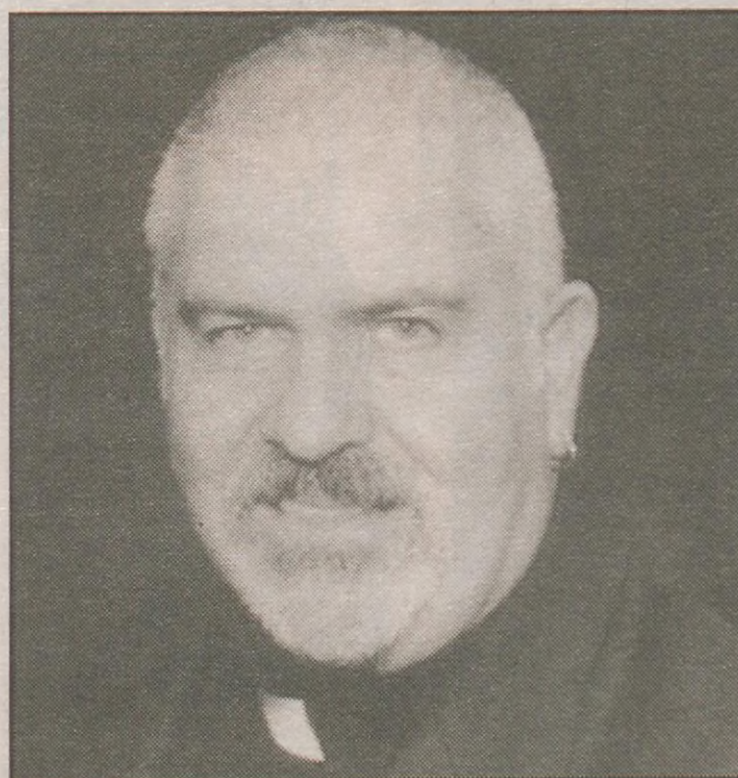
Still, as part of an overall restructuring, MCC is changing how such cases will be dealt with in the future. Judiciary matters came under national purview this year, and clergy credentials will begin being handled at the national level in 2003, he said.

Impact for gay Christians

The sexual abuse scandal in the Catholic Church has sparked an ongoing backlash against gay priests, in what gay activists say is an attempt to deflect attention from widespread allegations that Catholic leaders covered up the problem and allowed offending priests to be repeatedly transferred to other parishes.

While Forsythe served as a Catholic priest when he molested a male teen, MCC leaders said his ordination by the gay denomination doesn't risk adding weight to arguments linking homosexuality and sexual abuse of minors.

"One of the critical differences is that this was a case in which there was discussion and openness, not the kind of cover-up and dishonesty that was the situation



MCC founder and moderator Rev. Troy Perry said 'all sexual abuse is morally abhorrent' in a public statement released in April. A month later, the church was criticized for ordaining a former Catholic priest jailed for molesting a 15-year-old boy.

with the Catholic Church," Tanis said.

The openness in MCC towards sexual orientation and sexual issues more generally may actually help prevent incidents like those in the Catholic Church, Birkitt said.

"When Forsythe came out of the repressive situation where he could not be honest about his sexual orientation — when he could be honest and have healthy adult relationships — there was a sense of spiritual and emotional healing," Birkitt

said. "There have been no allegations of any wrongdoing since then, and that is the difference in the systems."

Reaction from within MCC to Forsythe's case has been mostly positive, Birkitt said, noting that a majority of responses received by the denomination have supported the former priest.

Birkitt said he doesn't believe publicity around the case has hurt MCC, although others fear it — and the larger Catholic controversy — could damage prospects for gay clergy in mainstream churches for years to come.

"I think we will see more exclusions based on categories — are you gay or straight, in a monogamous relationship or celibate — as opposed to discussing how we can understand the nature of our sexuality across the spectrum," said John Blevins, a doctoral student at the Candler School of Theology studying connections between theology and human sexuality.

"What happened in the Catholic Church and what happened in MCC only deaden the possibilities for that dialogue," he said.

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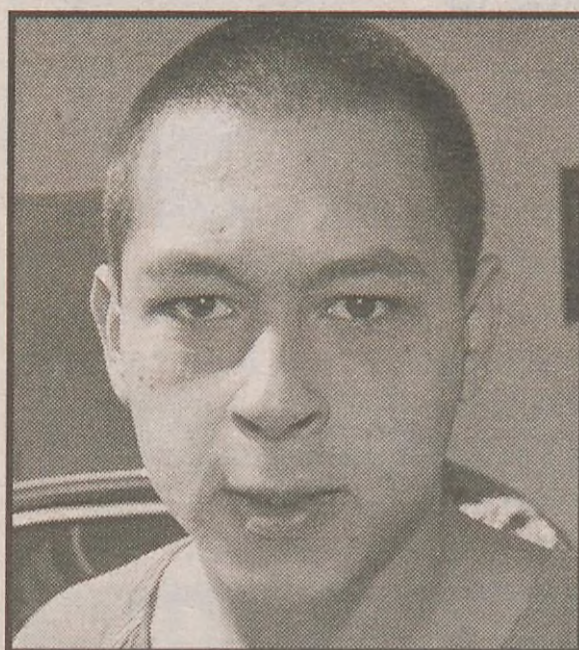
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Teen receives 40-year sentence in Colo. beating death



Shaun Murphy received a 40-year prison term on Monday in the beating death of Fred Martinez Jr., a transgendered teen in Colorado. (Photo by Benjamin Chrisman/AP)

CORTEZ, Colo. (AP) — A Farmington, N.M., teen has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for the beating death of a 16-year-old transgendered Navajo. Shaun Murphy, 19, who pleaded guilty Feb. 7 to second-degree murder in the death of Fred Martinez Jr. of Cortez, was sentenced Monday. Martinez's bludgeoned body was found June 21. During the sentencing hearing, Martinez's mother, Pauline Mitchell, asked for the maximum 48-year sentence. "All you ever said was you bug-smashed a fag," Mitchell said to Murphy, referring to his boasts after the killing. Gay-rights advocates had raised the question of whether Martinez was killed because of his sexual orientation. He sometimes dressed as a girl and was considered transgendered. "I don't believe my son did it," said Angel Takoronte, Murphy's mother. Before his plea, defense attorneys had argued Murphy acted in self-defense when he hit Martinez with a rock in the head, hands and stomach five days before his body was found.

Calif. principal charged with harassing gay neighbors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The principal of a vocational center has been placed on administrative leave after he allegedly committed hate crimes against his gay neighbors, authorities said. Donald Gaskin, 48, was arrested May 30 and faces 11 misdemeanor charges including civil rights violations, petty theft and vandalism. He was released May 31 after posting \$100,000 bail. Gaskin, who heads the North Valley Occupational Center in the San Fernando Valley, has allegedly harassed a Santa Clarita gay couple since March 2001, including stealing the couple's sprinklers and their mail, authorities said. Gaskin has been the principal of the adult education center since 1993. He will be temporarily assigned elsewhere in the district, pending the outcome of the case, a school district spokesperson said.

'Gay panic' caused death after sex advance, accused says

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — A former Marshall University student told police that she did not mean to kill a lesbian student when she reacted to unwanted sexual advances by first pushing the woman, then dropping her on her head, according to newly released documents. Kenzi Snider, 20, is accused of murdering University of Pittsburgh student Jamie Lynn Penich in a Korean motel room in March 2001 while the two were studying abroad. Snider was arrested Feb. 28 by federal officers and is being held in a Charleston, W. Va. jail. Last week, a federal magistrate unsealed South Korean government documents about the case and also postponed an extradition hearing to July 30. In the alleged written confession signed by Snider, she said she became angry when Penich tried to unbutton her pants after the two kissed and groped in a hotel bathroom. The statement said Snider hit Penich, who then fell into the bathtub and hit her head. Snider said she carried Penich out of the bathroom, tripped on a doorway and dropped Penich on her head. She then hit Penich again, according to the statement. "We were just friends," according to Snider's statement to authorities. "I didn't know she felt that way." Also unsealed was an FBI report in which Snider said she lost control because a member of her immediate family had just come out as gay.

Gay former editor in Calif. charged with identity theft

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Eric J. "Erich" Mathias, an ex-convict who spent eight years as editor of Outword, a gay magazine in Sacramento, has been jailed on a variety of federal charges, according to the Sacramento Bee. He is accused of stealing the identity of the magazine's owner, Fred Palmer, and faces charges of wire, mail and credit card fraud. Laura Schwartz, assistant U.S. attorney, told the paper. The magazine's loss is near \$150,000, police estimated. Mathias, who once served time in federal prison for fraud, was terminated in December, immediately after the loss was discovered, Palmer told the Bee. In addition to his work as editor, Mathias also ran the office, did graphic design and sales, Palmer said. Mathias is also the former editor of Mom Guess What, another gay Sacramento publication. Mathias, 39, was arrested in his home May 6.

Cops raid Ga. escort service with trans owner

AUGUSTA, Ga. — When authorities arrested the owner of Lisa's Escort Service here in a sting May 22, they discovered owner Lisa Cook was once known as Michael Cook, according to the Augusta Chronicle. Cook was charged with pandering after a hotel sting, police told the paper. "We targeted this particular escort service because there were reports that transvestites were being sent on calls posing as females," said Greg Smith, sheriff's office spokesperson. Cook is accused of arranging prostitutes for clients who called her business, and is being held in jail pending a hearing. Cook told police her name was legally changed, and that she is having sex-change surgery this month, according to the newspaper. Her driver's license lists her as female, Smith said. Lisa's Escort Service was one of two targeted in the sting.

