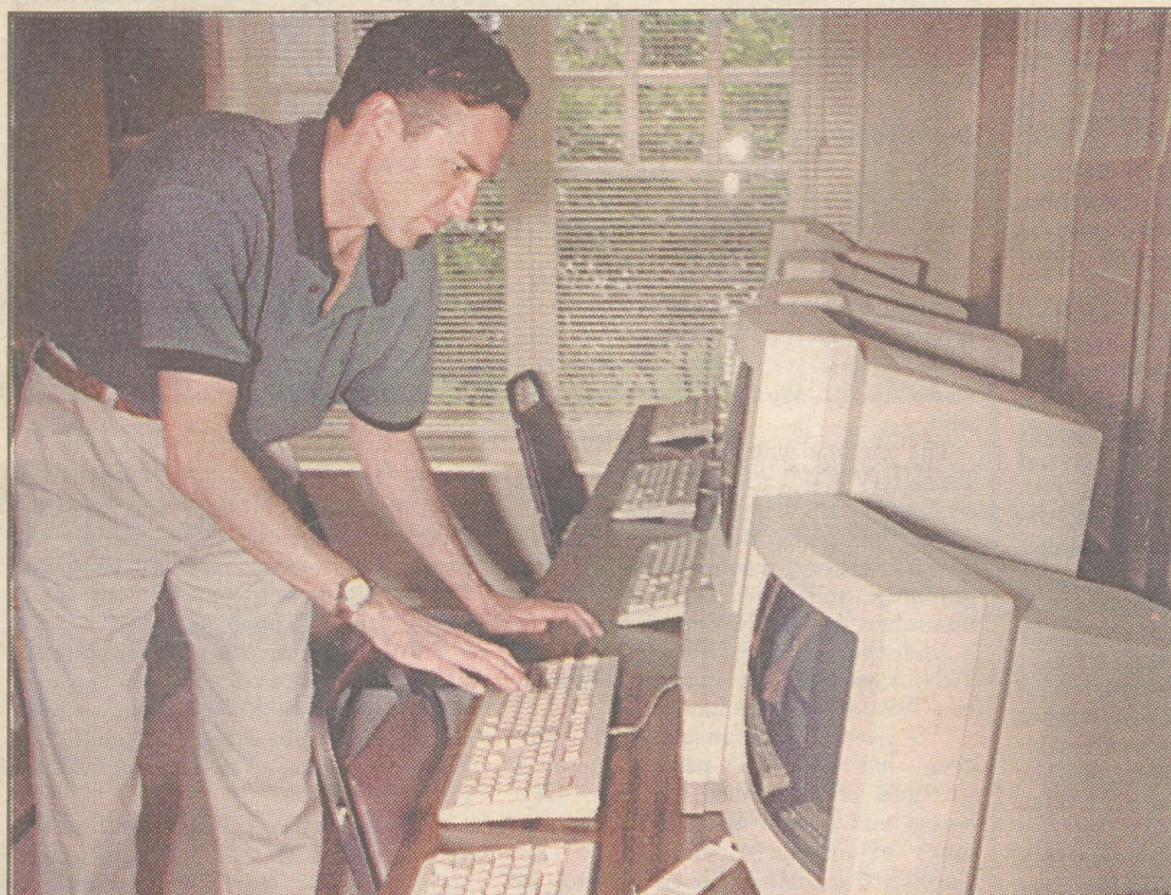


Community center goes cyber



Carl Riedl, president of the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, helps set up the seven personal computers donated to the center last week.

See our story page 2 >

James Byrd Jr. Act

Hate on the run

► House approves hate crimes bill, Senate and Bush next hurdle

by GIP PLASTER

The James Byrd Jr. Act, a comprehensive hate crimes bill that specifically mentions crimes against gays and lesbians, passed the Texas House of Representatives—a major hurdle—April 27.

The bill even got a green light from one representative considered an enemy of gays and lesbians, but the bill must still pass the Senate and be signed by the Gov. George Bush to become law.

“What happened today on the floor of the House was historic,” Dianne Hardy-Garcia, the executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), told the *Houston Voice* just minutes after the bill passed. She added, “It was awesome.”



The House victory this week was what gay men and lesbians marched on Austin for, March 21, during the Equality Begins At Home event.

The bill passed by a margin of 83-61. Eight Republicans sided with Democrats to pass the bill.

“That’s a little bit better than I expected,” Hardy-Garcia said. She had predicted that the bill would pass with 77 votes.

The passage is historic because a comprehensive hate crimes bill that addressed gay and lesbian concerns had never before passed the House. An attempt last term

> See Hate Page 11

Perpetrators of hate crimes focus of discussion

► Hate crimes on Houston screens

by D.L. GROOVER

Perpetrators of hate crimes do not appear cackling in deep voices, twirling black mustaches, and tying maidens to the railroad tracks. Sometimes, they don’t announce their presence at all, until they lash out with deadly hatred. Sometimes, they leave more hints of what they plan to do than Hansel dropped bread crumbs, but no one takes heed.

More likely, they are friends—or lovers—of the victims. But no matter what guise they affect, the damage they inflict is incalculable. The emotional trauma takes much longer to heal than

any bruise.

With a heart-wrenching and poignant sense of irony (following the horrible shootings in Littleton, Colorado, and the debate this week over hate crime legislation) April 25 through May 1 had been designated National Crime Victim’s Rights Week.

In conjunction with this observance, the Montrose Counseling Center screened two compelling documentaries about hate crimes. One, “Rape Cries from the Heartland,” dealt with the



Victim: Brandon Teena

effects on seven women’s lives after they had been brutally assaulted; the other, “Licensed to Kill,” profiled men in prison who had killed gay men.

If you missed these powerful, penetrating looks into murder and survival, there are two other films being screened at the Gay and

Lesbian Film Festival that, in their way, are equally fascinating and just as chilling:

• “Lone Star Hate,” produced by England’s Channel 4, is an investigation

of the 1993 gay-bashing/murder of Nicholas West in Tyler, Texas, seen in the cultural context of bigotry, the Bible belt, and gun-loving freedom.

• “The Brandon Teena Story,” documents the rape and eventual murder of a young woman from rural Nebraska who tried to live as a man. In its personalized view, it delves into the complex issues of gender politics with its question of “What does it mean to be a man?” Both films make use of interviews with the killers, courtroom transcripts, police logs, and the reminiscences of friends and lovers.

Both are well-crafted, full of insight, dramatically exciting and, ultimately sad.

Following the May 7, screening of “The Brandon Teena Story” at Rice University Media Center, a community

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State HIV medications program funding being debated this week

► There are federal funds, but Texas may lose out if it doesn't kick in more

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY

The next few days could be worth millions of dollars to thousands of HIV-positive Texans.

And if taxpayers here don't speak up, available federal health care dollars could be headed elsewhere in the country, said the Texas AIDS Network.

Up for grabs is \$14 million in funding the federal government will send to Texas this year, if state lawmakers agree to spend over \$8 million a year on HIV/STD medical programs for 2000-2001.

Under a federal funding program, Washington will spend \$2 for every \$1 dollar spent at the state level for HIV medications programs. The \$14 million is available under the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program. Regardless of what the state of Texas comes up with as its HIV medications program, the federal government will double the allocation.

As it stands right now, supporters of increased spending on the program say Texas is only half way there.

Rep. Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, a member of Appropriations Conference Committee said, the House has recommended a \$1 million increase, while the Senate is recommending a \$3 million increase.

He said the House and Senate are not yet offering to spend \$16 million over two years on the Health Department program—but may soon. The Texas Department of Health budget is estab-

lished every two years by the Texas Legislature based on recommendations by the Appropriations Conference Committee.

"We haven't gotten there yet," he said of his goal of getting \$16 million allocated for the HIV program over the next biennium.

He said the battle is no longer about the validity of spending tax dollars helping low income HIV-positive Texans. The battle over the next few days will be more about where to spend the state's budget surplus.

"Times have changed; people understand now the necessity of medications. It's not about not understanding the value of them; it's whether we have the money or not. We have the money," he said.

The monies would be used for the Texas HIV Medications Program which served about 8,000 people last year.

