



INSIDE



An Uncommon Legacy plays host to Comets guard Janeth Arcain while prepping for its annual fund-raising brunch later this month. Group members say the Houston chapter of the national organization now ranks first in fund-raising.

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City employee Brenda Thomas is organizing Houston Employees Affinity Team, the first diversity group established for city workers. The group's first official meeting is scheduled for the day after Council is expected to vote on the proposed non-discrimination ordinance for municipal employees.

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Having the proper tools for any home improvement project will make the work go faster and easier. It's helpful to have a well-stocked tool kit with essentials like adjustable wrenches and a variety of screwdrivers.

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Non-discrimination ordinance still in limbo

Measure tagged for second week in a row, delayed for City Council vote until July 25

by KAY Y. DAYUS

As anticipated, the proposed city of Houston anti-discrimination ordinance was tagged by Councilman Mark Ellis at Wednesday's City Council meeting, but Councilwoman Annise Parker is confident that it will eventually be approved when it comes before Council again on July 25.

Openly gay Parker said it is a quirk of Houston city government that any councilmember may tag an item if he or she has never seen it at a council meeting before. Ellis was absent from last week's meeting when Councilman Rob Todd also tagged the ordinance.

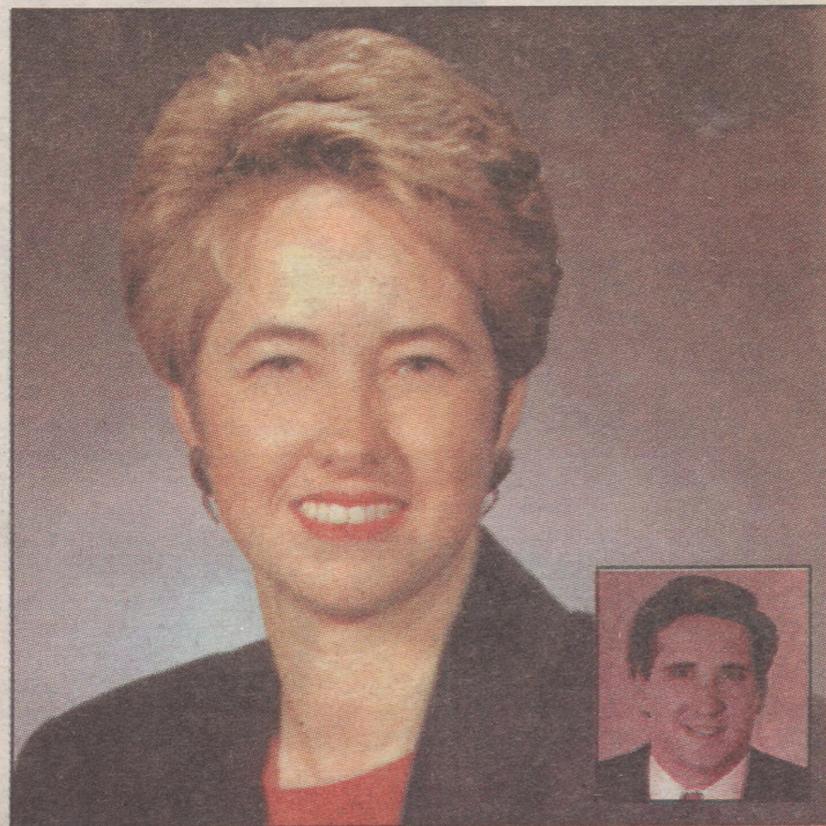
• Gay city employee group forming

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Parker said she was "still confident" that the measure would eventually pass and that at Wednesday's meeting she was "fending off amendments" to the ordinance. "I want it to pass the way it is and not in some unrecognizable form."

Parker was referring to a motion made by Councilman Bruce Tatro to amend, the language in the ordinance by eliminating, "... discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, race, religion, age, gender or disability." Instead, Tatro pro-

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Councilwoman Annise Parker said she's confident the proposed non-discrimination ordinance designed to protect gay city workers will pass once it comes up for a vote before City Council. Councilmen Mark Ellis and Rob Todd (inset) have each tagged the ordinance, effectively delaying the vote until July 25.

Gay-friendly activist takes helm at NOW

Southern woman with history fighting for gay rights is the new leader of the nation's largest feminist group

by ERIC ERICKSON



Kim Gandy, NOW's new president, will be up for election again in four years.

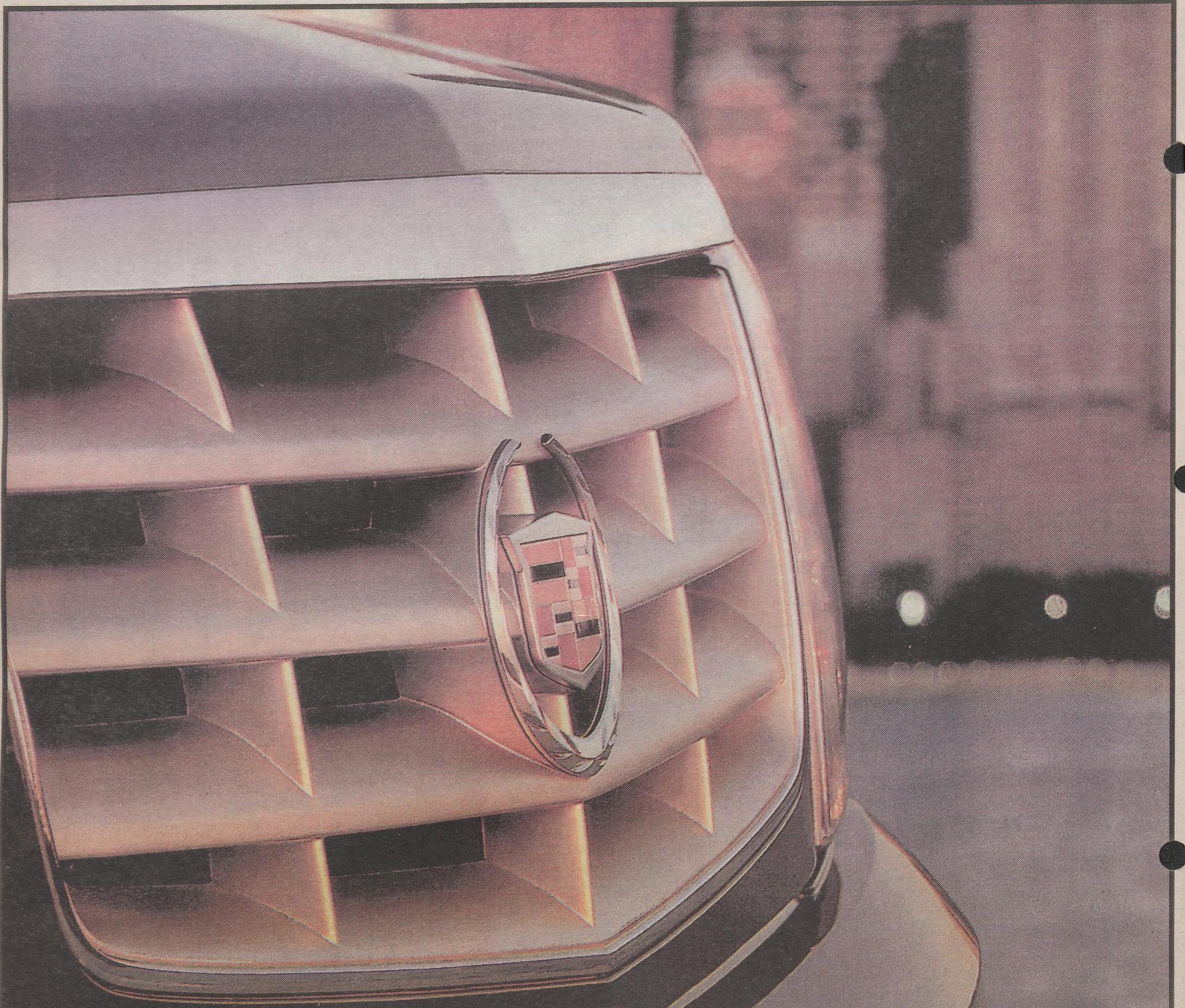
When the National Organization for Women elected its new officers last month, leaders said lesbians would continue to get support and representation within the feminist group.

More than 1,000 NOW chapter delegates cast their votes, electing Louisiana native Kim Gandy as president.

"[Running for president was] something I've been thinking about for a long time and felt that the time was right," Gandy said of her venture for office in the nation's largest feminist activism group. "[I] felt that particularly that as a Southern woman I might be able to reach out to more Southern women to become involved in the organization."

Gandy will be the first new president to lead the 500,000-member organization in a decade as she replaces Patricia Ireland at NOW's helm. Gandy and her three vice presidents beat out one other team in the NOW election

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Transgender halfway house established on Isle



Members of the Community Awareness for Transgender Support group recently opened a halfway house for transgenders on Galveston Island. CATS members pictured above from left are Cristan Williams, Ashley King, Melanie Black, Stacey Langley, Julieanne Buddecke and Cairstonia Douglas.

CATS group reaches out to those turned away by mainstream shelters

by KAY Y. DAYUS

In an effort to stem the tide of hopelessness for many transgenders, the Community Awareness for Transgender Support recently opened a small halfway house in Galveston for transgenders who would otherwise be homeless.

Cristan Williams, CATS president, says the aim is to help others in the community who have been turned away from mainstream shelters and to steer transgenders away from prostitution—a harsh reality for many.

"Almost every transsexual has faced the possibility of being homeless or on the street. It's a Catch 22; they need money so they need a job. But they can't get a job because they don't have the correct documentation. It's a prospect that almost every transsexual has faced," said Williams.

The house can comfortably accommodate four people at a time and they anticipate residents staying an average of three or

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An Uncommon Legacy gearing up for fund-raiser

Comets' Arcain participates in precursor event for annual brunch

by KAY Y. DAYUS

As a prelude to its larger fund-raiser at the end of the month, An Uncommon Legacy hosted Houston Comets guard, Janeth Arcain, at a wine and cheese affair at Bocados last Sunday.

Around 250 fans showed up, most of them contributing \$20 to Legacy. In return they got a large glossy of Arcain signed personally and had their photo taken with the hot Comets' shooter.

And you had to be big Arcain fan to wait outside for well over an hour and a half in Houston's unrelenting sun to see the basketball champion.

It was good for those fans and it was good for Legacy organizers who raised \$3,500 from the event. "It was great yesterday," said Legacy member Christina L. Jeffcoat. "The money raised goes right back into the community for grants and scholarships."

But Legacy's biggest fund-raiser of the year, the Uncommon Legacy Extra Mile Award Brunch, is still to come on July 29. This year, former Comets player, Monica Lamb, will be honored with the



Lynn Wenning, an avid Comets fan, smiles while getting an autograph from guard Janeth Arcain Sunday at an Uncommon Legacy fund-raiser at Bocados.

Uncommon Woman Award. Lamb also is a guest speaker for the event.

The award is given annually to a woman who organizers believe best exemplifies commitment to the community both locally and nationally.

Lamb is a native Houstonian who

began her basketball career at James D. Ryan Middle School. Since leaving the Comets, she has used her expertise in fitness to open the Monica Lamb Wellness Foundation to promote the health of women and children, said Janine Brunjes,

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around the nation

NC reports 700 percent increase in same-sex partners on Census

WASHINGTON—Census figures released Wednesday show reported gay couples in North Carolina rose more than 700 percent from 1990 to 2000. The state reported 16,198 same-sex "unmarried partner" households on the 2000 Census. Durham County reported the most gay couples, making up 0.85 percent of the county's households. In the four other states for which Census data was released this week, same-sex unmarried partners rose 503 percent in Iowa, 708 percent in Kentucky, 740 percent in Utah and 266 percent in Washington. Also this week, gay rights groups called on Census officials to release numbers of same-sex couples who identified themselves as "spouses" instead of "unmarried partners" in both 1990 and 2000. Census officials have warned against comparing "unmarried partners" between the two counts because of a change in the way same-sex "spouses" were categorized. In 1990, the Census assigned these couples to a variety of different categories based on other information about their households; in 2000, all same-sex spouses were counted as unmarried partners.

