



HOUSTON

# VOICE

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Lisa Stanfield  
CD Review  
page 18

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# FINALLY!

## Parker Prevails: Houston Elects First Openly Gay Candidate

by Curt Morrison

HOUSTON - In a historic first for the city of Houston, voters elected the Bayou City's first openly gay candidate to city council last Saturday. Annise Parker won her seat by a



Annise Parker, second from left, flanked by the staff and owners of Riva's Restaurant at her victory party last Saturday.

resounding victory just shy of a landslide. Parker was elected to fill the city council At-Large, Position 1 seat vacated by Gracie Saenz, who could not run because of term limits.

Despite last minute gay baiting by her opponent, lobbyist Don Fitch, Parker garnered an incredible 57.9% (144,307) of the vote to Fitch's 42.1% (104,931). Parker came in second to Fitch (20.35% to 28.9%) in the highly competitive seven-way election on November 4, propelling both into the December 6 run-off.

Although Fitch had made a campaign promise not to make Parker's sexual orientation an issue, he reneged. After a *Houston Chronicle* poll showed the race was too close to call, Fitch took the low road, sending out flyers overemphasizing Parker's connections to Houston's gay community and running radio ads in which he stated, "I'm

married with two sons and five grandchildren; my opponent is a gay activist."

Parker built a broad coalition of Houston's diverse community to her camp. She garnered nearly every significant endorsement imaginable including the *Chronicle's*. Precinct results clearly show that Parker gar-

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## Brown elected Houston's first black mayor

by Michael Graczyk and Terry Langford  
Special to the *Houston Voice*

HOUSTON - In a race that attracted the attention of President Clinton and former President Bush, Lee Brown was elected the city's first black mayor, narrowly defeating businessman Rob Mosbacher.



For Lee Brown, victory spoke for itself in the wake of his Houston mayoral triumph. "When I raise my right hand to take the

oath of office, I'll have the good fortune to take the reins of a Houston on the move," said Brown, 60.

"Tonight I have achieved my dream," Brown, the nation's former drug czar, said last Saturday night, December 6. "Another barrier has fallen in the city of Houston. The doors of opportunity have opened wider for all of Houston's children. ... They now know that any child can grow up to lead this city."

With all of the precincts in the nation's fourth-largest city reporting, Brown collected 156,169 votes, or 53 percent, to Mosbacher's 140,321, or 47 percent, in

See BROWN page 28



## Log Cabin resumes effort to fight GOP's Radical Right

(Houston) - The Log Cabin Republicans of Houston, a group that works for gay civil rights within the GOP, publicly announced plans this week to win grassroots party offices, known as precinct chairmen, in the March 1998 primary.

The Log Cabin effort will be known as the "Precinct Initiative." A similar effort in 1996 succeeded in electing more than two dozen gay and gay-friendly GOP precinct chairmen. Those chairmen then used their political muscle to oust an anti-gay party leader from his office as senate district chairman. That defeat for the religious right sent shock waves through the Harris County GOP.

"A lot of us complain about the far right

but don't really do anything," commented Log Cabin-Houston President Ben Whittle. "This is our chance to fight the anti-gay radicals on their home turf. The precinct level is where politics in this country begins. It's the foundation. By organizing at this level, we can help return the Republican Party to its historic commitment to limited government and individual freedom for all citizens," he continued.

"Texas is a Republican state now, like it or not," Whittle observed. "If gay men and women don't have an active presence in the GOP then, politically speaking, we're out of luck. Our rights will never be secure until both parties support those rights," Whittle

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## TUTS Presents Nice Holiday Revamp of *Oliver!*

Rich Arenschieldt

Christmas is for kids and the current production of *Oliver!* offered at the Music Hall is proof that there is still some magic left, even in things that have been around for a while.

This theatrical adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic premiered in London in 1960 lasting 2,618 performances, followed by a successful run on Broadway and subsequent revivals in London and New York. Creator of the music and lyrics, Lionel Bart, received a Tony Award for his efforts, justly deserved given the especially clever word

See OLIVER page 31



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Madonna, left, Donatella Versace, center, and Cher pose together at a fund-raising gala honoring Donatella's brother, slain fashion designer Gianni Versace, Monday night, Dec. 8, 1997, at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Proceeds from the \$2,000-a-plate dinner were to go to the museum's Costume Institute, which on Thursday will open an exhibition of Versace's work. (AP Photo/Don Pollard)

**Annisie Parker: More than a lesbian**

by Grant Martin  
Parker Campaign Manager

Although I routinely ignore the ranting of your right wing columnist Leslie Ramsay, I am compelled to respond to her attack last week on Houston City Councilmember-Elect Annisie Parker.

According to Ramsay, the central issue for our community was, "Do we vote for somebody simply because they are gay?" The question is not only grammatically incorrect, but also the most self-hating, condescending, homophobic statement I heard during this campaign - and that includes the attack radio commercials and mail hit-pieces delivered by Annisie's runoff opponent.

Never once during its entirety did the campaign ask anyone to vote for Annisie simply because she is a lesbian. The campaign did ask all Houstonians to vote for Annisie because she was easily the most qualified candidate in the race. And we specifically asked the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community to support Annisie because she was a QUALIFIED lesbian willing to run an open and honest campaign.

Our ethical and moral obligation to empower our own community apparently escapes Ramsay. One of the ways to meet that obligation is by moving qualified leaders from our community into positions of power. Indeed, Ramsay owes the very existence of her column to a gay and lesbian political movement that made it safe for her to be an out lesbian working for a queer newspaper. And no one - not even Ramsay - disputes Annisie Parker's qualifications.

So why would Ramsay fabricate a question that was never asked and then attack Annisie Parker for asking it? Was she supporting Annisie's homophobic opponent? Was she acting out jealousy of a lesbian who has actually accomplished something tangible with her activism? Or was she just too cowardly to tell her readers and her own community why she did not support Annisie? (Ramsay failed to mention in her column that she voted against the Log Cabin Republicans of Houston's decision to endorse Annisie.

Lazy thought and lazy writing are bad enough. Disingenuous drivel is downright dangerous. The gay right needs to find a new spokesperson, or at least insist that Ramsay come to terms with her own self-hatred in a therapists office, not in the pages of the *Houston Voice*.

**Column on Parker raises reader's ire**

by Jazz Paz

How bad does Leslie Ramsay really want HER job? In her last column before the runoff elections, she sought to imply that Lee Brown and Annisie Parker were not highly enough motivated to become mayor and council person because the campaign headquarters of Brown seemed to be disorganized (Hello? I would have hung up on her too, if she had called to cause trouble when I was working hard for free to get my candidate elected) and Annisie had not called her personally to discuss the Nation of Islam security guards.

Ramsay claims that given the current city

council's voting history, it is unlikely that gay rights will be a "meaningful" pursuit even if Annisie is elected. Given that the current city council is not obsolete (sic), and given that Annisie has long been a heroine of lesbian and gay rights in Houston, it is more likely than ever that we will be respectfully represented — much likelier than ever, since there has never been a city council person as openly gay as Annisie is..

Ramsay notes that "just because a gay person is on the city council does not mean that the agenda of filling potholes, digging ditches, and fixing sewer lines will change." Indeed, the *Houston Chronicle's* pre-election poll indicated that 80% of their respondents did not care about their council rep's sexual orientation as long as the day-today business of running the city was addressed efficiently. Why would anyone care? Why does Ramsay?

In spite of her 'righteous indignation,' both Lee Brown and Annisie Parker were elected by the voters of Houston. I wonder if Ramsay could win a job by persuading people to vote for her.

**A Confused Reader**

by Sue Null

I'm confused. First the *Houston Voice* runs an article with the ... headline (Mosbacher says he's not anti-gay), then Dale Carpenter of Log Cabin Republicans writes, "Mosbacher is not personally anti-gay, he's just another well-meaning Republican who followed bad advice on how to win." Mosbacher did not seek Log Cabin's support.

Well, perhaps Mosbacher does not throw his lesbian sister out the door if she comes to visit, but if 1) he does not support domestic partnership benefits, thereby singling out one group of people as undeserving of what every other group of people is eligible for, and 2) squirms at the possibility of a city employment non-discrimination law, this is pro-gay? Not even neutral, if you ask me. It's anti-gay, and exactly the reason I

gave no consideration to him as a candidate regardless of whatever other good qualities he might have had. I will not vote for a candidate who cannot support his own sister or my children.

**A Christmas Songfest to remember**

by Chris Jimmerson  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Montrose Clinic

On behalf of the clients of Montrose Clinic, I want to express our appreciation to the Songfest board and countless volunteers for an incredible evening benefiting Montrose Clinic and Bering Dental Clinic.

This years Christmas Songfest was full of energetic and generous guests that appeared to truly enjoy the evening. Your full year of planning and hard work produced a Christmas Songfest to remember. For this we are truly grateful.

It is through the generosity of leaders like you that we are able to provide low-cost services, research services and educational programs for persons infected and affected by HIV. As a result, many Houston area residents have access to services that would not be available otherwise.

Again, thank you for your support and have a happy and safe Holiday season.

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or emailed to: editor@houstonvoice.com

Help from their friends

Helping Hands for life, Inc. and Austin's Friends for Life will host "The Red & Green Party" (<http://www.partyaustin.com/rgh.htm>) for AIDS Services of Austin on Saturday, December 13th at Tips Warehouse located at the corner of 2nd and Colorado St. in Austin. The event's proceeds go directly to ASA through Helping Hands for Life,

This will be an open bar affair with a door donation of \$20.00. DJ Julian Marsh from NYC has agreed to come in and work for a much-reduced fee. "Thanks to the good people at the Seagram's state office, we have since acquired donated liquor from them and bottled water from Naya for a Holiday fundraiser," said Ben Parsley, one of the event's organizers.

HELPING HANDS FOR LIFE, INC. is a non-profit organization, which uses events such as parties and festivals traditionally run for profit, and turn them into vehicles of hope and life for those with AIDS. HELPING HANDS FOR LIFE, INC. The total net proceeds go to established AIDS organizations in need of additional funds.

Briefs...

Our Gay Apparel runs at the Hyde Park Theatre Sunday-Wednesday, Dec 7 to Dec 23 at 8PM, and on Dec 13 and Dec 20 at 2PM. There will be no performance on Dec 15. General admission tickets are \$10, and \$8 for students, seniors, and ACOIT. Group rates available...

The Christmas-themed play starts with the following: "Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house: Alice is in love with Trish, but wants to marry Diana Ross to get the trust fund. Her parents think she's marrying John but John's only got eyes for Bobby. To top it all off, there's a little friction twixt Adam and Eve."

A card given through AIDS Services of Austin will announce a donation given in the name of your recipient to the local AIDS care group. The suggested gift per card is \$15. If your list is long, you may wish to call soon. The number is (512) 406-6114....

Finally, the Our Community Film Series continues as Cornerstone, 1117 Red River, hosts Tuesday night viewings of popular titles: Stonewall, Dec. 16; Desert Hearts, Jan 6, and It's My Party, Jan 20. Each screening is at 7pm and is followed by a reception. For more information, call (512) 708-7260.

sive course, supplemented with individual counseling and aftercare services. The focus is on breaking the cycle of chemical dependency within a gay-affirmative environment.

"Our community has not always been well served by other more traditional treatment programs," Stein said. "At MCC you can be who you are, and a safe, supportive atmosphere is important for the recovery process to work."

A 1995 study reported an estimated 12.8 million Americans, or 6.15 of the population, used an illegal drug in the last month. If left untreated, drug and alcohol addiction can destroy families, cause job loss, financial ruin, and even death.

"Chemical abuse is not a moral weakness, it's a disease," Strain said. "At MCC, we've been treating that disease for 15 years, offering a lifeline to those in our community who need help. WE will continue to provide this lifeline for years to come."

The treatment program is one of the few low-cost options in the Houston area, with services available at almost no cost for those who qualify for grant funding. For those who do not qualify, affordable fees are determined using a sliding scale. For more details, contact Strain at (713) 529-0037.



New H.A.T.C.H. logo

awarding winning Montrose area design firm.

In addition, the organization has two new brochures, *I Think I'm Gay* and *I Think I'm a Lesbian*, available for consumption. The brochures, geared to educate young people trying to come to grips with their sexuality and provide teenagers a perspective on being gay or lesbian, will be distributed to area high school counselors as a resource to gay and lesbian students.

Both brochures were designed by Ken Harhai, a Houston graphics designer. A third brochure has also been produced which focuses on H.A.T.C.H. as an organization. All three brochures were made possible by a grant from the Hollyfield Foundation.

H.A.T.C.H. meets every Friday and Sunday at a local church. For more information about the organization, call (713) 942-7002, e-mail at [hatch@neosoft.com](mailto:hatch@neosoft.com) or check out their website at [www.hatchyouth.org](http://www.hatchyouth.org).

Gay Teen Coalition metamorphosed

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) has undergone a metamorphosis described as a "new look to match its new attitude." The organization is positioning itself for rapid growth in 1998-99.

To begin with, the group now has a new logo that depicts a chick emerging from its shell and shows closet doors opening - first in, then out - representative of the members of H.A.T.C.H. Members of the group, ranging between the ages of 13 and 20, have self-identified themselves as gay or lesbian. The logo was designed and donated by the Vilven Design Group, an internationally

Briefs...

Corf America of Houston, Inc. has opened its HIV/AIDS rehabilitation facility Physically Positive. The Medicare certified clinic is dedicated for the benefit of individuals who require specialized therapy treatments to improve their daily quality of living. The center, located at 3400 Montrose, Suite 219, is directed by local physical therapist assistants David Shankle and Kelly Sacky. For more details, call (713) 520-7089....

MCC Receives Funds for Treatment Program

The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCADA) has just announced that it is awarding a grant to the Intensive Outpatient Chemical Dependency Treatment Program at Montrose Counseling Center for the 1997-98 year.

The program, which primarily serves the gay community and HIV-positive communities, lost funding two years ago when

TCADA cut funding for 10 providers in the region.

"We are very excited," said Tom Strain, LMSW-ACP, coordinator of the program. "In the last two years we have struggled to keep the program going through emergency funding from private sources, but this grant from TCADA will allow MCC to stabilize funding for treatment services and provide a wider variety of services for the people who can least afford it."

The program will offer an 8-week inten-

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The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, The Houston Pride Band and the Palmer Society for the Appreciation of Liturgy and Music (PSALM) are this year's grant recipients of the Tom Moore Community Music Foundation. The foundation was formed by a bequest from the estate of the late Tom Moore and exists to provide financial support to local community music organizations...

The Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club will be hosting their Rangler Holiday Show and Silent Auction at the Brazos River Bottom (BRB), 8 p.m., Sunday, December 21, to benefit AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Food Pantry. For more details, call (713) 880-0670....

Finally, The Houston Buyer's Club held their annual fund-raiser last week to a capacity filled crowd. The event was a resounding success for the organization spearheaded by Fred Walters, an enormously respected community activist. The group provides health products at affordable prices for the community. And, Houston NAMES Project board member Perri Dolph, also a highly respected community activist, received the Bill Napoli Award for outstanding volunteer service to the PWA Coalition at a recently held function.



Perri Dolph (far right) receives award from PWA Coalition.



Linda Delaney, Fred Walters, and Nelson Virgil at this years Houston Buyers Club fundraiser.



Trey B. Counts (far right) and other Chris Bell supporters at the Bell camps election night victory party.

In the At-Large, Position 5 race, Carroll Robinson won against his opponent Elizabeth Spates. Robinson was endorsed by the HLGPC, Spates received the endorsement of the LCR-H. Both candidates were supportive on gay issues. Robinson is a professor at TSU. The main difference between the candidate were their stance on Affirmative Action. Robinson supports it, Spates does not.



Carroll Robinson speaks to supporters at his election night victory party.

REGIONAL NEWS

Bell, Robinson, Driscoll win seats in run-off

Amid all the hyperbole surrounding last weeks historical election results surround the victory of Houston's first black mayor and openly gay councilwoman, three other candidates won significant victories in their races as well.

Chris Bell easily won re-election to retain his seat as councilmember for At-Large, Position 4. Bell beat his opponent, Richard Johnson, nearly 2 to 1, in what was one of the most divisive races of the election. Both

candidates accused the other of subtle racism. Bell is white and Johnson is black. Bell, who is an advocate for equal rights, was endorsed by fellow councilmember Jew Don Boney.

Bell has been an ardent supporter of gay and lesbian issues. He received the support of two of Houston's largest gay political groups, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston (LCR-H). His wife, Allison, was in the hospital election night eve expecting child. At press time, it was not known if the Bell's have received the new addition to their family yet.

And, Dionne Roberts narrowly lost to incumbent Ray Driscoll in the race for District F seat. Roberts had been endorsed by the HGLPC.

Houston Black Tie Dinner awards \$97,000 to charity

\$82,000 distributed to local organizations

The Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. announced this week gifts totaling \$97,000 were awarded to eleven charitable and civil rights beneficiaries. The funds were raised through the organization's annual Houston Black Tie Dinner, held on November 8 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Houston.

Former United States Surgeon General



Black Tie Dinner money recipients.

Dr. Joycelyn Elders spoke to the SRO crowd. The gifts were awarded earlier this week in a special ceremony at the Hyatt Regency - Downtown, Window Box Room. Ten local area beneficiaries will receive a total of \$82,000:

The Assistance Fund (\$13,949.80); AssistHers (\$5,460.95); Bering Community Service Foundation (\$14,680.58); Lesbian Health Initiative (\$4,336.60); Montrose Clinic (\$6,293.77); Montrose Counseling Center (\$7,207.71); The Omega House (\$5,459.37); P-FLAG Houston (\$13,833.41); People With AIDS Coalition of Houston (\$5,843.83); and Texas Human Rights Foundation (\$4,933.97). The Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a national organization, was awarded \$15,000.

Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness and funds for national and local non-profit organizations that provide HIV/AIDS services, prevention and support for men's and women's health issues and that promote equal rights for all.

The annual Houston Black Tie Dinner is a gala affair which includes nationally renowned speakers, local and national politicians, awards to local community leaders, a silent auction, dinner and dancing. Dinner attendees determine the allocation of funds among beneficiaries.

Ballard seeks to serve on board again

AUSTIN - Conservative firebrand Donna Ballard, who resigned from the State Board of Education because her husband's job took the couple out of her East Texas district, said Monday that she wants to return to the board. This time, Ms. Ballard is targeting the seat held by Democrat Rene Nunez, who is running for re-election next year to the district stretching from the Rio Grande Valley to far West Texas.

"My passion is for education," Ms. Ballard, a Republican, said in a telephone interview with *The Associated Press*. "Basically, what I hope this campaign will be about is offering a positive and hopeful message to the people of District 1.... If we do it right, we can have our schools performing at our highest expectations."

Ms. Ballard was elected to the education board from The Woodlands in 1994 with the backing of religious conservatives. She resigned effective Oct. 1 to move to Midland because her husband had taken a position there as a church pastor.

When she resigned, Ms. Ballard had said she was considering a run for the Legislature and hinted that she might challenge Republican Sen. Teel Bivins of Amarillo. Monday, she said she again is seeking a board seat.

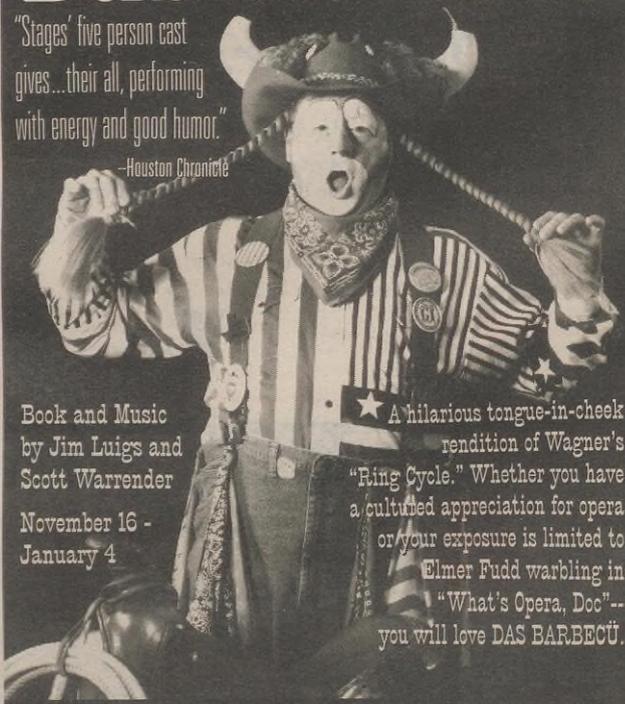
"I think she's just fishing for a position to get back into politics," said Nunez, completing his ninth year on the education board. On the 15-member board, Ms. Ballard labeled a leader of a six-member bloc of Republican social conservatives. Three other Republicans regularly voted with the six Democrats.

See REGION page 5

Das Barbecü

"Stages' five person cast gives...their all, performing with energy and good humor."

-Houston Chronicle



Book and Music by Jim Luigs and Scott Warrender

November 16 - January 4

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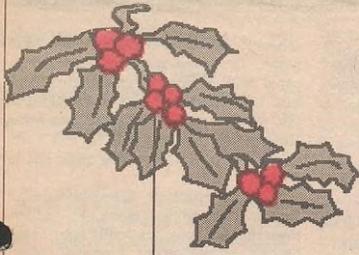


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**REGION/** from page 4

Raising the hackles of some Republicans and Democrats alike, Ms. Ballard took strong stands on issues including "unwanted federal intrusion" into Texas education; legislative restrictions on the board's power; and a massive school curriculum rewrite, which she termed mediocre and faulted Republican Gov. George W. Bush for supporting.

Supporters have called Ms. Ballard a determined, feisty and articulate leader. Critics have accused her of unnecessarily creating a board schism with inflammatory rhetoric and of focusing on political ideology rather than on students. Her last campaign was criticized as negative; she contends she presented factual material.

Nunez said his biggest concerns are Democratic voter turnout and "being able to raise enough money to respond to her negative campaigning, because when she puts out a lie, if I don't have the money to respond to that lie, then there is a perception that I didn't do my job."

"I hope the Midland Republicans and Democrats understand that she only has a self-interest in being on the board, and that self-interest is obviously to promote her and her followers' philosophy," he added. In addition, he said, "To try to represent a border population without No. 1 having knowledge of our culture and language, without being bilingual, is also kind of an insult to the population she hopes to represent."

Ms. Ballard didn't immediately return telephone messages asking about her knowledge of Spanish. But she said she is "very comfortable and excited" at the possibility of representing a district with a large Hispanic population. Ballard said she and her husband had worked in Los Angeles with Hispanic gangs and the Hispanic community. "Children are children. If you love children and you care about their future, that'll come across."

In other political developments:  
Susan Combs, GOP candidate

for Texas agriculture commissioner, has filed for a place on the primary ballot. Mrs. Combs, 52, is a former two-term Republican state representative from Austin.

Two Libertarian candidates for statewide office also have filed to be on the primary ballot:

Jimmy LaBaume, 53, a professor of agriculture at Sul Ross State in Alpine, is running for agriculture commissioner.

Jim Spurlock, 55, an aircraft salesman from Fort Worth, is running for Railroad Commission.

**AFH 'Absolutely Fabulous' Gala to honor Jesse H. Jones**

"Absolutely Fabulous & Off the Wall," an annual benefit for AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), is slated to take place January 31, 1998. This year's gala, at JAGS in the Decorative Center, will honor Houston legend Jesse H. Jones, founder of Houston Endowment, Inc., for his legacy of community support and philanthropy.

Jones came to Houston Texas 100 years ago. His tremendous contributions were, and are today, consistent with his philosophy to use capitalism for the common good. As a result, Houston Endowment has been able to provide much assistance by supporting numerous charitable organizations throughout Houston and Texas. It is the largest private philanthropic foundation in Texas and ranks among the largest in the nation.

"Jesse Jones was a trail blazer in his day," said Sara Selber, executive director of AFH. "During the 1940's, at the height of segregation, Mr. Jones took a bold step and created minority scholarships. His living legacy continues to follow as evidenced by Houston Endowment's longstanding support of HIV/AIDS causes even in the early days when the disease was greatly misun-

derstood."

The gala will include food, dancing, live entertainment and a silent auction. For more details, call the Foundation.

**Few interested in winning trip to Houston**

HOUSTON - Suppose someone held a contest and no one entered. That's just about what happened when a group seeking to boost Houston's reputation spent about \$500,000 to place an advertisement in the Oct. 13 issue of *Time Magazine* stressing how unique the city is.

The ad offered a first-class trip to Houston with the chance of play a one-on-one game of basketball with Houston Rockets star Hakeem Olajuwon or spend an evening at the theater with playwright Edward Albee.

There were also other prizes. But only one person among the magazine's 4 million subscribers has claimed one of the 33 prizes that Houston Image Group was trying to give away.

Subscribers were asked to scratch off a box to see if they won an instant prize such as the basketball game, the evening at the theater, observation of open-heart surgery performed by Dr. Denton Cooley or dinner with the 1996 Nobel Prize winners in chemistry from Rice University.

The prizes included the free trip to Houston for two, including airfare, accommodations and special tours of the city. Those who entered but didn't win were asked to send in their form for a "second chance" drawing for the other prizes. Only about 900 entered that contest, which will be held in March.

Since only one prize was claimed, it shows that participation is a little low for a scratch-off game, according to Les Whiteley, publisher of *Sweepstakes Profiles*, a weekly newsletter from Louisville, Ky., that keeps up with contests.