The program helps HIV-positive Texans, with an income below \$16,000 annually, and who have no medical insurance, pay for HIV medications.

And the Texas AIDS Network (or TAN) says that low income HIV-positive Texans need the money.

"We need this because the HIV program, has seen a 33 percent increase (in need of assistance, not new HIV cases) and people are looking for the more expensive medications," said Carolyn Parker, executive director of TAN.

"We will not have this money if we don't have this appropriation; like New



Livesay

York gets it, or Florida."

Harry Livesay, advocacy project director at Bering Omega, said Harris County will be hit hard if Texas doesn't kick in the needed funds.

"One third of the people with HIV/AIDS in Texas who receive their medications from the HIV Medication Assistance Program, reside in Harris and Galveston Counties, (between 2,500—3000 persons)," he said.

While the program has helped many Harris county residents, numbers indicate more are asking for help.

"In Harris County we've had a 15 to 20 percent jump in new people asking for HIV medication assistance for the first time," he said, April 27.

That need for help comes with the increasing cost of keeping healthy with HIV.

"We know the average cost of therapy of one of the drugs is \$15,-20,000 a year."

TAN executive director Parker said if Texas lawmakers decide not to ante up, the state's contribution the hardship will be institutionalized.

The Texas Department of Health, "will immediately cap the program. That can mean up to 2,000 people will be denied access to that program. Texans will have to wait for someone to get off the program."

The Appropriations Conference Committee this weekend, and throughout the next week, will meet to work out differences between the Senate and House versions of the Appropriations Bill.

Coleman estimates HIV funding will be considered May 2. The current recommendations are not adequate to meet the funding needs of the Texas HIV Medications Program, said Parker.

It must recommend an \$8,170,912 million increase per year (a total of \$16.2 million) of the biennium in order to receive federal matching funds and to avoid capping the program at current enrollment levels (or reducing the number of clients served), said TAN.

History is not on TAN's side.

"Since 1991, the Texas Legislative has put no new money into HIV," said Parker.

If there is no increase, there will also be an impact to the average taxpayer.

"If we are not seeing these people get these medications early, people will get sick. If they don't have insurance, they will show up in an emergency room and the cost there will through county taxpayers."

Rep Coleman said, "The need is there, no doubt about it. People who are infected with HIV live because they have the drug therapy. The question is whether there will be enough drugs there for them and the money to pay for them."

He added, "Personally, and in terms of my public service, this is very important. I'm 37 years old, I have experienced a lot of friends who have died, to whom this therapy wasn't available."

The final episode



KIMBERLY THOMPSON

Russell Byrd and Steve Baker and the rest of the TV Montrose crew watch the final episode of their weekly newsmagazine show, April 26. After 16 months the program is shutting down due to financial concerns. A few days earlier, Baker and Byrd were handed a proclamation from Houston City Council member Annise Parker, which had declared March 1, 1999 as "TV Montrose Day."

HERE

NEWS FROM HOUSTON

The Great Gatsby



DALTON DEHART

Over \$15,000 was raised at the fourth annual "The Great Gatsby Celebration," April 25 at The Lovett Inn. Part of the Body Positive Wellness Center fund-raising celebration was to bestow a special recognition for "outstanding service" upon Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston. Here the state lawmaker accepts the award from Anthony Bianchi, president of the board of directors of the center.

Taking the I-way onramp

► Two gay groups go cyber

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY

The avenue for knowledge in the gay community is becoming increasingly more of a cyber nature. Two local organizations have improved their capacity to disseminate information by enhancing or adding onto their computer technologies. The Ryan White Planning Council has just created a web page which will allow web-surfers to access up to date AIDS information. "The web site will link to just about everything you want to know about AIDS," said the council's George Van Ootegham. The site is at: www.ctc.co.harris.tx.us/rwpc/. On April 29 there had to date been 48 visits recorded.

Another local institution to bolster its ability to offer a cyber onramp to the Information Highway is the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. "Memorial Hermann Health Care System gave us seven PCs (personal computers) April 23," said Carl Riedl, president of the center, 803 Hawthorne. "We've always wanted a cyberroom as part of the resource center geared toward youth and young adults," he said. "The seven computers will network and have Internet access." The purpose of having the computers in the center, along side health and lifeskills brochures, is to widen the community's efforts and provide a resource, "Especially for youth to do an internet search like on HIV issues or employment searches. It'll be used for printing out resumes."

An individual on is board paid for the Internet server connection, said Riedl. The computer presence in the year-old facility allows the center to offer "all kinds of programming like, life skills programming, and employment programming." Riedl is clearly pleased with the acquisition, "This is really significant. It's going to open us up." Houston's gay community has not heard the last of the computer innovations to help assist us into a new millennium which promises to be all about information. A major announcement is expected later this month which could place Houston into the national spotlight.



KIMBERLY THOMPSON

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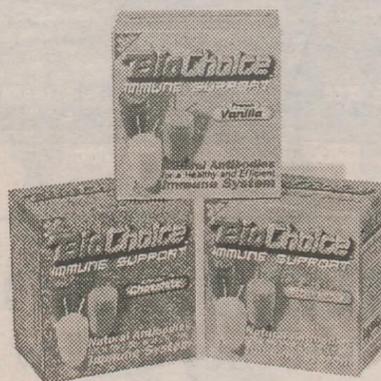
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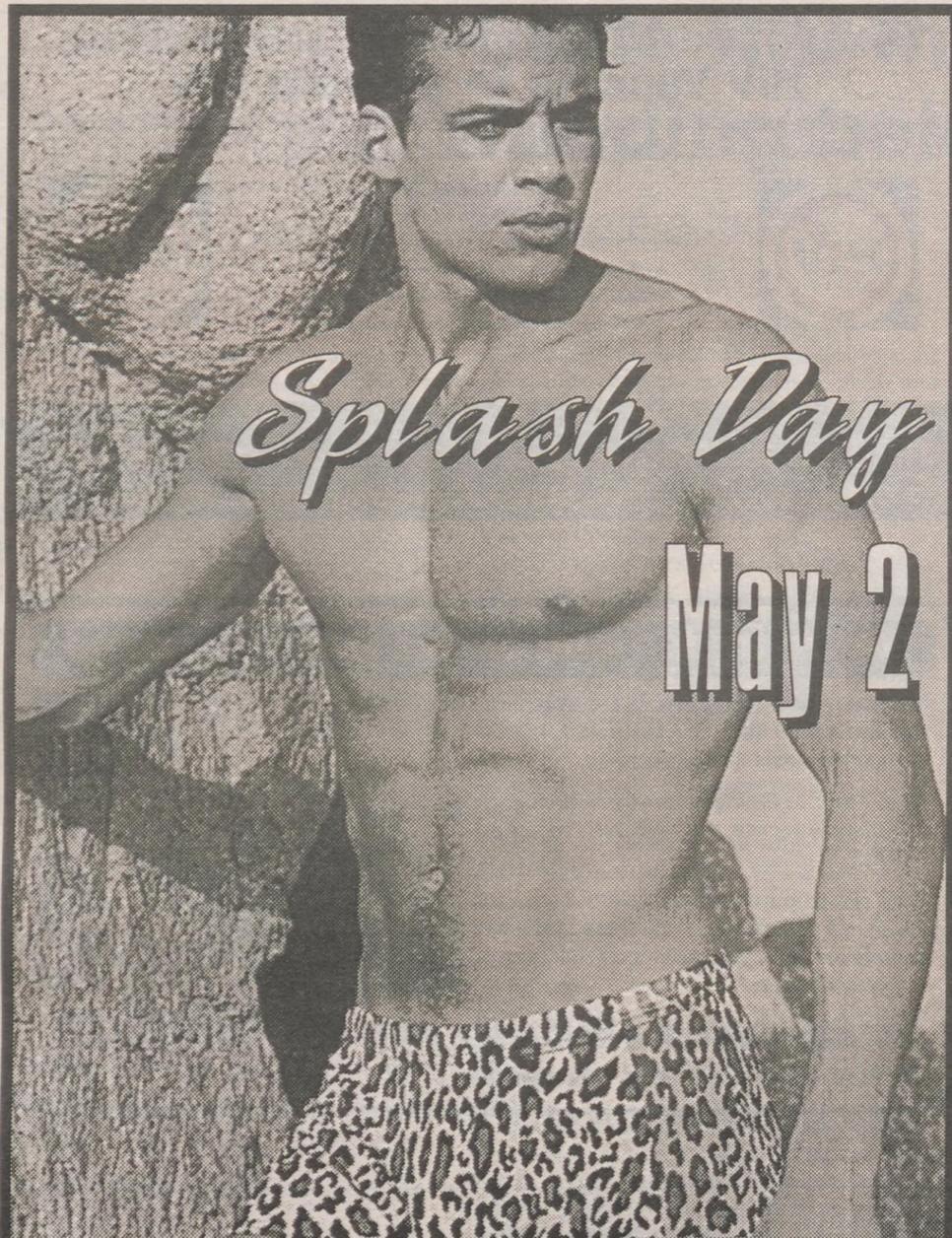
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NEWS FROM TEXAS