CA senate panel okays protection for those outside traditional gender roles

SACRAMENTO—The California Senate's Judiciary Committee approved job and housing protections July 3 for transsexuals, effeminate men, masculine women and others who don't fall into traditional gender categories, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. The bill would change the legal definition of "sex" to include those whose appearance and behavior are "different from that traditionally associated with a person's sex at birth." "We are all created differently but all, I hope, equally," said Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg, the bill's sponsor. Goldberg's bill would allow employers to require employees to dress appropriately for their jobs. Still to be ironed out is the individual's responsibility to inform the employer of their gender. Under current law governing religious discrimination, for example, employers are not allowed to ask someone's religion, so employees must inform them of what Sabbath they observe before the employer can be accused of discriminating against them. Goldberg said her bill should treat gender in a similar manner.



California Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg is sponsoring a measure to protect from bias people whose appearance and behavior are different than traditional categories, like transsexuals and effeminate men.

AZ city may drop \$1.5 million in United Way funding over trans flap

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The city of Tucson plans to cut off \$1.5 million in funding for the United Way unless the charity's nondiscrimination policy is expanded to include transgendered people. The nonprofit agency adopted rules to protect gays in its bylaws and policies, but refused late last month to extend the protections to the transgendered. The council voted unanimously to stop payment on United Way funding for the 2002 fiscal year, which began July 1, if the changes aren't made by the council's Aug. 6 meeting. "One can argue that the United Way will have to find another name for itself because you can't be united when you're excluding people," said Council member Steve Leal. Tucson's United Way will get a chance to reconsider its decision at its July 26 meeting.

IN lawmakers file lawsuit to stop college production of 'Corpus Christi'

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)—A group that includes 21 state lawmakers filed a federal lawsuit July 5 seeking to block performances of a college student play that portrays Jesus as a gay man. The lawsuit contends that taxpayer money should not be used to help subsidize production of Terrence McNally's "Corpus Christi" at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne because they say it attacks religion. The play is slated to open Aug. 10 at a university theater. John Price, the attorney for the plaintiffs, said the constitutional separation of church and state does more than bar government from promoting religion. "Likewise, you shouldn't allow government to attack religion. This is not just an innocuous little play. It's a full-blown, unmitigated attack on Christianity and its founders," Price said. University officials said the play would go on as scheduled.

MN judge extends decision banning sodomy law across state

ST. PAUL, Minn.—A Minnesota judge, who in May declared the state's sodomy law unconstitutional, extended that ruling to include all adult residents of the state. State District Court Judge Delila Pierce agreed to the ACLU's request to certify her earlier ruling as a class action so that it would impact the entire state, not just the suit's plaintiffs. "There can be no question now: Minnesota's sodomy law has been struck down, and cannot be invoked anywhere in the state," said Leslie Cooper, an attorney with the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project. In May, Pierce ruled that the statute "as applied to private, consensual, non-commercial acts of sodomy by consenting adults," was unconstitutional because it violated the right of privacy guaranteed by the state's Constitution. A spokesperson for the state Attorney General said no decision had been made about whether to appeal, though legal experts thought Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura's opposition to the law would make an appeal unlikely. The decision leaves only 15 U.S. states with enforceable sodomy laws.



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Canadian college considers ban on sex outside marriage for employees

EDMONTON—A Christian university in the Canadian Province of Alberta is considering whether to implement a code of conduct that would ban sex outside of marriage among its employees, the *National Post* reported. King's University College triggered a landmark human rights case when it fired teacher Delwin Vriend in 1991 after he said he was gay. Vriend eventually won a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that wrote the protection of gays into Alberta's Human Rights Act. Now King's is considering a code on sex, swearing, illegal drugs and other issues. The proposed code's first draft banned gay sex, but a later version replaces it with a ban on sex outside marriage. At King's, firing might be a "worst-case scenario," depending on the behavior and an employee's intransigence, said Keith Ward, King's academic vice-president. The King's proposal arises in the wake of a Canadian Supreme Court decision upholding the right of Trinity Western University to operate as a teachers' college while banning gay sex among students on campus.

U.K. ads for Sandals resort banned from TV over exclusion of gay couples

LONDON—British commercial regulators have banned television ads for a chain of Caribbean resorts because the ads don't make it clear that the chain is not open to gay couples, Reuters reports. The Independent Television Commission said July 4 it had upheld a complaint from a viewer that the ads for Sandals were misleading after she was told the resorts were strictly for heterosexual couples. "The ITC concluded that the commercial was misleading and required the advertiser... to ensure that any future advertising made the exclusions clear," the ITC report said. Sandals management had argued that exclusionary policies were not unusual in the vacation business and it had not intended to mislead viewers with the advertisements, which featured heterosexual couples dancing and swimming.

Mayor in Canadian city wants to mend fences after skipping Gay Pride

LONDON, Ontario—The mayor of London, who didn't participate in her city's Gay Pride celebration, is trying to mend fences, the *London Free Press* reported. Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco said last month that she would not attend the parade because it would be divisive for the community. She pointed to the controversy over her predecessor's refusal to proclaim a Gay Pride Day six years ago, and said she might never be able to attend the event. DeCicco then met with all sides in the debate—gay, Christian and race-relations activists—to try to sort things out. Proclaiming her non-participation in the parade to be a manufactured issue, DeCicco said the reports had "pre-empted" her plan to bring community leaders together. "The fact that this is the first time that all of these community leaders have even been in a room talking is always what I envisioned doing," she said. Deb Lee, a Pride organizer, said she's pleased the good relationship with the mayor will continue.



Anne Marie DeCicco, the mayor of London, Ontario, summoned community leaders—including gays—to a meeting after the politician skipped recent Gay Pride events.

Police in India raid two gay clubs disguised as AIDS counseling centers

LUCKNOW, India—Indian police officers are holding eight people after raiding two gay clubs in Lucknow that had been running what may have been a prostitution ring in bars disguised as AIDS counseling centers, Reuters reported. The owners were charged with abetment of sodomy, an illegal act in India, and with criminal conspiracy. "Interrogations of the arrested persons have revealed that there were at least three gay clubs operating under similar garb and together these were estimated to have a membership of at least 500," said Police Chief B.B. Bakshi. He said literature, sex toys, ointments, video cassettes and photographs were seized at the clubs, both of which were based in the city of Lucknow, in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh near the Nepal border. Bakshi said they came to light when a senior police officer intervened in an altercation over payment between a youth and one of his customers. In India, sodomy is illegal and homosexuality is taboo.

Philippine authorities raid gay bar on eve of Gay Pride parade

BAGUIO CITY—Philippine gay activists believe a police raid on a new gay bar was timed to coincide with the end of a month-long Gay Pride celebration, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* reported. Police arrested, and then later released, 23 "macho dancers" working at the Coco Banana. Police Director Villamor Bumanglag said authorities raided the bar after receiving tips that lewd shows were being performed. Police failed to witness the show when the raid was conducted, but still arrested the dancers for working without permits. Gay rights activists in the city said the police raid, which occurred on the eve of the city's Gay Pride parade, was "uncalled for."

"Why do the police allow [the operations of] girlie bars when they cannot allow any gay bar to operate?" said local gay activist Dane Ducayag. Police called the timing of the raid coincidental.

—From staff and wire reports

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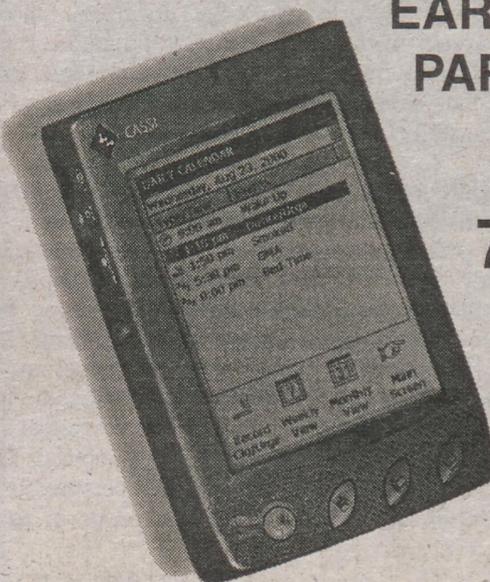
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health news

Infections among gay men fuel FL syphilis jump, despite national trend

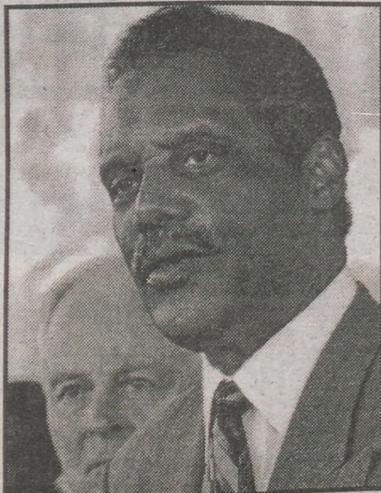
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Syphilis is on the rise in Florida, primarily among young white gay men, even while it declined in the U.S. as a whole. Reported cases have risen by 53 percent in Florida since 1998, compared to a 14 percent decrease nationwide during the same period, according to a study from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. A total of 177 syphilis cases were reported in Florida in 2000, compared to 271 cases in 2001 so far in the state, according to the study. In Broward and Palm Beach counties, cases of the disease have tripled since 1998, from 28 cases to 90. In Broward County, 70 percent of syphilis cases occur among young, white gay males, officials said. Health officials follow syphilis infection rates because they consider it to be a predictor of future increases in HIV infection.

MA appeals court says fear of contracting AIDS not enough for lawsuit

BOSTON (AP)—A man who was pricked by a pair of surgical tweezers while cleaning out a newly purchased car cannot sue the car dealership based only on his fear that he might have contracted AIDS. An appeals court ruled that the man would have had to show that he was actually exposed to the disease. The ruling involved a case brought by Timothy and Marybeth Cole, who sued D.J. Quirk Inc., after Cole cut his hand on surgical tweezers left in the car by the previous owner, a physician. A lower court dismissed the case, a decision the appeals court upheld. "This court says you can sue simply over the fear of AIDS, but you have to show that what you're afraid of catching it from actually had the AIDS virus," said David Yas, publisher of *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*.

Black activists call for action on AIDS in CA minority communities

LOS ANGELES—African-American leaders from Southern California unveiled a three-pronged plan of attack on AIDS, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. "There is a war going on. In this war, HIV and AIDS are the enemy. We must employ effective battle strategies," said Crystal Crawford of the California Black Women's Health Project. More than 100 people, including U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles) and Police Chief Bernard C. Parks, listened as speakers described AIDS as an epidemic attacking blacks across the globe. Waters and members of the Alliance of Black Women Organizations said they will concentrate their effort in three areas: holding community teach-ins, distributing condoms in hotels, barbershops and beauty salons, and forming teams to reach out to residents at schools, malls and sporting events. The Congressional Black Caucus has called on President Bush to declare AIDS among minorities a national emergency, and asked for \$550 million for outreach programs, research and related projects. Still, Parks said, community members must stop waiting for the government or "someone else" to do something. "It all comes back to when are you going to do something," he said.



Los Angeles Police Chief Bernard Parks was one of several black leaders who unveiled a three-pronged effort to fight AIDS in Southern California last weekend.