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Forum

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PAGE 10

viewpoint

Reality versus role model

As the battle for gay civil rights shifts to the courtroom, we must be careful in selecting our soldiers.

By MATTHEW A. HENNIE

IT'S A BATTLE between a reality check and a role model.

In Alabama in early May, the ACLU filed a lawsuit on behalf of a closeted

teacher who alleges school officials fired him once they discovered he's gay.

The teacher remains closeted and employed in another school district in the state. In a unique legal move, his attorneys kept under wraps not only his name, but the identity of the school district in which he was allegedly mistreated.

A federal judge has agreed, at least temporarily, to keep the identities of both parties secret and sealed the case, *Doe v. An Alabama School District*. The gag order now leaves even attorneys for the unidentified teacher unable to comment.

This legal maneuvering comes despite the teacher's best efforts to conceal his sexual orientation, moving past just not talking about it to launching a proactive effort to mislead his students and others around him. Described by his attorney as "extremely closeted," even though he lives with his partner of eight years, he brought female dates to school events, and often talked about his ex-wife and children to throw off anyone with a suspicious bleep on their gaydar.

In Texas in April, the ACLU filed suit on behalf of Roderick Keith Johnson, a 33-year-old burglar with an interest in cocaine. Attorneys for the gay prisoner allege that he was raped repeatedly and used as a sex slave while prison officials refused to look into any of Johnson's complaints.

Prison officials have said they are investigating the inmate's allegations.

Also in Texas is the case of John G. Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, two men involved in a four-year-old effort to have the state's archaic sodomy law thrown out. Their crime? Having a friend turned police informant who convinced sheriff's deputies that they should burst into an apartment in pursuit of a gun-wielding man.

Police instead found Lawrence and Garner engaged in consensual sex. Authorities charged the two men with running afoul of the state sodomy law, a misdemeanor that resulted in a \$125 fine for each.

Since their arrest in 1998, attorneys for Lambda Legal Defense & Education

Fund have used the case to challenge the state sodomy law. The two men lost another round in April when the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the highest criminal court in the state, refused to consider their appeal.

The U.S. Supreme Court may be the next stop.

THREE CASES WITH DIFFERENT circumstances, but all on the new frontier for gay civil rights — the courtroom. The shift in the fight for equality from the legislative hearing room to the hallowed halls of justice has taken shape in the last few years.

As partisan bickering stalls action on gay legislation in Congress and state legislatures increasingly fail to pass meaningful laws, the center for progress now rests in judges, creating new case law and rewriting legal precedent.

But in accepting the shift, answer this question: Do we need role models or reality checks as we ready gay soldiers for the front lines?

Role models would be nice, gay legal experts say, but providing a reality check through their lawsuits is key.

"Geography plays a role, reflection of reality plays a role in it, too. In addition to legal principles we want to take on, we also want these cases to reflect a reality for gay people," says Eric Ferrero, public education director for the ACLU's Lesbian & Gay Rights Project, which is handling the teacher lawsuit in Alabama.

It's a difficult question to answer. In each of the three cases — the fired but closeted Alabama teacher, the prisoner turned into a sex slave, two men engaged in consensual sex that violates state law — clear wrongs need to be corrected.

But when gay legal groups consider which cases to accept and which to reject, some consideration must be paid to public perception. Gay attorneys understand that.

"There is always a risk since you're dealing with human beings that the case will be decided on grounds that are not relevant," says Steve Scarborough, a Lambda attorney.

Imperfect people do deserve legal representation, Scarborough adds, "but it would be a terrible thing to spend donor money" on trying cases that don't make case law and lose in the battle over public opinion.

"People have their rights violated and

they may not always be role model number one," Scarborough says.

Lawrence and Garner, the Texas men charged in the sodomy case, both have prior brushes with police. Their personal stories don't evoke much sympathy.

But the two men didn't do anything wrong. Inside a private residence, they engaged in consensual sex, something most of us take for granted.

Priority one in filing their cases, gay legal experts say, is to strike down laws biased against gays or seek the help of a judge or jury in righting a wrong based on anti-gay sentiments. But the cases are also considered on how the court fight may impact public opinion.

"There is no denying that our civil rights struggle is one that you need to change hearts and minds about. It's at least as important as what happens in the courtroom as what education happens in the public," Scarborough says.

IN THE CASE OF GARNER AND Lawrence, it's easy to see that needing strong role models to help outside the court takes a backseat to challenging the state's sodomy law.

In the case of the Texas inmate, the line becomes a bit more blurry. Johnson clearly deserves help. The Texas prison system apparently failed to protect a gay man who was paying his debt to society.

Cases about the mistreatment of inmates garner little empathy from a public often ready to write them off as nothing more than victims of their own bad actions. But the case provides a dose of reality for the treatment of prisoners ignored because of the color of their skin or their sexual orientation. Johnson allegedly turned from being a criminal into a victim due to someone else's bias.

But in Alabama, the question of role model versus reality was lost on attorneys for the gay teacher. If his allegations are true — school officials fired him over his sexual orientation — a wrong needs to be corrected.

But in their approach to the case, the ACLU has already taken a few body blows. The group kept the identity of the teacher quiet, reinforcing the public perception that there is something inherently wrong with being gay. And a federal judge agreed, sealing the case and stymieing the ability of attorneys for the teacher to fight the case in the court of public opinion.

The case does provide a dose of reality. But it also rewards a closeted teacher — one who went to great lengths to mislead those around him — with the limited resources of gay civil rights attorneys. These are experts who can be better focused on true victims that need a place on the new front lines of the gay civil rights battle. In this case, the teacher's deception outweighs the harm he's attempting to remedy.

@ Matthew A. Hennie is editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at mhennie@sovo.com.

viewpoint JENNIFER VANASCO



A new, unpublished study debunks the myth that lesbians are at a greater cancer risk, but that's no reason to lessen our commitment.

The lesbian/breast cancer connection is just a fluke

ONE OF THE TRUTHS WE HAVE TAKEN to heart in the past decade is that lesbians are at a much higher risk of breast cancer than heterosexual women — as much as three times higher.

We have organized around this fact, forming women's health organizations, participating in breast cancer walks to raise funds, donating our time and money to foundations that support breast cancer research. We believed that we were fighting a breast cancer epidemic among lesbians.

But that unpublished study, released about 10 years ago, may have been wrong. A new study, also not yet published, says that in fact, lesbians may get breast cancer in rates barely higher than straight women.

Researcher Suzanne Dibble, co-director of the Center for Lesbian Health Research and professor of nursing at the University of California's Institute for Health & Aging in San Francisco, told the San Francisco Chronicle that one Thanksgiving, she realized that five out of 18 women around her table had breast cancer.

According to the Chronicle, she asked

herself, "Is this a fluke or is it real?"

She proposed a study to find out, and now she thinks she has the answer: a fluke.

DIBBLE'S STUDY FOLLOWED 650 women over the age of 40, broken down into 325 pairs of lesbians and their heterosexual sisters, as a control group with the same genes and background to measure the lesbians' health against.

Though the lesbians were less likely to have children and more likely to be overweight (both cancer risks), she found that there was less than one percent added risk — 11.1 percent, as compared to 10.6 percent for their straight sisters.

This means, as the Chronicle explains, "if 10 out of 100 straight women were likely to get breast cancer during their lifetime, the number would be 11 out of 100 for lesbians."

So being a lesbian is no longer a likely sentence of cancer, and that is very, very good news. We can breathe a little easier. But does that mean we can pack away our pink breast cancer awareness pins and start turning our gazes to other causes? Absolutely not.

The numbers are still compelling: More than 200,000 women are expected to get invasive breast cancer this year, according to the National Institutes of Health, and almost 40,000 women are expected to die.

Still, Dibble's study does mean that we need to expand our vision to include other women's health issues, not just breast cancer. Many women's health organizations are already doing this, but as individuals we need to expand our scope as well.

After all, breast cancer is not the number one killer of women. It is number three, after heart disease (1 in 10 women ages 45-64 has some form of heart disease) and lung cancer (the government expects about 79,200 new female cases in 2002).

In another new study, published in the American Journal of Public Health and reported on by the Web site HealthScout, researcher Susan Cochran, a professor of epidemiology at UCLA, and a lesbian herself, says that the general health of lesbians remains at greater risk than that of straight women.

Twenty-eight percent of lesbians are obese; 56 percent are current or former smokers; and they are more likely to be drinkers, the study said. All of these are significant health risks.

They're also less likely to visit the gynecologist, the HealthScout article noted, which means fewer pap smears and mammograms — and a recent survey of 930 San Diego physicians showed that 40 percent of doctors are uncomfortable with lesbians anyway, which means the health care we do get when we show up might not be on par with that of straight women.



WHAT CAN WE DO? ON AN INDIVIDUAL level, we can stop smoking, get out of the bars and start going to the gym. We can also try to understand the kind of negative pressure we are putting on each other when we comment that a woman pulling on a cigarette is sexy, or when we keep each other from going to the gym because that's the habitat of gay men, not lesbians.

