

HOUSTON VOICE

April 26, 1996
ISSUE 809

A Weekly Community News Publication



A selection of boxes created for the 'Boxing Back!' benefit exhibit and auction for DIFFA/Houston

'Boxing Back!' to benefit DIFFA

(HOUSTON)—"Boxing Back," a special spring event benefiting the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) Houston, will take place Saturday, May 18 at the Texas Medical Center Conference Center, 2151 West Holcombe. The event features an exhibit and auction of over 100 boxes, bureaus and hope chests designed, decorated or embellished by notable artists and individuals into one-of-a-kind works of art.

Leslie and Hedley Karpas, co-chairs of the event, said they are dedicating the event to the memory of Alan Larry Schechter and Ron Pearson, who died in a tragic airplane accident last summer. While the Houston pair did not die of AIDS, the cause was close to their hearts, observed Leslie Schechter Karpas, Larry Schechter's cousin. "We have personally witnessed the devastation of this terrible disease and know what is like to lose family and friends at an early age," she said.

"We are pleased to help in this endeavor," Karpas added. "In an atmosphere of dwindling federal dollars, local events such as these are critical to Houston's service providers who directly serve people living with HIV and AIDS, and for local education programs. DIFFA is an excellent conduit for determining where dollars in

the community are most needed at any given time."

Championship boxing celebrity George Foreman will serve as honorary chair of the event.

"Boxing Back" begins at 8:00 p.m. and includes a live and silent auction, food and entertainment. In keeping with the theme for the evening, additional auction items such as box seats at the race track, box lunches from fabulous area restaurants and boxing lessons will also go on the charity block.

Sponsors include Absolut Vodka; Cooper Industries; Southwestern Bell Telephone; AeroMexico; Michael W. Dale; Hermes of Paris; IKEA; Johnston & Company; Lynn and Bill Rafferty; Louisa Stude Serofim; Silver Eagle Distributors and Joyce and Arthur Schechter.

DIFFA Houston is the largest source of private dollars for AIDS care in the Houston area, currently funding 20 local agencies.

General admission tickets for the event \$40 each; VIP tickets are \$200. Group/sponsor packages are available ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000. For ticket information, contact Tori Williams, chapter director, at 552-9445.

Methodists uphold policy opposing gays, but admit division

By DAVID BRIGGS

Associated Press Religion Writer

DENVER (AP)—The United Methodist Council of Bishops today upheld church policy opposing the ordination of gays and lesbians and declaring homosexuality is incompatible with church teaching.

Less than a week after 15 prelates announced they personally opposed United Methodist policy on homosexuality, the full 67-member council of bishops acknowledged there are serious differences within the 8.5 million-member church on the issue of homosexuality.

But spiritual leaders of the nation's second largest Protestant church said in a statement they are committed to following church law.

"The council understands the present language in the Book of Discipline to be a faithful expression of faith and discipleship and are committed, collectively and individually, to teach and uphold our church's doctrine and discipline," the bishops said.

Last week, declaring it was time to "break the silence," 11 active and four retired bishops said in their personal convictions they opposed church policies condemning homosexuality.

Early this week, Rev. William Hinson, pastor of Houston's First United Methodist church, expressed dismay at those bishops' action. Tuesday, Hinson said he was glad the council reaffirmed the policy, but was disappointed with their statement, saying it was not strong enough.

"We will continue our responsibility to the order and discipline of the church, but urge our United Methodist churches to open the doors in gracious hospitality to all our brothers and sisters in the faith."

Church policy upholds the civil rights of homosexuals, but says "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" may not be ordained. The church also says the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching," and says no denominational money may be given to promote the acceptance of homosexuality.

COMING
NEXT WEEK!!!!

INTERNATIONAL SUPERSTAR
RUPAUL
COMMENTS ON HER LATEST
ENDEAVORS IN A REVEALING
INTERVIEW WITH
JON ANTHONY FOR
THE HOUSTON VOICE.

Hundreds 'Workout for Hope' in Houston

(HOUSTON)—An estimated 800 Houstonians participated in the 'Workout for Hope' last Sunday at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The local aerob-athon was part of a national event to raise funds for AIDS research.

Nationally, organizers hope to attract over 25,000 participants and raise well over \$1 million as the event works its way across 75 U.S. cities—money slated to be used for AIDS research at the California-based City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute. "Workout for Hope participants will burn 31 million calories—equal to 131,250 bags of plain M&M's," boasts a national press

release. Workout for Hope has raised over \$8.5 million for the research programs in the eight years that it has been held, according to the release.

Organizers of the local workout projected this year's revenues at over \$110,000. Houston has traditionally been one of the events biggest money-making cities, last year raising \$92,000.



John Weinland of the Krewe of Olympus presents a symbolic check to Dick Bolyard of AIDS Foundation Houston, representing a donation of \$8,500 from the Krewe to AFH's Stone Soup Food Pantry.

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Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, April 26

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- * HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 527-1348.
- * Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Touki Bouki at 8:00 p.m. and Le Franc at 9:40 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Workshop: Using the Resources of Business Incubators to Accelerate Business Growth. 11:45 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 42.
- * Spring '96 Fieldwork Showcase at DiverseWorks. 8:00 p.m. Call 223-8346.

Saturday, April 27

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. Call 780-4282.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Blue Eyes of Yonta at 7:30 p.m. and Women with Open Eyes at 9:15 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Gus Buzbee performs at Cafe Maison. Call 528-6750.
- * Garden Party's garage sale. 9:00 a.m. Fairview and Converse.
- * Houston Professional Men's Association go to Galveston. Call 266-5510.

Sunday, April 28

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.
- * Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis Center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- * Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.
- * Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. \$3
- * Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at noon. Call 629-1432.
- * Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 a.m. Call 537-1348.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- * Film at the museum of Fine Arts: Wend Kuuni at 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Workshop: Determining Your Entrepreneurial Exponent for Starting a Business. 9:00 a.m. Call 932-7495 X40.
- * Seminar: Bringing the Outdoors In-featuring Susie Miller. At 4:30 p.m. Call 880-LOVE.
- * Rainbow Riders Bicycle Club meets at Ikea (I-10) at 9:00 a.m. for a 20 mile ride. Call 681-7340.
- * Anti-Homophobia Alliance Group meets at 2:00 p.m. Call 526-8822.

Monday, April 29

- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support

group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.

- * HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1225.
- * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their caregivers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Gay and Lesbian Readers group meets at Barnes and Noble. 3003 W. Holcombe at 7:00 p.m. Free! Call 349-0050.
- * Pool Tournament at the Brazos River Bottom. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-9192.
- * Gay and Lesbian readers group meets at Barnes and Noble. 7:00 p.m. Call 349-0050.

Tuesday, April 30

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
- * Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.
- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

Wednesday, May 1

- * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 488-4492.
- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. Call 861-9149.
- * PROTECT support group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.
- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. Call 520-2083.
- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Survivors of loss support group meets at 8:30 p.m. Call 778-2677.
- * Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.
- * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call 782-6066.
- * Journal Writing Course. 7:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. Call 537-1348.
- * Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootie's. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
- * HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

McNab Named Man of Year

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) has named Ronnie McNab, of Santa Fe, Texas, its Man-of-the-Year for '95-'96 in the Houston-Galveston District.

McNab is a home health aide and is very active in the HIV/AIDS community. He is a volunteer with Pet Patrol and the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas (ACCT), as a bi-lingual education coordinator. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area (AABA).

He was also named LULAC's Man-of-the-Year for '94-'95.

Financial Planning Set

The Men's Network, a discussion group for social and educational development of gay and bisexual men, will present "Financial Planning" Wednesday, May 1 at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, from 7 until 9:00 p.m. A donation between \$3 and \$5 is suggested.

With information about learning the first steps in making informed financial decisions that made sense in light of your overall needs and objectives, the discussion will be chaired by Daniel Poland of First Sterling Financial. Discussion on how a balanced and flexible financial plan can clearly define your goals and a long term strategy for reaching them will also be included.

For more information please contact the Counseling Center at 529-0037.

Growing Herbs

The world of culinary herbs will be explored at a fun motivated lecture hosted by the Freed-Montrose Branch Library Wednesday May 1 from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Michael Bettler, co-owner of the herb and gift shop Lucia's Garden, will focus on the basics of growing herbs in Houston, introduce gardening books written for Houston, and the best cookbooks for putting the harvest to good use.

This program is free and open to the public. The Montrose Library is located at 4100 Montrose Blvd., between Richmond and Alabama. For more information call 520-5487.

Women's Center Benefit

Author Mary Pipher, PH.D., will speak at a luncheon benefiting the Houston Area Women's Center, Wednesday, May 1 beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Westin Oaks Hotel, 5011 Westheimer.

Pipher will discuss her latest book "The Shelter of Each Other: Rebuilding Our Families." She is also the author of the best seller, "Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls."

Tickets prices start at \$30 (Friends); \$40 (Supporters), \$50 (Inner Circle). For more information please telephone Tiffany at 528-6798 ext. 229.

HPMA Monthly

The Houston Professional Men's Asso-

ciation (HPMA) will hold its monthly dinner meeting Friday, May 3, at the Moose Cafe beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The dinner meeting will feature a buffet consisting of garden salad, broccoli and garlic pasta, smoked salmon pasta and pecan smoked chicken breast. The \$16 cost included dinner, drink with meal, tax and tip. A cash bar will be available as well as another entertaining guest speaker.

Please RSVP to Steve at 520-9083 no later than Wednesday May 1. The HPMA welcomes new members. The next scheduled get-together will be May 18 for a pot-luck dinner and entertaining "Safe Sex" discussion.

The HPMA telephone line is 866-4079.

Switchboard Training

In early May the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston (GLSH) will hold a weekend training session for ever one interested in volunteering for the Switchboard.

GLSH volunteers provide a valuable service by using the Switchboard's extensive resource guides to connect callers to community organization, businesses and professionals and inform callers about upcoming community events.

Volunteers are also trained in providing vital safer sex information and lending an understanding ear when callers are coming out of the closet. Training gives switchboard volunteers the tools to assist the gay and lesbian community, but it also teaches participants important communication skills they can use everyday.

Training will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday May 3. The Friday session will end at 10:00 p.m. Training Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5 will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. each day.

Call 529-3211 to sign up for training or to get more information.

Milam House Volunteers

Milam House, a home-like atmosphere for HIV+ persons who because of health, social and/or economic conditions are unable to provide for their basic human needs, is seeking volunteers to help with everything from shift duty to fundraising.

If you can help please contact Dallas Crawford at 5320-9248 or via e-mail at ahhvlntr@neosoft.com.

Spiritual Retreat

Kolbe House is sponsoring a spiritual retreat the weekend beginning May 10. For more information or to reserve space telephone 522-8182.

Clinic Volunteers

The Montrose Clinic is seeking friendly, talkative, out-going volunteers for community education—and is planning a training session to be held soon.

If you have the time or energy, please contact Wiley at 520-2083 to volunteer or simply to get more information.

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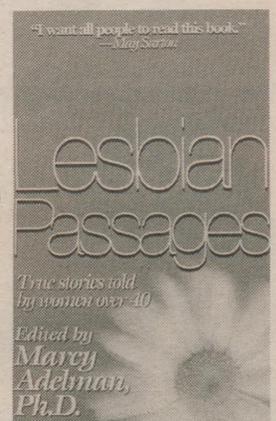
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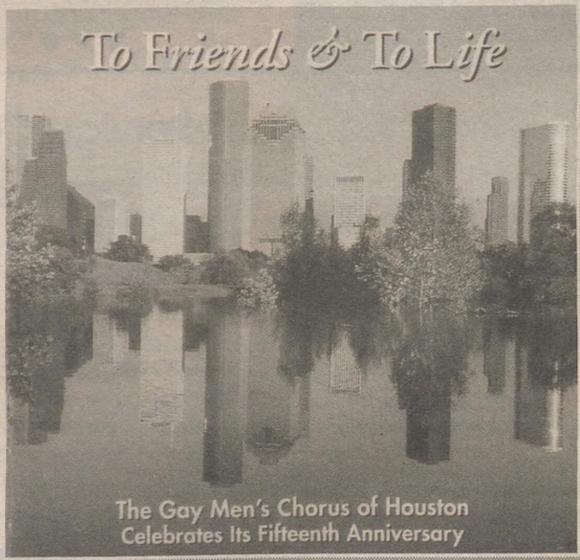


ROGER DIELEMAN

Born: May 28, 1969

Died: April 10, 1996

Surrounded by family and friends, Roger Dieleman lost his battle with Hodgkin's Disease and HIV. Roger's courage and optimism were gifts to all who loved him. Roger was a loving and giving person and will be sorely missed by his family and friends, especially his friends in the ITL. We love you, and we will miss you, Roger.



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Make plans to celebrate with us at our annual Gay Pride Concert benefiting AFH Stone Soup Pantry, June 15, 1996, 8:00pm in the Cullen Theatre at the Wortham Center. Tickets available beginning May 1st by calling 227-ARTS.

WE TAKE TIPS!

Your HOUSTON VOICE appreciates your news lead or feature story ideas. Call us (best time: Thursday or Friday) at 529-8490 (Fax: 529-9531).

Community Calendar

(Continued from page 2)

Wednesday, May 1

- * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 537-1348.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.
- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.
- * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
- * Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 467-4380.
- * Workshop: Developing Business Building Skills. 7:15 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 48.
- * Houston Area Bears Dine Out at the 59 Diner. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9123.
- * "The Bible and Homosexuals" series by Ralph Lasher. At MCCR at 7:30 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- * "Rebuilding Families"—meet author Mary Pipher at 11:30 p.m. Call 528-6798 X229.
- * Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 521-1000.

Thursday, May 2

- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 p.m. Call 629-1432.
- * Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
- * Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 p.m. Call 523-8817
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.
- * Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- * Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.
- * Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.
- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.
- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0923.
- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.
- * Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

Another way to reach us!

You can now send your letters, news leads, and other correspondence to the HOUSTON VOICE by e-mail. Address to: HouVoice@aol.com.

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Meeting addresses concerns of minority AIDS service providers

By ANTONIO SHARP
Houston, Texas

A public hearing was held Monday, April 15 at city hall to address the problems HIV/AIDS service providers, particularly those serving minority communities, encounter when applying for funding.