Safe-sex information makes little difference for gay men in U.K. study

LONDON—A 12-month study comparing the HIV-infection rates of gay men who were given counseling against those who were not has found that the information made little difference in whether the men became infected, BBC Online reported. Researchers at a health clinic recruited 343 gay men who had either contracted a sexually transmitted disease or admitted to having unprotected anal sex in the past year. Researchers gave all the men a 20 minute one-to-one counseling session, while inviting half of them to a one-day workshop. The study found that the proportion of men who contracted a new STD during the follow-up period was larger in the group who had been given advice (31 percent) than in a comparable group who were not (21 percent). Dr. John Imrie, one of the study's authors, said educators must take seriously the idea that some of their efforts may be counter-productive. The research was published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Prisoners with HIV jump, while AIDS-related deaths drop, study says

WASHINGTON (AP)—AIDS-related deaths in U.S. prisons have fallen sharply because of better treatment, while the numbers of prisoners infected with HIV have increased, according to a new Justice Department study. In 1999, 242 state prisoners died from AIDS related causes, down from a 1995 peak of 1,010, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported. But during that same period, the number of state and federal prisoners testing positive for HIV rose 1,500 to nearly 25,800. The number of HIV-positive prisoners grew at a slower rate, 6 percent, than the overall prison population. "It does seem there are some positive trends reflecting decreasing death rates, but AIDS cases in prison are still five times the rate of the U.S. population generally," said Jennifer Kates, a Kaiser Family Foundation official. The study did not track whether inmates became infected with HIV before they entered prison or after.



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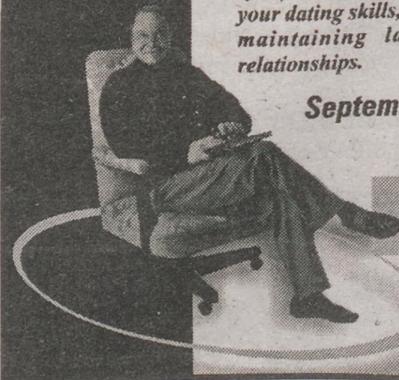
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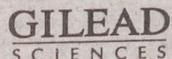
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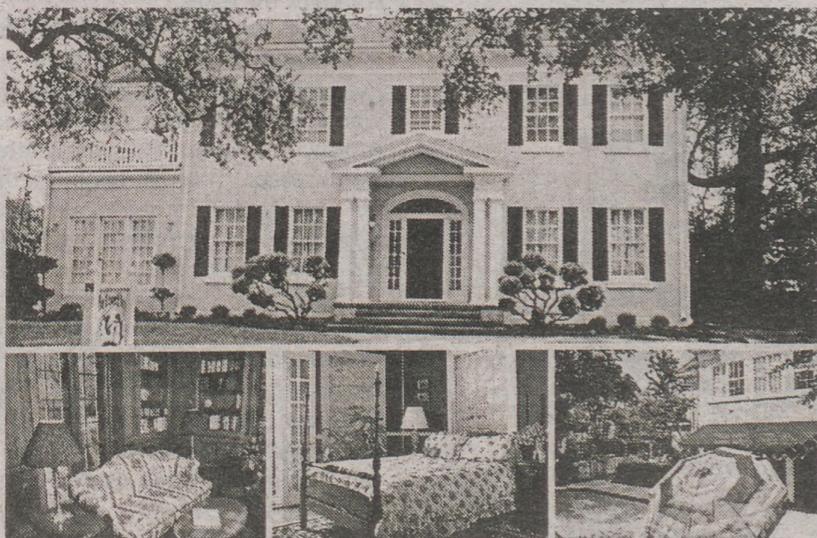
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EDITORIAL

Are donors being taken for an AIDS Ride?

by CHRIS CRAIN

Next month, hundreds of bicyclists will journey from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Anchorage, through breathtaking countryside, and thousands of dollars from the trip will go into the coffers of the production company that arranged it. There's only one catch: A portion of that profit will come from the cyclists' friends, coworkers and families, who have been told the event is about raising money for AIDS.

On the one hand, Emory University's AIDS vaccine effort, among others, will receive a portion of the money raised. But if it follows the pattern of many of the dozens of similar AIDS Rides put on by Pallotta TeamWorks, more than 40 percent of the proceeds will go to overhead, including a substantial fee for PTW, a for-profit company.

The Wise Giving Alliance, set up by the Better Business Bureau, advises that no more than 35 percent of proceeds from

But almost everywhere they take place, photos of ecstatic riders and giant checks are accompanied by investigative reports into Pallotta TeamWorks and its unusual methodology.

AIDS Rides have often been high risk events for the beneficiaries involved. Some have received as little as 10 percent of funds donated to their cause, with the rest eaten up by expenses and the company's production fee. Pallotta TeamWorks is a for-profit entity and has collected \$8.46 million in fees for those AIDS Rides that raised \$83 million.

Four years ago, the Pennsylvania attorney general accused Pallotta of misrepresentation after a fund-raising event there. The company paid a \$110,000 fine but admitted no wrongdoing.

In the 1997 Florida AIDS Ride, less than 12 percent of donations went to the non-profit beneficiaries. The 1998 Wisconsin AIDS Ride beneficiaries netted less than 11 percent of donations, about \$86,000, while Pallotta TeamWorks had a fee of \$110,000—that's



Openly gay marketing guru Dan Pallotta and his Pallotta TeamWorks have netted \$8.46 million in fees for AIDS Rides since 1994. The rides have raised \$83 million.

Too much money donated in the name of fighting AIDS is going to grow the 'human potential' of the riders and to fill the pockets of Pallotta TeamWorks, the brainchild of openly gay marketing genius, Dan Pallotta.

fund-raising events should go toward overhead. But Pallotta TeamWorks, founded by openly gay marketing genius Dan Pallotta, sidesteps the issue.

Asked by the *Voice* recently about the 35 percent standard, PTW Senior Vice President Norm Bolling said the company wants to be "characterized or seen as a production company," not professional fund-raisers. "We are really in the business of transforming experiences and human potential events," not standard fund-raisers, he said.

For many riders, the AIDS Rides are in fact transformative events, though some are grumbling about how Pallotta's sometimes schmaltzy motivational speeches have gone from New Age to an extreme that some compare with EST, the cultish self-help seminars popular back in the '70s.

But that's not how AIDS Rides are being billed to the individuals who are donating the money to put them on, and therein lies one of the biggest problems with the whole concept.

To be sure, Pallotta's AIDS Rides have netted some \$83 million for AIDS non-profits since 1994. With that kind of financial track record, and the glowing praise of riders and AIDS beneficiaries at similar events across the country, it is a constant source of frustration for those involved with the AIDS Rides that they remain enormously controversial.

\$25,000 more than went to the AIDS organizations that made the event a charity ride in the first place.

In Texas, AIDS groups complained loudly when they were asked to put up the money upfront to stage an AIDS Ride, and then received precious little return on their investment.

Partly to counter that criticism and mostly to gain greater control over the events, Pallotta TeamWorks is organizing fewer rides to benefit small local charities and more that go to larger institutions, like the Alaskan AIDS Vaccine Ride that will benefit the Emory research team. These larger institutions more willingly allow their names to be attached to a fund-raising event without expecting a large organizational role.

Pallotta doesn't consent to interviews, an irresponsible and unjustifiable decision for the head of a company that raises funds for charity, but his staff and PR firm deflect criticism about high overhead by insisting that the AIDS Rides are much more than charity events, making the standard for reasonable overhead inapplicable.

"Our events do more than operate as simple fund-raisers," said Bowling, the PTW senior VP, told. "These are events of some epic proportion which garner a lot of visibility for the cause, and... they have a tremendous impact on the people who participate in the events."

In fact, Pallotta TeamWorks does identify itself as a "human potential discovery company," much like Outward Bound, rather than as a fund-raising consulting firm. But PTW knows that's not how most AIDS riders bill the event to their friends, families and co-workers when they ask them to contribute toward the minimum amount—sometimes as high as \$3,400—each participant must raise to join the trek.

Imagine, for a moment, how even a close friend or loved one would react if they were asked to contribute to a fund to send the recipient on a voyage of self-discovery to Alaska. The raised eyebrows, if not outright guffaws, would hardly subside if our Alaskan voyager promised to donate 40 cents on the dollar to a local AIDS charity. And contributions would truly be hard to come by if potential donors were told that the motivational guru and tour guide for the Alaskan adventure was getting a significant take.

Even some participants would not likely fork over the money for an experience billed that way. But if AIDS riders did pay their own way, including the entrance fee, would at least address the most controversial aspect of the Pallotta methodology.

It's that element of truth in advertising—not just by Pallotta, but by the riders themselves—that should most trouble participants and benefiting organizations.

The riders are unquestionably committed to the cause and motivated by the fight against AIDS. But to date, too much money donated in the name of fighting AIDS is going to grow the "human potential" of the riders and the fill the pockets of Pallotta TeamWorks.



VIEWPOINT

The painful anatomy of a bitter breakup

by STEPHEN J. FALLON

Will sidles up next to me like a spy whispering secrets in my ear. "Lots of hot guys here tonight, huh? It's great to be single again."

I've got my arms folded across my chest, and my eyes focused on faraway nothings. Will isn't taking the hint. He pants a nervous laugh between sentences, his eyes darting around the dim club. "I'm happier without him, you know. You can't trust men," he says.

Will's been strumming the same chord of this bitter song for weeks now, ever since Eduardo backed his beat-up Geo Tracker down the driveway loaded with the clothes he'd now be hanging in his cousin's apartment. "He was never any good in bed anyway," Will sneers. "But I'll bet that guy is," he adds, cocking his beer towards an anorexic club kid.

I sigh, and turn towards Will, locking his eyes in mine. "Yeah, Will, you do seem happier now," I state flatly. I know it's a low blow. Will's head drops, and he mutters something as he slips back into the smoky throng of clubgoers.

I feel bad for Will, but I don't buy his revisionist accounts of his relationship. I remember Eduardo's hand instinctively reaching for Will's as we stood in my kitchen making dinner last year. I remember Eduardo stroking Will's hair while Will dozed on his lap later after a few Merlots too many.

Will's sarcasm is a smokescreen for his sorrow. I'm sure there were fights in the end. I'm sure both Will and Eduardo anted up some bitter words that each will now cling to as proof that the love was never real. Yet it was. I'm their hostile witness, reminding them—some-

times rudely—that the end of a relationship doesn't mean it never had value.

True, Eduardo didn't exit cleanly. He nurtured a new infatuation that would act as his emotional parachute when he finally left. Will can say that Eduardo cheated on him, though in his darkest nights he must admit that he knew the relationship was over even though the declaration had not yet been made. Eduardo feels cheated, too, because Will's enthusiasm around him waned

everything will be easy now.

Will doesn't realize the hurt he brings himself by swinging between these cartoon appraisals of guys. Thinking that resentment will ease the pain of separation, he vilifies Eduardo. Yet the wholesale demolition of happy memories brings its own pain.

If the hurt of lost love seems physical, it is. Researchers can itemize all of the bodily changes that occur in the hours and weeks after a lover's departure:

Masking sorrow with bitter recriminations is no way to recover from a bitter breakup.

over the months that they lived together in their cramped condo.

Love was supposed to be a grand, self-sustaining fire. That's the way it is in the movies, where love conquers all. When people like Will and Eduardo run up against the clunky human limitations of real relationships, they feel cheated. It was all supposed to be about sunsets and orgasms, not about yawning through visits from your lover's rowdy friends, or paying bills together, or debating who snores louder.

Mired in a grumbling sense of vague disappointment, each inadvertently pushes the other away.

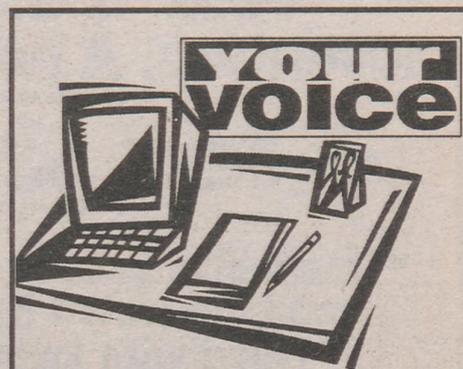
Will doesn't realize it, but what he's really mourning is the loss of his belief in love stories that play like a Disney cartoon. Some guys find a way to reorient their expectations, to take simple pleasure in things like holding hands on the drive to Target for the new bathroom light bulbs. Others alternate between the flip sides of the storybook world: All guys are evil bastards; but wait, this new guy is an angel, and

irregular heartbeat, sleep interruptions, and elevated corticosterone (a stress marker); decreased heart rate, body temperature, growth hormone, cellular immunity, and phenyl ethyl amine (the "happy" neurochemical). We don't just feel ill—we are ill when love departs.