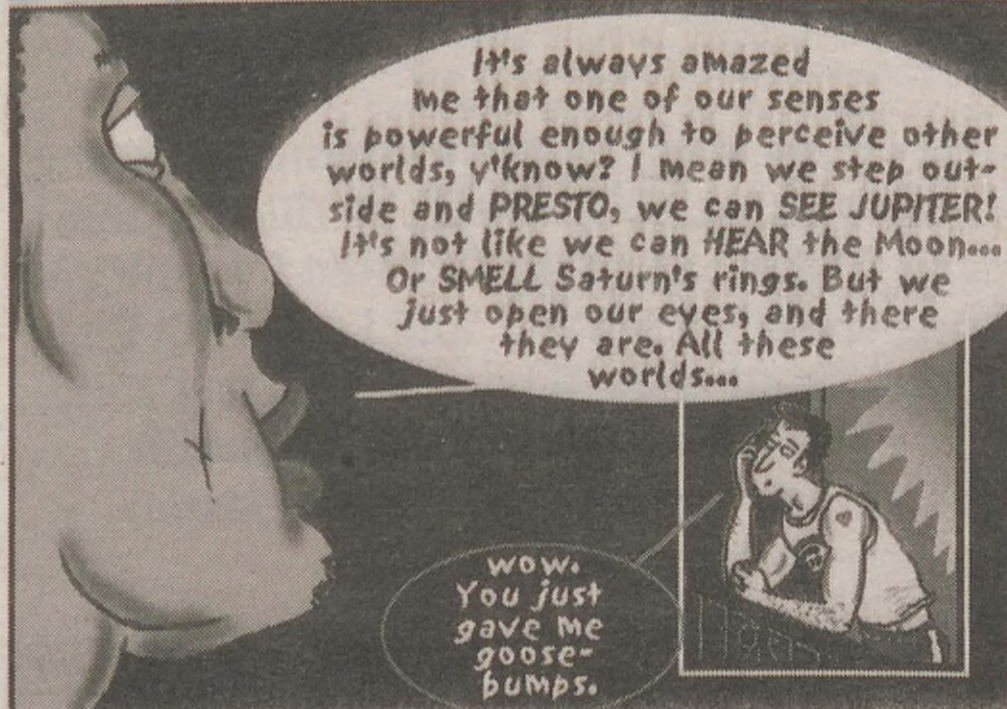
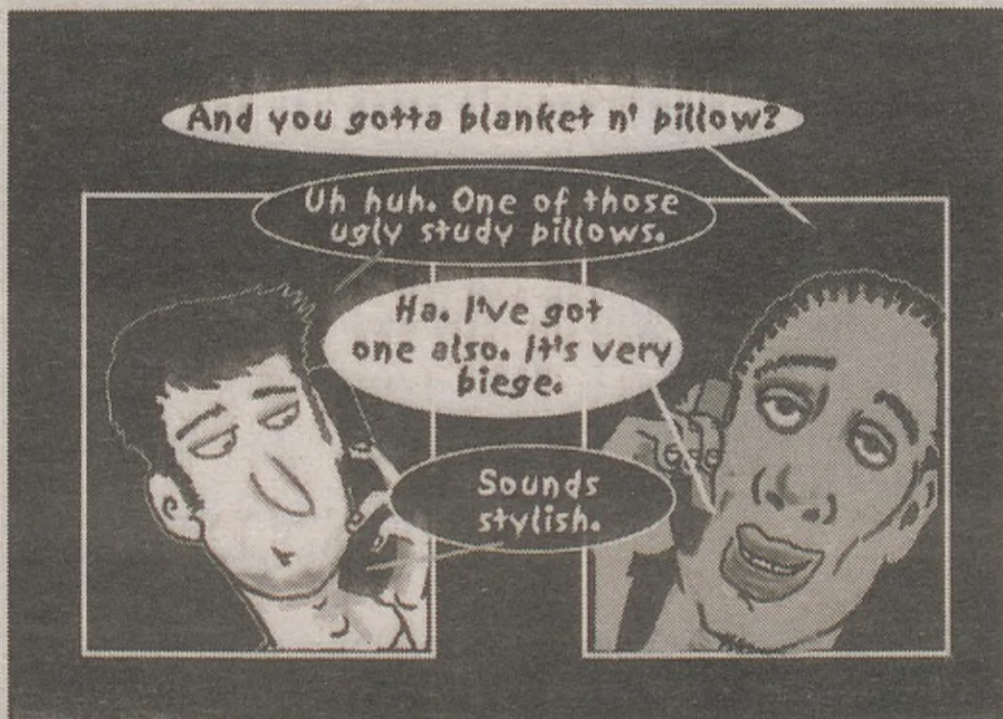
But on a collective level, we can support the political activism of groups like the Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer in Washington, D.C. We can pressure gay and lesbian media to stop allowing cigarette companies to target us in their ads. We can lobby our legislators to pay more attention to women's health issues.

And we can continue to donate time and money to women's health organizations and to support research on cancer, heart disease and other issues critical to women's health. Because only by knowing the truth about our health risks can we fight to save ourselves.

@ Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based syndicated columnist and can be reached at vanasco@chicagofreepress.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner



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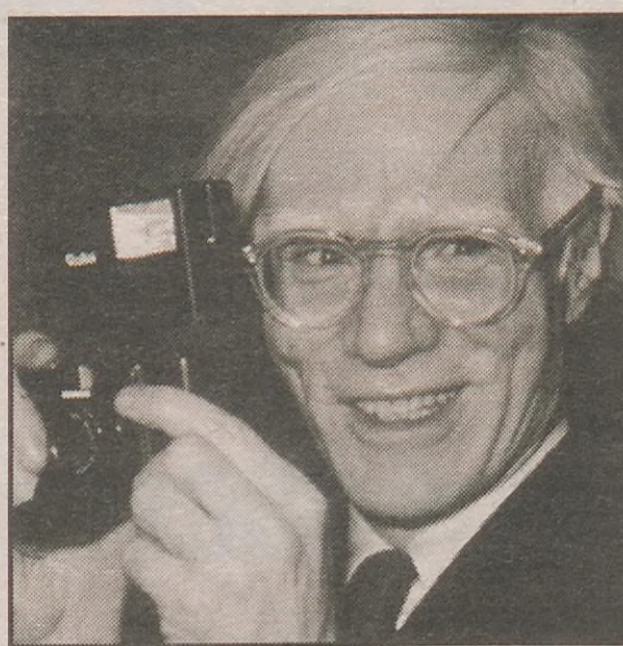
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on the record



“Everybody speculated on Andy [Warhol]’s sexuality. We all thought he was asexual, but I remember talking to lovers of his and, er, they said it was usually the same, that Andy’s preference was, you know, servicing guys with all his clothes on. You know, on the knees, in the bedroom with the crucifix hanging over the bed. So that’s a nice little word picture — not to put the man down, I loved him, but I’m just saying, you know, he did have sex.”

Interview magazine cover designer Richard Bernstein (“The Whole Warhol,” Bravo channel)

“In case you didn’t know, we’re gay.”

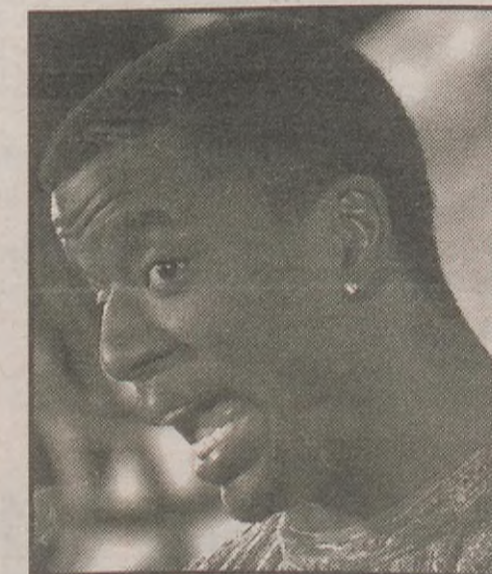
Indigo Girl Amy Ray, eliciting an ovation during a June 3 show at the Fleet Pavilion in Boston (Boston Globe, June 4)

“It draws both men and women. When the show started, we weren’t sure that women would watch it. But just like the male viewers, women like these characters and want to find out what’s going to happen to them.”

Jerry Offsay, chief of programming at Showtime, about why “Queer As Folk,” which is the network’s highest-rated original show, has been contracted for another two-year renewal, including 32 new episodes (Reuters, June 4)

“I’m a man. ... 110 percent man. My daddy did a wonderful job of raising a man, period, hands down, no more, no less.”

Pittsburgh Steeler quarterback Kordell Stewart, on his reaction to rumors that New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza is gay; Stewart faced similar rumors in the past (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 25)



“Figure that one out.”

United Methodist church spokesperson Scarlett Foster-Moss, on the unanimous decision by a church investigative committee to dismiss charges that Rev. Mark Williams, was a “self-avowed, practicing homosexual”; Williams had declared at a church conference last June that he was a “practicing homosexual” (Seattle Times, May 31)

“There also were whispers that [Allen] Gilmour finished second in the race [to be Ford’s chairman] because he is gay and the Ford family felt a bit ill at ease having a gay man run the company. ... Suffice it to say that having a gay man at the helm probably would have been relegated to roughly chapter 37 or 38 in volume IV of the Ford family history.”

Business columnist Jim Majeta, on the decision by Ford Chairman Bill Ford to rehire Allen Gilmour, the 67-year-old former Ford exec who came out after retiring several years ago (Chicago Tribune, May 30)



“My mom wasn’t always around, since she was working, so Joan sort of filled in that gap. [I] focused on the fact that I wasn’t getting enough attention, and I often felt lonely or abandoned. When I spent time with Joan, I felt like the center of attention. ... There had always been a subtle sexual charge between us.”

Chastity Bono, writing in the new autobiography, “The End of Innocence,” about how she was seduced by an older lesbian who took care of Chastity in her mother’s absence

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Out on the Bayou

Dark lady



Real-life Mistress of the Dark discusses enduring fame, draws throngs of gay fans

by KAY DAYUS

AS I WAITED IN THE LOBBY OF THE Galleria-Uptown Hotel Derek, my stomach was churning as I waited for Cassandra Peterson, a.k.a. Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, who was in town to promote her new film "Elvira's Haunted Hills," opening at Houston's Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

Problem was, I was worried about whether I would recognize her in mufti. I had only ever seen her as Elvira, that devilish but delightfully dark woman of mystery and mockery.