Whiteley said lots of people just throw the game piece away without ever bothering to play. Consequently, he said, fewer than half the scratch-off prizes are ever claimed. But he said he was stunned to hear that only 900 responded to the "second chance" drawing. "It's very low," said Whiteley from his office in Louisville. "I don't know of any national drawing with less than 40,000 to 50,000 entries."

Whiteley said that sweepstakes that reach 49 million subscribers when run nationwide in Sunday newspapers will typically draw 100,000 to 200,000 entries. The response depends a lot on the prizes, he added.

Cash prizes are the most popular, followed by cars, Whiteley said.

Trips are less popular because people are choosy about their destinations, he noted. Even offbeat prizes generally draw a lot of entries, he said, noting that a television network's offer of a chance to participate with a movie star in the demolition of a building generated about 75,000 entries.

Houston Image Group officials are not a bit disappointed with the response, said

Debbie Siegfried, a board member of the group. The sweepstakes shouldn't be compared with sweepstakes that give away cars, televisions and cash, she said. She said it was a chance to show people what Houston has to offer and to address issues of concern to businesses that might like to relocate.

The first winner is Kimberly Stone, a schoolteacher from Osgood, an Indiana town that has only one traffic light. Mrs. Stone's schoolteacher husband, Matt, found the scratch-off piece in a *Time Magazine* he used in a high school class.

**Briefs...**

An open casting call for a new, non-equity, "country musical" entitled *Take This show and Show It* will take place, Monday, December 22 at the Embassy Ballroom (5002 Westheimer), Second Floor, Westheimer and Post Oak across from the Galleria. A salary will be paid. Auditions for men and women will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. only. Call (713) 981-7668 for an appointment....

Texas AIDS Ride will be conducting a special presentation about their program, Thursday, December 18 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in the Galleria. For the first time, the power of the AIDS Ride will come to Texas. The Ride will take place October 5 to 11, 1998 and benefit 40 AIDS service organizations throughout the Lone Star State. The Ride will originate in Austin, venture through Houston, and culminate in a Victory Ride in Dallas. For more details, call (888) 780-RIDE....

Finally, get our your plastic poinsettia earrings and dust off the Andy Williams Christmas albums; the Yuletide approacheth in Tuna, Texas, where the worst of the holiday spirit is zestfully celebrated in the return of the irreverent hit comedy, *A Tuna Christmas*, starring the Tony Award-nominated Joe Sears and Jaston Williams. *Tuna* returns to Houston as the first theatrical performance in the Theater at Bayou Place, December 16-21. For more details, contact TicketMaster at (713) 629-3700.



A scene from "A Tuna Christmas" starring the Tony Award-nominated Joe Sears and Jaston Williams

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## Advisers say Clinton lacks "courage and political will" in fight against AIDS

by Laura Meckler

WASHINGTON, D.C. - President Clinton's AIDS advisers issued a harsh report Sunday accusing the administration of letting down its guard in the fight against AIDS.

"Progress in the federal response to AIDS has stalled in recent months, contributing to a sense of diminished priority for AIDS issues during the president's second term," said the report by the Presidential Council on HIV/AIDS.

The report cites the administration's failure to expand Medicaid to get AIDS-fighting drugs to people infected with the HIV virus and accuses Clinton of lacking "the courage and political will" to fund programs for drug addicts to exchange dirty syringes for clean ones.

It's the second progress report to be issued by Clinton's hand-picked AIDS advisers. The first, in July 1996, also criticized the administration's failure to fund needle exchange programs, but it emphasized that Clinton had done more than any of his predecessors to fight AIDS.

This report is harsher, said Dr. Scott Hitt, a Los Angeles physician who chairs the 30-member council. "We believe progress on the battle against AIDS is losing momentum," he said Saturday in an interview while attending a meeting of the panel.

The report praises the Clinton administration for increased funding for AIDS, approval of new drugs and more efficient spending of AIDS research money. It also lauds Clinton's call for an AIDS vaccine.

"As history will undoubtedly record, President Clinton is the first American chief executive to take serious action to address the AIDS crisis," it says. "However, most of

these important strides occurred during the president's first term."

Clinton's AIDS policy chief, Sandra Thurman, responded that the issues surrounding AIDS have become more complex as attention has turned from the basics of prevention and early funding to controversial and expensive policy proposals.

"I understand people's frustrations," she said Saturday in an interview. "We're grappling with some really hard stuff. Taking care of people in the short run and taking care of people in the long run are two different things."

On Medicaid expansion, the administration has concluded that it is too expensive to let people with HIV into the health program for the poor to access AIDS-fighting drugs. The drugs cost about \$12,000 per person per year. (See related story in Regional News).

Officials had hoped the plan would pay for itself by keeping people healthy longer and saving on future hospital care but even modest proposals cost hundreds of millions of dollars over a few years, officials said.

Thurman, who attended the council's session Saturday, emphasized that the administration is still searching for ways to get AIDS drugs to people with HIV. But the AIDS council, in its draft report, says not enough has been done since April, when Vice President Al Gore announced the initiative.

Regarding prevention, the council report says the administration "has failed to lay out a coherent strategic plan of action," particularly its failure to fund needle exchange programs, criticized by some as promoting drug use. The administration, the report says, has "failed to exhibit the courage and political will needed to pursue public health strategies that are politically difficult but that have been shown to save lives."

Still, council members backed off a threat to resign in protest over the needle exchange policy. Hitt said members were pleased that the administration fought to keep the authority to approve the programs, which some in Congress wanted to take away. Now, he said, they'll see if the administra-

tion takes advantage of it.

## Sex, drugs and dance: Life on the 'Circuit'

by Eddie Dominguez

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - They've been compared to a cult, an estimated 30,000 gay men who travel the world to attend wild parties where many engage in sex and drug use - all in the name of raising money for AIDS charities. Welcome to the "Circuit," a party network that moves from one big city to another.

"It has turned into a cult," said Jonathan, a Circuit regular and flight attendant, who asked that his full name not be used. "But I prefer the word 'fraternity.'"

The Circuit's popularity has boomed as has the controversy surrounding it. Critics and health advocates say drugs and unsafe sex makes Circuit parties a breeding ground for AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

"People are coming from around the country having unsafe sex and then dispersing around the country," said Michelangelo Signorile, a columnist for the gay magazine *Out* and author of *Life Outside* which takes a critical look at the Circuit. "It's something that should be of concern."

The AIDS groups say the criticism is unfair and that events raise large sums. Health Crisis Network, the largest AIDS charity in South Florida, holds the annual White Party Week, with six days of all-night partying. It raised more than \$800,000 this year.

"We are very concerned about the emphasis that is placed on substance abuse," said Keith Cromley, development director for the Health Crisis Network. "Certainly there are things that can be improved. ... But the good outweighs the bad."

The Circuit advocates - mostly party boys, promoters and AIDS groups - say the party network is a good thing, creating a "community." In addition to hardcore "circuit

boys" - mostly young, successful, wealthy professionals - tens of thousands more attend just one or two events a year, often in their region of the country.

"People can join in being together in the sense of community and positive enjoyment through dancing," said Robert Vezima, president of the Bad Boy Club of Montreal, which puts on the Black and Blue Ball the largest Circuit party with about 11,000 people. "Looking at drugs, it has to be an enhancer not a disruptor," he added. "In moderation drugs make the event more enjoyable."

The nation's largest AIDS organization, Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York, had to fend off demands that they shut down their annual Morning Party after an overdose required a trauma helicopter. Medical teams are usually hired by party promoters to handle what at some events have been more than a dozen drug-related resuscitations. And in the last year party promoters and the AIDS groups that benefit financially have started an information campaign to curtail drug use on the Circuit.

Drugs like Ecstasy, Special K, GHB or Crystal Meth are very popular on the circuit. Without them, the Circuit parties "wouldn't be on the scale that they are or go on for as long as they do because people couldn't physically do it," said John, a 40-year-old Miami attorney and former "circuit boy" who did not want his full name used.

The Circuit came to Miami and South Beach last month for a week of parties and now heads to Los Angeles for the 19th anniversary of the Probe nightclub, home of the L.A. "circuit boys." For New Year's Eve parties are planned in South Beach, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Cape Town, South Africa.

Party-goers said the events last until the early hours of the morning. They say a few people are "in a K hole" - a coma-like state caused by taking too much of the designer drug K or Ketamine. But most are "tweaked" - bouncing around giddily, touch-

See NAT'L page 10

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## Memories of a Friend

by Larry Lingle

It is difficult for me to realize that it was only some ten months ago that someone came back into my life and assumed such importance that he became my gay son and intended heir. Will had previously worked for me on two separate occasions. The first time, well over two years ago, I was preoccupied with what turned out to be the final months in the life of my best friend and lover, Bill.

I had limited contact with Will then, except that he was sort of a country boy and good-looking. When he quit then he did leave me a note, which appeared to suggest possibly an intention to end his life. I called his mother and expressed my concern, to which she only laughed and said that he was always saying such things.

So when I received a call from Will back in February telling me he had been committed to the state hospital in Austin because he had expressed suicidal thoughts before a judge I agreed to help. I immediately retained an attorney for him and, when he was released three days later, I arranged for him to come to Houston and live in my house.

It was only then I learned more of his story. His parents had divorced when he was but one year old. When his mother remarried five years later she began shipping him off to one relative or another. And finally, at the ripe age of nine, his paternal grandparents took legal guardianship over Will. While a teenager, he was first hospitalized and diagnosed as a manic depressive, or bipolar.

In all, Will would be hospitalized five times, all for bipolarism. In the first weeks after he came to live with me he attempted suicide for what was, according to him, the fourteenth time.

Despite all this personal baggage, Will was a guileless, unassuming and lovable individual. Some years earlier his grandparents had given him a small piece of land on Lake

Livingston where Will converted a shack into a two room cabin, although still quite rustic. He had lived there, off and on, for two years. And he had learned to survive in the isolation while he cycled through increasing bouts on mania and depression.

After Will came to live with me and while he was dating someone, we settled on our roles as gay father and gay son to describe our relationship, both because of the age difference and the fact that there was no sexual relationship.

Like most bipolar, Will found it difficult, if not impossible, to stay on the necessary medication. I arranged for him to see several psychiatrists, all of whom confirmed his extreme bipolar condition and tried different medications to stabilize his moods.

Curiously, I had lived my six plus decades without previously encountering mental illness. In the early months with Will I made numerous mistakes, until I learned and read on the subject and was better able to cope with his problems. It was never easy for either of us. But there were also many good times and not since my late better half have I ever felt so comfortable or so attached to anyone as with Will.

When Will did feel threatened or closed in, he would retreat to his cabin on the lake. And there was still talk of suicide - not as threats but rather as if Will could see no other way out of his illness.

Some months later, after he has withdrawn yet again to the cabin, I and a couple of friends went up to the lake in an attempt to persuade him to voluntarily enter a hospital.

When this failed, I felt compelled to have him committed to the Rusk State Hospital. When he came out - once again agreeing to stay at my home - he acknowledged that he understood the necessity of staying on his medicine. That the hospital stay was too brief and the dosage they placed him on was less than half what had been previously prescribed concerned me greatly at the time.

Unfortunately, within days Will exploded, and once again fled to his cabin. But he and I maintained contact and occasionally visited back and forth. Only a few weeks ago he came down for one such visit and the too-brief hours were still a joy for me and, I hope, for him.

Then a couple of weeks ago I received a call from a mutual friend at the lake telling me that Will had been arrested for breaking into a house. Will had some time before confided in me that he had an obsession about a young man in the neighborhood. And Will had built this obsession to the point of reality in his mind that he and this young man would ride off into the sunset together. He broke into the young man's family home, apparently in the belief that the young man was waiting for him.

I had no contact with Will after the arrest.

His usually unavailable mother bailed him out and the last I heard he was at her home. Through the mutual friend at the lake I knew that he had communicated with her but shown no interest in contacting me and I chose to respect his attitude.

This last Saturday I again called the mutual friend at the lake and learned from her that Will was, in fact, back at his cabin and that when she had seen him he appeared psychotic. I asked her to run by and check on him, least suggest he call me, and concluded by saying that I would call her later to see how it all went.

At 6:25 Saturday evening she called me back and in an anguished voice informed me that "Will is gone". While I did not want to accept its meaning, I knew she was telling me that Will was dead. All his attempts at suicide had been with pills or carbon monoxide, as Will repeatedly noted he did not want to suffer. He ended his life with a shotgun. And Jill, our mutual friend at the lake, was left to discover his body and the blood-splattered cabin.

I had known for some time that Will's survival was far from a sure thing. The last doctor he had seen bluntly told me that Will would more than likely end his own life or because he would not take his medicine, die from exposure or neglect.

But from a deep and abiding love for this young man, to whom I promised everything but who was unwilling to accept even my love, I retained a hope that something within him would save him from himself. Such was not to be.

For once I am at a loss to express the reality that was Will. I cannot adequately convey the simple goodness, the unflinching honesty and the sheer pleasure that Will could evoke. It was as if society, from family to health professionals, conspired to fail this young man.

So at the age of twenty-five, William Francis Harper Jr. ended his own life. This all too brief chapter in my life is closed, but my loving memories of Will join those of my precious Bill - to sustain me in this, the twilight of my life.



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Politics: "Prairie Style"

by Leslie Ramsay

Back in 1990, I attended the 25th Anniversary party of my beloved's Aunt "Mimi" and Uncle "Bubba". I had been told that Uncle "Bubba" was a "politician type" of guy. He had a kind of "politician sliminess" about him that only bureaucrats and politicians get.

I had never met the extended side of my true love's family before. In fact, she hadn't bothered to tell them that she was gay. She had also neglected to tell them that she was bringing her partner/girlfriend out to the "prairie" to the biggest party of the year. All of the important "prairie" people were there.

Uncle "Bubba" was so busy politicking that he never even gave us a second thought. He had votes to collect. He had just announced that he was running for Justice of the Peace. He had worked his way through the community service organizations and volunteer fire department to the point he felt comfortable enough to run for elected office. He had done his small town time. Now was the time for the pay-off.

Aunt "Mimi" on the other hand was visi-

the same plans as the last one. They even used the same paint and fabric colors to decorate.

When the state was ready to buy the right of way to build the highway, they called ol' "Bubba" and made him a pretty good offer. After the highway was built, "Bubba" had to cross the road to tend to his cattle. Inconvenience does have its price.

The years have past and we haven't really kept in contact with Uncle "Bubba" and Aunt "Mimi" like we should. We ran into Aunt "Mimi" at the Conroe Bass Outlet Store not too long ago. She was so happy to see us. I was shocked. Maybe, she had gotten used to the idea that her niece was gay. Maybe, through some miracle she had seen the light. In reality, she was looking for votes.

Uncle "Bubba" was running for County Judge this election. He needed all of the support he could get this time out. His opponents were "passing bills"(flyers) that claimed "Bubba" was a drug runner and front for the Mexican Mafia.

I couldn't imagine "Bubba" knowing anything about cocaine except what he had seen on C.O.P.S., let alone be a front for the Mexican Mafia. We were shocked right along with her. We proclaimed that these lies

*"Mimi" was going to make her "Bubba" into an important man someday.*

bly shaken at the sight of her niece driving up to the ranch in a little blue sports car with a girl on her arm. The look of shock was never far from her face the entire evening. She spent most of the night finding things for me to help her with in the kitchen- away from her guests.

I had a wonderful conversation with my love's Great Aunt "Della". She explained the entire rise of Uncle "Bubba" to me.

"Bubba" was a farm boy who could run real fast. His talent led him to the track team as well as the varsity football team. He caught the eye of the head cheerleader, "Mimi", in their senior year. They married and "Mimi" began to parlay "Bubba's" talents for speed into a marketable social climber.

He got the right job. He got his hair cut at the right barbershop. He bought his trucks at the right dealership. He gave to the right charities. They worked on their accents to have just enough "country" without being "white trash". He went hunting with the right people. They attended the right church.

"Mimi" was going to make her "Bubba" into an important man someday.

Being on the inside of the "prairie" inner circle did have its financial benefits. When the highway was going to cut across the prairie, Uncle "Bubba" sold his home and land. He bought the property across from his old place. The state highway was "rumored" to be cutting through this new plot of land. He built his new home from

were just too scandalous to hold any sway with the voters.

Just as we were completely in agreement with her, she realized who she was talking to... She had just embraced her niece and her partner/girlfriend in a public place. She suddenly stopped in mid sentence and looked at us. She looked at us for a few seconds and began extricating herself from our presence. She began to literally back away from us. Before her movement caught the attention of any perspective voters, she had disappeared down the aisle and out the door. She was hoping that she hadn't made a mistake.

What would people think? There might be voters from their district in the store. Would this chummy looking scene cost her "Bubba" a vote? Would his opponents use this one embrace as ammunition on a new set of "bills"?

Of course, "Bubba" was elected. He gets his picture on the front page of the local newspaper on a regular basis. When he speaks before the Lion's Club, the reporters jot down his every word.

"Bubba" has arrived as the top dog on the prairie. "Mimi" is rightfully proud of her man.

The only difference between Houston politicians and "prairie" politicians is the price of that "right" hair cut.

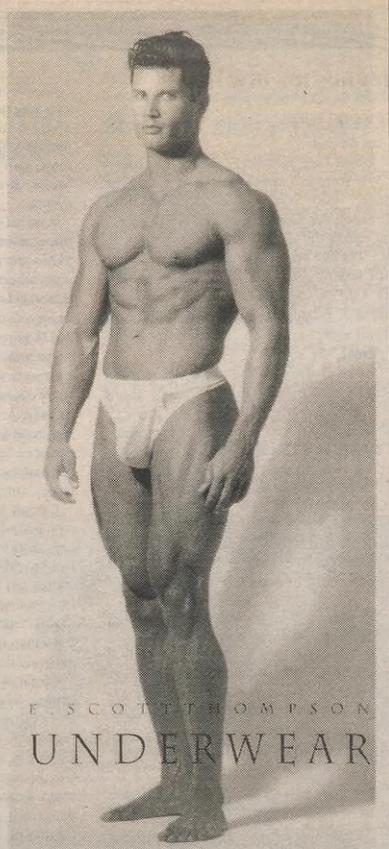
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**NAT'L** from page 7

ing, feeling, groping, kissing. They dance for hours on end.

"When I see somebody falling into somebody's arms in a tweaked state it makes me cringe," said Stephen Fallon, director of education for Center One, an AIDS group that rejects the Circuit as a fundraising vehicle. "It's like seeing somebody on the dance floor waving around a gun." AIDS groups like GMHC and Health Crisis and the dozens of groups around the world that host Circuit events are in an "unbelievable depth of denial," he said.

"We're evolving to the point where these agencies now have to think seriously about their responsibility in taking the money," Fallon said. "If you raise tens of thousands of dollars at a Circuit party but you cause one or two or three new cases of AIDS you've cost the community much more."

One indicator of how much sex happens during these events, a gay novelty store on South Beach called Gaydar stocks up on lubricant for the White Party - it's their biggest selling item during six days of parties.

"It's about sex. It's a shame to say it but they have score cards," Jonathan said.

Sex parties are organized around the events. One group called Miami Beach Hard Bodies, catering to an exclusive crowd of good looking muscular gay men, advertises its parties and maintains an e-mail address and hotline to give out information. The cover charge: \$20.

"Hey guys Miami Beach Hard Bodies is exclusively for muscle guys in great shape," said the recording at the sex party company. "That means hard solid pecks and six-pack abs. Expect to take your shirt off to prove it. If you don't measure up you don't get in."

But not all sex parties on the Circuit are for money. "Sometimes people just walk around a circuit party and pick out people they like and invite them to sex parties," John said.

The Circuit is a business, not only for the

AIDS charities, but also for the promoters and big-name company sponsors, who attach themselves in an attempt to reach the mostly-affluent 30-ish Circuit crowd. American Airlines, Absolut Vodka and Miller Brewing Co. have sponsored the events.

And promoters make a fortune with ticket prices averaging about \$50 and going up to \$125. Fear of losing their livelihood, sponsors, and mounting concerns about liability issues related to drugs have prompted a series of meetings among promoters and AIDS groups.

American Airlines stopped sponsoring circuit parties this year because of the controversy over drugs and unsafe sex, said spokeswoman Andrea Rader. "If what we're trying to do here is advance AIDS relief there might be less controversial ways to do it and support the gay and lesbian community," she said.

Circuit promoters say the drug problem has been exaggerated and is in decline. Others say the drug problem is out of control but add that they are trying to curb substance abuse. "They are all pretty freaked out right now because of the attention by the mainstream media," said Steve Kammon, publisher and editor of *Circuit Noise*, a magazine dedicated to the Circuit.

*Circuit Noise* deals heavily with the topic of drugs. In the fall issue, about half the articles dealt with drug use, including one advising how to deal with a friend on a dangerous GHB trip and one detailing the arrest of a Circuit regular for drug dealing. GHB, an often home-cooked drug with extremely dangerous potential, gained popularity on the Circuit last year.

Larry Harmon, a Miami psychologist who treats mostly gay men said the Circuit is part growing up, part rebellion and it's all a reaction to the isolation gays feel from an early age.

"For a lot of gay men this is the gay adolescence that most of these guys in their late 20s and 30s never got to experience," he

said. "Circuit parties symbolize everything that society tells gay men not to do. ... Circuit parties are about being free in a society that tells gay men to stay in the closet."

**New drugs spur call for reporting HIV cases by name**

by James Burke

SEATTLE - The first U.S. decline in new AIDS cases is increasing support for a proposal that was once almost too controversial to discuss: identifying and monitoring everyone who tests positive for the virus that causes the disease. Such a shift, now gaining momentum at the state and federal level, would mark a turnaround in public health policy.

In Washington state, public health officials now track only full-blown AIDS cases. Under the new proposal, they would monitor, by name, everyone who tests positive for HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS, and try to notify their sexual or needle-sharing partners that they have been exposed and may be infected.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is asking all states to consider the policy change. Now that new AIDS drugs are keeping people with HIV healthier longer, thereby leading to a drop in full-blown AIDS cases, such a change would enable authorities to get more HIV-positive people on the drugs sooner.

"We need to keep our policies in line with the new scientific evidence that early notification saves lives," said Dr. Alonzo Plough, director of the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health. "Names reporting is the best way for us to keep track of the epidemic and to make sure individuals and infected partners have this information," he said.

The change would also mean that epidemiologists could for the first time enlist traditional public-health strategies in the battle against AIDS. For years, the stigma of a disease that primarily infected gay men and injected-drug abusers was so great that officials, at the insistence of the gay community, relied on nontraditional methods such as anonymous testing and treatment.

Thirty states already record the names of people who have tested positive for HIV. In Washington state, for example, reporting by name begins when the patient has clinically defined AIDS - an AIDS-related infection or other symptom, or an immune system weakened to below a certain level.

Names reporting has long been used to help contain and combat other dangerous infectious diseases. The state monitors 54 such ailments including measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough, certain types of hepatitis and several sexually transmitted diseases.

Now some health authorities say it's time to add HIV to the list. They want the freedom to attack AIDS with the traditional tools of public health: routine testing of large segments of the population, names reporting of those who test HIV positive,

and notification of people who may have been infected so that they can get tested for HIV and seek treatment if necessary.

The CDC considers names reporting of HIV the only accurate way to "track the front end of the epidemic," said Judith Billings, Washington state's former top school official and a member of the President's Advisory Council on HIV-AIDS.

Billings, who stepped down from her state post after disclosing her own AIDS diagnosis last year, also leads a subcommittee of the Governor's Advisory Council on HIV-AIDS. The group has held five public hearings on HIV names reporting and will report its findings to Gov. Gary Locke next month.

Early intervention allows health authorities to stretch limited AIDS-prevention resources, Billings said. But, as a person with AIDS, she said she understands concerns that it could lead to discrimination in housing, employment and medical care.

"There are plenty of people who went through 10, 12, 15 years of discrimination who are very concerned," Billings said. "And we all know too well that there are some pretty innovative (computer) hackers." Citing such concerns, the Seattle-based Northwest AIDS Foundation is opposing the proposed change in policy.

"We think HIV surveillance is important, but we think there needs to be an alternative to a name-based system," said Steven Johnson, the foundation's public policy director and a member of the governor's advisory council. The alternative could be some sort of unique identifier or code numbers that enable officials to track the epidemic without raising patient fears of disclosure, Johnson said.

"The CDC hasn't come down with a definitive position on what they want from the states," he said. "It's unclear if the CDC will ask states to comply with the name-based system or let states do their own surveillance."

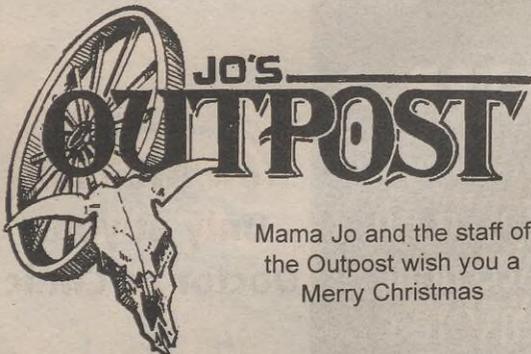
The new push for names reporting follows some rare good news in the AIDS epidemic. Combination-drug therapies - especially a new class of drugs known as "protease inhibitors" - have shown promise in many patients.