Houston City Council members Judson W. Robinson and Gracie Saenz, sponsors of the meeting, were concerned that communities of color that provide such services have received little or no funds. Although many outreach services with AIDS prevention agendas have high percentages of minority patients, the number of reported cases has increased. Authorities on the disease and AIDS activists who comprised a panel agreed that many minorities are overcome by fear of discrimination and have no access to health care.

"People are concerned with discrimination on their jobs because of their positive HIV status," said Dr. Joseph Gathe, Jr., an epidemiologist specializing in HIV/AIDS. "We need AIDS education that is different in Third Ward than in River Oaks."

Gathe said social circumstances play a factor in whether a person feels comfortable in seeking medical care for HIV and the concept of basic living principles comes before anything else, including keeping HIV under control.

Dr. Mary des Vignes-Kendrick, director of the department of Health and Human Services here, said in addition to Houston leading the state in reported AIDS cases, 60 percent of cases among women

are African-American, and cases have dipped to 37 percent among white men. The number of cases among black men, she added, have increased from 18 to 43 percent.

"There should be no new infections because HIV is preventable," she said.

Loving Arms Foundation, a day care center for children with HIV or AIDS, is one of the many service providers which have had funding eliminated. The center is one of six in the nation that focuses on children with the disease. The director of the center, Audrey Gassama, presented a video outlining the discrimination parents face when attempting to enroll their HIV-positive children in other day care facilities.

"Because of the conflict of interest between minority communities and mainstream funding sources, many minority service providers are sometimes forced to go without funding," said Gassama. "Many people will not leave their communities, so they go without care because of fear of redress. We must have accessibility to services."

Councilmember Jew Don Boney, who was among the panelists, said many adults have not been effective in convincing young people that they are not invincible to AIDS.

"We've got to challenge society itself, we've got to challenge our prejudices and consciousness about this illness," he said. "This is bigger than funding."

CDC: U.S. AIDS cases declined in 1995

By KAREN HILL
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

ATLANTA, Thursday, April 18 (AP)—The number of people in the United States diagnosed with AIDS in 1995 fell 7 percent from the previous year, federal researchers said Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there were 74,180 people diagnosed with AIDS in 1995, compared to 79,897 in 1994. In 1993, the year federal researchers expanded their definition of AIDS, there were 105,828 cases.

The rate, or number of cases per 100,000 residents, also fell, to 27.8 in 1995, compared to 30.2 in 1994, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Washington, D.C., had the grim distinction of having the highest AIDS rate among U.S. states and territories in 1995. Puerto Rico was a distant second, followed by New York, Florida and New Jersey.

The nation's capital had 185.7 AIDS cases per 100,000 residents, down from 246.9 in 1994, when it also led the nation. North Dakota had the lowest AIDS rate, at 0.8.

The numbers showed that although the AIDS rate is declining, more minorities and women are among its victims.

Researchers had predicted this trend, anticipating that prevention methods and death would slow the rates among gay white men, the disease's first victims.

One surprise, however, was that AIDS cases among children fell to 800 in 1995, from 1034 in 1994, even though more women developed the disease. Nearly all children with AIDS get HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, while in their mothers' wombs, the CDC said.

"It suggests that there are fewer children being born infected with HIV, perhaps as

result of increasing use of AZT by pregnant women to reduce risk of transmission," said Dr. John Ward, chief of the CDC's HIV/AIDS surveillance branch.

AZT is one of several drugs that slow reproduction of the HIV virus within the body.

Also in 1995, women accounted for 19 percent of all AIDS cases among adults and adolescents, their highest proportion yet.

The same states and territories were in the top five for 1994 and 1995, but only Puerto Rico reported an increased AIDS rate from one year to the next. Its 1995 rate of 70.3 compared with 62.5 in 1994, bumping it from No. 5 in 1994 to No. 2 in 1995.

The AIDS rate among blacks was 92.6 cases per 100,000 people. Blacks were six times more likely to have AIDS than whites, whose rate was 15.4, and twice as likely to have AIDS as Hispanics, whose rate was 46.2. Asians and Pacific Islanders reported the lowest rate, 6.2.

"Not only is the rate higher among blacks, the actual number among blacks is about to surpass whites," Ward said.

Black adults and adolescents accounted for 29,350 AIDS cases diagnosed in 1995, compared to 29,732 cases among whites and 11,169 cases among Hispanics.

That shows AIDS is beginning to take a heavy toll among blacks, Ward said, because they are a smaller percentage of the U.S. population than whites.

Among cities, Jersey City, N.J., topped the 1995 list with 138.1 AIDS cases per 100,000 residents, followed by San Francisco at 129.7, New York City at 122.5, Miami at 117.2 and Newark, N.J., at 86.8. Newark's entry into the top five bumped Fort Lauderdale, Fla., out.

The city with the lowest rate was Dayton, Ohio, with 5.0.

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Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



Brain Drain and Soul Food

Times have not been good at my house recently. My family is coping ineffectively with scourge, tragedy and troubles. Bad health, bad luck and bad news. One kid is divorcing (to marry an idiot). One thinks he may be straight. One wants to become a physician.

Lately we've had cancer, heart attacks and heartbreaks. And now, Jan has lost her keys. Dealing with (or rather, being pummeled by) the authorities who bungled their authority in giving us a very battered, malnourished and severely ill baby six months ago has been wrenching. Our lives are no longer our own; they belong to the people who have on their caseloads "a woman who had three crack babies in three years" (and she has every one of them still—the "big" one watches the "babies" while their "mother" goes out and gets high). No urgency is expended for our now thriving, smart, beautiful, singing-and-dancing baby who, by the way, has uncommon rhythm, and needs surgery to have tubes put in her ears.

Never mind that Jan and I both lost jobs, composure and weight taking care of her, or that we have made plans, purchases and phenomenal lifestyle changes in order to accommodate her. And it is of no significance to the powers that be that we are all quite cozy together and would like to remain intact.

Sorry for the whining. It's all I have left to comfort myself. That, and the regrets of not having done "something" unspecified in the past that may have made our circumstances better, or plotting to modify them in the future.

Jan at least has religion. She is Russian

and Jewish by her heritage. Raised Roman Catholic, she has rejected all that and borrows the best of Mormonism, Hare Krishna, Buddhism and African Methodist Episcopal to keep the faith.

To offer me calm, she has been reminding me of the Buddhist monks' custom of the alms bowl. As a devout student of the sage teacher, each young monk is issued a robe and a bowl (traditionally carved of wood) and renounces all other worldly possessions. After morning exercises of prostration and other acts of humility, the disciples follow the wise master in his teachings. Part of each day is devoted to silently knocking on the doors of strangers, begging bowl in hand, accepting money or food that will sustain them for that day. The sum of donations (or deficiencies) are all that is consumed during the day that they are received. There is nothing saved from the previous day or saved for tomorrow. In this way, one learns to live in the present.

Jan bought an alms bowl for our home the other day. Ours is smallish, made of terra cotta. It could contain enough food for all of us to subsist on for about a day. Or enough change to purchase a good snack for only one of us. Or a lot of crises.

The thing I like about the begging bowl is that whatever it contains in all one is required to cope with that day.

The bowl Jan bought us is in plain view on our dining room table. We can see it as we rush out the door in the morning or drive through McDonald's for breakfast on the way to work (hers and mine) and school (the baby's).

The bowl is empty. I hope it stays that way for a while.

HOUSTON VOICE MAIL
Letters to the Editor

Homophobe Moment

FROM MARC JENKINS
Dallas, Texas

Have you seen (the latest) homophobic memorandum from Beverly LaHaye of Concerned Women for America? It's being mailed out to all "concerned citizens" in an attempt to deny gays the right to marry. She's calling it the "National Campaign to Protect Marriage," but the entire memorandum supports "denying" marriage to gays and lesbians. Evidently Ms. LaHaye has a lot of money, because she's acquired so many toll free numbers to promote homophobia. Here's two: 1-800-527-9600 (Protect Marriage Package) and 1-800-826-3200 (NEA Package).

(LaHaye is) crazy! She's written a book graphically detailing her sexual experiences as a fundamentalist—Uck! I wish there was a way you could get these 800 numbers out to your readers. Let's drain her piggy bank!

Coalition Thanks 'Bunnies'

FROM LYNN PANNILL
Executive Director, PWA Coalition Houston

On behalf of the clients, board of directors and staff of the People With AIDS Coalition, Houston Inc., I would like to express our sincere thanks to the participants and hosts of Bunnies on the Bayou, 1996.

Through your generosity, and receipt of \$4,650 in donations from this event, we have been able to make a down payment on a Ford Econoline van for our warehouse program, replacing our very tired 1984 Nissan pickup. This unique program serves more than 1500 indigent PWAs each year with free furniture, beds and other household goods. We could not pick up or deliver these items without a reliable vehicle, and we could not have afforded to purchase one without the help of the Bunnies and their friends.

We are extremely honored to have been chosen a beneficiary of this event. Thank you again!

TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

The HOUSTON VOICE is your Voice in Houston, and we value your input and suggestions. Write us at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston TX 77006 (Fax: 529-9531) to tell us what you like and don't like or to share your own creative ideas. (Please indicate if your letter is for input only, as we also receive numerous letters for publication).

THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

The Wages of Spin

There they go again. Those beltway politicians are predictable, if nothing else. Example: The current wrangling over raising the minimum wage would be comical if it were not for the absurdity of the entire debate. The issue is entirely political and meritless. Consider for a moment the arguments, or lack thereof, that have permeated as fodder for their respective positions on the issue. The Democrats argue that it is absolutely necessary to raise the minimum wage in order to increase the standard of living for those who are at that pay scale. The Republicans argue that raising the minimum wage would have a devastating effect on the economy. Both are false.

To begin with, the argument that millions of families are struggling to survive making \$4.25 an hour is simply not true. The Department of Labor statistics show that less than 2% of the work force earns the minimum wage. Of those 2%, more than half are 25 years old or younger. In fact, the overwhelming majority of minimum wage earners is comprised of teenagers living at home, students who work part-time, retired senior citizens who want to remain active and individuals who sought a secondary part-time job. To be sure, there are some families who are struggling to make ends meet, but it is far from the norm. Besides, it is ridiculous beyond belief to espouse that raising the minimum wage by 90 cents (or a dollar, depending on the plan) will have a significant effect for those families that the Democrats purport they are trying to assist.

If the Democrats are truly concerned about low-income workers, they would be seeking a significantly higher rate of increase than they have proposed. Furthermore, if the Democrats truly believed that raising the minimum wage is such a prevalent issue, than why didn't they raise it during the first two years of the Clinton administration, when they controlled the White House, the House of Representatives and the Senate? Because, they know it is a bad policy. The President himself has gone on record saying that raising the minimum wage was not good fiscal policy. But this is an election year and the "poll surfer" has noticed that nearly 80% of the public supports the increase. Not one to remain true to his convictions, Clinton has decided it would be politically prudent to support the popular initiative to gain brownie points with the electorate and the labor unions he so desperately needs to realign himself with after NAFTA and GATT. Typical? Yes. Beneficial? Not.

An astute politician indeed, Clinton can claim victory on this issue, mainly due to the Republican leadership's lackadaisical response. Clinton has achieved this feat at the expense of the low-income wage earners he so steadfastly claims to support to the degree of "(feeling) their pain." It is unconscionable. Raising the minimum wage will do absolutely nothing for those wage earners, except encourage them to support Clinton at the polls. Ironic, isn't it? Since salaries account for two-thirds of most businesses expenses, common sense dictates that, if enacted, most businesses would raise the prices of their goods and services to offset the increase. So, in reality, your new minimum wage wouldn't buy you any more than the current wage would.

In addition, raising the minimum wage would have a short-term effect on the economy; however, it would be far from devastating as some Republicans have claimed. In a recent USA Today survey of economists, most predict that if the wage is increased, wage inflation would rise 4.5% this year compared to a 3.8% rise if it is not implemented. Even at that, most expect that wage inflation would revert

back to a level of stability shortly thereafter. Economists claim that consumer prices would increase 3.5% within the next 12 months. "To the working poor, there would be little long-lasting benefit. But prediction of dire consequences also would likely prove to be exaggerated," said the article. Then what is the point? Again, election year politics.

Democrats are not the only ones to blame in this vituperative and unfortunate display of gamesmanship at the expense of the working poor. Last week 20 moderate Republicans came out in favor of raising the minimum wage, only they want to up the ante another 10 cents. How jejune. The audacious display of arrogance and absurdity that permeates the halls of Washington never ceases to amaze me. As if a dime is going to encourage people to run to the Republican side of the issue. The Democrats have already won the public relations battle concerning this issue, since they initiated it. Those Republicans would have been better off just voting for the increase and informing their constituents of such. Instead, the 20 GOP moderates joined the ranks of those who will resort to any manipulative tactic for the sake of votes. The only reason these Republicans broke rank with their party is because the majority of them represent states that have a higher minimum wage than the Federal rate and the impact on their economy would be minimal at best. Additionally, these moderates would like to see the increase because it would raise the wage level in states that comply with the current wage rate; therefore, it would stymie the flow of businesses moving from one state to the other to reduce costs.

Raising the minimum wage is bad policy. This is a free-market economy. There are far more pressing issues that government should be addressing. Our economy is market driven and wages (as is most of our economy) are based on supply and demand. If you have a skill that is essential to an employer, your wages will reflect such. Most minimum wage jobs require little, if any, skill and are good positions for individuals to gain experience and learn about work ethics. The net effect will mean higher prices for consumers, job losses for those individuals the increase is suppose to help, and a rise in inflation which would translate into an increase in short-term interest rates.

A recent proposal by Reps. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., James Talent, R-Mo., and Cass Ballenger, R-N.C., entitled the Minimum Wage for Families Act would offer tax credits to low income families, based on the families' income and number of children. The proposal would replace the Earned Income Tax Credit. Workers with one child who earn \$4.25 an hour would receive monthly payments to lift wages \$2.75 an hour, those with two or more children would receive an additional \$3.75 an hour. Finally, a comprehensive approach at ameliorating the problem. It would encourage work, reduce welfare rolls and benefit everyone. Unfortunately, this bill will not come to fruition this year. Count on it. It's too realistic and it would work, but it would not benefit the Democrats. Minority Leader Dick Gephardt called the proposal "a very bad idea, creating a new entitlement." Those are words I'd have never expected to hear from Mr. Gephardt, who in actuality never met an entitlement he did not like.