I looked up every time I heard high heels click across the tiled floor of the ultra trendy Derek lobby, but as soon as I did, I knew it wasn't her. It was getting late and I wondered if she was going to show.

Then I saw two women and one man walking across the lobby toward the bar. There was no doubt that the long-legged redhead with the dancer's figure and supremely confident stride was none other than the Queen of Macabre herself sans black garb.

I intercepted them on their route to the bar, and introduced myself. Peterson smiled, shook hands and introduced me to her assistant — who travels just about everywhere with her — and to her other companion.

"Where's the bar? I'd like a drink," Peterson started.

So, to the bar we went. It was trendier and more cutting edge than the lobby. As soon as we entered, we realized it was far too noisy for an interview.

Not to be daunted, Peterson asked if we could sit out in the lobby and have a drink. That was okay with the waitress, as long as we strayed no further than the sofas immediately outside the door. Peterson promised we'd be good, so we all got comfortable and ordered drinks.

I heard Peterson was a hooper in Las Vegas before her fame set in, so I asked her about the Whiskey A Go Go. She smiled and said she remembered it well.

"I never worked there, but I was there all the time," she said. "I went to the Whiskey every single night, but I did work as a go-go dancer later. I was in some sort of show business all my life."

Apparently, Peterson started as a go-go dancer at the tender age of 14.

"I had this little outfit with strings on it and white boots," Peterson said, with her infectious laugh that soon had a gathering group of mostly gay men — at the Derek for a dinner in her honor — laughing with her.

It soon occurred to me that I was not in charge of this interview.

PETERSON WAS ALWAYS LURED BY THE lights of the stage but worked hard to finally break through the glass ceiling of show business with the creation of Elvira for local television in Los Angeles.

Please see **ELVIRA**, on **Page 17**

PrideFile

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

June is Pride Month, and the Houston Voice offers this update each Friday until Pride Week.

STEP RIGHT UP!

Houston Montrose Athletic Association hosts the fifth annual **Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run/Walk** this weekend. The 3.1-mile event runs along Memorial Drive. Proceeds are donated to local organizations, and this year's beneficiary is AssistHere, a group that helps lesbians with chronic or disabling illnesses.

GO: 7:30 a.m. Saturday, June 8. Starts on Memorial Drive near Sabine Street.

SIGN UP: At various athletics stores, Memorial Park, Logo and Crossroads, or online at www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html.

MORE INFO: Steve Ruimveld, 713-868-8904, or B.J. Almond, 713-864-4120.

WE WANT YOU!

The Pride Committee of Houston will host a **Pride Parade Volunteer Interest Session** to inform those interested about volunteer opportunities on Pride Parade day, Saturday, June 29.

GO: 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 11. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne.

SIGN UP: Online at www.pridehouston.org

OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT!

The official **Pride Kick Off Party**, hosted by the Pride Committee, will include drinks, entertainment and socializing. Cocktails and entertainment are 8 to 10 p.m., with dancing 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Cost is a \$10 donation at the door.

GO: 8 p.m. Friday, June 21. Sonoma Restaurant, 1415 California St.

CABARET TIME!

The Pride Committee is teaming up with The Alley Theatre to bring revelers a night of song and dance with some of Houston's best performers through "Before the Parade Passes By," a.k.a. **Cabaret Night at the Alley Theatre**.

GO: 8 p.m. Friday, June 28. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas St.

MORE INFO: www.alleytheatre.org

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out on the bayou

Real-life Elvira attends charity screening of 'Haunted Hills'

ELVIRA, continued from Page 15

That was in 1981, and although the show lasted only until 1985 — a total of 119 episodes — Elvira has continued to be a household name for many, although few know Peterson herself.

Since then, she's made a lot of money lending her name to everything from an Elvira electric guitar from BC Rich Guitars and a slot machine from International Technologies to comic books, computer games, beer, perfume and haunted houses.

Peterson's Elvira outfit is the best selling female costume of all time. She's also made many television appearances as Elvira and other characters. And what's more, she's "the first female to twirl tassels on a national network," according to her bio.

Peterson, her husband and seven-year-old daughter live next door to actor Brad Pitt in L.A. Not bad for a girl from Manhattan — that's Kansas, not New York. She said her family moved to Colorado when she was young, and that was where she took her first steps as a go-go dancer in a glass cage.

"I won a contest — a go-go girl contest — and then I had this fabulous job given to me and this fabulous wardrobe given to me: two pairs of vinyl white boots," she said tongue in cheek. "I danced there every night for a couple of years while I

went through high school."

Little did they know, her parents hastened her inevitable entry into show business when they took her on a vacation to Las Vegas. She saw a show, thought it was fantastic and was offered a job as a dancer.

"My parents had to sign the contract because I was only 17, and I couldn't come and go through the casino because of my age, Peterson said. "I had to come through the back door."

AS EVIDENCED BY THE GROUP AT THE Derek, Peterson has a great gay following and is active in gay rights issues as well as animal rights.

"I had many gay friends who have died of AIDS, so it's important to me," she said.

In fact, proceeds from the screening of "Haunted Hills" in Dallas June 11 will go to AIDS Services of Dallas.

She got her idea for Elvira's outfit from performing drag years ago.

"Can you imagine," she quipped. "I was a woman playing a man in drag."

She recently told the Houston Press that she often felt like she "was raised by a pack of wild drag queens."

Before Elvira, Peterson endured 12 years of "trying to make it" in show business. She had a brief sojourn in France dancing and singing, but didn't like the country. So she moved to Italy where she fell in love with the country.

So much so that she toured for a year and became fluent in Italian.

"My husband, daughter and I go back there just about every year. We love it," Peterson said.

Peterson smiled when talking about her daughter. She used to dress her up when she was younger, and to prove it, she rummaged in her billfold for a photograph and then proudly passed it around the group. There was proud mama Elvira and a little Elvira sitting on her lap.

BUT PETERSON ALMOST MISSED THE chance to become Elvira. She was on her honeymoon when a friend called her about an audition.

"I said, 'I'm not coming back from my honeymoon for an audition,'" she said. "I had dropped everything before for that chance of a lifetime. You always go into an audition thinking 'this is it,' but it turns out not to be."

When she returned from honeymooning, the job was still there, so she auditioned and was hired. Strangely enough, she auditioned as herself while others dressed up in dark garb and wigs.

Peterson used her own money for "Haunted Hills," and wrote and produced it. It is her baby. "We wanted to film it in Italy, but it was too expensive."

So they ended up in Transylvania, Rumania. What better place for a gothic tale of ghouls and things that go bump

in the night.

"It was winter — November — when we filmed the movie, and it was freezing," she recalled. "In one outdoor shot at night, it was 12 degrees below zero and I had to suck a piece of ice so my breath would not show up as mist when I spoke."

And of course, she had all that cleavage out in the cold night air.

"Elvira's Haunted Hills," played to a full house at Houston's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and when it was announced that she was planning to be there, people instantly began craning their necks to see if they could recognize her. Few did, for Peterson is, in appearance at least, the opposite of her famous alter ego.

The movie is wickedly camp, and an enthusiastic, whooping audience received it. Although it is not exactly my cup of tea, I thoroughly enjoyed it and found myself laughing out loud.

After the movie, Peterson revealed herself much to the delight of the audience, judging from their raucous applause. This was the moment they had waited for, and there was no shortage of questions. Peterson is very gracious and, like the true showgirl she is, loves to ham it up for her fans.

The movie will not be in general release but the video and DVD will be out in October.