These physical symptoms are as powerful as a drug user's symptoms of withdrawal. Guys who feel lonely and hurt are more likely to have risky sex, out of a desire to feel closer to any person. I see Will reeling drunkenly on the dance floor with the anorexic club kid—tonight's fix to assuage love's withdrawal.

When people finally meet someone who reawakens their hopes for a storybook romance, they are again more likely to skip safety, because they don't want to burst the dream with things like HIV tests or condoms. Storybook beliefs carry high prices.

Stephen Fallon is the president of a Florida-based consulting firm and can be reached at sfallon@skills4.org.



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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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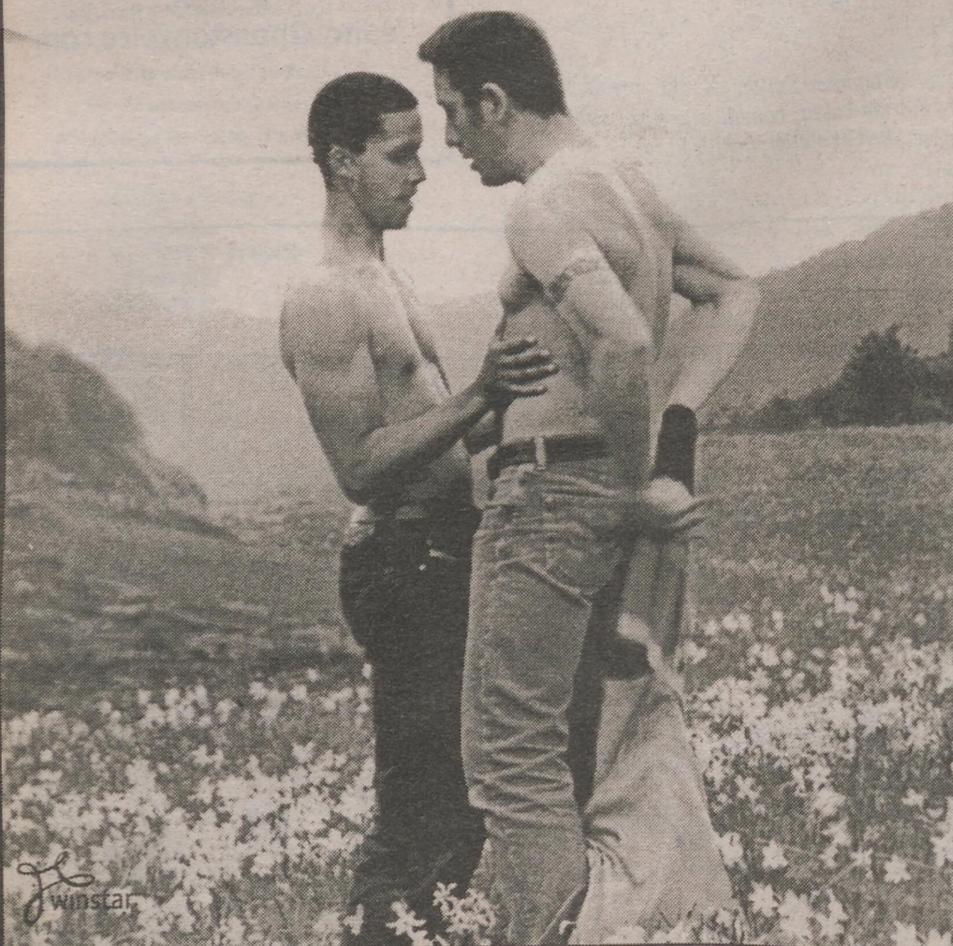
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Boy George

"I think Elton John would sing with a toilet-roll holder if he thought it would get him more publicity. ... It's sad that [Eminem] has to stoop to that level [of homophobia in his music]. I'd still shag him, though."

—Boy George on Elton John's Grammy Awards duet with Eminem as quoted by peoplenews.com, June 28

"I'm calling for an international boycott on sex with closeted celebrities. Let The Great Boinking Boycott begin. Imagine if all the queer people on the planet simply refused to have sex with these Hollywood hypocrites; it would only be a matter of a few months before sweaty, pop-eyed superstars would show up on Larry King shouting, 'Yes, yes, I admit it, I'm gay—now would someone please come sit on my face?' I say, let's bring these people to their knees—literally."

—Syndicated columnist Marc Acito in a July filing

"They all seem happy, so I don't want to criticize them. It's just that this kind of gay culture seems like it's all on Prozac or something. People have the gym body and the average this and the average that, and nothing is exceptional."

—Gay singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright on New York City's Chelsea district, to the *New York Times*, June 24



Rufus Wainwright

"I was in front of the [gay coffeeshop] Big Cup when these two guys holding hands walked past and one of them muttered, 'Get a haircut.' That's what uptight parents were saying to liberated kids in the '60s. Gay people have come full circle, I guess. Maybe that's why the press is so obsessed with gays who want to be Boy Scouts."

—Rufus Wainwright, also to the *New York Times*, June 24

"Who knew that when the rainbow flag was created in 1978 it would lead to this? What began as a symbol of lesbian and gay pride has become an extensively marketed symbol of, well, extensive marketing. Every year, the arrival of Pride weekend causes hordes of otherwise reasonable human beings to drape themselves from head to toe in rainbows. ... The rainbow-donning instinct might leave others wondering if these otherwise reasonable human beings are heading for night jobs as circus clowns."

—Kim Severson and Dave Ford writing in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 22

"Ah, the afterglow of Gay Pride—the hazy drunken memories, the revolting plastic rainbow jewelry, the mysterious sore genitalia. We've done it all before, again and again and again. Like Christmas, Gay Pride comes but once a year—unlike gay men themselves, of course—it comes every year, and then mercifully goes. And afterward, we're forced to once again ask the inevitable question: Was there a point to all this?"

—Chicago *Free Press* columnist Michael "Boomer" Beaumier, June 2



Sean Hayes

"I didn't want it [the 'Jack' role on 'Will & Grace']. I didn't. I wanted to pursue other things. I'd just played a gay character in a movie ['Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss'], and it was a big concern of mine. So, when I was offered it, I initially turned it down and then gave it a week and then I was like, wait a minute, I want it."

—"Will & Grace's" Sean Hayes to the MSNBC program "Gay Hollywood Comes Out," which aired during June

Will Bunky be another survivor?

Gay 'Big Brother 2' contestant draws fire from hometown mayor

by ANDREW KEEGAN

"Big Brother 2" promised viewers a raunchier, revamped format with plenty of drama, and judging by the show's first episode last week—with anti-gay rhetoric from one participant—the reality series has delivered.

In the opening segment, one of the contestants made public his homophobic views, not realizing his roommate for the next three months is gay. And that gay man also has faced negative comments from the mayor of his hometown.

Kent, a 43 year-old mortgage banker from Tennessee, is teamed with Bill, a technical writer for First Union who goes by the nickname Bunky. Kent attempts to gain Bunky's trust with a verbal attack on gays, not realizing Bunky is gay.

Kent, who lists Ronald Reagan as his hero on the CBS biography sheet, tells Bunky that gays participate in "deviant behavior" and their sexual orientation is a "lifestyle choice."

During the first episode, Bunky does not reveal his sexual orientation to the group, but by episode three, everyone knows.

Officials at CBS could not be reached for comment by press time.

But Bunky's partner of 12 years, Gregg Ottman, said adversity is nothing new for Bunky.

"When we first moved to Harrisburg [N.C.] in 1995, someone placed a pumpkin on our car with the word 'fag' carved in it," said Ottman. "Since then, we've had firecrackers placed in our car's tailpipe, our mailbox has been smashed and just last week a car drove by with someone shooting 'faggot.'"

Mayor Tim Hagler told WBTV, a Charlotte station, he's not thrilled that a gay man is representing Harrisburg, which is located a few miles northeast of Charlotte, N.C.

"We're a family-oriented, traditional community and the word of God says that lifestyle is wrong," Hagler said, according to WBTV.

Ottman said the mayor has never met his partner and has received "a lot of flak from citizens" over the remarks.

Gays on reality TV shows have almost become a staple, with a total of six gay men and lesbians having appeared on MTV's "Real World" series and gay "Survivor" Richard Hatch besting heterosexual teammates two years ago for a \$1 million prize.

INFO **Big Brother 2**
 Airs Tues., Thur. & Sat
 at 8 p.m. on CBS
www.cbs.com/primetime/bigbrother

Obituary

Jeremy Corey

Jeremy Corey died Friday, July 6, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage while attending a party on July 4. He was 30. Corey and his partner of seven years, Richard Jasper, moved from Atlanta to Houston in June 1999.

Corey founded Houston Faeries Circle. He belonged to the Medical Center chapter of Lambda and was its Web site manager. He was the information systems manager for the Departments of Pathology and Cardiosurgery at UT Medical School.

He was born Ogden, Utah, attended high school in Europe and graduated from Emory University in Atlanta. At Emory, Corey was active in a variety of student groups, including the school's first official gay and lesbian students' group. He received a bachelor's degree in biology, with a minor in dance.

In 1998, he received a master of public health degree, also from Emory.

Corey maintained a personal Web site where he described himself as "Missionary of Love, painted urban Celtic faerie neo-techno-pagan kamikaze queer stepdad." Corey said he was "fascinated with body painting." His site, www.gayguides.com/jeremy/index.html, contains pictures

of a model painted as a leopard by Corey for the Jungle Party IX and of himself painted for the 2000 Grey Party. The maxim "Just because no one understands you, doesn't mean you're an artist" accompanies these pictures.

Corey also is survived by stepchildren David and Emily Jasper, of Decatur, Ga.; parents, Ron and Becky Hall of Moore, Okla. and Wanda and John Corey of Rancho Cordova, Calif.; and grandparents, Shirley and Bob Johnson, Ogden. Other survivors are Wendy and Howard McDaniel of Ogden; Jocelin and Larry Hobbs and their daughter Makenzie, of Oklahoma City; Melissa Hall, of Oklahoma City, and Nicholas Hall of Asuncion, Paraguay.

Memorial services will be held in Ogden on Saturday, in Houston on Friday, July 20 at the Rebekah Lodge, 1404 Allston at 2 p.m. and in Atlanta on Sunday, July 22 at Cannon Chapel, 515 Kilgo St., at Emory University.

In lieu of flowers family members suggest that contributions be made to Short Mountain Sanctuary, 247 Sanctuary Lane, Liberty, TN 37095 or to LifeGift Organ Donation Center, 5615 Kirby Drive, Suite 900, Houston, TX 77005.

—Ella Tyler

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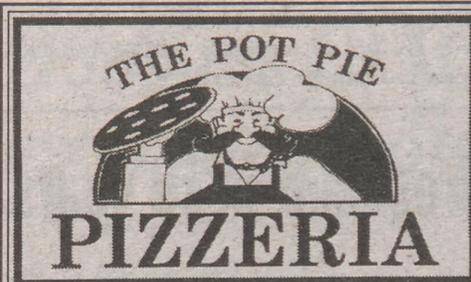
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Parker confident non-discrimination ordinance will pass

>Continued from Page 1

posed that the ordinance simply say the city does not discriminate, period. At issue is the sexual orientation part of the language.

"He wanted to take out the enumerated list, then it would be too broad, too vague," Parker said. Besides, she added, City Attorney Anthony Hall said the enumerated list needed to be there to prohibit discrimination against certain segments of society.

"The motion to amend barely died, but we killed it," Parker said. In a 7-7 vote defeating the amendment, Councilmen Carroll Robinson, Bert Keller, Orlando Sanchez and Mark Goldberg voted with Todd and Tatro to remove the language. Parker originally thought she could count on Robinson, Keller and Goldberg to pass the ordinance.

"We have eight firm votes which is sufficient to pass it. The Mayor is included in that count; he wasn't at the meeting today," said Parker. Mayor Lee P. Brown was on vacation at the time of the meeting. City Council will be on holiday next week, meaning the ordinance won't come up for vote until July 25.