In September, the CDC reported the first U.S. drop in new AIDS cases. In 1996, 56,730 Americans were diagnosed with AIDS, down 6 percent from the 60,620 new cases reported in 1995. At the same time, AIDS deaths declined 23 percent, from 50,140 to 38,780. The new anti-AIDS drugs are expensive and don't work for everyone, but supporters of names reporting say the latest developments are encouraging enough to warrant re-examining public policy.

"We can't tell you what proportion of people who have HIV infection are on effective drugs - or what proportion of those people are even in care systems - because we have no idea who they are," said Dr. Bob Wood, AIDS-control officer for the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health. "If you want to answer those very important questions, we need to have the data," he said.

To Wood and others in the field, public health officials are negligent if they do any

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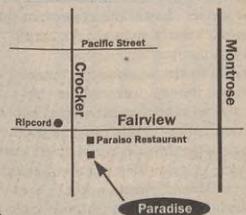
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thing less than seek out the disease and eradicate it. For them, that means notifying an HIV-positive person's sexual partners, because "if you leave it to the person, it doesn't happen," Wood said.

**Met honors Versace's edgy brand of chic**

by Ula Ihlytzky  
Associated Press

NEW YORK - Gianni Versace understood that fashion was not just about clothes - it was about entertainment, too. He reveled in contrasts like leather with lace, pop culture with Byzantine religious symbolism. He loved to titillate: a black evening gown held together with giant silver safety pins. And celebrities embraced it.

Now, five months after the acclaimed designer was gunned down outside his Miami Beach palazzo, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is showcasing Versace's brand of edgy chic with an exhibition that is glitzy, sexy and lavish. It opened Thursday and runs through March 22.

"He'll be recognized as the great designer of sexuality," said Richard Martin, curator of the Met's Costume Institute and author of the book *Versace*. "Fashion had been very polite until he came along. ... It was the right thing for the museum to do, not only in a moral sense, but also in a didactic sense to demonstrate his place in the history of fashion."

Versace, 50, died July 15 in a suspected killing spree by Andrew Cunanan, who committed suicide eight days later. The Met's decision to launch a Versace exhibit was made after the designer's murder. The only other time the Met has dedicated an entire exhibit to one contemporary designer was to Yves St. Laurent in 1983, Martin said.

Versace learned early on that celebrities could add value to his designs, and he successfully enlisted them to wear his clothes. He forged friendships with many of them, including Princess Diana, Cher, Madonna, Courtney Love and Lisa Marie Presley.

"My fashion has always been connected to rock 'n' royalty," the designer once said. "I'm lucky to have had the opportunity to dress two icons of our time: the Princess of Wales and Madonna."

The 90 faceless mannequins at the Met can't imbue the clothes with the same pizzazz that Versace's famous clients did. Museum patrons have to imagine how the scanty, daring, safety-pin gown raised eyebrows when actress Elizabeth Hurley wore it to the premiere of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

Or how Princess Diana's elegance added flare to a silk crepe of pale turquoise; how Madonna endowed a white silk sheath dressed in plastic with her own signature; or how Love arrived at the Oscars in a neoclassical silhouette of silk that was anything but grunge.

The exhibition begins with a mini-retrospective of Versace's themes, and moves on to "Versace and Art," tracing how he took inspiration from abstract art, including works by Andy Warhol and Alexander Calder.

A third gallery, "Versace and History," explores the designer's use of Greek and Roman classicism.

Byzantine crosses, madonnas, 18th century court-style silhouettes and 1920s styles. A fourth looks at the materials - leather, plastic and metal mesh - that Versace used to often shocking effect, as in his 1992 "bondage" collection of skintight sheaths strapped with black leather. Lastly, the show offers up the creations Versace designed for theater productions.

Versace is also remembered for showmanship on the runway, where he staged "events" with blaring music by Elton John or Eric Clapton. "What Gianni instinctively knew is that fashion is part of the world in the same way that all elements of a pop culture influence each other," said Hal Rubenstein, fashion editor-at-large for *InStyle* magazine.

Most of the pieces in the exhibit were donated from the Versace archives, and Versace's designer sister, Donatella, visited the museum last week to look over the layout. "My brother Gianni stood for many things," she said, "but when it comes to fashion, he will be remembered as man that was not afraid: not afraid to shock, break with convention, push the envelope."

**Prisons request \$5.4 million to boost security against sexual assault**

by Alexandra Zavis

CHICAGO - The state Corrections Department wants to install security cameras in prisons as a deterrent against sexual assault, but its director says mandatory AIDS testing among inmates is unnecessary.

"We have very old prisons that have a number of blind spots," Director Odie Washington said Thursday at a House Prison Management Reform Committee hearing.

The department's request for \$5.4 million to install the security cameras will be presented to Gov. Jim Edgar for inclusion in budget proposal for next year. The proposal would let the department install cameras in stairways, shower areas, kitchens and other areas where assaults occur.

"The department is moving in the right direction, but they are just beginning the journey," said Rep. Cal Skinner, R-Crystal Lake. Skinner, who requested the hearing, advocates mandatory HIV testing in state prisons and the segregation of inmates who have the AIDS-causing virus.

Washington said both proposals are unnecessary. Education is effectively controlling the spread of AIDS, he said. Of the close to 41,000 inmates in Illinois, 630 to 650 have tested HIV positive and about 200 have full-blown AIDS, according to the department's public health director, Judy Coe.

Washington said a new department study shows just one of the 243 inmates who have been continuously incarcerated since 1977 may have been infected with HIV while in prison. The inmate was stabbed in the abdomen in 1975 and received blood transfusions during treatment that may have been contaminated with HIV, he said.

"This study proves that the spread of AIDS among inmates in Illinois prisons is not prevalent and certainly not out of control as some have characterized," he said. Washington also says sexual assault is less common in prison than within the population at large.

He said 15 allegations of sexual assault by inmates have been recorded in Illinois over the past three years. Of these, 112 were not substantiated, 18 are under investigation, 12 led to institutional discipline and 15 were referred for prosecution.

A very different picture was presented Thursday by Michael Blucker, who said prison officials' neglect led to his rape and infection with HIV. "You have no type of knowledge as to what goes on in your institution," said Blucker.

In August, a federal jury refused to award damages to Blucker, who contended staff at the Menard prison allowed a prison gang to enslave him for sex and drug smuggling in 1993. Lawyers for the state countered that Blucker, who was imprisoned for burglary and auto theft, fabricated the story as an alibi after he was nearly caught smuggling drugs.

"Quite frankly, inmates lie for their own benefit," said Washington.

Opponents to Skinner's HIV proposals include the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Spokeswoman Michelle Mascaro said mandatory HIV testing and segregation would give a false sense of security to prisoners and increase the disease's spread. The foundation recommends strengthening education programs and distributing condoms, as well as bleach with which prisoners can sterilize needles used to inject drugs.

**Clinton Administration rejects Medicaid help for HIV-infected to buy AIDS drugs**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) - Citing projected costs, the Clinton administration will not extend Medicaid coverage to people with the AIDS virus to provide them with AIDS-fighting drugs before they become ill.

Officials had hoped a proposal to expand coverage would pay for itself by keeping people healthy and saving money on future hospital care. But several proposals were tested and all were too expensive, Victor Zonana, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, said Thursday.

Vice President Al Gore had promised AIDS activists last April that the government would give the plan serious considera-

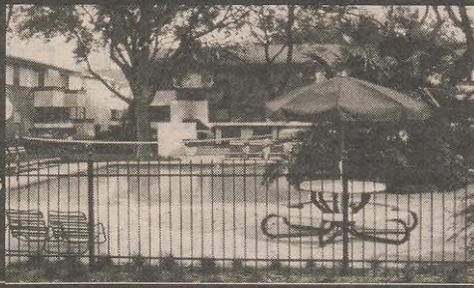
tion. "If it works out, as I hope and expect it will, it can ease suffering, renew hope and help ensure that good people are not priced out of lifesaving medicine," Gore said at the time.

A new generation of AIDS drugs has proved incredibly successful for many people with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, but the medicine costs \$12,000 a year for each person treated. People with AIDS now qualify for Medicaid coverage even if they are not poor enough to participate under the program's normal guidelines. But no such exception exists for people with HIV.

Zonana said officials considered plans that would have provided Medicaid to people with HIV living at that poverty line and at 200, 250 and 300 percent above it. "We kept running it with different assumptions but we weren't able to make it come out" revenue neutral, he said.

However, Zonana said the administration See NAT'L page 13

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## OPEN LETTER

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-Eugene Ethridge

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This letter is not published in connection with any political campaign. This letter is paid for by Eugene Ethridge, 1431 West 18th Street, Houston, Texas.

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will continue its efforts to help people with HIV access the life-saving drugs. He noted that Medicaid is already the biggest payer for HIV drugs, helping 160,000 people with HIV and AIDS.

"We're still looking for innovative ways," he said. "Other doors are definitely opening." He said that funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program was boosted 71 percent to about \$280 million this year.

**Parents to appeal decision that keeps gay tolerance poster in class**

CHESTERTON, Ind. - The parents who object to a classroom poster promoting tolerance for homosexuals will ask the Indiana State Board of Education to overturn a decision allowing it to stay. Cathy and David Podguski also are considering filing a civil lawsuit, John Stepanovich, an attorney with The American Center for Law and Justice, said Tuesday. The group is aiding the Podguskis.

"This issue is not about tolerance of homosexuality," Stepanovich said in a written statement. "It is an issue about control and raises an important question: Who is responsible for teaching values to our children?"

The Duneland School Board voted 4-1 on Monday to uphold a district committee's unanimous decision that the poster meets curriculum standards and can remain at Chesterton High School. Duneland Superintendent Kenneth L. Payne defended the committee's decision.

"We feel that we are within the guidelines of the local policies as well as the statutes," he said. "And we feel comfortable this is in the best interests of our students, our staff and our community."

The black-and-white poster that has hung in Bonney Leckie's classroom for six years has images of 10 historical figures, including Cole Porter, Walt Whitman, Michelangelo and Eleanor Roosevelt. Underneath in small lettering is the message, "Sexual orientation has nothing to do with the ability to make a mark, let alone make history."

Leckie, an English teacher, said she had never received any complaints about the poster until last year, when the Podguskis asked to have it removed. They say the poster promotes homosexuality and has no educational value.

**Legislators want inmates exiting prison system tested for AIDS**

TULSA, OK. - A legislative panel is calling for inmates leaving the Oklahoma prison system to be tested for HIV and AIDS, and it wants the Department of Corrections to pay for the program.

Inmates entering the system are processed through the Lexington Assessment and Reception Center and undergo tests for contagious diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis, the House Committee on Corrections was told in September. But the DOC does not test inmates upon their release, raising concerns that AIDS could be spread into communities by infected prisoners, Rep. Mike Mass said Thursday.

"We don't know if there are 10 (infected) inmates going in and 30 coming out," Mass, D-Hartshorne, told the Tulsa World's Capitol bureau. Mass would like the state Health Department to be informed when a convict tests positive for HIV or AIDS so that the department can take precautionary measures.

According to DOC records, 6,035 convicts were released from custody during the last fiscal year. Testing them for the AIDS virus would cost about \$37,000. The agency should be able to afford the expense since the Legislature boosted appropriations for the department by 20 percent this year to \$296.5 million, Mass contends.

The House Corrections Committee wants the DOC to address the issue rather than writing legislation, committee Chairman Rep. Bob Ed Culver, D-Tablequah, said. Mass also said the committee spoke of the possibility of segregating inmates with the AIDS virus from the general population.

**AIDS victim accused of robbing bank to buy mom a van**

LISBON, Iowa - A local man dying of AIDS was charged with robbing a bank for what a friend said was money to buy his mother a van for Christmas.

Timothy Lee Varney, 33, was arrested minutes after the 8:42 a.m. unarmed robbery and after walking 3 1/2 blocks to his home Tuesday. Immediately before the robbery, his live-in caretaker, Larry Henderson, called the Hills Bank & Trust Co. to let employees there know that the sickly Varney had uncharacteristically left the house and might show up there.

Varney had talked about a robbery, but Henderson hadn't taken him seriously. Henderson wanted the bank to know he was worried about Varney. The bank let Varney in at 8:42 a.m. even though it did not open until 9 a.m.

Once inside, Varney asked for money in a polite manner without a weapon or threat of one, authorities said. Then he left. He arrived home waving a paper bag that Henderson first assumed contained doughnuts. "I was on the phone with his doctor when he came in with the bag," Henderson said.

A look in the bag revealed a heap of \$20, \$10 and \$5 bills. Henderson called police. Varney was sitting on the sofa counting the money when an officer arrived moments later. It was revealed in court Tuesday that \$4,931 was taken from the bank.

"They were looking for him," Henderson said. "The bank had told them about my call." Varney calmly let himself be handcuffed and taken away. "He had this blank look," Henderson said.

Linn County Sheriff's Sgt. Gene Parks credited the bank staff with quickly putting out a description of the robber. Apparently, a deputy arriving in Lisbon spotted Varney entering his house. Varney appeared in front of federal Magistrate John Jarvey in Cedar Rapids late Tuesday on a charge of bank robbery.

Jarvey granted a defense request to immediately take Varney to a locked ward at University Hospitals in Iowa City, as requested by Henderson. There, Varney's immediate medical and psychiatric needs can be tended, Henderson said. Varney, suffering from pneumonia and depression and prone to dementia, was given 4 months to live 1 1/2 years ago, Henderson said.

"He is not an outlaw," Henderson said. "He is terminally ill plus having dementia. He deals with a lot of anxiety and depression. He has moments of hope that he's going to live a little longer and then he starts to get worse. What he did this morning, he wanted to buy his mom a van. He had no concept of right and wrong."

Henderson, 49, said Varney had been a hospital worker in Illinois when he contracted the AIDS virus and needed someone to take care of him. Henderson said he knew

Varney and his family well and decided to help. Henderson said Varney considers him like a father. The two came to quiet Lisbon so Varney could have quiet and a yard for his two dogs.

The caretaker turned frantic Tuesday morning when Varney walked out and headed downtown, announcing he was going to rob the bank. Henderson drove downtown looking for Varney. Unable to spot him at the bank or anywhere else, Henderson returned home and called the bank to inform them that Varney was wandering around town and may turn up there.

After the robbery, Henderson couldn't understand how Varney could have persuaded anyone at the bank to give him money. "That's what astonished me the most," he said. "Because he's so harmless and he didn't have a weapon. Maybe it's they just don't know about him."

**Four new HIV cases linked to Nushawn Williams**

MAYVILLE, N.Y. - Several new cases of HIV have been linked to Nushawn Williams, the New York City man accused of knowingly spreading the AIDS virus, health officials said.

Since late October, five more former sexual partners of Williams, 21, have tested positive, bringing to 13 the number of women he is believed to have infected, Chautauqua County Health Commissioner Robert Berke said Tuesday. One man also was believed infected through contact with one of the women.

Williams is awaiting sentencing in a Bronx jail after pleading guilty to selling crack cocaine to an undercover officer in September. Last week, a judge granted a request by Williams' lawyer that Williams undergo a 30-day psychiatric evaluation before he is sentenced. He was previously diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Williams, who used several aliases, is suspected of having unprotected sex with numerous young women in rural Chautauqua County and New York City after testing positive for HIV in September 1996. Among his partners were wayward teens he seduced with crack, authorities said.

Chautauqua County authorities have charged him with statutory rape and have indicated they will pursue criminal assault charges. His next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 16.

**Heitkamp: Requesting AIDS info from day care providers is legal**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The state Human Services Department is on solid legal ground when it requires day care providers to divulge whether they have AIDS or the virus that causes it, Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp said.

"The whole issue is to provide parents with the maximum amount of appropriate information on which they can judge the quality of care they'll receive at a day care center," Heitkamp said.

Personal information about day care providers, such as whether they have contracted HIV, is included in public records kept by the Department of Human Services. The American Civil Liberties Union, on behalf of North Dakota Child Care Providers Inc., wrote to Heitkamp in late October to protest the standard queries about AIDS.

Ron Lawlor of Fargo, president of the day care group, said state and federal laws prohibit anyone from passing on to a third party the results of medical tests. "If I give a friend or relative results of an AIDS test, they can't give that information to anyone else. It's the same with the DHS, if I give them information on an AIDS test, they can't give that out to anyone else," Lawlor said.

Heitkamp interpreted the law differently. "I can certainly understand the concern presented by the ACLU but the question we were asked was narrow: Was it illegal for the Department of Human Services to request this information? Our answer was that it was legally supportable and no, it's not illegal for Human Services to ask for that kind of information."

Keith Elston, ACLU director for the Dakotas, said Heitkamp responded to the complaints in a three-page letter filled with "bureaucratic gobbledegook" and "circular reasoning."

"Her response to the question about disclosure of HIV status, when it conflicts with state law that says disclosure of HIV status is a class C felony, was essentially that people who fill out the form can waive their right to confidentiality so that it's voluntary rather than forced disclosure. How voluntary is it if the consequence of not disclosing the information is that you or your employer lose a child care license?"

Lawlor believes the state should simply require day care providers to sign a pledge

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**NAT'L** from page 13

indicating they have no conditions that would jeopardize the health or safety of the children under their care. "If the ACLU or the day care group wants something changed, that's something that needs to be reviewed with DHS," Heitkamp said.

Lawlor said he is contacting lawmakers to see if changes can be made through interim legislative committees. "We don't want to, but there's always the possibility of litigation," he added.

**Top cop searches store's videotape to find his own accuser**

HARTFORD, Conn. - Public Safety Commissioner William McGuire, upset over a fax accusing him of making anti-lesbian statements, had investigators search a copier store's security video to find the anonymous detractor. The move has given added ammunition to some of McGuire's critics, who will decide if he makes it through confirmation hearings at the General Assembly.

"It's an extraordinary use of power," said Senate Majority Leader George Jepsen, D-Stamford. "Whether or not he said these things is a bit immaterial. To use talented officers to track down a fax, apparently because it was directed at him, seems extraordinary."

The head of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union on Tuesday said Gov. John G. Rowland should remove McGuire. He also sharply criticized the copier store's manager for turning over the security video without a search warrant.

Through his spokesman, Rowland said he was standing by the commissioner and declined to comment on the propriety of sending police out to get the copier store video. McGuire was named to fill the vacancy left by the early retirement of Col.

Kenneth Kirschner in September. He faces confirmation hearings before Jepsen's nominations committee.

The fax was sent in October from a Kinko's Copies store to the state police affirmative action officer in Middletown. It also was sent to a TV station and a state lawmaker. McGuire said that shortly after the fax arrived, it landed on his desk.

McGuire told *The Hartford Courant* that he began an investigation into the charges made in the fax and cleared himself. Then he started looking for the person who sent it as part of what he said was a criminal investigation. He told the *Courant* that the "gutless wonder" could face a harassment charge.

"I'm really getting a little bit tired of this abuse that I'm taking from certain individuals, who don't have the guts to stand up and make these accusations to my face," McGuire told the *Courant*. The fax said McGuire had made derogatory remarks about former Trooper Stacey Simmons.

Simmons, in a federal lawsuit, alleges McGuire and other state police officials denied her various career opportunities because she is gay. McGuire and the other state officials have denied those allegations. McGuire has said he may have made homophobic comments, but never publicly.

Joseph Grabarz, head of the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, said the governor should remove McGuire. "Rather than have him serve out the rest of his tenure under a cloud - discriminatory and other questionable behavior - it would be best for the people of Connecticut to have a stronger and better feeling about the performance of a person in that position," Grabarz said.

But Grabarz said there was nothing specifically wrong with McGuire sending troopers to investigate the charges as part of an internal affairs check into police conduct.

"In some ways, McGuire's caught in a bind. The only way that we have to oversee and review civilian complaints about police departments in this state is through the police themselves. In some sense, McGuire

investigated it in the only way they had the ability to do it," he said.

Kinko's drew Grabarz's most ardent fire. "Anybody now in the state of Connecticut who's concerned about their privacy and their communication needs to think twice about using Kinko's," he said. "I will never use Kinko's again."

Dean Pagani, spokesman for the governor, said Rowland "as full confidence in Bill McGuire and continues to back him as his candidate for commissioner of state police." He would not comment on the search. "That's really up to Bill McGuire to comment on that," Pagani said.

Kinko's also defended its actions. "We were within the law doing that. We were just simply wanting to cooperate with the police," said Laura McCormick, said a company spokeswoman in Ventura, Calif.

**Denver council approves needle-exchange program**

DENVER - Hoping to slow Denver's growing number of HIV and AIDS cases, the City Council has approved a controversial needle-exchange program that would allow drug users to trade used syringes for new ones.

The exchange program, which was approved Monday on an 8-3 vote, cannot go into effect without the authorization of the state legislature. Lawmakers last session killed a bill to modify Colorado's drug paraphernalia law.

Despite the uphill battle, program proponents said it is a necessary step to preventing spread of HIV and AIDS. An estimated 10.5 percent of Denver's AIDS cases in 1996 were attributed to intravenous drug use.

"This is a public health issue," councilwoman Happy Hayes said. "The goal is to decrease the spread of infectious and deadly diseases. I see no evidence that it will increase drug use."

Councilman Ed Thomas, a former Denver

police officer, joined Susan Barnes-Gelt and Ted Hackworth as the dissenting voters. "We're taking a giant leap of faith with people involved in heroin and injection devices," Thomas said. "There's not absolute proof that a needle-exchange program ... is successful."

Mayor Wellington Webb, who initially opposed the needle program, changed his position out of concern for the growing number of children infected with HIV through their mothers. Under Webb's proposal, the city's department of environmental health would register, inspect and monitor any needle-exchange program. Denver would join 75 other U.S. cities with such a program.

Boulder has a personal needle-exchange program in which individuals receive clean needles for used ones, but it is not recognized by authorities and is generally regarded as illegal. "It just doesn't make sense," Denver police officer Kirk Miller said of needle-exchange programs. "Let's do some outreach and education first before we give a drug user the equipment to commit a felony."

**Body found in garage was gay activist**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL. - Brad Buchman once championed gay rights in South Florida. This week his death became crime blotter material when his body was discovered by a friend in his garage.

Buchman catapulted himself into the national spotlight as spokesman for the gay rights movement in the early 1990s, but in recent years he had become reclusive, battling AIDS behind closed doors. He turned to crack cocaine and alcohol for solace.

Investigators are wondering whether drugs are to blame for his death. Cause of death was still pending Thursday, according to the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office. The 31-year-old charismatic commu-

See NAT'L page 15

**Talent Night  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
Week #6 Preliminary**

Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday will return on Dec. 14 for Finals  
**\$500 Cash - Winner Take All**  
MC Finals is Roxanne Lee Love



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**Saturday Dec. 13  
Special Guest  
Sivi Ross**

**Super Saturday  
Night Fever**



Paivi Lee Love



Dyan Michaels



Roxanne Lee Love



Lana Blake

FRI	12/12
SAT	12/13
SUN	12/14
MON	12/15
TUE	12/16
WED	12/17
THUR	12/11

**MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi**

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm**

**\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night**

**MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi**

**Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels**

**Granny's Burgers!**

**Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos**

**NAT'L**/from page 14

city leader was found dead Monday night. Buchman had been staying with retired lawyer Richard Alan Marcus, who had asked him to move out shortly before leaving for Thanksgiving. "I had no idea he was there," Marcus said. "He's not supposed to be in my house."

Marcus backed his car out of the garage and heard a loud thump. It was Buchman, already dead, under the silver 1994 Toyota Camry, police said. "He lived a bright life and died on the cutting edge," said friend Norm Kent. "Even shooting stars can disappear after an extremely bright life."

On Oct. 16, police arrested Buchman for possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia. Investigators caught a bony Buchman with a crack pipe and a metal rod with drug residue under his car seat.

**Degeneres didn't want to become spokeswoman for gays, lesbians**

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. - Ellen DeGeneres never wanted to be a spokeswoman for gay rights, but that's exactly what happened after she publicly disclosed her sexual orientation.

"I just got to the place where I didn't want to live my life feeling ashamed, and thank God that I don't have to do that anymore," DeGeneres said last Sunday at a dinner where she was honored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. "From the beginning, I said that I didn't want to become a spokesman for gay rights. But here I am," she said.

DeGeneres said her ABC sitcom *Ellen* serves an important function in trying to remove the stigma attached to gays and lesbians. "But there's still a lot more to do," she said. "There's a warning label on my show sending a message that there is something wrong with me." DeGeneres has been fighting with ABC executives in an effort to remove the parental guidance warnings at the beginning of her show.

The ACLU gave her its Bill of Rights Award for advancing "the cause of gay rights 100-fold" by announcing her sexual orientation on the April 14 issue of *Time* magazine and later appeared on the groundbreaking *Ellen* episode.

The ACLU Bill of Rights Award commemorates the ratification of the Bill of Rights in December 1791. Funds raised at the annual dinner support the ACLU's legal battles, advocacy and public education programs.

**Gay former scout to test state's anti-discrimination law**

HACKENSACK, N.J. - James Dale was a highly-decorated Boy Scout. He earned 30 merit badges, seven achievement honors, the Arrow of Light Award and an Eagle Badge. But when the Boy Scouts of America found out that Dale was gay, he was tossed out of his local Matawan troop for violating the organization's 80-year-old policy barring homosexuals.

Dale, now 27 and working at a New York City public relations firm, claims the Boy Scouts' policy violates New Jersey's anti-discrimination law. A four-judge state Appellate Division panel was scheduled to meet this week to consider the case.