At any rate, the probable scenario will encompass the passage of a minimum wage increase. The Republicans will attempt to add an addendum to the bill to either force a veto or prevail in passing an equally popular issue with the voters. Minimum wage recipients? They've been used as pawns in a chess game and unfortunately they haven't gained or won anything.

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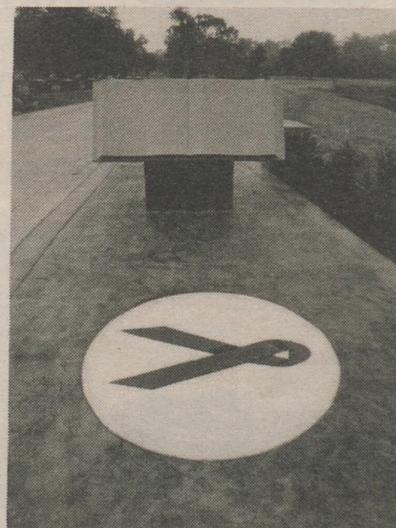
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Gay Today
 by Glen Webber



The Ties That Save Lives

Last week, I asked the question: How do you continue friendships once you are diagnosed with HIV? I didn't answer the question then, but I will try now. Let me give you an example of how important friendships are.

For five years, I have worked for Continental Airlines. The company is very employee-oriented. They have always treated me with respect, and in turn, I always did my best for them. When I came down ill, my friends from work did not abandon me. They called, came by the hospital, brought me gifts and generally did all they could to remind me that I was loved and missed. They still are in touch, and still come by the house to visit. I am so fortunate to have Continental and the true friendships I established there on my side.

I don't think my recovery would have gone so smoothly if not for my friends. I was so happy to talk to them that there were times I didn't even think about being ill. I want to give a very special thanks to Cindy Martin, who I consider my guardian angel. She has helped me so much with paperwork and other things. She always cheers me up when she calls. And we have never even met in person!

My first suggestion regarding dealing with close friends is to be honest with them. They want to know what is going on in your life. You will hurt more friendships by not being honest. But let me remind you of one thing: being diagnosed as HIV-positive is not the same as having AIDS (and while you may know this, remember that not everyone understands the difference, and you may have to explain it to them). Having AIDS means you are fighting infections that are attacking your immune system. It is not possible, however, for HIV-positive people to take measures and treatments that enable them to ward off infections and to stay healthy much longer than when the virus first became known. Many HIV-positive people are healthy and living wonderful lives. If you are one of those people, please write me and let me know what you are doing with your life. We all need some "positive" encouragement.

Another suggestion: be able to share with your friends when you are not feel-

ing well. They will want to help take care of you and visit you; let them. If they invite you places, go with them. Don't stop your routine; get out if you feel up to it. Don't stop living!

If your friends go on a trip and you can't go, they will be glad to bring you a souvenir of their travels. (Heck, bring me a souvenir, too!) If you are going to travel, be sure you bring all your medicine so you will be safe.

As you know, I am having a passing out problem. I always let the group of people I'm with know that, so if something happens, they will know what is going on. While it is embarrassing to have this problem, it would be more embarrassing not to tell them and cause panic.

Be a friend. You have to make an effort with your friends to keep things running smooth. If you are lucky enough to have someone to call every day, call them. I know when my good friend Mike Lefleur passed away, I lost my "talk on the phone every day" friend, and it was a tremendous loss for me.

Don't be afraid of being HIV-positive. It is just another thing to deal with. If you keep a positive attitude and eat right, you will be fine. Remember the saying I have taped on my bathroom mirror: "You are not dead, you are not dying." That applies here. You have a chance of being a role model and helping others deal with their health concerns. It is a real honor to help people, and one you will enjoy.

I don't think I have had as many friends as I do now. As my health continues to decline, I find my friendships are my life savers. I find my friends' caring comforting. I need the lifeline they are throwing me. I love being loved. Love is the most important thing that anyone can give you, and with your good friends giving you all they have, you will always have that cushion to fall on.

Depression is a common problem for those who are HIV-positive. But you can't let it take over your mind. If you are depressed, go to your friends, and if they can't help you, get professional help. (I'm on an anti-depression drug now, and while I can't tell yet if it helps, I do feel pretty good lately).

Don't ever give up on your friends. You will never lack for anything as long as you have them around.

Great Gatsby Party

(HOUSTON)—From the mansions of F. Scott Fitzgerald's imagination to a little mansion in Montrose, the first annual "Great Gatsby Party" will be held May 5, 1996. Hosted by and benefiting Body Positive/Houston; this roaring 20's spring gala celebrates the era of prohibition and speakeasies as well as the grand re-design of the party's locale—The Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd.

Drag out your flapper dresses and zoot suits for this afternoon cocktail party which begins at 4:00 p.m. and features entertainment by the "glamorous girls" of Miss Camp America and a silent auction of some 20-25 items, including original artwork by Kermit Eisenhut and J. Antonio Farfan and weekend packages at some of Houston's finest hotels. Patrons can stroll the poolside courtyard, have a group photo taken in a period car or dance to the music of the '20s while sipping cocktails from the open bar and enjoying a light hors d'oeuvres buffet.

Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$20 at Basic Brothers of Inklings Bookshop or charged by phone by calling the Body Positive/Houston office at 524-2374. Tickets purchased at the door are \$25.

This event is made possible by the generous sponsorship of the following contributors: The Lovett Inn, Silver Eagle Distributing, Empire Baking Co., Boulevard Bistro, Baba Yega, Fulton Seafood, Kalil Produce, the Lancaster Hotel, Le Moulin, Produce Plus and Webwood Flowers, among others.

Body Positive/Houston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The mission of Body Positive/Houston is to encourage HIV-infected individuals, and those at risk of infection, to actively manage their lives and health for maximum quality of life through providing emotional support, education, outreach and socialization opportunities.

This & That!

by Jon Anthony

It's back! Sweeps, that is. As you may well know, February, May and November are "sweep" months. During these months, the networks bring out their big guns to lure and entice viewers to sample their fare in order to increase audience share which, in turn, enables them to determine their ad rates for the next period. As usual, I will keep you abreast of the latest developments.... **Carol Alt** will guest on the May 7 episode of NBC's *Wings* as a law student financing her education through stripping. *Wings* airs at 7:30 p.m..... **The Cure**, whose new album *Wild Mood Swings* hits stores this month, will guest on NBC's *Saturday Night Live* May 11 at 10:35 p.m..... **Linda Purl** and **Chris Noth** star in *Born Free: A New Adventure*. This updated chapter in the *Born Free* saga has a new lion portraying Elsa. The movie filmed in Africa will air April 27 at 7 p.m..... **Marsha Warfield** and **Ted Shackelford** make appearances on CBS' *Touched by an Angel* April 27 at 8 p.m..... Sunday, when more viewers have their sets on than any other day of the week, is where the battlefield for ratings is the most contentious. CBS has moved *Murder, She Wrote* back to its original berth on Sunday at 7 p.m. for the month of May. The network hopes that *Murder* will regain its stronghold on the time slot it held for 12 years. *Murder's* swan song will occur amidst little fanfare. As a result, CBS' *Cybill* will rescind back to its original time slot Monday's at 8:30 p.m. following *Murphy Brown*. At 8 p.m. Sunday, CBS will air the sleeper hit comedy *Grumpy Old Men* starring **Jack Lemmon**, **Walter Matthau** and **Ann-Margret**. NBC counters with the two part miniseries *The Beast* based on **Peter Benchley's** (*JAWS*) best-selling novel. *Beast* concludes Monday at 8 p.m. ABC will air *She Woke Up Pregnant* starring **Lynda Carter** and **Joe Penny**, a made for TV movie billed as a crimes of passion story. Fox and WB will air their regular fare. Lifetime's *Intimate Portrait* series will profile the late **Audrey Hepburn** at 9 p.m. Sunday.... Local affiliate Channel 13 will air the 1991

documentary *Madonna: Truth or Dare* Sunday at 10:30 p.m..... **Nick at Nite** offers a sampling of the programs that will appear on their new cable channel TV Land. The sneak preview begins at 7 p.m. and runs all night long. The sampling includes the **Ed Sullivan** episode with the **Beatles**; **Michael Jackson** and **Ronald Reagan** (what a pair) as guests on *Sonny and Cher*; original pilots for *That Girl* and *Hogan's Heroes* and the show that inspired *Twilight Zone*. Get out your VCRs. Warner Cable does not plan to provide Houston with the new channel at this time. A spokesperson for the cable company suggested that phone calls to their customer service department might persuade them otherwise. Their number is 462-9000.... **Paul Reubens** (a.k.a. **Pee Wee Herman**) reprises his recurring role as **Andrew** on *Murphy Brown* April 29 at 8 p.m..... **Jay Leno** kicks off the month with a week in Chicago. *The Tonight Show* host will chat with **Michael Jordan**, **Arsenio Hall**, **David Schwimmer**, **Sharon Stone**, **Oprah Winfrey** and, in a twist of irony, the rock group **Chicago**. Tonight airs weekly on NBC at 10:35 p.m..... **Madonna** will be interviewed on the *Today* show next Tuesday and Wednesday, April 30 and May 1 at 7 a.m..... Fox will air the broadcast premiere of the box-office hit *The Beverly Hillbillies*, starring **Cloris Leachman**, **Lily Tomlin**, **Dolly Parton** and **Dabney Coleman** Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m..... ABC celebrates **Barbara Walters** 20th year with the network in a 90 minute retrospective airing May 1 at 8:30 p.m..... **Ken Wahl** returns to the airwaves as *Wiseguy* in a two-hour world premier movie airing on ABC May 2 at 8 p.m.. Based on the 1987-90 CBS crime drama, *Wiseguy* returns to tie up some loose ends that the series was not able to do as a result of cancellation. If *Wiseguy's* ratings are impressive, ABC is expected to bring back the flagship as occasional movie specials.... **The Temptations** and **The Four Tops** appear as themselves on the May 2 episode of Fox's *New York Undercover*.... **Marlo Thomas** guests on

NBC's *Friends* May 2.... **June Lockhart** portrays Frank's mom in the May 3 episode of ABC's *Step by Step* at 8 p.m..... **Sharon Stone** visits with **Larry King** on his CNN show May 3. King airs daily Monday through Friday at 8 p.m. and 1 a.m..... *In Concert*, ABC's late night Friday musical program will spotlight music from the films *Waiting to Exhale* and *A Thin Line Between Love and Hate*. **The Isley Brothers** are among those scheduled to perform. Concert airs at 1:35 a.m. May 3.... **John Ritter** plays against type in the riveting CBS movie *Unforgivable* co-starring **Harley Jane Kozak**. Ritter plays an abusive husband in the film based on a true story airing April 30 at 8 p.m..... **Bill Monroe**, **Pee Wee King**, **Merle Travis**, **Gene Autry** and **Little Jimmy Dickens** will be honored and inducted into the *Country Greats Hall of Fame Celebration* airing on TNN April 30 at 8 p.m..... *Biography* offers an eclectic array of posthumous profiles this week. Subjects include **Abbott and Costello**, **Manfred von Richthofen** (a.k.a. **The Red Baron**), **Bruce Lee**, **Mata Hari** and **Elvis Presley**. *Biography* airs on A&E week nights at 7 and 11 p.m..... Volkswagen will sponsor the European leg of **Bon Jovi's** tour. In addition, the car company will manufacture a **Bon Jovi** Golf model which will only be sold in Europe. VW will only procure three of these special edition Golf models for the nominal fee of \$40,000. The vehicles will sport the rocker's monogram on key rings, floor mats and leather gearshifts, according to *Entertainment Weekly*.... **Tracey Chapman's** new single, *Give Me One Reason*, is a must for loyal fans and fans of soul alike.... **Phylicia Rashad** has replaced **Telma Hopkins** (*Gimme a Break*, *Family Matters*) as the wife in **Bill Cosby's** new CBS fall sitcom. *Rashad* and *Cosby* portrayed husband and wife in NBC's *The Cosby Show*. *Hopkins*, an original **Dawn of Tony Orlando** fame, left due to creative differences with the *Cos*.... **Don Johnson** stars as a thief in *The Good Guys* slated for theatrical release this summer.... **David Copperfield** will

unveiled plans to create the "ultimate interactive entertainment and dining experience." The illusionist's restaurant is slated to open in New York's Times Square in December.... **Timothy Leary** suffering from cancer announced on the Internet that he is contemplating committing suicide while logged on to the network. Leary, in a statement to the AP said that he has "not made any decisions yet.".... Finally, **Mary Tyler Moore** will be in Houston autographing copies of her tantalizing best seller *After All* this Friday, April 26. Moore will appear at the Tanglewood Super Crown bookstore at 8 p.m. For details call 465-7278.... **Top of the Charts:** *Because You Loved Me* by **Celine Dion** is the hottest song in the country, *No News* by **Lonestar** tops the country singles chart, *Champagne Supernova* by **Oasis** is the #1 modern rock track and *Experiencia Religiosa* by **Enrique Iglesias** is the hot Latin track, according to *Billboard*. *Lovelife* by **Lush** and *The Woman in Me* by **Shania Twain** are the biggest selling College and Country albums, respectively.... *Seinfeld* tops the weekly Niensens and *Primal Fear* continues to dominate the box-office. *In Contempt* by **Christopher Darden** (with **Jess Walter**) and *Moonlight Becomes You* by **Marry Higgins Clark** are atop The New York Times Bestseller list for Non-Fiction and Fiction books, respectively.... **Milestones:** **Bernard Edwards**, a record producer and bassist for the Disco group **Chic** died in Tokyo while on tour with **Chic** and **Steve Winwood**. Edwards, 43, had produced hits for **Diana Ross**, **Sister Sledge** and **Rod Stewart**. His latest project, a new **Power Station** album with **Robert Palmer** was just completed. **Christopher Milne**, son of *Winnie the Pooh* creator **A.A. Milne** and the inspiration for **Christopher Robin**, died at the age of 75. A special farewell to **Erma Bombeck** who died this week at the age of 69. Her sardonic wit and humorous commentary on life's norms were nothing short of brilliant. She will be missed. **Quote of the Week:** "Hugh Hefner turned 70 today. You can tell because next month's *Playmate* is **Angela Lansbury**." - **Conan O'Brien**

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Community center group to host forum

(HOUSTON)—The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center (HLGCC), a community-based non-profit organization seeking to establish a community center in the Montrose area, will host a community forum from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 1 at the Magnolia Ballroom, 715 Franklin Ave. at Milam. The purpose of the forum, according to the organizers, is to update the community on recent developments and activities; present the HLGCC mission statement; provide an overview of the HLGCC organizational structure; obtain further input on community needs; and request community involvement in upcoming events and activities.

