

Boy is back

Boy George talks about his new album and his distaste for rapper Eminem.
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INSIDE



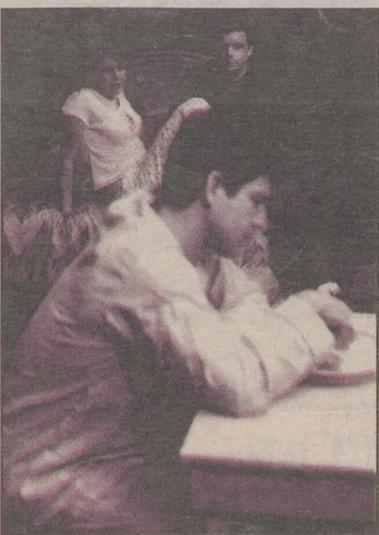
CDC head sends team to San Francisco to investigate gay HIV outreach program.

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Florida Democratic chair uses 'Hitler' analogy to sway voters against gay Republican candidate (above).

Page 3



'Eros: A Circus' takes the stage this week, with an Aug. 15 performance to benefit the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

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Gay bars fight to survive

Longtime owners of popular gay clubs say the changing Houston social scene makes business difficult

By PENNY WEAVER

Gay-popular Club Nsomnia is still open, but missing its usual crowd, and concerns about the stability of other gay clubs in Houston highlight the changing nature of the local bar business.

"It's a struggle to own a gay bar today [if it's] exclusively gay," said Bobby Rood, owner of Venture-N, located at 2923 Main St.

"In this city in the '70s, the gay bar business was very big," Rood said. "If you were a gay person, you had to go to a gay bar to meet other people of the same orientation."

"The business has changed," he added. "In this city 20 years ago or 30 years ago,



Contrary to rumors and its boarded-up front windows, Houston's Venture-N is not going out of business, according to owner Bobby Rood. For now, the former service entrance in the back of the building is the main entrance, with an 'OPEN' sign on the door. (Photo by Penny Weaver)

there were twice as many gay bars. Today they're all struggling."

Rood's establishment is an example, although he said he has plans for future expansion. As to rumors — perhaps fueled by a boarded up storefront — that Venture-

N is closed for good, Rood has a simple explanation.

"I took a vacation for a week," he said. Venture-N is now open but utilizing its

Please see GAY BARS, on Page 6

Ivers leaves No. 2 post at Log Cabin Republicans



Kevin Ivers, longtime Log Cabin Republicans public affairs director, will be replaced by Mark Mead when Ivers leaves Aug. 15 to form a consulting firm.

Former Republican National Committee staffer named as replacement

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Gay Republican activist Kevin Ivers is resigning from his job as director of public affairs for the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans to form his own Washington, D.C. public relations consulting firm, Log Cabin officials announced. The group said his resignation becomes effective Aug. 15.

In a statement released July 31, the gay GOP group said Ivers — who has held the No. 2 post at LCR since 1996 — will be

replaced by Mark Mead, a former staff member for the Republican National Committee who helped found the Log Cabin Republicans of Georgia in 1994.

Ivers has been a member of the LCR Washington staff since 1992, when he served as the group's volunteer national press secretary during the 1992 presidential election. In 1993, Ivers joined Rich Tafel, the group's current executive director, as one of the fledgling organization's first full-time employees. As LCR expanded his staff and budget, Ivers went on to manage the group's political and legislative efforts before being named in 1996 as director of public affairs, according to the group's July 31 statement.

Under Ivers' tenure as Log Cabin's chief

Please see LOG CABIN, on Page 7

national news

New CDC director questions gay HIV outreach programs

New director sends team to investigate San Francisco agency

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

In one of her first public actions related to domestic AIDS programs, the new head of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention announced she will dispatch an agency "team" to investigate accusations against a San Francisco AIDS agency known for frank prevention programs targeted at gay and bisexual men.

U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services Tommy Thompson announced the appointment of Dr. Julie Gerberding as the CDC's new director at a July 3 press conference in Atlanta, where the agency is located.

During her acceptance speech, Gerberding stressed the abstinence approach to HIV prevention touted by Thompson and President Bush and roundly criticized by gay HIV activists.

"Abstinence and monogamy are the first line of defense against HIV/AIDS," she said then.

Now a month into her tenure as CDC head, Gerberding sent a letter last week to Darlene Weide, director of San Francisco's STOP AIDS Project, saying she is "sending a CDC team" to the group "to assess whether [HIV prevention programs] are not only scientifically sound, but also are consistent with guidelines" requiring workshops be approved by local



Dr. Julie Gerberding, the new director of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, has launched a new inquiry into a San Francisco group that works with gay men. (Photo by Gregory Smith/AP)

review panels and not promote sexual activity. "CDC continues to receive complaints in reference to STOP AIDS organization's HIV educational sessions and associated materials," Gerberding wrote.

Gerberding was not available for interviews on the letter and her approach to gay HIV prevention, according to CDC staff.

A spokesperson for STOP AIDS Project, meanwhile, said the agency "looks forward" to explaining its programs to Gerberding, but would rather focus on its main mission.

"Speaking for the staff, everyone would like their full time to go to working with gay and bisexual men to prevent HIV infection," said Shana Krochmal, communications director for STOP AIDS. "On a certain level, it is frustrating to have spent so much of the last year having to respond to very politically motivated challenges of the work we do."

Krochmal declined to specify the exact political motivations behind the question-

ing of the agency, saying only that "generally speaking, under this administration, I think we will continue to see progressive HIV prevention attacked."

In response to questions from Southern Voice about the issue, the CDC issued a terse statement saying the Aug. 12 visit to STOP AIDS Project was prompted by a letter received by the agency on July 30 from three Congress members who serve on the House Committee on Government Reform. The Congress members claimed the group "had violated federal laws or misused federal funds," the statement said.

Neither Gerberding's letter nor the CDC statement listed specific STOP AIDS programs causing the concern. But a report released last fall by the federal Department of Health & Human Services targeted two workshops — "Booty Call" and "Great Sex" — that use sexually explicit language to reach out to gay men.

The programs "could be construed as 'encouraging, directly ... sexual activity' and as 'obscene,' and thus not in compliance with CDC guidelines," HHS Inspector General Janet Rehnquist wrote at the time.

Rehnquist's report prompted HHS to announce a larger review of all AIDS programs funded through the CDC, and it remained unclear at press time whether Gerberding's new assessment of STOP AIDS programs was related to the review.

Gerberding has requested a report from the team "within 10 working days of com-

pleting the assessment," the CDC said.

Officials at STOP AIDS Project, meanwhile, defended the group's outreach methods and its use of the approximately \$225,000 in CDC funding it receives each year.

"All the work we do here at the project is fully compliant with both local and federal guidelines, and all of our workshops and promotional materials have been approved by a local review panel in accordance with CDC guidelines," Krochmal said. "Our community says the work we do is both necessary and appropriate."

Krochmal said the CDC has praised STOP AIDS in the past.

"I won't pretend this isn't a serious visit, but on the other hand, we are used to the CDC visiting," Krochmal said.

STOP AIDS continues to conduct the controversial "Great Sex" workshop, although "Booty Call" was discontinued because of a lack of community interest.

"I think it is important for us to recognize the reality of people's lives," Krochmal said. "The STOP AIDS Project targets gay and bi men in San Francisco who have decided to be sexually active, ... and we have to meet them where they are."

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national news

Fla. Democratic chair uses 'Hitler' analogy

Remark draws attention to gay Republican candidate in Orange County, Fla.

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Gay Democrats scrambled to respond last week when a newspaper reported that the chairperson of the Orange County, Fla., Democratic Party compared gay Democrats who plan to vote for a gay Republican legislative candidate to a "Jew voting for Hitler."

The controversy surfaced July 30, when the Orlando Sentinel disclosed Democratic Party Chair Doug Head's Hitler analogy in a story about gay Republican candidate Patrick Howell, who is running for a seat in the Florida House of Representatives in a newly aligned Orlando district. Howell, an attorney, would be the first openly gay member of the Florida legislature if he wins his race.

Head, a strong supporter of gay civil rights, said he regretted what he called an "overstatement of the case." He said he was prompted to make his remark when an African-American gay man, who identified himself as a Democrat, asked Head to sign one of Howell's nominating petitions at Orlando's Gay Pride celebration in June.

Gay Democratic activists, who immediately distanced themselves from Head's remark, also found themselves on the



If elected, Republican legislative candidate Patrick Howell would be the first openly gay member of the Florida House of Representatives. (Photo courtesy of Patrick Howell campaign)

defensive less than a week later when news surfaced that Democrats in Congress designated conservative Rep. David Phelps (D-Ill.) to deliver the Democrats' response on July 13 to President Bush's weekly radio address. Phelps is one of the lead sponsors of a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage.

John Marble, a spokesperson for the National Stonewall Democrats, a gay Democratic group based in Washington, D.C., said his group regretted both Head's "Nazi" remark and the decision by Democrats in Congress to select Phelps to deliver the Democrats' national radio address.

"We feel Doug Head's comment was unfortunate," Marble said.

NSD also regrets Phelps' selection for the Democrats' radio address, he said. But neither Head's remark nor Phelps' radio address could overshadow the fact that Democrats in Congress — and the straight Democratic candidate expected to emerge as Patrick Howell's opponent — have a better overall record on gay issues than most Republicans, Marble added.

Howell is running unopposed for the Republican nomination for the Orange County state House seat. He is running in what had been a solid Republican district that was rearranged into a mostly Democratic enclave during redistricting. The Orange County Republican Party strongly supports Howell.

"It would be safe to say that I overstated the case when I spoke to one African-American gay man, who asked me to sign a petition for Patrick Howell," Head told Houston Voice.

An official with the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a bipartisan group that supports openly gay candidates for public office, and which has endorsed Howell, called Head's analogy "alarming and reprehensible."

"There is no comparison between a man who's participating in the democratic process and a totalitarian responsible for the slaughter of millions of innocent people, including Jews and gays," said Bob Kearney, the Victory Fund's political director.

Log Cabin Republicans, a national gay group, also condemned Head's comment and called on the National Stonewall Democrats to issue an official statement condemning the remark. Marble said NSD has no plans to issue such a statement.

Head said he was prompted to make his remark, in part, because Democratic candidate Sheri McInvale, who is expected to win the Democratic nomination to become Howell's opponent in the November general election, appears to have a stronger

record on gay issues than Howell.

Head noted that McInvale has spoken out against a Florida law that bans gays from adopting children, while Howell has yet to take a position on the issue.

Kearney, of the Victory Fund, said that Howell has indicated to the Victory Fund that he would work for the repeal of the Florida law banning gay adoption.

Head said Howell and his supporters were not informing people at Orlando's Gay Pride parade that Howell was a Republican when they approached people to sign Howell's nominating petitions.

Gay Democratic critics also note that Howell's Web site makes no mention of his sexual orientation or of his gay male partner of three years. Howell told the Sentinel his partner is not out at his place of work and identifying him could harm his career.

i MORE INFO

Patrick Howell Campaign
28 N. Glenwood Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803
407-896-7745
www.howell2002.com

Orange County (Fla.) Democratic Party
800 Mayfair Circle
Orlando FL 32803
407-894-4655
www.orangedemocrats.com

'Victim' opposes prosecution in HIV sex case

S.D. man says he never intended charges to be filed against sex partners who didn't reveal HIV status

By RHONDA SMITH

ABERDEEN, S.D. — A 39-year-old South Dakota resident who was sexually intimate with two men charged with intentionally exposing people to HIV said he does not consider himself a victim and wants prosecutors to leave him out of the matter.

