

A Weekly Community News Publication

'Super Tuesday' primaries yield mixed bag

(HOUSTON)—Texas' Democratic and Republican primary election and precinct conventions Tuesday yielded mixed results from the perspective of lesbian and gay community interests.

Most of the candidates endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus in the Democratic Primary won their races. However, many of these were incumbents running unopposed or facing long-shot challengers. In the Republican Primary, while several candidates supported by the "radical right" either won their races outright or are headed for a runoff, a perhaps unprecedented turnout of gay-friendly moderates at precinct conventions resulted in the passage of pro-gay resolutions and the election of gay-friendly delegates to the senate district convention in several precincts.

In top-of-the-ticket races, Houstonian John Odam, supported by HGLPC in the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate seat held by Phil Gramm, pulled less than 10 percent of the statewide vote. John Bryant, who also had significant gay and lesbian support across the state, and Victor Morales, a Mesquite schoolteacher with little political experience and the surprise primary lead, face a runoff next month to decide who will challenge Republican Gramm in November. (Bryant, of Dallas, narrowly nudged out conservative Democrat Jim Chapman of Sulphur Springs for the runoff slot).

Gene Green, up for re-election in U.S. House District 29, won easily over challenger Felix Fraga. Both of these candidates also had gay and lesbian supporters in the largely Hispanic district; Green was endorsed by HGLPC.

Art Contreras, HGLPC's Democratic pick for Harris County Sheriff and a Houston Police Department assistant chief, will face off in the runoff against Bruce P. Marquis, chief of the Houston Independent School District Police Department. In the Republican primary, current Sheriff Tommy Thomas far left his challengers, Paul Day and Guy Clark, trailing. (Day was endorsed by HGLPC in the GOP race). Thomas, appointed to replace Johnny Klevenhegan last June, has come under criticism in recent weeks for his decision to ban use of off-duty sheriff's

deputies as security guards at Planned Parenthood's clinics. Contreras had accused Thomas of placing citizens at risk to cozy up to the religious right for their support in the election.

Municipal Judge Sylvia Garcia, endorsed by HGLPC in the Democratic primary for Harris County Attorney, picked up the slim majority she needed to avoid a runoff.

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Report: gay bashing more violent

A report released this week by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs records 2,212 hate crimes committed in 11 major cities nationwide in 1995, down eight percent from 1994. However, although documented gay-related murders fell to 19 from 25 last year, the crimes were more violent. According to the coalition, there was a 10 percent increase in assaults and rapes. New York City led the nation for the fifth year in a row with 625 documented cases. San Francisco (324), Los Angeles (256), and Minneapolis-St. Paul (218) ranked the highest.

The group, which used a new computer program to analyze the crimes, discovered some revealing information. Some of the findings conclude that the percentage of attackers under age 18 has decreased nationally to 17% from 25% in 1994. In addition, repeated acts of violence by a person against the same victim were documented for the first time and constituted 22% of all incidents.

Other findings show that only 707 of the documented cases were reported to the police and only 16 percent of those cases resulted in arrest. The coalition attributes this as a reflection of the communities lack of confidence in law enforcement. The national peak in reported violence against gays and lesbians was in

1992, when homosexuality was catapulted into prominence simultaneously at the Republican National Convention and the debates over gays in the military and gay-related ballot initiatives in Colorado and Oregon.

The coalition predicted that this year could even be worse than 1992 because of the anti-gay hatred spewing from certain Republican presidential and congressional candidates, lending credence to the argument that hate-filled rhetoric can encourage individuals to commit violent acts. The anti-gay rally during the Iowa caucuses, the upcoming presidential elections and the same-sex marriage initiatives in 18 state legislatures, will all contribute to the rise of hate-crimes, according to the group.



The Mommas and the Papas...of P-FLAG leave Houston Saturday (March 16), on a bus bound for Washington, D.C. The White House will hold a reception Tuesday for parents of lesbians and gays from all over the country who are traveling to Washington to Lobby for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The group pictured includes Myrtle Meaux, Terrie Cooney, Penny Leuchtag, Peter De Michelle, Fred Wilson, Rosemary Wilson, Irv Smith, Sherry Stephens, Russell Jones, Don Upchurch, Ann Chapman, Susan Upchurch, Jane Montgomery, Jane Smith, Don Sinclair, Edna Martin, Donna DeCamp, Pat Rickey, Gordon Weisser, Mary Lou Kurtz, Mary K. Jones, Norma Graves, Gail Rickey, Kathy Sinclair, Blake Weisser and Barbara Winston. (Photo by Alan Montgomery)

Hawaii Legislature throws double punch to head off same-sex marriage

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's state House and Senate, each trying to head off the licensing of gay marriages in Hawaii, have staked out positions so far apart that the question will probably be left to the courts. The state Senate approved a bill allowing same-sex "domestic partnerships" while the House took the opposite tack, backing a proposal to let voters decide whether to ban gay marriages.

The House, after a debate that saw half its 51 members rise to speak, on Tuesday night approved a bill to put a constitu-

tional amendment on the November ballot defining marriage as existing between a man and a woman.

Earlier in the day, the Senate narrowly approved a bill to create "domestic partnerships" for gay couples. It would give them the same benefits and obligations that married couples have under state law but would not extend benefits covered by federal law, such as joint tax filing.

The state Supreme Court in 1993 decided it was unconstitutional discrimination on the basis of gender for the state to

ban same-sex marriages unless it can show a compelling state interest to do so. That question goes back before a lower court on Aug. 1, unless the lawmakers come up with a compromise first. The legislative session ends April 29.

The dispute in Hawaii has attracted considerable interest in other state legislatures, with proposals being considered to bar recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

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by Carolyn Roberts

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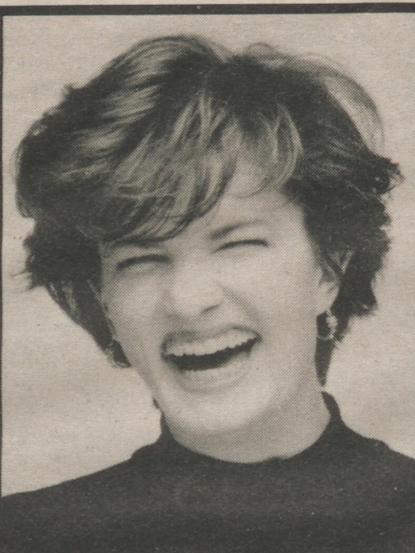
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Friday, March 15

- * 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.
- * Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 869-2298 via 800-735-2988.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- * Bringing in the Green! \$20 to benefit the Montrose Counseling Center. Call 529-0077. Sponsored by Lesbians in Business (LiB)
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Robot Carnival at 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Houston Symphony-Exxon Pops at 8:00 p.m. Call 224-4240.
- * SNAP (Spay-Neuter Assistance Program) free services. 8:00 a.m. Call 522-2337.
- * "Frog to Prince" seminar by Suzanne Anderson Properties. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-8484.
- * "Miss Ima Hogg: The Great Texan and Collector" tour at Bayou Bend. Call 520-2600.

Saturday, March 16

- * 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.
- * Houston Area Bears movie night. Call 867-9123.
- * PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Pep Rally. 7:00 p.m. Call 528-6477.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Sidewalk Stories at 7:30 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Houston Symphony-Exxon Pops at 8:00 p.m. Call 224-4240.
- * Night in Black Leather II at the Venture-N. 9:30 p.m. Call 521-0911.

Sunday, March 17

- * 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 10:15 a.m. Call 537-1348.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- * LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty) meets at 2:00 p.m. Call 661-1482.

* AMIGA de Houston meets for dinner. 5:00 p.m. Call 527-0941.

* African American Lesbian Gay Alliance meets at 5:30 p.m. Call 864-2242.

* Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Manhattan at 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

* Houston Symphony-Exxon Pops at 7:30 p.m. Call 224-4240.

Monday, March 18

- * AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
- * HeartSong open rehearsal at the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.
- * Agora meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- * 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.
- * Sex Addicts Anonymous Support Group meets at MCCR. 1919 Decatur. 7:00 p.m. Call 861-2808.
- * 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 care givers 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.
- * The Borders Book Group Kate Atkinson's "Behind the Scenes." 7:30 p.m. Call 782-6066.

Tuesday, March 19

- * 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.
- * Bereaved Partners/Spouses at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 488-4492.
- * Empowerment for living meet for pot luck. Call 861-9149.
- * CODA Support group meets at MCCR. 1919 Decatur. 7:00 p.m.
- * Overeaters Anonymous meets at MCCR. 1919 Decatur. 6:00 p.m.
- * 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.

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

AALGA Meeting

The African-American Lesbian & Gay Alliance of Houston will hold a general membership meeting Sunday, March 17 at the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to meet other AALGA members and learn more about plans for the coming year, including the First Anniversary Banquet planned for March 30.

If you are interested in attending the meetings or becoming a member of AALGA please call 864-2242.

Chamber Breakfast

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce will be holding a breakfast networking meeting hosted by Coy Tow, Tuesday, March 19 at 7:15 a.m. in the Allen Park Inn, 2121 Allen Parkway.

Learn how networking with other chamber members can increase your business opportunities. The \$13 fee includes a full breakfast. Please RSVP to Coy Tow by March 15 at 526-6668.

Treatment Advocacy

Dr. Pedro Diaz will present the most current information on medical tests and procedures in diagnosing and treating opportunistic infections and provide basics information on CT Scans, MRIs, x-rays, biopsies and other medical treatments at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Presented as a treatment advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS the program is an initiative of AVES and The Center for AIDS. The program will be conducted in both Spanish and English.

For reservations please call AVES at 626-2837. Nutritious refreshments will be provided.

AFH SEXpectations

AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) "Great SEXpectations" program invites participants in the free upcoming workshops focusing on love, sex, and relationships.

Tuesday, March 19 they present "Sex, Toys, and Videotape" an exploration of erotic and safe options. Tuesday, March 26 will be a journey of self-discovery and relationship issues entitled "Love, Lust and Intimacy."

Both workshops are located at the AFH office, 3202 Wesleyan (upstairs) from 7 until 9:00 p.m. For more information call Bart Loeser at 623-6796.

Hypnosis at MCC

The Men's Network, a discussion group for social and educational development of gay and bisexual men, Wednesday, March 20 presents "Hypnosis, Your Key to Peace of Mind."

Betty Ann Lockhart, certified hypnotherapist, will discuss resolving problems using hypnosis. Whether you want to break a habit, sharpen your concentration and organizational skills, or understand yourself better, hypnosis can help.

It is an extremely powerful tool for changing your life. The Men's Network is part of the Montrose Counseling Center (MCC), 701 Richmond, from 7 until 9:00 p.m. A donation between \$3 and \$5 is requested. Additional information, call 529-0037.

Wellness Learning

The Wellness Learning Center will present a free "Self-Hypnosis Mini-course" on consecutive Thursdays (March 21 and 28) at Grace Lutheran Church from 7:30 until 9:00 p.m.

Participants can learn beneficial techniques for relation, stress management and behavior modification.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information, please call hypnotherapist T.C. Le-Normand at 789-0713.

Open House

His Touch HIV/AIDS Ministries has announced an open house for the Pasadena Pavilion March 25, inviting the general public, pastors, benefactors, contributors and all those interested to come view the housing facilities for HIV/AIDS persons.

This includes the following: Wesley House—transitional living home for men and women; Michael House Apartments—permanent living for families; Cupples Cottage—future women and children transitional home; and Keith's Cottage—future teen house.

In addition, an adult care facility, child care facility, and hospice will be in operation in the near future. The ribbon cutting will take place Sunday, March 24 from 3 until 4:00 p.m. and the open house will be Monday, March 25 from 1 until 6:00 p.m.

Please call 475-9661 for more details and directions.

Future Notes

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce April 1st meeting will be a "Networking Expo" allowing both members and non-members an opportunity to showcase their business, service, or product to all attendees. Call 523-7576 to reserve space and or made reservations.

The Executive and Professional Association of Houston (EPAH) ninth annual "Leather and Lace" fundraiser will be hosted to benefit Omega House and Milam House Saturday, April 13.

The Bayou-City Boys Club will host the annual "Jungle Lust" Blowout Saturday, April 6. For more information telephone 520-5253.

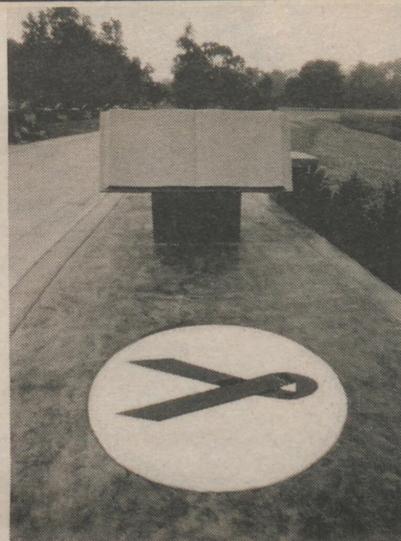
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HOUSTON VOICE

A Weekly Community News Publication

ISSUE 803
March 15, 1996

Published Fridays

Established 1974 as the Houston Montrose Star, re-established 1980 as the Houston Montrose Voice, changed name to The New Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, re-established December 1, 1993 as the Houston Voice

811 Westheimer, Suite 105
 Houston, Texas 77006
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 Contents copyright 1995
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Judge orders PWA probationer to get written consent for sex

TYLER (AP)—A state district judge in Tyler has ordered a Louisiana man with AIDS to obtain written, informed consent from all future sex partners as part of his probation in a car theft conviction.

State District Judge Louis Gohmert has sentenced Thomas Paul McDevitt, 33, of Metairie, La., to five years' probation. The informed consent is a condition of the probation.

McDevitt was ordered to get prospective sex partners to sign off on a form reading as follows:

"Thomas Paul McDevitt has advised me that he has been diagnosed as positive for the HIV virus in his body and may be symptomatic for the disease of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Although I realize I am potentially risk-

ing my own life, I nonetheless desire to engage in sexual relations with the above named individual."

The sentence was handed down Tuesday after McDevitt pleaded guilty to unauthorized use of a vehicle. He could have been sentenced to up to two years in a state jail. McDevitt was accused of the theft of a car last Aug. 10 in Tyler, where he was living at the time.

Gohmert, who has been a judge since Jan. 1993, said he drafted the form himself without any consultation.

"I really first started thinking about it when a friend's son died of AIDS," he said in an interview. "I know people feel compassion for those with AIDS, but nobody really wants to do much about stopping people from spreading AIDS."

Gohmert said he will order similar conditions in future probation and parole cases involving defendants he knows to be infected by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The conditions would be self-policing, he said.

"There's not going to be any bedroom police, but I would anticipate that someone who has sex with a probationer who hasn't disclosed his or her condition will say something about it to somebody. And if I learn about it, I will revoke probation," Gohmert said.

The nature of the medical condition came to the judge's attention in a confidential, pre-sentencing report.

It was not immediately certain whether McDevitt would appeal, he said.

"We are looking into it. We're not sure

it'll be an appeal or a civil rights lawsuit," McDevitt's attorney, William H. Wallace said.

"There are certainly liberty interests involved here," Wallace said. "Certainly one loses some of your liberties whenever you're convicted of a felony, but is a restriction on sexual liberties one of them?"

McDevitt declined to comment, Wallace said.

The order appalled AIDS activists, who regard it as blatant discrimination.

"It just seems to me on the face of it that it's a violation of a person's human rights," said Danta Stewart, client services manager for the AIDS Resource Center in Dallas.

Primaries yield mixed bag

Returns in the presidential primaries landed basically according to expectations. President Clinton claimed over 80 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary state wide (over 94 percent in Harris County) with the remainder scattered among a pack of unknown challengers and perennial "outer fringe" candidate Lyndon LaRouche. GOP front runner Sen. Bob Dole also met predictions in the Republican Primary taking about 56 percent of the vote state wide. (Pat Buchanan was second finisher with about 21 percent of the vote; Steve Forbes, third with 13 percent).

At the bottom end of the ballot, the races for County Chair in both primaries

proved disappointing to gay groups. "We lost the chair to the religious right," said Dale Carpenter, state president of Log Cabin Republicans of attorney Gary Pollard's victory in the race for Republican chair. Roland Chamberlin, who finished second with 46 percent, had been endorsed by the incumbent, Betsy Lake, a moderate popular with local gay Republicans. In the Democratic County Chair contest, HGLPC-endorsed Molly Luhrs came in third. Incumbent David Minberg faces a runoff with controversial activist Leslie Perez.

Two of the three candidates recommended by Log Cabin's Houston chapter in the Republican primary, Sergio Tre-

vino (Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Place 1) and Chris LaRue (State Representative, District 137) won their races. A third recommended candidate Christine Ellett, finished fifth in a six-way race for County Tax Assessor.

Carpenter, however, said the Cabin's big success Tuesday came after the polls closed, at the precinct conventions, particularly in Montrose area precincts. "For the first time that I know of in the history of the Harris County Republican party... a substantial number of Republican precincts came out against anti-gay bigotry" by passing resolutions to remove anti-gay language and references to the sodomy law from the

party's platform and support laws enhancing penalties for hate crimes, among others. "Last night was the best night for the gay and lesbian civil rights movement in Houston since the passage of the anti-discrimination ordinance in 1984," Carpenter opined. He noted, however, that while several precincts did pass the pro-gay resolutions, many more precinct conventions across the city were dominated by religious right participants and passed anti-gay resolutions. He added that the right wing forces will likely dominate the senate district convention. "We aren't there yet. But this was a necessary first step. It was a first taste for us."