Texas judge rules MCO unacceptable for child

DALLAS—A district judge in the Texas court system has released an official ruling that the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) is not an acceptable church for the daughter of a lesbian mother. The ruling came in the midst of a custody ruling as part of a divorce between the lesbian mother and her husband. "I'm holding the judge's order in my hand and reading and re-reading his words. I can hardly believe what I am seeing," said the Rev. Troy D. Perry, Moderator of more than 300 MCC congregations. In his legal opinion, Judge Keith Nelson of the 78 Judicial District of Texas, in Wichita Falls, northwest of Dallas, wrote: "The primary issue is where the child would attend Sunday school and church...the intent was for mainline churches to be utilized in the religious training of the daughter. This would include the Catholic Church, and church in the Protestant faith such as Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Christian, Episcopalian, which are considered to be the standard religious institutions in the Protestant field. The Metropolitan Community Church does not fall within this category." Several calls to Judge Nelson were not returned.

Perry said, "This is a violation of the First Amendment protections to freedom of religion. We have joined hands with the National Center for Lesbian Rights to fight this injustice and protect the constitutional rights of this lesbian mother and her child." The MCC moderator said it was not only shocking, "it's an attack on GLBT families and people of faith. Because we're gay or lesbian, this homophobic, sexist judge feels he can decide by official government decree which churches or synagogues are 'acceptable' and which are not. What in God's name will it take to get the government out of our lives—or from attempting to control our GLBT families?"

The lesbian mother said she tried to comply with the judge's ruling and attended the types of churches listed in his order. "We never felt comfortable in those places," said the mother, whose name is being withheld to protect her daughter's legal rights. The ruling is being appealed.

INFO

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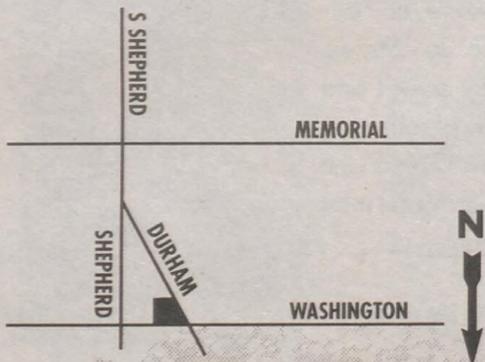
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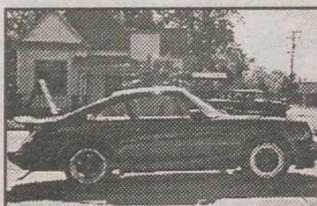
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Many gay issues still to be resolved in Texas Legislature

by GIP PLASTER

There's no time for rest after the Texas House's passage of the hate crimes bill. Five other bills important to gay and lesbian people will be discussed in a State Affairs committee hearing on May 3. Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) executive director Dianne Hardy-Garcia said she intends to gather enough people to "pack the room and talk for hours." All five of the bills are important pieces of the Texas gay and lesbian rights puzzle. Three of the bills up for discussion that propose to remove rights from gays and lesbians are:

- House Bill (HB) 382 from State Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, would bar gays and lesbians from adopting children or serving as foster parents.
- HB 383, also from Chisum, attempts to ban same-sex marriages. Same-sex marriages are not currently legal in Texas, but the measure would keep them from becoming legal in the future.
- HB 415 from State Rep. Robert Talton, R-Pasadena, would require the investigation of foster care applicants to assure they are not gay or lesbian and would remove children already in the care of gays and lesbians.

One bill pending in the committee proposes to prevent rights from being removed from gays and lesbians by two of the bills above:

- HB 1181, proposed by State Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, would prohibit discrimination based on the sex, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation of prospective adoptive parents or foster care providers.

In addition, one bill would attempt to gain gay and lesbian Texans a right they do not currently have:

- HB 475 from State Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin, would amend the state's labor code to prohibit employment discrimination because of sexual orientation.

Also of importance to gays and lesbians are HB 363 and HB 364 from State Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, D-Dallas. The bills would prohibit schools from discrimination in hiring based on race, color, disability, religion, sex, national origin, age or sexual orientation and would prohibit all public schools in the state—kindergarten through college—from discriminating against students based on the above criteria. The bills are held up in a committee. An Ehrhardt aide said the representative has been concentrating on the hate crimes bill. These two bills are not expected to pass this session.



The March 21 march on Austin, as part of Equality Begins At Home, drew 7,000. The issues of that day are now the issues state lawmakers face in the dying days of the Legislature. After the House passed the hate crimes bill earlier this week, the focus now shifts on bills to end discrimination and a bill to ban gay adoption and foster parenting.

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Q: How can I be assured that I'm saved? A: The one thing that keeps most of us from feeling secure in God is our own behavior or lack of. Many people are guilt-ridden and battle feelings of being condemned for various acts or thoughts. We may sometimes think that we have committed the unpardonable sin that God will never forgive. What would be the conditions upon which God would take back our salvation? There are none. We are told by Paul who struggled with this entire cycle that, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life (life that is not based on human doing, but God's love) set me free from the law of sin and death (that which based its worth and security on a person's behavior)." When sin entered the world, our self image was tainted. We became self-absorbed, self-conscious, and self-centered. The greatest hindrance to salvation is the letter in the middle of the word, "sin." It's the letter, "I." Sin is making myself the center of my world. It is building my life around myself. When I do this I become prideful. Paul had a lot of pride due to his personal accomplishments. In other words, he had a lot to brag about. Entering the Christian life presented new challenges. His old credentials did not provide credit toward his salvation. The message Jesus brought to Paul was that Paul could never "do" enough to be deserving of God's love. The reason why was because God loved the world apart from any "doing" on our part. God's love was expressed in Jesus who gave his life willingly. The thing Paul wrestled with the most was how to live a Christian life while continuing to sin. Paul found that his human nature was so strong and opposed to God that he could barely make it through a day without his human nature taking over. Paul wanted to give his heart and life to Jesus, but his human nature was very powerful. Paul finally said to himself, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" Paul came to the conclusion that only one person could rescue him from his "do" religion. It was Jesus Christ. When my human nature takes over, I can repent of my sin and receive forgiveness—no matter how many times I sin. A secure salvation is not based on what I do, but on what Jesus did. Jesus said, "No one can pluck you out of God's hand!"

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LETTERS

Lack of quality killed TV Montrose not the gay community

Editor:

While I am dismayed to read of the demise of TV Montrose (*Houston Voice*, April 23, front page) I was far more dismayed to read Steve Baker's passive-aggressive "Viewpoint" ('An open letter to community from TV Montrose,' April 23, page 9). I understand that his letter may be necessary for his process of grieving for a project that was undoubtedly very dear to him. Nevertheless, his blanket statements, dismissing all who did not watch his program as being insufficiently committed to the cause of lesbigay equality, are offensive and must be addressed.

First of all, Baker needs a dictionary. He writes that "the word 'community' has an important subword, 'unity.'" But the etymology of "community" has nothing to do with the word "unity." The word is not "comm-unity," but "com-munity," rooted in the Latin "munus," meaning service or gift. The community is thus one of mutual service across the multiple and diverse layers of lesbigay life.