"I do not consider this a crime. I do not consider myself a victim," the Aberdeen resident said. "And I honestly think any of the other 'victims' need to realize that when you have unprotected sex, you're taking a risk and you need to be responsible for yourself. Don't try and blame someone else because they didn't tell you something."

The man, who is not openly gay, spoke with Houston Voice on the condition of anonymity. He said he fears losing his job and tarnishing his reputation if his involvement in the case is publicized.

A grand jury in May indicted Aberdeen resident William Kenneth Jenigen on six counts of intentional exposure to HIV, a



William Kenneth Jenigen and Jay Lee Woods are scheduled to go on trial Sept. 16 on charges of intentionally exposing several sexual partners to HIV. (Brown County Sheriff's Office photos)

felony in South Dakota. The grand jury indicted his life partner, Jay Lee Woods, on three counts of intentional exposure to HIV.

Each faces 45 to 90 years in prison on the charges, and their joint trial is scheduled to begin Sept. 16.

In a similar but unrelated case in South Dakota, an HIV-positive college student in Huron, S.C., pleaded guilty July 11 to intentionally exposing a woman to the virus that causes AIDS.

Nikko Briteramos, a 19-year-old basketball player from Chicago, could be sentenced to 15 years in prison and a \$15,000 fine, the Associated Press reported. Sentencing is set for Aug. 20. Briteramos is the first person prosecuted in South Dakota under a two-

year-old law that prohibits knowingly exposing someone to the AIDS virus.

Mark McNeary, the state's attorney in Brown County, S.D., where Aberdeen is located, said his office's investigation revealed that Jenigen and Woods had sexual contact with numerous individuals but did not tell their sexual partners they were HIV-positive before the encounters. Both defendants have pleaded not guilty.

South Dakota's law makes it a felony to intentionally expose someone to HIV infection by engaging in sexual intercourse or other intimate physical contact.

The 39-year-old man who contacted Houston Voice said that he had sexual relations without a condom with Jenigen as well as Woods, and that there are charges in his name pending against both men.

"Morally, they should have been more up front," the man said. "But I do not believe a crime has been committed, and I am frustrated with the whole legal system."

The man said someone he socialized with reported him and details about the sexual encounters and the men's HIV status to law enforcement officials.

"They knocked on my door and asked if they could ask me a few questions," the man said. "I agreed, not realizing the result would be charges filed in my name against Bill and Jay."

McNeary, the Brown County state's

attorney, said the man was treated the same as all the other people who acknowledged having sexual encounters with either or both defendants.

"He came in voluntarily and gave the information that he had had consensual sexual encounters, and that he was not told specifically that the individuals were HIV-positive," said McNeary. "From the state of South Dakota's standpoint, it's left to the county state's attorney's office [whether to file charges]."

The man said that he "very much" remains friends with Jenigen and Woods but that the relationship is strained because court officials have instructed him and others involved in the case not to have contact with the defendants.

In May, public defender Scott Kuck, who is representing Jenigen, said he planned to argue that his client's alleged sexual partners knew of his HIV status, even though he did not tell them about it.

Jennifer Ring, executive director of the ACLU of the Dakotas, said issues like the one facing Jenigen and Woods should be handled as public health matters and not legal cases. Making it a crime to intentionally expose someone to HIV might make a person reluctant to work with public health officials to help identify other partners with whom he or she was sexually active, she said.



around the nation

Rocker apologizes for new anti-gay remarks

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Rangers pitcher John Rocker issued a written apology Monday for anti-gay remarks he made toward patrons of a popular eatery. Rocker said he was with his girlfriend on Sunday at Breadwinners Cafe & Bakery when some customers began badgering and pestering him. Richard Garcia, who waited on Rocker and his girlfriend, said the ballplayer was not provoked. Garcia said Rocker called a male couple sitting at a nearby table "fruitcakes" as he got up and left. Rocker said the unidentified patrons followed him out of the restaurant, located in a predominantly gay neighborhood, and made an obscene gesture. "At that point, I admit I was angry and said some things I probably should not have said, but I wanted to make it clear their attentions were unwelcome," Rocker said in the statement. Rocker remains reviled by some for disparaging remarks he made about gays and minorities in a Sports Illustrated interview before the 2000 season, when he was a pitcher for the Atlanta Braves.



Former Atlanta Brave **John Rocker**, now a pitcher for the Texas Rangers, reportedly called a male couple 'fruitcakes' while eating at a Dallas restaurant. (Photo by Duane Burlson/AP)

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Ohio high court allows lesbians' name change

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The two mothers of baby Sarah Rylen now can share her last name, the one the lesbian couple created using letters from their separate surnames and the one lower courts wouldn't allow them to adopt. The Ohio Supreme Court said in a 6-1 ruling July 31 that the Hamilton couple must be allowed to change their names because they followed all required procedures and their intent was not fraudulent. "The court's really saying you can't apply a different set of laws to people just because they're gay," said Scott Knox, a lawyer for the couple, Belinda Lou Priddy and Jennifer Lane Bicknell. Justice Alice Robie Resnick wrote in the Supreme Court's majority opinion that the only issue before the court was whether the couple's request to change their last names was reasonable and proper under state law. "Any discussion, then, on the sanctity of marriage, the well-being of society or the state's endorsement of nonmarital cohabitation is wholly inappropriate and without any basis in law or fact," Resnick wrote.

Mass. gay marriage advocate fights to deny partner's rights

MILTON, Mass. — A gay marriage activist is fighting in court to deny rights to his former partner on the basis that Massachusetts law does not recognize their relationship, the Boston Globe reported. Joseph Barri, an attorney who is currently fighting to get newspapers to print gay union announcements, is arguing that his former partner, Jack Venzler, should not be able to live in the home the couple renovated together and shouldn't be treated as a stay-home spouse although Venzler says he quit his job to care for the couples' children from previous marriages. Barri said he tried to give Venzler "a very generous settlement, better than a spouse would receive." But Venzler said Barri "left me penniless" and he has sued to get a judge to divide their property. Barri's lawyer, Elaine Epstein, argued in court that the state doesn't view same-sex unions as marriage so Venzler should only get assets covered by specific contracts.

Chicago school won't let gay teen wear high heels

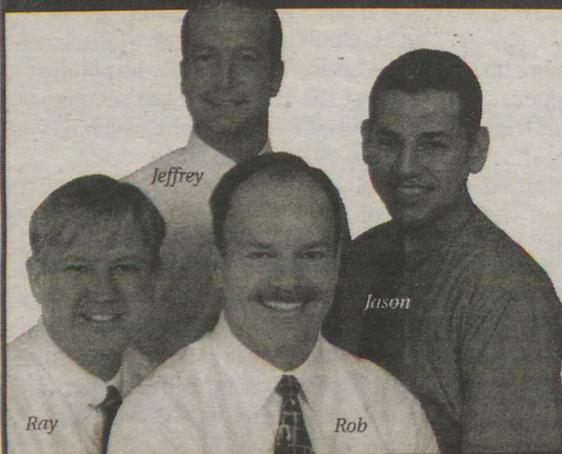
CHICAGO — The assistant principal at Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, part of the Chicago Public Schools System, has forbidden a gay male student from wearing high heeled shoes to school, the Chicago Free Press reported. "I had on some high heels for about 10 minutes," said the student, 15, whose name was not made public. "She told me as long as I was at the school, I would dress as a boy, that I would not wear anything feminine." CHSAS Assistant Principal Martha Hamilton also said the boy's long hair was "offensive" in the July 24 conversation, the student said. Hamilton confirmed her position against the high heels. The school system has a policy banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

United Ways struggle with funding groups that ban gays

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A local United Way committee in Fargo wants to withhold funding from area agencies that discriminate based on sexual orientation. If the recommendation is approved by the full board, which could vote as early as Aug. 13, it could halt \$70,000 in annual funding to the Northern Lights Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the Boy Scouts may ban gays from serving as scouts and scoutmasters, and Scouts Executive Mark Holtz said his group would not be able to sign the United Way discrimination clause if the sexual orientation language is included. United Way board members said the issue could polarize donors during the upcoming fund-raising campaign, which seeks to net \$3.2 million. Meanwhile, one California United Way is already experiencing fallout from its decision not to fund groups that discriminate against gays. Dennis Mark Weinberg gave \$100,000 to the United Way of Ventura County, one of the largest individual donations, but said he may stop giving because he wasn't told about the decision, the Los Angeles Times reported. "It seems like they were trying to make this change in the shadows," Weinberg said.

From staff and wire reports

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Death sentence for trans killer in N.J. overturned a second time

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey's Supreme Court last week overturned the death sentence of the only woman on the state's death row, a male-to-female transgendered go-go dancer who admitted killing two police officers. The court ruled that jurors deciding the sentence of Leslie Ann Nelson, 44, could have been confused by the judge's instructions. It is the second time the high court has overturned Nelson's death sentence. The court did so previously in 1998, finding that prosecutors withheld information. She was sentenced to death a second time in 2001. The ruling means a third jury could be called to decide Nelson's fate. Attorney General David Samson said his office is considering a federal appeal. Nelson pleaded guilty in 1997 to killing two police officers on April 20, 1995, opening fire after the officers went to her house to search for illegal weapons.



Leslie Ann Nelson, a transgendered go-go dancer convicted of killing two police officers, was spared the death sentence a second time when a New Jersey court overturned her sentence. (Photo by Al Schell/AP)

Death penalty sought in killing of gay Va. prisoner

ROANOKE, Va. — An inmate at Red Onion State Prison who threatened violence against gays has been charged with killing his gay cellmate, according to the Roanoke Times. Wise County Commonwealth Attorney Joe Carico said he will seek a death sentence for Joseph L. Armstrong, who was charged with capital murder in an indictment unsealed July 22. Authorities said Armstrong's dislike for gays, disclosed in a search warrant filed after cellmate Kenneth Wayne Boothe was found strangled to death in May, is the "main motive" for the killing. According to the search warrant, Armstrong indicated in writing and in telephone conversations that he would cause "bodily harm" to gays. "The DOC does not inquire as to the sexual preference of inmates nor would we knowingly place an inmate in harm's way," said Larry Traylor, spokesperson for the DOC. The department's policy on double-occupancy cells does not specifically state that gay inmates should be separated from the general population.

Gay murder victims in New Zealand were friends, landlord says

TAURANGA, New Zealand — A gay Tauranga man fatally stabbed at a gay haunt July 28 was friends with another gay man who was murdered last year, reported the New Zealand Herald. John Hudson Rogers, a 52-year-old factory worker, died after being stabbed in the back while visiting a gay cruising spot at a public restroom. The following day, Rogers' landlord, who asked not to be named, said he met Jason Johnson at Rogers' home just days before Johnson was killed. "[Rogers] used to look after wayward kids," the landlord said. "When I first met him, I went around to the last house he owned and John introduced me to this guy 'J.J.,' a gay Maori in his late 20s to early 30s." The man said a couple of weeks later, Rogers asked him if he had seen newspaper accounts of Johnson's death. Johnson, 31, was bludgeoned to death and run over by a car in July 2001.