The move to push for the anti-discrimination ordinance came after an initial effort to get same-sex benefits for city employees fell through earlier this year. News of the idea sparked protests including speakers at council meetings and picketers outside City Hall who termed homosexuality a sin and compared it to pedophilia.

Faced with such opposition and following an open forum meeting with gay community leaders, Mayor Brown opted not to pursue same-sex benefits and instead pursue an anti-



Homosexuals should not have the same benefits that heterosexuals have, nor should heterosexuals living together. Benefits are a reward to married heterosexual people.

—Dave Wilson, Houstonians For Family Values

discrimination ordinance that protected gay and lesbian city employees and later resurrect the same-sex benefits issue.

In a written statement, Brown said: "The non-discrimination ordinance will give current gay and lesbian city employees and future city employees, comfort knowing that they will not lose their jobs if they select domestic partner benefits in the future."

Last month, the Texas Supreme Court dismissing a lawsuit over Brown's 1998 city hall policy banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. The suit was filed by Todd and businessman Richard Hotze, who claimed a 1985 referendum defeating a similar non-discrimination policy nullified Brown's executive order.

The court ruled 7-1, allowing Brown's executive order to stand and paving the way for the currently proposed non-discrimination ordinance.

When the ordinance is passed as Parker predicts, she anticipates that the same-sex benefits issue will again rise to the surface sometime next year. She said she knows it will not be an easy task getting benefits approved through City Council.

registered Houston voters to place a referendum on November's ballot. If passed, such a referendum would bar the city from providing benefits to anyone but employees, their spouses and their dependent children, as well as prevent any privilege in promotion, hiring or contracting on the basis of sexual orientation.

Although he still does not have the required number of signature that he needs by Aug. 15, Wilson said he his own deadline is to have them by the end of July. He added that his home was flooded during the recent storm and that some of the petitions were lost, but he wouldn't say just how many.

Grant Martin, Parker's campaign manager, said several people were in the Montrose gay bars and in the Kroger grocery store on Montrose Boulevard last week soliciting signatures by stating, "Gay people deserve the right to vote on domestic partner benefits."

However, on closer inspection, Martin said it turned out that the petitions were actually anti-gay. Martin is urging gay Houstonians not to sign the petitions.

When asked about the incidents, Wilson claimed ignorance. "We have hired a firm to collect signature, but surely not in that part of town."

Wilson stressed that he doesn't hate homosexuals and he doesn't want to see them in hell as some do. But, he said he hates the sin and to him homosexuality is a sin. Admitting to his own sins, he said, "I'd be in hell too because I've done my share of sinning."

Gandy first new NOW president in 10 years

>Continued from Page 1

held at the organization's June 30 meeting.

"My team is the most diverse team to ever run for office in NOW," Gandy said, pointing out the four-member ballot was not only composed of women from diverse racial and professional backgrounds, but included Olga Vives, a lesbian.

Vives is not the only new leader at NOW to excite the organization's large lesbian following. While Gandy is married with two children, she epitomizes the idea of "straight but not narrow," other activists said.

A former officer with the Louisiana Lesbian & Gay Political Action Caucus, Gandy has worked for gay rights since the early 1970s.

"Just the fact that she's straight doesn't mean that she can't work on lesbian rights," said Melinda Shelton, executive director of LAGPAC and NOW member. "Lesbian rights is one of the primary planks of the NOW mission and so Kim is not going to be one who said 'Oh well. Just because I'm straight, I can't do this.' That's not how Kim operates."

Gandy has been involved in NOW since 1973, serving as the group's executive vice president for the last 10 years under Ireland.

Gandy said she remembers when she first

realized that activism would be her fate. As she entered one of her first NOW meetings, she was pinned with a button that read "dyke."

"The purpose of it was consciousness raising, to make you think how it feels to be labeled," Gandy said. "I thought, 'I don't like having a label on me and I don't like what I think other people are thinking when they see this label on me.' That was the beginning of a real awakening for me."

"[NOW's membership] has gone up just since the election," Gandy said. "We've seen a huge increase in the number of people who go looking for us and find us on the Internet and join right there."

Gandy sees many challenges ahead of her as NOW's new president, especially, she said, with another Bush in Washington.

"I don't think that our relationship is likely to be very good with the Bush White House, as long as they are taking actions that limit women's rights," Gandy said.

INFO National Organization for Women
733 15th ST NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20005
202-628-8669
www.now.org

City workers forming gay employee group

by WENDY K. MOHON

Immediately following last month's Texas Supreme Court ruling to uphold Mayor Lee P. Brown's executive order regarding non-discrimination, plans were being made for a gay employee group for city workers.

Brenda Thomas, a contract employee on the city's Health Department Bureau of HIV/STD prevention staff, is spearheading the organization, dubbed H.E.A.T., which stands for Houston Employees Affinity Team.

"We chose the name because affinity can have a lot of different meanings, which we liked, and we can do a lot with the acronym to promote the group," Thomas said. "You can apply the heat, celebrate the heat, you can turn up the heat. You can do a lot of things with it."



Brenda Thomas

So far, seven people have participated in the initial planning meetings, but Thomas expects the group can reach hundreds of city employees.

"If we go by the standard rule of thumb of 10 percent, there are probably 200-250 [gay city employees]," Thomas said. "Of course, I think it's a lot more than just 10 percent these days. I think more people are becoming comfortable with identifying as GLBT."

She said the goals of the group will be to offer both social activities and advocacy, and to be all-inclusive.

"Yeah, it's going to be a GLBT group, but if someone who's GLBT-friendly wants to join, we will certainly encourage it," Thomas said.

The next planning meeting for the group is scheduled for Thursday, July 26—the day after City Council is expected to vote on a non-discrimination ordinance with language that protects all city workers regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The time of the meeting is tentatively set for 6:30 p.m. at the Outpost on Richmond.

INFO H.E.A.T.
Brenda Thomas
713.794.9113
brenda@bthomas.com

Galveston transgender halfway house in need of donations

> Continued from Page 3

four months, said Williams

Williams said that it could take that length of time to get a license changed showing a different name and gender so clients can get a job and keep it. Getting these changes is not as easy as it used to be because judges have been pressured not to grant them.

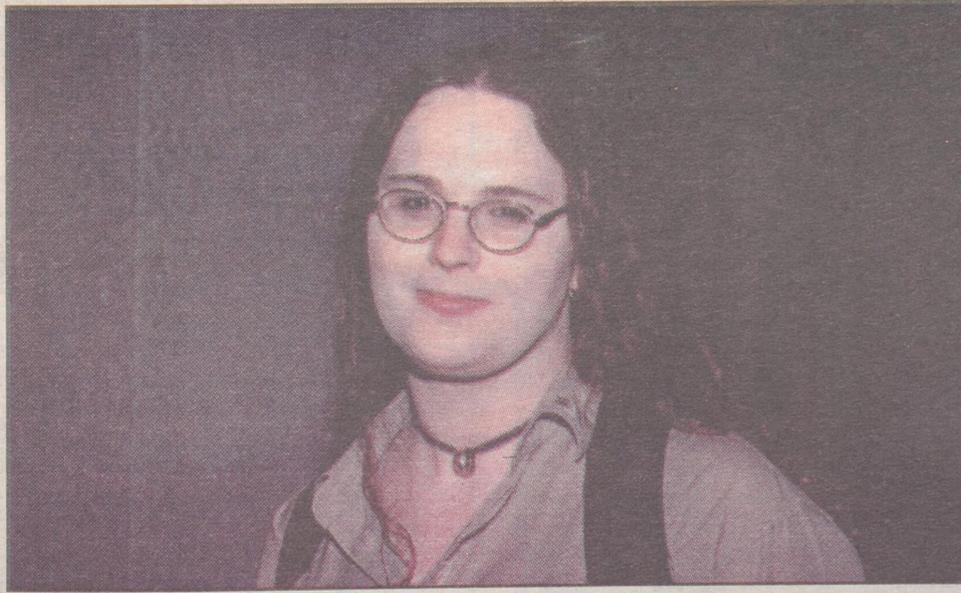
"It used to be really easy until a Baptist minister in Pearland found out how easy it was to change a license. This minister had others put pressure on the judges by withholding campaign funds," said Williams.

Now, she said, no judge in Harris County will give a gender change and less than five judges in the area outside Harris County will grant a gender change. "We have to go elsewhere," she said.

Galveston is the ideal location for a transgender halfway house for several reasons, said Williams. Galveston has two gender clinics, a public bus system, numerous job opportunities, a college community, is relatively isolated and is open to the GLBT community.

"The Rosenberg Clinic and UTMB are world renowned to the transsexual community. Rosenberg provides counseling and hormone therapy and UTMB the operations," she said.

The halfway house is currently funded



There are lots of transsexual groups that are political or social in nature. Where we're trying to pick up the slack is in social services, medical, money and name and gender changes.

—Cristan Williams, CATS president

entirely by members of CATS but they hope the burden will be lifted a little after they receive their applied for non-profit status.

However, they are looking for donations

of cleaning supplies, food and canned goods, two bunk beds, a kitchen table and chairs or monetary donations to help with utilities, said Williams. "If anyone has a

quarter to throw at us, we'll catch it."

With the opening of the halfway house last February, CATS is attempting to fill a hole in transgender care Williams said. "There are lots of transsexual groups that are political or social in nature. Where we're trying to pick up the slack is in social services, medical, money and name and gender changes."

CATS is a transgender support group serving Galveston and Brazoria County. The group strives to improve the quality of life for the transgendered through grass roots education, activism and advocacy.

INFO

CATS
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e-mail: tghelp@tghelp.org
web: www.geocities.com/tghelp

Houston chapter is highest fund-raiser for Legacy

> Continued from Page 3

board member for the National Legacy Foundation.

Extra Mile Awards will go to Brunjes, Ardeth Eversmeyer, the Rev. Carolyn Mobley and City Councilwoman Annise Parker. Extra Mile awards are presented to lesbians of Houston who work to help further the community.

Academic grants and scholarships are usually awarded at the brunch, but because of a later application deadline, recipients won't be announced until year's end. Proceeds from the brunch go toward the scholarships that are awarded to open lesbians in college.

Local poet Donna Garrett and the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston will perform at the brunch. "Donna will recite some of her work and the Chorus will perform two pieces to honor their lesbian sisters," said Brunjes. She added that Don Arnold will play piano for the event.

Legacy is a non-profit foundation dedicated to enhancing the visibility,

strength and vitality of the lesbian community. As well as Houston, there are chapters in New York, Atlanta, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Dallas and according to Brunjes, Houston has taken the lead in fund-raising.

"It used to be New York, but now Houston is the highest fund-raiser in Legacy," said Brunjes.

An Uncommon Legacy Annual Golf Tournament

Sept. 29 at Herman Park Golf Course

An Uncommon Legacy Brunch

11 a.m., July 29
Doubletree Hotel at Post Oak
713.774.1744
www.uncommonlegacyhouston.org

INFO

Houston GLBT Chamber establishes director position

Coy Tow tapped as first paid employee of business association

For the first time in the six-year history of the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, the organization has hired a full-time, paid executive director.

Local activist and founding chamber board member, Coy Tow was officially named as executive director of the chamber at the monthly membership meeting July 10.

With 300 members, the organization has

been run entirely by volunteers since its inception.

In addition to serving as chamber president for the first two years of operation, Tow has spent 16 years in the travel industry, most recently working for UNIGLOBE Travel.

As executive director, Tow will oversee marketing of the chamber and will work to increase membership among businesses and corporations, as well as consumers and individuals. One of his goals as director will be to increase membership to 500 by the end of 2002.

Among the major chamber projects are monthly mixers and dinner programs, a monthly chamber newsletter, socials and ribbon cuttings. The chamber also provides business referrals for members and publishes an annual membership guide.

The biggest fund-raiser for the organization is EMPOWER, a trade show and business networking event slated this year for Oct. 13-14 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Included in the schedule of events for this year's expo is a health fair, job fair, antique car display and a fun run.