"Houston is the only major U.S. city without a gay and lesbian community center," said Walt Duffey, HLGCC board president. "Although previous attempts to establish a center were not successful, there is growing momentum to create a space that will enable the gay and lesbian community to come together and build upon the strengths of our people and organizations. This forum will help us create a center that is based on what our community wants and needs."

The community forum is open to the public. Anyone interested in creating a center for the gay and lesbian community in Montrose is invited to participate.

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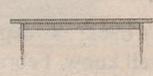
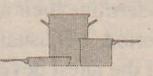
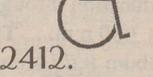
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 Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "Will God ever use bad things such as disease or loss of a job or relationship, etc., to test our faith?"

A: It seems that everything in life tests our faith, especially adversity. In the book of James 1:2-4 we read, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." As children of God we are told that our fighting is not against flesh and blood. We wrestle against evil that is in the unseen world. We wrestle against the fallen angels that are assigned to Satan. Satan has come to steal, kill and destroy. Jesus tells us, "I have come that you might have life and that you might have it abundantly." It appears that we have a struggle going on in the heavenly realm. We are caught in the middle. As children of God we are to grow up. We are to mature in our faith. How does that happen? It happens by learning who to fight and how to fight. We are not to tangle with people because they are not the enemy. The enemy is a spirit who works through circumstances, adversity, catastrophic illnesses, broken homes, unemployment to get us to focus on what went wrong. The enemy is out to accuse, destroy, spread hopelessness, despair, etc. Jesus is here to give us hope, joy and peace that is not dependent on our circumstances. As children of God we must learn who to listen to and who to believe. That is why we have God's Word. We have the Truth of God given to us that is confirmed by the Holy Spirit who is the Teacher of the Truth. We only have to believe what God says. God teaches us about reality. If you lose your job you can take one of two approaches. First, you may ask yourself, "What did I do to deserve this?" Second, you may ask yourself, "God, what do you want me to do now? I know you are my Provider. Since this job didn't work out, what do you have for me. Please show me Your way for my life." One attitude looks to be the scapegoat of calamity. The positive attitude trusts that God is in control no matter what. You may have pain and grief and loss in both approaches to the situation, but God will comfort you when you give it over to God. Regardless of the situations and calamities that come your way, your faith will grow when you take the attitude that God is not out to punish me. God is testing my faith to help me to mature. Maturity means having the ability to look at situations from God's perspective and not a worldly perspective. The more we know God in an intimate way, the better we will understand God's motives toward us. The kind of relationship we have with God will determine how we look at the world around us. God chooses what we go through. We choose how we go through it. I am impressed with Viktor Frankl's attitude as he was terribly mistreated in a Nazi concentration camp. His words to his persecutors have been an inspiration to millions of people. He said, "The one thing you cannot take away from me is the way I choose to respond to what you do to me. The last of one's freedom is to choose one's attitude in any given circumstance." Since we have a choice, why not make it a positive one? It's our attitude, not our conditions that can make or break our lives.

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

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Houston Entertainment Notes

Inside/Out's 'Raft of The Medusa'

Inside/Out productions will present the Houston premiere of *Raft of the Medusa* by Joe Pintauro, May 4-18 at the Joe Frank Theatre in the Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood. This taut drama, directed by I/O resident director Bob Maddox, focuses on an explosive AIDS support group session, where the members discover the disease they share can divide as effectively as it conquers. The ensemble cast features Travis Ammons, Anne Quackenbush, Therese Kotara, Adrian Porter, David Holloway, Rachel Ollagnon, Michael Wonio, Gregory Perrin, Kenny Friedman, Chad Alan Carr, Diego Villareal Garcia, Todd Greenfield and Greg van Rozenburg.

Raft of the Medusa opens May 4 and continues Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays through May 18 (half price preview Thursday, May 2). Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays, 7:00 p.m. Sundays. For ticket information or

reservations, call 864-5986.

GMCH Pride Concert

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's 1996 gay pride concert will be a benefit for AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Food Pantry. This gala concert, titled gmch://taking.center.stage/-, will be a celebration of American Broadway and popular songs.

Appearing in concert with the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston will be Houston's exciting new male chorus, the Bayou City Chorale, and from Dallas' world-renowned Turtle Creek Chorale, the male ensemble group Acafellas. Among the evening's performances will be selections and production numbers from such shows as *The Little Mermaid*, *Mame*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Into the Woods*, and *West Side Story*. "This has been a fun and exciting concert for us to create," said Mike Nelson, GMCH marketing chair. "We are thrilled to have these two terrific choruses appearing and singing with us. Male choral music doesn't get any better than this in the state of Texas."

The concert will take place Saturday, June 15 at 8:00 p.m. in Cullen Theater at Wortham Center. Tickets are \$10, \$15 and \$20 and will be available beginning May 1 at the Wortham Center box office or by calling 227-ARTS. At least 75 percent of the ticket proceeds will be donated to Stone Soup.

Currently in its 17th season, GMCH is a volunteer organization dedicated to celebrating male choral music and outreach to all Houston communities. Its first recording, *To Friends & To Life*, is now available on compact disc and cassette at Inklings, Crossroads Market and Lobo in Houston.

Ensemble Auditions

Open auditions will be held for The Ensemble Theatre's production of *Over Forty* Friday, May 3 from 6-9 p.m. 4212 Main (near Wheeler) with callbacks Saturday, May 4. The cast includes four African-American women (ages 35-45) who will need to sing and move well. An 8x10 black and white photo and biography or resume is also required.

Over Forty is a sensational musical about four very different women coming together to celebrate and mourn the loss of their youth. Written by Celeste Bedford-Walker, *Over Forty* is the last production of the '95-96 season. It will run June 6-July 21 and will be directed by native Houstonian Dr. Vernell A. Lillie, artistic director of the Kuntu Repertory Theatre in Pittsburgh. For more information, call The Ensemble Theatre at 520-0055.

Stages Auditions

Stages Repertory Theatre will hold open auditions for its 1996-97 season from 1-6 p.m. Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12. Finalists for the position of artistic director may be in attendance.

Those interested in auditioning are asked to call 527-0220 between the hours of 2 and 5:00 p.m. to set an appointment with Beth Sanford.

Anti-gay minister's radio show canceled

AUSTIN, Friday, April 19 (AP)—A radio station has canceled the show of conservative Christian Wyatt Roberts, who stirred controversy by advocating an advertiser boycott of a weekly gay newspaper.

Gene Bender, KIXL-AM general manager, said the action wasn't connected

to issues such as Roberts' move against the Texas Triangle newspaper or Roberts telling local ministers that the Austin American-Statesman's religion writer is openly gay.

"We've been going through a lot of re-evaluation lately," Bender said. "We were not real sure where we wanted

to go with weekend programming."

Bender said the station's management had told Roberts of its concerns with his public controversies, and that Roberts was "very gracious and very, very cooperative."

Roberts, who heads the American Family Association of Texas, said he

had no plans to move to another station.

Kay Longcope, editor and publisher of the Texas Triangle, said, "For four months, Wyatt Roberts has tried to drive us out of business. But come next week, he'll be off the airwaves and we'll still be publishing. Ironic, isn't it?"

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 4/26

* "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church. 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7533.
* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

SATURDAY - 4/27

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

SUNDAY - 4/28

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30am and 11:30am. 5200 Fannin at Southmore. 526-5200.
* Services at 5:30 pm. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872
* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "Looking at Relationships from a Godly Perspective" & "Homosexuality & the Bible/Spirituality & Sexuality Integration" at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship, 3400 Montrose, Suite 600, 528-6756.
* MCCR worship services with Rev. Jim Burns. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.
* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.
* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.
* Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 pm 6610 Alder. Call 668-8830.

* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 1440 Harold. Call 526-1017.

MONDAY - 4/29

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182
* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm, 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

TUESDAY - 4/30

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm Call 861-9149.
* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
* "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 pm for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

WEDNESDAY - 5/1

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm, Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.
* "A Course in Miracles"- Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm Call 862-7533.
* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 pm 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.
* "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 pm for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

THURSDAY - 5/2

* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.
* MCCR worship services, 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
* Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Please bring food. Community Concerns with Bart Loeser "Wellness: A Way of Life" Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview, 522-8182.



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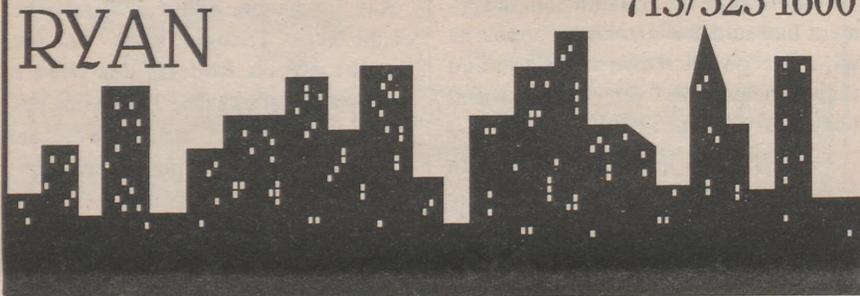
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PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

Elastic Politics

The great virtue of American politics is its adaptability, or more particularly, the voters' gullibility. Franklin D. Roosevelt ran in 1932 as a fiscal conservative in order to defeat America's first businessperson-president, Herbert (a chicken in every pot) Hoover. Once elected, FDR, with a brain trust of intellectual liberals, proceeded to revolutionize the government—in the truest tradition of Thomas Jefferson (both attacked the federal judiciary of their conservative predecessors—eh gads, Bob Dole reads history).

Dwight D. Eisenhower was such a cipher politically that both parties courted him for the coveted high post. And even after eight years in the White House, either party could have claimed him—or denied him, as would be the case. Harry S. Truman had the dubious virtue of being consistent his entire political life. With Dear Ole Harry you got what you saw.

Contemporary politics, however, have muddied the waters. Or rather, the rapid change in the political landscape has changed politicians. Nothing reaped greater changes than the civil rights movement. One-time segregationists became modern-day populists, i.e., George Wallace. That orange-haired curmudgeon of the Carolinas, Strom Thurmond, has gone from the standard bearer of bar-the-school-house-door to history's oldest senator who, in George Burns fashion, plans to perform in the hall of the Senate on his hundredth birthday (London's Palladium isn't really much of a stretch from Congress).

In these modern times, politicians change positions—political, that is—and parties with a casualness once reserved for mistresses. Our own Phil Gramm was first elected to Congress as a Democrat but soon found his natural home in the party of Nixon. And even now, Gramm rails against 40 years of Democratic misrule, hoping that the voters will forget that his roots were in that "misrule."

And Texans have even embraced Yankees if they butt into the oil business; pumping oil is tantamount to several generations on Texas soil. And, in any case, the Bushes overcame not only their Yankee roots (overlooking that home in Maine) but their Rockefeller Republican of a father and grandfather. George and Shrub are prime examples of the ability of politicians to adjust to the needs of electability—although, granted, it doesn't always work as was the case in 1992.

Certainly, this election year has been and will continue to be a test of politicians' ability to grapple onto the emotional issue of the moment. Bill Clinton, as he did in 1992, gravitates to the democratic center (which would still be beyond the pale of moderate Republicans) and seeks to capture the hearts if not the souls of the middle class.

On the other extreme, the Republicans continue to deal with the elusive union of fiscal conservatives and religious fanatics. All Republicans preach a balanced budget (even Reagan did this while presenting the nation's largest deficit budgets), and now all Republicans—

in leadership positions, that is—are buying into the agenda of the Christian Coalition. Who can forget that hate feast in Iowa where all the Republican candidates, in person or by writ, pledged to fight the scourge of same-sex marriages.

Oregon is a prime example of the dilemma facing many Republicans. Only a few months ago, a conservative businessperson, Gordon Smith, after spending millions of his own money and aligning himself with the Oregon Citizens Alliance—that's the anti-gay group—lost a very close race for the Senate seat of disgraced Bob Packwood. And in fine Nixon fashion, Smith swore to the press that he was "roadkill" and was fed up with politics.

Unlike Nixon, Smith waited only weeks, not years, to reverse himself. He now seeks the Republican nomination to succeed retiring Mark Hatfield. And now Smith is trying to distance himself from the anti-gay extreme which caused its leader, Lon Mabon, to accuse Smith as being "too prissy to dirty his hands" on social issues such as same-sex marriages.

As reported by Dennis Farney in the Wall Street Journal, Smith attempts to move toward the Republican center (which would put him somewhere in the area of Democrat Sam Nunn) as Mabon dogs his speeches in the determination of a Pat Buchanan on the heels of Bob Dole. (I'm sorry, folks, they joked about a president named "Jimmy," but there is something inescapably humorous about the Grand Old Party being led into the 21st Century by a World War II hero named "Bob"—wasn't that a movie?—and "Dole.")

Back in Oregon, Mr. Smith, wanting to go to Washington (Jimmy Stewart, where are you when we need you?), straddles one fence in true western fashion by noting that "I've said repeatedly that I oppose same-sex marriages; I just don't run on it." Boy, that should win the Log Cabin vote—they'll snatch any ole carrot within sniffing range.

Speaking of carrots, or in this case a bone, Bob Dole has begun his assault on the Clinton redoubt with his charge up the federal bench, blaming Clinton's "liberal" appointments with the increase in crime. Putting aside that all crime rates are down—even in New York City—the Democrats quickly pointed out that Dole voted for nearly all of Clinton's judicial appointees. And, as the New York Times noted recently, Clinton's appointees only account for about 20 percent of the federal bench—Reagan and Bush named more than half the sitting judges.

Of course, Dole—like all politicians—assumes the voters don't remember beyond yesterday's evening news. And, after all, the Republicans have been bringing up this chestnut for 60 years—tradition counts for something, even if only on political issues. Considering Dole's sellout to the Christian Coalition during the primaries, it is only a matter of time before Dole borrows Ralph Reed's newly minted muted but still anti-gay rhetoric.