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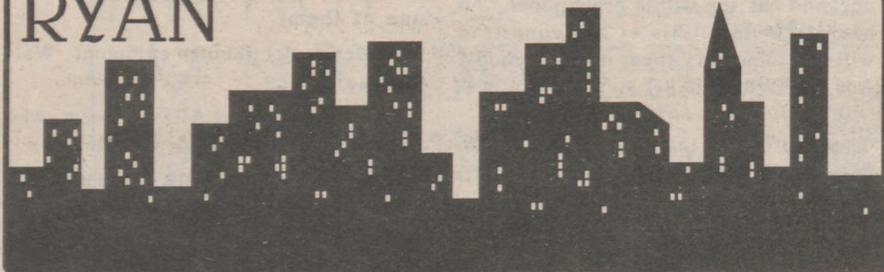
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HOUSTON
VOICE MAIL
Letters to the Editor



U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee visits with AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston board members and volunteers at the group's recent rummage sale, which raised \$1,600 for TLC House

TLC Thanks Voice Readers for Rummage-A-Rama Success

FROM MATT LOCKLIN

Executive Director, AIDS Housing Coalition Houston

Kudos! to all the *Houston Voice* readers for your warm and enthusiastic support of the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston Rummage-A-Rama charity sale held this past Saturday, March 2, 1996. More than \$1,600 was raised to assist our friends and neighbors who are homeless living with HIV/AIDS. All proceeds benefited the TLC House emergency shelter for males here in Montrose and sponsored by non profit AHCH.

One of the highlights was an impromptu visit by Congressperson Sheila Jackson-Lee and a guest. Ms. Jackson-Lee found an incredible bargain on some new children's toys and a \$150 racquetball racket w/suede leather cover for just \$5 bucks! Sheila visited with AHCH board officers Richard Rancier and Barbara Joseph and other AHCH volunteers. She discussed her recent congressional actions on behalf of the AIDS population and relayed lighter side stories of serving in Congress. Sheila promised to whoop on those Republicans—on the House racquetball court and on the House floor—as she departed the event. Hundreds of other generous *Houston Voice* readers showed up for the rummage sale all day, mentioning how they heard about it and some even made outright cash donations for the housing effort.

Special thanks to Bruno and company down at EuroTan who read the *Voice* article regarding needing rummage sale donations and donated 6 truck loads of items from their museum area estate. AHCH is an all volunteer effort and welcomes public support and donations of all kinds. For more information or to volunteer Call 521-1613.

Health Advocate Vergel Recognized

FROM CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM, AKA MR. TEXAS USA 1996

Houston, Texas

With the AIDS crisis in full swing, there are so many people that are fighting for our rights when it comes to medical care and legal issues that we sometimes forget the people who are fighting for ideas that

are saving lives that are not so conventional. For two years I have watched Nelson Vergel fight for people's lives day in and day out without much support.

It is with great pride that finally Nelson has been chosen as a national consultant in the Community Constituent Group of the Aids Clinical Trial Group. This national organization works with American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR) and the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other research organizations around the world to get protocols and treatments approved for AIDS patients.

With dedication like that of Nelson Vergel and others in Houston, new treatments are appearing in Houston that will eventually save thousands of lives. He has finally been nationally recognized as a major researcher for AIDS treatments, and congratulations are in order. Congratulations Nelson, as you know, you have saved my life as you have saved thousands in Houston and abroad. I believe in your dream and in you...thank you for never giving up.

More TLC, More Thanks

FROM CAMERON, AKA MR. E/J'S '95-'96; MR. GAY LIFE TODAY-MAN OF DISTINCTION '95-'96

Houston, Texas

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who were involved in making the benefit for TLC House this past Sunday night a success. A special shout goes out to Ed of E/J's for donating a much needed a/c unit and the use of the bar.

"Thank Yous" go to the performers Christopher Graham, Oscar Paredes, Jade Mykels, Nicole Blake, Scotch, Alan Gibson/Madame and Will Smith for donating all their tips and time for a great cause. Also, thanks to the resident DJ David for keeping the mix and music going. Lastly, a VERY special thanks to my co-host for the event and a special friend, Tara Dion, who is there to support any and every cause that I have been involved with in the past and hopefully in the future.

We were able to raise \$210 with the help of some very generous audience members. That amount was matched by an anonymous donor's check bringing the total for the evening to \$420.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!

A last minute note: I would like to request the community's support again as I compete for the title of Mr. Gay Pride All-American at Pacific Street on March 24.

HOUSTON VOICE OSCARS BALLOT

RULES:

1. Only one entry per person.
2. Indicate who you think the winner will be in each category by placing an "x" in the appropriate box.
3. All entries must be mailed or hand delivered to: The Houston Voice, Oscar Contest, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006, or you can fax your ballots to 529-9531. Entries must be received (or be postmarked if mailed) by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 1996 to be eligible.
4. The person who correctly guesses the most number of winners will receive \$50.00.
5. If the person correctly guessing the most number of winners also guesses more winners correctly than Houston Voice Oscar maven Javier Tamez, then the winner will be awarded an additional \$50.00. Tamez' picks will be published in the March 22nd issue.
6. In the event of a tie, a winner will be selected blindly and at random from among those tied for first.
7. This contest is not open to employees of the Houston Voice or their family members.
8. In all cases the decision of the judges will be final.

BEST PICTURE

- Apollo 13
- Babe
- Braveheart
- The Postman (Il Postino)
- Sense and Sensibility

BEST ACTRESS

- Susan Sarandon (Dead Man Walking)
- Elisabeth Shue (Leaving Las Vegas)
- Sharon Stone (Casino)
- Meryl Streep (The Bridges of Madison County)
- Emma Thompson (Sense and Sensibility)

BEST ACTOR

- Nicholas Cage (Leaving Las Vegas)
- Richard Dreyfuss (Mr. Holland's Opus)
- Anthony Hopkins (Nixon)
- Sean Penn (Dead Man Walking)
- Massimo Troisi (The Postman)

BEST DIRECTOR

- Mike Figgis (Leaving Las Vegas)
- Mel Gibson (Braveheart)
- Chris Noonan (Babe)
- Michael Radford (The Postman)
- Tim Robbins (Dead Man Walking)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Joan Allen (Nixon)
- Kathleen Quinlan (Apollo 13)

- Mira Sorvino (Mighty Aphrodite)
- Mare Winningham (Georgia)
- Kate Winslet (Sense and Sensibility)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

- James Cromwell (Babe)
- Ed Harris (Apollo 13)
- Brad Pitt (12 Monkeys)
- Tim Roth (Rob Roy)
- Kevin Spacey (The Usual Suspects)

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

- Randall Wallace (Braveheart)
- Woody Allen (Mighty Aphrodite)
- Stephen J. Rivele, Christopher Wilkinson & Oliver Stone (Nixon)
- Joss Whedon, Andrew Stanton, Joel Cohen, Alec Sukolow, et al. (Toy Story)
- Christopher McQuarrie (The Usual Suspects)

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

- William Broyles, Jr. & Al Reinert (Apollo 13)
- George Miller & Chris Noonan (Babe)
- Mike Figgis (Leaving Las Vegas)
- Anna Pavignano, Michael Radford, Massimo Troisi, et al. (The Postman)
- Emma Thompson (Sense and Sensibility)

BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

- All Things Fair (Sweden)
- Antonia's Life (Netherlands)
- Dust of Life (Algeria)
- O Quatrilho (Brazil)
- The Star Maker (Italy)

BEST ART DIRECTION

- Apollo 13
- A Little Princess
- Richard III
- Babe
- Restoration

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

- Batman Forever
- A Little Princess
- Shanghai Triad
- Braveheart
- Sense and Sensibility

BEST COSTUME DESIGN

- Braveheart
- Richard III
- 12 Monkeys
- Restoration
- Sense and Sensibility

BEST FILM EDITING

- Apollo 13
- Braveheart
- Seven
- Babe
- Crimson Tide

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE - MUSICAL/COMEDY

- The American President
- Pocahontas
- Toy Story
- Sabrina
- Unstrung Heroes

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE-DRAMA

- Apollo 13
- Nixon
- Sense and Sensibility
- Braveheart
- The Postman

BEST ORIGINAL SONG

- "Colors of the Wind" (Pocahontas)
- "Dead Man Walking" (Dead Man Walking)
- "Have You Ever Really Loved A Woman" (Don Juan DeMarco)
- "Moonlight" (Sabrina)
- "You've Got A Friend" (Toy Story)

BEST SOUND

- Apollo 13
- Braveheart
- Waterworld
- Batman Forever
- Crimson Tide

BEST SOUND EFFECTS EDITING

- Batman Forever
- Crimson Tide
- Braveheart

BEST VISUAL EFFECTS

- Apollo 13
- Babe

BEST MAKEUP

- Braveheart
- Roommates
- My Family (Mi Familia)

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Not always a pleasant excursion

'Outing' and mental health issues

Guest Commentary

By MENDE SNODGRASS, J.D. LMSW

For the Houston Voice

In the March 5 edition of *The Advocate*, the lead article "outed" Houston spokeswoman Barbara Jordan, who died on Jan. 17. The article's author was critical of Ms. Jordan because, in the author's opinion, she did not become a role model for lesbians and gays by publicly disclosing her sexual orientation.

"Outing" occurs whenever an individual's sexual orientation is disclosed against his or her will. If our world were free from heterosexism and homophobia, outing would be meaningless. Unfortunately, outing has significant meaning in our culture, because it occurs in a society which often teaches that lesbians and gays are morally and developmentally inferior to heterosexuals.

The practice of outing has long been considered controversial. Decisions about outing cannot be easily resolved. Any serious discussion of this complex issue should take into account the effects of outing on an individual's psychological and emotional well-being. From a mental health viewpoint, outing is an issue which has potential for individual harm. It seems that the potential effects of outing are rarely considered before decisions to act are made.

Conceptually, outing is closely related to coming out, the process by which individuals disclose to themselves and others their sexual orientation. Coming out essentially occurs in stages over one's lifetime, and individuals hopefully reach a point in the process where they are absolutely comforta-

ble with a lesbian or gay orientation. Reaching acceptance and affirmation of a gay or lesbian lifestyle does not come to most people until they have experienced denial, fear, shame, anger, isolation and grief (among other feelings) about their sexual orientations. These feelings result from personal, institutional and cultural values which establish heterosexuality as the "norm" and label anything other than the norm as undesirable and inferior.

Outing an individual before he or she has had an opportunity to reconcile his/her own internal beliefs about homosexuality can cause an individual to stay locked into denial, fear and shame. Some individuals never escape this denial. Although they may continue to engage in same-sex sexual activity, they may never experience the benefits of "community," or be able to celebrate their sexual or affectional orientation.

Individuals may continue to feel enormous shame about their sexual orientation if they are outed before they have had an opportunity to resolve those internalized feelings. It is difficult to experience lesbian and gay pride if feelings of shame have been greatly intensified by premature disclosure. At the farthest end of the spectrum, the combination of outing and unresolved shame has produced suicide. The suicide rate in our community is high enough without our taking actions that might contribute to it.

Outing before an individual has reached some level of self-acceptance about her/his sexual orientation may also produce strong feelings of anger at the very fact of one's orientation. It is difficult to move beyond this anger to a place of com-

fort with being gay or lesbian. This anger may also be expressed on a larger scale, as outrage against the gay and lesbian community. When this happens, both the outed individual and the community lose.

The practice of outing may also violate personal boundaries that people set around information they wish to keep confidential or within a limited circle of intimate friends. Many people who are struggling to accept their sexual orientations internalize heterosexism and homophobia and, as a result, have very low self-esteem. It often takes months or even years for these individuals to begin to recognize that they are worthy of setting their own boundaries and deserve to have those boundaries respected. Violating these boundaries can strike a real blow to building self-esteem.

The argument has been made that outing results in normalizing lesbian and gay orientation so that it becomes "no big deal." This result could occur on broadening social and political levels, as more and more individuals, particularly those who are public figures, become known publicly as gay or lesbian. The question is whether this result should be achieved at the expense of individuals in the earlier stages of coming out, terrified at the thought of disclosing their sexual orientation and still struggling to accept themselves. Self-disclosure at varying levels is an inevitable part of the process of coming out. It is from self-disclosure that we gain personal power and begin to overcome the disempowering effects of heterosexism and homophobia. If someone else chooses when, where, how and to whom disclosures about sexual orientation are made, per-

sonal power is seriously undermined, and possibly, destroyed altogether. It may be far better to allow this process of self-disclosure to occur without using the sledgehammer of outing.

There could be circumstances where the benefits of outing outweigh the toll this process takes on an individual's psychological and emotional well-being. Outing is almost certainly appropriate when a closeted gay public figure repeatedly speaks out against, or in other ways works against, lesbian and gay issues. This was not the case with Barbara Jordan.

If the life goal of coming out is to accept, honor and affirm ourselves for the people that we are, unconstrained by socially imposed limitations of gender, sexual orientation, class, race, health status and all of the other tools of oppression, Barbara Jordan achieved this goal without being subjected to outing during her lifetime. She was a role model for all people. Before future decisions to out individuals are made, we would do well to consider the potentially counterproductive effects of this practice.

The role model that is often set by outing is a model of patronizing and aggression. It is represented by those who claim to know what is best for both the individual and the community as a whole, and who take action for others without their consent. From a mental health perspective, outing is often a model for individual disempowerment.

(Mende Snodgrass is on the staff of the Montrose Counseling Center, a local non-profit community mental health center dedicated to serving primarily the lesbian, gay and bisexual community).

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Current treatments for CMV retinitis

By ROBERTO M. DIAZ, M.D.

Editor's Note: Cytomegalovirus is a serious infection which can cause sight-threatening and even life-threatening illness in individuals with compromised immune systems. In recent weeks, several updates and advances in the treatment of CMV retinitis have been announced by various pharmaceutical companies which have been involved in conducting clinical trials. This article discusses some of the current options available for treatment of this condition, which affects at least 40 percent of people with HIV disease. Dr. Diaz is an Ophthalmologist specializing in HIV related eye diseases. He is in practice at Baylor College of Medicine, Ben Taub General Hospital and Thomas Street Clinic. He also volunteers his time at the Montrose Clinic and serves as president of the board of directors of Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (AVES).

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) disease has emerged as one of the most frequent infections, affecting as many as 45% of individuals after the diagnosis of AIDS. CMV's most common target in the body is the retina (the light sensitive tissue at the back of the eyes that sends what we see to the brain). CMV retinitis begins as a small infection in the retina that progresses rapidly to destruction of the retinal tissue, resulting in blindness in the affected eye 90% of the time. Due to the high risk of blindness in individuals with CD4 counts ("T cell counts") less than 100, many treatment options have been developed that are now available in Houston.

The first two drugs that were approved for the treatment of CMV retinitis are ganciclovir sodium (Cytovene) and foscarnet sodium (Foscavir). Each of these drugs is initially given intravenously in high doses ("induction") and then daily in lower doses ("maintenance"). These two standard therapies for CMV retinitis are very burdensome for patients. They involve daily, lifelong one or two hour infusions through a tube (Catheter) that is inserted into a chest or arm vein. In addition, the medications are very toxic. Ganciclovir suppresses the bone marrow's production of red blood cells and neutrophils leaving patients prone to anemia, bacterial infections and bleeding. Foscarnet commonly impairs the kidneys' function that causes electrolyte imbalances leading to nerve malfunction, tingling, numbness and occasionally, seizures. There is also a danger of outside bacteria spreading along the catheter into the blood stream and causing infections.

While ganciclovir and foscarnet are equally effective in initial control of the CMV retinitis, nearly all affected patients will experience a return of the retinitis after two months. The relapses can be controlled by reinduction with these two medications but the destruction of additional retina and progressive visual loss can occur with each relapse. These therapies unfortunately have to work with less and less help from the immune system and therefore threaten to be less and less effective with passing time. Each therapy also brings with it a set of specific problems ranging from side effects to drug resistant that limits its usefulness.

More importantly, what works with one patient might not work with another. The evolving complex treatment options require skillful manipulation by physicians and affected individuals and all parties must agree to the specific treatment used. Below, we will examine the pros and cons of the new therapies for CMV retinitis and see how they may fit

together.

Combination Foscarnet and Ganciclovir Therapy

Laboratory studies have suggested that a combination of ganciclovir and foscarnet therapy may have an additive effect on CMV's growth, and case reports have suggested that patients who have suffered frequent relapses of CMV retinitis may do better with combination therapy versus only one drug alone. The Cytomegalovirus Retinitis Retreatment Trial (CRRT) was conducted to determine the best way to control CMV retinitis that has reoccurred with the currently available agents. In a report written in January of 1996 it was found that a combination treatment of foscarnet and ganciclovir controlled the CMV retinitis for four months versus only one or two months with either drug alone—Therefore, the study suggests that combination treatment controls the recurrent retinitis better than ganciclovir or foscarnet alone.