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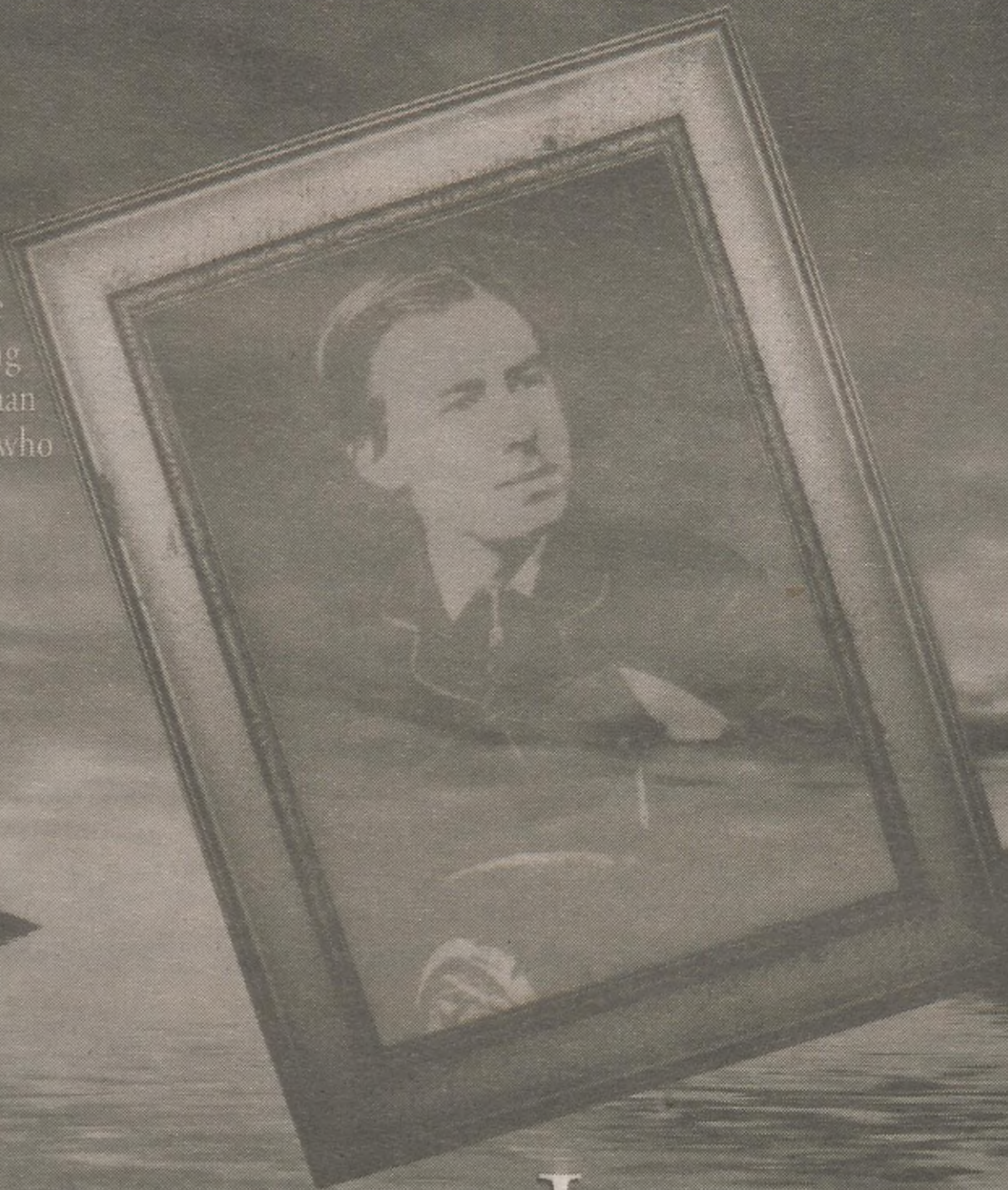
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Alley Theater cast soars in look at the life of gay poet and scholar A.E. Housman.

'Invention of Love' a gem

CLASSICISM VS. ROMANTICISM IS THE battle being played out currently in the Alley Theater's stunning production of Tom Stoppard's recent Broadway hit, "The Invention of Love."

Containing all of the wonderful trademark flourishes that make a Stoppard play a Stoppard play, "The Invention of Love" follows poet and scholar A.E. Houseman as he re-visits his life in a dream.

In the role of Houseman, Alley company member John Tyson heads up a stellar cast that, guided by the deft hand of director Gregory Boyd, makes Stoppard's dense work accessible to all.

A.E. Houseman was considered the pre-eminent classicist of his time, but it was his poetry that truly brought him acclaim. Born in 1859, Houseman won a scholarship to St. John's College at Oxford in 1877, but left in 1882 without graduating. In 1892, he was appointed Professor of Latin at University College London, based on the articles he had published in classical journals.

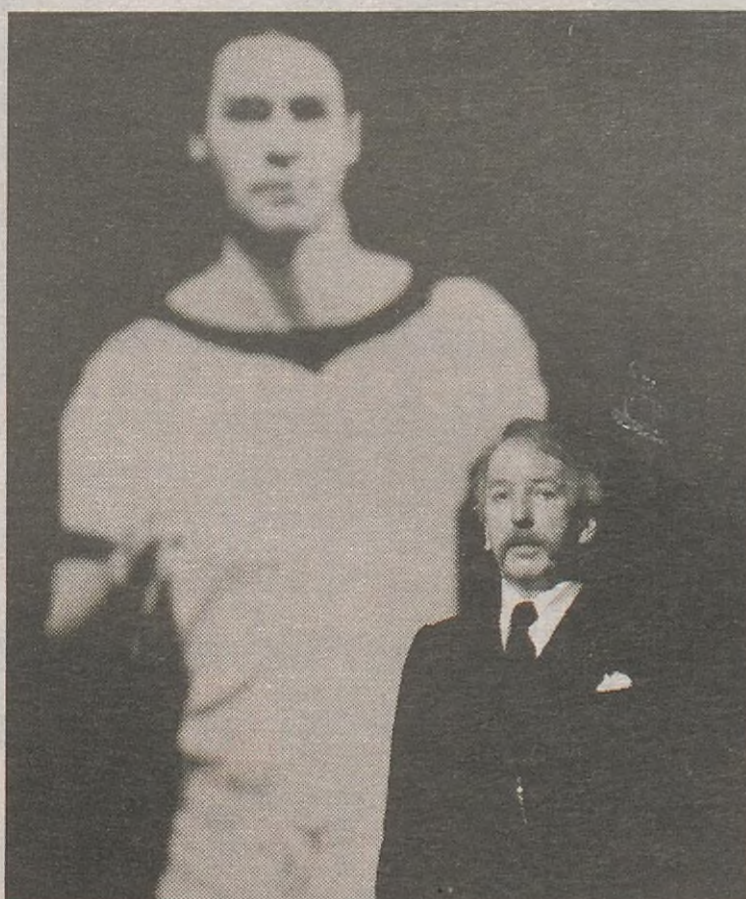
In 1896, his first volume of poems, "A Shropshire Lad," was published, but it wasn't until 1922 that his second volume, "Last Poems," reached a waiting audience. After his death in 1936, two more volumes, "More Poems" and "Additional Poems," were published. It was this duality — that of a scholar who was an accomplished poet — that drew Stoppard to the subject matter.

Stoppard knew very little about the man when he began writing this play. It was the fact that Houseman was a Latin scholar that interested him most. Having attempted to delve into the battle of romanticism vs. classicism in his play "Arcadia," Stoppard felt that he had not fully tapped the subject and began the research that would lead to the creation of "The Invention of Love."

Little was known about Houseman's personal life, but it was a simple diary that drew Stoppard further into the story. In the sparse diary, Houseman noted the changes of season and very little else, but there were a handful of entries that intrigued Stoppard.

Indicating letters sent to a "him," Stoppard discovered an old school chum, Moses Jackson, and an unrequited love that had lasted for years. An entry on the date that Jackson left for a new life in India simply stated, "Sunday 1889, 10:45 pm, said goodbye." It is this love, and Houseman's battle with it, that lies at the heart of Stoppard's dream-play.

AS THE PLAY OPENS, HOUSEMAN, played with an understated grace by the inestimable Tyson, begins his journey into the afterlife. On the shores of the River Styx, he is met by his boatman, Charon (played by audience favorite Charles Krohn), an intriguing figure with an amusing theatrical past. As he is ferried to the Underworld, Houseman dreams of his youth at Oxford, where he fell in love with his fellow student.



John Tyson portrays A.E. Housman in Alley Theatre's production of Tom Stoppard's 'The Invention of Love,' now playing. (Photo by T. Charles Erickson)

Thus begins a journey that traverses time and space, taking audiences to Victorian London, where Parliament has made homosexuality a crime, and the French seashore, where the flamboyant Oscar Wilde — convicted of that very crime — is visited by Houseman.

As the young Houseman, Philip Lehl takes complete command of the role. His youthful vigor is a sad counterpoint to the solitude he will later create. Lehl may be new to Houston audiences, but he is definitely making his mark. His appearance in the 2001 Houston Shakespeare Festival as the bastard son in "King John" was outstanding, as was his turn as the Narrator in Stages Repertory Theater's "Pavilion."

As Moses Jackson, the student for whom Houseman pines, Ty Mayberry cuts a dashing figure. His athleticism lends itself well to the role of the science scholarship student with a passion for sport. Mayberry has grown much during his two years at the Alley and his ease on the stage belays this.

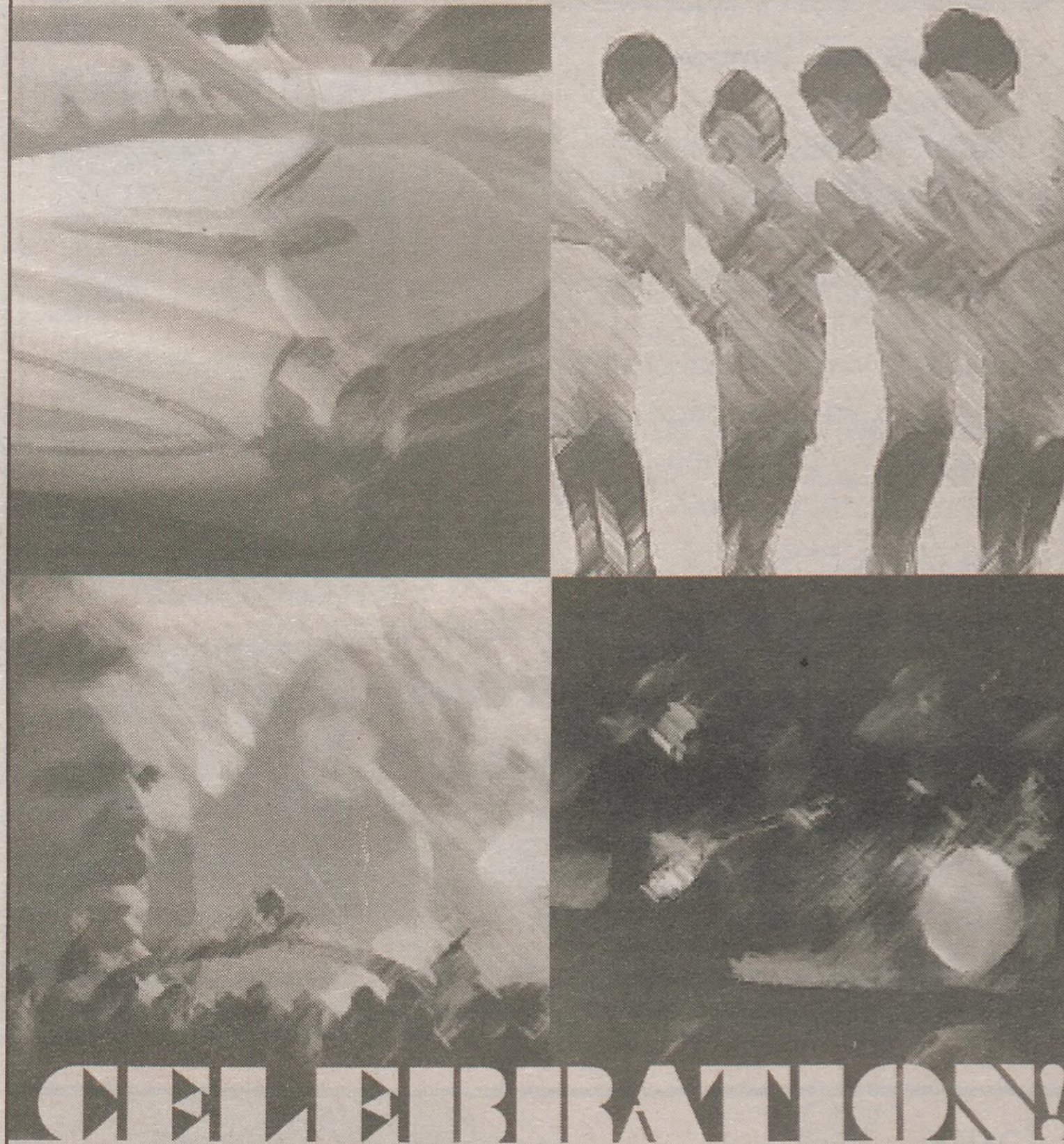
Completing the youthful trio of Houseman's past is Jamison Stern in the role of Pollard. Gleefully gay, in the Victorian sense of the word, Stern's Pollard is wonderfully witty and enormously entertaining.