The case is one of several anti-discrimination suits pending against the organization nationwide. It is also a test of the state's anti-discrimination law, which was expanded in 1992 to prohibit most organizations from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

Evan Wolfson, Dale's attorney, told *The Star-Ledger* of Newark that the Boy Scouts are arguing they are not a public accommodation. Wolfson said if the court accepts that argument, it "could cripple the reach of New Jersey's law against discrimination."

But the Boy Scouts say staying straight is a crucial element of their mission. "This is

a national policy that's very simple," said Gregg Shields, a national Boy Scouts spokesman. "The Boy Scouts of America have long taught the values held by scouting families. A person who engages in a homosexual lifestyle is not a role model for those values."

Dale was a member of Boy Scout Troop 73, and remained active in the organization while attending Rutgers University. He sued the organization after being tossed out in 1992, claiming discrimination. A Monmouth County judge ruled in favor of the Boy Scouts in 1995. Dale has said he will not discuss his case publicly.

**Ministers plan counter march or festival during Gay Pride festival**

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. - Some area ministers want to take action during next year's South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival that may include a counter-rally or march.

"In the '60s we sat idly by and let prayer be removed from our schools," said the Rev. Mack Hutson of High Point Baptist Church in Conway. "In the '70s, the church sat idly

by and allowed the Supreme Court to go ahead with abortion and Roe v. Wade. In the '80s the church sat idly by as TV promoted sexual immorality. Now we are looking at the gay community coming into our community. "I'm not willing to sit idly by."

Hutson said he and other area pastors are looking into organizing a countywide counter-rally or a march. "They are trying to impose a way of life on us with this festival that is probably already here but is just not flaunted," the Rev. Earl Nobles said. "I don't see what this festival will accomplish except to create division."

Nobles, Hutson and the Rev. Eric Gargus said they support Myrtle Beach developer Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc.'s opposition to the upcoming gay pride festival. The developer says the festival's image conflicts with traditional family values, and on Thursday nixed a proposed Village People concert at its Broadway at the Beach complex.

The area's largest developer also has asked businesses on its properties not to sponsor festival events. The South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement is expected to decide Dec. 21 on a response to the developer's actions, which may include boycotts or a discrimination lawsuit.

The ninth annual festival is scheduled for April 30-May 3. Last year it was held in Greenville, where the county council passed a resolution condemning homosexuality, and in Columbia previous years.

"This is why a festival like this is so important," festival co-chair Patrick Evans said. "It shows people that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are not strangers. They are people in your office, sisters, brothers and neighbors. When most people realize that, their sentiment starts to change."

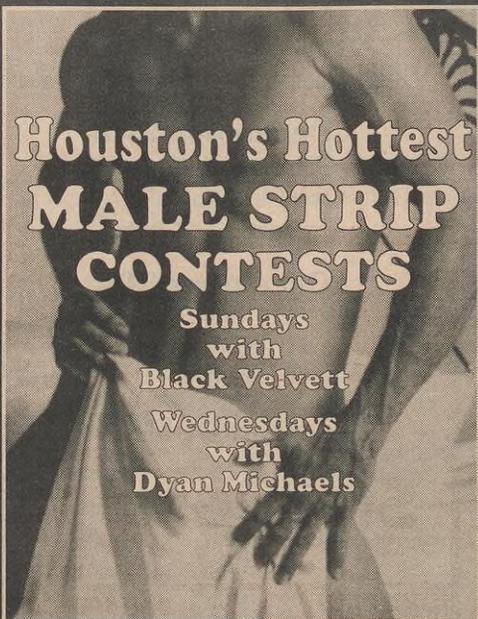
**University of Montana to offer gay literature class**

MISSOULA - A new course offering at the University of Montana aims to change perceptions about gay culture, literature and vocabulary. Mona Bachmann, a visiting English instructor, plans to teach a class beginning January titled, "Queer Stories: Literature of Sexual Differences."

"The word queer has a history of being used in a real derogatory way," Bachmann said. "But in the last 10 to 15 years, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communi-

See NAT'L page 16

**Sunday, December 14 • 8pm**  
**Mr. and Miss Gentry**  
**1998 Pageant**



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 Click "The Guide"

**Sunday, December 21**  
 The Imperial Court Presents  
**"It Came Upon A Midnight Queer"**  
 A Totally Gay Christmas Revue  
 Showtime at 9pm  
 Photos with Santa from 7 to 9pm

**NAT'L** from page 15

ties have been reclaiming that name." Bachmann wants the class to change the way people view the term "queer," and she hopes to increase acceptance for the lifestyle it describes. "The course centers around so-called queer identities," she said. "The process of change is happening in society. This will help explain those changes."

The course will examine literature that explores sexuality, gender and subjectivity, she said. Readings for the course include *Zami*, by Audre Lorde, and *The Man Who Fell In Love With The Moon*, by Idaho author Tom Spanbauer. The class will also study works by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender authors, Bachmann said.

**Hands Off Washington leaders resign, group renamed**

SEATTLE - The top two leaders of Hands Off Washington have resigned and the group has been renamed Equality Washington.

Jan Bianchi quit as executive director effective last Monday to take a job with the Revenue Department in Olympia. Laurie

Jenkins resigned as board president a month before her term ends but said she would remain on the board. She was replaced as acting president by Richard Kirton.

Jenkins said it seemed better to leave now so new leaders can begin preparing for the legislative session.

Development director Christopher Mills said there was no connection between the changes and voter rejection in November of Initiative 677, which would have prohibited job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Seeking a less confrontational name, the group began using Equality Washington during the campaign, and the two women had planned to move on with their careers regardless of how the initiative fared, Mills said. The changes are all a "natural transition," said Suzanne Thomas, a former board member and author of Initiative 677.

"Hands Off was appropriate as a name when we were fighting anti-gay initiatives," Thomas said, "but now it is becoming a broad-based civil-rights organization."

Hands Off Washington was organized in 1992 to defeat the first of several attacks on gay-rights legislation. Initially called Washington Citizens for Fairness, it quickly became known by its slogan, directed at an Oregon group that pushed an anti-gay initia-

tive in that state.

The group successfully defeated a series of measures which would have repealed local gay-rights ordinances and successfully lobbied to block state legislation that would have banned same-sex marriages. Last year the organization absorbed the Privacy Fund, a political-action committee that lobbied and raised money for candidates who supported gay causes.

**School cancels gig for lesbian folk duo**

CORVALLIS, Ore. - A private school has canceled a performance by a lesbian folk duo after the group promoting the concert refused to change promotional materials referring to the singers as "life partners."

Dave Gore, headmaster at Ashbrook Independent School in Corvallis, said he never meant to discriminate against Cris Williamson and Tret Fure by refusing to rent the school's 402-seat theater to them.

But the Corvallis Folklore Society, the organization that booked the group to perform March 6, is considering filing a formal complaint with the city of Corvallis, saying Gore's decision violates a city anti-discrimination ordinance.

Gore said he pulled the plug on the con-

cert after he asked the Folklore Society to remove the "life partners" reference from the singers' promotional materials. The society refused.

"Our feeling was if their sexual orientation were just an incidental thing, not something central to their performance, they wouldn't mind having it deleted," Gore said. "If it is something that's central to their performance, there was a question as to whether this is family-style entertainment."

The Folklore Society said the duo has performed in Corvallis before without any controversy, and that their music contains no references to homosexuality. "My sense is that that is simply part of who they are," said Anna Ellendman, the society's treasurer and concert coordinator. "On stage, they are professional, high-quality musicians."

The society hasn't filed a formal complaint with the city, but Prudence Miles, the city's ombudsman, said the case may prompt the first challenge to the city's 5-year-old anti-discrimination ordinance. The ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodations based on race, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or source of income.

Ashbrook may be a private school, Miles said, but by offering its theater for non-school-related activities, its actions become subject to public laws. "If you're offering services to the public, you have to offer them equally," she said. "I think they (the society members) certainly have grounds to file a complaint."

Gore said that the theater policy at the three-month-old school, while still in its developmental stages, is clear: the school reserves the right to turn away artists who either promote or attack a certain sexual lifestyle.

"Our policy is we don't really care what someone's sexual orientation is," he said. "The question is what they're trying to promote in a school setting." The singers have another Corvallis gig lined up, at the Majestic Theater Feb. 28.

**Gay leaders offer own thanks to Gen. Powell**

SAN FRANCISCO - An influential gay and lesbian group said it would join the mayor in thanking Gen. Colin Powell for helping to raise money for children and that it disapproved of an official's objection to a public expression of gratitude.

Last week, when Supervisor Gavin Newsom introduced a resolution to commend the retired general for helping to raise funds for city youth programs, it touched off a dispute. Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who is gay, objected to the plan, saying a city as diverse as San Francisco should not honor a man who does not support gays and lesbians in the military.

Then, Mayor Willie Brown publicly offered Powell his own thanks, saying the board had committed "a terrible diplomatic faux pas." Some gay and lesbian leaders disagreed with Ammiano and sided with Brown. The prominent Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club said Tuesday that it would send its own thank you to Powell for raising \$1.4 million for the city's children.

"We find that injecting gay military issues into this discussion is counterproductive at a time when the lesbian and gay community is working hard to build bridges with African American and other minority communities," said club Chairwoman Carole Cullum.

Cullum added that Ammiano does not represent all gays and lesbians in San Francisco. The resolution is not expected to pass the committee, Newsom said.

**Public comments restricted at Methodist meetings**

OMAHA, Neb. - Public comments will be restricted at four meetings scheduled next week across Nebraska to address a con-

See NAT'L page 17



**"Your Neighborhood Country Bar"**

**Coming Attractions!**

**December 19th**  
Customer Appreciation  
Featuring Hors d'oeuvres  
Special Guest  
D.J. "Jimmy Dale" @ 7pm  
Our Way of Saying Thanks!

**December 22nd**  
Employee Christmas Party  
featuring  
Special Guest Bartender  
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Christmas Dinner  
Delectable! Delightful! Delicious!  
Starting at 3pm

**December 31st**  
New Year's Eve  
Join us for Brick's II  
First Annual Balloon Drop at Midnight.  
Special Guest Bartenders  
The Lone Star Houston

**January 1st New Years Day**  
Another Feast Starting at 3pm  
Special Guest Bartenders  
The Lone Star Houston

**January 15th Our First Anniversary!!!**  
More details to follow...

Dave and the staff of Bricks II  
Wish You  
A Merry Christmas  
and  
A Happy New Year



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**NAT'L** from page 16

traversal lesbian marriage in Omaha. The Nebraska United Methodist Church has stripped the open-microphone portion from the meetings' agenda.

Church leaders are afraid of compromising the Nebraska Annual Conference's investigation of formal charges against the Rev. Jimmy Creech, said the Rev. Richard Turner, assistant to Bishop Joel Martinez. "It diminishes to a certain extent what our original objective was," he said. "But the risk to due process is too great to jeopardize."

Creech performed the lesbian ceremony in September at First United Methodist Church in violation of church rules. The minister was suspended for 60 days with pay beginning Nov. 10. The meetings will be primarily for worship, said the Rev. Richard Turner, assistant to Bishop Joel Martinez.

**More than 300 attend forum on anti-discrimination**

FORT COLLINS, Colo. - Speakers supporting a proposal to extend anti-discrimination protection to homosexuals outnumbered opponents more than three to one at a public forum on proposed changes to Fort Collins' human rights ordinance.

More than 300 people attended the meeting Wednesday. The forum was sponsored by a volunteer citizen task force that has been studying the ordinance. The question

of whether sexual orientation should be added to the ordinance dominated the meeting. Two proposed ordinances have been drafted to change the city's anti-discrimination law.

The first contains several revisions, including new definitions that make a violation of the law a civil rather than a criminal matter, and altering the process for handling complaints. The second ordinance adds sexual orientation to the law. Proponents of that change said gays and lesbians routinely face discrimination when trying to find employment and housing.

"I could stand up here and tell many stories of discrimination that I've heard and experienced," said Stacy Shelp. "My frustration is how many stories does it take to believe discrimination and oppression happens here in Fort Collins."

Two women in the audience, who wore masks and wide-brimmed hats to hide their identities, told task force members they feared discrimination if they were recognized as lesbians. Opponents said giving gays protected status would infringe on the freedom of others to speak out against homosexual activity, which they consider immoral and unhealthy.

"We have got to bring discipline into this culture and not accept everything to our danger," said Jack Cox. "If we accept everything on the basis of 'feel good,' we are doomed to fail." Opponents of the change said they would force an election on the law if it is passed by the city council.

*(Compiled by Staff from Associated Press and other Wire Reports)*

pulled out the line and capped it with her gloved thumb to prevent the blood from spraying around the room. At the same time, the needle, which she was also holding, punctured her glove and thumb.

Jack D'Ambrosi, training to be a registered nurse at the time, recalled overhearing the young woman say "there goes my life." Six weeks later, Dr. Doe tested HIV-positive. Doe said she held onto the needle with her left hand, rather than get rid of it, because one method to cap the tube is to reinsert the needle. On Friday, Fisher disagreed that the method is acceptable, saying "it should not be done."

Fisher's testimony challenged that of Dr. Alison Heald, who was Dr. Doe's supervisor at the time. Earlier this week, on videotape, Heald said the method used was acceptable, but admitted that she herself would have done things differently. Fisher also said she was unaware that Dr. Doe had only performed the procedure three times before the accident.

Dr. Doe, who is now 35 and practicing at an undisclosed university, listened intently as Fisher testified, cupping her chin in her hands and leaning on bent elbows on the bench in front of her. Dr. Doe took AZT for years after her infection and is now undergoing the more progressive three-drug cocktail treatment.

There was no detection of the virus in a recent test of lymph nodes but it is unclear how much, if any, of the virus remains in her blood. The plaintiff curly left the courtroom before her eerily prescient prediction was backed up by Dr. Gottlieb. She preferred not to listen to him rattle off - in graphic detail - how her life could deteriorate should she develop AIDS from the HIV virus she was infected with in 1988.

Dr. Gottlieb ran through a litany of sordid maladies that HIV-infected patients can suffer from. He also said with the new generation of treatments now available, it takes about 12-15 years to from the date of infection to develop full-blown AIDS, with life expectancies after that ranging from 2-8

years. The trial is expected to last about three weeks.

**Court upholds officer's discharge for homosexuality**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - An Air Force officer's request for reinstatement after a 1989 discharge for homosexuality, 11 months short of his 20-year pension, was refused by a federal appeals court.

The Air Force had substantial evidence of homosexual acts by Lt. Col. Kenneth L. Jackson, such as a greeting card in which he called his male roommate "a beautiful and sensitive lover," said the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in its ruling Tuesday. The court also rejected Jackson's claim of unconstitutional discrimination.

Jackson, now of Los Gatos, Calif., enlisted in the Air Force reserves in 1967 and began active duty in 1970. Transferred in 1974 to Norton AFB, east of Los Angeles, he was assigned to high-security missile duties and became head of the base's Small ICBM Guidance and Control Division in 1986, according to his lawsuit.

In 1988, police in nearby Redlands suspected Jackson's civilian roommate of child molesting, and searched their home, accompanied by Air Force officers. The court said the search turned up evidence of Jackson's homosexual activity, including a "gay pride" button, an American Civil Liberties Union handbook called "The Rights of Gay People," several magazines and videos, and six greeting cards from Jackson to his roommate.

In the cards, as quoted by the court, Jackson called the roommate a "beautiful and sensitive lover" and said, "The nights are lonely and I really miss holding, cuddling and looking at you."

Jackson's suit said one of the policemen had threatened to arrest him unless he

See COURT page 19

**Famed researcher testifies that AIDS still fatal**

by Christine Hanley

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Dr. Michael Gottlieb, the famed AIDS researcher credited with being among the first to take note of the disease, testified in court that progress in finding treatments has been more promising than many had predicted. But he also told lawyers for a doctor who is suing the Yale School of Medicine that based on a "reasonable probability" their client will eventually die from AIDS.

The woman, a former intern at the school, claims she became infected with HIV while performing a medical procedure on an

AIDS patient at Yale/New Haven Hospital. Gottlieb was the last of three witnesses called Friday in her civil lawsuit against Yale, a school she claims did not properly train her to perform the procedure that resulted in her infection.

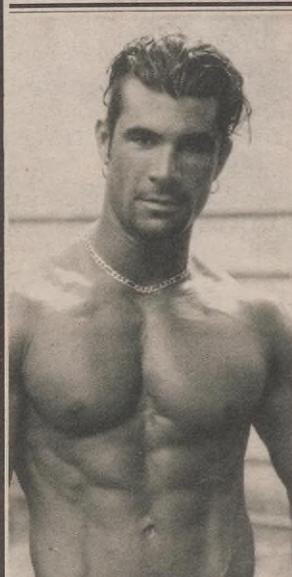
That claim was bolstered Friday in testimony from Rosemarie Fisher, the director of Yale New Haven-Hospital's intern training program. She said an unacceptable method for inserting the arterial line may have been passed down by a supervisor.

Fresh out of University of Chicago Medical School, Doe was 25 years old and seven weeks into her internship at Yale-New Haven Hospital when she was asked on to perform that procedure on Aug. 18, 1988.

As blood gushed through the tube, she

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Cum see our Erotic Dancers Tease & Please in our Cages of Decadance!

Saturdays, 9 pm  
**LEATHER & FLESH FANTASY NIGHT!**  
No Cover in Erotic Leather!

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Monday, Dec. 22  
**6TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY STAFF PARTY!**  
Presents, Pictures with Santa, & More! **No Cover** for Employees of Restaurants, Bars or Local Club Members.  
Doors Open at 9!

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**EXECUTIVE NIGHT!**  
No Cover with Your Business Card.

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\$1.25 Well / \$1.75 Beer  
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Saturday Super Show with Frankie Lane

**Sunday December 14 6pm**

Benefit for the Loving Arms Foundation

Coming Soon...

**Saturday December 20 • 10:30pm**

Lazy J's Annual Christmas Show

**Saturday December 27 • 10:30 pm**

Saturday Super Show with Erica Lane

**Wednesday December 31**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Come ring out the old and bring in the new!

**Friday Night 8-Ball**  
League Members Only • Cash Prizes

8

# lisa stansfield

England's quintessential ambassador of soul, Lisa Stansfield, charts a new dimension in music with her self-titled release *Lisa Stansfield* on Arista Records. New dance mixes of *Never Gonna Fall*, the album's first track, emerge full force from the creative laboratories of DJ Junior Vasquez.

For the record, Junior engages the dance floor with his trademark tribal build, quickly dropping to a symphonic, beat-less lull. The drama unfolds with Lisa's voice hovering like an angelic mist, satisfying the ear's craving for song and the beat resumes so the heart can dance.

The journey continues with beautiful piano riffs and a flowing bass line that mesmerizes the dance floor. The voice is unmistakable, the instrumentation is classy, and Lisa Stansfield has a new record that will be heard all around the world.

*Never Gonna Fall* has a special significance to Lisa. "The songs' title has a double meaning because what I'm saying is that I'm never gonna fall in love again because I've found the one I want to be with," says Lisa.

For the album, Lisa Stansfield waited two years before releasing the 14-track self-titled CD. Was the wait worth it? Absolutely!

The time off "was good because there



wasn't any pressure," remembers Lisa. "And the break gave me a chance to reflect."

But the extended sabbatical presented a few concerns in its own right. One of them was Lisa's absence from the public eye.

"It feels like a comeback," Lisa says. "But hopefully, I've been gone but not forgotten." Hardly!

Besides evolving as an artist, Lisa is evolving as a person.

"You know I'm not in my 20's anymore," says Lisa.

"I'm in my thirties and while I don't feel 'grown up' and I don't think I ever will, or want to — I do feel more mature as a woman. I can cope with being a woman. I'm proud to be one. I feel a lot stronger, a lot sexier and I think that all of that is reflected in my music."

With a new album adorned with precious song-gems, *Lisa Stansfield* touches the fire in the secret places of the soul. The songs are personal, spiritually-relative, and emotionally viable. Lisa's music develops character with depth and rhythm. In the truest sense of the form, *Lisa Stansfield* is a stirring and emotionally connecting evocation from one of England's most popular women. — *Steve Underwood, a DJ at Heaven and JR's, is Music Editor for the Houston Voice. Please feel free to send your comments to SteveUH@aol.com.*

## DANCE

### Various Artists

Interhit Records



Interhit Records and partner *DMA Magazine* team up for a trinity of dance releases aimed to please fans of Hi NRG dance music. *DMA Dance Vol. 4: Eurodance* is a collection of popular Euro-dance artists pumping with energy! You'll find Amber (*This Is Your Night*), Cappella (*Be My Baby*), DJ Supreme

(*The Wildstyle*) and Usura (*Open Your Mind*). Second, *Mega Hits Dance Party* boasts dance versions of popular ballads and contemporary songs. You can dance to *It's All Coming Back To Me Now*, *For You I Will*, and *Don't Speak*. Similarly, *Club NRG Vol. 1* continues the remake motif with dance versions of *All By Myself*, *Because You Loved Me*, *Live To Tell*, and Madonna's *Live To Tell*. You'll be boppin' all over the house with these upbeat compilations, sure to be a hit at your home. — *Steve Underwood*

### Elements

Danny Tenaglia Twisted Records

DJ/producer Danny Tenaglia resurfaces with an advance single from his new album to be released in March. *Elements* is a



journey into the mechanics of a dance record. A deep-voiced DJ narrator leads the crowd through all the different "elements" of a dance records, indicating such things as the addition of drums and bass before the beats kick in. The DJ narrator hints that music is so much better when you add your own elements - if you know what I mean. It's nice to hear Danny bounce back after his residency at New York's Twilo was eclipsed by DJ Junior Vasquez and Juniorverse. This single is a great warm up for the upcoming sophomore release from one of dance music's most innovative creators. — *Steve Underwood*

### Never Gonna Fall

Lisa Stansfield Arista Records



DJ Junior Vasquez lends his remixing talents for the second dance release from Lisa's new album. The remix is quite phenomenal, consider-

ing Junior has a way of wildly reinterpreting ballads into throbbing, tribal escapades. But Junior hams up the drama with lengthy beat-less breaks then slides in beautiful piano riffs to compliment Lisa's soulful voice. The song itself is worth a mint and crowds should be dancing to this one for a while. Great song, great remix, and a great artist — how can you go wrong? — *Steve Underwood*

## JAZZ

### Fred Hersch & Friends: The Duo Album Fred Hersch with Various Artists Classical Action

Pianist Fred Hersch and friends collaborate for an AIDS research fund-raising album and the results are absolutely wonderful. Fred's Steinway piano accompanies various vocalists and performers, from flugelhorn to tenor sax, and the whole album came together with just a few takes. Light, jazzy, and relaxing, this CD is a bargain on two fronts: one, the music's great; and two, you get to help with a good cause. All the performances and production costs were donated and most lovers of jazz won't be disappointed with this well-intended, classy release. — *Steve Underwood*



## SOUNDTRACK

### Scream 2

Various Artists Capitol Records

Honestly I don't get it, but then again — I do. If you saw the first movie, you know it was cheesy — but America loved it. So what do you do when your cheese sells really well? You make more cheese with an album you hope most people will buy — praying theater audiences *didn't* hear to music during the movie. This album is a compilation of obscure artists with obscure songs and I suspect you might be able to relate to it if you have a habit of frequenting the dance club *Numbers* and injecting yourself in the mosh pit that forms during its rock concerts. The movie may be a scream, but the album will leave you screaming for your money back. Unless you're straight, young, and rebellious, don't waste your time with this one. Banging your head against a brick wall is more entertaining. — *Steve Underwood*



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## MONDAYS

Pool Tournament • 9pm  
\$1.75 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Longnecks

## TUESDAYS

Anything Goes!  
\$3.00 Anything in the House  
\$1.75 Any Longneck

## WICKED WEDNESDAYS

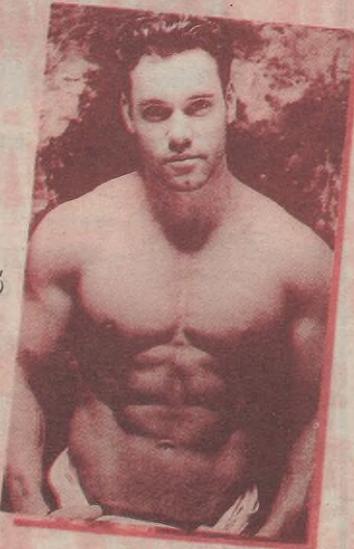
\$2.00 Domestic Longnecks  
\$2.00 Well Drinks

## THURSDAYS

\$2.25 Well, Wine & Domestic Longnecks

## FRIDAYS

Start Your Weekend Off Right!  
\$1.00 Well Vodka Juice Drinks  
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**COURT/** from page 17

revealed his sexual orientation, then falsely promised not to tell the Air Force. Jackson attended the search at the orders of the Norton base commander and said he was detained there by Air Force officers during their search.

He was discharged honorably but involuntarily in September 1989. The discharge cost him a pension worth \$500,000, his suit said. Jackson's discharge was upheld by U.S. District Judge William Ingram, whose ruling was affirmed in a 3-0 appeals court decision.

Disregarding Jackson's police statement and other disputed evidence, there was still "substantial evidence of homosexual activity," the court said. It cited the language in the greeting cards, saying that "holding and cuddling," if done for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires, is "a direct admission of

homosexual activity."

In rejecting the discrimination claim, the court cited its ruling in a case last February finding no discrimination in a discharge for homosexual conduct under the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Jackson was discharged under the previous policy, which made homosexuality itself grounds for dismissal, but the court said his discharge was for homosexual activity.