The combination treatment, however, was noted to have greater negative side effects than when either drug was used alone. For example, there was a greater rate of discontinuing the combination treatment because the medications were less tolerated when used together. In addition the combination treatment requires longer infusion times of approximately 3 hours versus 2 hours with either drug alone. The drugs as a combination treatment are also more expensive, accounting for \$20,000-\$40,000 per year. Therefore, the combination treatment may be more effective in controlling the retinitis but is not as convenient as using either medication alone. Nonetheless, if patients can tolerate both drugs, the combination treatment appears to be effective in delaying progression of the retinitis.

Cidofovir (HPMPC)

One way to avoid some of the inconvenience with administering ganciclovir and foscarnet is to use a drug that does not require frequent intravenous treatment ("infusion"). One intravenous drug that is now being investigated is Cidofovir (HPMPC). Cidofovir lasts so long in cells that infusions are relatively infrequent. Intravenous cidofovir is infused once weekly for the first two weeks and then every other week thereafter. This would imply that the quality of life for the patient would improve because of less infusion times. However, intravenous cidofovir has been found to cause kidney toxicity that have delayed the investigations. Nonetheless, cidofovir's dramatic effects on CMV retinitis cannot be ignored and further tests with this drug are being conducted in the Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology. Whether cidofovir will be more effective than ganciclovir or foscarnet remains to be determined.

(Vistide, from GILEAD Sciences Inc., is the subject of a New Drug Application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration which was scheduled to be reviewed March 15 for marketing approval).

Monoclonal Antibodies Against CMV

An attractive alternative intravenous treatment is the use of human antibodies against CMV. Monoclonal antibody treatment consists of a purified single antibody that has strong neutralizing activity against a particular virus.

(Continued on following page)



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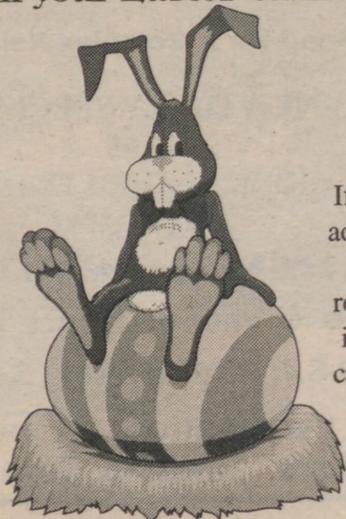
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HIV update: CMV retinitis treatment options

(Continued from preceding page).

A study now recruiting candidates at Baylor is investigating this drug in combination with ganciclovir, foscarnet and the ganciclovir implants. In one study conducted in 1991 the time until reoccurrence of CMV retinitis was twice as long as historically observed with either ganciclovir or foscarnet alone. This medication seems to cause very little side effects and no resistance has been found yet. Therefore it may be a good medication for long term intravenous therapy with other medications.

Oral Ganciclovir

An alternative to intravenous therapy would be the use of either drug in oral form. Ganciclovir in its new oral form was approved by the FDA last winter as a maintenance therapy between courses of intravenous induction therapy. The use of the oral ganciclovir however has caused concern. For example, when the manufacturer of oral ganciclovir evaluated the drug, the patients had been stable on three weeks of intravenous medication before they were changed to oral ganciclovir. Therefore, if we were to begin the oral ganciclovir without the use of the intravenous ganciclovir first, the medication might not be as effective. In addition, one study found that 33% of patients' unaffected eye progressed to CMV retinitis if the disease had already been noted in one eye at the time that oral ganciclovir was started. This implies that the oral ganciclovir may not be as effective in protecting the other eye.

When oral ganciclovir was compared to intravenous ganciclovir there was a quicker time to progression with the oral ganciclovir (60 days) versus intravenous ganciclovir (96 days). There is also a concern that by using the oral ganciclovir alone we can encourage the evolution of resistant viruses. In fact many of the researchers in this field are concerned that popular use of oral ganciclovir will reduce the effectiveness of intravenous ganciclovir or even ganciclovir implants. However, one cannot deny the benefits of oral ganciclovir: there is less risk of catheter infections, less risk of anemia, and no infusion times. It is possible that oral ganciclovir will be most effective when used with the ganciclovir implant, or in between intravenous ganciclovir inductions. One study at Baylor is investigating the affect of oral ganciclovir when used in combination with the ganciclovir implant. Other national studies are currently assessing the use of different doses of oral ganciclovir.

Ganciclovir Implants

One way to get past the problems with intravenous infusions and oral uptake is to get the drug directly into the eye through localized therapy. Injections of ganciclovir or foscarnet directly into the eye have been performed for some time, but their usefulness is limited because the injections are required twice a week for 2-3 weeks and then weekly. These weekly injections can lead to infections in the eye or retinal detachments (a separation of the retinal layer from the inside of the eye).

A better way to place the medication into the eye is to use it in a time-release device. Chiron Vision has developed such a device and in fact, the FDA recently approved the use of ganciclovir in an implant for the treatment of CMV retinitis. (Marketing clearance was granted March 5 for Vitrasert, manufactured by Chiron Vision. The implant will be marketed and co-promoted by Chiron and

Roche Laboratories, maker of Cytovene).

Chiron's study found that the implant slowed retinitis progression for an average of 194 days compared to 72 days for patients receiving intravenous ganciclovir, and 15 days for eyes with no treatment. The implant, though a great advance, may demonstrate many drawbacks as more experience is obtained.

The implants, for example, will not work in all patients probably due to ganciclovir resistant cytomegalovirus. Second, there may be early relapses if the implant runs out of the drug earlier than expected. Other concerns regarding the implant is that a surgical procedure in an operating room is necessary to place this implant in the eye. This procedure may also increase the rates of retinal detachments by disturbing the inside of the eye. Chiron's study did show a number of these retinal detachments to occur and although CMV retinitis can frequently cause retinal detachments by itself, this concern is still valid.

The surgery can also cause slight vision blurring that persists for several weeks after the surgery because of swelling or bleeding. But the major issue with the use of ganciclovir implant is the question of whether local therapy alone is enough to control CMV in other parts of the body. The Chiron study demonstrated that 11% of patients with implants developed CMV in other parts of the body such as the gastrointestinal tract and lungs. Therefore, Chiron and the FDA warned that people receiving the implant should have concurrent intravenous or oral treatment. This systemic treatment can be intravenous ganciclovir, foscarnet or the oral ganciclovir. But if systemic therapy is needed to control the possibility of extraocular infections, then you may think, what is the point to the implant? It's main advantage is that the quality of life is clearly better with local treatment, and if the oral ganciclovir is found to be effective in conjunction with the implant, then this will be an excellent option.

Isis 2922 and Cidofovir Eye Injections

ISIS Pharmaceuticals has developed another intraocular drug which has been named ISIS 2922. GILEAD Pharmaceuticals has also been investigating the use of Cidofovir intraocularly as opposed to only intravenously. ISIS 2922 is interesting because it controls the CMV retinitis differently from the other medications and it is injected into the eye once a week for the first three weeks and then every other week thereafter. This decreases the frequency of the intravitreal injections and reduces the negative side effects. Recently, it has been found to be effective with less risk of resistance. This medication is not a candidate for systemic therapy because of the compound's cost and instability in the blood stream. It is still too early to tell if this medication will be a better alternative in the eye than the oral ganciclovir or cidofovir.

GILEAD has recently been investigating the use of Cidofovir injections into the eye. Early studies using this medication have revealed that one injection of a tiny amount of the cidofovir will last about six weeks with no evidence of CMV retinitis progression noted. In fact, the patient who has been treated the longest with this intraocular injection has had only ten injections amounting to sixty weeks of effective treatment.

(Continued on Page 30)

White House: teens at risk

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, March 5 (AP)—Teen-agers are contracting the AIDS virus at an average of more than one an hour, and the White House again urged the nation Tuesday to teach them how to protect themselves.

But to some disappointed young people, the report and its media fanfare were just more government talk and no action.

"This report isn't really doing something for youth," said Lam Duckim, 24, of Washington, who has the HIV virus. "There is a need for accountability."

Between 40,000 and 80,000 Americans become infected with the AIDS virus each year, and one in four is a teenager. Based on those sobering statistics, President Clinton asked the White House Office of AIDS Policy to talk to young people to find solutions.

The office's report echoes what many scientists and AIDS activists have said for years: Strong AIDS education is a must for children, so that if they later have sex or experiment with drugs, they know how to protect themselves.

"Kids are dying because adults are arguing about what to tell them about AIDS," said Miguel Bustos, 25, of San Francisco. He was asked to help write the report because as a teen, he organized student AIDS education.

"Teach the children. That's our message," he said.

Most American school systems provide some AIDS education. But many systems' policies prohibit discussion of sexual intercourse, homosexuality, bisexuality and condom use, the report said.

Conservative groups have criticized AIDS awareness campaigns. They contend advising teens that condoms can prevent HIV infection condones teen-age sexual activity. Similarly, they charge that some education programs promote homosexuality by and condone drug use by discussing AIDS prevention techniques.

The White House report said: "Discussion of the facts concerning such matters is not inconsistent with also encouraging abstinence or delayed sexual activity."

It recommended that young people with HIV be used in campaigns to tell their peers how to protect themselves, because teens often tune out adults.

But while the White House report mentioned homosexuality, it never recommended how to reach gay teens, criticized the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center. The center said 63 percent of AIDS cases among men under 25 are due to unsafe sex with other men.

"However well intended, the report's recommendations ... turn a blind eye to gay and bisexual youth," said center director Lorri Jean.

And young people in the audience when the report was issued had some tough questions: Will the White House ensure that states follow the report's recommendations? Will it force school systems to provide condom education and discuss homosexuality? Or provide money for student-run peer-education programs?

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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Hospitals and Heroes

So here I am, once again, in the hospital. I'm undergoing all those tests that I hate. They started today at 4:30 a.m.; it's now late Tuesday night and they haven't stopped.

I suppose if I knew for sure that they could find out what was wrong, I wouldn't mind being here. At this point, I'm not sure which would be worse: being told that they've found something seriously wrong with me...or that they still don't know what's wrong.

I do like this hospital (Park Plaza). It is very clean, the food is good and the employees are nice. And you all know how I feel about nice people! I've also been fortunate enough to be visited by some of the wonderful people I know.

Even though I haven't yet been diagnosed with anything major, I often wonder how I would react if/when it should happen. I haven't thought much about it, but I imagine I wouldn't be feeling this cheery. At times like this, I can't help but think about others who are in an even worse situation. So many of our friends who are in hospitals and nursing homes have lost so much freedom and so many of life's little pleasures due of this illness.

That is why I am always pushing volunteerism—in this case, not just fundraising, but actually going to visit people in hospitals and hospices. I know first hand that isolation such as theirs can be overwhelming. After a person has been stuck in

bed a few days, frustration sets in. And unless he or she has a lot of friends, loneliness sets in. Imagine being stuck in bed, surrounded by machines. Imagine seeing the sun from your window, but never being able to feel it. Imagine the despair of being forgotten by all your friends as they go on leading their busy lives.

As a hospital volunteer, you could make the difference. You would go in, say hi, and visit a few minutes. Perhaps they need something that you could bring them (most men would love toiletries such as a mirror, shaving cream, razor, toothpaste and brush, and perhaps a roll of mints or package of gum). I knew someone years ago who pre-packaged these items for hospital visits; after introducing himself, he would give them to the patients. He said the look on their faces was very inspiring.

Don't let misplaced guilt (because you're healthy and they aren't) hold you back from making this special commitment. Just your presence, your smile, and your friendly greeting can make such a positive difference. You could be someone's hero today.

On a side note, I'd like to thank Ray Downing, Stan Brewer, Mary Parker and Kathy Sinclair for coming to visit me. These are some of the kindest people I know, and they are always there when I need them. I'd also like to thank my HIV support group, the Bering Wednesday Night Support Group, for all of the support and help they have given me personally. I love them very much.

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A Change of Heart

When Jan used to tell me she loved me with all her heart, it made me happy. That was before I understood what limited heart capacity she had, or how deceiving lion-hearted emotions can be.

We found out this week that all her "symptoms of stress" were really a heart attack. Jan had a heart attack. It's still hard to believe. I'm not old enough to be married to someone with a heart attack! Jan is too young to have had a heart attack. But she did have it, and she has the ranting and snorting nicotine withdrawal, bundles of new low-cholesterol diet handouts and bushels of prescriptions to prove it.

Being married to a nurse is sometimes the best deterrent to seeking medical checkups. According to some, checkups lead to procedures which inspire treatments which include therapeutic modalities, which, depending upon what specific field your nurse practices, can lead to recounting—in gory, graphic detail—what could go wrong. And having been the long-time, supportive, sympathetic ear to your nurse/partner about arrogant, self-styled "M.Deities" who disrespect nurses and patients and specialize in "wallet biopsies" could give the doctor's fairy godmother pause.

Being unemployed and uninsured (and declined by your partner's insur-

ance carrier as a dependent) also contributes to "patient noncompliance" in obtaining scheduled preventative (or even emergency) care...as does limited transportation, inadequate child care and an inordinate attachment to deep-fried cuisine and cigarettes.

Under compressed circumstances of home-buying (when you really can't afford one); child adoption (when you really didn't expect one); legal/medical/emotional crises of adult children (that you though really were adult); and trying as hard as you can to ignore the pain, the most searing, crushing, despairing anguish that you think you surely will not survive, it is easy to give it all up to "stress."

And go light a cigarette, and allow the tensions to waft away as delicately as the smoke.

And that's what she did.

And that's why her heart stopped.

And that's why I'm so preoccupied this week with her heart, and why, when she says, "I love you with all my heart," I am happy. I am happy for whatever part of her heart is still functional, and well and loving.

And no, as much as I also love her, I will not, not, NOT ever allow her even one puff of smoke. And I WILL make sure she goes back to the doctor. (After all, as a nurse, I'm in the know about all the good ones).

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HOUSTON VOICE

NEWS NOTES

Compiled by Mark Henry

Georgia Sodomy Law Upheld

Georgia's sodomy law was upheld this week in a case involving the misdemeanor conviction of L. Chris Christiansen. Christiansen, whose conviction stemmed from seeking oral sex from a sheriff's deputy, was placed on one year probation and fined \$500. He appealed to the State Supreme Court on grounds that Georgia's constitution protects him and all adults from prosecution for private, consensual and non-commercial sodomy based on the provisions guaranteeing the right to privacy and free expression. The State Supreme Court ruled that the sodomy law is legitimate to state power in order to protect "the moral welfare of the public." In 1986, the US Supreme Court said, in a landmark ruling, that Georgia's sodomy law did not violate federal privacy rights.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Update

A permit allowing the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization to march one and a half hours prior to the city's big St. Patrick's Day parade this Saturday was rejected, prompting the group to seek an order from a federal judge to grant a permit for the separate parade. Citing that the New York police can only handle one parade at a time, assistant chief Allan Hoehl rejected the request. In court testimony, Hoehl informed the judge that officers will be "too busy controlling unruly, drunken youths to handle two parades." In a controversial ruling last year, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that parade organizers can exclude people who don't agree with their message, hence barring the gay and lesbian group from participating in the parade. At press time, a decision has not been forthcoming.

Coffee/Suicide Study

A new study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine suggest that individuals who drink two or more cups of coffee a day are less likely to commit suicide or be involved in fatal car accidents. "We found it hard to believe," said Dr. Ichiro Kawachi of Harvard Medical School who set out to disprove the aforementioned theory after an earlier, albeit less extensive, study suggested the same. The study reveals that individuals who drink two to three cups during the course of a day were 70% less likely to commit suicide than non-drinkers and that 46% were less inclined to die in a car crash. Kawachi believes that the reductions stem from caffeine's effects on alertness and mood and that individuals who contemplate suicide tend to avoid coffee precisely because it might interact with anti-depressant drugs they may be taking. "We are not saying that depressed people should start drinking coffee as an alternative to established treatments. Our hypothesis is that in healthy people caffeine prevents the onset of depression," stressed Kawachi.

Einstein Rediscovered

An autographed copy of Albert Einstein's 72 page theory of relativity opus, written in 1912, was recently discovered. It is believed to be the earliest surviving Einstein document concerning relativity and is his longest one on the subject. Included in the document are different forms of the famed $E=mc^2$ equations. The manuscript will go on the auction block March 16 at Sotheby's, New York.

Navy Officer Ousted

Seattle federal judge Thomas Zilly upheld the dismissal of Navy Lt. Richard Watson saying that "it is well established that the armed forces may prohibit homosexual conduct." Zilly also indicated that Watson has made "statements manifesting an intent or propensity" towards engaging in homosexual conduct.

Business/Media Capsule

The British government affirmed its ban on homosexuals in the armed forces last week. Officials cited polls indicating that was the choice of four-fifths of military personnel as the reason for keeping current policy. ... Citing poor sales resulting from a government-imposed tariff of 25% on imported trucks, Mitsubishi Motors said that they will be the first Japanese auto-maker to pull out of the U.S. pickup truck market, in a statement issued this week. ... Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC.) became the oldest Congressional member in the history of the US last week. Thurmond, 93, is running for re-election. ... Struggling retail giant K-Mart will unveil their own private label credit card in 11 markets, including Houston, on March 22 in an effort to encourage repeat customers through credit lines and special perks. ... Mountain Dew, the soft drink of choice amongst younger skewing adults, will debut a new spokesperson, tennis ace Andre Agassi, in new ads slated to premier this week. ... Louisiana is now the only state with a drinking age under 21. Citing age discrimination, the state Supreme Court struck down laws passed in 1985 and 1995 making it illegal for anyone under 21 to buy, or be sold, liquor. The minimum age reverts to 18. ... A suit filed by former workers who claim they had been injured by fumes at the facility known as Area 51, a secret air base near Las Vegas, was dismissed by a federal judge because of the potential for "significant harm to national security." ... The highly touted and much anticipated Pippin TV console which purportedly allows consumers to use their TVs to play video games and surf the Internet is expected to hit U.S. stores late this year. The device, currently available in Japan, was designed by Apple Computers and is expected to cost approximately \$600. ... Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was bestowed an honorary doctoral degree from Brigham Young University last week.