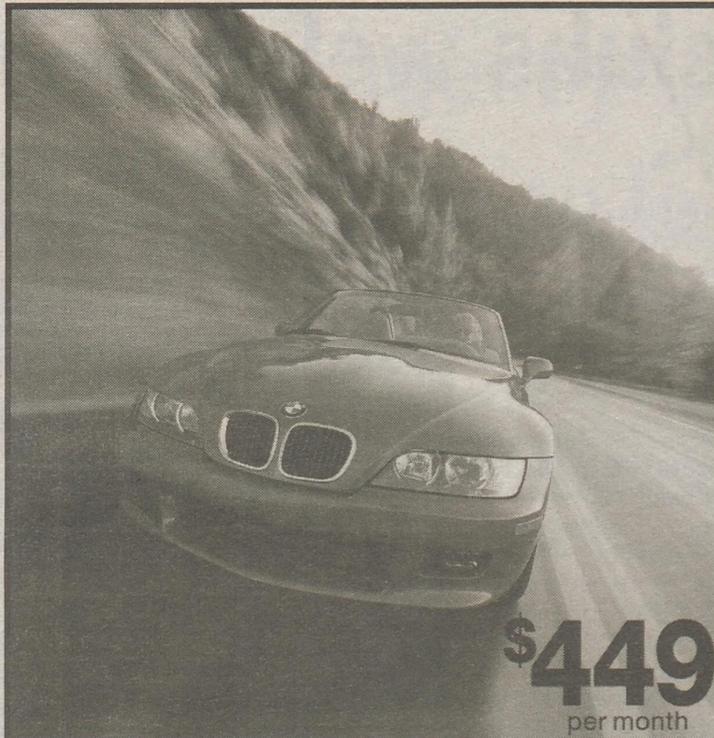
Fiji police coercive, witness in gay murder trial charges

SUVA, Fiji — A houseboy described in court finding the bodies of Fiji Red Cross chief John Scott and his New Zealand partner Gregory Scrivener butchered in their Suva home, the New Zealand Herald reported last week. Atunaisa Tuburuarua, 30, also accused five police officers of threatening to hurt him unless he made a false statement concerning an accused assailant in the July 1, 2001 incident. Tuburuarua was speaking in a preliminary hearing into murder charges against Apete Bauleka Kaisau, 24. In a statement to police the day after he found the bodies, Tuburuarua said that he recognized the man he saw running from the scene, and that that man was not Kaisau. But Tuburuarua recanted his story last month, saying he made the original statement because police threatened to hurl him into an empty swimming pool if he didn't. After the killings, police said the accused had a relationship with the dead men and killed them in a rage over sexual exploitation. But members of the Scrivener family believe the killings were political because Scott could have been called to give evidence in a treason trial.

Australian man claims Bible prompted attacks on gays

MELBOURNE, Australia — The Bible's denunciation of gays prompted a man to arm himself with a machete to go "poofier bashing" with four friends Feb. 28, the Age newspaper reported. Clint Allan Teariki, 19, pleaded guilty to nine charges, including armed robbery and intentionally causing serious injury for his part in premeditated attacks on gay men. Nathan Lee Hill, 18, also pleaded guilty to the same charges. Hill, Teariki and three other men attacked gay men and male prostitutes because they were seen to be soft targets who would not report their attacks to police, prosecutors said. The first victim was punched and kicked repeatedly. Teariki also hit him in the head with the machete. Sentencing is expected Aug. 12.

From staff and wire reports



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local news

Gay clubs welcome mainstream clientele

GAY BARS, continued from Page 1

former back entrance as its main entrance due to downtown construction that has Main Street largely closed.

Another embattled local club, the after-hours Nsomnia, will be open Friday and Saturday this weekend, but its future still remains in doubt after a late-July raid by law enforcement officials.

"Everything's pretty much still up in the air," said Nsomnia CEO Matt Locklin on Thursday. "I can't really tell you from this point. We're talking to some investors; we're waiting for some answers."

Agents with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission conducted an operation at Club Nsomnia on July 19 and forced operators to discontinue their BYOB (Bring Your Own Beer) procedures. The TABC alleges that the club was selling alcohol without a license.

Although Nsomnia remains open, donations to the after-hours club have been drastically reduced, almost cutting off funding for the AIDS Housing Coalition Houston, which is powered by funds from Nsomnia. Locklin is executive director and a co-founder of AHCH.

Challenges faced by these and other bars in the heavily gay Montrose area may illustrate an overall mainstreaming of once gay-specific businesses, some say.

"You have to diversify if you want to survive," Rood said.

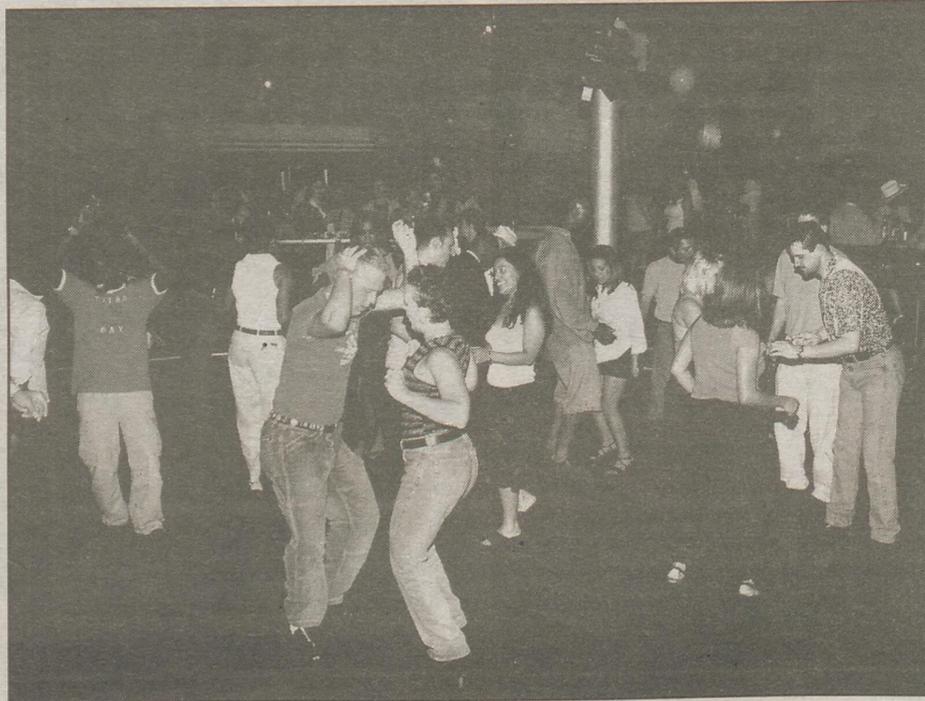
Exclusivity a challenge

Rood owned his first gay bar in 1972. Since then, he has operated a number of businesses, many of them gay-oriented.

"I have owned 23 restaurants, 11 bars and five hotels in 35 years, not all in this area," he said.

Venture-N has been operating for 27 years, he said, and once was exclusively a gay bar. Now, the crowd is more mixed.

The changes seem to reflect shifts in the neighborhood surrounding the establishment. Rood pointed out that expensive townhouses now line the streets near Venture-N, bringing in people who would not have frequented the area in years past.



The gay club scene in Houston has changed dramatically in the last two decades with an influx of more straight party-goers into traditionally gay establishments, according to some longtime bar owners. Many gay businesses attempt to adapt with methods such as the new **Diamond Jimm's** club (pictured), which bills itself as 'gay owned and operated/straight-friendly.' (Photo by Dalton Dehart)

"We have a yuppie neighborhood now," Rood said. "I have to make business decisions based on our environment."

According to Rood, he is considering a business name change and plans to open a restaurant adjacent to Venture-N, where he said he has purchased property. When downtown construction on the new light rail system is finished, a train station will be near the bar's location, Rood said, and he wants to expand and serve the people who will pass through the neighborhood.

"We're going to open a 24-hour restaurant," he said. "There is a need in the community for a 24-hour gay-owned, gay-oriented restaurant."

Even so, such an establishment likely would have to cater to a mixed crowd and not only gay Houstonians.

"I don't think anybody can be so exclusive anymore, unfortunately," Rood said. "Main Street is a mess, but you have to change with your neighborhood."

Other clubs that cater to gays also have more mixed crowds than in years past, according to Rood. He said he would not even call some of them "gay clubs" anymore due to the diverse clientele.

A spokesperson for South Beach, one of the most popular gay nightclubs in Montrose, referred questions on this topic to owner Charles Armstrong, who was out of town this week.

Mary's...Naturally is the oldest gay bar in the city. Cliff Owen, a co-owner at Mary's, said the establishment will continue to serve gay Houstonians, despite some rumors that the business might close. Although property developers have approached the owners, Owen said no changes are on tap for the bar in the near future.

He agreed with other club operators that the gay bar scene is getting tougher for those who make a living through it.

"We've noticed a definite drop in business," he said.

Long-time employee John Benavides noted that although Mary's welcomes all people, most of its clients are gay, as has always been the case.

"This bar has never been limited to just gay people. We've always considered ourselves a community bar," he said. "[But] our clientele is still majority gay."

Strategy changes

Although some long-term gay clubs may seem "less gay" as the years pass, at least one of the newer gay bars in Montrose has managed to stay specific to its intended clientele so far.

Andy Pantos and Frank Luccia are co-owners of Meteor, 2306 Genesee, which opened about a year ago. Pantos said the lounge's target audience has

remained the same.

"Our clientele is primarily gay, and that's the market that we targeted for all of our advertising," he said. "We get a little bit of a mixed crowd on some days."

But other than certain events, which draw different types of people, Meteor remains almost exclusively gay, Pantos said.

One of the newest gay bars in the city is Diamond Jimm's, located near Bush Intercontinental Airport on the north side of Houston. The club bills itself as "gay owned and operated/straight-friendly," and attracts mostly lesbians at this point, according to Scott Plummer, general manager for Diamond Jimm's.

Plummer said the bar's policy is a play on many mainstream bars' attitudes toward gays.

"Businesses for years have advertised that they are gay-friendly, [like] 'we will tolerate you,'" Plummer said. "We target gay — we are gay — we just allow the straight people to come play with us."

The business opened in June and is owned by Jim Hale.

Welcoming both gay and straight clients just makes good business sense to long-time community residents like Benavides.

"Right now, with the way all gay businesses are struggling to get business in...I don't think anything to increase your business is a bad move," he said. "Any bar that is a gay bar...should still welcome straight people in."

AHCH waits for good news

In Montrose, the once-bustling Club Nsomnia's after-hours crowd — largely made up of gay Houstonians — has dwindled severely. Although the business is open, and some donations likely will come in, Locklin said the housing coalition that the club helps fund remains in jeopardy.

"We're in the process of reorganizing," he said.

AHCH leaders are still doing referrals and specialized housing for AIDS clients, according to Locklin. Without the proceeds from Nsomnia — which has been the largest fund-raiser for the group — organizers are in search of private donations and looking at a future budget of less than half the \$290,000 it utilized last year.

"The AHCH is not closed," Locklin noted. "We're just looking for some private funding."

Mainly, the coalition is assisting one person at a time on a case-by-case basis, and Locklin said he is glad that most of its clients at the time of the TABC raid found other housing.