Coy Tow

INFO

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce

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HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 13, 2001

VIVA LA DIFFERENCE!

'ADVENTURES OF FELIX' IS SEINFELD OF FRENCH FILMS:
A TALE ABOUT NOTHING TOLD IN A DELIGHTFUL MANNER

BY D.L. GROOVER

What is it about French movies that makes them so idiosyncratic, so refreshing, so wonderfully different, so French?

Maybe it's their no-nonsense outlook on life. Nothing fazes the French, certainly nothing sexual. Where else but in France would you see a public funeral for their president with both wife and mistress standing misty eyed at his coffin, remember Francois Mitterrand? Where else but in France would the Marquis de Sade be both punished and rewarded as a best-selling author? Who else but the French would rally their medieval troops to victory behind a visionary, then sell her out to the English and supply them with the matches for the auto-da-fé?

In its bare-bones kind of way, **THE ADVENTURES OF FELIX** really isn't about much at all. A young gay man, laid off from his job, decides to hitchhike from his northern hometown of Dieppe to the southern port of Marseilles in hopes of finding the father he's never met.

In these picaresque adventures, whose antecedents go way, way back to Horus, Ulysses, Gilgamesh, and a much more contemporary Don Quixote, the main character's

journey becomes his literal maturation. The kid grows up on the road of life. It's simple, neat, and effective. A perfect metaphor.

This movie, too, is neat, simple, and effective. And very French. Even without the accents, it couldn't be from any other country. Co-written and directed by Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau, who also co-wrote and directed the 1998 comedy "Jeanne and the Perfect Guy," "Felix" revels in life, without judgment, without preaching, without morals.

What happens in life is life, take it or leave it. It's a charming form of existentialism mostly to be found in cinematic France. We find out Felix is gay not through lengthy exposition, but through a cut to him in bed with his lover Daniel.

Throughout the movie, Felix keeps to his schedule of taking his doses of horse-choking pills for HIV.



There's one scene at the clinic, a medium shot where a new woman patient is amazed to hear about someone taking five doses a day, but it's played with a gentle Gallic-ness that takes the edge off.

We stay on the three as they sit and talk in the hallway outside the clinic. This type of subtle filmmaking,

where the director seems to be hidden, favors the actors and brings the world into the movie. This unobtrusive filmmaking owes a clear debt to the great humanist Jean Renoir. Story points aren't explained or drummed home with ominous musical references or grandiose camera tracks. Life happens slightly off screen, almost at the corners of the frame.

The power of these little snippets add up like beautifully structured sentences, or a wealth of sketches: Felix hitchhikes down the road with unbridled abandon and waves to the poster of the fat Michelin Man; young Jules in his personal fog near the Temple of Hermes; Grandmere's omniscient observation that Felix doesn't really want to find his father.

> Continued on Page 17



Someone to be proud of

Biography tells story of first lady of Alcoholics Anonymous, who happened to be gay

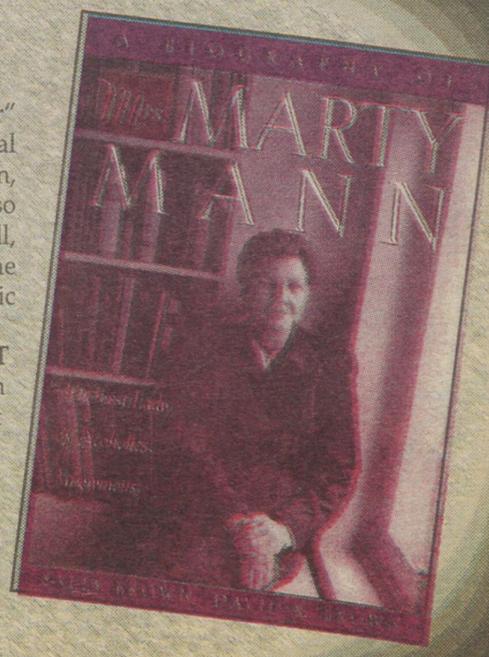
by ELLA TYLER

Marty (Margaret) Mann was the first woman to "get sober" in Alcoholics Anonymous and also founded the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence. She was a lesbian, a debutante and survivor of teenage tuberculosis. She was also a charismatic speaker and public relations genius. Most of all, she had been a "bad drunk" who had managed to become sober. She became one of America's most important public health reformers.

A BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. MARTY MANN: THE FIRST LADY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, by Sally Brown and David R. Brown doesn't ignore any of these important elements in her life and also presents an interesting early history of the recovery movement. AA was 4-years-old when she went to her first meeting.

For example, the book reveals that AA's Third Tradition, "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking," a cornerstone of AA and other 12-step pro-

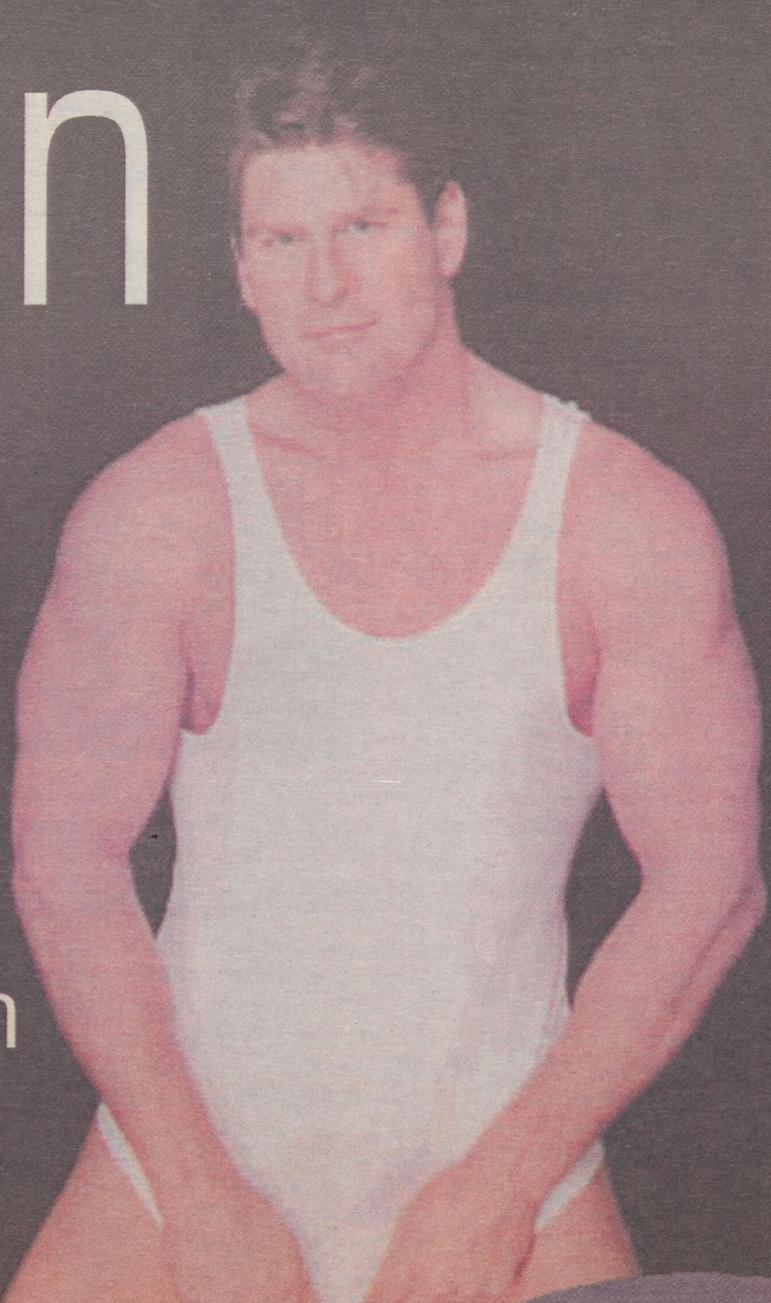
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Film subtlety, effectively traces hitchhiking trek of gay Frenchman

> Continued from Page 15

When Felix goes searching, he finds a whole new family instead. The subtitles read My Little Brother, My Grandmother, My Cousin, My Sister, My Father, as each sequence brings another stranger into his life, someone who becomes a familial substitute. Like Mathilde, his co-called grandmother, played with great wit and warmth by one of France's truly legendary actors, Patachou, whose insights let us see Felix in a new light; or the quickie in the countryside patch of poison ivy with the tattooed "cousin;" or his confessions to his "sister" Isabelle, each adventure, each person enriches our view of Felix and deepens his humanity.

Lean and young Sami Bouajila, already a veteran French actor with 18 film credits since 1991, is a carefree, insouciant Felix. Sexy and fun, he possesses abundant joie de vivre and a healthy dose of screen presence. He deftly handles the multi-shaded role with charm and assurance. Bouajila's like-ability quotient pins the needle.

Racism and homophobia rear their

ugly heads even on the bucolic country roads of France—Felix is too ashamed to go to the police when he witnesses a hate crime in Rouen, later he gets head butted by a nasty redneck—but love is the great leveler, the ultimate judge, perhaps, of one's worth.

The playful passion between Felix and boyfriend Daniel, his loving care for old Mathilde, the way he opens up to sisterly Isabelle, his concern for twink Jules, his fulfillment with his "father," is so genuine that we know this guy can overcome anything. Felix will make it through his personal odyssey intact. That theme, of course, is not patented to French moviemakers alone.

Fortunately, it's a universal language, understood and beloved by all.

INFO

"The Adventures of Felix"

Angelika Film Center
510 Texas Avenue
713-225-5232
www.angelikafilmcenter.com/
houston

Mann instrumental in gaining acceptance of gays in AA

> Continued from Page 15

grams, "was adopted as a result of a controversy over a gay member."

Marty's role in this matter is not identified, but, the book says, "one of the early groups in Ohio wrote Bill Wilson petitioning him to help make a decision" about to whether to admit a homosexual member. Wilson, AA's co-founder, was Marty's AA sponsor and must have known her orientation.

Mann was born in 1904 in Chicago. Her parents were from wealthy families. Her father ran Marshall Field's wholesale operation. When she was 14 she was diagnosed with tuberculosis, then a horrible stigma. She spent three years in a sanatorium in Los Angeles. When she returned to social life she was uncomfortable but discovered that alcohol helped her function socially.

In 1938, Mann persuaded a doctor to admit her to Bellevue Hospital. She spent six months there and then went to a private treatment facility, Blythewood.

The medical director there, Dr. Harry Tiebout, had a draft of the book Alcoholics Anonymous. He persuaded Mann to read it and then to attend an AA meeting. It was April 11, 1939, a Tuesday. Mann soon became a happy, involved member, soon managing to stay sober outside of an institution.

By 1943, Mann had moved in with Priscilla Peck, who had joined AA after Mann. They lived together until Mann's

death in 1980, despite Peck's severe Alzheimer's. They also bought a house in Cherry Grove, on Fire Island, and started the AA group there, which still meets. Peck became the art director for *Vogue* magazine.

In 1944, the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism was founded as part of Yale's Center of Alcohol Studies. She was hired as its executive director. The committee would separate from Yale and change its name, but Mann would remain its executive director until 1968, when she became a consultant.

The writers have done a substantial amount of research, but are also obviously familiar with AA and the National Council.

Sally Brown is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and retired from her job as a hospital chaplain to write this book. David Brown was a computer researcher at Stanford. Sally identifies herself as a recovered alcoholic since 1977 and David has served on the Silicon Valley Council on Alcoholism. They were married in 1944.

INFO

A Biography of Mrs. Marty Mann: The First Lady of Alcoholics Anonymous

By Sally Brown and David R. Brown
Hazelden Pittman Archives Press, 385 pages, \$21.95

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Bayou Calendar

Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga

Okay, here they come, the smelly men in the funny hats who sailed across the seas in their boats shaped like dragons, wielding broad swords and hacking off English pates. Raping, pillaging, eating reindeer steaks. Gathered together for an exhibition for Washington's Smithsonian, this quality exhibition's made up of artifacts from five Nordic national museums and is a once-in-a-lifetime collection of all things Viking. Just in case someone quizzes you, the Vikings did not wear horns on their heads.