Baker calls these layers "fractures," but they're natural in any group of people. There is nothing that Baker or anyone else can do about it. Through the call for unity, Baker apparently desires to quash the individuality and diversity of lesbigay people in Houston just so that we'll give him the attention and authority he seems to desire so desperately. Sound familiar? It's a disturbing repetition of the very motions of the "closet" which heterosexuals in power have often forced upon us in order to cement their own over-valued opinions of themselves and their way of life. No call for "community unity" should occur at the expense of our freedom, and that includes our freedom not to watch television programs which we find ninteresting or lacking in quality. Apathy did not kill TV Montrose; Baker finally sees some light when he writes that "the failure of TV Montrose to survive rests on Russ and me."

TV Montrose was a medium-quality show, with decent reporting and horrible graphics, which never succeeded in taking advantage of the uniqueness of its medium. Its hosts

Broussard's killer must be sent right message

Editor:

('Jon Buice's mea culpa,' *Houston Voice*, April 23, front page)

I was both outraged and offended that Ray Hill, community activist, would even consider the early release of Jon Buice. My question to Hill is—what rationale are you possibly using to justify this early release? I only see this early release as an invitation for Buice to become more involved in hate crimes, thus putting more gay men at risk of being killed as was done

to Paul Broussard.

Secondly, it sends out a very negative message to others who are involved in hate crimes, the message being "it's all right to kill gay men, you'll get out early." I feel it is very important that we get the message out that hate crimes will not be tolerated and you will be punished to the maximum of the law, which does not include early release—Buice's mea culpa is falling on very outraged ears.

Walter S. Light

A thank you from someone recovering

Editor:

Thank you seems to be totally inadequate to express my heartfelt gratitude for the community's support of "Roast The Wilma" recently performed at Mary's. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I'm on the road to recovery and look forward to seeing each of you as I get back to work.

William L. Johnson

Sarah DePalma's viewpoint hits home

Editor:

Lord knows I profoundly disagree with Sarah DePalma about many things, especially the extent to which the gay civil rights movement should be diverted into addressing transgender issues. But her viewpoint column, ('Standing up for who you are,' *Houston Voice*, April 23, page 8) is among the finest pieces the paper has ever published. It captures in very few words the deep wound caused by social and familial isolation—whatever the cause.

It moved me especially because recently I had an experience similar to Sarah's. My great grandmother, who would have been 100 in September, died two weeks ago. While alive, she fully accepted my relationship with my partner of six years, PJ. He flew directly from an all-night shift in an emergency room to be by my side at her funeral and then flew straight back to work when it was over. Yet during the funeral, many members of the family refused even to look at us together. I was angry and hurt all at once. I have never been so ashamed of them. They didn't deserve to be in PJ's presence much less have the privilege of shaking his hand. My great grandmother would have agreed. Sarah's right about one thing: we form the families that count in life based on love, not biology.

Dale Carpenter
via e-mail



Sarah DePalma was misidentified as Sandra DePalma in last week's issue. The *Houston Voice* apologizes for this error.

Montrose
Television
for all PEOPLE

were either cloying or wooden, and their pre-scripted banter was painful to watch. Moreover, there was a questionable decision to air the show on Monday evenings. By that time, lesbigay people in Houston had already gotten their fill of community news through the *Houston Voice* and/or the *Texas Triangle*, which had appeared the previous Thursday or Friday.

TV Montrose's "news" was, in my opinion, already old and disposable, and therefore not worth watching. I am writing this letter before the April 26 episode airs, but I cannot imagine how TV Montrose could possibly shed new light on the story of a (thankfully) piddlingly small anti-gay demonstration in Galveston that has now occurred two or three news cycles ago. I hope that Baker will learn from his mistakes, and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Martin Kavka
via e-mail



VIEWPOINT

Addressing the Chamber's inclusiveness

by ANITA RENTERIA

Recently there has been a tremendous amount of energy and emotion generated around the topic of exclusiveness or inclusiveness of organizations in the "gay and lesbian" community. I say that in quotes because, surprisingly, the words, "gay and lesbian" come across as disenfranchising to some.

When I came out to myself, and then to my family, it was years before I became involved in the gay community. I was nervous and didn't know what to expect. It was kind of scary. I'd been straight-identified for so long, I didn't think I had any frame of reference for what it would be like to be in a gay world versus my familiar, if uncomfortable, straight world. Guess what? I found it's just not that different. There's still the same cruising of potential or hoped-for liaisons at the bars. There is the same spectrum of needs and wants met by the same types of services and businesses: Grocery stores, restaurants, theaters; the usual stuff. Guess what else isn't different? Misunderstandings.

Lack of communication and coordination, or sometimes even cooperation. Assumptions. Even—and this is painful and unfortunate—discrimination. I admit to being disappointed that a rainbow-colored world of happiness and joy wasn't exactly what I found. Hey, I've been called naïve before.

That was all many years ago. Now the scales of my perceptions have balanced, and I wonder why I

expected more—or less.

It's the same message we've been trying to have the mainstream straight world understand since the Mattachine Society or Stonewall, isn't it? That we "aren't" different, for good or bad. In any society, no matter how you slice it, you have a spectrum with saints at one end and jerks on the other end. This is true of any division you can imagine. Any ethnic, religious, political or geographic collection of folks. Redheads. Democrats. People over 5'5" tall. People who like the color magenta. And yes, gay people too. We have ours, too. Why shouldn't we?

So, I'm no longer surprised that within our own community we have diversity. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered, leather, Levi, bears, femme, butch, positive...whatever. Amongst those (and I may have missed some), add Hispanic or Caucasian or African-American or Asian, or American Indian or...you get the picture. Toss in religion, upbringing, personal tastes and the fabric of our community is incredibly complex. We are all more than one of these single facets. I am gay, or if I want to be specific to gender, lesbian. I am Hispanic—I can break that down to Mexican-American. I am a native Texan. I am all of these things, just as each of us is comprised of the rich cultures and subcultures we are born into or have chosen. We are a mix of genetics, environment, training and preferences.

Given that, why do we imagine that if we identify as one group we must therefore be excluding others? Why, for

example, if we are the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, should any other group or subgroup assume they were excluded from participating or worse, unwelcome? What words can we use to denote an umbrella organization?

I use the Chamber as an example because it's what I know best. There has recently been some very heated debate about the Chamber being exclusive because the words "transgender and bisexual" are missing from our name and our mission statement. I am amazed. Our mission statement reads: "The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce advances the economic and cultural development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive individuals, businesses and organizations." We chose it because we felt it was broad enough to cover everyone in our complex community. No, it does not specify transgender or bisexual people. Neither does it specify Hispanic or Catholic or any other subdivision. But to assume this translates into rejection of these groups (or any other) is, in my opinion, creating an issue where one simple does not exist. The proof of the Chamber's inclusiveness is in its work, in the projects we develop, fund and execute.

The Chamber is intended to be a coalition-building organization. We host quarterly Community Partnership meetings, open to all non-profits in the community, for the purpose of sharing information, calendars and maybe even resources. We have recently begun, "Leading and Learning: The GLBT

Community Seminar Series" to train a new energetic crop of leaders for the community organizations that desperately need new leadership, ideas and energy. We host "Empower" every year at the George R. Brown Convention Center, and have always welcomed every business or organization that wanted to participate. We are a business organization and we realize the value of a united community in terms of economic strength.

We must come together under the broad cloth that unites us. We are all gay, lesbian, or supportive of the freedom to live in this country with the same rights as every other American citizen.

It is not my intention to dismiss the concerns of the transgendered and/or bisexual communities. Certainly if anyone should understand feeling marginalized it should be gays and lesbians; we should be compassionate and welcoming. Nor do I doubt there is discrimination in this very community—as I said, we have ours too.

I think it destructive and divisive to spend our energy focusing on the label instead of what's inside the package.

Renteria is president of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. You can reach her via this newspaper.