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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Dual Reflections

A note to my readers: two weeks ago, I composed a column of critical, yet constructive, analysis concerning ongoing activities of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC). The tumult that ensued was, shall we say, less than civil and targeted toward the wrong individuals. I would like to stress that my column, *The Outsider*, is a forum for me to express my views as a gay conservative. The views expressed in my column are not necessarily the views of the *Houston Voice* or its respective staff or proprietors. In fact, I can assure you that is the case 90% of the time.

To their credit, the *Houston Voice*, amidst criticism of lacking a conservative voice, offered me the column after I expressed an interest in providing that balance and I might add that I do so without benefit of remuneration simply because I have strong convictions about my beliefs. The argument, as some have raised, that the *Voice* does not have a balance to my column is ridiculous. Indeed, the editor has tried to seek a weekly liberal columnist to run opposite my column for months to no avail. I would welcome the chance to exchange views with a liberal counterpart on a weekly basis. Our community is as diverse as any other minority community and for anyone to suggest otherwise is simply naive. It is imperative that we as a community are able to discuss our differences of opinion in a mature and civilized manner.

Interestingly, none of the respondents submitted their dismay to the voice in written form, which would have provided them an opportunity to express their side of the issue. Indeed, the column purposely ran in that issue so that respondents would have been able to express their views on the matter prior to the primaries. The tepid response raises more questions that it answers. Perhaps some points raised in my column were right on target and they felt that by responding it would only increase community scrutiny of their organization. Or maybe, the individuals who disagreed with my analysis didn't deem my opinions worthy of a response; which, if true, would prove my point that the caucus does not want to represent the entire community as they espouse, but rather, only those who subscribe to a particular political ideology. Regardless, if anyone has a point of contention with respect to one of my columns; they should contact me (at the *Voice*), and I will gladly return their call to discuss the matter with them. The only respondent who extended me that courtesy was Annise Parker, and I would like to thank her personally for that proper display of decorum. My point is that if we as a community cannot openly debate the differences of opinion within our community, than we will never be able to unify in order to achieve the rights that all of us (liberal, conservative, etc) are trying to obtain.

Finally, I would like to make a retraction with respect to a point I raised in that column. It has been brought to my attention that any donation to any candidate under \$50 is not a matter of public record.

This week's "Super Tuesday" primary results are quite fascinating at a glance; however, since I have not, at press time, given the results proper circumspection, I will not provide analysis of the local results until next week. On a national level, the outcome appears to be drawing to a close. Bob Dole will more than likely be the Republican nominee if Steve Forbes withdraws from the race as he indicated he would do if he did not have an impressive showing in next weeks industrial state primaries. If that becomes the scenario, Bob Dole will coast to victory as the Republican candidate to compete with Bill Clinton. If Steve Forbes does do well next week and stays in the race, the Dole campaign will suffer some setbacks. Dole does not have enough money to compete with Forbes in California and has nearly spent all of the Federal Election Committee's (FEC) limit of \$37 million for primary expenditures. Dole would have to risk raising the ire of the electorate and pay fines if he were to exceed that limit, which he would ultimately have to do with Forbes in the playing field.

Unlike Pat Buchanan, Steve Forbes does not want to be known as a spoiler in the Republican apparatus. He wants to be taken seriously and wants the issues of economic growth, hope and opportunity to be included in the Republican platform. Dole, an astute career politician, will more than likely incorporate those views and I wouldn't be surprised that Forbes will campaign for him in the spirit of unity if he indeed drops out of the race.

Unlike Steve Forbes, Pat Buchanan has decided he does want to be a spoiler and will continue his charade all the way to the convention. There is no way Pat Buchanan will get the GOP nomination. Buchanan is fully aware that Dole will be the probable nominee and his intention to stay in the race is based on fear mongering and self promotion. Buchanan's support in the party hovers around 25%. Dole would be wise to try to bring some of those voters into his fold if he wants the big prize this November. I am not suggesting that Dole should pander to Buchanan's followers and start spewing the rhetorical meanderings of Mr. Buchanan. Rather, I am suggesting that Bob Dole needs to address that constituency and let them know why Buchanan's archaic policies will not benefit them or the country and he needs to do so convincingly. If Bob Dole really wants to be the last president of the 21st century, then he needs to clearly explain to the American people why we should bestow that privilege upon him. I would suggest that Bob Dole should sit down with Steve Forbes, Jack Kemp, William Bennett, Lamar Alexander and a host of other party strategists and define a clear message of what his vision for the future of America will be. Once he defines that vision, he should present it to the electorate with a fervor and never waiver from his convictions. That is the only way that Bob Dole can beat one of the best politicians (this is in no way a compliment) in the arena today, Bill Clinton.

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Musical theater goes back to the good ol' days

Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

You gotta love happy stories with wonderful, gushing happy endings. Stories just like *The Music Man*. This delightful, timelessly charming musical is brightening the Music Hall stage in a revival production from Theatre Under the Stars.

This is classic Broadway musical fare—light, funny, whimsical, touching and so thoroughly, unabashedly happy. The simple story line is all about Professor Harold Hill (John Schneider), who arrives in River City, a Norman Rockwell paradise, with the intention of taking the entire town for a ride. Hill rouses the townsfolk with fast talk about a boys' marching band and the elixir-like effect it will have on their hamlet, which, he tells them, is already skirting the edge of sin, lawlessness and anarchy with the arrival of a new pool table.

The whole town gets carried away with the idea and orders (and money) for the instruments and uniforms start finding their way into Hill's pockets. But not everyone is taken by Hill. Mayor Shinn (Charles Krohn) doesn't like outsiders telling him how to run his town, and besides he owns the pool hall, and Marian (Lee Merrill), the town librarian, is skeptical as well. Hill makes romantic suggestions to Marian; but they are promptly rebuffed, and Marian makes plain her intention to do a little background checking on Hill.

But Hill's magic captures the town, and Marian, though she learns the truth about him, is unable to bring herself to end the happiness and excitement which have taken over the town. More importantly, Hill and Marian have fallen in love with each other, and in the end, love, of course, wins out over all.

Keeping in mind that composer/lyricist/librettist Meredith Wilson was only looking for fun-filled diversionary entertainment, "*The Music Man*" is as good as the genre gets. It is loaded with sure-fire, crowd-pleasing bits: an adorable tyke with a lisp who overcomes his shyness and starts to talk; a de facto barber shop quartet which is formed when the members of the River City school board are tricked into some impromptu harmonizing by Hill; a gaggle of gossipy town matrons led by the blow-hard pretensions of the mayor's wife, all of whom are won over to the idea of the band when Hill insists that they form the Ladies' Dance Committee; a giddily happy, strong-willed mother; and most importantly some of the best choreography you're likely to see on a stage and some of the best, most toe-tapping tunes you're likely to hear.

The musical score is strong and unfettered and filled with rousing, pounding numbers that sweep you right out of your seat. With the show-stopping and well-known "76 Trombones," the music and the choreography fuse together in a seamless presentation. No less rousing is "Trouble," in which Hill first warns the good denizens of River City of the dangers that might befall them without the benefit of a marching band, and "Wells Fargo Wagon" with Winthrop (Kyle Bain), the little boy with the lisp (who by the way is Marian's little brother) leading the citizens in a warm welcome for the train that bears the instruments.

Lovely choreography is also evident in the silliness of "Shipoopi," which has the older children getting caught up in the band mayhem, in "Marian the Librarian," which has Hill expressing his feel-

ings for Marian while she is at work and the library is filled with students, and in the "It's You" reprise with graceful, balletic movements serving as indicators of blooming love.

Other enjoyable melodies include: "Pickalittle," in which the mayor's wife and her cronies relish in gossip about Marian; "My White Knight" with Marian's golden voice singing a romantic lament; "Iowa Stubborn," which introduces the folks of River City; "Gary, Indiana," for which Winthrop takes center stage; and of course the enchanting sweetness of "Goodnight My Someone."

And then there's that fantastic harmonizing. "Sincere," "It's You," "Goodnight Ladies" and "Lida Rose" are all showcases for the incomparable harmony of Neal Booth, Bob Hodge, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Tom Wilkie who are the "Seattle Sound," a nationally known, professional barber shop quartet based in Seattle, and they give the production its smoothest most melodious moments.

The acting led by John Schneider and Lee Merrill is top-notch. Schneider has just a touch of sly smirking that is perfect for the good-hearted con man, while Merrill Lee, with her dreamy, heart-touched voice is marvelous as the stern and loving Marian.



Lee Merrill and John Schneider in "*The Music Man*"

Charles Krohn has all the appropriate bluster and blunder as the put-upon Mayor Shinn, and Laura Kenny is a comic delight as his corpulent wife. Diane Tobola is a bundle of effervescent laughs as Mrs. Paroo, Marian and Winthrop's mother, and Kyle Bain does a great job as the lisping Winthrop.

Stephen Terrell's directing is light and friendly. His staging is sound and uncluttered, and he does the wisest thing possible—lets the music carry the story. Michael Tapley's choreography is superb. Each movement is matched to the music which accompanies it, and Tapley did well in accentuating the strengths of the chorus line, while concealing its small (but still noticeable) deficiencies.

"*The Music Man*" is musical theater from another time. No deep meaning, no social message, no cutting-edge artistic line. This is just a grand old time at the theater.

What: *The Music Man*

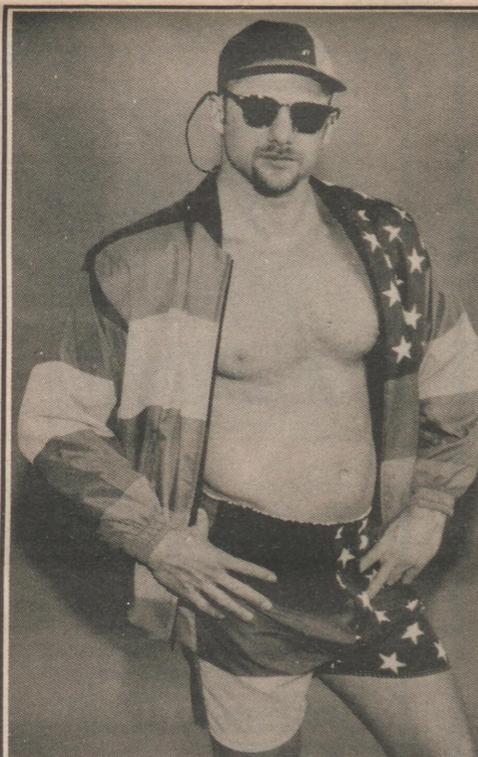
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The Voice Reader

Had Your Privacy Invaded Lately? Read On...

By T.C. STEEL
Houston Voice/Houston

When I was a young chirp attending college, I wrote what I considered the world's definitive research paper, entitled "Writers and ethics: agents of liberty." My haughty thesis held that when writers, (especially members of the Fourth Estate), go about abusing the peoples Right to Know, they hurt us all—philosophically speaking. The paper got an "A," which I proudly flaunted to my less-deeply-thinking fellow students, all because I had bothered to invoke a little-known ethical theory called the Logical Correlativity of Rights and Duties (Aka, your right to swing your arm ends where another's nose begins), and had spouted various profundities by moral greats such as John Stewart Mills and Immanuel Kant, and had even distinguished between such moral theoretical subtleties as "right-based" morality and so forth. I was even more proud of my paper (a windy thing which exceeded 20 pages) because the prof who'd donned it with that high grade was herself a teacher of graduate students of Ethics. Surely, thought I, she knew the topic well enough to recognize valid ethical arguing when she read it.

I don't write definitive research papers anymore, and I've since learned that there's more to the subject I selected than a whole university of sophomores are likely to ever understand (or care about). And, as it turned out, the subject is better debated by scholars who relish the chance to show off their expertise on the subject, anyway.

But the research I dug up while in the throes of academic pursuit gave me an abiding appreciation for how morals shape our lives and how, especially, morals frame laws. One could even argue that, without a moral code, civilization might be bound together by little more than whimsical and arbitrary notions of "right" and "wrong." Our society isn't, though sometimes certain laws make it seem otherwise.

This seems almost the overall point being made in *The Right to Privacy* by legal eagles Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy.

This 330-page hardbound edition, released last November by Alfred A. Knopf, provides an excellent map for anyone trying to understand the complex legal concepts involved with Constitutional and tort law as they apply to the issue of privacy, its invasion, and how statutory and constitutional

law often conflict as legal combatants and scholars struggle toward resolutions.

For ease of reading, the book is broken into five section beginning with "Privacy v. Law Enforcement" and ending with "Privacy in the Workplace," written throughout for the lay person to understand without insulting his intelligence.

Perhaps most compelling of those sections is "Privacy v. The Press" which offers an explanation of how, in 1890, privacy common law got on the books to begin with and how, in the 1960's, it was broken into four basic types: Intrusion, Private Facts, False Light, and Appropriation. The authors have liberally sprinkled each section with excellent case law examples, (in case you're curious enough to research the cases yourself at the local law library,) and provided vivid law cases to illustrate each of the four types.

As well, there are excellent examples of the various "tests" which each type of tort must meet in order for a plaintiff to be able to prove his claim which, of itself, makes for intriguing reading. Did you know, for example, that in 1994, the Texas Supreme Court discontinued ruling on "False Light" cases, since defamation torts already existed in Texas to protect against that form of privacy invasion? Or that in the state of New York, you'd stand a better chance of winning an invasion of privacy case based on "Appropriation," since statutes there don't recognize the other three forms?

Nevertheless, because the issue of how the media has taken it upon themselves to safeguard our liberties of free speech—or so they would say—and how the consequences of this vigilance can translate into invasion, this section of *The Right to Privacy* should be a must-read for anyone in the media or considering becoming one of those grating tell-all talk-show hosts.

And while there is a fundamental civil right granted to the press to inform the people of newsworthy events, yet, according to *The Logical Correlativity of Rights and Duties*, it is also true that First Amendment watchdogs ought be morally bound to exercise that freedom only to the extent that it does not genuinely negate their subjects' right to be left alone.

One could, of course, argue these things for days, as academics and impressionable second-year undergrads are wont to do, but one would do better to avoid such argument until after he's read *The Right To Privacy*—in the privacy of his home, naturally.

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PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

Pink Triangles; Same-Sex Marriage

When did American gays and lesbians first wear pink triangles as a political statement?

The pink triangle, originally a cloth patch the Nazis forced homosexual men to wear in German concentration camps, is now the most prominent symbol of the gay and lesbian community in America.

The Holocaust was a repeated metaphor in gay and lesbian rhetoric in the decades following the Second World War, with early gay rights organizations consciously comparing American homophobia to that of Nazi Germany, and 1970 gay liberationists screaming "genocide!" at psychologists who advocated aversion therapy for homosexuality.

But the pink triangle was not widely worn as a political statement until 1975, when the emblem was chosen as the symbol of the campaign by gay and straight New Yorkers to pass a city-wide ban on anti-gay discrimination. Ira Glasser, a heterosexual Jew who now serves as executive director of the ACLU, led a coalition of groups which lobbied the city council. He wrote an impassioned and frequently reprinted op-ed piece in the *New York Times* which evoked the memory of the Danish King wearing a yellow star in solidarity with the besieged Jewish citizens of his country (this never happened, by the way). Glasser went on to point out that the Nazis killed nearly a quarter million homosexuals (an exaggeration by at least a power of ten), who were forced to wear pink triangles. Glasser then urged that gay and straight New Yorkers wear pink triangles in solidarity with the gay civil rights bill.

The use of the pink triangle spread to other political campaigns, particularly those against Anita Bryant's '70s crusade to "save our children" from gays and lesbians. Most of Bryant's battles were fought in Florida, and activists there made a conscious decision to highlight the pink triangle as their symbol in an attempt to win Florida's large Jewish vote by an appeal to shared persecution in the Nazi era.

In the late 1980s, ACT UP inverted the pink triangle and combined it with the Holocaust-conscious slogan "Silence = Death" to create one of the most powerful visual symbols of the fight against AIDS and the social conditions that allowed it to spread.

Any cursory glance at a gay newspaper or parade reveals the central place of the pink triangle as a community symbol. There is a "Triangle Inn" catering to gays vacationing in Palm Springs; gift shops in gay neighborhoods sell "Pinky," a plush pink triangle with arms, legs, and eyes; and "Pride Personal Lubricant" features a large pink triangle on its label—all of which demonstrate just how far the symbol has come from its original meaning.

If Hawaii's Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage, will other states

have to recognize gay and lesbian couples who were married in the Aloha State?

Not necessarily. The "Full Faith and Credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution does require that states recognize the "public acts, records, and judicial proceedings" of the other states. In cases regarding divergent state laws on issues such as easy divorce or interracial marriage, the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that states must recognize each other's marriages and divorces.