Through Oct. 14

Houston Museum of Natural Science, 1 Hermann Circle Drive
713-639-4629
www.hmns.org.

Y E S Yoko Ono

Oh, no, Yoko Ono. Here's the first American retrospective of the work of John Lennon's widow, the woman responsible for breaking up the greatest band ever in the history of the world. Did we ever like her? Maybe seeing her avant garde work in toto, all 40 years of it from installations and language works to performance pieces and her head-banging music, will let us view the dragon lady in a better light? I doubt it. Mrs. Lennon will be in attendance at a sold-out lecture July 14 at the Museum of Fine Arts. Yelling at her won't

bring back the Fab 4.

July 13 - Sept. 16

Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose
713-284-8250

Elizabeth 1

Paul Foster's 1972 absurdist rendition of the Virgin Queen's life and times plays like a Renaissance traveling theatrical troupe: part Monty Python dadaism, part Punch and Judy hit 'em with a bladder, part Muppet show hilarity. Eleven actors play 57 characters as we witness the English glories of Gloriana herself. See the beheading of bastard Mary; see the Spanish armada sink beneath the English waves; see Shakespeare write; see the girls in bikinis! Honest.

July 13 - Aug. 18

Actors Theatre of Houston, 2506 South Blvd.
713-529-6606

Taboo

Nagisa Oshima, leading figure of Japanese cinema's new wave in the '60s, made his reputation in the west (and in staid Japan, too) with his tales of sexual



degradation, castration, asphyxiation, and kink, as in his 1976 over-heated "In the Realm of the Senses." Based on Ryotaro Shiba's novel and set in 1865 Kyoto, "Taboo" tells the gay tale of two recruits chosen to be new samurai warriors: hunky Tashiro and the very beautiful Kano. Kano is so beguiling that all the men fall in love with him, even manly Tashiro, causing much confusion in the ranks. When the warriors start dropping like chrysanthemum blossoms, the plot twists in this homoerotic murder mystery bloom. If you can make sense of the last 15 minutes, let me know. Gay samurais rule.

July 13, 14, 15, 18: 7 and 9 p.m.

Rice Media Center, Entrance #8, University Blvd & Stockton Drive
713-348-4853

Parallel Lives: The Kathy and Mo Show

When the two actors/friends Kathy Najimy and Mo Gaffney turned their improv routines into their two-woman feminist stage romp in 1989, they had no idea what a cottage industry their little show would create. Now a staple of college drama departments and community theaters throughout the U.S., the two-woman sketch show returns to Theater LaB with Michelle Britton and Leslie Maness playing all the characters, male and female. These two inventive performers give this

somewhat dated material much-needed depth, making these unevenly written playlets a whole lot more charming and interesting than they are.

July 13 through Aug. 4

Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo
713-868-7516

Book signing

Meg McKain Grier, author of "Grassroots Women," will be at Borders Books at Westheimer and Gessner (9633 Westheimer) on Saturday, July 14 at 4 p.m. to sign and discuss the book. "Grassroots Women" is the story of how Republican women have worked since 1952 to move the Texas Republican Party from being essentially non-existent to being the majority party. Grier interviewed more than 300 party activists from all over the state, including local activist Marion Coleman, and many of them will be at the event to sign their favorite quotes. In addition to Coleman, other Houston area activists scheduled to attend the event include Marjorie Arsht, who Coleman says is her hero; former county commissioner Elizabeth Ghrist, former party chair Betsy Lake, Penny Butler, Cathy McConn, and Mary Jane Smith. Saturday, July 14, 4 p.m. Borders Books, 9633 Westheimer

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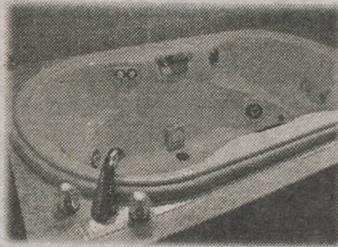
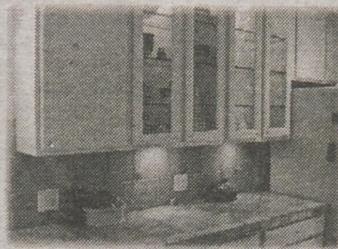
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Homefront

A tool for every job

Work around the home and garden goes better, faster with the proper equipment

by ELLA TYLER

Our editor put together her pool table with her Swiss Army knife, and I once replaced a radiator hose with a nail file, but simple jobs around the house and garden really are easier with the right tool.

So what tools do you need? The answer lies somewhere between a shoe to use as a hammer (a high heel for femmes, a sensible loafer for some) and the arc welder a friend got for his birthday. Before you go shopping for tools, think about the projects you generally do.

The tools on this list are enough to do jobs like hanging pictures and shelves, putting things together, and make emergency repairs. I have a tack hammer for hanging pictures and a rubber mallet for assemble-it-yourself furniture and closing paint cans. A claw hammer could be used for these jobs, but not as well. Unless you plan to nail lots of things together or

pull out lots of nails, you don't need a claw hammer. The last time mine was used was when my brothers fixed the fence.

There are several kinds of adjustable pliers. The locking kind is better. Pliers are indispensable for gripping small things, like faucet stems and the nut part of nut and bolt assemblies.

Adjustable wrenches are very handy too. They have a wheel that changes the size of the opening, so you only need one wrench rather than a set.

The most useful one has a "mouth" that is at least 2.5 inches wide, so it fits around drain pipes, but these are big and heavy. A smaller one, 6- or 8-inches long, would be handy too.

Like wrenches, screwdrivers are often sold in sets, temptingly arrayed in convenient storage pouches. You do not need the 22-piece set.

What you need is a big and a small Phillips head (the tip is shaped like a +) and a big and a small flat head (or straight). You want screwdrivers with different tip sizes, since that is what is important. Most household screws seem to be 3/8 or 5/8.

However, when a screwdriver is called 6-inch, it is the blade that is measured, not the handle or the tip. I have one screwdriver with a 6-inch blade that has a tip that is 3/8 of an inch, and one with a 3-inch blade that has a 1/2-inch tip.

All this preoccupation with size is because what is important is that the tip of the screwdriver fit securely into the slot of the screw. If it doesn't fit securely, you run the risk of ruining the screw and making it very difficult to remove. So don't continue trying to make it work, go get a screwdriver that fits. A tiny jeweler's screwdriver might be useful, too.

Needle-nose pliers seem like they would be useful, and many people say a tool kit should include them, but I can't think of when I last used mine. I do, however, use the wire cutters, also called diagonals. A small

hacksaw is useful and so are Allen wrenches. I like a set that unfolds like a pocket knife, so there's less chance of losing the one you really need.

A hand drill is useful. If you plan to put redo your closet with that fancy Elfa stuff, get a cordless drill or a cordless screwdriver. The major

use for power drills is as a fast screwdriver.

You will find a yardstick, measuring tape, a small ruler and a level to be very useful. Get a plunger, one with a decent sized bell. You'll be eternally grateful to have one on hand when you need it.

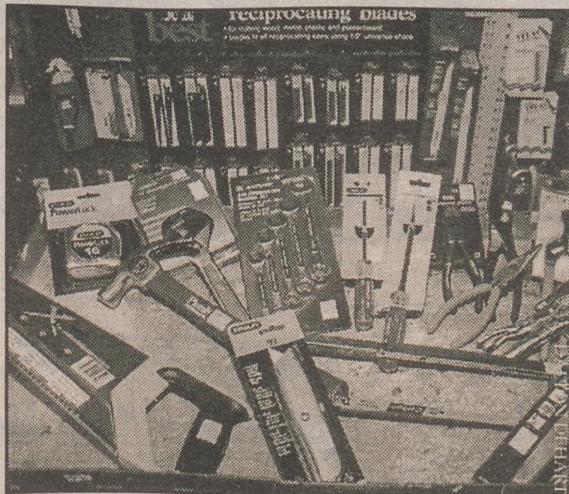
Other useful things to have are: WD40, duct and electrical tape, a putty knife, a box cutter and single-edged razor blades.

You should have a good, sturdy stepladder, a fire extinguisher, safety goggles, and heavy gloves, even if you do not think you will be doing projects where these will be needed. These are for your safety.

Before you begin a project, make a list of the tools needed. Many instruction sheets will list what is needed. If you don't have something you need, get it before you start.

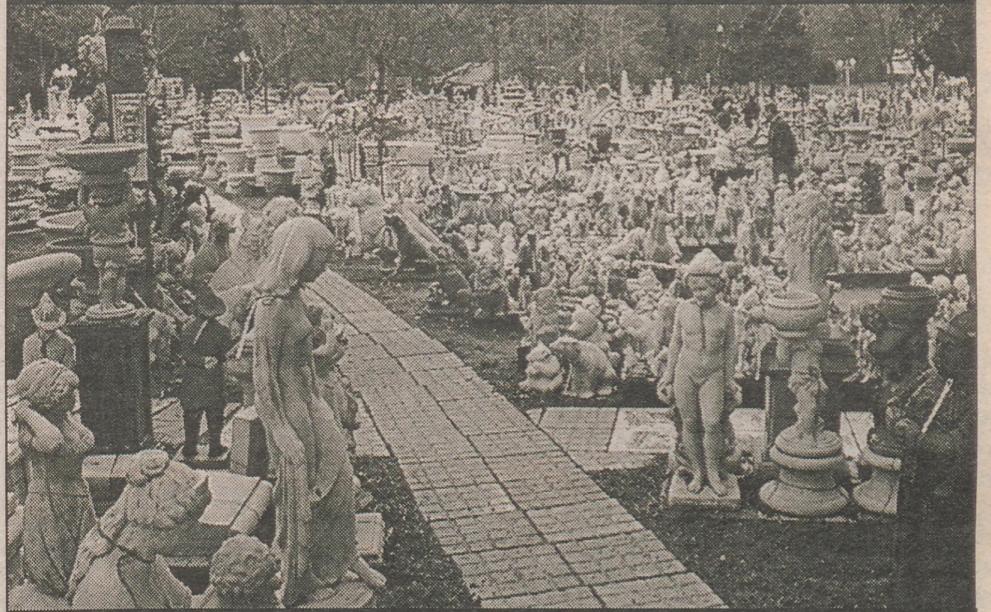
Many lumber and pipe suppliers will cut the material for you. A wide variety of specialty tools can be rented, either from a rental place or Home Depot.

When you're stocking up, remember, almost any tool you need can be bought 24 hours a day, thanks to the all day/all night Home Depots.



Having the proper tools for any home improvement project will make the work go faster and easier. It's helpful to have a well-stocked tool kit with essentials like adjustable wrenches and a variety of screwdrivers.

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Island 'Original'

Galveston icon has 85 years of experience with great Tex-Mex

by KATHREEN LEE

A friend who lives in Galveston resolutely claims, "there are more gay people on my block, than on any block in Montrose!" While the recent Census data may not numerically support my friend, her point is made.

For our island readership, Galveston deserves proportionate representation, and I am delighted to acquaint those who are unfamiliar to **THE ORIGINAL MEXICAN CAFE**, the oldest continuously operating restaurant on Galveston Island.

Open since 1916 and still in its original location, the Tex-Mex restaurant has only had four different proprietors during its 85 years of service. Such long tenures testify to the success and high-quality cuisine of the Original, which is mainly attributed to their commitment to fresh and healthy ingredients.

Their vegetables are purchased every morning at the Farmer's Market, they use 100 percent cholesterol-free Nutrifry for their chips, and unlike most restaurants, they cook their rancho beans, refried beans, and tamales without lard.

Their pride in the quality of their food is evident in their boast, "The owner eats here," which is painted on their prominent green edifice that radiates a dark hue akin to the color of plastic lawn chairs.