"Nobody ended up just walking the streets," he said.

Although TABC agents have said they filed charges against at least one person in relation to the raid on Nsomnia, officials at the Harris County District Attorney's Intake Division could not confirm that by press time this week.

A spokesperson in that office said such charges simply may not be entered into the agency's computer system yet.



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national news

Kevin Ivers to form consulting agency in D.C.

LOG CABIN, continued from Page 1

press spokesperson, the group was transformed from a relatively unknown organization to a widely quoted, often sought-after voice on Republican-related issues by the national press.

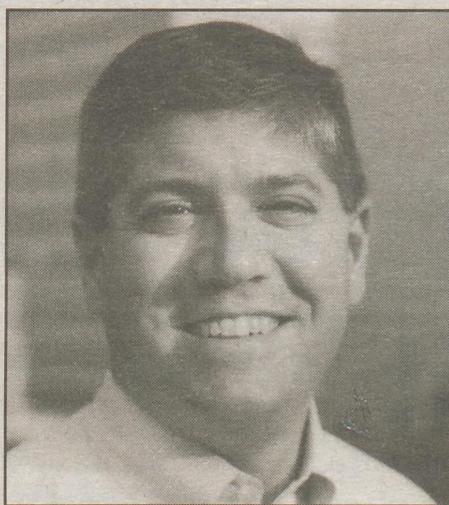
"I'm heading in a new direction, but I will be a Log Cabin Republican for the rest of my life," Ivers said in the LCR statement. "I'm very proud and honored to have served a cause I so deeply believe in for the last 10 years. While I'm excited about moving into the private sector and starting my own company, nothing can compare to the experience of being at Log Cabin all these years."

Ivers and Tafel were on vacation this week and could not be reached for comment.

Ex-RNC staffer replaces Ivers

Mead, Ivers' replacement at LCR, worked on the staff of the Republican National Committee in Washington from 1986 to 1992 and served as deputy director of the Kentucky Republican Party in 1991. He served on the board of the state gay group Georgia Equality from 1996 to 2000 and served on LCR's national board from 1995 to 2002.

Mead met his partner, gay GOP activist Michael Brown, in an elevator at the RNC office in Washington, and the couple moved to Georgia in late 1992 — staying in the South "for the Clinton years, plus one," Mead said.



Former Georgian Mark Mead is to replace Kevin Ivers as public affairs director for the Log Cabin Republicans.

While in Georgia, both Mead and Brown held leadership roles in gay political groups. Brown served as president of the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans from 1998-1999. Mead served on Log Cabin's national board of directors from 1995 until he resigned this year to take the staff post, and served as political action committee co-chair for Georgia Equality, a nonpartisan statewide gay group.

Correspondent Laura Douglas-Brown contributed to this report.

Former Georgian to head Log Cabin's public affairs

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN and LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Gay Republican activist Mark Mead, a former Georgia resident, has been named to replace Kevin Ivers as director of public affairs for the national gay group Log Cabin Republicans.

"I've got really big shoes to fill," Mead said this week. "Kevin [Ivers] was a real press hound, and his hardwork and dedication are very much appreciated."

Mead holds a journalism degree from the University of Mississippi and has a long resume of GOP positions.

"Mary Matalin gave me my first job in 1985, when I went to work for the Republican National Committee," Mead said. "My first political job was working in the office of the co-chairman of the RNC, and Mary Matalin was the chief of staff."

Pursuing gay political work in Georgia helped Mead see that gay rights can find support even in seemingly unfriendly areas, he said. He pointed to an incident in 1997, the first year Log

Cabin had a booth at the Georgia Republican Party convention.

"Our banner had a bust of Lincoln on it, and a little old lady tottered up and was fussing about us being there," Mead recalled. "I asked her what offended her, and she said the picture of Lincoln, 'because he burned this place down.'

"She didn't care a whit that we were gay," Mead said. "She just didn't like Lincoln because of the Civil War."

Mead and Brown moved from Atlanta to Seattle in December 2000 because of a job transfer for Brown, and the couple moved to Washington in January.

Bob Steers, chair of the LCR board, did not return a call by press time.

i FOR INFO

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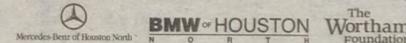


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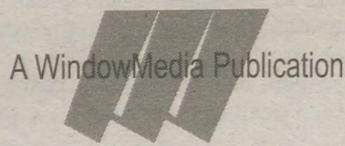
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Issue 1137

Forum

HOUSTON VOICE

AUGUST 9, 2002

PAGE 8

viewpoint

Hands off our circuit

Who would have thought that Congress would take aim at ravers, forcing us to fight for our right to party? That's what the RAVE Act will do in the wrong hands.

By CHRIS CRAIN

EVER SINCE THE Pilgrims first turned up their noses at the way Native Americans danced, we have struggled in this country with the temptation to lash out whenever others seemed like they were having just a little too much fun.

Remember the movement to burn early rock 'n' roll records? Or the prosecutors who pursued Larry Flynt or the rap group 2 Live Crew? Remember "Footloose"?

That sort of puritanical jealousy may not be the specific legislative intent behind the RAVE Act now working its way through the United States Senate, but there's a significant risk that at least some prosecutors will read it that way. And just as disturbing, far too many gays who ought to know better have reacted to news of the RAVE Act in similar knee-jerk fashion.

U.S. Sen. Joe Biden (D-Del.) has said that he introduced the bill, which in long form is called the Reducing Americans' Vulnerability to Ecstasy Act, as a way of applying an existing federal law, the Crack House Act, to prosecute those rave party organizers who Biden claims use the events as a means of selling ecstasy and other illegal "club drugs," often to teenagers. In those specific cases, Biden claims, the rave parties themselves exist for the primary purpose of selling drugs, much like a crack house is occupied primarily as a drug marketplace.

The problem with the RAVE Act, however, isn't its laudable goal of tracking down those few rave party promoters who run their parties like crack houses, but with better lights and music. The devil of the RAVE Act is in the details, specifically the legislation's very broad language, which would ensnare anyone

who "knowingly" profits from an event where illegal drugs are distributed or used. That would include plenty of legitimate club owners, managers and promoters, who may be aware of — or even turn a blind eye — to illegal drug use, but whose primary goal is to throw a party, and make money from that enterprise.

The penalties for violating the RAVE Act are pretty severe: a fine up to \$250,000 plus two times the gross receipts of any event found in violation of the law.

That's the sort of sanction that could scare away legitimate club owners and promoters, not to mention the small volunteer committees that are behind many of the most popular events that make up the gay party circuit. Circuit parties have raised millions of dollars over the years for gay rights and AIDS causes, creating along the way a sizable gay subculture enjoyed by thousands.

Chip Unruh, a spokesperson for Biden, has done his best to be reassuring that his boss isn't a puritanical party pooper. He says that despite the legislation's name, it is not aimed at rave or circuit culture.

"This will not go after legitimate dance parties where drugs may be used," Unruh told *Houston Voice*. "It will go after events and clubs that blatantly promote themselves as places where drugs are welcome and widely used."

IF JOE BIDEN were chief prosecutor in every jurisdiction in this country, then Unruh's reassurance would provide a little more comfort. But federal prosecutors are appointed by the president, and the current occupant of the White House relies fairly heavily on an uber-conservative by the name of John Ashcroft, his attorney general, to hand-pick U.S. attorneys.

With all that prosecutorial discretion in the hands of men (and a few women) selected by an attorney general who clearly is puritanical, the RAVE Act is much more likely to be stretched to its legal limits. This is, after all, the same John Ashcroft who has trampled over civil liberties while pushing the envelope on anti-terrorism legislation. And Ashcroft appointees are much more likely to use the broad language of the RAVE Act in a backdoor effort to shut down raves and gay circuit parties, and to enforce existing federal laws against the sale or use of ecstasy and other club drugs.

SHAME ON THE gay men and lesbians out there who can't see through the RAVE Act, since they would be the first to scream their own cherished freedoms were similarly targeted by conservatives. Shame on our organizations, especially the Human Rights Campaign, for sitting this dance out.

Unfortunately, many lesbians and gay men harbor a great deal of resentment for the "circuit party" set. These "muscle Marys" circuit boys are dismissed as self-absorbed, drug-addled, non-contributing members of the gay community. That's undoubtedly true for some of them, but it's undoubtedly false for others — many others.

The movement for gay civil rights is at least in part about not allowing a majoritarian culture to impose its will on gay culture, in all its varied forms. It is a movement about preserving individual freedoms, and for our community, how and where and with whom we party and dance is a significant part of who we are.

The RAVE Act won't outlaw gay male subculture, or even circuit parties, but as written it represents a troubling step toward government acting in loco parentis, telling us what's best for us. Raves and gay circuit parties are especially vulnerable because they are strange and threatening to the likes of Biden and other baby boomer legislators, and certainly to Ashcrofites. That's why you won't see a ROCK Act targeting concert promoters where marijuana is the drug of choice.

Have we finally seen the day, as the Beastie Boys predicted we would, when we must fight for our right to party?

@ Chris Crain is executive editor of *Houston Voice* and can be reached at ccrain@window-media.com.



viewpoint ELLA TYLER



A little homework now can help all voters be informed and ready to cast ballots on Election Day

Study, then vote

IT IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO START A column about becoming an informed voter, a piece that has to potential to be overwhelmingly dull, no matter what you say.

Fortunately, just as my deadline approached, the answer appeared in my e-mail "In" box. See www.evilGOPbastards.com, recommended community activist Dalia Stokes. Dalia, president of River Oaks Area Democratic Women (ROAD Women), is a highly partisan Democrat with a sense of humor about her prejudices. So, this site is not the place for objective political information, but it's a lot more fun than the League of Women Voters.

The first step in becoming an informed voter is to decide just who you need to know about. Although there are more than 150 candidates on the November ballot, you will not be voting for all of them. In Harris County, sample ballots and candidate lists are swollen by candidates in seven congressional races and 25 state representative races, but each voter may vote in only one (each) of these races.

To find out which district you live in, look at your 2002/2003 voter registration card. These are a bright gold color. The districts you live in are listed at the top right. It is important to use the current voter registration card, because boundaries of many districts were redrawn following the Census and you might not be in the same districts you have been in for the past 10 years.

I am in a new State Senate district and new State Representative district, and though I live in the same congressional

district, my Congressman, Ken Bentsen, is not running for re-election.

If you do not have your voter registration card, you can check to see if, and at what address, you are registered by calling the Tax Assessor Collector's office at 713-368-2000, or using the Web site, www.tax.co.harris.tx.us.gov. On the Web site, you see your voter registration certificate and also get a list of your current elected officials. It's very handy; I'm not sure that I ever knew who my State Board of Education member was. Straighten out any issues about where you are registered and how your name is spelled now. It is easy to fix now, hard to fix on Election Day.

NOW, FIGURE OUT WHO THE candidates are. This is not as easy as one would expect. The County Clerk still doesn't have a sample ballot for the November election on the Web site, and, as a matter of fact, the ballot is still being finalized.

There are judicial races that have opened up since the primaries and the party executive committees will be choosing party nominees for those slots. However, the Web site www.cclerkhctx.net does have results of previous elections if you want to know how your precinct votes in the canvass results. It also has or will have information about early voting and mail ballots and how to use the new electronic voting machines.