However, same-sex marriage represents untested waters. Already, legislators in several states are moving to bar their state governments from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states. While any such rule would seem to violate the Full Faith and Credit clause, our current Supreme Court has given mixed signals on gay and lesbian issues. A majority to overturn a state ban on same-sex marriage is by no means assured.

But even if the courts require states to recognize same-sex marriages performed in Hawaii, there is ample precedent for the federal government to stop Hawaii from approving of such marriages in the first place. Perhaps the best example of the federal government interfering in the unusual marriage practices of a given state is Utah, which was not admitted as a state until the Mormon church banned polygamy and the state wrote a Constitution which codified that ban.

The ultimate trump card held by the opponents of gay marriage, however, is a constitutional amendment. Already the idea of an amendment which limits marriage to opposite-sex couples is circulating among right-wing publications and politicians. While the hurdles to a constitutional amendment are high—a two-thirds majority in each house of Congress, plus a majority of 38 state legislatures—many opponents of same-sex marriage think a constitutional amendment could pass. Surveys of the American public have consistently shown only scant support for extending marriage to same-sex couples, and many politicians (including President Clinton) who support other gay rights issues balk at this one.

Nonetheless, any "lag time" between the expected approval of same-sex marriages in Hawaii later this year and the inevitable backlash may be a valuable opportunity for the gay and lesbian movement to educate the public about gay couples, as the media will undoubtedly focus on the unprecedented spectacle of women who are legally married to other women in the United States, and wedding vows with the force of law that now pronounce a couple "husband and husband."

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

The *Houston Voice* welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point commentaries for our opinion/editorial pages. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in articles we have already run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and clarity. The views expressed in guest commentaries and letters to the editor published in the *Houston Voice* are those of the writers. We seek to provide a broad-based forum which reflects the varying points of view of our rich and diverse community. Selection for publication is at our discretion. Send articles to: The *Houston Voice*, Attn.: Editor, 811 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713-529-9531.

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Planning vs. panic

Wealth Builder

By MICHAEL LOCKE

For the *Houston Voice*

Editor's Note: the following guest commentary introduces a new monthly feature column, which will focus on financial issues of interest to our community.

In my opinion, it hurts not to be fiscally fit. Many of us in the gay and lesbian community are of the belief that by magic, important financial matters will fall into place. These matters consist of wills, life insurance, debt reduction, goal setting and retirement planning. The hurt of it all is that we are motivated by panic, more times than not. How many of us have seen terminally ill partners, family and friends scrounge around for medical benefits, life insurance and 401K accumulations for the sake of survival? This desperate attempt to create stability is born too late. What follows is an indignant lifestyle dished out by a cruel and busy society.

Panic also strikes when one is unemployed. Being jobless is a terrible place to be; being jobless with no means of support is tragic. At this corridor of panic, we raid our bank accounts, life insurance policies, 401K plans and cash in the savings bonds. This is only if we are lucky enough to have created those financial vehicles. There are many who sit hopelessly at the kitchen table in despair, wishing they had more fortune in their misfortune.

Overwhelming debt also produces panic. How many of us have been too busy to create a budget and live by it? Frequently I see a generation of gays and lesbians with the attitude of spend now and deal with it later. The later part is what is painful in the long run. By not making a conscious effort to create a fiscally fit lifestyle, another way of life is formed, and it is

not a successful one.

Through my financial planning experiences, I am no longer surprised at the reasons people give for not taking care of their financial affairs. I've heard them all! "I have no time, no money and no need." "I'll get to it one day." In the long run, all of the reasons that are so casually given become bitter reminders of what it means to not have a sense of urgency for such important matters.

As we begin our journey into the 21st century, it is necessary to understand that as a sophisticated community, we are responsible for creating wealth, creating a lifestyle and a program that enjoins it.

The responsibility for creating all those things comes with the understanding of knowing how painful it is to live from paycheck to paycheck, not accomplishing the goals one has set, or being left in a place of panic. That responsibility also comes with the understanding of how joyful life can be with financial abundance that is created through careful planning and goal setting.

The road to financial success consists of the following stepping stones: (1) goal setting; (2) the "Six Basics"—life insurance, emergency fund, disability insurance, major medical insurance, checking account buffer, retirement funds; (3) budgeting; and (4) financial inventory.

In the weeks to come, we will discuss in detail each of these stepping stones.

Avoid the hurt: be responsible for your financial life. Understand that what you do today will affect your tomorrow.

(Michael Locke is a financial planner with Locke, Albert, Profit & Lea. If you have any questions, you may contact him at 964-6799.)

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ASK THE PASTOR

Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "What defines a denomination? Some people refer to Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Community Church as a non-denominational church, but it seems that the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) of which Maranatha is a part, has certain teachings, etc., that we adhere to. What is needed to be a denomination? Is UFMCC a denomination? A: A denomination is the categorizing of a group or class of things based on their commonality. That can be any common denominator. For most religious groups it is a set of doctrines or beliefs that the affiliated churches embrace. UFMCC came into being out of the need to provide affirmation of God's love to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Most mainline churches and many non-denominational churches were turning our people away. We had no church home. In October 1968 Rev. Troy Perry opened his home to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people who were Christians seeking a place to worship God just as they were. Rev. Troy heard God say, "I don't have any step-children. Re-read your Bible!" Being assured of God's love, Rev. Troy took the first step with this gathering. Not knowing the ramifications of this gesture, word traveled fast and soon others were inquiring about doing the same thing in their own cities. After many groups were formed around the United States it was decided that they needed to network together and stay connected. From this small home group meeting came the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches. The UFMCC went on to write bylaws and a statement of faith. The Fellowship also embraced the need for ALL people to find a place of welcome and acceptance since Jesus died for "whosoever would believe in Him." The Fellowship adopted the policy of "Inclusivity" which states that we see God as both male and female, not male alone. It also states that we believe that the patriarchal system has propagated oppression of minorities, especially women and people of color. We try and address the "isms" of society in order to keep from excluding anyone from true worship with God. The Fellowship makes a deliberate effort to use language that reflects inclusion of everyone. Instead of the male gender being dominant in our readings, we inclusify to include all of humanity. In other words we would say instead of, "If any man be in Christ..." it would read, "If any one be in Christ..."

UFMCC has opened its doors to everyone. Every Metropolitan Church has a wonderful mixture of people from many different backgrounds. You might say that it is "interdenominational" in nature. What makes UFMCC a denomination is our commonality. We have a special outreach to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people but yet are welcoming of all. We have a policy of inclusivity in our language and in our structure (physical and liturgical). We have a statement of faith that is very generic in that it is very basic. We make a statement about the Bible, God as our Parent, Jesus the Son of God and the Holy Spirit. It allows for great variation as long as each church keeps the "main thing" (Jesus) the "main thing." For instance, you may go to a church that feels like a "Southern Baptist" church in its format and style, but without any exclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. If you go to another city, you may feel like you are in a Lutheran church in some of our services. Generally our services have a mixture of the different denominations in order to give everyone some sense of connected to their religious roots.

Maranatha Fellowship MCC is charismatic in its style of worship. We have praise and worship with the clapping of hands, arms lifted high, some on their knees. It is an atmosphere of free expression to God. We are open to allow the gifts of the Spirit to operate in our service such as prophecy, healing, tongues, etc. Our communion service is very much like the Presbyterians, yet it is held every Sunday like the Catholics. We have an altar call like the Baptists. We sing traditional hymns during offertory and communion. In all of our variations we are still connected to UFMCC and are a part of this denomination. The beauty of this denomination is the room for flexibility in expression of worship to God.

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

CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 3/15

- * "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 - 3/16

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

SUNDAY - 3/17

- * First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30am and 11:30am. 5200 Fannin at Southmore. 526-5200.
- * Lent 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.
- * Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) worship services. 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 - 3/18

- * 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 - 3/19

- * 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.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
- * "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 pm for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

WEDNESDAY - 3/20

- * Lenten Scriptures for Gay/Lesbian Christians, 7:30 pm. Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview, 522-8182.
- * MCCR: "Icons of Hair, Dress and Weight" Lecture on dressing to attract by Shirley Basy. 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 - 3/21

- * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

If you would like an event listed in the **Church Calendar**, please call the Houston Voice @ 529-8490

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Community Calendar

(Continued from Page 2)

Tuesday, March 19

- * 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.
- * Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 529-6979.
- * Dating and Mating: Erotic choices in safer sex. 7:00 p.m. Call 524-2374.
- * Chat and Chew at Gentry. 7:00 p.m.
- * Treatment Advocacy for People Living with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Pedro Diaz. 6:00 p.m. Call 626-2837.

Wednesday, March 20

- * 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.
- * Toopie's Coffee Bar has "Activity

- Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 522-7662.
- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
- * HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.
- * 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 861-9149.
 - * Houston Area Bears Dine Out. 7:00 p.m. at Lucky Village. Call 867-9123.
 - * OutVote meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 522-9837.
 - * Greg Louganis signs books at Crossroads Market. 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0147.
- ## Thursday, March 21
- * 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.
- * Safer Sex for Lesbians at Ms. B's 9:30 p.m. Call 666-3464.
- * 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.
- * Planning For People With HIV seminar at 6:00 p.m. Call 981-9595.

Night in Black Leather II Saturday

"Night in Black Leather II," benefiting the Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund, will take place Saturday, March 16 at the Venture-N. The event has a dual purpose, according to producer/organizer Don Gill: to raise funds for the LVL Holiday fund and to lay a foundation of cooperation among community social groups, leather clubs and fundraising organizations. "We wanted to bring Houston a leather show that also had something for everyone in the community," said Gill.

Members of several community groups are helping with the event, including the Garden Party, Miss Camp America, the Imperial Court of the Single Star, F.I.S.T. and the King and Queen of Olympus, said Gill, who promised a "total evening of entertainment." The program starts at 9:30 p.m. and features live singers, impersonators, fantasies and a fashion show by Leather By Boots. There is also a raffle (\$1 per ticket) with "fantastic prizes," according to Gill.

Special guests for the evening include David Walker, Mr. International Drummer; J.D. Buchert, Mr. International Fantasy; John Benavides, Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer, and co-emcee Larry Arbo. Don Dowden and Regina Dane are the entertainment directors. Organizers hope to host the "Night in Black Leather" annually to benefit a different community charity each year. Last year's event raised \$5,600 for Soiree Aubergine.

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HOUSTON VOICE
Personals



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Sounds by Sam

Willie...but Not Really

Okay, honesty in journalism is quite a rarity, but here is an article that will admit the most to you, the reader. When I first received the *Twisted Willie* CD in the mail from Justice Records, I was mortified. I was praying to God it was just as a nice gesture and that I could discard it and no one will notice...I was wrong. It really is no secret, I really hate Willie Nelson, not as a person, but from a musical standpoint. Willie fans, please bare with me as I try to attack this from an optimistic, musical standpoint.

Twisted Willie is the latest release from Justice in which various artists collaborate, here to sing their favorite Willie Nelson songs. I think the first thing that is good (you'll only need one hand for this count) is the extensive booklet that accompanies the CD. It contains the artist of each song, the words to the song (enough torment already!) what they liked about Willie; what they liked about the song they chose, pictures of the recording session, some other memorable fillers and a few technical notes.

Starting the train ride is Johnny Cash with "Time of the Preacher." No one else but Johnny has the voice for a song about a broken hearted preacher. The song is okay, but the electric guitar that was added is a terrible mess—off beat, off note, off sync, and just a plain turn-off. If you liked the Willie version, you probably will only respect the song. After all, it IS Johnny Cash. "Three Days" by L7 with Waylon Jennings is pretty cool. Its electric has good timing. The song, again, nothing like the original, which makes it very enjoyable to listen to. Warning: very typical L7 contained; beware of loud screeching of violent white women.

Tenderloin (in all its tattooed glory) attacks "Shotgun Willie" with enthusiasm and energy. It's a nonstop ride of the musical indoor roller coaster. Combining everything from electric guitar to a washboard, harmonicas, and an acoustic guitar, the song takes a sudden slow turn to give you a distant, lazy, funky sound in which you have no choice but to envision Shotgun Willie sittin' "around in his underwear." "Bloody Mary Morning" by Supersuckers is also a high energy sound. Willie Nelson actually does the solo guitar and some backup vocal work (guess the real guitarist couldn't measure up). In any case, it's a pretty intense song, despite a distant whining sound in the back (AKA Willie Nelson).

Mark Lanegan does a pretty awesome job in his rendition of "She's Not For You." His voice is passionate, so you can almost see his voice come through the microphone, to the CD and take over your soul (that's just his voice). The song is a great adaptation and is quite moving. On the opposite side of the emotional spectrum, Presidents of the United States of America play "Devil in a Sleepin' Bag" with such an upbeat, and the weirdness the Presidents are quite known for. It's only a two minute song, but in that, you really the best of the warts on the butt of mankind.

"I've Seen all This World I Care to See" is presented in such a deep package, you may not get it the first time. Jerry Cantrell did a great job of turning this song into an enjoyable heavy metal ballad. It is sweet, but somewhat depressing, and very emotional, even on a superficial level. The Best Kissers in the World try their luck at "Pick up the Tempo." TBKITW is one of those mainstream bands that don't have a top ten wonder, but are very talented, and I hope we hear more from them. Even though their music is very alternative, it's original, which is always refreshing.

Jello Biafra with Life after Life sings to "Still is Still Moving to Me" in a very Jello-ish fashion. It's a pretty weird rendition. Unless you like White Zombie or the Rollins Band and actually like Willie Nelson, I would stay away from this track. Waylon Jennings wailing "I Never Cared for You" lacks depth that the words were meant for. He was singing it like it was a piece from "The Ten Commandments on Broadway" which really doesn't work. His voice is sincere, though (stick with the children songs).

The Reverend Horton Heat singing "Hello Walls" was doing pretty well, until Willie came up behind you and started singing, which depressed me during the rest of the 3 minutes left. Gas Huffer played "I Gotta Get Drunk" in a classic 'swing-that-gal and drink it down' sound. "The Ghost" sang by Steel Pole Bath Tub is about as Willie Nelson as you can get without him actually butting his voice into the song. It's very alliterative but also very Willie. I enjoyed listening to it, it was pretty catchy. SPBT creates a whole new depression level, and drags the song with it. Not since *Free Willie* has the sound of wailing been so moving and stirring.

Jesse Dayton sings "Sad Songs and Waltzes." This is a cool song, because the voice evokes the distant strains of a record playing, whereas the instrumentation is near and clear. It's a pretty good sad song, but a lousy waltz. "Home Motel" by X is by far some of their tamest work...but very X. It's a catchy little tune (in a Pearl Jam kind of way), comparable to their WILD GIFT CD. Kelly Deal with Kris Kristofferson ends the train ride with "Angel Flying too Close to the Ground." I'm not quite sure what a sewing machine has to do with anything, but the constant sound of one is dominating the song (I only say sewing machine because that is what's pictured in the Willie Bible, uh, I mean booklet).

By far, this CD is about as alternative as you can get, which is a coy marketing scheme, even for old Willie. I you are a Willie fan, though, I'm sorry. This CD will chop up all previous visions you had of the great one (should I make a joke now?). If you don't like Green Day, Smashing Pumpkins, etc., etc., then you won't much care for the electric guitar of the talented alternative artists that set the groundwork for those bands to make it. I guess it's a whole symbolic thing.

In any case, I have decided to keep the CD, and perhaps even listen to it occasionally. I give it a 6 because it contains Willie, and Willie lyrics, but the bright bands participating were able to make even Willie's music tolerable.

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.

Strong performances, so-so script in *subUrbia*

Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston voice/Houston

Genius is not required to conclude that a large portion of America's youth is disillusioned. (Hell, a walk down lower Westheimer on any day of the week will tell you that!) As such, Eric Bogosian's *subUrbia*, a dark comedy of youth adrift in a suburban sea, is hardly insightful, though the playwright does draw some interesting characters whose individual takes-on-life are themselves a disillusioning testament to the youngest members of the so-called Generation X.

There are five of them—without ambition, without commitment, without a life to speak of. Each is readily identifiable: Jeff (Travis Amons) is a cynical, soul-searching malcontent given to whining in pseudo-philosophical platitudes about the multitude of wrongs with the world and society; Buff (Randy Sparks) is a mentally unlabored chowder-head, whose reflections are generally limited to partying and pizza; Tim (Christopher McDowell) is an embittered, cynical, rudderless, Air Force veteran, with a log-sized chip on his shoulder, who deliberately cut off his own finger to receive a disability pension; Sooze (Crystal Calderoni) is a hopeful, dreaming, aspiring artist who recognizes that dreams don't come true unless you pursue them; and Bee-Bee (Rachel Ollagnon) is a disaffected and disconnected performance artist puppy, yearning for attention and making emotional attachments based on fleeting encounters.

These five unremarkable child-adults (they're in their early 20s) spend the greater part of their existence in the parking lot of a neighborhood convenience store much to the chagrin of the Pakistani proprietor, Norman (Greg Van Rozenburg). Confrontations with Norman are common, and where Tim is involved, become violent, with weapons brandished.

Nevertheless, the convenience store remains the focal point for the five. There, they mill, idling away the one thing they have aplenty—time. On this one evening though, the group is anticipating the arrival of a friend from high school.