Rounding out the cast are many Alley favorites. James Belcher, Paul Hope, David Rainey and K. Todd Freeman all throw themselves into Stoppard's world with complete abandon. As Professor Jowett, Todd Waite's pronouncement of secretaries nearly brought the audience to its feet. It is James Black, though, who steals the show with his portrayal of the aging Oscar Wilde, a man of style and wit even in his darkest hours.

Boyd has given a superb life to Stoppard's dream, moving the audience through the ethereal and making it real. With the aid of Kevin Rigdon's appropriately dream-like set pieces and Rui Rita's beautiful lighting, Boyd has created a world that is wholly of this play, thoroughly engaging — and completely Stoppard.

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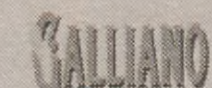
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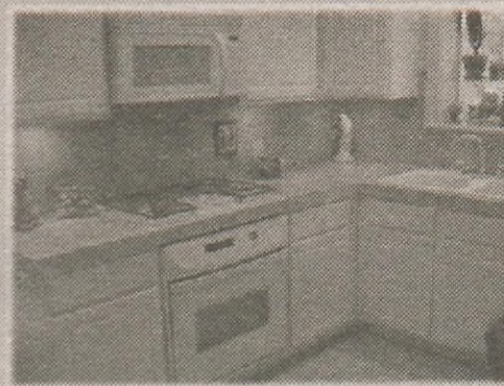
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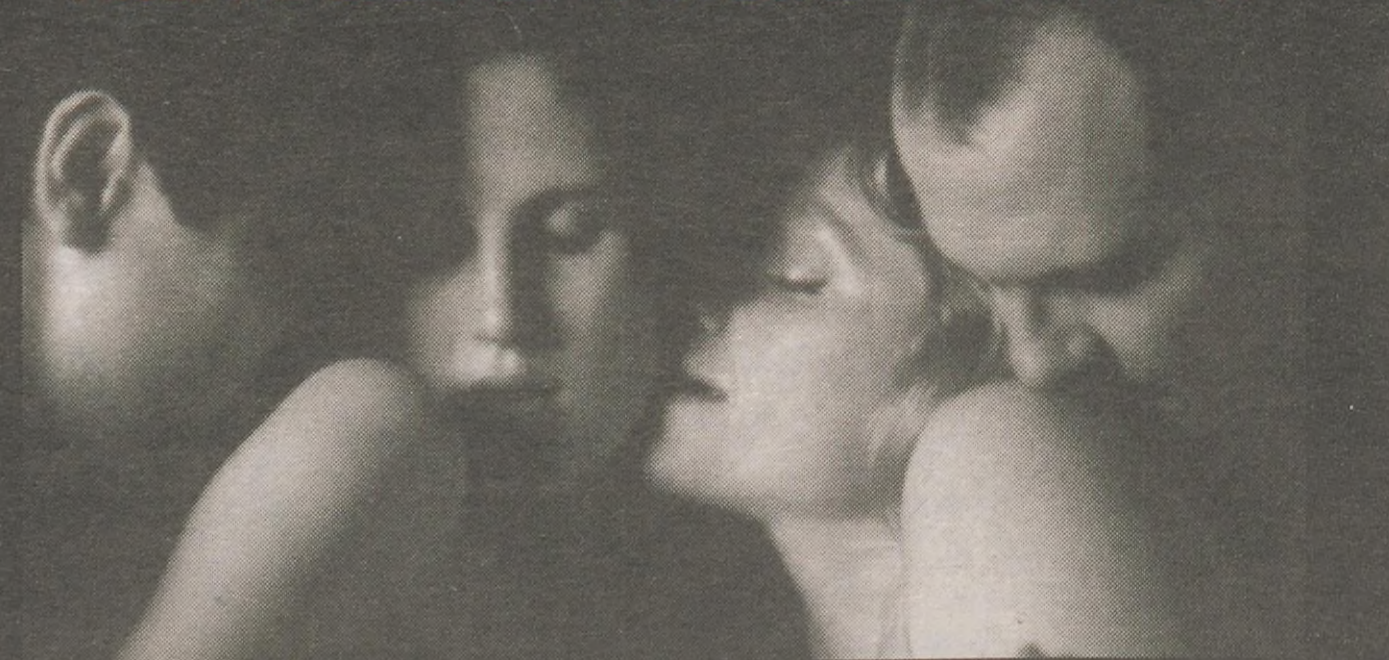
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dining KATHREEN LEE

Laid back atmosphere, low prices make Mexican establishment place to dine.

Tasty Taqueria treats

IN THE WESTERN MEXICAN STATE of Jalisco, a small quiet town called Arandas sits within what's known as Tequila country, an area distinguished by its production of the popular Mexican cerveza.

The laid-back congenial atmosphere combined with the rich flavors of authentic Mexican cuisine are two features of this region that Taqueria Arandas attempts to emulate in its chain of nearly 20 restaurants across Houston.

Taqueria Arandas No. 12 is located alongside a busy interstate in a rose-colored brick building constructed to resemble a saloon or a bank lining the main strip of a tumbleweed border town. The Arandas Bakery adjoins the restaurant and offers various breads, cookies and cakes, which can be prepared for special occasions.

Mouth watering coconut cookies, sweet breads, crackers and wheat rolls fill the numerous clear plastic bins lining the walls of the bakery.

BUT WHAT SETS THE UBIQUITOUS empire of Taqueria Arandas apart from all others is not the bakery accessories, but the combination of authentic, rich and flavorful food at low prices.

For instance, the Tortas (\$2.49) are served on an incredibly soft homemade bolillo (Mexican bun) that absorbs the savory juices of various meats without becoming soggy. Meat choices for the tortas and tacos range from the usual chicken to steamed baby goat, beef tongue or BBQ headmeat. Vegetarians have the option of choosing cactus as an alternative.

The meat is usually shredded to allow full absorption of the marinade, and patrons are rewarded with a scrumptious savory sandwich. While the slices of avocado are rather skimpy, you can't really complain when such a large filling and delectable sandwich costs only \$2.50.

Taqueria Arandas also offers the usual Tex-Mex fare of Quesadillas (\$2.40), tostadas (\$1.75), fajitas (\$5.95) and burritos (\$2.45). One dish that deserves particular recognition is the Burrito de Camaron (\$3.89). Although slightly more expensive than the other burritos, the few extra cents are worth it — it's heavily stuffed with mini shrimp marinated perfectly in a vinegar/lime juice to give the burrito a healthy zesty kick.

Another popular seafood item is the Mojarra Frita (\$6.49), comprised of a fried Tilapia served with a salad, french fries and rice. The Tilapia meat was incredibly fresh, and despite the deep



What sets the ubiquitous empire of Taqueria Arandas apart from all others is not the bakery accessories, but the combination of authentic, rich and flavorful food at low prices.

fry, the natural juices and flavors of the fish were well preserved within the hardened and fried carapace.

TAQUERIA ARANDAS IS ALSO popular for its cheap and filling breakfasts. For instance, a breakfast taco with any choice of meat, eggs and cheese is less than \$1 between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.

All egg dishes, such as Huevos Con Papas (eggs and potatoes) or Huevos con chorizo (eggs and sausages), are \$1.99 in the morning and \$3.50 in the afternoon.

When it comes to quality of food and price, Taqueria Arandas and its 20 locations can't be beat. It's sure to become a favorite haunt of Houstonians.

"Sabroso, sabrosito" (loose translation: "tasty, really tasty") is their mantra, and deservedly so. The dishes are incredibly tasty, but once you find out how little they cost, the experience gets even better.