The party Web sites do list the party's nominees for each office and often include links to their Web sites. The Harris County Republican site is www.harriscountygop.com,



and the Democrats' site is www.hcdp.org. The candidate lists are found in the Election 2002 key on both these sites.

Greens are at www.harriscountygreenparty.org. They do not have a full slate of candidates, but offer someone else to vote for in several races. Several Green Party candidates were endorsed by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Libertarian candidates are listed on the state party's Web site, www.lptexas.org.

Three other useful sites for gay voters are www.lwvhouston.org, www.voteuva.org, and www.hglpc.org. These are for the League of Women Voters, Progressive Voters in Action and Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.

WITH THESE SITES AS A BEGINNING, you find out almost anything you want to know about politics here. You can use the local sites to connect to state and national sites. You can read the Texas Republican Party platform for yourself, and see if the Democrats are exaggerating how anti-gay it is.

You can see if candidates are even talking about issues that you care about. If you want to decide for yourself whether Tom Delay can be beaten by the right Democrat, look at past election results on the County Clerk's page.

There are links to the ethics commission, so you can see who is funding the candidates.

If you vote regularly, you will be getting mail from some candidates, although some candidates only mail to voters who are identified as voters of their party, generally because of part primary voting. If you call a campaign, they will generally send you the information you request.

I keep all that stuff in a pile on my desk until close to election time, then compare the candidates. I also go out and get the League of Women Voters guide from the library and save newspaper clippings. Even still, I'm sometimes surprised when I look at a sample ballot before I go vote. I try to do this before Election Day, so I can call someone I trust for advice.

Being an informed voter — no matter what political party you support — simply takes a little preparation and research. Everyone can be part of democracy in action — but be sure you do your homework so you can cast a ballot for the candidates who support issues important to you.

@ Ella Tyler is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and a longtime political activist in Houston. She may be reached via editor@houstonvoice.com.

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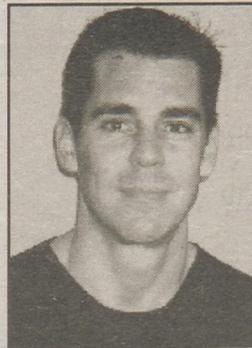
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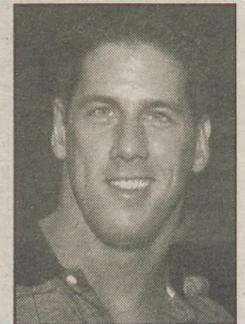
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"Overnight, [New York Mets catcher] Mike Piazza wouldn't be able to play at a certain level, if he was gay. If people put pressure on one superstar athlete whose coming out experience is negative — let's say his career ends — then it will have a negative effect on hundreds or thousands of people."

Billy Bean, a former San Diego Padre who came out after retiring from baseball, on criticism he has taken for suggesting in interviews, and while playing himself on a recent episode of the HBO drama "Arli\$\$," that gay players should remain in the closet until the climate improves. Piazza has denied rumors that he is gay. (Miami Herald, Aug. 5)

"I hope you die of AIDS, I hope you cease to exist."
A remark attributed this week to Major League Baseball pitcher **John Rocker**, formerly with the Atlanta Braves and now with the Texas Rangers, in a confrontation with a male couple in a restaurant in a popular gay neighborhood of Dallas, Tex. Rocker denies making the comments and says he was provoked by sexually suggestive comments from the couple. (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Aug. 6)



"I am coming over and fuck Eminem to sort him out. He probably has a small dick. I'd like to fuck him anyway. Tie him up. Fuck him and hear him moan: 'Fag, do it again/Fag, do it again/Yo, Eminem.'"
Boy George on rapper Eminem (Washington Blade, Aug. 9)

"Tammy came home a couple days ago and went, 'You told everyone we slept together on the second date!' I went, 'I did?' [Gasp] Oh I did. Oops.' [She chuckles.] She's holding it over my head for a long time. She's gonna get a lot out of that one."

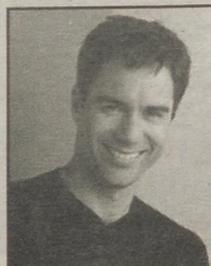
Lesbian rocker **Melissa Etheridge**, who earlier said in an interview in the August issue of *Out* magazine that she and girlfriend **Tammy Lynn Michaels** had sex on the second date (Houston Voice, Aug. 2)



"To me, keeping an eye on people working on HIV prevention at the CDC is like keeping an eye on Enron and the firms that do accounting for Enron. Why are we funding them if they do the same bad things over and over again?"

An unnamed staffer for a Republican member of Congress, responding to ongoing audits of the HIV prevention and safe-sex programs funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (Fox News, July 29)

"We don't do liposuction on anorexics. Why amputate the genitals of these poor men? Surely the fault is in the mind, not the member."
Dr. Paul R. McHugh, recently appointed by the Roman Catholic Church to the lay panel reviewing allegations of sexual abuse by priests, in an earlier published essay (New York Times, Aug. 5)



"It's just as well. You know how hard it is to get a sitter?"

"Will & Grace" star **Eric McCormack** after he found out he was the only member of the show's primary four cast members not to be nominated for an Emmy (TV Guide, Aug. 10)

Immigration Laws Can Tear a Relationship Apart

Town Hall Meeting on Permanent Partners Immigration Act, Aug. 19 — 7 p.m., Houston, TX

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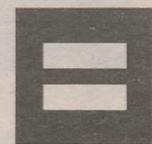
Where: Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1440 Harold St., Houston, TX

Hosted by: Annise Parker, Houston City Council member

Panelists: Sharon Alexander, Human Rights Campaign staff counsel; the Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church; Alice Gruber, immigration attorney; John Nechman, Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force; Marta Donayre, National Center for Lesbian Rights; binational couples willing to share their stories, and Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Representative from Texas.

For information, contact Charlcye Sells at HoustonHRCPC@flash.net or 713/782-8962.

Co-sponsors: Gulf Coast GLBT Immigration Project; Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; law firm of Tindall & Foster; Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force; Love Sees No Borders; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Organization for Women - UH Chapter; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas; Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston; Texas Gender Advocacy and Information Network; Texas Human Rights Foundation



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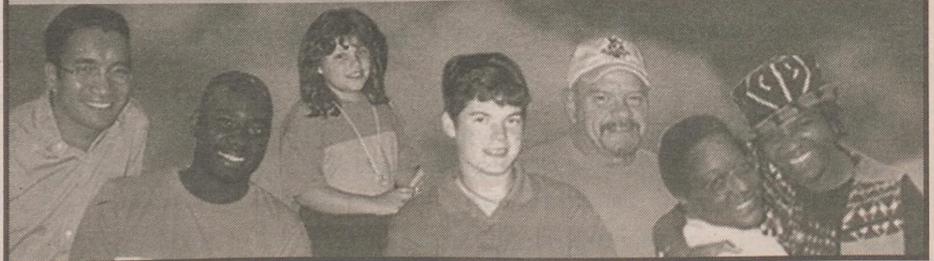
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CALENDAR

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Morning Prayer 10am
Movie Night 7pm
"A Beautiful Mind"

Saturday • August 10
Breakfast 9:30am

Monday • August 12
Eucharist 7:30pm

Wednesday • August 14
Maximilian Kolbe Feast Day
Eucharist and reception 7pm

Friday • August 16
Morning Prayer 10am

Monday • August 19
Eucharist 7:30pm

Friday • August 23
Morning Prayer 10am
Movie Night 7pm
"The Royal Tenenbaums"



Out on the Bayou

By ARJAN TIMMERMANS

nOT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW THAT BOY GEORGE STARTED his musical career at the turntables in 1979, long before he became the extravagant epicenter of early '80s glam-pop as the lead singer of Culture Club. Not long after the band broke up, Boy George decided to return to his love for dance music and launched a highly successful DJ career.

Now the Boy is back with a new dance compilation CD, "A Night Out with Boy George: A DJ Mix" (Moonshine 2002). The album features eclectic, freestyling tracks that range from drum 'n base and techno, to house and disco. Boy George decided to trust his own musical taste, going with small label, indie dance tunes that are often overlooked by big-shot producers and their diva-whaling compilation CDs.

Boy George is known as much for his outspoken candor as his music, including a recent tiff with fellow '80s survivor Madonna. He was at it again in a candid interview with the Voice. He shared his disgust for corporate record labels and his disappointment with the gay dance scene. He mocks fellow queer Elton John and wound things up with a playful rage about Eminem.

Houston Voice: How did your new album come about?

Boy George: I recorded this album for ... Moonshine Records. They really allowed me to pick my own favorite dance tunes for the album. I made a number of albums for other labels before and was often dictated to put certain tracks on the record. I think there are so many compilations out there with the same songs on it. Overall, I wanted this album to be a reflection of what I play in the clubs.

Voice: Where do you see yourself on the dance spectrum as a DJ?

Boy George: In general I play across the board, from old classic tunes to tougher, edgier sounds. I don't really have one style. It very much depends on the size of the audience. In America, my audiences are generally smaller than in the U.K. When the audience gets bigger, they will also dictate you what to play and if you are a DJ with any kind of integrity, you fight against that.

Voice: How important is your gay fan base?

Boy George: Ha. I don't have a gay fan base, really.

Voice: You don't?

Boy George: No, I play everywhere. Most of the DJ gigs in America were in gay clubs and on big parties, but I am pretty mainstream in the U.K. The gay scene in the U.K. is very clique-y. It's more about who you sleep with than how good you are.

Voice: Is there a difference between DJ-ing in America and England?

Boy George: I think the U.K. scene is more vibrant because kids have been clubbing since a very early age. American kids can't do that until they are 21. So my audience in the U.K. is much younger. I found when I play in America, some people in the audience are Culture Club fans just staring at me. From a DJ point of view, that is kind of boring. It is not a Boy George concert. It is to dance, you know. I think I have success in cities where there is already an established dance culture. People there realize I am not there to sing "Karma Chameleon."

Voice: How do you find it to be labeled as a gay artist?

Boy George: I don't see myself as a gay artist. Now that I am getting older, the word gay doesn't make any sense to me anymore. Plus, all the guys I sleep with tell me they're straight anyway. Sexuality is such a modern thing. If you go back to the Roman times, guys were sucking everything, you know.

I think there is no difference between being gay and being a fireman. You are what you are, and that's the end of it. Some people have called me the world's most famous gay man. That can work in your favor or it can work against you. Actually, it cuts all the crap out. If you meet a guy, you can skip all the small talk and get right to it.

Voice: Do you think there is a difference between being gay in America and in England?

A 'rebellious' Boy George on Eminem: "I am coming over and fuck Eminem to sort him out. He probably has a small dick. I'd like to fuck him anyway. Tie him up. Fuck him and hear him moan: 'Fag, do it again/Fag, do it again/Yo, Eminem.'" (Photo by Tim Roney)

the boy is back

Still outrageous after all these years, Boy George dishes on circuit parties, his latest remix CD, and why Eminem really needs some TLC (and more) from the Boy himself

Boy George: Well, I think in America the gay thing is so much more political. It is in the nature of Americans to be more active and explicit. In England, kids come out much younger and that makes a big difference. It is a cultural difference, actually.

Voice: What are some of the things that inspire you musically?

Boy George: Boys and baselines! Things like that are sexy. That is what it is all about for me. Hard house turns me off. That is totally horrible, anemic gay disco for straight people. To me it is like war music, music for angry people who can't dance, and who have not found their G-spot yet. It is like if you don't know how to swing your hip, get off the dance floor! Gays at least know how to use their hips.