The ruling was signed by Judges Pamela Rymer - author of the February opinion - and A. Wallace Tashima and visiting Judge Harlington Wood of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Jackson's lawyer, Richard Gayer, could not be reached for comment.

**Guard sues after inmate with aids bites him**

MILWAUKEE (AP) - A state prison

guard who was bitten by an inmate suffering from AIDS claimed in a lawsuit that his superior's negligence may have exposed him to HIV.

Michael G. Brandt, a sergeant with the department's intensive sanctions division in Milwaukee, is suing the state Department of Corrections. Brandt said in the lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Milwaukee that he and his wife, Carol, have been unable to engage in marital relations since he was bitten in June 1996.

In the lawsuit, Brandt said he has "suffered constant, overwhelming emotional stress and anxiety concerning his health and his marriage" since the incident. The suit said Brandt has been told by his doctor that he may have become infected with HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, "as a result of the inmate's exchange of bodily fluids by biting him and spitting into his mouth."

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported the prisoner, who is not named in the lawsuit, is Marlon E. Marshall, 40, of Milwaukee. Marshall was convicted of burglary in 1995. Circuit Judge Diane S. Sykes placed him on intensive sanctions, a program of supervision in the community usually following some prison time.

The lawsuit alleges Brandt was attempting to secure Marshall with leg irons in the Department of Corrections Milwaukee office when Marshall bit him on the finger, drawing blood, spat in Brandt's face and directly into his mouth. Marshall then screamed at Brandt that he had AIDS and added, "I just gave it to you (expletive deleted)... you're gonna die!"

There have been a few, rare cases reported of HIV being transmitted orally, but they have always involved blood. There have been no confirmed cases of people becoming infected with the AIDS virus through saliva alone, said Tammy Nunnally, a spokeswoman for the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The lawsuit said immediately after the assault, William Sorenson, a state probation agent, "confessed to Mr. Brandt that he

should have told him beforehand that the inmate had AIDS and had been combative while confined at the Milwaukee County Jail."

**Judge rules university erred in firing man with AIDS**

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (AP) - A judge has ordered Southeast Missouri State University to pay \$600,000 to a man who says he was fired because he has AIDS. Circuit Judge Fred Copeland of New Madrid ruled Monday that there was "clear and convincing evidence" that the university intentionally discriminated against Harry Schuler.

But university officials said Schuler was fired because of financial mismanagement in the university's federally funded Trio programs, which target at-risk students. The university said it would probably file a motion for a new trial.

University President Dale Nitzschke had not started his job when Schuler was fired in February 1996. But he said the university never has breached its anti-discrimination policy, and that he was shocked to hear the ruling. Schuler sued the school in October 1996.

The university hired him in 1988 as assistant dean of students in charge of minority, handicapped and off-campus services. When Schuler was fired, he was director of Student Educational Opportunity Programs and director of student retention coordination.

The lawsuit said Schuler learned in June 1994 that he was infected with the HIV-virus. In 1995, he told SueAnn Strom, student-affairs vice president, that he was HIV-positive. Schuler said Ms. Strom and other university employees then began discriminating against him. He also said an internal audit of the Trio programs that started in the fall of 1995 was conducted at Ms. Strom's

See COURT page 24

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# Titanic: Two Hours and Seventy Eight Minutes Too Long

by Leslie Ramsay



The long awaited release of the Paramount Pictures epic *Titanic* has now finally arrived. Writer/director James Cameron (*The Terminator*, *The Abyss*, *True Lies*) has finally completed and readied his version of the four and a half day journey of the infamous R.M.S. Titanic. The journey to completion of this project has been laborious.

The story Cameron decided to tell is a love story. The love between an upper class American 17-year-old girl and a young poker playing lower class boy is the subject of the first two hours of the film. The love of the R.M.S. Titanic itself is evident throughout the entire two hours and seventy eight minutes of the film. Thankfully, the editing room floor is covered with the other three and a half hours of footage Cameron decided to spare us. No crystal, china, or linen sheet is left unworshipped by Cameron.

British actress Kate Winslet (*Heavenly Creatures*, *Sense and Sensibility*) plays the American girl. It is very difficult to see her interacting so demurely with her leading man Leonardo DiCaprio (*What's Eating*

*Gilbert Grape?*, *The Basketball Diaries*) after recently seeing her as a murdering teenage lesbian in *Heavenly Creatures*. Casting is an art form all on its own.

Leonardo DiCaprio plays the wandering Jack Dawson. He steals the heart of Rose DeWitt Bukater (Winslet) who is engaged to the very wealthy Cal Hockley.

Billy Zane (*The Phantom*, *Orlando*) plays the cuckolded Cal Hockley. Being a gay film critic makes me wonder why Cameron did not take the love story in a more logical direction. Billy Zane and Leonardo DiCaprio make a much better looking couple than Winslet and DiCaprio. Maybe next time...

The supporting cast is a veritable who's who of the fancy dressed aristocratic looking actors you usually only see in British Films. Frances Fisher (*Female Perversions*, *The Stars Fell on Henrietta*), Jonathan Hyde (*Jumanji*, *Caravaggio*), David Warner (*Tom Jones*, *Masada*), Victor Garber (*Godspell*, *Sleepless in Seattle*), and Bernard Hill (*The Bounty*, *Gandhi*) all provide the good looking background players for the principals to play

See TITANIC page 31

# Amistad Goes for the Gold

by Leslie Ramsay

Houston's own Debbie Allen, Steven Spielberg, Colin Wilson and DreamWorks Pictures released *Amistad* to theaters this weekend. The controversy surrounding who actually wrote the story behind the film has been quelled temporarily, allowing for the release to theaters just in time for Oscar consideration. The film gives the appearance of being filmed with racking up Oscar nominations, as it's ultimate goal.

The story of *Amistad* is based on accounts of the actual overthrow of a Spanish slave ship La Amistad by the fifty-three Africans that were being transported across the Atlantic as cargo. The slaves armed themselves and murdered the crew except for two. The two surviving crewmembers navigate the ship along the coast of America instead of back across the ocean to Africa. That is until an American naval ship captures La Amistad. The Africans are put on trial for murdering the crew in an American court. Eventually, the case ends up before the United States

Supreme Court.

The cast is an international ensemble of award winning actors. Morgan Freeman (*Unforgiven*, *Glory*) stars as the abolitionist Theodore Joadson. Nigel Hawthorne (*Yes, Prime Minister*, *Richard III*) plays President Martin Van Buren. Anthony Hopkins (*The Edge*, *Howard's End*) plays President John Quincy Adams. Matthew McConaughey (*Dazed and Confused*, *Boys on the Side*) plays the real estate attorney, Roger Baldwin, who volunteers to represent the Africans in court. Stellan Skarsgard (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *The Hunt for Red October*) plays the abolitionist Lewis Tappan. Anna Paquin (*The Piano*) portrays Queen Isabella of Spain. Djimon Hounsou (*Unlawful Entry*, *StarGate*) stars as Cinque, the instigator of the slave uprising.

This is the film for you if you enjoy watching Hollywood's version of the struggle for the basic rights of all mankind.



Hundreds of Houstonians came out to support local AIDS charities at the Bayou City's perennial holiday gala.



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CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday-December 12

- Low impact aerobics, certified instructor, done to christian music at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).
- Kolbe Project Communion Service at 10:00 am. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-December 13

- Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday-December 14

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at Suzanne Anderson Realty, 239 Westheimer.
- Holy Rite Eucharist 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Join us for the coming of the Advent Season and the celebration of Love. 528-6756. 12/24 Special Christmas Eve Celebration.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel, Glen Baker will be singing and ministering at both 11am and 7pm services. 4305 Lilian 880-9235. [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.

- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Monday-December 15

- Low impact aerobics, certified instructor, done to christian music at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).

Tuesday-December 16

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Glorlyand Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.
- 12/24 Special Christmas Eve Celebration
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Wednesday-December 17

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Catholic Mass at 8:30 am the Kolbe Project.

Thursday-December 18

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
  - Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).
  - Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).
  - The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- If you want an event listed in this section, please call Connie at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.



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David W. McLemore

David W. McLemore, age 40, born November 16, 1957, died on World AIDS Day, December 1, 1997 from a lengthy battle with complications related to AIDS. David made Houston his permanent home after graduating cum laude from Texas A & M University in 1981, with his degree in architecture. He was a member of Tau Sigma Delta, the architecture honor fraternity. David practiced architecture in Houston for over 9 years, with his clients including several national corporate institutions such as Texas Commerce Bank, NationsBank and Mischer Development, local banks, and his projects included corporate offices in various cities in Texas, Nashville, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Hiltonhead, SC. After being forced into retirement in 1990, David used his dynamic energy to benefit the People With AIDS (PWA)/HIV community in Houston. He was the vice president of the

PWA Coalition Houston, volunteered on the AIDS Foundation Houston Hotline, prepared holiday meals for the Bering Foundation, volunteered with the AIDS Mastery Workshop, the Names Project-Houston, helped fundraising efforts for the Assistance Fund and acted as a private advocate for indigent PWA's in the community.

A gregarious, fun-loving spirit, David also participated in "Wigs on Fire" events, to raise funds for PWA's. His strength and resolve in adversity were inspirational to those around him. David is survived by his extended family of close friends, including: special companion Ed Kuebler, Sandra Frank, Alice Sigurdson, Keith Grammer, Alicia Duplan, Laurie Kuebler, all of Houston and Ingrid Saenger of Houston and Johannesburg, South Africa. David felt he had something to learn from each and every person in life. David's parents are Bob and Mildred McLemore of Texas City, sister Denise Adams of Austin, and half-sister Paulette Park Mackebon of Houston. David missed most deeply his nieces Kara Ann and Leah Shirley and nephew Paul Shirley in his final days of illness. A memorial celebration will be held at the Chapel of St. Basil at 3802 Yoakum (corner of W. Alabama) on Saturday, December 13th, 1997 at 2:00 pm with Father Mark Gazin C.S.B. and Brother David Crank O.F.M. officiating. Following David's wishes, his ashes will be spread in Sedona, Arizona by his closest friends at a private ceremony. Special thanks go to Dr. Paul Gustafson, Dr. Fred Ussery III, Dr. Scott Sawyer and their respective staffs, and the incredible health care team at Park Plaza Hospital. Most special thanks to those for helping David find peace within and seeing him through his darkest hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Assistance Fund, the PWA Coalition, the AIDS Mastery Workshop, or the NAMES-Project Houston.

RELIGION

'Gospel against AIDS' debuts in Jackson

JACKSON, Miss. - AIDS activists joined gospel musicians and Miss America here over the weekend for the Mississippi debut of the national Gospel Against AIDS program.

The two-month-old program combines inspirational music with education about HIV and AIDS. The group, working with Jackson's Project Connect AIDS Service Organization, gave a free concert Saturday at Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church.

Headlining the musical event was the Winans Family of Gospel Singers, comprised of brothers Carvin, Ronald and Daniel Winans of Detroit. "I'm a firm believer in Jesus Christ and that he can fix any situation," Carvin Winans said. "For whatever sickness, the church should be the place to be."

Gospel Against AIDS is the brainchild of Mary Fisher, 49, a millionaire's daughter who found out she was HIV-positive in 1991. The following year, Ms. Fisher held the Republican National Convention spellbound with her tale of being a single mother infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Ms. Fisher, who lives in Nyack, N.Y., also addressed the national GOP convention in 1996 and has traveled the country to spread her message of tolerance and compassion toward people infected with the HIV virus. Fisher said she came up with the Gospel

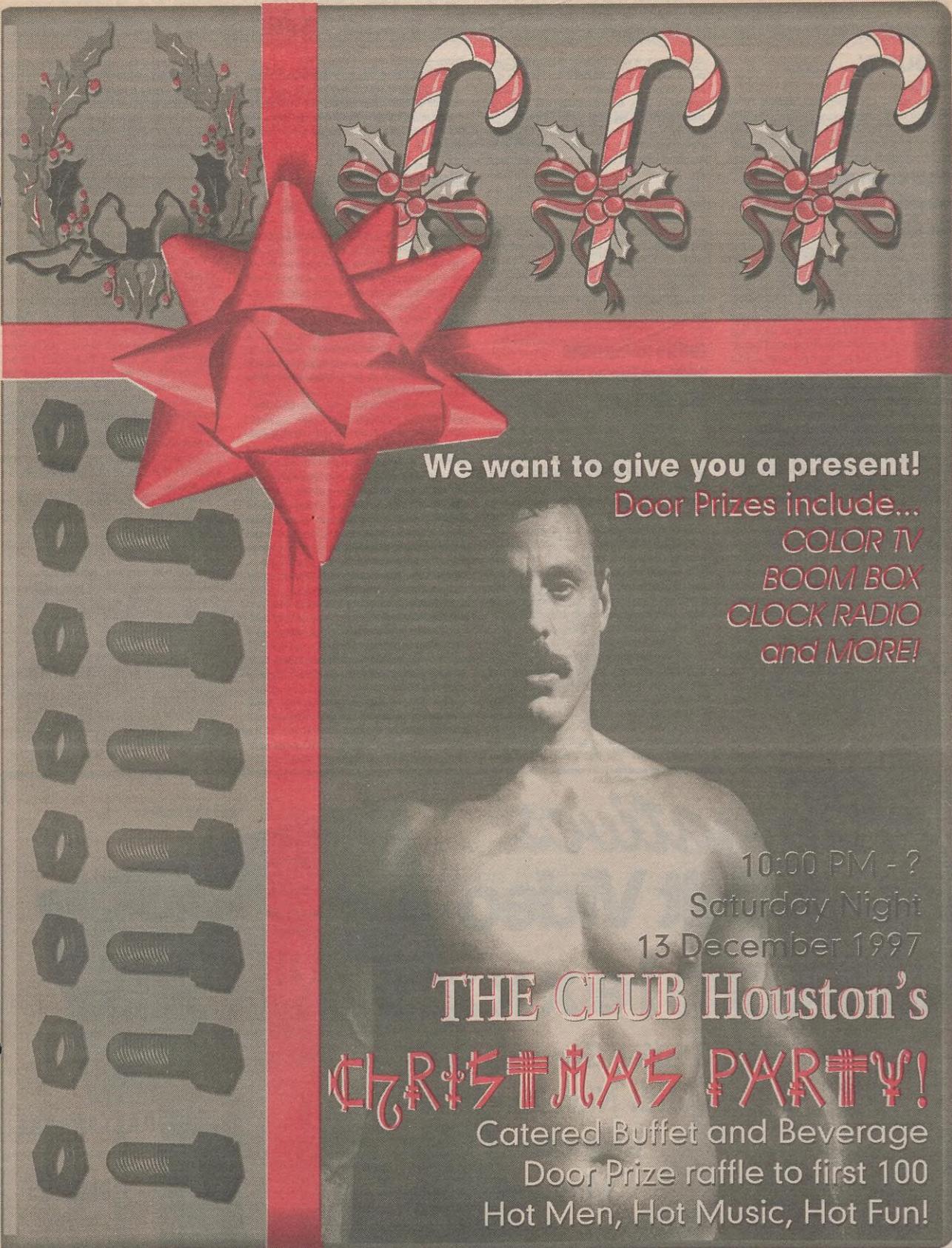
Against AIDS idea last year, and shared her idea with Carvin Winans. The program kicked off in Detroit Oct. 18 at the Winans' family church.

"We're still receiving daily reports from that weekend - people being tested, others being brought into a loving community of support, women and young people suddenly aware that AIDS is alive and well in their community," Ms. Fisher said.

The program is scheduled to be introduced in 20 other cities in 1998. Miss America Kate Shindle traveled to Mississippi for a third time Saturday to promote her platform of AIDS awareness. She has previously visited the Gulf Coast and northeast Mississippi.

"The statistics are overwhelming how quickly this epidemic is spreading," Miss Shindle said. "Churches have a special role to play. They are institutions in the community people already know and trust. They can give (people) the tools they need to protect themselves."

Nationally, AIDS is the leading cause of death for black men and women ages 25-44. In Mississippi, black residents account for 77 percent of all new HIV infections and 66 percent of cumulative infections. "We are looking at an increase in numbers all the time," said Michael Robinson of Project Connect. "Why is this? A lack of education."



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**COURT/**from page 19

insistence. The audit, completed in January 1996, revealed over-budget expenditures. The university fired Schuler the following month. Schuler's attorneys argued that the budgetary shortfall was "an accounting fiction."

**High Court asked to rule on child visitation rights for gays**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The state Supreme Court will be asked to decide whether estranged homosexual couples have the same visitation rights as heterosexuals under Rhode Island law. Family Court Chief Judge Jeremiah Jeremiah plans to request the ruling in the case of a lesbian who has accused her ex-girlfriend of denying her the right to see a child they raised together for years.

The issue arose after Maureen Rubano of Milville, Mass., and the boy's mother, Concetta DiCenzo of Cumberland, split up and signed a visitation agreement concerning the now 5-year-old child. Rubano, 50, said she and the 40-year-old DiCenzo decided together to have a child. DiCenzo became pregnant after seeking help from a Boston fertility clinic and gave birth Dec. 15, 1991. The couple formally split five years later.

Rubano claimed in Family Court that her former partner violated a visitation agreement by refusing to let her see the boy, whom she considers to be her son. DiCenzo claims in court documents that she wanted to reduce the number of visits because they were upsetting the child. DiCenzo submitted a letter from a counselor backing the claim.

Jeremiah on Tuesday ruled DiCenzo was in contempt of court and threatened to send her to prison if she did not let Rubano visit with the boy this weekend. He also announced he would ask the high court to clarify legal issues surrounding the case, including whether the Family Court has jurisdiction over the matter.

The mother's lawyer, Rosina Hunt, argues the visitation agreement the estranged couple

signed was not valid because the Family Court did not have the authority to approve the arrangement. Rubano's lawyer, Cherrie Perkins, argues that state law on visitation rights applies to everyone.

"The law needs to be interpreted to include different families because that's what's happening these days, all different types of families," she told the Providence Journal-Bulletin. Otherwise, "These children fall through the cracks," she said.

Attorney Maureen Slack DiCristofaro, appointed by Jeremiah as the boy's legal guardian in the case, recommended visitation rights for Rubano. "I didn't see Maureen as any different than any other parent (seeking visitation)," she said. "I thought she would be a constant loving source and role model in his life."

**Judge postpones sentencing of suspected HIV spreader**

NEW YORK - A judge postponed sentencing on a drug charge Thursday for Nushawn Williams, the man suspected of knowingly spreading the AIDS virus in parts of the city and state. At a brief hearing in Bronx Criminal Court, Judge John Byrne granted defense lawyer William Cember's request that Williams undergo a 30-day psychiatric evaluation.

Williams previously was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Neither Cember nor Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson would discuss the diagnosis in detail. Williams, 21, has pleaded guilty to selling crack cocaine to an undercover cop in September and could get up to a year in prison on the charge.

The prisoner said nothing during a two-minute appearance before Byrne. Also known as Shyteek Johnson, Williams is suspected of having unprotected sex with numerous young women in New York City and rural Chautauqua County after testing positive for HIV in September 1996. Among his partners were wayward teens he seduced with crack, authorities said. He was jailed on the drug

charge Sept. 22. Officials are still trying to determine the exact number of women who might have been infected by Williams and he was expected to face criminal charges of intentionally spreading the disease. His next court appearance was set for Jan. 16.

**Slander lawsuit goes to trial this week in Tulsa.**

TULSA, Okla. - A lawsuit alleging a minister told his congregation during a worship service that the church's music director was having a lesbian love affair went to trial here this week.

Rhonda J. Morrison, the music director, and Cynthia Gass, who was referred to as Ms. Morrison's lover, cite emotional, physical and financial harm in the suit. The Rev. Ernest G. Bass, the First United Pentecostal Church, its governing organizations and other church officials were named in the lawsuit, which seeks unspecified damages.

"They are devastated by this situation," attorney Kay Bridger-Riley said. "These women are not lesbians. What Brother Bass did was assume something that he had absolutely no proof of and then tell the world."

At an evening worship service Sunday, July 10, 1994, Bass allegedly told about 90 people that Ms. Morrison and Ms. Gass were involved romantically. Bass testified in court that he spoke about it to the congregation to "extinguish the rumors and let the healing process begin." He also said he had the "right to rebuke" Ms. Morrison as her minister, court records show.

The defense maintains that what Bass said was the truth and, therefore, cannot be considered slander, records show. In a recently filed document, the defense claims that it is not slander to call some one a homosexual these days, "given the great strides that society has made in accepting homosexuals."

The defense also maintains that Bass' announcement should receive "ecclesiastical immunity" under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In the 1989 court case Guinn vs. Church of Christ of Collinsville, the

defense claimed the same immunity when a minister said in church that a female member had committed adultery.

The plaintiff, Marian Guinn, originally won the case, but the state Supreme Court ordered a new trial. The court ruled that Ms. Guinn could quit the church but was subject to its discipline until she did so. The case eventually was settled out of court. Legal scholars interpreted the ruling to mean that a religion's disciplinary practices are constitutionally protected.

But that church had a history of making such announcements, Ms. Bridger-Riley said. No such history exists in the United Pentecostal Church, she said. There also is doubt about whether Ms. Morrison was still a member of the church at the time, Ms. Bridger-Riley said.

A lawyer representing Bass, the local church, the Oklahoma District of the United Pentecostal Church International and its superintendent declined to comment. An attorney representing the United Pentecostal Church International, its general superintendent and general secretary did not return phone calls.

According to court records, prior to Bass' announcement, Ms. Morrison had been having marital problems. Her husband, pastor Steve Martens, went to Bass for advice. Bass reportedly quizzed Martens about whether his wife might be a lesbian, and Martens said thought it may be true.

Bass reportedly told Martens he had to get proof about the affair before a divorce could be granted to protect his minister's license. Martens hired a private detective to tap phones and use video surveillance to determine if Ms. Morrison was a lesbian, records show. Bass said Martens confronted his wife and that she allegedly confessed to the affair. Bass gave Martens the go-ahead for a divorce.

Ms. Bridger-Riley said Ms. Morrison has never confessed to a lesbian affair and that neither she nor her husband were contacted by Bass about what he planned to say in church. Defense attorneys will call several witnesses who will testify to the nature of the relationship between Ms. Morrison and Ms. Gass. The trial in Tulsa County District Court is expected to last more than two weeks.



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## Four doctors arrested in tainted sperm scandal

by Candice Huges

ROME (AP) - A Florence sperm bank was closed and its director arrested for allegedly selling sperm from a man with hepatitis C and genital herpes to fertility clinics throughout Italy, police said Saturday.

Two other doctors and a biologist were also arrested and six fertility clinics which bought sperm from the bank were closed.

Health Minister Rosy Bindi called the case a "grave violation" on the part of "irresponsible" doctors and said parliament should quickly enact regulations governing fertility clinics and sperm banks.

Police said the Florence center had bought sperm from the infected donor more than 40 times since 1993 and sold it under false documents attesting to his health.

## Gays in Newfoundland get protection under human rights code

ST. JOHN'S, Newfoundland (AP) - The legislature in the eastern province of Newfoundland has voted to include sexual orientation in its human rights code. The vote Tuesday leaves Alberta and Prince Edward Island as the only Canadian provinces that don't extend protection to gays and lesbians.

The Newfoundland human rights code will now prohibit discrimination against gays in areas such as employment, housing and access to establishments and services. Some pension plans are excluded from the amendment in accordance with the federal Income Tax Act, which defines a spouse as someone of the opposite sex.

Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin had promised to amend the human rights code when he was elected in February 1996.

## Aids expert says more than 20 million afflicted in Africa

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) - More than 20 million people in sub-Saharan Africa carry the virus that causes AIDS, and most of them don't even know it, an expert told an international conference Sunday. "The situation in this region is unprecedented," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS.

Piot was addressing the opening session of the 10th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Africa, a five-day gathering bringing together hundreds of researchers who will discuss methods for stemming the disease's spread on the continent. French President Jacques Chirac also addressed the gathering.

A UNAIDS report released two weeks ago estimated 30.6 million live with HIV/AIDS globally, two-thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa. One in every 13 men and women between the ages of 15 and 49 are carriers of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, Piot said.

But he said that UNAIDS estimates that nine out of 10 people don't know they are infected and therefore never seek medical assistance or arrange care for themselves and their children when they become ill. The developing world's lack of access to the latest, and most expensive, treatments plays a major role in the spread of the disease in Africa, according to Piot.

He noted that many industrialized countries were seeing a drop in AIDS deaths as a result of new therapy whose price is far beyond the reach of most Africans. "Only a very small proportion of people in the developing world have access to these treatments," Piot said.

The solution, Piot said, is an "unprecedented global effort" to make drugs more accessible in developing countries, and to improve health services so that more people

can be tested and respond early to the disease.

## China uses trains to fight AIDS

by John Leicester

BEIJING (AP) - Soon, Chinese train travelers won't just be taken from A to B. They'll also get tips on avoiding AIDS.

Turning trains into weapons against the deadly disease, railway health workers plan to broadcast AIDS information on trains' public address systems from next year, helping passengers while away the hours and maybe saving their lives.

The announcements target the more than 100 million farmers who have left their villages to find city jobs. Mobile, young and poorly educated, the migrants are a difficult audience to reach. Far from home, some fall into behavior that places them at risk for AIDS: drug abuse, unprotected sex and prostitution. But they have something else in common: they mostly use trains to get around, sometimes spending days traveling across China's huge distances.