The predictability of both campaigns is enough to make one wish for some fun in this campaign. Ross Perot, call Larry King.

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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

'Kiss of the Spider Woman' at the Music Hall

Direct from Broadway, the multi-award winning international musical hit, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, starring Broadway veteran Chita Rivera, plays in the Music Hall, April 26-May 4, as part of the American Express Broadway Series. Adapted by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright Terrence McNally from Manuel Puig's acclaimed novel, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* features an exciting Tony-winning score by Broadway fixtures John Kander and Fred Ebb, who earned their fame through such musical scores as *Cabaret*, *Zorba* and *Chicago*. Living legend Chita Rivera repeats her sensational



Chita Rivera in 'Kiss of the Spider Woman'

Tony-award winning performance as the Spider Woman in the compelling story of love, loyalty, passion and courage. Juan Chioran co-stars as Molina, a gay, flamboyant window dresser who is imprisoned in a Latin American jail for a sexual offense. He shares the same cell as Valentin, portrayed by Dorian Harewood, a straight, political revolutionary arrested for subversive activities.

Kiss of the Spider Woman is the most highly lauded musical in recent years and is the recipient of seven 1993 Tony awards, including Best Musical, Best Book, Best Actress and Best Score. It also won the 1992-93 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Musical, as well as the London Evening Standard Award.

As topical as today's headlines and as timeless as all such stories of power and conviction, Manuel Puig's post-modern classic has thrived for 16 years as an enthralling tale, capturing the imagination of readers and audiences from around the world. It is a studied tale of friendship and love that portrays how the relationship between two men gradually evolves from hostility and distrust to mutual respect and understanding. The terror and grim uncertainty of their imprisonment is ameliorated by Molina, as he weaves fantasies and recounts to Valentin the glamorous and romantic world of the 1940's Hollywood musicals—a world inhabited by the omnipresent title character, who imbues the story with grace, menace and extraordi-

nary sensuality.

Originally published in Spain in 1976 as *El Beso de la Mujer Araña*, Puig's novel has since been translated into 27 languages and transformed into a play adapted by Puig himself, a movie directed by Hector Babenco, and now the award-winning musical directed by Harold Prince.

Although each version retains Puig's prison setting and basic situation, each retelling is unique with differences in plot and motivation. Puig actually encourages others to consider new interpretations of his work, says composer John Kander: "There are certain mythic situations like Orpheus and Eurydice' on which writers have created variations for centuries. I think Puig created one with these two men of violently opposing personalities in a cell and how they learn from each other."

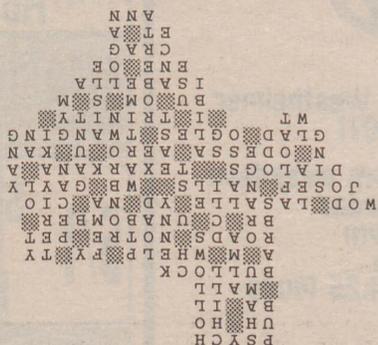
"The situation Puig invented allowed for many variations—such as a different Spider Woman (figure of death)—in each version. I think he invented something so basic, he took such delight in inventing it over and over again."

In the musical version, the B-movie melodramas that are recounted by Molina in the book (and the movie) become elaborate Hollywood musicals with gigantic numbers (this is after all a Broadway musical we're talking about). This provides stunning contrast to the somber, ethereal quality of the story. And that's the stuff of which great musicals are made.



"He could use a gift certificate to the Betty Ford Clinic."

- John Tuturro
Brain Donors (1992)



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MST's 'Misalliance' a mistake from the start

Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

Midway through the first act of Main Street Theater's production of George Bernard Shaw's *Misalliance*, one of the characters, Lord Summerhays, a seemingly tired aristocrat, grumbles, in the midst of a wandering conversation, that "democracy reads well, but it doesn't act well. Rather like some people's plays."

Art reflects art. For *Misalliance* is by no means one of Shaw's better plays; far from it. And it is quite unlikely that any production could have managed to find the right mix of drawing room levity, bourgeois pretension, and wittily engaging predicament to make this play enjoyable. So it's really no surprise that MST's effort makes the 2.5 hour (not including intermission!) droning a less than appealing endeavor.

The play itself is an uninteresting, directionless debate on parenting and politics; the title for which comes from the impending matrimonial alliance of two of the characters—one from the landed gentry, the other from the mercantile nouveau riche. And it's nothing more than endless chatter. True, Shaw does insert many of his trademark observations on the hypocrisy of the upper classes and the lack of altruism among the lower classes, but these generally trenchant witticisms are lost in the frightfully uneven dialogue, and this makes the entire thing just plain boring.

The story (or more appropriately, conversation) is long-winded, but somewhat centered on the impending marriage of Hypatia Tarleton (Jean Ann Hutsell), a restless, independent

daughter of a very successful men's underwear manufacturer, and Bentley Summerhays (Scott Tesh), the whiny, pusillanimous son of a former colonial governor, who is accurately described as "overbred, like one of those expensive little dogs."

Their respective fathers—John Tarleton (Dan Flahive) and Lord Summerhays (Freeman Williams)—engage in a dull, listless exchange. This is enlivened only slightly by the presence of Mrs. Tarleton (Claire Hart-Palumbo), a jolly matron who is mortified by the discussions pertaining to drainage systems. On the other hand, the presence of Johnny Tarleton (Stan Kansas) is an added drag (like an anchor weight) on the ostensible lightness of the work.

Nothing of substance actually even happens until Joey Percival (Joel Sandel) crashes his two-seater "aeroplane" into the Tarletons' greenhouse. Joey, who coincidentally is a friend of Bentley's, has with him a copilot, or navigator, or someone in the other seat, whom he has never seen. That someone turns out to be Lina (Martha Mazeika), a Polish national, who finds juggling six oranges (billiard balls will do) while reading the bible to be a reflex-honing exercise.

Lina rebuffs advances from the younger Tarleton; reminds the older Tarleton what it was like to be young; teases Summerhays; and gives young Bentley a new experience. While Joey, at first put off by Hypatia's forward nature, joins in friendly games with her. In the middle of all this, a stranger called Gunner (Mark Roberts) appears at the Tarleton home intending to extract vengeance on the senior Tarleton for a wrong perpetrated years earlier against his mother.

Well, yawn!

This play simply never sparks any interest. It lacks coherence, plot and motivation; the characters are deftly drawn, but are largely predictable buffoons. Worse yet this production lacks the polish and style which might have made this work endurable, with performances that are as haphazardly uneven as the script.

The women do the better jobs here. Claire Hart-Palumbo gives an endearing rendition of Mrs. Tarleton; Jean Ann Hutsell gives more life to Hypatia than is found in the other characters combined; and Martha Mazeika exudes a fetching, non-nonsense persona as Lina.

The guys on the other hand are a dismal lot. Dan Flahive gives new meaning to the term overacting as Mr. Tarleton in an utterly wasted effort. Freeman Williams is so disconnected from his character (Lord Summerhays) that a taped recording would have engendered a better response. Scott Tesh makes the miserable little priss, Bentley, seem even worse through slipshod delivery. Stan Kansas as Johnny Tarleton is just awful in one of the worst performances through which I've ever had to suffer. Joel Sandel sinks with the weight of his leaden performance as Joey Percival. And as Gunner, the usually reliable Mark Roberts seemed completely lost and as devoid of interest as the audience



(L-R) Jean Ann Hutsell, Claire Hart-Palumbo, Martha Mazeika, Scott Tesh and Joel Sandel in 'Misalliance'

watching him.

Director Rebecca Greene Udden failed to adequately energize this wearisome play. Though some of the lighter moments capture the appropriate airiness which should be present throughout the play, for the most part, the production comes off like a fizzled firecracker. Worse yet, Udden committed that most unforgivable of staging crimes: in far too many instances the cast members were delivering lines with their backs to the audience. And frankly, that kind of error is completely inexcusable once one gets beyond junior high school.

Misalliance is a deadly dull play. Main Street Theater is one of the better "little" theaters in the city, but even the big boys would have been hard pressed with this one. MST does fine work, but with this one, someone just selected badly. *Misalliance* is a mistake.

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Catie Curtis: hard to label, in more ways than one

By JON ANTHONY
Houston Voice/Houston

Catie Curtis has not yet achieved the same recognition as some of her contemporaries, Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman to name a few, but the consummate singer/songwriter is well on her way and *Truth From Lies* should be the catalyst that propels her to well-deserved heights. The *Houston Voice* caught up with the rising star for an exclusive interview recently, while she was in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Curtis, who is touring with Jimmy Ryan, spoke candidly about the rigors of touring and promoting an album. "It is more grueling than I anticipated," she noted.

"I was having a really bad day and Jimmy bought me a basketball at Pizza Hut and gave it to me," she recounted affectionately. Not one to complain, Curtis does suggest that it is difficult at times when you are "performing and meeting with radio operatives." Accustomed to performing alone, she enjoys the "stage camaraderie" she is able to share with Jimmy and feels that the two of them have "developed a real rapport."

Curtis grew up in the coastal surroundings of rural southern Maine with a family who enjoyed sharing a song. Broadway standards were a staple in the Curtis household. Curtis, her mother and three

sisters harmonized regularly. In high school, she learned how to play the guitar and drums and began her foray into songwriting. Ironically, Curtis was more interested in sports during those years, "especially basketball," for which she still has an affinity towards to this day. "My whole time in high school and college, music was secondary to sports," laments Curtis.

Among her influences in music were Melanie and Karla Boniff, and Curtis' accomplishments as a gifted singer/songwriter are evident in the music she produces. "I used to play cover songs exclusively. Once I started writing, I felt my singing change because I was so connected to the words. Now it's rare that I perform or sing a song written by someone else." She believes her emotion comes through in her music because her writing is "personably honest, rather than a stretch." A Brown University history major, Curtis honed her skills writing for journals prior to perfecting the art of song-writing.

Prior to embarking on a music career, Curtis "got involved with social work to have a job." Her work for the social services department consisted primarily of "checking on the elderly, which was very interesting," Curtis said.

Curtis parlayed an air of confidence and stability during our interview that was refreshing. Although her music is

message orientated, Curtis does not appear to have the built-up angst and rebellious persona of some of today's music artists.

While Curtis admits to having been in a gay relationship, she says she does not like labels. She feels they limit the individual. "It's important to be attuned to your feelings, rather than expectations and prescribed ideas," said Curtis. "Labels are appropriate for relationships, not people," she adds. *Truth From Lies* has been getting attention as a result of a song on the album entitled "Radical," which is about a gay couple. The song has encouraged her to be more introspective and open about her feelings.

Having performed in coffee houses and festivals for the last seven years, Curtis drew attention in 1991 when her independent debut album *From Years to Hours* won rave reviews for a song called "Hole in the Bucket." Curtis believes that her recording contract with Guardian Records was the result of "serendipity." Legend has it that the president of Guardian heard a cut from her first album and inquired about it. Ironically, at a later date, the president happened to be at The Bottom Line club when Curtis had to fill in for an opening act due to circum-



Catie Curtis

stance.

Catie Curtis is one of the most gifted singer/songwriters in the music scene today. While most critics have compared her to other folk-influenced artists, in itself a compliment, it is my contention that comparisons are moot. Curtis has the musical talent and ability to stand in a class by herself. I asked Curtis what she could share from her experiences with others who have similar dreams and goals. "Find your own thing and stay true to yourself and the voice you have coming from you," she replied. That's Catie Curtis, sensible, prolific and genuine.

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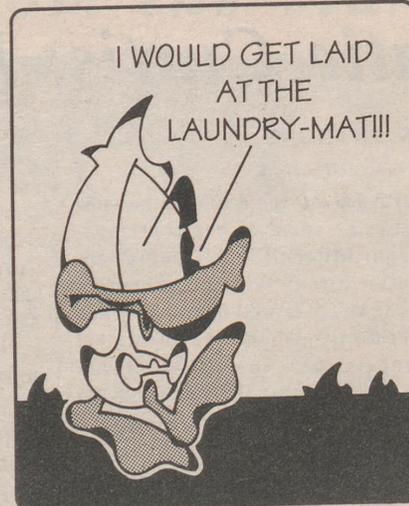
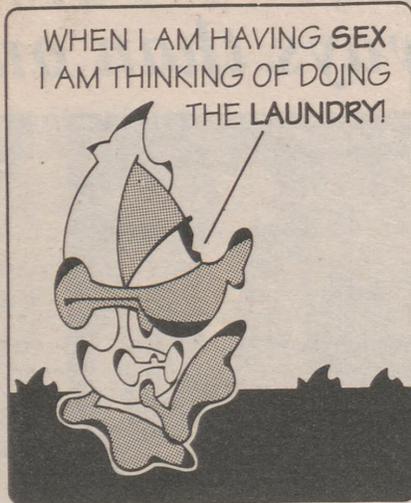
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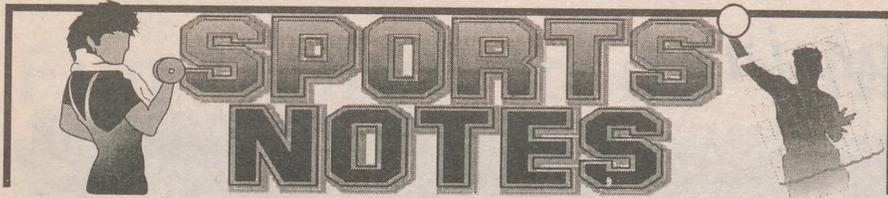
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SPORTS NOTES

Bowling Begins

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League is accepting new teams and individuals for one more week. For the first week of bowling, high scratch game of 279 was bowled by Mike Figliola and a series of 696 by Chris Bennett. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424. Bowling is at the Palace Lanes and begins at 9:00 p.m.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reports a successful start to the summer session with almost 100 bowlers (still need one individual). The first week Born Again Virgins (Not) took 1st, Team #4 took 2nd, and Faster Pusycats was 3rd. For the men, Ralph Sykes bowled high scratch game of 267 and series of 655. For the women, Diann Thomason bowled high scratch game of 244 and series of 599. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes and begins at 7:00 p.m.

The Wednesday Night Mixers reports a good turnout also with 14 teams in place. New teams and individuals will be accepted for one more week. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30 p.m.