Voice: What do you think of the circuit dance scene in America?

Boy George: I find it interesting. Dance music comes from the gay scene, but there is an assimilation in the gay dance community which is resulting in a loss of identity. Similarly, in the U.K., a lot of people think that the gay culture began with Kylie Minogue's ass. They have no sense of their history, you know.

Voice: Why do you think that has happened?

Boy George: A lot of it is political. The great thing of the '80s was that you had Thatcherism and Reaganism, and gays had something to rally against. Today's pop has no substance. It worries me that these dreary, polished, pop bands are ruling and are not embracing the emotional base of their culture. I think in America people like Busta Rhymes and Missy Elliott are most interesting.

Voice: How about Eminem?

Boy George: I think he is really clever, but he is just a wanker. He is angry about some shit, man. He needs to have something up the ass, if you know what I mean ... I think the duet Elton John did with Eminem was like dancing with the devil. Elton John lives in this rather sad cultural bubble. I don't think he did it out of malice, but he probably thought "Eminem is cool, so I want a bit of that." I would rather work with somebody really interesting. I would not work with Britney

Spears. Why? I don't want her fucking audience.

Voice: Do you think then that today's pop music is lacking musical originality, as opposed to the '80s?

Boy George: Yeah. Obviously Eminem is very intelligent, but he is a brat. He probably needs like three years of therapy and big, hot cock up his ass. Maybe Dr. Dre can do it, who knows. My point is that there are enough of things to say without attacking gay people, like Eminem does.

Voice: Are you surprised however that his records are selling so well?

Boy George: Selling millions of records doesn't mean anything. People are buying shit paintings. Arms dealers are selling weapon heads to Iraq. Some of the worst things in the world are successful; it doesn't mean they are respectable.

Voice: Eminem is really bothering you, isn't he?

Boy George: You know what? I am coming over and fuck

Eminem to sort him out. He probably has a small dick. I'd like to fuck him anyway. Tie him up. Fuck him and hear him moan: "Fag, do it again/Fag, do it again/Yo, Eminem." I am going to use that line. You will hear it soon.



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out on the aisle PENNY WEAVER

'Eros: A Circus' among new and ongoing plays now before Houston theater audiences

Circus takes the stage**'Eros: A Circus'**

Mildred's Umbrella Theater Company presents erotic pyrotechnics in "Eros: A Circus" by John Harvey. The play features Jennifer Decker, David Anderson and John Wind and opens this weekend at Helios. The production is a surreal leap through love as a ringmaster, an acrobat and a tumbler eat duck, play chess, assault each other and argue about love and death as they rehearse scenes from "Eros: A Circus." A play within a play, this piece juggles Greek myths and concentration camps, suicide and sex, as characters begin to reveal how desire unravels their lives as they try to prepare for an evening's performance. The troupe will perform the play on Aug. 15 at Helios as a benefit for the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Cost is a donation of \$10.

on stage 'Eros: A Circus'

8 p.m. Aug. 9-31 • Tickets: \$10
Helios • 411 Westheimer
Mildred's Umbrella Theater Company
832-418-0973 or 713-869-9717
E-mail: mildredsumbrella@hotmail.com

'The Face on the Barroom Floor'

Theatre Suburbia presents "The Face on the Barroom Floor" or "Glimpsed Through the Sawdust" by Tim Kelly, a comic "mellerdrammer" in three acts with OLIO entertainment. The audience is invited to cheer the manly hero, console the downtrodden heroine, boo and hiss the dastardly villain and pelt him with popcorn.

on stage 'The Face on the Barroom Floor'

8:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Aug. 24
3 p.m. Sundays, Aug. 11 & 18 • Tickets:
\$10 adults, \$9 seniors and students, \$8 matinees
Theatre Suburbia • 1410 W. 43rd St.
713-682-3525 • www.theatresuburbia.com

'Tamalalia 7: The Love Show'

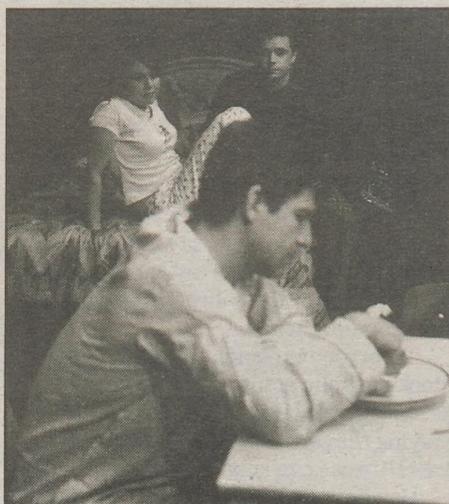
A one-woman show, with a cast of 30, "Tamalalia" is an original musical extravaganza. This installment is all about love and features Tamarie Cooper in her very own Harlequin romance — with a twist.

on stage 'Tamalalia 7: The Love Show'

8 p.m. Aug. 9 & 10, 15-17 • Tickets: \$10-15
The Axiom • 2524 McKinney
Infernal Bridegroom Productions
713-522-8443 • www.infernalbridegroom.com

'Romeo & Juliet: Sex & Love at Holy Cross High'

Theatre New West presents "Romeo & Juliet: Sex & Love at Holy Cross High,"



John Wind (front), Jennifer Decker and David Anderson star in 'Eros: A Circus,' presented by Mildred's Umbrella Theater Company and now playing at Helios. An Aug. 15 performance of the play benefits the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. (Photo by Cheyenne Bsaies)

starring Rob Nash, a former Houstonian now living in New York. Johnny and Maria have broken up (again) and must portray two star-crossed lovers onstage while making each other jealous backstage.

on stage 'Romeo & Juliet: Sex & Love at Holy Cross High'

8 p.m. Through Aug. 17, Thurs., Fri. & Saturday
Tickets: \$18-20 • Theatre New West
1415 California St. • 713-394-0464

'Cabaret'

Christopher Ayres is director/choreographer and Claudia Dyle is musical director for "Cabaret," now playing at Country Playhouse in Houston. This is the first local theater to perform the musical while it is still on the Broadway stage.

on stage 'Cabaret'

8 p.m. weekends • Through Aug. 10
2 p.m. Sunday matinees, July 28 and Aug. 4
Tickets: \$19 • Country Playhouse
12802 Queensbury • 713-467-4497
www.countryplayhouse.org

'The Three-Cornered Hat'

Main Street Theater this month offers "The Three-Cornered Hat," a lyrical love story based on Pedro Antonio de Alarcon's novella about a miller and his beautiful wife who find their love constantly tested.

on stage 'The Three-Cornered Hat'

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www.mainstreettheater.com

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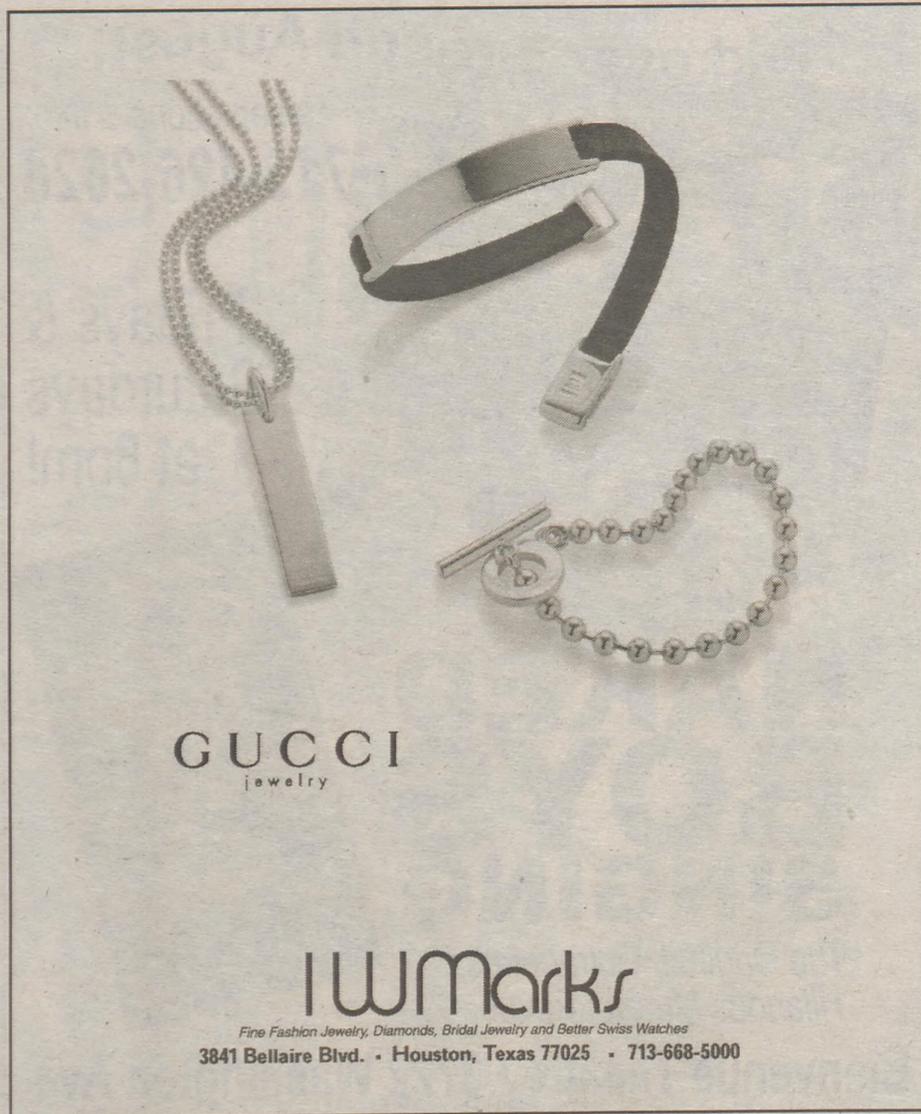
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From pottery to furniture, collectible items can be found at bargain prices for those who enjoy the hunt

Collections take strategy

HARRY LIVESAY AND MICHAEL Venator are dedicated collectors — addicted, they laughingly admit — of McCoy Pottery, Arts and Craft and Art Deco furniture and accessories, and movie memorabilia.

Harry also collects vintage aquarium décor such as castles and mermaids. “I like kitsch, too,” Harry says. He has seen prices rise on women’s hats and is considering adding to the collection he got from his grandmother.

“Everyone is complaining about their stock portfolio going down in value, but prices on collectibles look like they are staying the same,” he said. “Maybe when we retire, we can supplement our income.”

However, right now, they collect for the joy of owning things they love. They like to “live with the collections,” Harry says, “which means my mother is always complaining that my house is too cluttered.”

There is also a considerable thrill in the hunt. They shop at garage and estate sales, tiny antique shops, organized antique shows, and trade days.

“We buy things for 5 and 10 dollars that we see offered on E-bay for 30 to 40 dollars,” Harry says. He recently bought a beaded evening bag for \$3 that looked very much like one he saw in a store for \$300, he reports.

Good prices are not the only lure of shopping off the beaten track. They found a “Go Gay With Garbo” poster amid the wares of someone who had recently bought all the contents of an old movie house in West Texas, including the PR kits the movie studios sent. Old movie posters have become expensive, Harry says, but sheet music, which often has a cover that is a miniature poster, remains affordable.