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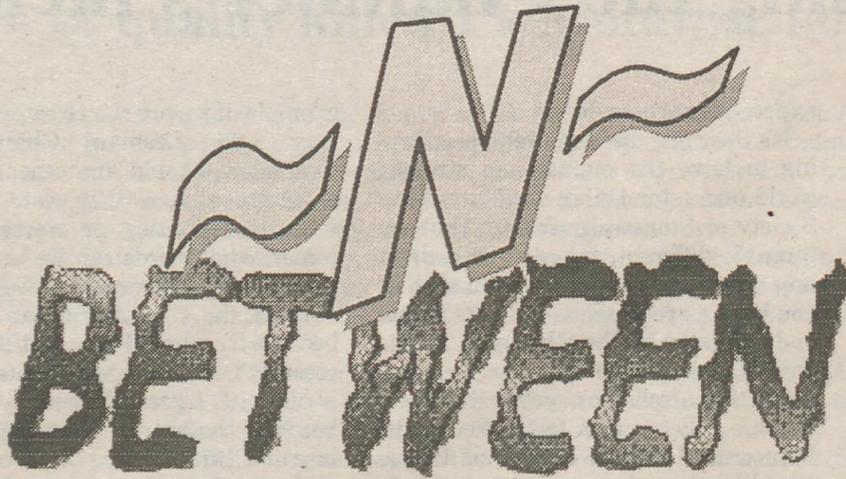
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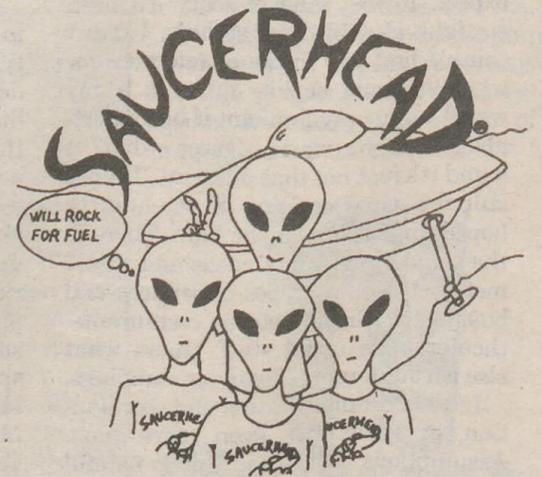
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Chances
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Friday & Saturday

April 30 & May 1

DJ Bridgett Spins
Starting at 9 P.M.



Don't forget to take a ride on the *Luge!*

Chances
Show Bar



A New Millenium Disco



"Park Once. Party All Night."

'Orientation' changed to 'preference' for bill's passage

Hate from page 1

began in the Senate and died in the House.

In a surprising move, the bill's author, State Rep. Senfronia Thompson D-Houston, approved a compromise that won the vote of State Rep. Warren Chisum R-Pampa, the representative who is proposing this term that gays and lesbians be denied the right to adopt children or act as foster parents.

Thompson agreed to change the phrase "sexual orientation" to "sexual preference" at Chisum's request.

"It was a compromise to get his vote," Hardy-Garcia said. "Chisum voting for the bill was historic. We had lobbied him hard."

Chisum had been reason a similar bill did not get through the House in the last term.

"Chisum killed it last time. To get him to vote with us shows a real growth on his part," Hardy-Garcia said.

She said winning Chisum's vote on this issue may not signify any weakening on the adoption and foster care issues.

"I think he'll remain kind of strong on that," she said.

Much of the credit for the hate crimes bill's victory in the House goes to the members of the gay and lesbian community who generated a large number

of supportive telephone calls to representatives, according to Hardy-Garcia.

"It's a huge community victory today," she said.

The James Byrd, Jr. Act (House Bill 938), was scheduled for a vote on April 26, but the vote was delayed until April 27 at the request of Thompson, its primary author. She wanted to address some technical issues in the bill as well as make provisions to keep the House gallery from overflowing with spectators interested in the bill.

Thompson spoke to the House early April 27 afternoon to explain the bill.

"When the Constitution talks about equality, it means that the government cannot abridge or deny rights. It does not mean governments cannot protect," Thompson said, offering responses to some counter-arguments before they were presented.

She said, "This bill is designed to deter and punish hate crimes and criminals who engage in cowardly behavior."

Thompson noted that the bill would put in the hands of a judge or a jury the decision about whether a crime was based on hate. She also tackled the issue of the inclusion of gays and lesbians in the bill head on.

"I hear talk about this bill condoning

homosexuality or bisexuality because of the words 'sexual orientation.' That's not true," Thompson said.

Thompson commented on the fact that laws have been passed recently to stiffen penalties for cutting fences to allow livestock to escape and commented that if laws like that can pass, a hate crimes bill should definitely be passed.



Chisum



Hardy-Garcia

"This bill is designed to deter and punish hate crimes and criminals who engage in cowardly behavior. I hear talk about this bill condoning homosexuality or bisexuality because of the words 'sexual orientation.' That's not true,"

—Thompson

"How many of you remember the dog biscuit law we passed last year?" she asked the House members.

She also responded to those who say that all crimes are based on hate.

"What about forgery? What about prostitution? Don't you see a little love there?" Thompson asked, clarifying that those crimes are not based on hate but on the love of money and sex, respectively.

Thompson accepted Chisum's amendment to change "sexual orientation" to "sexual preference" as well as amendments to add "age," "gender," and "status as a pregnant person" to the categories mentioned in the bill as targets of hate crimes. A request by State Rep. Charlie Howard to add "status as a student athlete" to the bill was ultimately denied. The attempted amendment referred to the recent shooting of athletes and others in a Littleton, Colorado school. The action was seen by some on the floor as an attempt by a representative who did not intend to vote in favor of the measure to weaken it.

The James Byrd Jr. Act is a five-part approach to the prevention and punishment of hate crimes. If enacted, it would give Texas a clear, enforceable hate crimes statute for the first time in the state's history by increasing penalties for crimes motivated by prejudice. It would also allow victims and their families to sue for civil damages, fund training programs for police in the identification, reporting and investigation of hate crimes, aid small counties in prosecuting hate crimes and establish a division in the Attorney General's office to monitor hate-related violence and coordinate resources.

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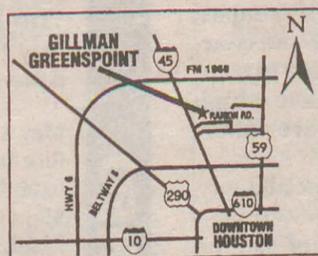
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'Gay gene' research challenged

by PAIGE PARVIN

A study released earlier this week failed to replicate the results of a groundbreaking 1993 study giving strong evidence for a "gay gene," calling into question the theory that sexual orientation may be genetic or perhaps even biological.

But scientists have cautioned that these latest results by no means indicate that biology is absent in determining sexual orientation, and gay civil rights activists are fighting to keep science and the social implications separate.

The recent Canadian study points out that there are several lines of evidence for genetic influence on homosexuality, citing the "most compelling" a 1993 study by Dean Hamer of the National Cancer Institute.

Hamer, who is gay himself, found that 33 of 40 pairs of gay brothers shared a genetic marker on the X-chromosome, which is passed down from the mother. He concluded that the brothers of gay men are about seven times more likely to be gay themselves.

But in their report, published in the trade journal *Science*, George Rice and a research team of three others from the University of Western Ontario found no linkage of sexual orientation to Xq28, the location on the X chromosome where Hamer found shared genes in gay men. Of 46 pairs of gay brothers and two trios, the results averaged 23 of 50 pairs sharing chromosomes, as compared to Hamer's 33 of 40.

"Our data do not support the presence of a gene of large effect influencing sexual orientation at position Xq28," Rice concluded.

Reasons for the discrepancy are



"unclear," according to the study. But Hamer claims that a dramatic difference in methodology could be responsible. Because he was searching for a gene on the X chromosome which is passed down from the mother Hamer said his subjects were men whose gay relatives, such as uncles, were found on the maternal side. If you are searching for a gene that is inherited from the mother, Hamer explained, you are more likely to find it if the trait is primarily found in the mother's family.

Rice's team advertised in Canadian gay magazines to gather the subjects for their study, getting response from a healthy 182 families. But of those, just 52 gay sibling pairs from 48 families were willing to provide blood samples, narrowing the pool considerably, and of these subjects more had gay relatives on the father's side, said Hamer.

"This is a key point because it suggests that men in that particular group were gay for reasons other than the X chromosome," said Hamer. "They exam-

ined a non-representative subgroup of families where one would not expect to see linkage."