"No matter whether it's on the train or in the stations, people are just waiting, they have nothing else to do, so it's relatively easy for them to absorb information" about AIDS, Chen Minzhang, the Chinese health minister, told *The Associated Press* on Monday. "It's a very good route for disseminating information," Chen said.

From next year, programs about preventing AIDS will be broadcast to passengers across trains' public address systems, said Han Shurong, from the Ministry of Railways' health department. Information centers that will show videos about preventing AIDS and possibly sell condoms will be opened early next year in railway stations in Beijing and Guangzhou, the freewheeling south China provincial capital near Hong Kong, she added.

China has so far been spared a widespread

AIDS epidemic. Experts suspect as many as 200,000 people are infected, although only 8,277 cases have been officially reported. But the disease is spreading, fueled by increased personal mobility, a growing drug trade and a thriving sex industry.

Trains are the most popular form of travel in China. The rail system carries about a billion passengers a year. Tens of millions of people took trains over the Lunar New Year in February alone. As part of activities marking World AIDS Day, white-coated health workers distributed leaflets and information Monday to passengers at Beijing's West Station, the largest in Asia. Billboards with pictures and diagrams explaining how to avoid AIDS attracted a crowd of travelers.

"I heard of AIDS a long time ago," said Yang Weibai, a 32-year-old farmer from southern Jiangxi province. "But I'm not really clear what it is." Yang, who was traveling home after peddling cakes and pastries in Beijing, said - mistakenly - that AIDS could be transmitted by shaking hands.

"Most people have heard of the disease, but some are not clear about how it spread," said Wang Wei, part of a team of AIDS campaigners who arrived in Beijing on Sunday after riding trains along the line from Hong Kong and Guangzhou.

Their eight-day journey, with stops in major cities, passed through central provinces where many migrants come from. The team, four of whose members were from Hong Kong, broadcast AIDS information to passengers on the public address systems and handed out leaflets.

## Snake effigy drives home AIDS messages

by Ramola Talwar

BOMBAY, India (AP) - A snake strangling a wooden cutout of India symbolized AIDS in the country with the most HIV cases as protesters marched the effigy

See GLOBAL page 26

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through Bombay Monday.

Staves with signs reading "people awaken," "condom," "safe blood" and "education" were driven through the 10-foot "AIDS anaconda" by activists hoping to raise awareness about what the deadly disease is and how to prevent it. The effigy had been drawn in a bullock cart to the sound of drumbeats for 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) through city streets in a march marking World AIDS Day.

"We need to continue this campaign for at least a year for it to take effect. Education should begin in the workplace by informing factory workers about the do's and don'ts on AIDS prevention," said Maharashtra state Labor Minister Raj Purohit, who took part in the march.

A United Nations report released last week said India, with an estimated 3 million to 5 million people out of a population of nearly 1 billion infected with the virus that causes AIDS, had more HIV cases than any other country in the world.

Other countries have higher rates of infection, but India's size and evidence that the disease is spreading quickly here worry experts. Indian government officials have been criticized for doing too little to stop AIDS, spread when body fluids are exchanged during sex, intravenous drug use or transfusions.

In a recent interview with *The Associated Press*, Health Minister Renuka Chowdhury acknowledged more needed to be done, but said her efforts were stymied by lack of resources and by entrenched attitudes that made it hard to talk about sexually transmitted diseases. Chowdhury said she would like to see comprehensive AIDS education in Indian schools, but conservatives have so far successfully opposed such a move.

Monday's march organized by the private Indian Health Organization and the Maharashtra government's Labor Welfare Board attracted many young people, some escorted by their teachers.

"It is difficult to speak about AIDS because it is sexually related and schools like ours do not teach sex education. But if even a handful of these children understand what AIDS is about,

I'll be satisfied," said Kadam, a teacher who uses only one name.

"AIDS? I don't know anything about it. I just came to see the snake," shrugged Sarveshwar Morya, 15, a student. "I don't know everything about AIDS, but I do know that you should not be afraid of the person who has it," said 12-year-old Rajeshri Khedekar.

After a four-hour march, the snake effigy was placed on a popular beach along the Arabian sea, where it will be on display until it is set ablaze later this week.

**Littlest victims of AIDS epidemic thrive in Kenyan home**

by Karin Davies

KAREN, Kenya (AP) - Joseph Angelo arrived at a home for HIV-infected orphans newly born and covered in dirt. His mother, alone and dying of AIDS, had buried him alive because she assumed her son would not live.

Rescued by a policeman, Joseph joined 49 other youngsters at Nyumbani, or "ome" in Swahili. Three months later, Joseph sucks gustily on a bottle and laughs when tickled. Joseph is just one of 7.8 million children living in sub-Saharan Africa who are orphans because of AIDS, according to figures released by the United Nations to mark World AIDS Day on Monday.

Many inherited the immune-stripping disease from their mothers, including at least 530,000 African children born this year - 90 percent of the world total. Often those children are abandoned, the fate of an estimated 150,000 in Kenya.

Dr. Angelo D'Agostino was upset that some of those children were dying alone along the pot-holed streets of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, or in a poorly run government hospital. In 1992, he opened Nyumbani, in a lush suburb 16 kilometers (10 miles) southwest Nairobi.

Nyumbani is a noisy, cheerful place where 50 youngsters, from infants to a 15-year-old, thrive on a recipe of the best nutritional, medical, psychiatric and spiritual care, plus lots of love. The youngsters live in groups of five to nine in cot-

tages, looked after by live-in surrogate mothers. Walls are brightly decorated with handmade quilts. Older children climb into bunkbeds at night, while babies have cribs.

They play hide-and-seek beneath tot-sized T-shirts and pants fluttering dry on clotheslines, ride bicycles in a rain muddied yard, and study in a new school. Thanks to good care, the children are fairly healthy despite their fragile immune systems. Raspy coughs are common, and some children are troubled by skin problems - open sores or disfiguring warts.

As children get older, they begin to ask what it means to be HIV-positive, said Sister Mary Owen.

She recalled a 12-year-old whose AIDS-infected friend died. Aware that he too had the disease, the boy asked if he was going to die.

"I answered him truthfully - that he had a very serious illness, and his life might be limited, but no one could know by how much," the sister said. Protus Lumiti, program director, said he has learned to hem in his grief. "The children look at me. If I am strong, they will be strong. But if I am brooding, they will, too," he said.

Behind the cement-block school, beyond a garden crowded with carrots and spinach, is a growing cemetery. Six small crosses mark graves - the youngest, a girl, lived for just 10 months. The oldest, a boy, died months short of his 10th birthday. Funerals are conducted in a converted barn, where the youngest children spend most of their time.

"We say goodbye. They are sad, but they understand that their friend will be with Jesus - he will be happy and he won't be sick anymore," said D'Agostino, a Jesuit priest and a surgeon from Providence, Rhode Island.

At a religious service in the school Sunday, D'Agostino acknowledged World AIDS Day, and prayed with the children for all the HIV-positive people in the world, and for the researchers seeking remedies. The children then recited lessons learned that week: "We should try to correct adults in a polite way," said John Mwange, 7. "If one of us is sick, we try to help," said Jane Claire, 9. "Love one another," added Irene Wajiri, 9.

It costs about \$10,000 a month to run the

home, money collected from small donations. D'Agostino scowls at people and agencies willing to give millions to protect Africa's wildlife, but nothing to care for its children. Sometimes, a child gets lucky.

Children born to women with AIDS test positive at birth because they are filled with their mother's antibodies. But one out of four babies at the orphanage has later proved to be HIV-free. D'Agostino is hoping baby Joseph will be among the lucky, and can be placed in an adoptive home. But if Joseph, too, is HIV-infected, he will have a place in D'Agostino's heart and home.

**Report: Homosexual prisoners given electric shocks in 1950s**

LONDON (AP) - Homosexual prisoners were given electric shocks in government-sponsored tests in the 1950s to see if homosexuality could be controlled, *The Guardian* newspaper reported today.

Documents released by the government showed that inmates were given shocks if they stared at pictures of men for more than eight seconds, the newspaper said. Other inmates were given the female hormone estrogen.

The Home Office, which funded the study by London University, concluded at the time that up to half the men who participated in the trial "have benefited from it - in the sense that they are less likely to indulge in homosexual behavior."

The newspaper did not report when during the 1950s the trial was carried out, or on how many people. It said that experiments were carried out at four prisons in England. The *Guardian* also said that the documents showed the government was concerned that legalizing homosexuality would encourage greater numbers of people to try it.

"Would homosexual conduct spread, or losing the glamor of rebellion, decline?" the paper quoted a government report as saying. In 1957, the government ordered a review of Britain's homosexuality laws, which resulted in their liberalization 10 years later.

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COVER STORY'S

**PARKER/** from page 1

nered a more diverse vote than any other candidate. There were many Brown/Parker voters and substantial Mosbacher/Parker voters. Clearly, Parker's sexual orientation was not a concern to the majority of voters.

The gay community joined forces to raise money and volunteer for Parker's campaign. Parker received the support of both the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston (LCRH). Parker even got support from national groups such as the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

"Annise Parker's resounding victory Saturday sends a message that Houstonians are more concerned about qualifications and abilities than with a candidate's sexual orientation," said Clarence Bagby, HGLPC Board Chair.

Both gay organizations, HGLPC and LCRH, used their financial and intellectual

resources to elect Parker. LCRH ran numerous ads for Parker in community publications under the banner, "Vote for Freedom," and raised several thousand dollars for Parker at a Log Cabin sponsored fundraiser in a private home to assist her with television advertising. The HGLPC held numerous fund-raisers throughout the campaign season that raised significant amounts of money.

"We're proud that the HGLPC PAC raised over \$7,000 for Annise's campaign," said HGLPC PAC Co-Chair Jay Seegers. "The outstanding support of the community and our membership allowed us to mail tens of thousands of Election 97 Voters Guides during this election cycle. We finally have a seat at the table."

According to LCR State President Dale Carpenter, Parker ran her election exactly the right way. She ran as a fiscal conservative and touted her record of service and her

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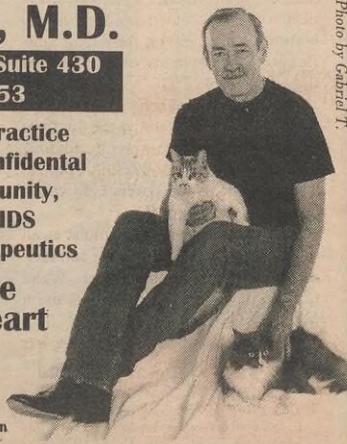


Photo by Gabriel T.

by Ella Tyler

Whoops—Sorry about the computer discs mix-up that let the bulb column be rerun. I liked it, but not that much. It was supposed to be the story about fall color. Most of the beautiful fall leaves have dropped, but if you want fall color next year, plant a tallow, sweet gum, crepe myrtle or ornamental pear (such as Bradford) early next year. These all usually have colorful leaves in the fall, other kinds of deciduous trees might or might not, depending on the weather.

If you don't have a Christmas tree yet, think about going to cut your own. There are "Chose and Cut" Christmas tree farms all over East Texas, including at least four in Harris

bright area, but not in direct sun, and away from cold or warm drafts.

Cyclamens must not be allowed to dry out. They like a bright, cool location. They are subject to lots of diseases, so don't let them get too warm, don't let the leaves get wet, and keep an eye on them. These plant can also be grown outside but should be covered if a hard freeze is expected.

Christmas cactus may be allowed to dry out a bit, but the flowers may drop if temperatures get above 75 degrees.

Read the care tag on the plant, but if there is not one, these directions will work for most flowering plants.

What about presents for



your garden

friends? I'm giving lots of people the Texas Garden Almanac. Its fun and useful even if they aren't serious gardeners. Liz Druitt, who wrote the Organic Rose

County. Merry Christmas Tree Farm at (281)351-0818 and Texas Real Trees at (281)367-5745 are both in Tomball; Old Time Christmas Tree Farm at (281)370-9141 is in Spring and Saint Nicholas Tree Farm at (409) 931-3850 is in Waller. The 1998 Texas Garden Almanac, where I worked this summer, has details about these places and many, many more. I said "bah humbug" to my editor frequently while I was working on the list, but now that my ear from the phone, it sounds like lots of fun.

One friend of mine drapes lights on her ficus and it doesn't seem to have any ill effect on the plant. I wouldn't use big bulbs or leave them on for a long time. Be careful of the lights when you water the plant.

Also, be careful when you water your Christmas plants. Remove the pot from its decorative cover to water it and don't put it back until the soil is fully drained. These plastic or foil covers hold water, leading to root rot.

Poinsettias must be kept moist at all times, so water as soon as the soil feels dry to the touch, but not before. Water until water seeps through the drain holes. My floriculture teacher, Seth Knight, a master poinsettia grower, lets the ones in our greenhouse (which are in 6" pots) have 6 ounces every three days.

Poinsettias should be kept in a cool,

Garden and co-wrote Landscaping with Antique Roses (nice gifts), reveals a funny side in her piece about the language of flowers. Mystery writer Susan Witting Albert contributed a piece about astrology and healing herbs, and I wrote about Fire Ants.

It also has lists of recommended fruit and vegetables for each area of Texas and lots of resources for gardeners all across the state, including public gardens, real farmers markets, and pick-your-own orchards.

I had fun working on the book and learned all kinds of esoteric stuff. If you want to know about Texas vineyards, which peach festival has a peach pit spitting contest (Fairfield's) and how to tell when a pawpaw is ripe, it's all there. It has lots of weather information, astronomy charts and more. I found it at Bookstop but it should be at most nurseries and bookstores.

Harvesting, Preserving and Arranging Dried Flowers, by Cathy Miller (Artisan, \$30.00) is a very nice book for your gardening friends with artsy-crafty leanings. If they own a glue gun, this is the book for them. Many flowers that can be dried can be grown here. The books also has some very pretty designs for Christmas.

So you want to buy a laptop this Christmas?

by Steve Labinski

On a recent trip to Computer City, I found systems ranging from \$1399 to \$4999. The entry-level system was a CTX 150MHz EZBook, with 16 megabytes (MB) RAM, a 12.1" LCD screen, 1 gigabyte hard drive, and CD-ROM drive. This unit would be fine for a student, or someone with specific needs that will probably not expand, such as heavy word processing. But our specific wants, tastes, needs, and budgets factor into the buying equation, and today's laptop market has met them.

In some ways, buying a laptop is easier than a standard desktop system. Laptops are less modular than their desktop brothers. For example, in a desktop, if your tire of your CD-ROM drive after a year, you can find a purchase a newer, faster one from a host of different manufacturers. However, CD-ROMs in laptops are specific to the unit, so you are essentially stuck with it.

For this reason, I believe that its worth scrounging up the extra \$500 or \$1000 for a more advanced system that will not obsolete as quickly. Typical things customers watch for when shopping for laptops are: the battery, the screen display, and the multimedia capabilities. The battery on the above-mentioned CTX EZBook was a nickel metal hydride battery (abbreviated NiMH). This battery is okay, but the higher-performing laptop battery is the lithium-ion battery. These will be on more expensive laptops, mainly because they cost more to make. Lithium-ion batteries last substantially longer, work best with laptop power saving features, and do not wear out as quickly.

Those of you who use rechargeable batteries on a camcorder or remote-control car know that they can be problematic; they must recharge only after completely running down. Lithium-ion batteries do not require this, which is a convenience I think is well worth the cost.

Laptop screen displays have advanced remarkably in the past few years. Most displays are now "active matrix" screens, which are bright, colorful, and work well for presentations. Higher end systems will sport a larger 13.3" display. One thing to look for in laptops are their video capabilities. For example, Dell Latitudes offer full-motion video and a faster video chipset that makes the display

faster than on their competitor's units. If you are going to use your laptop for graphics work, this will make a difference.

Laptops today include sound, speakers, and CD-ROM drives. Frankly, I've not heard laptop speakers that are breathtaking. In some units they are on the front corners, and on others they are on the back corners near the hinge. Some people find their hands cover the speakers when positioned by the keyboard. I've not really noticed much of a difference. Do yourself a favor and get a pair of external amplified speakers for some real sound.

In General

I think there should be a golden rule of buying a computer: Buy as much memory as you can afford. Most systems I found at retail stores came with just 16MB of memory. This is ok, but your system will greatly benefit from 32MB or 64MB of RAM.

More memory means that your computer will operate faster. Many mysterious operating errors occur from short memory. Windows 95 is very memory intensive, and should ideally be run under 32MB. If you have the budget and want a "power system", get 64MB. Memory chips are cheap.

Another thing I've noticed is the poor quality of software that is generally bundled with laptops. The Compaq's and Sony's I saw came with Microsoft Works, a rudimentary suite of software that is often tossed-in as free software.

If you intend to use your laptop as a home office or do lots of word processing, bookkeeping, or record keeping get Microsoft Office. I noticed that IBM Think Pads include Lotus SmartSuite, a great software package that I use every day. You will get your money's worth if you get a solid software suite like Lotus SmartSuite or Microsoft Office.

It's frankly amazing at the amount of power mankind has invented into a compact 7 lb box. Multimedia allows laptops to play sound so you can listen to your musical compact disks anywhere. With a modem you can do work with e-mail and relax on the Internet. Make your choice with an eye towards enjoying the benefits of this remarkable, affordable technology.

(Steve Labinski is the Austin Bureau Chief of the Houston Voice. He is also an Internet consultant / web designer living in Austin, TX. He can be reached at labinski@houstonvoice.com)

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ideas to all the people of Houston, said Carpenter. He maintains that she didn't scare away a lot of voters who thing 'gay' equals 'big-spending liberal' or 'special-interest-est politics.'

"That she won at all as an openly gay person is fantastic. That she won an at-large race is nothing short of phenomenal," Carpenter said. "She has broken down a lot of stereotypes already and will open the door to more of us in the future."

Seegers, a Houston-based attorney, echoed the same in an HGLPC press release. "[Annise's] victory will encourage other qualified openly-gay candidates to seek elected office," he said. "Annise was, arguably, the most qualified candidate on the ballot."

Parker, an oil and gas analyst at Mosbacher Energy, is a longtime community leader who has built a broad base of support. She is a past president of one of Houston's oldest and most active civic associations, and currently heads one of the city's most innovative community redevelopment corporations. She is a member of the Houston's Police Advisory Committee and a mayoral appointee on the Police Citizen's Review Committee, which has the responsibility to review citizens' use-of-force complaints.

Her extensive work on citywide issues, including neighborhood revitalization, senior services, and governmental ethics, earned her the endorsements from hundreds of state and local leaders that translated to votes in the run-off election. The run-off election allowed voters to focus on Parker and her opponent, whereas, in the Nov. 4 election, the field was too crowded.

"Electing exemplary gay people like Annise Parker to public office helps eradicate the false and negative stereotypes that keep us from achieving true equality," says Victory Fund Political Director Kathleen DeBolt. "Fair-minded voters know that good government doesn't come in a certain

color, or gender, or sexual orientation. Good government comes from good leadership - which is exactly what Annise brings to her city."

Parker's victory is historic in Texas. According to the *Houston Chronicle*, she received more votes than any other gay official in the state. Moreover, she will represent a larger constituency than any other openly gay elected official, the paper says. Nationwide, only two other openly gay elected officials - Los Angeles County Assessor Ken Hahn and Cook County, Illinois Judge Sebastian Patti - represent larger constituencies than Parker according to Bagby.

## Parker on Winning

In a recent interview with the *Houston Voice* in her office at Mosbacher Energy, Annise Parker talked about her significant victory in last week's run-off election. Parker has been with the Energy Company nearly 18 years and will be tying up loose ends through December. She may work for the company on a part-time basis as needed.

"I am pleased to have won," Parker told the *Houston Voice*. "I feel very satisfied that we had a good campaign strategy and we executed that strategy effectively. But, believe it or not, all I can think about is what a tremendous responsibility for me ... not only to the nearly 2 million people that I now represent, but as a public spokesperson and role model for the community."

Parker said her job as city councilwoman will be primarily about making sure that the city is run right, the streets are safe and that we have a good police department and fire department and that the garbage gets picked up. "Those are the things that have to be done and I look forward to working on them," Parker said.

Many pundits argue that city government is designed to give the mayor more power than city council. Parker has a different take. She believes it depends on the mayor as to whether or not the office wields power.

"The power of council doesn't change. That's statutory. But the strength of the mayor certainly changes," Parker said. "We had probably the most powerful mayor we could have ever had, certainly that Houston has had in decades, in Lanier. Not only did he have a strong mayor form of government to wield power in, but he had a lot of personal and political clout which he was willing to exercise fully."

Parker believes the atmosphere at city hall will be different. She attributes that to a more partisan council. By her count there are 7 conservative and 7 liberal councilmembers. And, she says, if council breaks down along partisan lines, she thinks mayor-elect Lee Brown could have a difficult time unless he can persuade one side or the other to support him. "I hope it doesn't happen that way because I think it would be bad in the long run for the city."

As with voters, Parker does not believe her sexual orientation will be an issue with her fellow city council members. "I have actually dealt with all of the councilmembers at one time or another with the exception of Robb Todd," Parker said. "And, I have a good working relationship with all those that I have dealt with. I don't perceive any problem at all. I also have friends on city council that I know are going to be supportive."

"I think it is important, always, when we elect our own to office," Parker said when asked about the impact of her victory. Parker cited the Brown election as an example of the importance of electing your own to office. While campaigning with Brown during the run-off in the black communities, Parker noticed that the black community was energized by the possibility of having a black mayor.

"They were definitely supporting Lee Brown, but I think at that point, it wouldn't have mattered who they were supporting, they were so energized at having a black

mayor that they were willing to move mountains," Parker said. "I don't think in our community that we quite have the understanding of how powerful it is to be represented by your own in office and that all the things that we fight for and try to change from the outside become so much easier to change once you're on the inside."

Parker does not plan to immediately bring a gay agenda to city council. She believes that you must work behind the scenes and build a consensus prior to bringing issues to the table. Interestingly, Parker contends the issue may come up on its own.

Parker says she intends to bring her partner, Kathy Hubbard, to city functions and affairs which will bring up the issue of how the protocol department will handle her introductions. The issue of coverage for her partner with respect to city employee benefits will also more than likely present itself as an issue.

If the packed house at Riva's Restaurant the night of Parker's victory is any indication, the gay and lesbian community is euphoric over the victory that Annise Parker has finally delivered after three attempts at winning a city council seat. Parker has done what many have tried to do and fail. Perhaps, she can use that stamina, savvy and smarts to city council and effectively reach more milestones for the gay community in the fourth largest city in America.

Parker is currently working on forming a transition team and says she won't have much time for relaxation during the transfer from public citizen to city councilwoman. One thing was evident during our conversation: Parker is determined to be a great city council person. Her passion could hardly be contained. Where it will lead remains to be seen. The gay and lesbian community in Houston can finally hold its head high in the knowledge that they have "one of their own" in city government.



## BROWN/ from page 1

Saturday's runoff election. Mosbacher, son of Bush's commerce secretary Robert Mosbacher, remained positive in defeat.

"Victory is not with us tonight, but we can be extremely proud of our efforts and our accomplishment, and we can hold our heads high because we ran a great campaign and helped define the issues," he said. Mosbacher, who handles his family's oil and gas business, also had unsuccessful runs for U.S. Senate in 1984 and lieutenant governor in 1990.

With the economy purring and crime down, the campaign was dominated by attacks regarding the candidates' pasts. Mosbacher accused Brown of being a career bureaucrat and lousy administrator. Brown labeled Mosbacher a tax dodger because a company in which he was a minority investor moved out of a Texas county to avoid higher taxes.

Regarding issues, Brown, 60, proposed a "neighborhood-oriented government" similar to the neighborhood police effort he instituted as Houston's police chief. Mosbacher, 46, said he would have run the city like a business, trimming regulations, paying employees for performance and replacing people in troubled city departments.

Brown, who was endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee (HGLPC PAC), made no specific promises during his campaign other than to keep Houston's economy growing. "The challenge I have is to pull everybody together and keep the ball rolling and expand on it," Brown said.

"Mayor-elect Brown has promised to work closely with us in regard to addressing hate crimes and the many other equality issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community," said HGLPC Board Member Dr. Clair Koepsel. According to Caucus officials, Brown will announce his appointment of a liaison to the gay and lesbian community within the next few weeks.

Log Cabin officials also pointed out lessons to be learned from the race for Houston mayor. The Houston GOP group, the nation's second largest, did not endorse

in the mayoral race, however, several members did have informal talks with Mosbacher, who did not seek the groups endorsement.

"In a Democrat-leaning city like Houston, a Republican candidate has to appeal to a broad cross-section of voters who are fiscally conservative but socially moderate," said Log Cabin Screening Committee co-chair Dale Carpenter.

"This is how Rudy Guiliani in New York and Richard Riordan in Los Angeles (both Republicans) won mayoral contests in their cities against even greater odds." Both Riordan and Guiliani sought and received their cities Log Cabin chapter endorsements.

Carpenter, an attorney, said that Mosbacher failed to do that and angered many swing voters by sending an anti-gay letter to conservative voters. "This election shows that those gay-baiting tactics no longer work in Houston," Carpenter said. "Mosbacher is not personally anti-gay, he's just another well-meaning Republican who followed bad advice on how to win."