Pony (Adrian Walter) was by no means popular in high school, not even with this group of erstwhile friends. He returns to his old stomping grounds, however, as a rising folk/pop music star, complete with a limo and a record company publicist, Erica (Anne Quackenbush).

Pony brings a refreshing tranquility to the directionless energy that permeates the group. His soothing countenance and unpretentious success are noticed, admired, envied, loathed. Pony's arrival underscores for the five friends the possibility of achievement and the reality of inertia: While Erica proves more than a match for the belligerent Tim, the others agree to go for a limo ride, except for Bee-Bee, who, unnoticed by the others, has slipped away.

Bogosian does more than well enough in creating characters who are representative of the street-wise drifters that are now an expected feature of most any urban landscape. However, his story is as directionless as his characters. Deliberate perhaps, but no less unappealing as theater. The plot developments are completely unoriginal; the

attempt at a surprise twist is sadly inadequate; and the tragic conclusion is woefully predictable. Moreover, the play owes much to a 1983 film of the same name, which actually painted a much bleaker environment—abandoned houses—to which the young people had fled. But it lacks the strident and seething apathy and antipathy towards and for everything that made the film so grippingly effective.

Bogosian does draw one interesting literary connection between characters. Pony plays samples of his music, and in defending his artistic bent, lists the things which compel him to compose, and they are the same things which Jeff so passionately decries. In a different but no less literary vein, Erica is an unrepentant party kind of woman—to these kids, an alluring personification of the glitter and glamour life.

Director Ed Muth does fine with the work but for one glaring exception. As performed here, Buff is one gigantic helping of comic relief. The characterization is funny to be sure, and it is somewhat reminiscent of the Sean Penn character in the movie "Fast Times at Ridgmont High," but a very little of this moronic humor goes a very long way, and long before the first act is over, Buff's cartoon-stereotyped stupidity has become trite and annoying.

The cast does quite well, by and large. Travis Amons as Jeff finds himself in a role to which he seems oddly suited. With large gestures for emphasis and exaggeration, Amons presents an underachieving Jeff, clearly intelligent but without a shred of courage or motivation. Christopher McDowell does equally well as the angry, young Tim. McDowell's performance bristles with tension; he's dynamite. Anne Quackenbush makes a red-hot Erica. She has a mocking, roguish enticement—a sexual powerhouse.

It is Rachel Ollagnon, though, who is the real stand-out in this cast. Her portrayal is riveting. Through Ollagnon, Bee-Bee's tortured existence is exceptionally realized: an oddly street-savvy naive; a sexually tempting innocence; beaming child-like happiness; girlish mischief; foghorn melodramatic street performing; wrenching realization; and quiet devastation. Ollagnon's performance is unequaled this year by a Houston artist.

The remainder of the cast are fine but not worthy of elaboration. The sets by Rodolphe N. Zarka and John Delulio are conceptually excellent and theatrically ideal. Thomas Fowlkes' lighting design and Travis Amons' sound design were also good.

subUrbia is a trying, falsely intense piece of theater, but the shortcomings of the play or more than compensated by some outstanding performances.

What: *subUrbia*

Where: Theater LaB Houston

When: Fridays, Saturdays through April 13



(Clockwise from bottom left) Travis Amons, Rachel Ollagnon, Crystal Calderoni, Christopher McDowell and Randy Sparks in "subUrbia"



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Stacy of Bering and Bob of Soiree Aubergine

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

Soiree Aubergine has concluded their fund raising schedule for this year! In excess of \$35,000 was raised bringing the five-year total to over \$150,000! Way cool! All this money goes directly to the Bering Care Center's Meals Program! This year Soiree Aubergine received a congressional certificate of recognition from senator Gene Green!

Friday, March 15

J.R.'s and the Houston Press present another romance event tonight. Enjoy a relaxing atmosphere and soothing contemporary music as you write a free 40-word Houston Press romance ad. You will also receive two free passes to the Laff Stop. Be sure to register to win a weekend get-away for two courtesy of Travel Heights Services or a tropical arrangement from Floral Events. There will be scrumptious hors d'oeuvres from Houston's newest Italian eatery, Crostini. The "Spring Fever" is from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The line-up tonight at Cousin's is: Miss Zack, Erica Lane, Sivi Ross and Michele! The curtain goes up at 11:00 p.m.

Mr. International Drummer, David Walker, will be guest bartending in the topline bar tonight at the Venture N!!

Saturday, March 16

A "Night in Black Leather II" hits the stage of the Venture-N tonight. This is a Don Gill production benefiting the Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday fund and is done in memory of Gary Batcheller. Special guests are Mr. International Drummer David Walker, Mr. International Fantasy J.D. Buchert, and Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer John Benavides. My favorite, Larry Arbo, will MC with Don Gill. Special appearances by Christopher Graham, Don Woods, Shelby St. John, Andrew Flores, Houston City Limits, Oscar Paredes, Jan Lee, Mark Fraizer, Tom Steele, and the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star.



John, new bartender at the BRB

David Haynes will be signing for the hearing impaired. Entertainment directors are Regina Dane and Don Dowden. There will be a fashion show from Leather by Boots, a raffle, and more! See you there and you better buy a raffle ticket from me!

Tara Dion referees the talent contest tonight at E/J's. Maybe you have an act you would like to try out, or you are just a wanna be drag queen that needs a place to start, E/J's is the place. The winner from tonight's contest will also perform in the super Tuesday show with Catia Lee Love. Show time is 11:00 p.m.

J.R.'s Bar and Grill offers happy hour until 10:00 p.m. tonight featuring \$1 off all top shelf liquor and hot male dancers from 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Head out to the "paddy-o" and enjoy green frozen margaritas for only \$1.75 all night long!

Military Man-uervers march on Pacific Street tonight! The men from National Leather Association:Houston are guest bartending this party tonight! Wear your army green! There will be military buzz cuts done by a hunky ex-marine, temporary tattoos by Tom of Finland and a boot black. There is no cover if you are in exotic leather or uniforms. The doors open at 9:00 p.m.

Marlene and the staff of Chances invite you to stop in tonight for some green beer and the sultry sounds of Sheila Lennon! Come on, Erin go bra-less!

The Brotherhood of Pain will be doing a demo tonight on the patio of the Ripcord. Exploring the SM lifestyle might make you realize how to make your most erotic fantasies or SM fantasies come true! Don't be shy! These fantasies arise in all of us sometimes. This is a chance to learn how to make them come true, safely and erotically. Everything from the tame to the seeminly chilling will be discussed, and you can learn how to use some of the latest erotic fantasy paraphernalia! The demo starts at 10:00 p.m.

On stage tonight at Cousin's are: Miss Zack, Crystal Rae Lee Love, Kara Dion, and Frankie Lane! Show time is 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 17

Lucky leprechauns leap lasciviously on the stage at Gentry tonight starting at 5:00 p.m. Be sure to take advantage of the \$2 Kool-Aid shots and Jameson Irish! Last, but not least, the male strip contest starts at 11:00 p.m.

Come in and get lucky tonight at Pacific Street! The doors open at 7:00 p.m. There will be a balloon drop and the balloons are stuffed with lottery tickets! Maybe you will get lucky!

Manly men meet at the Ripcord. Get magically delicious! Enjoy \$1.50 Irish whiskey tonight, \$1.50 well drinks, and domestic longnecks all night long!

A salute to the candidates, "Along the Hard Road, But Well Worth It," hits the stage of the Brazos River Bottom tonight. The 7:30 p.m. show stars Shelby St. John and Eddie Taylor and will benefit the Lady Victoria Lust's PWA Holiday Fund. Go early and have a steak on the patio from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

If music is your religion, let Heaven be your sanctuary. Res-Erection Sundays at Heaven can be a religious experience! Services begin at 7:00 p.m. with 50¢ well drinks from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., \$1.50 domestic longnecks and frozen margaritas, and \$3.50

Absolut vodka cocktails offered all night long! If you have not been to Heaven in awhile, stop in and hang out with Houston's coolest people in Heaven's new Lava Room!

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star and Grand Duke Wong and Grand Duchess, Fancy proudly present the Umpteenth Annual St. Patrick's Day show tonight at Chances! "Fancy's Salute to Chicago," another House of Nyland production, will drag you from Mrs. O'Leary's cow to O'Hare airport! This is a benefit for the Q-Patrol! Special guest star, Lynette Louise, will keep you rolling on the floor laughing! See you at Chances at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday's at Cousin's feature the talents of Kara Dion, Barbara Seville, Victoria Nicole, and Miss Zack! Show time is 11:00 p.m.

I wonder if the BriarPatch will be serving green martinis tonight? Stop in and find out!

The patio of the Montrose Mining Company is full of trash music, hot men and cold beer! There are incredibly low priced beer and Rita specials that run all night long!

There is a benefit for one of Houston's most loved female impersonators tonight at E/J's. Paivi Lee Love needs a little of our help right now. The benefit show starts at 9:00 p.m.

Mela's Tejano Country is having a free St. Patrick's Day Bar-B-Que today. Mela's Tejano Country is located at 1016 W. 19th. Call 880-1770 for directions to this NEW bar!

The patio of Mary's is a delightful place to spend your Sunday afternoon. Take a wander to the out back and rest nestled under a big tree, or just bring a book and read!

Monday, March 18

It is boxer short night at the Ripcord. Check out which bartender has the biggest box in his boxers!

The domestic longnecks are only \$2 tonight at Gentry. The boy toys dance tonight starting at 9:00 p.m.

Work out, lay out, or just hang out at Club Houston. The lockers are only \$5.50 tonight

Tuesday, March 19

Famous lesbian comedian, direct from HBO's "Women Aloud," Georgia Ragsdale will be appearing at the Laff Stop tonight! Tickets are still available (at press time) but hurry, 'cuz they are going to go fast! Georgia is co-starring with Margot Kidder in the soon to be released film "Never Met Picasso." Call the Laff Stop at 524-2333!

Check out Mr. Pisces 1996 tonight at J.R.'s Bar and Grill. The strip finals start at 11:00 p.m. and the birthday celebration goes all night!

Ladies, AK's Berry Hill II has hot female dancers tonight. Head up 45 north, exit Greens Rd. and look for the AABC Appliance store. The Hill is right next door! Happy hour runs from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. tonight and every night!

Half-price night at



Monte of Chances

the Club Houston! A locker is only \$5.50 and a room is \$8. It is time to shed those winter pounds!

Learn to dance Brazos River Bottom style tonight starting at 9:30 p.m. The dance lessons are free and the domestic longnecks are \$1.75 all day and all night!

There once was a little bar fly named Cuervolyn. She liked to drink Jose Cuervo! She went to Mary's, naturally on Tuesday to find that Jose Cuervo is only \$2 per shot! "I like this" exclaimed Cuervolyn as she threw down a ten dollar bill! "I'll have five... to start" and well, you know the rest of the story!

Wednesday, March 20

The New 611 Hyde Park Pub celebrates their 12th anniversary tonight with 25¢ draft beer, \$1 well cocktails, and a luscious anniversary buffet! The party runs 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Congrats to Dennis and the staff for providing Montrose a delightful place to eat, drink and be merry!

Wild Wednesdays at Gentry showcase the Boy Toys at 7:00 p.m. and a wicked male strip contest at 11:00 p.m.

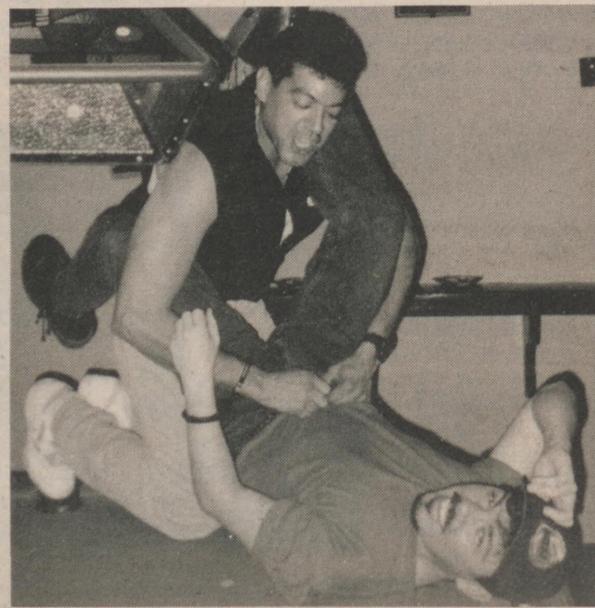
Domestic longnecks are only \$1.75 all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom! Scoot down and have a cold one!

The Venture-N offers \$1 domestic longnecks all day and all night this and every Wednesday!

Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis will be at Crossroads Market tonight at 7:00 p.m. He will be signing copies of his book, "Breaking the Surface." Crossroads Market is located at 610 W. Alabama. Their phone number is 942-0147.

Mela's Tejano Country has a really cool beer special tonight! You get a bucket of beer for \$9. What a deal! Mela's is a BYOB bar with a great juke box, large dance floor, and 3 pool tables!

Men! Music! The Mine!



Mondo of the Outpost plays with Rabbitt!

Dirt, Lies, and Trash. ...OH MY!



Mumsy and Daddy Dan celebrate 14 years!

Thursday, March 21

OK all you north side guys, AK's Berry Hill II offers up hot male dancers tonight. You can cool off with happy hour prices until 10:00 p.m.

Marilyn "Lolita" Marks hosts south of the border night tonight at E/J's. The stage is graced with the talents of Wendy Chicago, Rochelle Stevens, Susan Maser, and Jessica Van Shelton! Show time is 11:00 p.m.

\$3 Skyvodka martinis are on the menu tonight at Gentry. You will need 'em, 'cuz the Boy Toys steam up starting at 9:00 p.m.

Free C&W dance lessons tonight, 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom! The domestic longnecks and well cocktails are only \$1.75 all day and all night! The Brazos River Bottom: your Montrose country home!

Steak night returns to the 611 Hyde Park Pub. The grill is glowing from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and features a huge hunk of beef, a baker, and a salad! The weather is so wonderful, and the patio of the 611 is great for having dinner al fresco!

Other Important Stuff

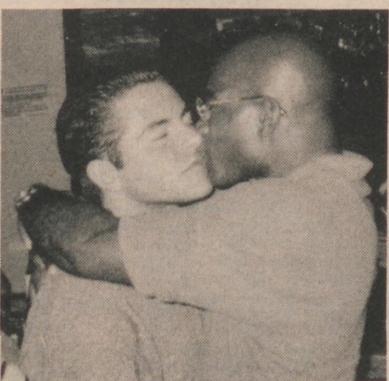
Jerry Halliday returns to Houston, at J.R.'s Bar and Grill, with his big, bad broads on March 26th. Jerry is an outrageous puppeteer impressionist direct from Las Vegas. I caught his act last time he was in Houston and it was a scream.

Remember this date! March 24 at Heaven. Celebrate the release of "Unlimited Hits," a compilation of the dance hits of Two Unlimited. There will be rare concert footage, and you could win CD's, cassettes, posters, and more!

The 2nd annual city wide bartenders show will be at Cousin's on March 24 at 8:00 p.m.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Take it Deep," and "Secret Fantasies."

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



Kiss me again!!!

"The only difference between us and the animals is our ability to accessorize!" Head to Basic Brothers! They have tons and tons of really cool accessories!

The Mr. Gay Pride All American contest will be at Pacific Street on March 24. Call 522-1626 to get more details.

Doing any traveling? Start off at Lobo and get a Damron Address Book '96, the Women's Traveler '96, the Damron

Accommodations-Premier Edition (U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean), or a Ferrari Guide! Lobo doesn't want you to get lost in this big bad world!

Hubbard Financial can help you get thru the trauma of tax time! Call 526-6588 to set up your appointment!

Taft Street Auto has very competitive prices and is located at 1411 Taft St. Call 526-3723.

Birthday and Anniversary Corner

A happy birthday to Glenn K. of NLA:H!

A happy (bark, woof, woof) 4-year anniversary to Steve and Michael of NLA:H! Love ya guys!

A happy (warm and fuzzy bear hug) birthday to Houston Area Bears Malcolm W. and Vern P. Belated warm and fuzzies to Edward P., David D., John B., and John V. also of the Houston Area Bears!

A happy (I'll pour you a Mary's cocktail) birthday to Meg of Mary's.

A happy (AHHHHHHH-HOOOOOOOO) birthday to Buffy of the WolfPack!

A happy (I need to get laid) birthday to Papa Del, owner of Gentry!

A happy (I do it like a bunny) birthday to Rabbitt!

A happy (I'm a party animal) birthday to Lloyd of Pacific Street!

Rodent Droppings

Disclaimer! Disclaimer! Do I really need to go into detail?

Well, the rodent invasion at the Houston Voice office continues: I'm gonna have to bring my little rats in to get their nails clipped! Hopefully Rocky (the squirrel) will be here too! Rocky has a new daddy. Real estate tycoon Bob Ryan will be adopting Rocky in a few weeks! We'd better get visitation rights!

I dumped Harvey and Ratrat's litter box out and this is what fell out!

Greg (Hangs at Gentry): And I quote, "Just how dark am I?"

Ed Manson (Ripcord): Yes, dear it is your turn now!

Keith (Lazy J): Honey, you are a somebody, not a nobody!

Overheard at Gentry: "I have to have bubbles in my drink!"

Lee Brown (Ripcord): Viva Las Vegas!

Gaye (Mary's): What's wrong, honey, did you miss the landing pad with your broomstick or were you just in need of some firewood?