Taqueria Arandas

Taqueria Arandas
10403-A South Gulf FWY
713-910-2905

Food: ●●●●●●●●
Service: ●●●●●●●●
Value: ●●●●●●●●
Scene: ●●●●●●●●

☛ = Stay home and eat cereal
●●●● = Well, if you really must
●●●●●● = Fine for all but the finicky
●●●●●●●● = Worth more than a 20-minute drive
●●●●●●●●●● = As good as you'll find in this city



It's about time for CAFÉ METRO!!!

- **What is Café Metro?**
A concert/coffee house benefitting Resurrection's Project Noah (flood recovery)
- **When is Café Metro?**
Friday, June 14, from 7pm til ?
- **Where is Café Metro?**
In Resurrection's Activities Building (with special lighting and ambiance)
- **What is it?**
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- **How much will it cost?**
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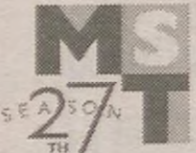
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SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Men's Gathering of Houston. Dialogue meeting with topic of "HIV and AIDS: What are you doing to take care of yourself?" 6:30 p.m. Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian. Church phone: 713-880-9235. Men's Gathering of Houston: 713-528-4461.

EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m.-3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. at Viviana's. 713-830-3000.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Outdoor Group. Memorial Park walk. 9:30 a.m., meet in front of tennis center. Jimmy, 713-864-7299.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Resurrection MCC. Noche Espiritual, Spanish language worship, 6 p.m. 713-861-9149.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in, noon-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

RSICSS. Royal Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston hosts Mr. Miss & Ms. Gay Pride featuring current Gay Pride royalty Mr. GP Sean Carter, Miss GP Sofonda St. John and Ms. GP Jennifer Posas. 8 p.m. EJs, 2517 Ralph St. 713-527-9071.

EVERY SUNDAY

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

Emerson Unitarian Church. Adult education, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. Lunch at noon. www.emersonhou.org.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch at 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 9 p.m.-midnight at Club Inergy. 713-830-3000.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.

GLOBAL. Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 6 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m.-noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. 10 a.m. service. 3333 Fannin, Suite 106. 713-528-6756.

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

Resurrection MCC. Services, 9 and 11 a.m. Children and Youth Sunday School, 10 a.m. Children's service, 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 7:45 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 8:55 a.m.; Education hour, 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist, 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.

Sunday Brunch. For HIV-positive men. Price-fixed buffet. 11 a.m. Riva's, 1117 Missouri St. Paul, 713-880-0690. e-mail: PoznFubb@aol.com.

The Women's Group. Meeting & discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service, 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in, 2-5 p.m. • MASH (Men of All Shades-Houston) meeting, 2 p.m. • S.I.S.T.E.R.S., support group for African-American lesbians, 2 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

Classic Chassis Car Club. Houston group's board meeting. 713-797-8615. www.ClassicChassisCarClub.org.

EVERY MONDAY

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Keys West. 713-830-3000.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Queer Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • HEAT (Houston Employees Affinity Team) meeting, 6:30 p.m. • Human Rights Campaign PAC, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 713-867-9020.

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. Galveston chamber's general membership meeting. Location to be announced. 409-765-0257. www.LeTsbIGay.com.

EVERY TUESDAY

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m.-midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mount Vernon. 713-526-8390.

Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

HTGA. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. No partner needed. Beginner 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • Pride Committee of Houston volunteer meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at Mary's; 9 p.m.-midnight at Ripcord; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJs; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Midtown Spa. 713-830-3000.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-524-0218.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Bi-Net Houston. Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston. 8 p.m. meeting. Chris, 713-426-3128. E-mail: lgirtf-houston@egroups.com.

EVERY THURSDAY

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 4-8 p.m. at The Outpost; 8 p.m.-midnight at Brazos River Bottom and Cousins; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

GLOBAL. Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston-Central Campus. Weekly meeting, 6 p.m. e-mail: nguyen0023@hotmail.com.

Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. No partner required. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Café Agora. 7 p.m. E-mail charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. • Mattison Grey, professional coach and trainer, offers professional coaching. 7 p.m. Advance registration requested. Fee: \$20 per couple. • Mood Disorders Support Group, 6:30 p.m. • Community center volunteers meeting • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Jump Start. New group by Bering Support Network is for GLBT people living with disabling conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, amputations and head trauma. Meets the second and fourth Friday of the month. 11 a.m. Facilitator: Ken McLeod. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

EVERY FRIDAY

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJs and at Midtown Spa. 713-830-3000.

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. OraSure method. Call for appointment. Sharon, 713-873-4157.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Light breakfast provided. 713-523-9530.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.

Mishpach Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. Mishpach Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

Q-Patrol. Volunteers walk the streets to help prevent hate crimes. 9:30 p.m. Convene at community center. 713-528-SAFE. E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Women's Game Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

VOLUNTEER/SELF-HELP

Gay & Lesbian Help Line. For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston. Volunteers offer a friendly ear to callers in need of information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and referral services, emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. 713-529-3211.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Volunteers perform a variety of critical tasks which include staffing the information desk during drop-in hours; helping with Center programming and events; working on community outreach efforts, fund-raising and publicity. Card players, writers and artists in particular are needed. 713-524-3818.

Houston Montrose Athletic Association. Volunteers, sponsors and runners are needed for the Fifth Annual Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 5K Run/Walk to be held June 8. HMAA sponsors the event, which will benefit AssistHers. Contact Steve Ruimveld, 713-868-8904, e-mail: sruiumveld@ev1.net; or B.J. Almond, 713-864-4120, e-mail: balmond@ev1.net.

Peer Listening Line. Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

Pride Committee of Houston. Volunteers are needed for Houston's annual Pride parade from 8:45 to 11 p.m. Saturday, June 29. 713-529-6929. E-mail: info@pridehouston.org.

Scholarship foundation. The Amethyst Scholarship Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, seeks two executive board members and ASF Community Event volunteers. The group provides college scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. 210-372-2020. www.amethystscholarship.org.

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appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

SPECIAL STARTS SATURDAY, JUNE 8

"Celebration! The Sounds of the '60s" is the Pride concert planned by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Order on-line at www.gmch.org/tickets, or by phone at Box Office Tickets, 800-494-8497. 8 p.m. June 8, 10 and 11; 3 p.m. June 9. Heinen Theater, Houston Community College, 3517 Austin.

THROUGH JUNE 16

Houston Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival screens at six venues across the city. The sixth annual event provides a platform for gays to tell their stories and examine crucial issues that impact their lives. HGLFF, 803 Hawthorne. www.hglff.org.

ONGOING

Grey Party XX invites artist submissions for a logo for this October's event, Houston's annual circuit party to benefit HIV/AIDS service organizations. Deadline to submit entries: June 15. For more information, call Bruce Chambers at 713-529-9304 or 713-822-1577.

FILM CONTINUES SATURDAY, JUNE 8

"Under the Sun" is the story of Olaf, a 39-year-old virgin living alone on his family's farm, who places an ad for a housekeeper and is taken by surprise when a stunning city woman named Ellen answers it. Olaf falls for the mysterious beauty, but so does his Erik, Olaf's younger ladykiller friend. 7 p.m. Also plays June 9. Tickets: \$6. Rice Cinema, Rice University Campus, Entrance No. 8, University Boulevard and Stockton Drive. 713-348-4853. www.ruf.rice.edu/~cinema.

GALLERIES THROUGH JUNE 30

"Slant: Bold Asian American Images," curated by Melissa Hunt, is now open. The group show offers a smattering of works by emerging Asian-American artists from around the country. The artists work in a variety of media, including photography, painting and digital art. Admission is free. Gallery hours: Noon-6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. 713-223-8346. www.diverseworks.org.

ONGOING

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History Satellite Exhibition. The first exhibition from the GCAM collection presented at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center honors the NAMES Project Houston. Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

ONGOING

Positive Art Workshop Photography Exhibition. Artists living with HIV/AIDS created these pictures with accompanying text. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

DANCE/PERFORMANCE ART CONTINUES SATURDAY, JUNE 8

"Don Quixote" is the latest production by Houston Ballet. The piece offers plenty of fancy footwork, authentic Spanish-flavored dance and comic interludes that bring to life the story based on Cervantes' classic novel. Eccentric Don Quixote is on a quest for his ideal woman, while real-life lovers Kitri and Basilio battle against all odds to unite in true love. Tickets: \$11.50-104.50. 7:30 p.m. Also on stage June 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m., and June 9 and 16 at 2 p.m. Brown Theater, Wortham Theater Center, Texas at Smith streets, downtown Houston. 713-227-ARTS. www.houstonballet.org.



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The cupboards are bare at HHS. They need puppy and kitten food • Any kind • Any quantity • Drop donations at 14700 Alameda Rd. or send monetary donations to:

Houston Humane Society
PO BOX 450428
Houston, Texas 77245-0528
For information, call 713-434-5555.

DAY SHELTER

Needs new or used clothing and shoes in good condition • Contact Etalia or Ruth at 713-528-5667 • 402 Pacific

MR. PRIME CHOICE

We are looking for "Prime Choice" vest of our former and deceased winners. Vests are to be placed in the archives. If you have one or know where any of the vests are, please call Don Gill at 713-521-0911

EMPLOYMENT

FEMALE MANAGER

Lady to manage resale store. Must be knowledgeable of fashion/clothing. Apply in Person: Lady's & Man's Resale, 14020 Memorial Dr.

M2M FASHIONS 3400 MONTROSE

Experienced accountant position and retail sales. Apply in person • 713-521-0804.

Resurrection MCC Seeks Interim Gospel Ensemble Director. Previous musical direction, will work with pianist/ arranger, knowledge of African-American worship music and styling. Part-time position. Contact: Mark Unbehagen - 713-861-9149 ext. 110.