Brown, 60, succeeds Bob Lanier, who was barred from a fourth term because of term limits. Lanier endorsed Brown, who was President Clinton's drug policy director for two years before resigning in 1995 to teach at Rice University.

"I think he has a chance to be a great mayor of this city," Lanier said. "I don't really feel this campaign was bitter and will leave a lot of scars and I think he's the sort of fellow that will be able to bring the folks together."

When incumbent Mayor Bob Lanier vacates City Hall in January, he turns over America's fourth-largest city to its first black mayor with the economy humming, crime down and a reasonably content citizenry. Brown's victory was not without considerable help from Lanier, whose political muscle shifted to Brown more than a year ago.

Lanier's supporters quickly went to work to raise cash, encourage a strong minority voter turnout and more important, dissuade other potential black candidates from entering the contest. About 25 percent of Houston's 1.8 million residents are black.

About 31 percent of Houston's registered See BROWN page 29

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## AIDS epidemic spreads in black community

by Bill Bergstrom

TALLAHASSEE, FL. - More blacks than whites have been reported with AIDS in Florida for the first time, and health officials say in two years blacks will account for more than half the cases as the epidemic swells.

Though comprising only 13 percent of Florida's population, blacks make up 44 percent of the state's 64,207 cases since AIDS was first reported in 1981. Whites accounted for 41 percent and Hispanics 15 percent of the cases reported through October.

"Before we reach the year 2000, more than 50 percent of all AIDS cases in Florida will be among blacks," Dr. James Howell, secretary of the state Department of Health, told leaders looking for ways to blunt the impact on the black community.

AIDS has been the top cause of death for young adult black men and women - those between 25 and 44 - for several years. And while AIDS declines among whites and remains stable among Hispanics it continues to spread rapidly among blacks, said Spencer Lieb, an epidemiologist in the state Bureau of HIV-AIDS.

Howell released the figures at the start of a two-day Black Leadership Conference on HIV-AIDS in Clearwater featuring speakers such as Jacqueline Coleman, co-director of the National Minority AIDS Council in Washington. School, business and church leaders and social services and health workers at the meeting will try to find ways to stem the spread of AIDS.

"We have no hope of reversing this trend unless our communities are actively involved," said Howell. While unprotected gay sex once caused most AIDS cases, Lieb said, "heterosexual transmission seems to be on the upswing," particularly among blacks.

AIDS is heavily concentrated in urban areas, though no county has completely escaped the epidemic. Numbers range as high as 1,420 cases last year and 19,740 since 1981 in Dade County to as few as one last year and five overall in Gilchrist County.

The high rate in the black community may result partly from a wave of crack cocaine use and related sex-for-drugs encounters in the 1980s, and partly from a syphilis outbreak among blacks during the 1980s that would have increased the transmission of the HIV virus that causes AIDS, Lieb said.

"Another thing is that prevention efforts themselves were probably a bit late in reaching the minority community," said Lieb. In addition to full-blown AIDS cases on record, he said, an estimated 35,000 blacks in Florida are living with HIV.

## HIV/AIDS patients encounter difficulties accessing information

ALBANY, N.Y. - People infected with HIV and AIDS had a hard time getting answers and finding doctors at health maintenance organizations who can help, according to a report released Monday. But a spokesman for the state Department of Health said the report was premature since HIV-infected Medicaid patients are exempt for now from having to enter HMOs under new state guidelines.

"They have an agenda that does not call for Medicaid managed care," Health Department spokesman Robert Hinckley said in dismissing the report. "We'd like it to succeed," Michael Kink of Housing Works, an advocacy group for homeless people infected with the disease, said. "We want this program to work right."

The state has begun a program that will eventually force most Medicaid recipients into HMOs as a way to cut costs in the health insurance program for the poor. The report said that telephone callers from Housing Works could not learn about their options from the HMOs, often could not get referrals to doctors with experience treating HIV or AIDS and, in more than half the

cases, questions about medication were answered incorrectly.

A group of HIV and AIDS patients at a news conference said they were extremely nervous as the first group of Medicaid patients begin the move into HMO care. "I'm 30-years-old. I want to see the age of 31 and without the proper medical care it will be impossible," said Lenny Hoffman, a Rensselaer County man, who has AIDS.

Clients of Housing Works phoned HMOS in Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties, the first area to begin moving Medicaid patients into HMOs. Hinckley said AIDS patients should be calling their county's Social Services department, not HMOs to get information and to obtain exemptions from the forced moves.

If they are enrolled in an HMO, Hinckley said there are ways to correct that. He also said that in the area targeted by Housing Works, 1,500 people have already won automatic exemptions. HIV-positive Medicaid recipients will be exempt from required managed care until the creation of special-needs HMOs to serve them. Hinckley said those are at least a year away.

## Teacher with AIDS benefits from NU medical center research

OMAHA, Neb. - After five or six doctors and numerous explanations for her poor health, an Omaha teacher was unprepared for the final diagnosis made on March 7: AIDS. However, she found out just in time.

The woman may represent the first case of a reversal after AIDS had damaged the brain by undergoing treatment developed at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "When I finally was diagnosed, I was close to dying," the 38-year-old teacher said.

The teacher was back at school this fall working with students with behavioral problems after being unable to dress herself earlier this spring. She agreed to be interviewed by the Omaha World-Herald if her identity was not disclosed.

The teacher's story is testimony to the advances that have been made in understanding how the AIDS-associated virus affects the brain and to the developments in AIDS drugs. Some of those advances have been achieved at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where expertise in the neurological aspects of AIDS has led to the recent formation of the Center for Neurovirology and Neurodegenerative Disorders.

Two of the doctors there - Howard Gendelman and Susan Swindells are among the editors of a new textbook. *Neurology of AIDS* will be arriving this week at medical centers around the nation. The story of the teacher is the book's forward.

"My doctor told me that if this all had happened a year earlier, I'd probably be dead by now," the teacher said. That's true, said Gendelman, who is her doctor and the director of the new center. She may represent the first case of a reversal after AIDS had done so much damage to the brain, he said.

A new approach using multiple drugs, some of which had just come on the market, proved to be successful against her dementia. It is too early to know what her case means for others, Gendelman said. But he doesn't think her stunning progress is a fluke.

About 20 percent of AIDS patients develop dementia, which usually appears late in the course of the disease. Before effective antiviral medications became available, patients typically died within three months of being diagnosed with dementia.

The teacher's case is unusual in at least one aspect. Gendelman said it is rare for the brain to be so severely affected when no other signs of AIDS are present. Drug therapy was started with the teacher soon after the March 7 diagnosis.

"First I gave her a cocktail of highly active antiviral medicines," Gendelman said. These medicines were to fight off the AIDS virus. Then other drugs were used to knock down the damaging inflammatory process.

But on March 17, Gendelman called with

bad news. More than 1 million viral particles were circulating on each drop of her blood one of the highest levels seen at the NU Medical Center. If the drugs did not kick in soon, she would probably die within two months. A week later, good news came. The amount of virus was declining. The drugs were working.

"My recovery was not an instant one," the teacher wrote in the textbook. "It came in bits and pieces, most of which I didn't realize. One day I fed myself. The next day I took a shower. Soon after that, I got dressed without any help."

The teacher estimates that she is about 90 percent of the way to full recovery. Her attention span is shorter than it used to be and there's an occasional pause when she's talking. Her AIDS is not cured, but it's being held in check.

"I asked Doctor Swindells what would happen if the drugs stopped working" she said. "Doctor Swindells said there are hundreds that are being worked on. If these pills stop working, we'll try others."

## Health officials seeking \$1 million for AIDS drug treatment

DENVER - The state health department director is asking for \$1 million in funds to

## BROWN/ from page 28

voters cast ballots. Voter turnout patterns found that blacks comprised a third or more of the electorate while whites made up about 55 percent, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

Although early returns from Harris County, where most of Houston is located, showed Brown and Mosbacher splitting the votes evenly, Brown was partially aided by capturing about 6,336 votes, or 94 percent, in outlying Fort Bend County.

On Nov. 4, Brown broke out of an eight-candidate pack with 41 percent of the vote. Mosbacher followed with a distant 29 per-

centage provide drug treatment for low-income AIDS victims.

The request is a 264-percent increase over the \$379,000 currently provided by the state for a program that allows eligible people to receive expensive medications - called protease inhibitors - that delay the onset of the fatal disease.

"With the escalating costs, our judgment was we needed more state money," said Patti Shwyder, executive director of the health department. "We feel it's worthwhile," Shwyder added. "It is due to the advent of these triple combination drug cocktails, which have had huge effects on people's lives. Very sick clients have been able to return to a normal life and go back to work."

In recent years, when the program has run out of funds, participants have continued to receive free medication through a program paid for by pharmaceutical manufacturers. But health officials say there is no guarantee the program will continue to offer treatment for everyone who needs it.

Total funding for the protease inhibitors would be nearly \$6 million, about half of which comes from the federal government under the Ryan White program, named for an Indiana teen-ager who died of AIDS. "It saves lives," Shwyder said of the program. The state Legislature will meet with health officials next week to discuss the request.

Despite being consistently outnounced by Mosbacher, the Lanier-Brown machine's hard work resulted in a victory for Brown on Saturday night.

The mayoral race became the most expensive in the history of Houston, with campaign spending by the pair topping \$5.6 million as of two weeks ago, the latest figures available show. Like Lanier, Brown focused on neighborhoods.

While Lanier's approach was more brick and mortar, embarking on a multi-million-dollar street resurfacing program and putting more police officers on the streets, Brown appealed to Houstonians' prized

See BROWN page 31

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**BROWN/** from page 29

belief that they live in the most race-tranquil city in the nation.

"Houston's greatness lies not only in the bustling skyscrapers that reflect greatness, lies not only in the bustling skyscrapers that reflect this city's economic might, but in the sprawling neighborhoods that represent the heart of the city," Brown said. "Houston works best when Houston works together."

The former federal drug czar, who also held top law enforcement jobs in New York City and Atlanta, made no specific promises during his campaign other than to keep Houston's economy growing. "The challenge I have is to pull everybody together and keep the ball rolling and expand on it," Brown said.

Although the race was officially nonpartisan, both candidates drew support from high-profile allies. President Clinton spoke

in Brown radio ads that aired on black and Hispanic radio stations. Vice President Al Gore attended a pair of fund-raisers in Houston that raised \$120,000 for Brown.

Mosbacher, whose father served as commerce secretary under President Bush, used former first lady Barbara Bush in a television commercial. Bush also staged a photo opportunity to support Mosbacher. Even New York Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani chimed in, criticizing Brown for mishandling the 1991 Crown Heights riots when Brown was police commissioner. The disturbances, which took place before Giuliani became mayor, left one man dead and 200 injured.

Brown thanked Clinton in his victory speech. "I was honored to serve in his cabinet and now I look forward to working with him and our congressional delegation to advance Houston's cause in Washington," Brown said.

**LOG CABIN/** from page 1

said.

Log Cabin officials stressed that minimal individual effort would be required to run for, and then serve as, a precinct chairman. "Basically, you determine your own level of participation," Whittle noted. He added that Log Cabin would train and assist volunteers on how to run for precinct chairman and then to serve effectively. "You won't be left on your own," he said.

Log Cabin officials also emphasized the need for volunteers of all types, not just

precinct chair candidates. The Precinct Initiative will need people to help make telephone calls, stuff envelopes, attend precinct conventions on the night of the March primary, and do other things. The group plans to devote considerable financial and other resources to the effort.

Log Cabin officials asked all those interested in volunteering for the effort to call them at (713) 866-4878. The group said that volunteers are needed throughout Harris County and beyond. The deadline to file for precinct chairman is January 2, 1998.



**OLIVER/** from page 1

play throughout the show. Last seen here in 1988, the current revival is colorful and pleasing.

While the entire cast in this production is strong, kudos go to those members of the ensemble under four feet tall. While I am admittedly not a fan of the 'child centered musical' (The result of being aurally scarred by the ever-grating rendition of *Tomorrow from Annie*) this bunch of thieving thespians held my interest throughout the entire evening.

The audience (and the aging Music Hall sound system) was spared the ever-present 'Broadway belt' characteristic found in many young musical theater voices. These kids have been taught to sing as a group, presumably by Musical Director Allen Grubbs and the staff of the Humphries School. Their sound was childlike without being annoying. The eleven-year-old Christopher Jones (Oliver) handles the role as only a young, Gumby-like tyke could. Though he is yanked around the stage in all manner of ways, his singing is clear with no discernible break anywhere in the voice.

This version of the grimy 1838 literary classic highlights some of the more humorous aspects of relationships, especially early in the show — fortunately it is not all 'man beats boy.' The campy 'I Shall Scream' duet between Mr. Bumble and Widow Corny (each appropriately named) has text worthy of our rapt attention. The inclusion of an on-stage feline, viewed only from the tail, is notably amusing. The funeral parlor scene is a fusion of 'penny dreadful theater' and vaudeville slapstick, successfully executed by all involved. The movement of the cast and especially the children's choreography is creative but doesn't get in the way of the important events on stage.

*The tone of Oliver!* darkens as the show proceeds through the second act. Master Twist's protector, Nancy (Rachel deBenedet) is trapped between her love for the abusive Bill Sykes, played by the snarling Lee Lobenhofer, and the young Oliver. Fortunately, the only song that is 'belted' is Nancy's *As Long as He Needs Me*. In light of her relationship troubles the number should be re-titled *As Long as He BEATS Me*. Sykes slaps Nancy around and she then sings of her undying love for him. This is the one place where the show reveals its age — contemporary audiences, hopefully, aren't as tolerant of such abusive situations. In spite of this, the dramatic device of maternal sacrifice for the benefit of a child is chillingly effective in the fog-ridden London Bridge scene.

The final moments of the show are executed with technical and dramatic clarity. Numerous events occur in a series of brief sequences and the audience is always aware of exactly what is taking place. The light-hearted reprise of *Reviewing the Situation* by Feagan (a wonderfully make-upped Stephen Berger) and The Artful Dodger (Gair Morris) give a needed breath of air to the finale of *Oliver!*

Houston native (and Humphries Musical Theater School graduate) Michael Tapley directs a performance in which all aspects of the show combine nicely. No particular person 'steals the show' even though several characters have ample opportunity to do so. The comic characters are slightly cartoonish and the villainous ones are somewhat scary. This balance of hues, both dramatic and stage colored, give a balanced and satisfying experience.

*Oliver!* runs through Sunday, December 21st. For tickets and information please call 1-800-678-5440.

**TITANIC/** from page 20

off of.

Kathy Bates (*Fried Green Tomatoes, Men Don't Leave*) returns to the big screen as Molly Brown. Bill Paxton (*The Evening Star, Tombstone*) stars as Brock Lovett, the treasure hunter that excavates the shipwrecked Titanic.

If you have an afternoon to kill or if you are trying to avoid the holiday shopping

crowds, I suggest you hide out for a nice relaxing "two hours and seventy eight" minute nap in your local multi-plex. The filmmakers are hoping the general public will not do the math on the running time. Most people will not sit in a movie theater for more than two hours. Three hours is way too excessive. The average moviegoer will have had enough of the *Titanic* after the first 98 minutes. That is when I checked my watch...

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**Friday, December 12**

- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Spay & Neutering (SNAP) 522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 522-8182.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- The Gardening and Yard Society meets at 7 pm. 713-661-6378
- Fish and Chip at U of H. 713-223-8346.
- Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf meets at 7 pm. 713-869-2287.

**Saturday, December 13**

- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets. 713-780-4282.
- Houston Outdoor Group's December social. 713-682-3362.

**Sunday, December 14**

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-

- 868-5039
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Enron's Jingle Bell Run. 713-758-9297.

**Monday, December 15**

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.

**Tuesday, December 16**

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club

- Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- Project Ceasar at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- Dating and Mating; Erotic Choices in Safer Sex. 7 pm. 713-524-2374
- Pride Committee of Houston Board Meeting - at 7 pm. 713-529-6979.

**Wednesday, December 17**

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4pm. 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 522-8182.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness by AFH. 713-623-6796.
- OurVote meets at 7 pm. 713-520-VOTE.
- Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Fourum

- meets. 713-779-8860.
- Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network meets at 7:30 pm. 713-942-7002.

**Thursday, December 18**

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Kolbe Project outreach at 7 pm. 713-522-8182.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Independent Billiard League of Houston holds their last meeting of the Fall season. 713-928-6344
- NOW meets at 6:30 pm. 713-665-8NOW.
- Texas AIDS Ride Q&A session. 1-888-780-RIDE.

**GALAXY GAYZER**

**A Houston Voice Exclusive**

Your Horoscope for the week of December 14 thru 20

**ARIES:** (March 21-April 20) An unusual opportunity may present itself, which may involve public appearances. Loving thoughts are expressed to you and these remarks may not be just passing pleasantry, but an invitation for something deeper. Clear communication can smooth the way.

**TAURUS:** (April 21 - May 21) If you are feeling tied down by some relationship which is draining you, it may be time to declare your independence. Make your break in a quiet, but firm manner. Check and recheck your money resources, and be sure you are doing something to create future security.

**GEMINI:** (May 22 - June 21) There is a wonderful sense of the many possibilities life holds in store for you this week. This attitude will fill you with optimism and high energy. Those around you may be turned off by your manner; remember you cannot convince everyone to feel the same way you do.

**CANCER:** (June 22 - July 23) If you are feeling a bit crowded, it is very important to speak up and take time and space for yourself, even if only temporarily. You may receive news about money, the information will not be as positive as you'd like - learn not to get attached to expectations.

**LEO:** (July 24- August 23) You are finding yourself in a rut this week, and it will take a bit of effort on your part to get out of it. Try something new. You need time to play. It may be best to get to the bottom of some emotional upheaval before proceeding - logical approach is not satisfactory.

**VIRGO:** (August 24 - September 23) This week feels like a new lease on life. Do something which gets your blood pumping. Physical overexertion will do you good. You and your mate may experience greater attraction for each other if you put a little distance between yourselves. Get more input before making any moves.

**LIBRA:** (September 24 - October 23) An emotional upset may leave you feeling rather sorry for yourself, but things are really not as bad as they may seem right now. Give it all a second chance. Find a way to give away items

which have lost their usefulness, to those who will appreciate them.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 - November 22) You are definitely in a good mood. Just be careful what you wish for since you just may get it. Treat yourself to a luxury you seldom consider. Have patience concerning a current project. Your ship will come in, and worrying will not hasten the process.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 23 - December 21) An organized approach will get the job done. Money may come from an unexpected source to help you realize your goals. Your lover needs attention now. Make sure it is quality time and the two of you discuss matters of mutual importance and goals.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 - January 20) It may be hard to maintain your optimism - there isn't anything wrong, you are just in a dark, brooding mood. Your health, both physical and mental may be affected by stress either at home or at work. Make necessary changes and accept what you can't change.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 - February 19) A very generous financial gift may materialize and can remove a great deal of worrying. Now you can really go after what's important, and a creative endeavor is at the top of your list. Remove yourself from an obligation which takes too much energy with little return.

**PISCES:** (February 20 - March 20) If something has been lost, you are likely to find it. Don't allow your pride to stand in the way of asking forgiveness of someone you may have wronged. This estrangement may take awhile to patch up, and may never be the same. It is a hard lesson to learn.

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK:** Attractive and keenly articulate, you are always at your best in front of people. Very few people can resist you, and very few try. Talking too much is an admitted problem for you, and you may have alienated a friend or lover with your words. Try to make amends.

such is LIFE!

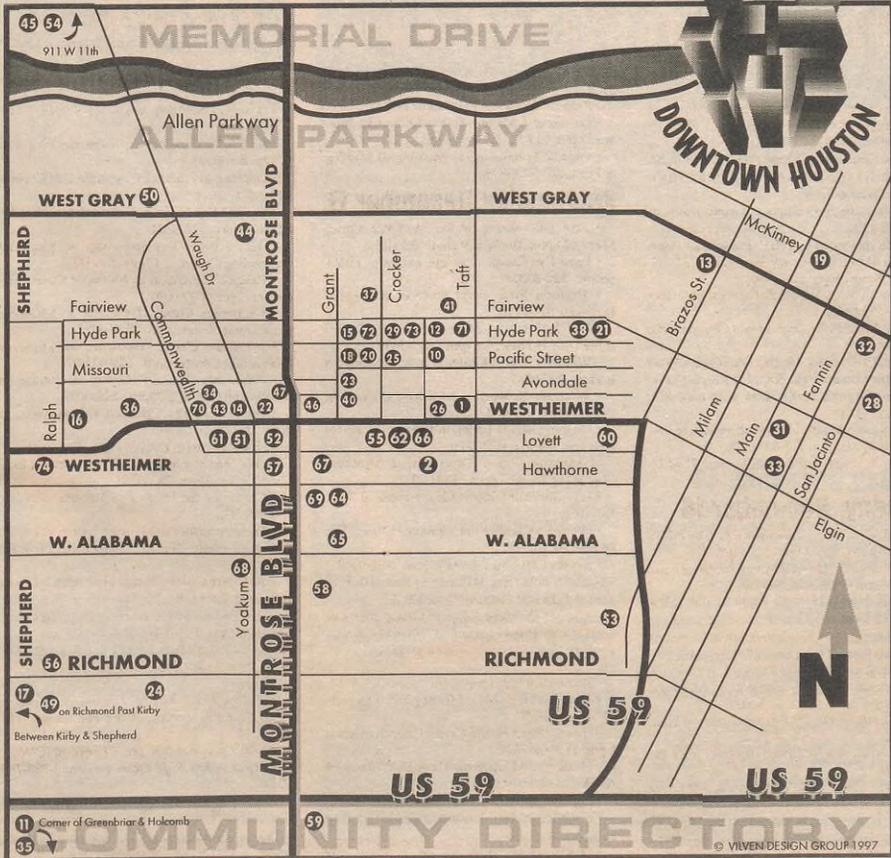
"WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES,  
SOMEWHERE I OPEN  
ANOTHER!"

-GOD-

©EARL STORM

YA BUT.....IT'S  
HELL IN THE HALLWAYS!!!

INTERNET: [HTTP://WWW.GAYWIRED.COM/QUACK/SUCHLIFE.HTM](http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm) E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@AOL.COM



ACCOMMODATIONS			
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd	713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS			
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/527-9727
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	Els	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific	713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
21	Jazy J	312 Taum	713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
26	OT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
31	Venture N	2923 Main	713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
33	Midwestern Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:		
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy	713/666-3436
36	Rascals	1318 Westheimer	713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Taum	713/523-0747
RESTAURANTS			
40	Baba Yaga	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
44	Christy Donuts	1103 W Gray	713/524-4005
45	Jova Java Cafe	911 W 11th	713/524-6706
46	Ming's Cafe	2703 Montrose	713/529-7888
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES			
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby	713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray	713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer	713/942-0147
52	Eckard Drugs	1007 Westheimer	713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam	713/524-9922
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th	713/852-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer	713/529-8490
56	Inklings Bookstore	1846 Richmond	713/521-3369
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose	713/522-5556
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose	713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer	713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer	713/524-7785
62	CreADive Unlimited	811 Westheimer(102)	713/526-5190
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama	713/522-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer	713/521-7741
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
68	KAD Computer, Inc.	1437 W. Alabama	713/522-7813
69	STAI Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5)	713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS			
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Taft	713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/523-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

## On Your Next Visit to Houston...

*What you get at the motel on the highway & what you get at the Montrose Inn*

Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door.  
Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.

Motel: Several miles to the gay bars.  
Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.

Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay \$5 to park. Or take a \$15 cab.  
Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab.  
Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Rooms start at around \$50.  
Montrose Inn: Rooms start at around \$50.

Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine.  
Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.

Motel: Cruise the parking lot? Whoa! You're taking chances.  
Montrose Inn: Meet our other guests. Please!

Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.  
Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.

Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?  
Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.

Motel: Full size bed, plastic flowers.  
Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, fresh flowers.

Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.  
Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.

**Reservations requested. 1-800-357-1228. The house at 408 Avondale.**

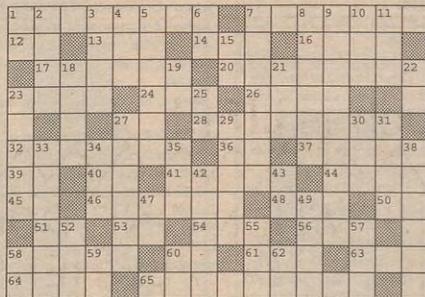
The Montrose Inn is NOT a motel. We're NOT a hotel. We're a Bed & Breakfast. (And we're Basic & Butch. We're the B&B that's B&B.) We're completely different!

## Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

### ACROSS

- 1 pseudonym of MTV's Sebastian in his porn days, 2 words
- 7 heftier
- 12 1000 meters, abbr.
- 13 compete
- 14 AMY in a mirror
- 16 color of triangle Nazi's forced homosexuals to wear
- 32 Wizard of Oz: Dorothy like 'are you'
- 36 sounds like 'are you'
- 37 goes somewhere else
- 39 1st 2 initials of American actors Robinson & Marshall
- 40 positioned
- 41 justification
- 44 wheal



- 17 Gone With the Wind: Butterfly McQueen
- 20 lawyer
- 23 accustomed
- 24 suffix added to names of chemical compounds
- 26 sharpen
- 27 sounds like 'double you gee'
- 28 Gone With the Wind:

- 45 20th century American novelist Lewis, initials ("Every compulsion is put upon writers to become safe, polite, obedient, and sterile.")
- 46 burger place canceled ads on Ellen's coming out episode
- 48 sainte (female saint) abbr.
- 50 adverb suf-

- 60 do .. mi fa so la ti do
- 61 major monthly national gay & lesbian magazine
- 63 Roman numeral 7
- 64 slang for amyl nitrite
- 65 those who settle estates
- DOWN**
- 1 Canadian province with capi-

- 8 something named after someone
- 9 group's ability to strike
- 10 hotel
- 11 barely gain with effort
- 15 Bay State, abbr.
- 18 derriere
- 19 about 9-tenths of a meter, abbr.
- 21 small amount

- of liquor
- 22 last 2 letters of alphabet
- 23 earnestly pleads for
- 25 20th century American poet Pound, initials ("Literature is news that stays news.")
- 27 John ....., director of 'Pink Flamingos'
- 29 people of Ireland
- 30 avenue abbr.
- 31 "Don't ask, don't ...." Bull!
- 33 brightly shining
- 34 ordinance
- 35 father
- 42 French public secondary school
- 43 SI upside down
- 47 chemical symbol for sodium
- 49 Wizard of Oz: dog
- 52 valley (as a postal address) abbr.
- 55 a promise to pay a debt
- 57 coves (as a postal address) abbr.
- 58 Evergreen State, abbr.
- 59 Spanish for 'the'
- 60 prescription for medicine
- 62 Beehive State, abbr.
- Solution elsewhere this issue c.1997 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE GAY29

**Friday, December 12**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well, \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm; \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Heaven: \$1 well & \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles, \$3.75 Skyy & Stol: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer, \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Klub Kamp, a comedy drag review 9pm doors open, 11:30pm show—Retro Modern Hits by D.J. Chris Sill, \$1, \$2, \$3 drinks.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00 The Long Shots Band with becky at 9 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

**Saturday, December 13**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well, \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday Night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well & \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9 to 9:30pm at Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 9:30 to 10pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10 to 10:30pm at J.R.'s Bar & Grill, & 10:30 to 11pm at Heaven.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Heaven: \$1 well 9 to 11pm; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!

- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy Hour 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night!". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard, D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

**Sunday, December 14**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- Heaven: \$1 well drinks \$2. domestic longnecks; \$3.00 Anything in the house; (excluding multiple liquor drinks and champagne) Video Classifieds 9:30-1:30. Doors open at 8.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock. SRO Karaoke at 6pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio with guest bartending starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: 18 & up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Deja Vu "Phat Grooves & Cheap Drinks", doors open at 9pm, 90's Retro House Disco with D.J. Chris Sill.
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; snacks on the "Far Side" & guest bartenders 6pm till???

**Monday, December 15**

- Berry Hill II: Free pool.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all time 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLO-GIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.

- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! - \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Tuesday, December 16**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks/7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie has em as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am, \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Wednesday, December 17**

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00

- am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser & 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace: Doors open 9pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight; Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

**Thursday, December 18**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Male Dancers at 10:30pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Sloy Vodka open to close.
- Heaven: \$1.25 Frozen Ritas, \$1.00 well drinks. Amateur Strip Contest at 11pm hosted by Kofi. \$120 in Cash Prizes.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer. Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karaoke
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

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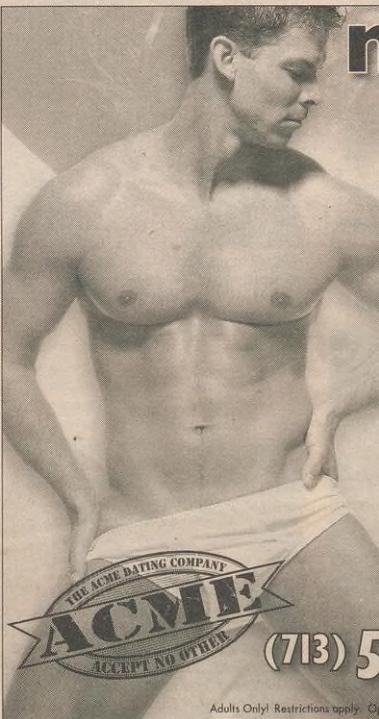
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**Important Stuff**

Wow! What a week! If your schedule was like mine, you had to make a spread sheet in your computer to keep track of where to be and when!



Val as Valerie at the Gentry Turn-a-bout.

Over \$1500 was raised at the JR's and Santa Fe's Turnabout show this past Monday! This money is headed to the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard of Houston!

A "Toast from the Heart" roasted \$2,062.50 to benefit TGRA! Congrats to Don Gill, Michael Gaitz and all the hard working

folks that made this night possible!

This past Sunday night, the 11th annual LVL Christmas Show raised \$531. One of the evening's highlights was when the PWA Holiday Charities



Beverly and Beverly get hitched by Erica Lane.

presented the Colt 45's with a check for \$5,600. This money is earmarked so that each person under the Colt 45's care will receive \$50 cash. Way to go!

The annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting on Mary's rooftop will be Sunday, December 14. Christmas caroling starts at 5 pm, a drag benefit show at 6 pm, and the tree glows at 7 pm. Mary's will be hosting their annual customer appreciation party at 7:30 pm. Dickens attire is encouraged. Santa will be there, too if you want a photo! Ken (the Fireman) and Steve (Bricks II)



Lovely at the New Barn.

will be guest bartending from 2 pm. This event is sponsored by Mary's, naturally and the Westheimer Street Festival.

The first annual Steel Magnolia's Miss Merry Christmas is Jessica Van Shelton! This contest raised \$502.

This past Sunday, the Gentry's turn about show raised \$877 for the Soiree Aubergine. This money is headed to the Bering Care Center. The "guys" were gorgeous as "gals!"



Kathy (left) and Lane (right) help winner, Annise Parker hustle votes at P.S. on election eve.

El Nino Wednesdays at Heaven! Go there and get caught up in the storm!

The Club Houston invites you to their Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13 at 10 pm. There will be a catered buffet, beverages, door prizes, hot men and more!

The finals of the 6 week talent contest at E/J's

in on December 14. The winner takes home \$500! Roxanne Lee Love will be the MC for this final finale!

The Lancers MC held their 20th annual anniversary run this past weekend! Party on!

Check out the newly remodeled Leather Forever! They have lots of new stuff for your gift giving season!

Bricks II will be having their customer appreciation party on December 19. DJ Jimmy Dale will spin as you eat and drink! They will also be having a Christmas Day dinner at 3 pm. Their anniversary (1 year) is on January 15!

Who will be the New Miss Cousins? The contest is on New Year's Eve! Who will be the new Mr. Cousins? The contest will be on December 18. You can catch some of Houston's best entertainment at Cousins' on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 11 pm!

There is a benefit show at the Venture-N on Saturday, December 13 at 10 pm. "Toys R Us" is a toy drive for the NLA: H's annual toy drive. Bring a toy or two!

Mondays at the Mine you can shoot some pool in the 9 pm tournament and drink \$1.75 well drinks and \$2 domestic longnecks! The men, the music, the Mine!



The Roasted Michael Gaitz.

Still looking for that great gay present? Stop in Basic Brothers where less is more for him! They have a great selection of gift ideas. You can also purchase a "Holiday Thought" there, too! Free gift wrap when you spend over \$100.

Saturday, December 13 at 9 pm, Miss TGRA Nevada presents an "All Live Christmas Show!" This will be a great night of entertainment at the



James and Michael (NYC gay bar Pieces owners) with Buddy at the Lazy J.

New Barn.

Do you like to play darts? Club Paradise has an state of the art dart machine as well as video poker and a new (and level) pool table!

Sunday, December 14 at 6 pm, there is a benefit show for the Loving Arms Foundation at the Lazy J. Stop in and help out this wonderful organization!

Mama Jo and the staff of the Outpost invite you to their Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14 at 4 pm. There will be a tasty buffet and drink specials!

The volunteers of Songfest '97 wants to congratulate Neil and the staff for a job well done!

Armand and Company present "Angles Among Us," a benefit show for the Loving Arms Foundation on Sunday, December 14 at 8 pm. No where else but the Brazos River Bottom!

**Milestones**

Happy belated howling birthday to Wolf Daddy!

Happy birthdays to Tommie Sue Ellen of the BRB, Mark M., Randall of PS, Jerry Jones of Mary's, Paul Umoff of the Venture-N, Bill formerly of Basic Brothers, Billy Bailey, Kenneth of the BRB, Lisa of Chances, Jim of the Ripcord, Barbara Morin of the Court, Henry of the Montrose Inn, Mac of NLA: H, Jay Allen of Pacific Street, Kody of the New Barn, Rick of the Houston Area Bears,

Terry of PS, Michael aka SnapDragon, Too Tall Joe, and Mike (Mr. Sexy Voice) Scott!

**Rodent Droppings**

The other night I was folding 3 baskets of clothes (yes, I can be a domestic goddess when necessary). As I finished the first basket, I tossed it on the floor. Daring little Rascal was also in the room. She learned that if she ferreted her nose and then half of her body under the laundry basket, then did a ferret



Miss Houston Continental Plus winner Courtney Campbell (in the stripes)

hop, the laundry basket would go flying! By the time I had finished the laundry, I was watching a "laundry basket ballet." Rascal was having a blast!

The Laser Wizard bought me an addition to our household this week! No, we did not get another ferret! "Pepper" is an 1 year old Springer Spaniel.



Oh la la!

She is quite a handful! It is going to be quite some time until Pepper will meet Rascal and Harvey. Right now, Pepper would think that they are fast running furry chew toys!

On with the droppings! The usual disclaimer is in force! Lies, gossip, and trash!

Duane (from L.A.): Welcome to Houston!

Christopher Graham: It is better to ring the doorbell first before slamming one's head into the door!

Rod (Basic Brothers): Been naked in any hallways lately?

Phoebe (Sundance): And I quote: "I like the weenies, but it is really hard to spear them!"



Ripcord's Anniversary.

Larry (611 Hyde Park Pub): Why do you sleep on Terry's teeth?

Michael Gaitz (TGRA): And I quote: "I only pee'd once in two days!"

Gary S. (PWA Holiday Charities): You look so handsome in a tux.

Drew (Venture-N): Want some more scotch? Susan Masar (Chances): Why do women lay down on the floor for you?

John B. (PS): And I quote: "I need a spare pool!"

Eric (Gentry): When was the last time you lost your leather jacket? Was it while you were wearing it?

Kody (New Barn): Did you really jump the fence while trying to escape Big Gary's (Ripcord) house?

Jim Cheek: I heard what you did at the Ripcord, and twice at that! I guess you have recuperated from your heart surgery!

Papa Del (Gentry): How long did you rehearse taking tips?

John T. (Ripcord): I hear you are now the #1



The Lancers MC celebrate 20 years at Mary's naturally bathroom inspector!

Doug (Bubba #2): What was that song from ABBA about? Dancing?

Tamin (E/J's): Nice Tammy, uh, er, Tommy hat!

Chester (hangs at the 611 Hyde Park Pub): I've heard you have a taxing week!

Jeff (E/J's): Do birds have dicks? 1-900-BIRD-YES or 1-900-BIRD-NO!

Chuck (Ripcord) and Jae: Just how much dam-



Michael and Drew (center) welcome Loyd and Dennis from Tucson to the Venture-N

age did you do to the Winnabego? What about the awing you hit?

Lulu (E/J's): With all the post cards you receive, you could cover an entire wall!

Big Gary (Ripcord): How many tricks can you pick-up at a truck stop in a Lexus?

Gary DeYoung: Red is a very flattering color on you!



Are you happy to see my or is that a SKYY bottle in your pocket?

Bobby (Trixie of the Monday night bowling league): Is it true that you trick more than you bowl on Monday nights?

Trey (The Cowboy): Who did you push down to the floor at Bricks II last Sunday night?

Michael (Venture-N): And I quote: "I want man



The Board of the PWA Holiday Charities at the BRB.

hair in my bed!"

Zilla: I have a message for you: "You doll, I missed seeing you on Saturday." Love Coco.

Pebbles (hangs at PS): Sorry, last week should have read "Titty Face."

MudBud (hangs at the BriarPatch): Call me!

There will NOT be gossip in the next few issues of the Houston Voice! I'm sorry! I will be doing a "Photo Review" of this past year!

Have a great holiday!

Cuenvolyn

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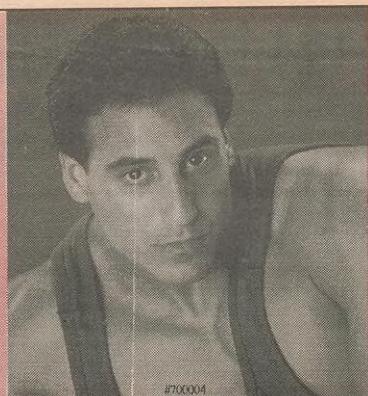
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# HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



## Women SEEKING Women

**GWF 42**, non-smoker. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I like dining out, traveling, movies, learning how to dance Country Western. You should have similar interests, be fun-loving, spontaneous, enjoy trying new adventures & have a good sense of humor. Call Ext. 5654

**SF Professional**, 34, 5'5", 150 lbs., height/weight proportionate. Looking for a friend. I like to listen to music, read, take walks in the park & camp. Call Ext. 5643

**SBF Bi sexual**, 18, dark brown hair, brown eyes & medium build. Looking for single female age, race is unimportant. If you would like to get together to have some fun, then give me a call. Call Ext. 5641

**SF Bi racial**, 5'4", 110 lbs., curly golden blonde hair, big blue eyes, height/weight proportionate & feminine. I'm secure & independent. Looking to meet Black or Hispanic females, must be height/weight proportionate & be feminine only. I love to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5640

**Your ad could be here.**

**SBF Looking for an attractive**, single Black female. Someone who I can spend my time with. Should be very caring, loving & willing to share different things with. Call Ext. 5579

**SBF 46**. I enjoy sports & games. I'm looking for someone 36-49, to spend time with, have fun & especially if you are interested in playing pinochle. Call Ext. 5637

**SF 29**, blonde hair, brown eyes, feminine. I'm interested in meeting new people to go out & enjoy movies & dancing. Call Ext. 5634

**SBF Tall**, height/weight proportionate. I'm seeking an attractive, single Black female to spend time with. Call Ext. 5626



**SF 5'4"**, 125 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, professional, non-smoker. I like to go to movies, dancing, music & feeding the birds at the park. I'm looking for a friend, companion & a lover who is honest & won't play games. Call Ext. 5621

## Men SEEKING Men

**GWM 38**, HIV-, 5'11", 170 lbs., green eyes, hairy chest & masculine. I'm deeply spiritual, cherishing honor above all, loyalty, duty & civility. Seeking a petite, gentle, HIV-, bottom, for walks in the parks, conversations in coffee shop's, movies & trips to the museums. Let's court each other & take it slow. Asian, Eurasian, Pakistanis is a plus. Call Ext. 5660

**GHM 28**, brown eyes, hairy chest, 5'5", 170 lbs. Looking for a White gay male, 30-45, very to medium hairy & weight is not important. Should be versatile but, strictly tops would be considered, for a possible relationship if the guy is right. Call Ext. 5659

**GHC 27**, top & 32, bottom. We are both in good shape. We would like to meet some Black men who are versatile, to have a threesome. Call Ext. 5656

**SWM 38**, 6'1", 190 lbs., HIV-, blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth body, 30" waist. In search of a long term relationship with someone who has dark hair, olive skin & a hairy chest is a plus. I enjoy cooking, movies, theaters, plays, walks on the beach, quiet evenings at home with a good man & a fine bottle of wine. Call Ext. 5655

**GWM 38**, 5'10", 165 lbs., mustache/goatee. I'm easygoing, straight acting & moderately hairy. Looking for other gay White males between the ages of 38-50 years old, hairy is a big plus & should be height/weight proportionate. I'm not into the bar scenes or the gay lifestyles. Call soon. Call Ext. 5653

**SWM 45**, 6'1", 150 lbs. I drink & smoke, nothing heavier. My 25 year old White female friend wants me to do more than kiss & tell. In search of closet, mature, transvestites or cross dressers. Discretions is assured for the married. Call Ext. 5355

**GWM 33**, 5'7", 220 lbs., little overweight, hazel eyes, my hair is balding but, it is sandy-blonde hair. Would like to get know some people & go out to dinner. Call Ext. 5650

**SBM 29**. Looking for friends to hang out with. I'm in a long distance relationship, so I get lonely. My interests are movies, sports & working out. Looking for guys of all races between the ages of 20-35, to do stuff with. Please call soon and leave a message. Call Ext. 5652

**GWM 5'10"**, 190 lbs., 33, HIV-, professional. I'm greek passive & french active. I'm looking for an individual that is greek active & french passive, who likes to go out or stay in depending on the mood. Seeking friendship or something more long term. Call Ext. 5651

**GWM 5'11"**, 180 lbs., blonde hair, 18. I'm financially secure & moving to the Houston area soon. I would like to meet someone who is also HIV+ & very physically fit. Call Ext. 5649

**GWM 50**, 6'1", 165 lbs., masculine, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm very oral. Looking for a HIV- top for natural sex. Must be height/weight proportionate. Seeking friendship, sex & a long term relationship would be great. Call Ext. 5648

**GWM 50**, HIV+, 5'10", 150 lbs., gray hair, mustache. Seeking someone 45 or older for a long term relationship. Leave me a message & I'll give you a call. Call Ext. 5573

**SWM 6'1"**, 155 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache/goatee, one piercing & one tattoo. Looking for a versatile gay or bi male, married is all right. Should like to role play, cross dress & want a little extra something in her life. Call Ext. 5647

**SBM 29**, 5'6", 166 lbs. attractive, HIV+ but, very healthy. My interests are sports, fishing, fast cars, movies & dining out. Seeking a White male between 24-32, with the same interests for friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5646

**SGM 50**, HIV+, healthy, brown eyes, brown hair, 5'8", 165 lbs. I work out to improve the body. I'm a non-smoker & a non-drinker, but I tolerate moderation. Looking for someone to share my life with & really good at being in love. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5642

**SGM 26**, 6'1", 155 lbs., pretty, but have a classical masculine look. Seeking a long lasting relationship with a happy, sincere, generous business man. I'm sensitive, athletic & disease free. Call Ext. 5639

**SWM 44**, 5'6", 160 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, hairy chest. Are you a good looking, young Italian, Mexican or Puerto Rican? Are you passionate, loving, caring & HIV negative? Are you looking for someone to love & be loved by. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5496

**SM 6'1"**, 185 lbs., hazel eyes, attractive, Indian/Black origin. Looking to have a good time. Call Ext. 5628

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**GHM 5'11"**, 185 lbs., new to Houston, professional. I'm looking for a dominate, hairy, gay White male, who is about the same height/weight as I am. I'm looking for a good friend to show me around & have some good times with. Call Ext. 5623

**GHM 23**, 5'10", 200 lbs., mustache, goatee, dark brown eyes, black hair. I am a hairy bottom. I am seeking a top, any race or age for a good time & or friendship. Call Ext. 5633

**GWM 29**, dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5'8", 140 lbs., & 30" waist. My interests include hiking, biking, going to the beach & stay at home with someone special. Looking for somebody around my age or younger, who is interested in getting together & forming a friendship, hopefully something that will lead to a long term relationship. Call Ext. 5627

**GWM 36**, 6'2", 185 lbs., blue eyes & HIV-. Seeking someone the same between the ages of 25-36 years, for friendship or possibly more here in Houston. Give me a call back. Call Ext. 5625

**GHM 42**, 150 lbs., lean build, slightly long black hair, goatee, brown eyes & HIV+. Would like to meet gay White males, between the ages of 30-44 years old. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5624

**SM 6'2"**, black hair, blue eyes. I enjoy bowling. Interested in a Hispanic or a White male, 18-29 years of age. I love to be with boys a lot. Leave me your name. Call Ext. 5622

**GWC** My partner is a gay White male, 5'9", 49, 173 lbs., blue eyes, salt 'n' pepper hair & very healthy, but HIV+. I'm 5'11", 189 lbs., blue eyes, blonde with graying hair, 56 & very healthy, but also HIV+. We are looking for friends who are gay White males, 45 or older. Should enjoy swimming, long walks, cooking out, dining out, animals & country living. Please be height/weight proportionate & masculine. Call soon. Call Ext. 5620

**SM 180** lbs., 5'10", height/weight proportionate. Interested in meeting mature, gray haired men, 40's & above. Would like to meet someone who is fairly wealthy, I don't want to take care of anybody else. Call Ext. 5586

**SWM 45**, 5'7", 147 lbs., handsome, masculine & hairy chest. Seeking a single gay male between 25-45, who is interested in friendship. Body hair is a plus. Call Ext. 5616



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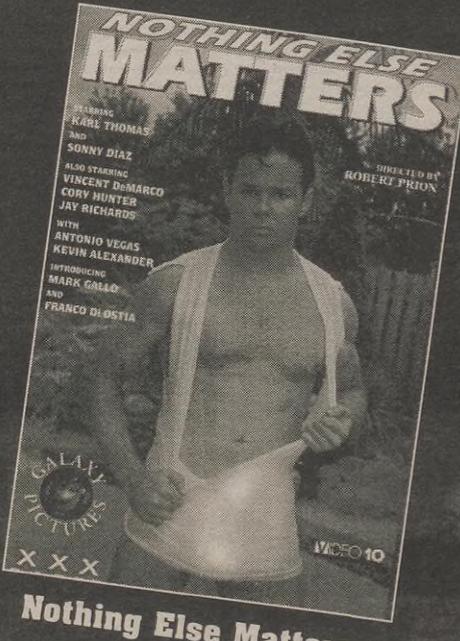


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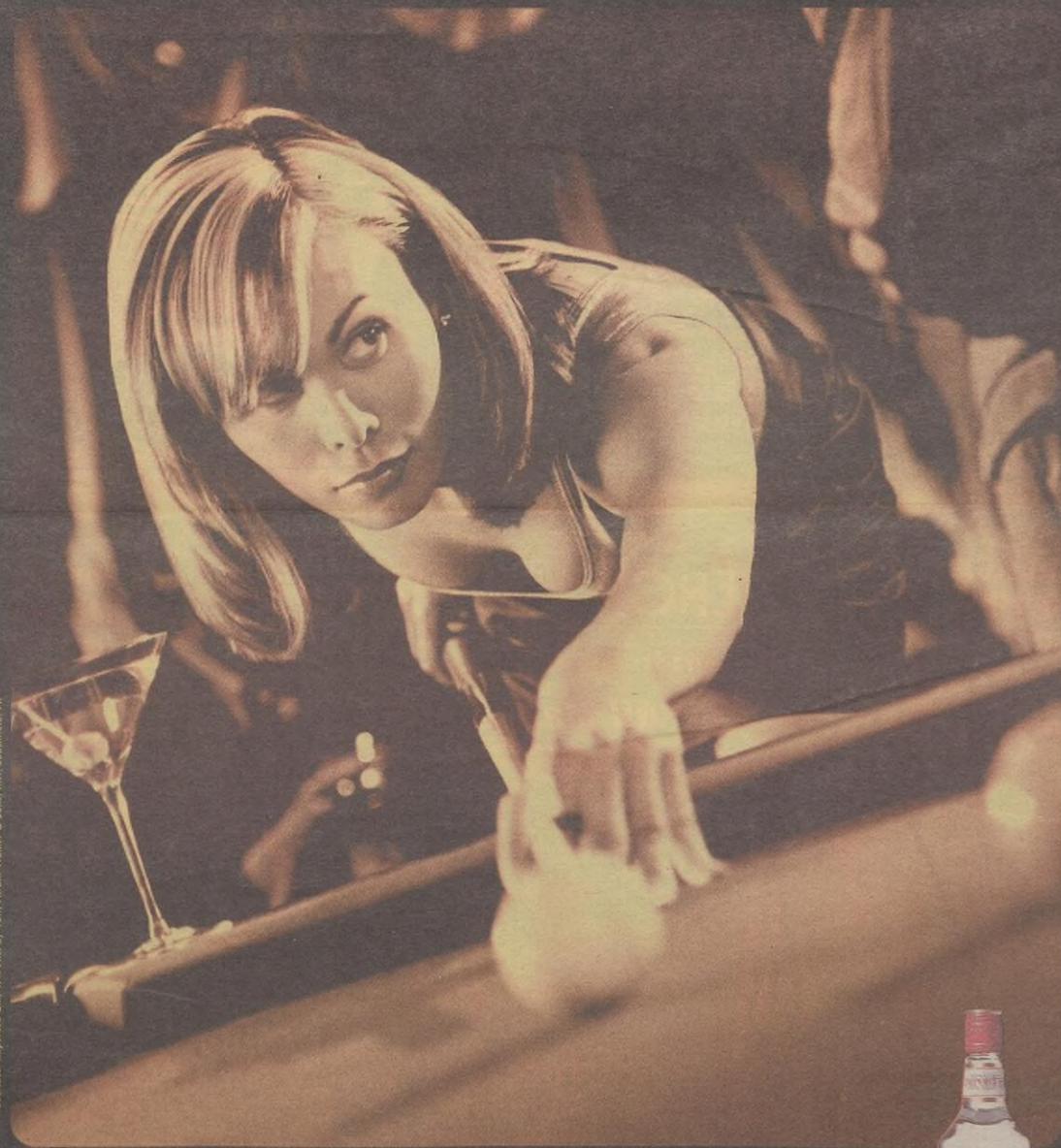
**Monday  
thru Thursday  
11am-1am**

**Sunday  
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KEVIN ALEXANDER  
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