The Canadian team could not be reached for comment, but Rice countered in an e-mail to the *New York Times* that selection of the study's participants was "totally random," and the families were "not very different" from those studied by Hamer.

Hamer expressed disappointment that researchers didn't take the study further, saying the group abandoned the project after considerable effort and expense when they failed to duplicate his work. Other studies have supported his findings regarding the X chromosome, he said, and there is much more work to be done.

Nurture and nature

Hamer has maintained that biogenetic influence is only one of the factors determining sexual orientation, and that environment also plays a role.

"There are lots of reasons to be gay just like there are lots of reasons to be straight," Hamer noted. "One way this study is interesting is, it clearly indicates there is not one gay gene, it's more complicated than that ... and in terms of protecting diversity, that's a good thing."

"There could definitely be genetic factors in fact, their presumption is that there are genetic factors," he pointed out. Indeed, Rice's report makes it clear that his findings do not rule out the possibility of genes that influence sexual orientation.

"Although we found no evidence of linkage of sexual orientation to Xq28, these results do not preclude the possibility of detectable gene effects elsewhere in the genome," the team wrote.

Hate crime on the rise in Houston

Crimes from Page 1

forum on hate crimes will be held.

Representing diverse segments of our community, the panelists for "Resolving Hate Crimes" will include Candice Clark from H.A.T.C.H. (the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals); Gary Norman from the Montrose Counseling Center; Katrina Rose, lawyer and columnist for the *Texas Triangle*; and Jeanne Sommerfield, President of the Texas chapter of the National Organization for Women.

A painful lack of resources—monetary and personnel—slows the compilation of statistics on hate crimes, but the 1998 records for Houston are now available through the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

While the number of reported anti-gay incidents declined slightly from 1997 to 1998, from 35 to 31, the number of victims rose from 35 to 37, and the number of offenders almost quadrupled, from 11 to 40. Assaults and attempted assaults increased from five to 25.

All the offenders were male; almost half were white, the other half almost

all Hispanic; and all but six were under 30-years-old.

"Personally, I'm not concerned about the raw numbers," said Gary Norman of the Montrose Counseling Center, which is one of the tracking sites for the National Coalition.

"They're so subjective. They go up or down a little bit each year. My concern is more the intensity of the violence. The number of assaults with weapons, the number of murders has increased in the past years," he said.

"These trends are more telling about where we are as a society, than if the numbers go up or down."

The statistics can be skewed for other reasons, he added, and it's vitally important to report all incidents, no matter how embarrassed, ashamed, or powerless you feel as a victim.

"Sometimes, people don't realize that what happened could be considered a hate crime," he said, "So they don't report it at all. Or, they'll report it as an assault and not mention that the person yelled 'faggot' or 'dyke.'"

Norman said, "There's also the responsibility of law enforcement to

have the knowledge to recognize the incident as a possible hate crime. That's not really been done very well."

But he acknowledged that the continual efforts to provide sensitivity training at the Police Academy, the creation of the Hate Crimes Hot Line (713-529-9615), and the Hate Crimes Coordinator for Houston are immense steps in the right direction in trying to make sense of these senseless acts of violence.

"Perpetrators come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. But there's one characteristic they all seem to have in common," Gary said. "They all have a high intolerance for people who are different."

And that difference need not be gay, he explained. Any difference—ethnicity, religion, or the plain fact of looking different—can be their twisted reason for violent hate.

"We're easier targets, I think, the gay and lesbian community. They say, I'm not like you; you're so different from me that it's going to be easy for me to hurt you. It also ties right in with what's going on in Colorado."

"Connections are important. We need to pay attention to the subtle, the smaller, incidents that are going on. Not necessarily be over-alarmed by them, but we need to take note of what's happening."

He paused for a moment. "There are no cure-alls."

The Brandon Teena Story

May 7, 7:30 p.m.
panel discussion to follow screening

May 8, 7:30 p.m.
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713-527-4853

Loan Star Hate

June 3, 6 p.m.
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INFO

UPCOMING EVENTS



May 1

Bubble Juice experimental dance, 8 p.m. at The Duplex, 1924 Brun. Tickets are \$10, 713-523-0679.

May 2

Lesbian country/folk singer, **Mary Catherine Reynolds** is part of a benefit concert at Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk, beginning at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$10, 713-528-5999.

May 3

Whoa...program the VCR! 'In The Life' a gay and lesbian newsmagazine series is on PBS at 1 a.m. This episode covers gay cruise ships, the airline industry, and what it's like to be gay and hearing-impaired. PBS Houston is Channel 8, KUHT.



May 4

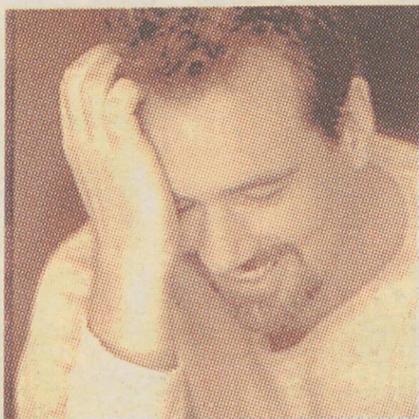
"Man-2-Man: The Safe Connection," at 7 p.m. The final part of the four-week series looking at safe sex, HIV and STDs, self-esteem, self-efficacy, dating and other topics. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. For more information call 713-830-3083.

Ongoing:

Mondays from 3-6 p.m. **AIDS Foundation Houston Creative Writing Class** with writer Greg Rodriguez. For information, 713-623-6796.

Bi-Net Houston meets Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. to support health-conscious bisexuality and is open to all women and men exploring or questioning their sexuality. All meetings are confidential. 713-467-4380.

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—Anthony Connolly

Out on the Bayou



HOUSTON VOICE • APRIL 30, 1999

A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

Paul Taylor's world explored in 'Dancemaker'



Filmmaker wanted documentary to be about more than dance

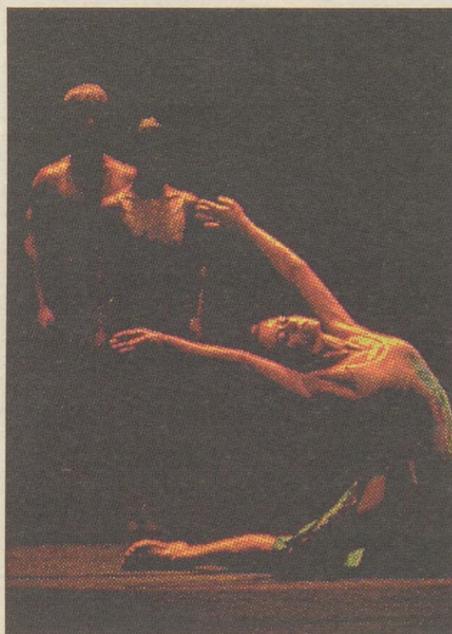
by EARL DITTMAN

When director Matthew Diamond initially began work on the Academy Award-nominated documentary "Dancemaker," a film about New York city's legendary Paul Taylor Dance Company, the seasoned filmmaker admits he had only one clear-cut objective in mind.

"I didn't want 'Dancemaker' to end-up being some boring film about a dancers that only fans of ballet and modern dance would want to see," the two-time Emmy-winning director said. "Frankly, my intention was to forget about those people who already loved dance. In the back of my mind, I sort of obnoxiously thought, 'Well, the people that are into dance will already go see the movie. I want to reach the audiences that never go to ballets and knows nothing about dance. The kind of people that go to stock car races!'"

He said, "I wanted 'Dancemaker' to be a story where the average movie-goer would come out from seeing it, going, 'What a great movie, I had such a great time.' I didn't know if that was possible with a film about dance, but I was willing to give it a try."

Engrossing and entertaining, "Dancemaker" is everything Diamond had hoped for—and more. His behind-the-scenes look at the day-to-day operations



of Paul Taylor's struggling dance company plays like an expertly-scripted melodrama, one that everyone who works for a living can relate to.

"I'd like to think that if you took all the dancing out of the film, it ends up being a drama about the workplace," Diamond said.

"We all go to work everyday. We either

like or hate our bosses. We worry about the people we are in charge of. And, we worry about losing our jobs. We all have that. I think it is a universal theme. I think 'Dancemaker' tells a story that everybody is going to feel in their hearts."