ARE YOU THAT SPECIAL NURSE?

Adult day care for non-critical HIV patients seeks full-time nurse weekdays, occasional hospice work, nights/weekends • Pleasant work place in Montrose • Competitive salary and good benefits • Psych/rehab experience • Spanish speaking • RN preferred, but will consider all applicants • Pick up application at Bering Care Center, 1427 Hawthorne.

BARBER • COSMETOLOGIST

Montrose Area - Very Reasonable • Call Frank @ 713-522-2263.

FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Offering free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness, training, resume development, and job searching assistance. For more info call 713-981-1543

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MONTROSE AREA

Large 1 bedroom. Includes Utilities. Available June 15th. Call Frank 713-522-2263.

Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable TV, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access • Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale • 713-520-0206

Montrose Cottages

1/1 Garden Cottage • \$300 and up • Reserved for People Living with AIDS • 90 day MAX • Phone, furnished, AC • Maid paid • No deposit • Sliding scale fee • No drugs or Alcohol on property • AIDS Housing Coalition AHCH • 713-521-1613

FOR SALE

For Sale at WESTBURY GARDENS

2 Bedroom, 1 Bath upstairs flat greatly upgraded with ceramic tile on floors, kitchen counters & back-splashes. Good appliances including W/D. Many other accessories recently replaced as well. Must be seen to be appreciated. \$35,500 • 713-729-9316.

FOR SALE AT WESTBURY GARDENS

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MASSAGE

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PETS

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To adopt a pet in need of a home, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555.

Q Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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"From the Bistros of Montmartre"

Across

- "Dancing Queen" band
- An old flame?
- "The Horse Fair" painter Bonheur
- Davis of "Querelle"
- "A Burst of Light" author Audre
- "Change of Habit" star's middle name
- "West ___ Story"
- "My Fair Lady" composer
- Prissy temper tantrum
- Colette novel
- Ogle a go-go dancer
- Coll. of Phil Andros
- Button on a Web cam
- Lang. of the cut
- Like a mouth, in B&D
- Gary Glitter's "___! You're Beautiful"
- Kool & the Gang's "Get Down ___"
- Obtain
- Source of "Health Care Needs of Gay Men and Lesbians in the U.S."
- Colette novel
- One that gets laid
- Limb you pump with
- Trucker's shaft
- Early anesthetic
- Way to serve your meat
- Mary Cheney's partner Heather
- Noted Warhol subject

- Hrs. in Key West
- Cherry ____, Fire Island
- Colette memoir
- Isle of exile in Brando's "Desiree"
- Dress with a flared bottom
- Nature's blow job?
- Wrongful act
- Get some left behind
- Title for Uncle Remus' bear
- Very, to Verlaine
- What Elton John puts out
- Himalayan legend

- Tricks
- Kenan's "___ the Dead Bury Their Dead"
- He beat Koch in 1982
- "Queer Duck" TV channel
- With mouth wide open
- Stroke your furry one
- "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of ___ Greene"
- Mandlikova, who beat Navratilova at the 1985 U.S. Open
- Pronoun for King James
- Steve May's branch of the service
- White heron
- Blow it
- Tee Corinne's image
- 6-0 for Billie Jean
- Size of a wide feet
- Peter Paige's "Queer as Folk" character
- Comedian Rip
- Reinaldo Arenas' man
- Verdi opera
- A porn star may have a big one
- Dances the horizontal mambo with
- Sport requiring leather balls
- Mouthful for a stallion
- Rimbaud's zip
- Problem for a drag queen's hosiery
- Prey for chicken hawks
- Bi plus one

Down

- Bob Paris' pride
- Pears' favorite fruit?
- Whoopi's ill-fitting garb in "Sister Act"?
- "Do" equivalent for the von Trapps
- Crooner of George and Lorenz tunes
- Sounds from the "Giant" set
- Mel's role with Jodie in "Maverick"
- Depp's cross-dressing role
- Boat bottom bumpers
- Possible STD symptom
- Bearish
- Human Rights Campaign fund-raiser

Answers on Page 25

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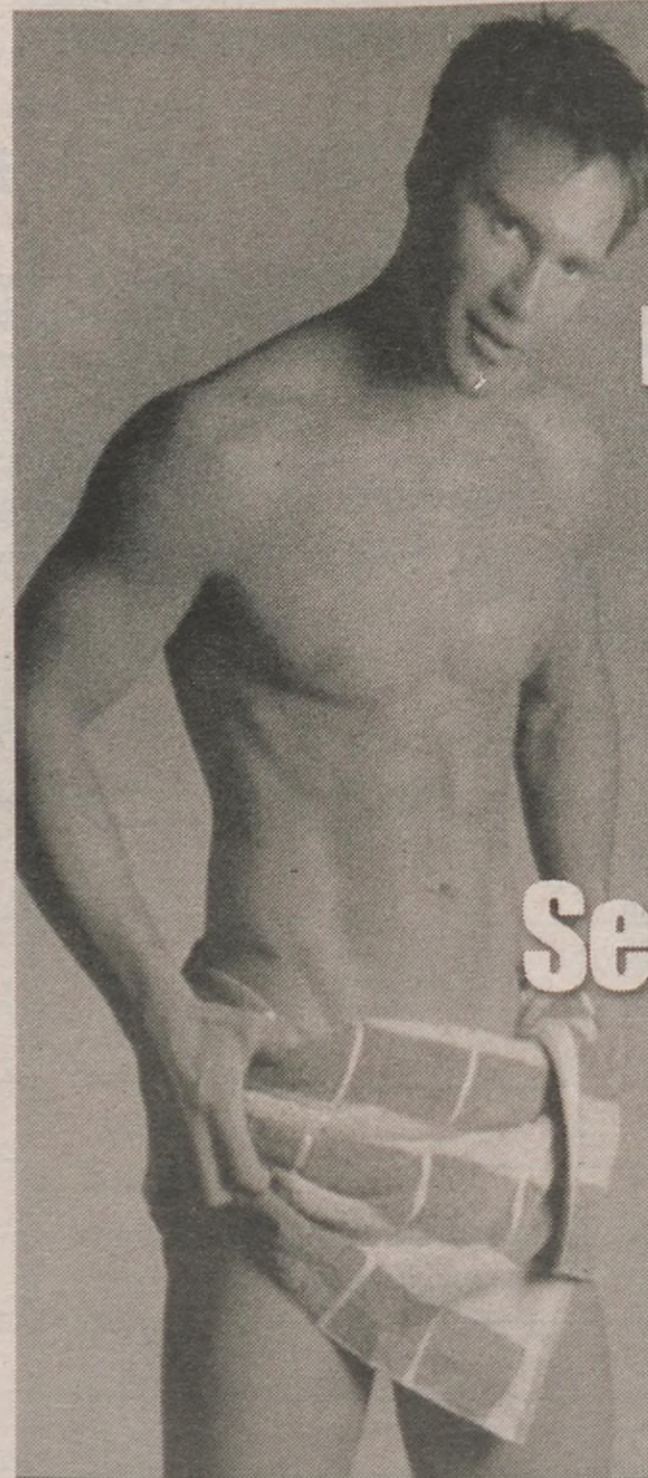
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My Stars!

June 7 - 13

**ARIES (March 21 to April 20)**

This is a great time for you to lighten up and do some of the things that you have previously considered frivolous. The Sun and Mercury in your third house are highlighting your playful side, so stop being so sullen. A Scorpio wants to have fun!

**TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)**

The moon, Venus, and Jupiter are all conjunct in your very social third house on June 14. Put down the remote control and the potato chips and reach out to people. It's Pride Month, you silly thing. A Libra wants to see you as much as possible.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)**

If you have to throw a few diva-esque fits this week, so be it. Your friends and love objects can handle it. In fact, they welcome the drama. The full moon inspires you to push your own limits and go beyond your capabilities. A Sag is a positive influence on your life.

**CANCER (June 22 to July 22)**

You have to do something to nurture yourself, darling. Luxury should be your mantra right now. The good things in life make you feel at ease, so don't deny yourself. A Pisces wants to give you everything.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)**

The Sun's (your ruler's) conjunction to Saturn on June 13 could bring up old feelings of loss and grief. Give yourself a ritual for dealing with them, darling. It's time to let go and live again. A Sag will give you the sexy support you need right now.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)**

This is the right time for you to be more assertive about your career. No one is going to climb the ladder of success for you. Start kicking ass! A Capricorn can give you some tips on how to be ruthless (in bed).

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)**

Venus moves into your house of friends on June 14, which means that you and a platonic pal may dance the dance of attraction yet again. You and another Libra can't keep your hands off of each other. Why keep pretending?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)**

The Sun and Mercury are both transiting your house of collaborations during this cycle. This means that you can't do everything yourself, you control freak! In art as in life you need people who can complement you, dearie. A Taurus is your shadow and your inspiration.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)**

The full moon in your sign on June 10 brings out the sexy part of you, darling. You thought you could contain your lust for life (and for a Leo's body), but you can't. Put happiness and satisfaction first, and stop rationalizing your feelings.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)**

Venus and Mars both hit your house of love during mid-June. Forget about pretending you're in control. You are too vulnerable and passionate to play it cool, especially with a Virgo. Be the sexy wreck that you are!

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**

The Sun and Mercury are both transiting the most creative sector of your chart during mid-June, so please stop getting immersed in distracting relationships and transform some of your obsessions into works of art. An Aries wants to be your muse.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)**

The Sun and Mercury are both moving through your house of home and family during this cycle. You have the opportunity to make your home the love den you've always dreamed of. A Virgo can help you.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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