The Monday Night Women's League was well represented at the recent Ladies Invitational Tournament in Dallas. First place doubles was taken by Stephanie and Michelle, second place by Cindy and BJ and fifth by Theresa and Carol. Stephanie also took first in All Events with Cindy a close second. Stephanie also took 6th place singles and Carol 10th. For more information about the league call Pat at 437-6218. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:15 p.m.

Rolling Continues

The Lambda Rollerskating Club holds its next Skate Night Wednesday May 1

with the extended time, 8 until 10:30 p.m. at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road.

Admission is \$5 plus an additional \$1 if you need to rent skates. Everyone is requested to wear their favorite WIG for the special "Wig Stock." All are welcome to skate, and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes.

RuPaul concert tickets will be given away for the door prizes and a raffle is being held for \$1 per ticket for a chance at lunch and the concert.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event please contact us for information at either 933-5818 or electronically at gayskatel@aol.com.

HMBL Standings

After 13 weeks of play the Houston Metropolitan Billiards League (HMBL) reports the team Coalition still maintains a perfect won match average, not having lost a single total match. They also lead the averages with a .700 won game average.

J.R.'s Cue Crew is in second place with a .917 won match average and a .633 won game average. Both the Jackson 5 and BP teams have .750 won match average (winning 9 of 12 matches). Jackson 5 has a won game average of .600 while BP's won game average is .578.

Individually, Billy Lea of Coalition is leading the pack with a won game average of .861, losing only 5 of 36 games played. Keith Fussell of J.R.'s Cue Crew, winning 27 of 36 is second with an average of .750.

The highlighted rule of the week is "Whenever a ball is to be spotted, the ball is spotted on the long string as close to the foot spot as possible and shall be frozen to any interfering ball except the cue ball."

'Truth from Lies' impressive debut

Music Review

By JON ANTHONY

Houston Voice/Houston

Truth From Lies, the Guardian Record debut from Catie Curtis is an impressive album by any standard. Curtis' ability to hypnotize you lyrically is uncanny. Her voice is so rich and resonant that at times the music completely overwhelms you and captures your total attention. The album opens with "You Can Always Be Gone" which should be a huge hit. It's a guitar driven uptempo song that should appeal to all demographics.

Curtis' main appeal lies in her remarkable talents as a songwriter and her vocal delivery. Take "Radical" for example. It's an opus that focuses on a lesbian relationship and leaves you with the impression that it is about love more than anything else. "Radical" has one of the album's most addictive melodies that compels you to listen to it more than once. Just listen when Curtis sings "I'm not being radical when I kiss you and I don't love you to make a point." It's refreshing and captures the song's attitude.

This album has a considerable amount of attitude and edge to it. Surprisingly,

that is the album's best asset. Curtis delivers these self-penned songs with confidence that does not convey self-pity or absorption. One of the most poignant songs on the album is "Dad's Yard," a tribute to her father that is nothing short of brilliant. Curtis' affection for her father is obvious throughout the song.

The album is a diverse study into the insights of the artist herself, yet Curtis astonishingly manages to keep the continuity flowing in spite of such. That is not an easy feat. I particularly enjoyed "Silhouette," an introspective song about hiding behind a silhouette in order to subdue direct analysis.

This album is a must for music aficionados. Curtis intoned that if you are into "edgy urban hip chic stuff," you will not enjoy her music. She is correct. Curtis' music will appeal to individuals who enjoy the musical and lyrical content of a song. You could label her music as folk, blues or acoustic. All would apply, but Curtis is more than that, she is truly an artist who brings her own interpretation and style to selection of material. This is a **** star album that promises to launch a long and prosperous career. Do yourself a favor and invest in this musical odyssey, you won't be disappointed.



Pride Committee Fundraising

Lesbian Gay Pride Week is now participating in the Kroger Share Card Program. Here is how it works. Everytime you go to your local Kroger Store in the Houston Division, you hand the cashier your special Pride Committee Share Card, the cashier scans your card, making sure that it is the very first item they scan, that is very important and guess what? 1% of your total sale is given to the Pride Committee of Houston!!

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A Weekend of Fund Raising!



Some of the volunteers for Pride Week.

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

The fundraiser for Pride Committee of Houston (POCH) was held at Pacific Street this past Sunday. 104 KRBE's Maria Todd helped bring in over \$2500 to PCOH.

This past Saturday at Mary's cars were washed to the tune of \$231 to be donated to the LVL PWA Holiday Fund! Congrats to the hordes of volunteers.

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star held a "Play Day" at Chances this past Sunday. Almost \$1,200 was raised to be donated to Omega House! Also Sunday at Chances, almost \$500 was raised by the Montrose Softball League as they washed a bunch of cars and trucks! Scrub a dub dub!

The Krewe of Olympus gave an \$8,500 donation to AFH's Stone Soup this past Saturday night! This money is earmarked to purchase a new van!

Friday, April 26

China Doll and Marilyn Marx present a strip/talent contest tonight at the Lazy J. Join them and their guest Jessica Van Shelton at 9:00 p.m.

J.R.'s Video Bar offers \$1 off top shelf liquor until 10:00 p.m. tonight, with hors d'oeuvres from Cafe Noche, an hourly drawing, and seven male dancers! J.R.'s Video Bar is a great place to start your weekend!

Tonight at Chances, "What I did for Love" will be presented by the LaRue family: Trixie (Mom) LaRue, J.D. (Elders son) LaRue, and Jerry Morin (Youngest Son) LaRue. Show time is 8:00 p.m.

Miss Zack, Kara Dion, Victoria Nicole, and Erica Lane entertain you tonight at Cousin's. The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

The 10th Annual Crawfish Festival is in Old Town Spring this weekend. For more info, call 1-800-OLD-TOWN.

The guys of NLA:H will be guest bartending tonight at the Top of the Venture-N. Stop in after 9:00 p.m. and have a drink with



Party Pals at E/J's.

the guys!

Saturday, April 27

Who will be the new Mr. Venture-N? Head down to Main Street tonight and find out! The contest starts at 10:00 p.m. and is hosted by Don Gill. This will be a fund raiser for Steven's House and the LVL PWA Holiday Fund.

Ok, all you drag queens! This is for you! The first Miss Chances contest will be tonight! Pull out your party dress and join in the competition!

The guys and gals of the Garden Party will be having a garage sale today starting at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Fairview and Converse! There will be lots of goodies, so drop by early!

Patsi Kline hosts the Saturday show at the Lazy J. This week's guests are Tricia Blake, Brandi Houston and Diane Jackson. The show starts at 10:30 p.m.

Manly men meet at the Ripcord tonight!

The Boy Toy dancers take the stage at Gentry tonight starting at 9:00 p.m. Be sure to take advantage of the \$2.50 import beer special that runs all day and all night long!

Today and tomorrow at the Club Hous-



The Lazer Wizard and Adrian welcome KRBE's Maria Todd to Pacific Street.

ton there will be a "Big Ol' Chicken BBQ, Texas style" from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Damion and the staff are tired queens, 'cuz they have been working hard all week long to thank Houston for 23 years of support.

DJ/VJ Shawn Byrne plays European underground house music on the turntable of Heaven tonight! The doors open at 9:00 p.m. with no cover until 10:00 p.m. Heaven offers 75¢ well cocktails from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. to get you in the mood to dance!

Looking for luscious ladies? Head to Bacchus II tonight and grab a peek at the "Dream Team," a troupe of ladies dancing nearly naked for your lusty pleasure. The titties twist starting at 10:00 p.m.

Wayne tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch. Stop in for a martini and have a chat with your friends. The BriarPatch, where extraordinary friendships begin!

There is no cover tonight at Pacific Street for men in erotic leather! The men of NLA:H will be guest bartending on the patio tonight!

Paivi Lee Love, Crystal Rae Lee Love, Sivi Ross, and Miss Zack take the stage of Cousin's tonight at 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

It is that time of the year again! Who will get the coveted title of Miss Montrose? Well, scoot down to the Brazos River Bottom tonight at 7:30 p.m. and find out! This is the 10th annual Miss Montrose Contest, which is also a fund raiser for the LVL PWA Holiday Fund! Also, I'll be a judge, so if you have some gossip, be sure to hunt me down. I'm the one with the Jose Cuervo I.V.!

"Let's Play for Patty," a fund raiser for Jim "Patty" Hurst, former manager of Mothers and Gentry. Jim needs a little help right now, so bring your self and your wallet to Gentry tonight at 8:00 p.m. for this all star salute for Jim. Stick around for the male strip contest at 11:00 p.m.

There is a fund raiser for the Cajun Belle Fest tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Lazy J. Stop in and join in the fun!

Sundays are sinful at the Montrose Mining Company. You have your choice of busts! \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day and all night or a \$2 optional buy-in and refills of Miller Lite Draft for 25¢ or frozen Ritas for \$1. The patio opens at 1:00 p.m. and is jam packed all night!

Stop in Pacific Street tonight and check



Jeriel, JT (Creepella), and Damion have a Honolulu of a good time at Club Houston!

tures the talents of Tara Dion and a cast of super stars. The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

Tuesdays at BerryHill II feature exotic female dancers. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. and happy hour goes until 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1

Colleen and Sandy of W. 42nd Street perform at Bacchus II this and every Wednesday night. The buffet opens at 6:00 p.m., and Colleen and Sandy start at 8:00 p.m. Bacchus II, where professional women meet!

Wednesdays at the Montrose Mining Company are wickedly wild with \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day and all night!



So this is what it feels like to be a fish!

Join Marilyn "Juanita" Marx for South of the Border night at E/J's. The spicy show starts at 11:00 p.m.

Mela's Tejano Country has buckets of beer of only \$9. Stop in at 1016 W. 19th and have a cold one!

Thursday, May 2

Ed must be crazy 'cuz he has lowered the prices of Budweiser and Bud Light to only a dollar this and every Thursday at E/J's!

Steaks, potatoes, and salad are on the menu tonight at the 611 Hyde Park Pub. The grill is lit from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Cuervo is always \$2 a shot at Chances. Stop in for a chilled one tonight!



Mike is a fresh new face behind the bar at Chances.

out your favorite bartender in his boxers tonight! The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and there is no cover if you are shirtless! No shirt, no cover, no kidding! Sundays are on Overload at Pacific Street.

What would Sunday be without a drag show? Cousin's features the talents of Miss Zack, Rage, Leah Halston, and Frankie Lane! Show time is 11:00 p.m.

"Two of Hearts" will be performing at BerryHill II today. The bar opens at 6:00 p.m. and the band starts at 8:00 p.m.

Stop in Bacchus II tonight 'cuz Shelby St. John is on stage starting at 10:30 p.m.

Monday, April 29

The Boy Toys wiggle on the stage of Gentry tonight starting at 9:00 p.m. Domestic beers are on special for only \$2-all day and all night!

Aftershock! The party! Pacific Street! 9:00 p.m.

Karaoke Mondays at BerryHill II. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. and happy hour goes until 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30

There will be a "Tight Fittin'" jean contest tonight at the Brazos River Bottom! There will be cash prizes as well as \$1 domestic longnecks and dance lessons with Jody at 9:30 p.m.

Cuervo Tuesdays continue at Mary's, naturally! The Cuervo is cold and cheap! See ya there.

The super Tuesday show at E/J's fea-

Fun things to do with Rodent Droppings!



Positively Ventrue-N

Other Important Stuff

The Kolbe House is offering a retreat weekend starting May 10. Call 522-8182 for more info.

Did you know that you can get in free to Heaven every night (excluding special events and holidays) during the first hour they are open?

Coming May 3 to Gentry, the Gentry Gaps will be serving barbecue brisket dinners from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for only \$4 per plate!

J.R.'s Video Bar is sponsoring a party bus to the all new Player's Island Casino on Mother's Day! Moms go for free, others pay \$15 which includes a light breakfast, lunch at the casino, and transportation to and fro! If you would like to reserve a seat, call Randall Jobe at 521-2519.

The Milam House has a home-like atmosphere for HIV+ persons who, because of health, social and/or economic conditions, are unable to provide for their own basic human needs. They are seeking volunteers to help with everything from shift duty to fund raising. If you can help, please contact Dallas at 520-9248 or e-mail at ahhvlntr@neo-soft.com

Body Positive/Houston will be holding their Spring fund raiser "The Great Gatsby Party" on May 5. Drag out your flapper dress or zoot suit for this afternoon cocktail party which starts at 4:00 p.m. and features entertainment by the "glamour girls" of Miss Camp America and a silent auction. Tickets are available at Basic Brothers and Inklings or by phone at 524-2374.

Astrology by Dorothy will guarantee success where others have failed in all areas of life, such as love, marriage, business, and finances. Stop in to see her and watch your problems disappear. You can make an appointment with Dorothy by calling 427-9256.

The Houston Voice welcomes Covenant Church to our family of advertisers. Covenant Church is located at 6610 Alder. For more info. call 668-8830. We also would like to welcome realtor Mike Copenhagen to our family. If you need his services for apartments, condos, or houses, call 880-1866.

Players International is under new management. Stop in their playrooms at 427 Westheimer and see what this adult retreat is all about.

"La La Pa Lesbo," a night of Gay stand-up comedy will be at MCCR, 1919 Decatur on May 10. Houston's own Vickie Shaw and direct from LA Amy Altshulf will make you laugh, grin, chuckle, and well, just have fun. This is a fund raiser for the MCCR's Choir Fund. If you would like more info call 861-9149.

The seventh annual walkathon/rolathon is on May 19. Call 629-WALK for more info.

The Mr. Prime Choice contest will be at the Ripcord on June 2. If you would like more info, call Don Gill at 521-0911.



Giovanni guards the door at the Mine!

The Red Ribbon Reading Room is still looking for donations. Call

Steve at Leather Forever at 526-6940 for more info.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Mountain Jocks" and "Hustler Alley."

Reading is Fun-damental and affordable at Lobo. Lobo offers a 20% discount off hardbacks and 10% off softbacks. Stop in and check out the really neat Pride jewelry and trinkets!

There is a financial conference hosted by Green/White Advisors on May 4. Call 869-1144.

Coming May 7 to the Brazos River Bottom, Kountry Karaoke! Learn the words to your favorite song so you can serenade your sweetie!

Birthday and Anniversary Corner

Can you believe it? Tommie Sue Ellen has worked at the Brazos River Bottom for 7 years?

A belated birthday hug to Linda Champagne.