The crux of Diamond's documentary is, of course, artistic genius Paul Taylor. Hailed as one of the world's greatest living choreographers, the sixty-something Taylor has always had a reputation for being an extremely private person. Diamond, however, was able to break through some of those six-decade-old personal barriers in order to paint a fascinating portrait of a man who rules his small kingdom of dancers like a benevolent dictator.

"They definitely broke the mold after they made Paul, that's for sure," Diamond said. "But, Paul is the way he is because of the demands that are placed on him. He can't always be a nice guy. I mean, you have an organization of about thirty people who depend on this man for its creative life. If he doesn't always come up with dances that the world wants to see, the company will die. He knows that, and everyone who works with him knows that. So, you either love him or you hate him as a person. But, you never question

> See Dance page 20

'Resurrection': Not an opera to die for

by D.L. GROOVER

Reviewing operatic world premieres is a daunting, exciting task, since the critical world is replete with numbing mistakes. Numerous works that are considered masterpieces have been savaged at their first performances.

Now we have opera's most recent addition to the family: Tod Machover's "Resurrection" based on Tolstoy's last novel. It has power (thanks to the novelist), beauty (thanks to the production staff at Houston Grand Opera), and a combo of both in the magnificent cast. However, all this inherent power and beauty is at the mercy of the music—it's a losing battle.

A young composer, Machover is known for writing music for the computer, using what he calls "hyper-keyboard, hyper-percussion, and hyper-performers." "Resurrection" is just hype.

It suffers from the curse of modern operatic music: It all sounds alike, no matter what emotion or scenic description is being portrayed.

Meanwhile, we sit there and listen, and don't get very involved because we can't tell where the focus should be.

The story is ripe for operatic treatment. Superficially smitten by the beauty of the serving girl Moslova, the haughty, bored aristocrat, Dmitri, seduces then abandons her.

Years later, Moslova has become a prostitute and is unjustly accused of murder. Dmitri sits on her jury. Ashamed to speak on her behalf, his cowardice, along with the corrupt judicial system of Czarist

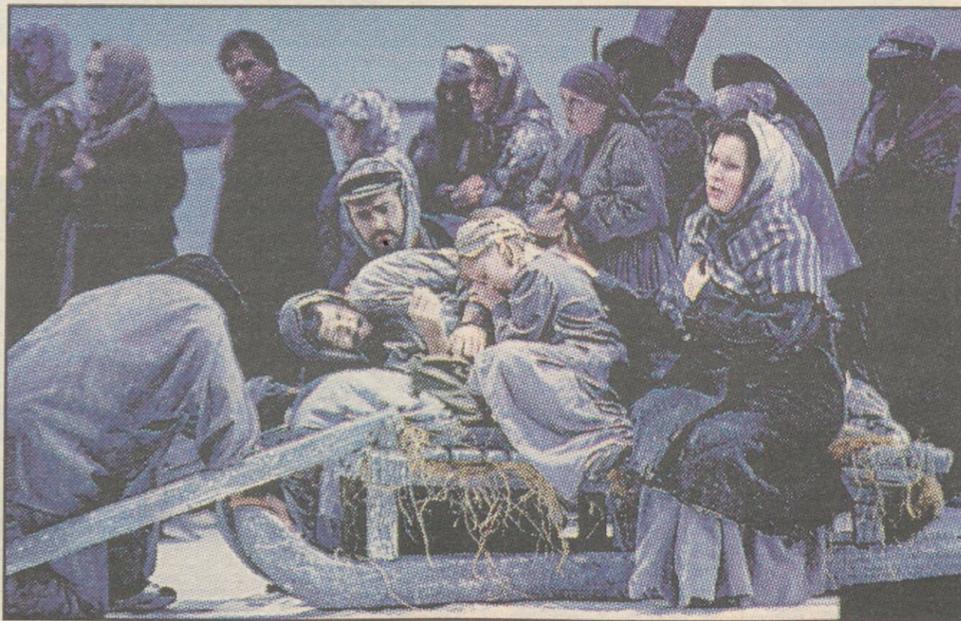
Russia, condemns her to a sentence in Siberia. Wracked by guilt, and a renewed awakening of love, he vows to win her release.

In his act of spiritual rebirth, Dmitri relinquishes all ties to the past, including the comic clutches of his fiancée, sung to perfection by Judith Christin. He does indeed get a release for his beloved and follows her to prison. There, in a textbook case of Russian irony, Moslova forgives him, but decides to stay and marry a political prisoner. She sends Dmitri back into the world to do good. Amid squalor, death, and injustice, the soul of the common man is ably resurrected.

For supposedly being at the cutting edge, Machover's musical vocabulary is fairly tame with a thin orchestration, even when it's being amplified. Way off in the distance we hear faint traces of balalaikas and Russian liturgical themes—but they come and go so fleetingly, they don't have much impact. His vocal line has an annoying habit of inappropriate florid ornamentation that only forces us to summon up visions of a whacked-out Gluck or Rossini.

When it's time for the grand emotion of the "redemption scene" at the opera's finale, Tolstoy's great theme of Man's Betterment is accompanied by a pallid Broadway show tune that wouldn't find itself in Frank Wildhorn's waste basket. It's a most bizarre amalgam of styles that Machover chooses. None of them work.

Granted, Machover's not helped by a



libretto that repeats lines—and repeats lines—as if HGO's Xerox machine malfunctioned when they were printing the score. We got it twice the first time.

Unwarranted, this mush of an opera has been given a magnificent production that drew spontaneous applause for its inspired visual and dramatic effects.

The atmospheric sets and costumes, designed by Simon Higlett, are, in a word, radiant; while the direction, by Braham Murray, is fluid and cinematic.

When the black proscenium panels were slowly slid offstage at the beginning of Act II, a bleak yet dazzling

white panorama of Siberia was revealed that justifiably drew gasps from the appreciative audience.

(editor's note: D.L. Groover is the co-author of "Skeletons from the Opera Closet" (Moyer-Bell) now in its fourth printing)

INFO

Tod Machover's Resurrection

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Century's best gay flicks

by EARL DITTMAN

Since the advent of the motion picture, the enormous contributions of gay writers, actors and filmmakers to the movie industry have been continually overlooked. Even the importance of films about homosexuals have often been minimized, and quite often, completely ignored by the very studios that nurtured them.

Not any more.

As the millennium draws to a close, the gay community now has a chance to champion these films as well as the efforts of many of the daring and talented homosexual men and women who made them. GLAAD, The Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, has teamed-up with Absolut Vodka and *Entertainment Weekly* to commemorate gay films, gay filmmakers and movies that deal positively with the gay experience by creating the media campaign, "The 20 Best Lesbian and Gay Films Of The 20th Century."

And, unlike other organizations or conglomerates who produce "Best Of..." lists, these 20 best films will be determined by you, members of the gay community, and not some stuffy old group of board members. Participants are being asked to pick 20 of their favorite gay films from a ballot that consists of 166 features hand-picked by GLAAD and three spaces left to write-in ones omitted from the list. GLAAD will be distributing these ballots throughout the year at numerous gay and lesbian film festivals and Gay Pride celebrations around the country.

Of course, if you are lost somewhere out in cyberspace, you can do your voting electronically, by accessing GLAAD's website at <http://www.glaad.org>. Either way, mailed ballots and online voting must be completed by Jan. 7, 2000. And, for your efforts, each voter will be automatically entered in a drawing to win two round-trip tickets (on American Airlines) to any one of GLAAD's Media Awards ceremonies in 2000.

In addition to attending the star-studded event, the winner and their guest will stay for two nights at a plush hotel in Los Angeles, New York or Washington, D.C.—one of three host cities for GLAAD Media awards.

Now, before you crank up your computer or start sharpening your pencils, your friendly neighborhood *Houston Voice* film aficionado suggests you rush out to your local video store to rent one of the following flicks before you make your final decision. You won't be disappointed...