Whether you're the owner or a frequent patron, The Original, offering more than 60 different entrée choices, will never be able to jade your palate. For instance, the Taquitos (\$4.25) are eight crunchy mini-shells stuffed with shredded beef seasoned with pepper and served with guacamole and sour cream. The spices are perfectly marinated into the beef, which tastes like tender beef jerky, and the crispy flautas add a firm textural contrast to the soft succulent meaty interior.

Another allure for hungry and discerning patrons may be the unique way The Original prepares their chicken. Unlike other restaurants that use whole strips of chicken for their dishes, The Original shreds their chicken, thereby rendering the meat more tender. For instance, in the Deluxe Nachos (\$5.25), the chicken was so supple that one could oftentimes not distinguish it from the cheese, guacamole, or sour cream by texture alone.

The greater surface area to volume ratio provided by shredding the chicken further allowed the seasoning to better permeate the meat and therefore offer a much more succulent flavor. The only complaint was the excess cheese that seemed to smother the many other ingredients.

Another great dish if you like chicken



The Original Mexican Cafe
1401 Market
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409.762.6001

FOOD FILE

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Value:

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and you can't decide amongst the plethora of choices such as the enchiladas, quesadillas, and fajitas, is to try one of their combination dinners. The Original Dinner (\$8) comes with a chicken, beef or cheese taco, chalupa, tamale, enchilada and chile con queso puff.

The name of the dish is actually a misnomer. It should actually be termed the Original Dinner-Lunch-Snack combination platter, because no matter how hungry one may be, no one will finish the above, the lard-free beans and rice, and the fresh homemade guacamole all in one sitting. Be prepared for a doggy bag.

Their pride in the quality of their food is evident in their boast, "The owner eats here."

Like the other dishes, the fresh vegetables and ingredients used in preparation of the combination dinner brought out the unique flavor and flare of each individual item. The combination of fresh guacamole, the tender and juicy chicken meat, and the ripe vegetables all negated the need for the usual lubricating effects of salsa, and the dish was therefore perfect, as is.

The Original's allure should not only be in their delicious fares, but in the amazing values they offer the customer. Three patrons can order two appetizers, three entrees, dessert, and beverages, all for less than \$50. In addition, since the portions are so large, one would actually be acquiring both dinner and lunch under that tab.

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On Stage

Summertime, and the livin' is easy

Key West' offers on stage equivalent to summer TV sitcom

by D.L. GROOVER

Ah, you know summer has arrived when the megaplexes herald such intellectual entertainment like "Pootie Tang," or emotionally unsatisfying works of bombast like "A.I.," or panavision vistas of a surgically enhanced Angelina Jolie.

Broadway is hardly immune to the crass craze that begins subsequent to graduation. Sooner or later, come the end of June, Jerry Seinfeld will appear for a limited run in something by Strindberg, Rosie O'Donnell (with or without that disappearing girlfriend of hers) will be straddling a chair for a three-week blitz run of "Cabaret," and

Richard Simmons will be sweatin' it to the max in a summer spell of "The Full Monty." In the world of show biz, summer's not the time to think.

So it comes as no surprise when the gay theater world succumbs to mindless pleasure, also. Granted, you'd assume we'd have slightly more taste, or perhaps a splash more aplomb and sophistication than the straight yahoos, but, horror of horrors, we turn out to be exactly like them. How else to account for such goofy twaddle like **KEY WEST**?

There's nothing to this show, not a thought in its head. It's gay theatrical cotton candy melting away as you watch. This play's been typed, not written. That's not to say there isn't pleasure to be savored, but the drinks at this island resort are small and watered down, the beds are lumpy, and it's been raining all week.

These characters have no life. When they exit the stage, they cease to exist. It's partly the way they're played (broad and in falics), but mostly the way Jack Heifner has written them to be ciphers and types. "Key West" is a live-action TV sitcom, one of those summer replacement series that pop up on UPN for six weeks with actors you've never heard of, ridiculous plots and cheesy production values.

As written, this comedy is supposed to be something like a French farce with its mistaken identities, slamming doors, split-second timing of entrances and exits, and all-around bubble-headed ambiance. Unfortunately, this sextet of players hasn't a clue as to how to play sex comedy with-

out hitting us about the head or screaming as loud as possible to get our attention. Perhaps, Joe Watts' sure theatrical instincts as director took a vacation on this one.

Taavi Mark, who was so good in Theatre West's previous "Dirty Little Showtunes," plays Mel, the Felix of the Oscar/Felix odd couple that here makes up the two main characters. The character comes off best as the forty-something friend who has no desire to relive his youth down here among the sheltering palms of the clothing-optional Déjà vu resort. To insure his happiness,

he stocks up on Metamucil, Tums and Milanta.

When Jeff, the twink next door, implores him to be his sexual teacher, Mel surprises himself with his unfettered enthusiasm.

His traveling companion of many years is Tracy (David Haynes), a direct descendant of that most stock character in any

gay play: the nelly queen (think Emory on a good day from "Boys in the Band," or Buzz from "Love! Valour! Compassion!")

Tracy is the Nathan Lane role, and Haynes camps it up shamelessly, mugging to beat the band, whether crooning "I'm Through With Love" when his trick dumps him, or quoting Dolly Levy, as channeled through Carol Channing, when wondering what sex path to follow. As mother hen, he gets the wickedest lines and delivers them with the accuracy of William Tell.

Complications invariably ensue when Don, Jeff's blind date from the Internet, arrives for the promised tryst. When Don confesses that he's a priest, things really get interesting. As played by Tracy Barcelona, this priest obviously spends more time at the gym than the seminary. With his dark solid handsomeness, Barcelona gives new meaning to the phrase Hail, Mary.

Realism gets stretched within an inch of its life in this type of comedy, if there's any to begin with, so if you can get past the nonsense and sneeze through the fluff, your vacation at the theater won't be a complete ruin. If you like your summer entertainment silly, inconsequential, and very gay - then this trifle will seem like a day at the beach.



The cast of 'Key West' huddle around director Joe Watts (seated). The play is being staged at Theatre New West through Aug. 18.

INFO

Key West
Through Aug. 18
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Directed by **Joe Watts**

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-Houston Press

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community

saturday, july 14

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama.
713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.713-880-9235.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon
to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition •
H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne.
713-524-3818.
AssistHers. Care Team Program. In service Program. 10:45 a.m. to
noon. <http://members.tripod.com/AssistHers>. 713-521-4628.
Asians and Friends. Pool party. 713-626-6300.
Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Meeting/social. 713-780-4282.

Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion
9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30
p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1
p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center.
713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center •• 803 Hawthorne.
713-524-3818.

monday, july 16

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m.
www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing, STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15
p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center.
713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017,
Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from
6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition
•803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, july 15

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist 1 7:45 a.m.;
Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral
Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m.
713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday
School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir
rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service
10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for
children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. &
education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m.
& 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service
10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m.
Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11
a.m. 713-686-5876.
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service.

tuesday, july 17

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering
Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.
HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club
Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational develop-
ment of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling



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Center. 713-529-0037.
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 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. @ hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-0192.
 PR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
 Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7:00 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Classic Chassis Car Club. Officers meeting. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615

wednesday, July 18

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Center for AIDS. Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne • 713-524-3818.

thursday, July 19

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. 2 hours free Line Dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Bi-Net Houston. Mixed gender Social. 713-467-4380

friday, July 20

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.
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Classified Order Form Fax: 713-529-9531, Phone: 713-529-8490

TO PLACE AN AD:
IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX., 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** croberts@houstonvoice.com
AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

- 1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**
- FREE:** Call for guidelines
 ___ HIV Services & Education
 ___ Volunteers
 ___ Non-Profit Organizations
 *First 20 words
- INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:**
 ___ Announcements
 ___ Auditions
 ___ Employment-Seeking
 ___ Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 ___ Roommates
 ___ Personal Websites
- BUSINESS RATE \$18:**
 ___ Auto Repair
 ___ Business Opportunities
 ___ Entertainment
 ___ Help Wanted
 ___ Help Wanted-Seeking
 ___ Home Improvement
 ___ Items For Sale
 ___ Licensed Massage
 ___ Moving Services
 ___ Professional Services
 ___ Real Estate For Rent
 ___ Real Estate For Sale
- Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
 Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant or Bold Headline - Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST
 CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

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 Up to 20 words for \$10.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: \$10.00
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 Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) _____
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 Up to 20 words for \$18.00 per week.

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Total: \$ _____

Name: _____
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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA
 Card # _____ Exp. ____/____
 Signature _____

Occasions

Birthdays

Happy birthday wishes go to Asians and Friends members Richard B. (7/15) and Pelima I. (7/20).

Ron Sioux of Cousin's toasts in a birthday on July 16.

Bill N. of the Houston Area Bears wants a warm and fuzzy big bear hug for his July 18 birthday.

Graphic artist Rob Miller draws up a birthday car on July 18.

Belated birthday wishes to David T. of the CCCC on July 5.

CCCC members Tommy G. (7/18), Charles L (7/17) will have chrome candles on their birthday cakes.

Don W. celebrates his birthday on July 19.

The fabulous Joanne of the BRB sneaks a little Baileys in her coffee on July 17.

Animal lover Robert celebrates his birthday on July 18.

Terry Flood of the 611 Hyde Park Pub lifts his glass for his birthday on July 20.

Todd, aka Toddy, lights up a room when he smiles for his birthday on July 20.



The 2001 Chances Royalty were recently awarded their banners and tiaras. The royal court are (from left) Jas Stafford—Ms. Chances, Ronnie Siebert—Mr. Chances and Shy Anne St. John—Miss Chances.

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My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

July 13 - 19

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

After Mars goes direct in your house of adventure on July 19, you can instigate all sorts of mischief and get away with it! It's perfectly reasonable for you to withdraw from someone who has betrayed you more than once. A Leo will never let you down like that.

TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

You may have too many people to play with during this cycle, but somehow I think you'll manage just fine. Saturn is warning you to maintain your frugal reputation as it transits your money house. A Virgo's love don't cost a thing.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

You may have to get serious about work just as everyone else (it seems) is getting serious about having fun. Soon the bucks will really start rolling in. Of course you could make it an even richer season by working your butt off even more. A Taurus likes it when you sweat.

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

Dreams really can come true for you if you're willing to go after what you want completely. No compromises. With new moon on July 20 unleashing your powers and Jupiter in Cancer bringing you luck and joy, you really shouldn't let anybody stand in your way—not even an ambivalent Pisces.

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

There's a feeling of surprise and randomness surrounding you now, Leo. You need to lay back and enjoy it while it lasts! Mars moves forward in your house of love affairs on July 19 and brings you a slew of new suitors. An Aries wants to be wanted by you—even if he or she doesn't want to show it.

VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Venus at the top of your chart could bring you creative ideas and the real-world connections you need to bring them to fruition. Track down old friends and put grudges behind you. A Libra is more drawn to you than you realize.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Venus stirs up your naughty side as it transits your ninth house throughout July. Just when you thought you were ready to settle down, think again. Your newfound freedom to be direct and clear (without sugarcoating the truth) makes you irresistible to a Sag.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Saturn in your house of commitment is pushing you to make long-term plans with your love. A bit of intuition and bravery can lead to a big turning point in your career, if you're willing to put all your eggs in one basket—for awhile. A Gemini can help you hatch a brilliant and sexy plan.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

You know you can work your wiles on anyone, but the question is: What do you want after the initial conquest? It's hard for you to understand why your friends are acting so nutty right now. Take their behavior with a grain of salt. You are more of an inspiration than you realize—especially to a Leo.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

The new moon on July 20 falls in your house of relationships and could make you feel as if you have no power over your own fate. It's time to fall in love all over again with a Scorpio. Once you feel at peace sexually, the rest of your life seems all the more magnificent.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

You may not have a choice in how to deal with a home situation, darling. Too many other people are calling the shots. It's up to you to be a force of kindness and healing—instead of controversy—for once! You are doing your good deed for the year.

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Do something artistic and outrageous as the new moon on July 20 hits your most creative house. The new moon provides you with insight and inspiration. Now you need to take the action. An Aries will be your co-pilot.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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