Some of the best shopping is found in East Texas towns like Jefferson, Nacogdoches and Marshall, Michael says.

“Once you get north of Humble on 59, you begin to see all kinds of places selling stuff. Generally, when the sign says antiques and junk, everything is junk,” he advises.

They do not ignore shops close to home. “The Heights is good because there are so many places so close together,” Harry says. “These places always have new stuff, especially when there is a new owner, so we keep going back.”

They also go to weekend shows at fairsgrounds in places like Roundtop, Wharton and Richmond/Rosenberg. “Wear shorts, take a water bottle and leave the dogs at home,” Michael suggests. Prices at these events reflect the added costs of the show, he says, but there is a big selection.

“For big shows like Roundtop, we like to go the weekend before the show when people are setting up,” he says. “If you ask to be put on the mailing list at the shops you go to, you will get fliers about



The hunt for collectibles — such as this selection of McCoy Pottery owned by Harry Livesay and Michael Venator — can make for an entertaining and addictive hobby.

these shows. We get notices of shows all over Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.”

The prices are likely to be best on the last day of a show, Michael says. He explains, “People don’t want to pack everything up and take it home again, so they’re ready to bargain. Harry has even bought some display stands.”

He adds, “It is important when you’re collecting something like McCoy to have your books in the car. It is difficult to tell if a piece is real or fake.”

Michael says, “Some of the best deals are found in out-of-the-way towns where there is nothing there. There is neat stuff and you can talk down the price. We make an adventurous day of it, and I take my camera and always get some good shots.”

Harry advises becoming an expert on things that you love and researching prices in books and on E-bay and Yahoo auctions. “You can tell if an item is hot by how fast the bidding is.”

He continues, “Don’t be afraid to get your hands dirty. Some of the best stuff is found by digging through boxes at estate sales.” His final bit of advice: “Be warned, this is addictive.”

For more information, check out www.shopacrosstexas.com or www.texas-antiquemall.com for lists of shows.

The next ‘First Monday’ trade days in Canton, a small town east of Dallas, is Aug. 29 to Sept. 2. This massive market covers 350 acres, has 7,000 dealers and draws 250,000 visitors. It has a Web site, www.firstmondycanton.com. The classy Roundtop show is in October and also has a Web site, www.roundtop.com.

dining TRAYCE DISKIN

Laurier offers romantic ambiance with delicious dishes inspired by Italian, Latin and Creole cuisines

Elegant café serves succulence

THE NAME, THE CHATTY BARTENDER told us as we waited for a table on a crowded Friday night, means "bay leaf" in French. Somehow the name of this simple but flavorful and rustic herb fits a café that has mostly remained undetectable from many Houston diners since its opening almost a year ago.

Yet as soon as one enters this Greenway Plaza café and tastes the cuisine, its charm and distinct flair are unmistakable. The pale yellow walls and golden candle lighting softens the bold splash of a red and a royal blue wall, as do the neatly framed photographs evenly spaced above the booths. In fact, the lighting is so subtle and luminous that it creates intimacy, even privacy, in a pretty small space.

What feels like a romantic French bistro, however, is much more, with a good portion of the menu featuring Italian, Latin and even Creole seasonings and ingredients. Take, for instance, an appetizer like the Hearty Gumbo soup (\$5 cup/\$7 bowl), which changes its contents daily. It's worth holding out for the duck version, where rich, gamey meat soaks up the dark roux of the broth.

Desserts pack a tremendous amount of richness into simple, elegantly prepared cakes and pastries. Our made-to-order Chocolate Cake oozed out of its brownie crust.

THE GAZPACHO (\$6) WITH CRABMEAT makes a lighter but no less robust alternative, with spicy peppers and both tart and sweet onions in a chilled tomato base. The thick, hearty chunks of crab float abundantly on the surface as the soup coats each better than any cocktail sauce.

The Sautéed Crab Cake appetizer (\$10) was a welcome change from the proliferation of innovative crab cakes mixed and seasoned and fused with so many ingredients that its nearly impossible to find the crab in the cake. Here, large slabs of meat remain distinct and uncluttered, broiled to a golden brown and placed on a shallow puddle of Beurre blanc sauce with a garnish of watercress. The sauce itself could have been more piquant and less watery, since it was difficult to scoop up any onto the succulent meat.

The Pork Ribs with Creole Rice (\$8) use a spicy Thai chile paste and a tomato braise to roast the meat, and the result is hearty enough for entrée status.

Although many entrees, such as the



Ancho-Roasted Salmon (\$19), Steak and Frites Laurier (\$23) with a spicy chipotle rub, or the creamy Risotto (\$15) topped with mushrooms, grilled asparagus, and white truffle oil, are worthy choices, the Herb Marinated Tuna (\$21) was exquisite. Ruby-red cubes of sushi-grade meat are seared with the slightest hint of olive oil and pepper, and the side of fennel and leek mélange adds a mild, licorice flavor that doesn't overpower the fresh tuna. The grilled asparagus and sugar snap peas add texture and crunch, and the peas lend a natural sweetness.

The Duck Special (\$22) was prepared medium rare, which apparently prevents the already gamey duck from becoming tougher and more difficult to chew. While juicy, the medium rare dark meat was still rather tough. The fattiness was further exacerbated by the duck skin, which is significantly fatter than chicken skin. The garlic potato mash was unpleasantly grainy and loose, and too heavy on the butter.

DESSERTS, ON THE OTHER HAND, pack a tremendous amount of richness into simple, elegantly prepared cakes and pastries. Our made-to-order Chocolate Cake oozed out of its brownie crust and was garnished with plump, jewel-like blackberries and a sprig of mint.

Laurier serves an equally impressive lunch menu, where one can sample lighter versions of many dinner items, such as the Ancho-roasted Salmon sandwich on Ciabatta bread. But no matter what time of day, Laurier is the perfect place to return again and again.

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appts

a weekly guide to arts & entertainment activities for gay Houstonians

SPECIAL SATURDAY, AUG. 10

"Autoimmune Diseases Explained" will be presented by Patricia Salvato, MD, sponsored by AssistHers. 11 a.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. AssistHers: 713-521-4628. www.assisthers.org.

ART CONTEST

The Houston Council of Clubs is soliciting entries for pin and poster designs for "LUEY 30." Let Us Entertain You (LUEY) weekend will be celebrating its 30th year in 2003. Those interested in submitting artwork for consideration should know this information: The pin must contain masks of comedy and tragedy and the phrase "Let Us Entertain You" or "LUEY," with "2003" and "Houston, Texas." The design for the pin should be such that it can be made to reflect the three colors of Mardi Gras: purple, green and gold. The poster must contain the phrase "Let Us Entertain You Weekend," "Houston Council of Clubs," "Houston, Texas" and "March 6-9, 2003." A mention of the 30th anniversary of LUEY weekend would be appropriate also. The pin should be simple in design, as it is usually less than two square inches in size. The poster does not have to match the pin, but should have space available for the design of the pin to be added. Submissions for the pin and poster contest should be delivered to a board member of the Houston Council of Clubs no later than 8 p.m. Aug. 21. All artwork submitted will be displayed and the winning designs will be announced at a special party in September. For more information, contact Loyd Powell at realloyd@prodigy.net or 281-397-6297, or Daddy Rose at podgrish@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING - SUNDAY, AUG. 18

"LIVE 2002," the yearly fund-raiser hosted by Don Gill Productions, this summer will benefit the Gulf Coast Archives & Museum to support the nonprofit group's effort to preserve history for gay Houstonians. A number of local entertainers will offer their talents to contribute to the show. At the event, Miss Camp America, Bouton, Soiree Aubergine and the late Carolyn Roberts will be inducted into the archives. All donations of any size are welcome to benefit GCAM, and may also be sent to Gill at 911 Welch St., Houston, TX 77006. 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18. Keys West, 817 W. Dallas St. Don Gill Productions: 713-521-0911

FILM

THIS WEEKEND

"Mademoiselle," directed by Tony Richardson, stars Jeanne Moreau as a sexually repressed schoolteacher in a small French village. 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9, and Saturday, Aug. 10. Tickets: \$6. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Caroline Wiess Law Building, corner of Main Street and Bissonnet/Binz. 713-639-7515. www.mfah.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14

Law Professionals Mixer will be hosted by the Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston. For lawyers, law professionals and those interested in legal issues affecting gays. 6-9 p.m. Meteor Lounge, 2306 Genesee. For more information, call Jerry Simoneau, 713-227-1717.

SATURDAY, AUG. 17

Rainbow Fishing Club plans a day trip to Bethy Creek Resort on Lake Livingston. Bait and supplies will be available at the camp store. Participants should bring their own fishing pole and Texas fishing license. Cost: \$3.25 per person for those fishing. For anyone not fishing, swimming is available, as are canoes and pedal boats for \$10 per hour rental. For more information and reservations, call Scott at 832-971-4900.

GALLERIES ONGOING

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

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

Athena Art Project invites women artists to submit works of art, film and video to its annual juried art show. Selected work will be displayed at the eighth annual Houston Women's Festival on Sept. 28. The deadline for entry has been extended to Aug. 17. For more information, call 713-995-5251 or e-mail artshow@hwfestival.org. Web site: www.hwfestival.org.

community calendar

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

AssistHers. Meeting. 713-521-4628.

Cookout. Queer Generation X benefit cookout and concert featuring the band Cold Steel. \$5 donation requested. 5 p.m. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

Houston Outdoor Group. Monthly breakfast at TECATE, 2615 Ella Blvd. 713-868-5232. For more information, call David at 713-868-7991.

Kolbe Project. Monthly breakfast, held every second Saturday of the month. 9:30 a.m. 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.

EVERY SATURDAY

All-Spanish Worship Service/Noche Espiritual. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-3409 or 713-861-9149.

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 1-4 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, noon-5 p.m. • First Unitarian Universalist volunteer Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

Community of Kindred Spirits in Beaumont. Worship at 6 p.m. 1575 Spindletop Ave., Beaumont, Texas. 409-813-2055. E-mail: cksrev3@netzero.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBAL. Gay Lesbian Or Bisexual Alliance. University of Houston GLBT student group meeting. 2 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.uh.edu/~global. E-mail: global@bayou.uh.edu.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in, 2-6 p.m. • S.I.S.T.E.R.S. meeting, 3 p.m. • MASH (Men of All Shades-Houston) meeting, 5 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Art Guys) meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

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

Colt 45s. Regular meeting. 8 p.m. upstairs at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. 713-528-9192.

EVERY MONDAY

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 9 a.m.-noon at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

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

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

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m.

[Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • HEAT (Houston Employees Affinity Team) meeting, 6:30 p.m. • Human Rights Campaign PAC meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Center for AIDS. Men's mixer, 7 p.m. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

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

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

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m.

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Houston Area Bears. Dineout and meeting. Bibas Ones a Meal, 6:30 p.m. 713-867-9123. www.houstonareabears.com.

Kolbe Project. St. Maximilian Kolbe Feast Day. Special Mass, followed by a reception. 7 p.m. 1030 Heights Blvd. 713-861-1800. www.kolbeproject.org.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

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

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

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-528-4379.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Gulf Coast Archives & Museum. Meeting. 713-227-5973.