A bear hug birthday to Bob W. of the Houston Area Bears.

A happy Prime Timer birthday to Monroe and Grant.

A happy 100th birthday to Dog Lips!

A happy painted window birthday to Scottie.

A happy buggie birthday to Lorena.

A happy "YLF" birthday to Mark!

A happy (I love men with mustaches) birthday to the owner of the Venture-N Jim Roberts.

Rodent Droppings

Harvey and Ratrat has been good little rats this past week! Well, except for Saturday afternoon, I spied Ratrat chewing on an electrical cord! Bad rat! What was funny to watch was when the Lazer Wizard was chasing Harvey into his tube. Harvey was running backwards very fast to try to escape! Doesn't he know you can never escape! On with the droppings!

I NEVER let a little truth get in the way of a good lie!

Curt (BRB): We know you drive the truck, so why do you chase tricks when they are riding a bicycle?

Raul (Club Houston): I understand that you work miracles with bunting, crepe paper, and streamers! I hear the Club Houston really looked like Honolulu this past weekend!

Sam (BRB): Hot Lips, when did you start doing Big Red commercials?

Orlin (NLA:H): Why are they calling you the Marquis de Sade of car washes?

David (BRB): So, what you call a night on the town holding hands and a midnight trip to Taco Bell?

Damion (Club Houston): And I quote: "Water pump... it has one of those?"

Rex (Mary's): Why are they calling you Lena Horney?

Jerry Morin (RSICSS): I hear you have problems losing bar stools at Mary's. Or do you just forget where you park them?

Ray Ramirez (Pride Week): If you blow that whistle one more time, JT (PS) will make you swallow it!

Scott Lewis (Heaven): Did you hurt your knee falling off the stage or while stumbling out of Midtowne at 7:00 a.m.?

Trixie (Gentry): Where is the police parking lot?

Butchie (HAB): Nine cherries with stems?

Vera (BRB): What were you doing with your head in the dumpster at Fiesta? Looking for Sterling or a trick?

JT (PS): So, when did you start using a church key and bottle caps as weapons? Also, is the reason you flat-topped your hair was so that the wigs would stay on better?

Michael "Kamikaze Kid" McCormick (Gentry): That really isn't the first time you danced in your undies, is it?

Armand Brown (Hangs at Mary's): So, you left your cake out in the rain?

Skip Willet (West Point Lincoln): I hear you married one of the richest men in Houston! Or was that just your commission?

Mike (Venture-N): SO, you got lucky in Lake Charles!

Keith (TGRA): Did you ever find your teeth? Did you look under the bed?

Bill Havard & Jeanette Vaughn (Grand Marshals 1996): Whose tiara is bigger?

Jerry Jones (Mary's): Why were there 2

yellow school buses parked next to Mary's during your shift last week? Recruiting from secondary schools are we?

Jodi (Chances): So you will do anything for a tip except dance?

Denver Roger (hangs at the BRB): I hear you are in town looking for a "road kill" husband!

Mark & Nathan (PS): Why does the staff refer to you two as Cagney and Lacey?

Javier (Houston Voice): Nice new hair cut! What was done to you to get you to buzz your hair off?

Jodee Foster, Tywon Onn and Ida Poppter (Maleman): I love the postal uniforms you all wore at the Homo Promo! But you do know that wearing a postal worker uniform can cause homicidal tendencies!

Brandon (Club Houston): Why do they call you the "Marks-a-lot" princess?

Marion Coleman (House of Coleman): I sure enjoyed the photo tour of your office last week! Thanks!

Randy (Beaumont): Exactly what do you do with all that toilet paper?

Ken (hangs at PS): What is this I hear about you using hair spray while you were at the Beltane camp-out?

Barney (hangs at the Venture-N): Just how far do you go for good sushi?

JD LaRue (RSICSS): A little birdy told me that you moo in your sleep! Are you reverting to your early childhood?

John (Venture-N): And I quote: "If I wanted raw fish, I would have married a female!"

Daddy Blade: Do you know which end of a butt plug to use?

Matt (PS): So, your last trick was picked up by HPD for truancy! Like 'em young don't you!

Brian Keever (TWT): Where is Pinky?

Babe (RSICSS): Is "The Bear" a tasty treat! I hear that there are pictures!

Ginger Snap (RSICSS): What is this about you devouring an entire cheese-cake in one day?

Have a great week!

TTFN

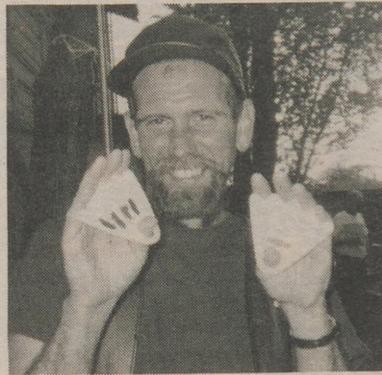
Cuervolyn



A few members of the Maleman Fanzine!



David & Tiffany (FIST) partying at the Ripcord!



Now Daddy Dan can paint his nails properly!



Mary (Q.T.'s) poses with Steve (Gentry)

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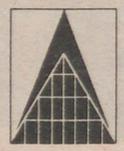
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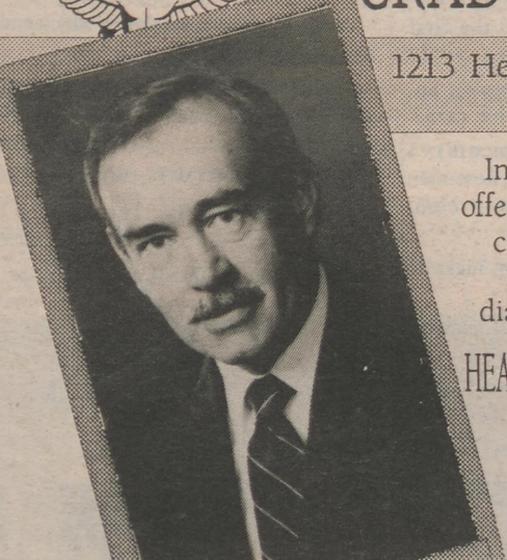
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GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by
Al
Kielwasser

Comic Relief

Though they have always been the subject of conservative criticism and fundamentalist fears, comic books are sometimes ignored by progressive media activists. The significance of the medium—and the uniquely involved audience it commands—should not be overlooked, however. Several comics have made notable efforts to include queer themes.

Comic fan David Hamburger reports that Milestone Media “has included gay and lesbian characters in almost all of their books.” According to Hamburger, Milestone’s latest effort—*Heroes*—includes an interracial lesbian couple. “Donner” (who is super-strong) and “Blitzen” (super-fast) are “prominently featured in this comic as the core of the super-heroes team,” says Hamburger. “The comic is currently a six issue mini-series, but—with enough support—it would likely become a regular series.”

Lesbian characters are also included in DC Comics’ new mini-series, *Death: The Time of Your Life*. The main characters in “Death” are Hazel and Foxglove, a lesbian-couple-with-child. Foxglove is also a successful rock star, who must confront an industry that would rather she “played it straight.” This plot offers unusual opportunities for depth, marred only by the shallow warning slapped on the comic’s cover: “Suggested for mature readers.”

Another DC series—*Justice League America* (JLA)—takes a less direct approach to sexual orientation, but the subject is NOT reserved for “mature readers.” In a recent issue (#110), one member of the “League” is dismayed to learn that his colleagues had simply assumed he was gay. In fact, Albert (aka “Nukion”) was thought to be romantically involved with another super-hero, Todd (aka “Obsidian”).

His heterosexuality challenged, Albert rushes to confront Todd, demanding to know if the rumor had ANY basis in fact. Todd states that he IS happily involved with a woman, but...he DOES love Albert. When pressed to define just what kind of affection he’s talking about, Todd refuses to “put a label” on love.

Later in the same story, another super-hero—Sigrid (aka “Ice maiden”)—seems a bit more willing to “put a label” on things. When Albert asks Sigrid for a date, he suggests that they might have a lot in common. Indeed they do, Sigrid replies: “We both like girls.”

In the next issue (#111) of *JLA*, Sigrid explains further: “I’m MORE than attracted to women. I feel such community with women, such validation...” However, she ultimately refuses—point blank—to identify as lesbian or bisexual. Mimicking Todd’s lament, Sigrid refuses to be “put in a box.” “People like nice neat boxes in confusing times,” she says. “But the truth is, you just are who you are and you like who you like.”

Such “principled” rejections of “boxes” and “labels” are typically a convenient substitute for affirmation; they amount to little more than heterosexist collusions, in which lesbian, gay and bisexual persons are still burdened with “the love that dare not speak its name.” In every medium, queer characters have asserted the virtue of their “sexual independence” with a complete disregard for the value (and necessity) of community. Such isolation

effectively separates fictionalized homosexuals from the social or political alliances that might pose too great a threat to heterosexual privilege.

This spin is not only routine in fiction, however, but also in fact—a situation perhaps more reflected, than directed, by the media. David Hamburger argues: “While the ‘don’t put a label on it’ attitude might be INFURIATING to some of us who are out (myself wholeheartedly included), it’s VERY common in the real world.” Amongst individuals in the early stages of coming out, for example, a first step—rejecting the “boxes” and “labels” of compulsory heterosexuality—can require a totalizing rhetoric not at all unlike Todd’s and Sigrid’s. As such, this comic fantasy could bridge reality through a recognizable language that, for some readers, is clearly spoken.

+++ ACTION/OPTIONS! *JLA* is “one of the VERY few mainstream comics to feature gay/lesbian/bisexual SUPER-HEROES, not just supporting characters,” says David Hamburger. “So it’s VERY important that people write to DC to support it. People have been complaining about these subplots taking up too much time in a super-hero comic, though they almost NEVER complain about heterosexual romantic subplots.” Hamburger also notes that “DC Comics HEAVILY promoted the ‘Death’ series, including frank mentions of the main characters as lesbians. And even though these comics are geared towards adults, many kids also read them.”

—Send comments regarding *Justice League America* to: Brian Augustyn, Editor, and Jenette Kahn, Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. The *JLA* story line was written by Gerard Jones. —Feedback regarding *Death: The Time of Your Life* can also be sent to DC, at the above address. Send this correspondence to the attention of: Karen Berger, Executive Editor, DC/Vertigo Comics, and Shelly Roeberg, Associate Editor, “Death.”

—Comments regarding *Heroes* should be sent to: The World Needs Heroes, c/o Milestone Media, 119 West 23rd Street, Suite 409, New York, NY 10011, e-mail DCOMilestn@aol.com.

—Subscribers to America Online can also post feedback through AOL’s “DC Comics Online” forum. The site offers access to the comic book company’s management and creative staff, and also provides numerous public “message boards.”

The Lovers Of Something

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) sent a letter April 2 to Pat Robertson and the Christian Broadcasting Network, following a CBN broadcast (March 26) in which PFLAG was ridiculed as an organization of “misguided parents.” Robertson’s co-host described PFLAG as “Parents, Families and Lovers of...something.” PFLAG executive director Sandra Gillis is requesting that Robertson make “a public on-air apology for your careless remarks about our members and for your co-host’s attempt at humor to discredit a national organization with 389 chapters in every state and 11 foreign countries.” * WRITE: Pat Robertson, Christian Broadcasting Network, 977 Centerville Turnpike, Virginia Beach, VA 23462, tel. 804-420-0700, e-mail camera@infi.net.



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THRF calls for sanctions against Tyler judge

(AUSTIN)—The Texas Human Rights Foundation has filed a formal complaint against a Texas judge who last month ordered court supervision of an HIV-positive man's sex life. "We cannot allow this judge's actions to serve as precedent without a challenge," stated Michael Garbarino, an attorney and THRF's executive director.

The complaint arose from a sentencing hearing in Tyler's 7th Judicial District Court last month. At the hearing, District Judge Louis Gohmert was to

decide the punishment for a man who pled guilty to using a car without the owner's consent. Gohmert learned the man's HIV status through a confidential pre-sentencing report.

Judge Gohmert drafted a document, which he ordered the man to have signed by any future sexual partners, otherwise probation would be revoked and jail time imposed. Gohmert stated one reason for the order was to protect public safety. "It was particularly irresponsible of Judge Gohmert to characterize the man as a threat to public safety solely because he has HIV. That's

one reason why THRF submitted a formal complaint," said Garbarino.

THRF filed the complaint with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. It states that Judge Gohmert violated his professional oath by discriminating against a disabled person and improperly using the prestige of judicial office. "Gohmert attached the condition to the man's probation solely because he has HIV. The case had nothing to do with HIV or sexual conduct," Garbarino said. "...The judge made matters worse by promoting such sentencing conditions for all

defendants with HIV, regardless of the crime charged."

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct reviews and investigates complaints against Texas judges, and is empowered to issue sanctions ranging from a private admonition to removal from judicial office. By law, Commission investigations are confidential. Commission members meet six times a year to review complaints, which are processed on average within six months.