Ken (BBHOL): Really, it was you that knocked over the tree in the Mary's parking lot! Trying to back out after being there all day!

Butchy (HAB): What is this I hear about you and a horse's tail? And the bit did not give it away, which makes you a city boy!

Mike (NLA:H): What is the Order of Flying Crosses? Can anyone join or is there criteria involved?

Jeff (HAB): Don't ask Mike and Dean (NLA:H) about the Order of the Flying Cross. You really don't want to know! Be afraid, be very afraid and very nervous!

Jim (Venture-N): What did you do to the video camera and wiring at the bar? Been doing some private, off location shooting again? And why did you have trouble finding your underwear last Monday Morning?

Orlin (NLA:H): Yes, you were at LUEY! Yes, you got the ice for the cocktail party! Yes, you were on the patio of Mary's, the BRB, Gentry, yes, yes, yes! There are photos to prove this!

David Walker (Mr. Drummer): I hear you lost a bright blue pair of thong undies (large) and a jock strap (medium) in Houston! Look out! Someone may do your dirty laundry in public!

Crystal Rae Lee Love: Since when do you need an escort to the bathroom in a bar? I hear he picked you up and carried you down the stairs! Did he shake it off, too?

Ruby Stone: I hear you really got in the swing of things during LUEY weekend, especially when it came to pinning! Jim would warm them up and you would go "down" for the kill! Imperial tag team pinning, is this a new sport?

Boots Adams: Was that cute little piglet you were running around Montrose last night's trick or this morning's breakfast? This really puts a new meaning to "bringing home the bacon!"

John (Venture-N): I understand that your mother sends spandex to dress Henry and the twins!

Helga Copenhagen (J.R.'s): The "West Coast Tour" huh? I never saw you on the Price is Right!

Barry (Vanna): Long nails, short nails, make up your mind... do you want to be a little boy or a little girl?

Barbara (Hangs at Gentry): Between Agnes, Gertrude, Gladys, Fluffy, Tuffy, and Muffy we could almost be a basketball team!

Victoria Nicole (Cousin's): So, you finally got all the words right on your last performance of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds!" You, go, girl!

Bud and Curly (Hangs at the BRB): A message: "See, we know how to print, too!" Don't ask me what it means, I have not a clue!

JT (PS): Or should I just refer to you as JT with the 10?"

Bob, Dorothy, Reno, and Alex (J.R.'s): Golf is supposed to be an enjoyable sport, not a wet one!

Tequila Rose: and I quote: "Buy me a gown, give me a crown!"

Dean (NLA:H): So, you are going to be a grandfather in October!

Shirley (Leather by Boots): So his Imperial Majesty, Emperor XII has given you a new name! Joyce XII! My, oh, my!



What, me worry?

John Dye (Colt 45's): Do you still have my bubble machine? And sorry I missed you Friday!

Gary (J.R.'s): What is the blue book value of a borrowed Lexus?

Kyle (BRB): Judy (BRB) said when you heard your husband found a job your hair stood up on end... again!

LuLu (E/J's): It is not a pinched nerve, it is Taminitus!

Reid (J.R.'s): When you pull an all-nighter, call your husband earlier! "Oh my God!"

Judy (BRB): Only you could get your truck stuck in the Mary's parking lot! It is paved!

Papa Del (Gentry): How come when I asked you "How's tricks" your reply was "Haven't had any"?

Bill Havard (BRB): One of your employees gave me a note for you! It says "We love our jobs! Guess Who?" And the reason that Vera's pour counts are bad is she has carpal tunnel syndrome in her wrists (aka nelly wrists) after all those years slinging drinks! PS, she has it in her tongue, too!

Kip (Formerly of PS): A message from LuLu(E/J's): "Take care of our friend in St. Louis! We will miss you!"

Miss A (BRB): Vera (BRB) said that when you guys were together that you were the top because you were the one that could spin!

Bear (Hangs on any bar stool he can): And I quote "I never lived in a bigger apartment with less space."

Barbara (Chances): Is it true? Did you really moon Montrose? And, we are going to miss you pretty face behind the bar!

J.D. LaRue (RSICSS): I hear you just can't keep those tits of yours off the bar!

Sam (Mary's): Who is Mr. Friendly? Have a great week!

TTFN!

Cuervolyn



Tara Dion and Cameron perform at E/J's

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Marlboro model, actor dies

SAN FRANCISCO, Thursday, March 7 (AP)—Christian Haren, who appeared in print ads as the Marlboro Man and later educated young people about AIDS, has died.

Haren, diagnosed with AIDS in 1985, died Feb. 27. He was 61.

After leaving the Army in 1954, Haren received a studio contract with MGM Studios. He appeared in several films, including "In Harm's Way"

with John Wayne.

He also worked on Broadway in the Tony Richardson production of Bertolt Brecht's "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui."

In the early '60s, Haren appeared in print ads as a model for Marlboro cigarettes and Budweiser beer. He later owned several businesses, including a Guerneville chocolate store and the CC

Construction Co., a famous gay bar in Palm Springs.

Since he contracted AIDS, Haren educated young people about the disease and its prevention.

New York police seek man in gay bar holdups

NEW YORK, Thursday, March 7 (AP)—An armed bandit has held up 11 gay bars in Manhattan and Queens since last summer and is still at large, police said.

Even the legendary Stonewall

bar in Greenwich Village was not spared, said Officer Doram Tamari, a police spokesperson.

The robber—described as a short white man in his 40s—typi-

cally enters the bars in the afternoon when only the bartender and few clients are there.

Wearing a knit cap and brandishing a handgun, the bandit demands money from the cash reg-

ister, then orders the bartender to the rear of the bar before fleeing, Tamari said Wednesday.

The robbery spree began at the Keller Bar on West Street on July 15, 1995, Tamari said. Since then,

the gunman has struck nine more times in Manhattan and once in Queens.

The latest robbery was reported Monday at the Bridge Bar on East 60th Street.

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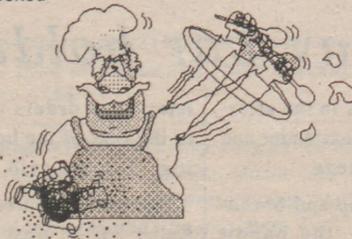
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HOUSTON VOICE - (713) 529-8490 (Issue 803)

RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Hi! This recipe is one I forgot I had, or I would have given it to you early this winter. Since our nights are still cool, it is one that you could still prepare. It's not one I would like to fix in the middle to the summer. Give it a try, and if you like, you will have it for next winter.

Stuffed Acorn Squash

- 1 acorn squash, cut in half, seeds removed, cooked
- 2 Tbs. margarine
- 1/2 med. onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 inch cube fresh ginger, minced
- 3 med. mushrooms, chopped
- 1 tsp. soy sauce or tamari
- 1/2 Tbs. (1-1/2 tsp.) dried basil
- finely ground black pepper to taste
- 1 egg beaten
- 2/3 C. sharp cheddar cheese, grated



To cook squash: Place cut side down in pan with 1 inch of water covering bottom. Bake at 350 degrees 40-50 minutes, until soft. Or cook in microwave: Place squash halves, cut side down, in glass baking dish; cover dish and microwave on high power 8-10 minutes. (If plastic wrap is used as cover, remove it carefully to avoid steam burns.) Scoop squash into medium mixing bowl and mash; reserve shells.

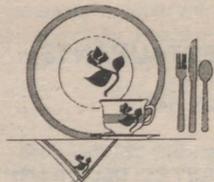
Melt margarine in medium skillet. Sauté onion and garlic over medium heat until onion is translucent. Add ginger, mushrooms and soy sauce. Cook covered until mushrooms are soft.

Combine mashed squash and onion mixture. Add basil, pepper, beaten egg and grated cheese; mix well. Fill reserved squash shells and place in baking dish. Bake 20 minutes at 325 degrees (or microwave on high 6-8 minutes). Serves 2 as a main course.

For those of us that are watching our fat intake, here are a few substitutions you can use. Spray skillet with non-stick spray. Use 2 Tbs. diet margarine, low-sodium soy sauce and low-fat cheese. With the rest of these ingredients, you won't miss the high-fat ingredients.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



The Great American Puzzle

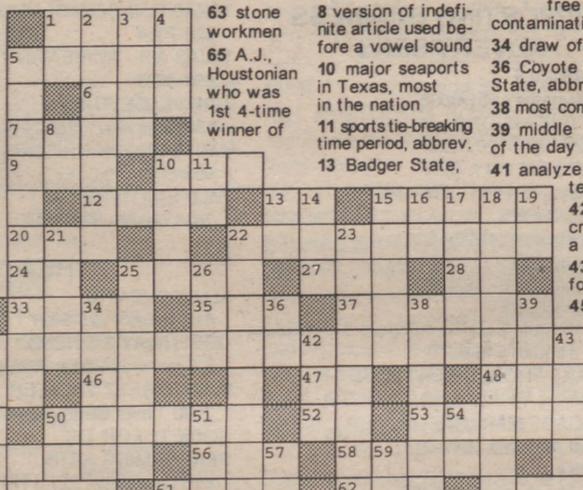
TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 Roman numeral 1950
- 5 a clamp
- 6 time zone of Calif. during daylight savings, abbrev.
- 7 Borden county seat; sounds the same as 'gale'
- 9 cable TV variety channel
- 10 clever person

- 12 death notice
- 13 singer Houston or actor Holden, initials
- 15 large bowl
- 20 Land of Lincoln state, abbrev.
- 22 acting with disrespect
- 24 Centennial State, abbrev.
- 25 UT-Austin's long-horn mascot's name
- 27 bunch of people named Bo
- 28 Silver State, abbrev.
- 29 twists out of shape
- 33 honor
- 35 relating to it
- 37 milk protein used to make plastics
- 40 the letter U phonetically
- 41 official Texas state stone, 2 words
- 44 old British silver coin
- 46 16th U.S. president Lincoln, assassinated, initials ("A house divided against itself cannot stand.")
- 47 Land of Lin-



- 48 fictional TV newsperson Grant 49 deviate
- 50 1996 will be San Antonio's 105th annual celebration of this
- 52 20th century American author Hemingway, initials ("So far, about morals, I know only that what is moral is what you feel good after and what is immoral is what you feel bad after.")
- 53 W. African republic with capital Accra
- 55 repeal, cancel
- 56 abbrev. for an entity formed into a legal body
- 58 millions of registered voters in Texas
- 60 appliance company
- 61 Roman numeral 2550
- 62 fish eggs

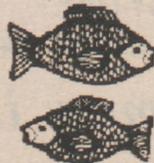
- 63 stone workmen
- 65 A.J., Houstonian who was 1st 4-time winner of
- 67 verb suffix, cause to be
- 68 additional things, abbrev.
- 70 vase-shaped jug
- 72 Ivy League university
- 73 cereal grass grown for grain
- DOWN
- 1 title of respect for a man
- 2 state building dedicated 1888, built of local, donated pink granite
- 3 Roman numeral 1450
- 4 allow
- 5 thickly forested area in East Texas, 2 words

- 8 version of indefinite article used before a vowel sound
- 10 major seaports in Texas, most in the nation
- 11 sports tie-breaking time period, abbrev.
- 13 Badger State,
- 14 ???-nob, to associate on friendly terms
- 15 of the base
- 16 positioned
- 17 tendon
- 18 not violated
- 19 Ga. GOP congressman Gingrich, initials
- 21 an oaf
- 22 things politicians look for when out on the road, 3 words
- 23 Burt Lancaster's 1982 movie filmed partly in Houston, 2 words
- 25 heated to the point of bubbling
- 26 Roman numeral 7
- 30 an affirmative vote, one spelling version
- 31 floor covering
- 32 more free of
- 34 draw off
- 36 Coyote State, abbrev.
- 38 most complacent
- 39 middle of the day
- 41 analyze a sentence
- 42 pastry crust & a filling
- 43 two-fold
- 45 Beaver
- 49 deviate
- 50 fe ??
- 51 actor Conway or singer Tiny
- 54 Playboy publisher Hefner, initials
- 57 Texas county with Henrietta as seat
- 59 of an electrically-charged particle
- 61 abbrev. for both (depending on the case of the 1st letter) a million watts & a thousandth of a watt
- 64 made of steel
- 65 ?? fi fo fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman
- 69 tall woody plant
- 71 armed fighting between nations
- Solution elsewhere this issue c.1996 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX169

GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15 - 21, 1996



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Let the lessons of your past experiences guide you to any practical applications of your ideas for the future. It's time to review your job, relationships and financial commitments, to see how they match up with your future life goals. Make plans to change whatever isn't working.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) You both look and feel good; your high energy and upbeat attitude is catching on with others. Take advantage of your appeal to make gains in your

personal and professional life. It's a great time to improve relationships.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Make it a point of accomplishing those things that have been on your to-do list. There will be great personal power for you. A certain amount of stress will no doubt accompany your busy schedule; lashing out at family members will get you nowhere.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Romance is in the air, and that warm glow from you and your lover will get you through any unpleasant situations in the workplace. Get chores and errands out of the way, creating extra quality time to spend with family and friends.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You might fall in love, so take extra care with who you shower your affections on. It's time to consult a financial planner on any longterm investments you've been considering. Your intuition about money is right on target. Avoid criticism.

LEO (July 24 - August 23) This entire month will be quite busy for you, both at home and at work. You are getting closer and closer to personal and career goals, so remember those who have helped you achieve what you want. Be supportive of family members, especially children.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Help out wherever you can this week, but make sure to avoid any manipulators, all those efforts should go to a worthwhile cause. There may be an extra cash flow just in time for weekend fun you have planned. Enjoy any break from your usual routine and have fun.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) You are ready to conquer all obstacles in your way, just make sure not to hurt anyone. You're likely to find kindred spirits to further career and social plans. Major home repairs may be very necessary. It isn't such a bad idea to spend some time alone.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) This week will both begin and end on a high note. You are in tune with your sweetheart and everything seems to be running smoothly. You can move closer to your goals, with a possible new business partnership in the offing. Sign that new contract.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) You may need to get away from your hectic routine and be alone with your thoughts. It's a great time to travel. Be confident of successes in any business dealings. Avoid unpleasant financial surprises by going over bank statements for any discrepancies.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) A friend challenges you to break out of your shell and promote yourself for advancement. You've nothing to lose, and will be happier in the long run. Time spent with someone close can make your day. The world is filled with dreamers and doers, be a doer.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) Very prominent people will want your opinion, so be very careful how you word any responses. It is hard to avoid confrontation with those around you, so it's better to remain silent than drawn into unnecessary arguments. Someone close may turn on you.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) Career advancement is effortless, so pursue your cherished goals. Co-workers will welcome your ideas. Keep your cool in family situations which may be getting out of hand. There may be a difference of opinion, causing distance between you and someone close to you. Be fair.

Personal Instructions

TO PLACE A HOUSTON VOICE PERSONAL AD --

Come to our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. It's a good idea to write out (up to fifty words) what you want to say. The annual cost is only \$29.95 -- less than one dollar per week. (6months-\$17.50 and 3 months-\$10) At the office you will be given the functioning details. Ads can also be placed by mail, with payment enclosed, phone 713-529-8490; for details.

TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD:

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

TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE - Call

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

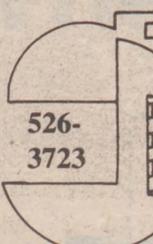
TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL: Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and

seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address place. Place your sealed response and \$2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will affix a mailing label and the intended person will receive your response. This service costs \$2.00 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with the Houston Voice Personals.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: To place a Houston Voice personal ad you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personals by calling the special 800 toll-free number. You must record, in your voice, your Ad. If you do not participate in the voice aspect, your ad may be discontinued without reimbursement. The voice message can be as simple as "You read the ad, leave a message" to complex and informative. The ads, both print and voice, can not contain references to sexual acts or organs (FCC et al. regulations). If you are having difficulty recording your message, phone 1-800-780-4947, for assistance. Ads should be positive, describe what you want, undesirable qualities/characteristics need not be listed.