EVERY THURSDAY

BiNet Houston. Group for bisexuals; everyone welcome. 7:30 p.m. Hobbit Café, 2240 Portsmouth. www.flash.net/~bihouse. 713-467-4380.

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

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

Free HIV Testing. Houston Area Community Services. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Joseph-Hines Clinic, 1710 West 25th St. Also 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Gallery Medical Clinic, 5900 North Freeway, and Club Toyz from 9 p.m.-midnight. 713-526-0555, ext. 231, 227 or 226.

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

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021. Web site: http://home.swbell.net/larathon/houfr.htm. E-mail: larathon@swbell.net.

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

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

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

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

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

Recovery From Food Addiction (RFA). Meeting for 12-step program open to all. Noon-1 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama St. RFA: 713-673-2848. www.geocities.com/rfa77235/. E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com.

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Community Center board meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

Eye Candy. Women's social and charity event, hosted by Eye Candy Promotions. Women who arrive before 9:30 receive a free drink ticket and \$3 Cosmopolitans until midnight. \$10 cover charge. 8 p.m. Grasshopper, 506 Main St. 713-977-3777. E-mail: iam@PDQ.net

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Tennis Club. 7:00-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub.org

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

Mishpach Alizim. GLBT Jewish congregation. Sabbath services at 8 p.m. on the second Friday of each month at Baby Barnabys, 602 Fairview. Monthly study groups with Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood.

Mishpach Alizim, P.O. Box 980136, Houston, TX 77098. 866-841-9139, ext. 1834.

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • The Art Group: A GLBT Group for All Houston Artists, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Meatrack; 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at EJ's and at Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 2-9 p.m. • Houston Black Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Coalition office hours 10 a.m.-noon • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818. www.hlgcc.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

@ To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at 11 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSTON WOMEN'S FESTIVAL - Saturday, September 28, at Garden in the Heights! Great Music • Beautiful Art • Fun Market Place • www.hwfestival.org

DONATIONS NEEDED

PWA Coalition is holding a yard sale on 8/17 & 8/18, benefiting all of our programs. All items are needed. To arrange for drop-off, call Brian Jones at 713-520-9248.

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RFA 713-673-2848
www.geocities.com/rfa77235/
E-mail: rfaworldservice@aol.com

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

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MR. PRIME CHOICE

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

AUDITIONS

DAVIDLEWISIMAGES

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R.N.

Montrose Clinic has an opening for an R.N. Please fax resume to Clinical Director @ 713-830-3023.

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"West Side Back Story"

Across

- Rupert Everett's "Ready to ___"
- Clinton's "___ in Joyland"
- Songwriter Holly
- Start of an Evan Wolfson memo
- "Spartacus" venue
- Low-voiced lady
- James Dean's "East of ___"
- Antigay Thurmond
- Tendency to get pissed
- Stephen who wrote the lyrics for the musical
- Frat party robe
- Legis. written by Alice Paul
- Personality parts, to Frasier Crane
- Jerome who choreographed and directed the musical
- ___ T. Lardbottom of "Kudzu"
- Many readers of XY magazine
- Dame E. Sitwell's heat measure
- What Etheridge puts out
- Capt. von Trapp's home
- Use your lips unfaithfully
- William whose play inspired the musical
- Have an effect like the Teletubbies
- "Proud Mary" singer Turner
- Monogram of the author whose poems inspired "Cats"
- Ref book for Woolf
- Bottoms in the navy
- The Indigo Girls' "___ to Be True"

- Bernstein who scored the musical
- Former Washington Blade reporter Wright
- Chicago-to-Saugatuck dir.
- "Get your rear in gear!"
- Arthur who wrote the story behind the musical
- John Goodman's "Normal, ___"
- Poet Minnie Bruce
- Hard to come by
- Hard six and hard eight, in Vegas
- Nathan Lane's appearance in "Addams Family Values"
- Caesar's way
- Possible response of Niles Crane to a client
- Has top billing
- Drag queen's application

- Like some bachelors
- Home of Southern Voice
- Pseudonymous lesbian opponent of Wade
- Poet Doolittle
- TV station that often airs "Roseanne" reruns
- Continue not to ask or tell
- Outbreak
- Where to put your meat, in a deli
- "Memory Mamba" author Obejas
- O'Keeffe's stand
- Biathlete, for one
- Title for Uncle Remus' bear
- Anal type?
- Barely made, with "out"
- Up and about
- Commermeier's rank (abbr.)
- Phallic suckers
- Toto's home st.
- Rudy Galindo, for one
- Like homosexuality, some say
- Susan Feniger main dish
- Priscilla's queendom
- It may slip over one's head
- Rainbow flag sticker sites, often
- Dalai ____, for whom Richard Gere is a spokesperson
- Sinead O'Connor's country
- Alec's "Star Wars" character
- Access to homorama.com
- Subject of Michael Jackson's "Ben"

Answers on Page 21

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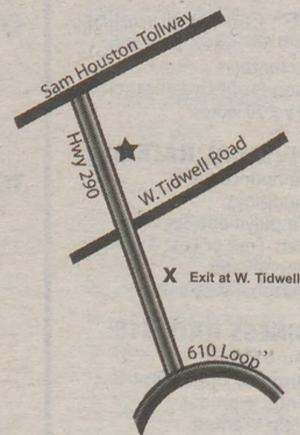
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My Stars!

August 9 - 15



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Saturn continues to wreak havoc in your social sector. Don't rely on friends to call you. You need to be the orchestrator and organizer, dear. A Gemini can help you to have more fun.



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

You're sure to find a way to improve a tricky domestic situation this week. A gentle tone of voice takes you far. Remember, you can be intimidating, so play it chill. Another Taurus finds you magnetic.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

You may have to push a friend to tell you what's going on. Loved ones need extra coddling and attention right now. Give it up, you cold slut! A Virgo is torn between wanting you as a pal and wanting you as a lover.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

Venus will be moving through your family sector in mid-August, which means that you can make peace not war with difficult relatives. A family member who pushes your buttons may be more similar to you in nature than you'd care to admit. An Aries means well.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Small miracles could occur this week as the Sun, Mars, and Jupiter all transit your sign. You know how to get what you want, but ask yourself, "What do I really need?" Your spirit needs nurturing, darling, not just your ego. A Pisces will fill you up on all levels.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

This is a good time for you to explore a form of spirituality that has always intrigued you. You can discover a new way of life, and you may find a new way to make love, you sex pot. A Pisces is psychically drawn to you.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

Mars is passing through your house of friendship and stirring up anger, passion, and jealousy in this area of your chart. A Taurus will be sure to stir up the most emotion. Examine your feelings before acting, you impulsive thing you!



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

This is an ideal time for you to let go of a past disappointment in your career. Grieve, then move on, because something better is about to come your way. A Gemini plays a key role. Accept help and advice, you stubborn thing!



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

Mercury is transiting the top of your chart, so be very conscious of the way you express yourself verbally and on paper. You are being judged! A Leo is apt to help you more than hurt you, but err on the side of caution in this relationship.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

The moon will be conjunct Venus in your career house on Aug. 12. Be sure to set the tone for the week by being extra sensitive to colleagues and bosses. Sharp humor or a distant attitude may put you in the doghouse. A Cancer wants to be your puppy dog — or your bitch. You decide.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

A romantic friendship could come to a head this week, so be ready. It's time to let all the feelings out into the open — then throw yourself on the mercy of the court. A Scorpio will protect you if you ask for help.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

A cycle is ending for you. Relationships need revamping and can't just go forward on auto-pilot anymore. A Libra could be a real catalyst in your life. Take all the help you can get.

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

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SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE CHURCH

Recent discoveries of sexual abuse by Catholic priests and the years of cover-up involved, have left many parishioners wondering who they can trust. While most of the clergy are honorable and trustworthy, some are not and they continue to violate the trust of the innocent and vulnerable. Churches have failed in their duty to protect some of its children from abuse, and have instead been protecting themselves.

Even if the sexual abuse may have occurred while a child, those who are now adults may still pursue cases even if the abuse happened years ago.

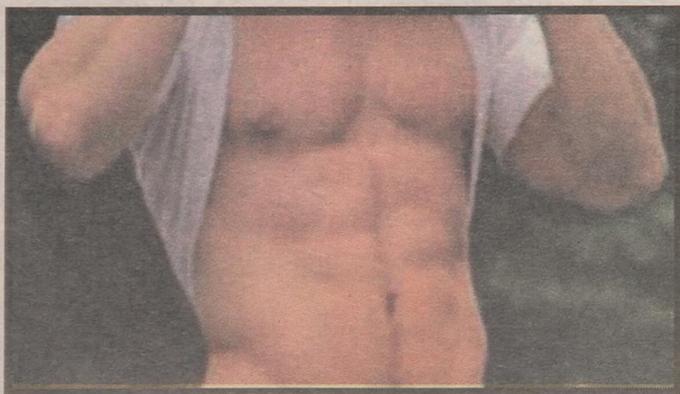
If you or a family member were a victim of clergy abuse, call attorney Rand Mintzer today. We will hold accountable those who violated your trust.

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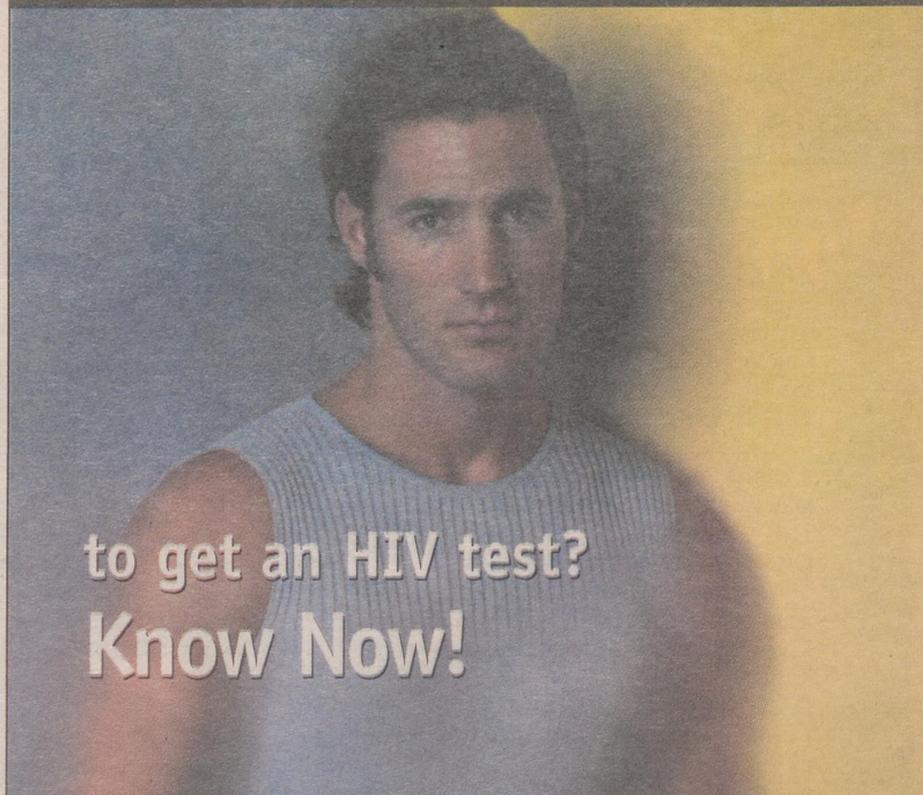


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