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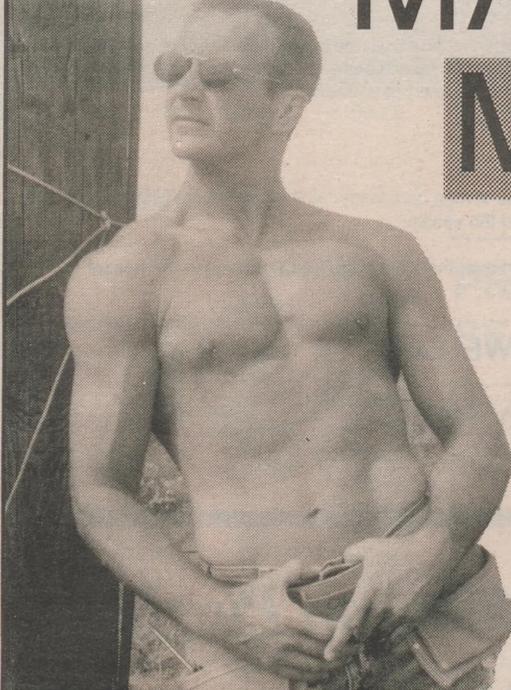
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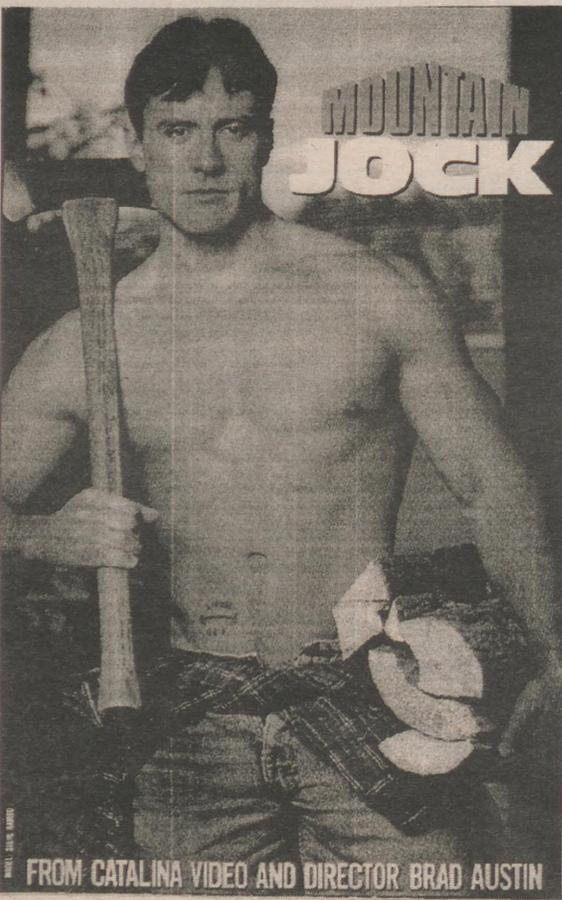
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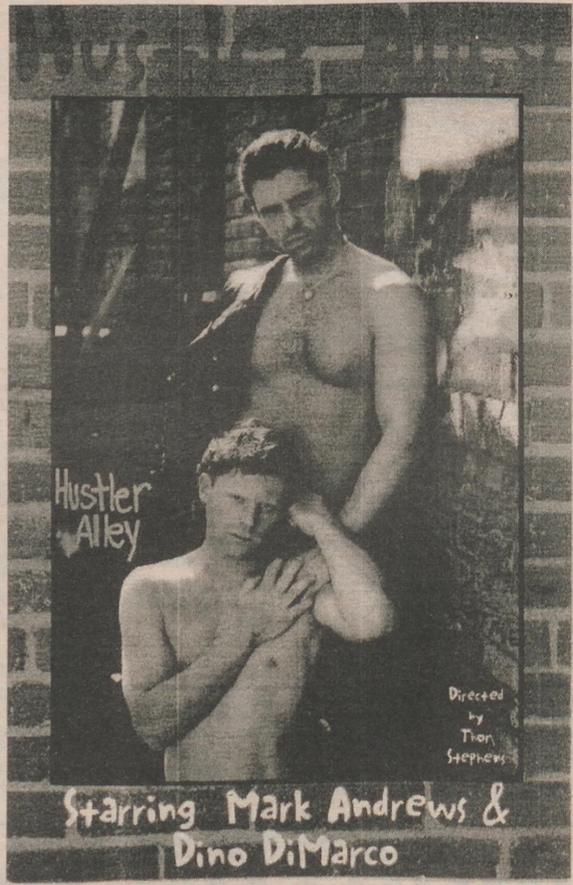


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Florida state worker condemns gays on official stationery

By JACKIE HALLIFAX
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Friday, April 19 (AP)—A Florida state worker who thinks AIDS was created to punish gays and lesbians expressed that belief on state stationery in a letter to a group that asked her to help raise money for AIDS programs.

Leanne O'Connell, a planner in the Department of Transportation's state safety office, wrote she was sorry that innocent people had contracted the disease but "As far as the gay and lesbians of this world ... let them suffer their consequences!"

The April 15 letter was addressed to the Florida AIDS Ride, which hopes to raise \$2 million by getting pledges for about 1200 people biking from Orlando to Miami Beach next month.

The bike ride is one of five being sponsored around the country by Tanqueray, the gin-maker. After the Florida event, other bike rides will be held from San Francisco to Los Angeles, Philadelphia to Washington, St. Paul-Minneapolis to Chicago and Boston to New York.

Ms. O'Connell was asked to make a pledge by one of the riders. In her letter, she asks to be taken off the group's mailing list.

DOT spokesperson Dick Kane apologized Friday.

"Leanne O'Connell is a good employee who made a mistake," he said.

He said Ms. O'Connell has a right to personal beliefs but not a right to voice them on DOT stationery. "It was totally inappropriate."

Ms. O'Connell didn't want to be interviewed about the letter, according to Ed Rice, a supervisor.

She earns approximately \$28,000 for coordinating youth traffic safety programs. She has worked for the DOT for about three years and in the past has overseen bicycle safety programs.

Ms. O'Connell was counseled about her letter by Rice, a safety engineer who wrote Florida AIDS Ride to apologize.

"While she is entitled to her personal views, they should never be intermingled with state business," Rice wrote Mitchell Steinberg, director of the Florida AIDS Ride.

Kane said he hoped the public wouldn't judge the DOT by Ms. O'Connell's letter and pointed out that another letter a month ago was quite different.

An assistant DOT bicycle/pedestrian coordinator wrote the Florida AIDS Ride in late March to let them know regional officials would work with them along the route and to send them a map of the agency's districts.

"Best wishes for a successful and safe ride," Pat Pieratte wrote.

Steinberg said he was angered and disappointed when he got Ms. O'Connell's letter.

"It just goes to show that this is what's out there as far as people's awareness," Steinberg said from his Miami Beach office.

He said people were entitled to their opinions but that it was completely inappropriate for Ms. O'Connell to use state stationery. However, Steinberg said he didn't think the viewpoint Ms. O'Connell expressed was that of the state.

"We've gotten full support from the Department of Transportation," he said.

Text Of Letter Condemning Gays

Here is the text of the April 15 letter written by a Florida state worker condemning gays on Department of Transportation stationery:

Dear Sir/Madam:

I will get straight to the point with this letter. I do not appreciate mail such as you have sent (see attached) coming to me at the office. In my capacity with the Florida Department of Transportation, I have no professional interest in your AIDS Ride.

In my capacity outside the office, I again have no interest in your AIDS Ride. It is my personal belief that AIDS as a disease was created as a punishment to the gay and lesbian communities across the world. Unfortunately, due to their lifestyles, many innocent people have also had to suffer. For these people, I am truly sorry and hope that one day we can cure this disease. As far as the gay and lesbians of this world ... let them suffer their consequences!

I ask that you take me off your mailing list immediately!

Sincerely,

Leanne O'Connell

Youth Traffic Safety Program Coordinator

State Safety Office

Olympic torch won't pass through Cobb County

ATLANTA, Friday, April 19 (AP)—The Olympic torch relay will bypass a suburban county that adopted an anti-gay resolution three years ago, organizers announced today.

Gay rights activists had threatened demonstrations if Cobb County was included in the torch relay, which begins in Los Angeles on April 27 and concludes in Atlanta on July 19.

"It is our goal to make the torch relay an exciting and memorable experience. We want to focus on the excitement of the event and not be distracted by other issues," the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said in a statement.

In 1994, ACOG pulled Olympic volleyball competition out of Cobb County because of a furor over the resolution.

Cobb commissioners have refused to rescind the 1993 resolution, which says "lifestyles advocated by the gay community ... are incompatible with the standards to which this community subscribes."

Bill Byrne, chairperson of the county commission, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment today.

Jon-Ivan Weaver, co-chairperson of the activist group Olympics Out of Cobb, said, "We have worked hard to make sure they uphold the Olympic ideals. Cobb County is not a place that deserves the Olympics."



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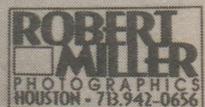
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Women

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

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

SFI I'm a short 5'2" brunette who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dining out, being in the outdoors, bike riding and much more. I'm looking for some friendships & to have a lot of fun with people. If you're interested, call me soon. Call Ext. 5025

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

Men SEEKING

Men

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

SM I'm 20, 5'6" & 135 lbs. I have brown eyes & long hair. I'm very cute. I'm looking for a single White male who is 24-30 & handsome. Call Ext. 5049

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SMI I'm told that Houston has the fourth largest population living with HIV. Okay, you guys, where are you? Why don't you give me a call? What do you have to lose? I'm in my mid-30's, caring, funny & good-looking. Give it a shot, maybe you'll like what you find. Call Ext. 5032

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

SWM I'm 40, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. I'm looking for a Hispanic or Black male who is between the ages of 35-50 years old, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. Please call and leave me a message & I'll get back to you as soon as I possibly can. Call Ext. 5034

SWMI I'm a masculine White male who is 40, 5'6", 140 lbs. & HIV-. I'm looking for Black males who are preferably feminine. If you're interested, call me. Call Ext. 5035

SM I'm 5'7", 140 lbs., Latin & fair-skinned. I'm interested in a Black or Hispanic man who wants to hang out a bit & who would like to have some fun. Call Ext. 5033

SMI I'm 34 & 220 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm looking for a man who's totally romantic & who likes red wine & soft music. I'm looking for that perfect man who'll appreciate me the way I am. You out there? Call Ext. 5030

SM I'm half-Spanish and half-White, 25, 5'7" & 135 lbs. My interests include biking, movies, quiet evenings at home. I'm looking for a White male who is between 25 & 35 years old & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5026

SM I'm 35, 6'1", 175 lbs., straight-acting & straight-appearing. I'm looking for the same. Someone who knows what it's like to love a man & is comfortable with a man. Call Ext. 5024

SM I am in search of a masculine, height/weight proportionate, HIV- male for safe fun. I am 41, HIV-, 5'7" & 160 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes, with a salt & pepper beard. I'm an average guy with no hang-ups. If you are interested, call me. Call Ext. 5019

SM I am 46, 5'9" & 190 lbs. I'm aggressive & demanding. I'm looking for men who know what to do when they are told. If you leave me a message, I will give you a call as soon as I can. Call Ext. 5018

SMI I am 5'10" tall & 185 lbs. I am well-built & very good-looking. I'm looking for men who are between the ages of 30-45 years old. Call Ext. 5016

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HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM

Dear Reader: Enjoy reading all the ads in the category of your choice, highlighting the ones you'd like to respond to. Then just call 1-900-772-3085 (\$1.69/min.*) and follow the instructions. Ads are kept 8 weeks, replies kept 7 days and then erased. If you need help using the system, call Customer Service at 1-360-636-9267. What you see here is only a small portion of the ads currently on our Voice Personals system, so you might wish to call and browse through the newest ads. To record your own FREE voice personal, call 1-800-461-5930. You'll automatically be assigned a voice box number. Remember, we screen our ads daily, but we are not responsible for the advertisers. We urge you to screen people yourself. Talk by phone, and meet first in a public place. Publisher reserves the right to review, revise or refuse any ads. Must be 18 or older to use this system. Touchtone phone required. *Average length of call is 3 minutes, total cost determined by caller. Have fun and good luck!

(Houston Voice, Houston, TX)

HOUSTON VOICE *Personals*

LET ME MAKE YOUR HEART SMILE

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

EUROPEAN GUY

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

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFE-MATE

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

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

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

GWM PROFESSIONAL

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

Mature GM, French active, HIV-, ISO other M, HIV- for your enjoyment. Ad 25762

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

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

WANTED: BOY

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

Good looking, masculine, GWM seeks same who strives for balance in body, mind and spirit. You must be healthy, full of energy and enthusiasm. I'm 32, a star gazer and a romantic. My interests include world travel, nature, gardening, music and dance. Friendship first and possible life long monogamous relationship. Don't hesitate, take a chance! Prefer written responses. Ad 25764

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN ISO AMERICAN STUD

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

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs, stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bear, linebacker, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Physically challenged encouraged to reply. Thanks! Ad 25727

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

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

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED EXCEPT YOU!!!

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

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

PARENTING, ANYONE?

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

THE FOREVER MAN

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun-loving GWM, youthful, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive w/ dark hair and blue eyes. Interested in a long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, trust, and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing quite like it. Ad 25717

POSITIVE MIND, BODY & SOUL

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

IF YOU KNOW...

how to follow orders, contact me. I am 46, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

LOOKING FOR A TALL GUY

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

SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

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

AFFECTIONATE TEDDY BEAR WANTS CUDDLY CUB

GWM, 56, 6'2", 285, big bear, professional, clean cut seeks loving cub for companion, fun, and a devoted monogamous relationship. I want what I am: sincere, loyal, sense of humor, honest, masculine, caring, sensitive, trusting, lots of T.L.C., respect, genuine and unlimited passion. Interests: Movies, art galleries/museums, dining out, quiet evenings at home, and lots of candlelight conversation and sharing. Discreet, NS, and DDF. U B 2. If you can relate, please respond. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25745

EAST SIDE GWM SEEKS FRIENDS/POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

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

WANTED: WHITE MALE

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

ATTENTION -NUDIST

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

VERY WELL ENDOWED

Attractive GWM, 39, 6'1", 175 and HIV-. Dominant top/daddy type. Seeking the intimacy lacking in a world of casual encounters. I.S.O. younger masculine bottom "boy" that's muscular and attractive. Interests include movies, clubs, intimate evenings, and camping. Respond by letters only; with phone and photo please. Ad 25700

QUALITY MAN...

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

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

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

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

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

TWICE THE FUN!

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

SPECIAL BOT-TOMS, GIVE ME A CALL

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

LONELY GHM

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

TURNED-ON BY INDIGENOUS CULTURES

Middle-aged GWM, intelligent, well-endowed, comfortably situated, seeking GM warrior/prince, 7 years, descended from a culture native to the Americas. Photos appreciated; native attire a plus. Ittibaapisilli, ayokpuli, polooma; apaxionado se por, entusiasmo; en amor y compania. Ad 25733

GIVING MY HEART

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

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

KIDNAP ME

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

LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE

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

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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

GO FOR IT!

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

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

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

MAN OF PASSION

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

SEEK SUBMISSIVE OLDER WHITE MEN

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

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

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

FREE TO LOVE

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun loving gay white male, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive, dark hair and deep grey blue eyes, and interested in a very long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, honesty and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing else quite like it ... to be devoted and committed to that one special person who is as equally into you as you are into him. Ad 25718

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

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

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

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

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

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

TOPS LOOKING FOR SEX TOY

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

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

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

Breakfast, 6:40 am. Too much caffeine.

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