G - Gay, M - male; F - female;
W - white; B - black;
H - hispanic, A - asian,
HWP - height, weight, proportionate,
DDF - disease, drug free

Taft Street Auto Repair & Service



526-3723

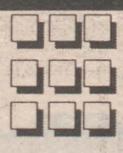
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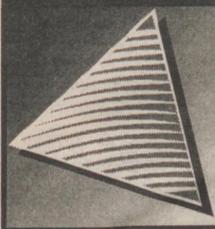
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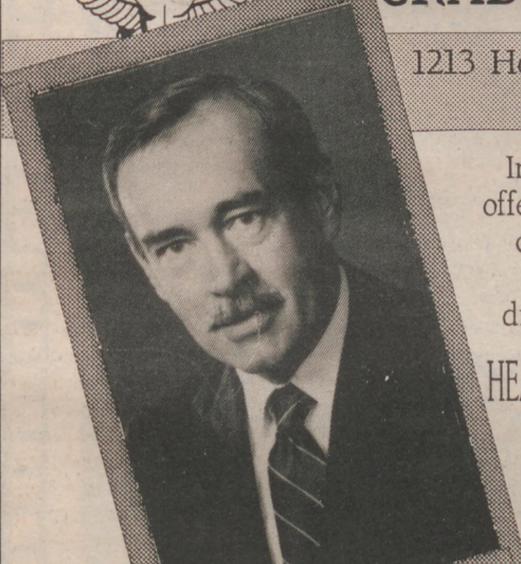
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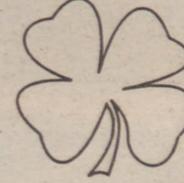
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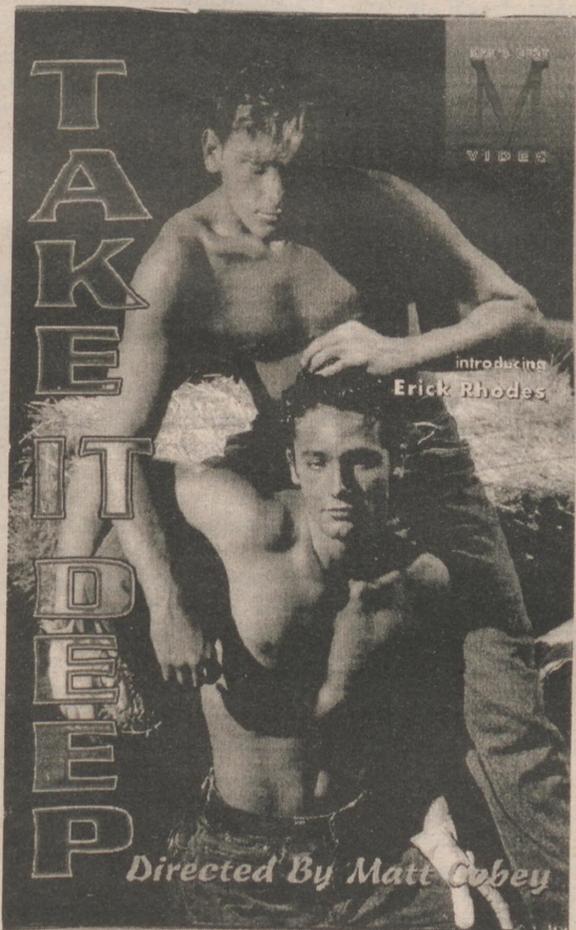
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Coming Up: LSVVC VIII

A car wash fundraiser is planned for Saturday March 16 beginning at 11:00 a.m. and continuing into the afternoon to benefit the Lone Star Volleyball Classic VIII which will be played Easter weekend, April 5 and 6.

The car wash will be in Heaven's parking lot and the funds raised by the volleyball tournament will be used to benefit AIDS Foundation Houston and the Southeast Texas Legal Clinic.

Skating Club

The Lambda Rollerskating Club will hold its next Skate Night Wednesday, March 20 from 8 until 10:30 p.m. at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road.

Admission is \$5 and, if needed, skate rental costs an additional \$1. Everyone is welcome to skate and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes. If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please contact us, we'd be happy to assist. Lambda can be contacted at gayskate@aol.com or by telephone at 933-5818.

Bowling Results

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League enters the season playoffs this week with the following standings. Division A is headed by The Queen Sick Court, with Party of Four in second and 1 Watches 4 Play in third. Division B reports In By 9 Dirty in first, Five Easy Pieces in second, and Tennis Anyone in third. High scratch game of 235 and series of 665 was bowled by Gardy Harvey. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9 o'clock. The new summer league begins April 15.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reports that Screw It is in first place, Sticky Wickets in second and Too Won Fo U? in third. Chris Bennett bowled high scratch game of 257 and series of 672. For the women, Pam Spayde bowled 222 and series of 557. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7 o'clock. The new summer league begins April 14.

The Wednesday Night Mixers reports Half & Half in first place, Three Men and A Babe in second and in third, Take It Like A Man. For the men Randy Stanger bowled high scratch game of 236 and Chris Bennett series of 636. For the women Diane Houston bowled high scratch game of 224 and series of 554. For more information call Tom at

522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30 p.m. Summer league begins April 17.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place is taken by Festive foursome, second by Maybe, Maybe Not, third by Lesboredos and fourth by Taz Club. For more info call Pat at 437-6218. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:15 p.m. Summer league begins April 14.

Houston bowlers continue impressive showings in out of state regional IGBO tournaments. Jeff Charlesworth placed tenth in singles and with partner Jack Adams, tenth in doubles in the San Francisco tournament. Gardy Harvey and Gary Shope placed fourth in doubles at the Denver tournament. Rumor has it that Gary scored well off the lanes too! Congratulations guys.

The monthly no-tap candlelight doubles takes place tomorrow, March 16, at Palace Lanes.

IBL Standings

The standings for the Thursday night Independent Billiards League following week nine of play finds the Bad Boys of the Outpost in first, E/J's Suicide Squad in second, Ripcord's Ripcord 3 in third, Past Time's Demolition in fourth and Ladies & The Tramp of Bacchus II in fifth.

Individually, Richard Chew of the Mining Company's Full Throttle team, is leading the league.

The next monthly meeting will be April 21, a week later than normal due to the street festival. The IBL will be sponsoring a food booth with shish ke-babs and sausage on a stick at the back lot of Mary's during the Street Fest April 13 and 14.

HMBL Standings

In the Houston Metropolitan Billiards League (HMBL) the team Coalition is leading the league with a perfect win match average. The teams Jackson 5 and J.R.'s Cue Crew are tied for second place with win match averages of .857, while the team BP with its win match average of .714 has the next best record.

Individually, Billy Lea of Coalition has the best won games average of .944, losing only one of 18 played games. Carlos Romero of Coalition has the next best average at .778. Next in the standings find a tie with Martin Diaz of Mary's Naturals and Steven Kendrick of Coalition at .722.

Team captains are reminded that they may not move matches to another location without authorization from the Board of Trustees.

Treatments

(Continued from page 10)

Although there are concerns that the CMV may become resistant to cidofovir this drug has much potential since studies suggest that one injection can last between 30 to 60 days. This would obviously eliminate the need for frequent eye injections or surgery to place an implant in the eye. Unfortunately the cidofovir eye injections study is still being investigated by GILEAD Pharmaceuticals and will not be available in Houston for some time. Researchers in Houston and The Center For AIDS are working together to bring this medication to Houston. ISIS 2922 is currently available at Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology.

The treatment of CMV retinitis is currently an exciting and fast changing field. The options continue to increase which allows both the physicians and patients to make the best decisions for each particular case. Intravenous therapy, oral therapy, eye injections, and implants inside the eye are all viable options as singular treatments or com-

ination strategies. The bottom line is that there are sufficient options to control CMV retinitis if it affects the eyes.

The most important step in controlling CMV retinitis is identifying the disease as early as possible. HIV-infected individuals need to know that if their CD4 ("T cell counts") counts are less than 100 that they should be evaluated by an ophthalmologist for possible infection every three to four months. If the CD4 count is found to be less than 50 then patients should be evaluated on a monthly basis. This ensures that the disease can be identified as early as possible which will provide a larger number of options than if the disease is found later.

Keep in mind that although the treatment options can be complex, it is the communication between patient and doctor that determines a successful treatment plan.

(Readers who are interested in obtaining more information on treatment options can contact Dr. Roberto Diaz at 798-3760).

HOUSTON VOICE *Personals*

"MAN-BOY" WANTED BY ATTRACTIVE GWM

Me: Fit, sexy masculine top; 5'8", 29" waist, 16" biceps, 155, military haircut, blue eyes. You: Good looking, sexy masculine bottom; Hispanic/American, "addiction-free", non-smoker, fit, SERIOUS. I'm particular! Are you? Respond; I'll answer. Let's talk, meet, dance, more. Many interests including leather. Ad 25694

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

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

GIVING MY HEART

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

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

D . . . D . . .

GWM, 6', 150#, beard, mustache, very healthy HIV+, non-smoker-drinker-drugs, straight appearance seeks same in bottom. For a great time anytime let's get together. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25729

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

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

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

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

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

TURNED-ON BY INDIGENOUS CULTURES

Middle-aged GWM, intelligent, well-endowed, comfortably situated, seeking GM with rior/prince? years, descended from a culture native to the Americas. Photos appreciated; native attire a plus. Itti-baapisilli, ayokpuli, poloma; apaxionado se por, entusiasmada; en amor y compania. Ad 25733

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

WM, 40, 5-5, 150. DDF ISO someone that knows what love is. No games or liars or clubs. I'm honest and trustworthy, loving and kind. Smoker ok. I'm just a fun loving guy looking for someone special to come into my life. Write for more details. You won't be sorry. Ad 25758

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

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 long-term relationship. I have a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25763

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

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

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY

December 23, 1995 Randy, sign instructor, br. hair/eyes, goatee. Rm. 20-something M.T. Spa. Me: Br. hair/eyes, beard, hairstylist. Brief encounter was short, but not forgotten, nor is your beautiful smile. Would like to know you better under different circumstances, or meet again at M.T. Spa. Contact me and make the arrangements. Charles. Ad 25749

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

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUD-DIES

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, adventurous, 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

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

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

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

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

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

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

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

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

THE FOREVER MAN

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun-loving GWM, youthful, 40, 5'11", 160#, 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

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

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

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

SIR, ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Sir, you are aggressive, demanding, roughly 35-50 and rough. You train, order, command, and expect excellent service. At your whim and pleasure, you discipline, humiliate, restrain, bind, and abuse. I can trust you and submit. All 5'8", 165, GWM fit parts safe in your hands. Call, write, your desire. Ad 25653

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 luzzy navels and goatees. C'mon, cross over. Ad 25755

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

FF BOTTOM HANDSOME & VERSATILE

Looking to meet dominant men into FF/Bondage/TT & other kink for red hanky action. Ad 25751

IF YOU KNOW...

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Good looking, masculine, GWM seeks same who strives for balance in body, mind and spirit. You must be healthy, full of energy and enthusiastic. 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

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

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

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

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 fems or druggies. Letters preferred, photo requested. Ad 25748

This & That!

by Jon Anthony

Olympic Gold Medalist **Greg Louganis** will appear at Crossroads Market and Bookstore on March 20th at 7:00pm to promote the paperback release of his tome *Breaking the Silence*. Louganis will autograph copies for patrons.... **Antonio Banderas** will sing a duet with the incomparable **Tina Turner** on her new album, *Your Wildest Dreams*, due later this month. **Sting** will also sing with the 57-year-old pop icon who is currently filling stadiums in Europe where the album has been a smash.... **Faye Dunaway** and **Rosie O'Donnell** will co-star in the Showtime production of *The Twilight of the Gods*. The film, slated to hit theaters prior to its cable premiere, is based on **Jonathan Tolin's** play about a couple who learn that their unborn child will likely be a homosexual.... **Kurt Russell** is the latest star to hit the comeback trail with a fervor. Russell proved he could be a box office draw with the impressive figures he mustered for 1994's *Stargate* and he follows that triumph with this month's release of *Executive Decision*, a thriller co-starring **Steven Seagal**. Next up: *Escape from L.A.*, The highly anticipated sequel to 1981's *Escape from New York* and *Breakdown*, a **Dino DeLaurentis** crime drama which will add an impressive \$12 million to his coffers.... Warner Bros. is dangling an offer of \$25 million for **Mel Gibson** to return to the big screen in a fourth installment of the successful *Lethal Weapon* franchise. To sweeten the deal, the studio has offered the superstar the much coveted lead in the upcoming action comedy *Conspiracy Theory*. If Gibson accepts, he would be the highest paid actor in the history of films. To date.... **Nicholas Cage**, this year's odds-on favorite for Best Actor, has seen his

star status rise as a result. Cage can be seen in the upcoming action film *The Rock* with **Sean Connery** and has signed to co-star with **John Travolta** in the thriller *Face Off* before filming *Con Air*, a suspense drama about a plane load of prisoners.... **Nathan Lane** will star in the Broadway revival of the **Stephen Sondheim** classic musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.... Also Broadway bound is a new production of the Roger's and Hammerstein classic *The King and I*. The play, synonymously associated with the late **Yul Brynner** for years, will star **Lou Diamond Phillips**.... **Chita Rivera** will reprise her Tony award winning performance in Houston when the musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman* hits the Music Hall April 26 for a one week engagement.... **Robin Williams** and **Billy Crystal** (this week's guest on ABC's *Muppets Tonight*) will star in the American version of the French farce *Les Comperes*, tentatively titled *Father's Day*. The romp focuses on two guys who assist their mutual ex-girlfriend in locating her runaway son, each believing he is the father.... Best-selling novelist **Stephen King** has finally relented and sold the rights to his short story novella *The Mist*. The adaptation will be written and directed by **Darabont** who had tremendous success transforming King's *The Shawshank Redemption* to the big-screen.... **Lily Tomlin**, **Alan Alda**, **Mary Tyler Moore** and **George Segal** head up an all-star cast in the new comedy *Flirting with Disaster*. Disaster also stars **Ben Stiller**, **Patricia Arquette** and **Tea Leone** and will be released this fall.... **Spike Lee** will direct an as yet untitled movie inspired by the Million Man March about a busload of black men traveling from Los Angeles to Washington, D.C.... **Metallica**

will headline this summer's *Lollapalooza* tour along with **Soundgarden** and **The Ramones**. Both Metallica and Soundgarden will release their new CD's this spring.... Famed author **Patricia Cornwell** has signed a new contract worth \$24 million with publisher G.P. Putnam prior to completion of her prior contract worth \$12 million. The first tome, *Cause of Death*, will hit bookstores this July. **Danielle Steele** and **Jackie Collins** are the only two authors whose emoluments succeed those of Cornwell.... **Sophia Loren** received a lifetime achievement award from the National Association of Theater Owners last Wednesday for her body of work.... **Leslie Nielsen's** latest big-screen parody, *Spy Hard*, will spoof *James Bond* films.... Fox's cult fave *Party of Five* and UPN's sitcom *Moesha*, starring teen sensation **Brandy**, have been renewed for next season.... **Roseanne's** much heralded foray into late night television will finally get a six week test run beginning April 13. *Saturday Night Special* will air every Saturday night opposite NBC's *Saturday Night Live*. Roseanne, who is the executive producer, will host the premiere episode.... **John Updike's** new book, *In The Beauty of the Lilies*, has just been released by Knopf publishers.... **Madonna**, **Sting**, **Julia Roberts**, **Wesley Snipes**, **Marlo Thomas**, **James Woods** and **Ethan Hawke** are among the celebs who will read the work of **Pablo Neruda**, a Chilean poet, on A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts* airing this Sunday at 8 a.m.... Capitol Records is releasing a **Beach Boys** boxed set retrospective, *Pet Sounds*, this spring in honor of the groups 30 year anniversary.... **Ted Danson** and his wife **Mary Steenburgen** will star in a new CBS sitcom this fall. Billed as a romantic comedy,

the as yet untitled show's premise is about a divorced couple who run a city newspaper. This is the second coup this year for the struggling network. CBS also signed **Bill Cosby** earlier this year to headline a comedy series as well.... ABC has committed to a full season of the new **Michael J. Fox** sitcom *Spin* sight unseen. Fox will portray the deputy mayor of New York City in the new ensemble comedy. Both Fox's and Danson's shows will be produced by Dreamworks.... **Oprah Winfrey** chats with **Steve Martin** on her syndicated talkfest Friday, March 22.... A&E's *Biography* roster for the week of March 18 includes **Jim Carrey**, **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, **Jamie Lee Curtis** and **Clint Eastwood**. The show airs weekdays at 7 and 11 p.m.... **Top of the Charts: ER** ranked #1 in the Nielsen's. *Primary Colors* by **Anonymous** is the best selling book in America, according to *The New York Times*. *One Sweet Day* continues to break records as it reigns supremely at the top of the singles chart for the 16th consecutive week. **Alanis Morissette** reclaims the #1 position on the album charts. *The Birdcage* blew away the competition at the box-office opening with an impressive \$18 million over the weekend. **Milestones:** Two of this century's most beloved entertainers left us this week and their legacies cannot be described in a few short sentences; therefore, suffice it to say that we will miss both **George Burns** and **Minnie Pearl**. May they rest in peace. **Quote of the Week:** "She's cleared her schedule from 7 to 7:30 p.m. That means foreplay and cuddling." -**David Hyde Pierce** (Niles) to *Frasier* concerning his date with his estranged wife Maris.

Sunday
March 17th
9:00 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day

Come donate Shamrocks for Paivi Lee Love

South of the Border Night

with
Marilyn "Lolita" Marks

Featuring:
Wendy Chicago
Rochelle Stevens
Susan Maser
Jessica Van Shelton
Showtime at 11 pm.

Super Tuesday
Show at 11pm
with
Hostess
Catia Lee Love

Also including
Kelly Lauren
Chavelle Brooks
Tara Dion
& talent night winner

2517 Ralph Street at Westheimer
(713) 527-9071

- Happy Hour 7am-9pm weekdays
- \$1.50 Well 4-7 Saturday
- \$1.50 Vodka 7am-6pm
- Mug Club 7am-10pm
- \$3.75 Pitchers & \$1.25 Mugs

COMMERCIAL MEMBER
TGRA

MALE STRIP CONTEST
at 11:00 pm

MALE STRIP CONTEST
at 11:00 pm

Burgers in the Back
with the Burger Bitch

South of the Border Night

Amateur Talent Search 11:00 pm
MC - Tara Dion - Miss EJ's '95

Coming: The Ralph Street Awards
April 1st with Upclose
Rainbo d' Klown

FRI MON WED THURS SAT