Films Officially On The Ballot:

★ "Apartment Zero" (1988): Although this homo-erotic suspense thriller was ignored at the box office upon its release, "Apartment Zero" was, nonetheless, a hit with critics across the world—even garnering awards for Best Picture and Best Director (Martin Donovan) at the prestigious Seattle International Film Festival. Starring Colin Firth ("Shakespeare In Love") and Hart Bochner ("Breaking Away"), this spine-tingling tale of murder, perversion and gay lust/obsession keeps its viewers on the edge of their seats, from start to finish. Imagine a gay "Psycho," if you dare!

★ "Maurice" (1987): The love that dares not speak its name gets the Merchant Ivory treatment in this faithful film adaptation of E. M. Forster's brilliant and touching novel of the same name. Sporting a cast of many of Great Britain's most talented, young thespians—including Hugh Grant, James Whitby and Rupert Graves—this lush period piece about gay love in Edwardian England is a finely-crafted, inescapably wondrous affair.

★ "Parting Glances" (1986): Long before "Philadelphia" came along to make the subject of AIDS cinematically palatable to mainstream movie-going audiences, there was the incredible,

> See Century page 21

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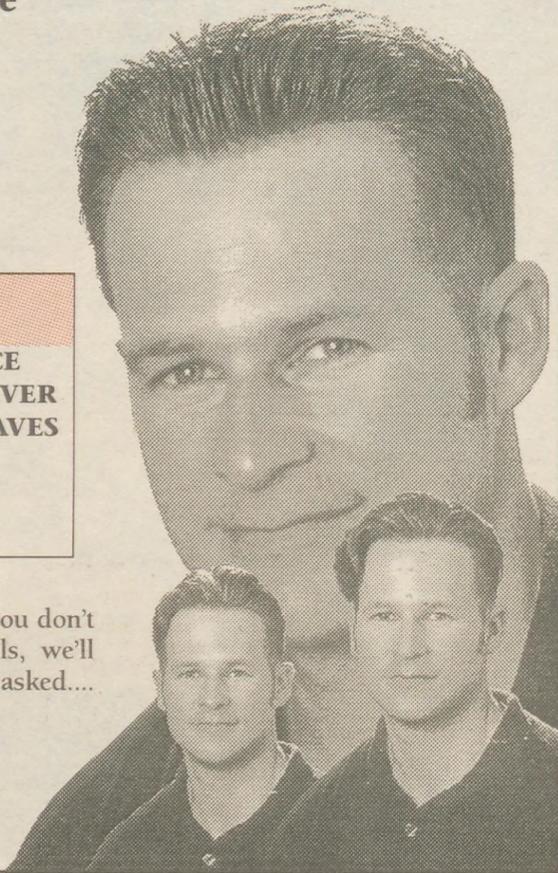
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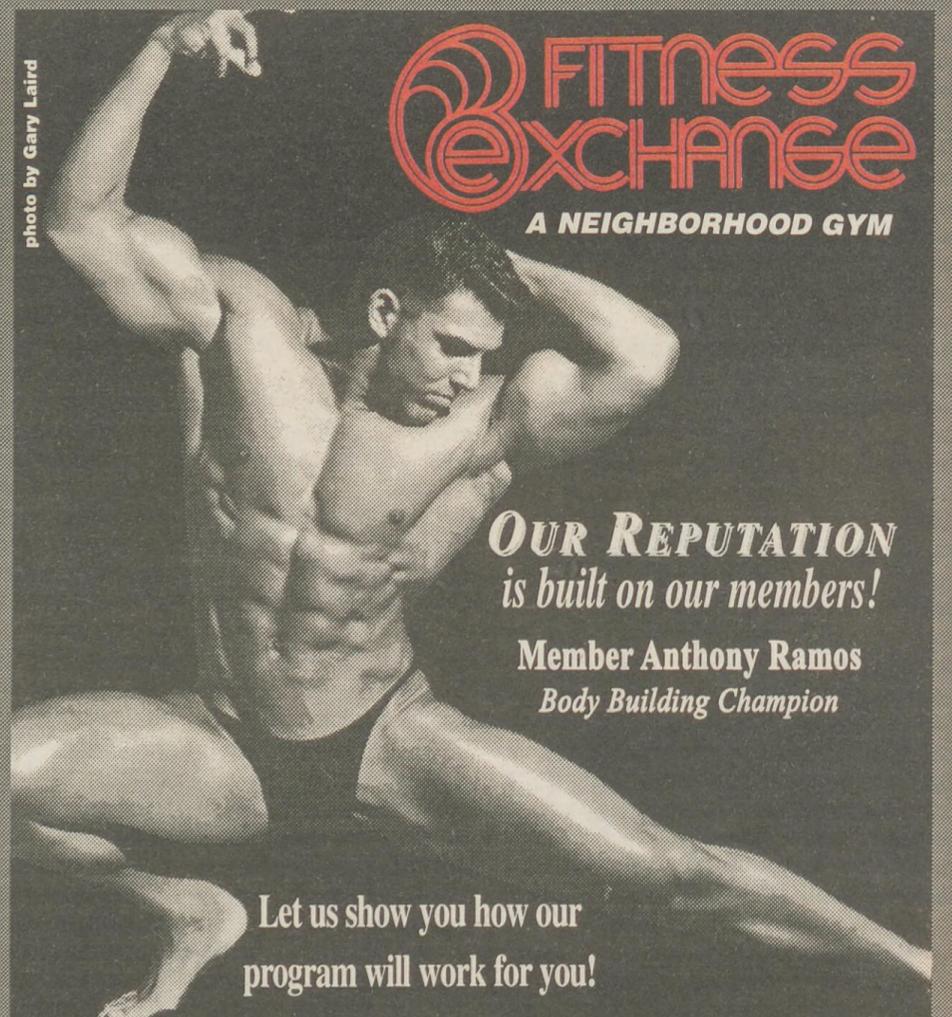
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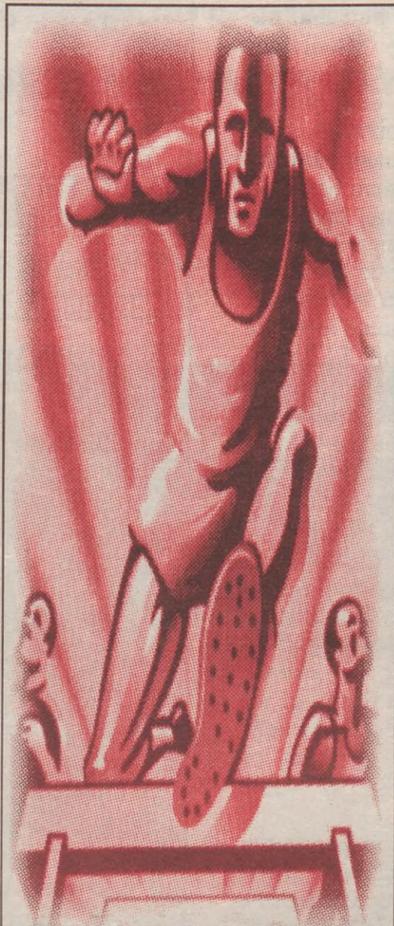
A GUIDE TO BETTER HEALTH

Breaking through the plateau

by GREG HERREN

Getting in shape is not an easy thing to do. It's hard work that requires sweat, time, and energy. After a month, your friends noticed a difference in your body, and commented on it. It made you feel good, and sent you back to the gym even more determined to chisel your body into something spectacular. But it has been several months now, and you aren't seeing anything different happening. The results that came so quickly in the beginning, have begun to taper off. Your weight hasn't changed. Your muscles aren't growing the way you think they should. You aren't getting any stronger.

Swimsuit season is coming up, and you tried on your suit from last year. It doesn't look as bad as it did, but it's still not what you were hoping for. What's the point, you say to yourself when your alarm goes off at five in the morning, in getting up to go to the gym when nothing is happening? Everyone feels this way at some point—even professional body builders. The important thing is not to get completely discouraged and demoralized to the point that you stop your fitness regimen. What you are experiencing is perfectly normal. It's called a "plateau." It happens to everyone at some point. It's happened to me. The trick is to stay motivated. Plateaus are responsible for most people giving up their workout routines. It is under-



standable. A plateau is a natural occurrence and you have to work through it, despite the obvious frustrations. Here are some easy ways to stay motivated and break through the plateau:

Step One: Recognize the plateau for what it is. Check your workout log and see just how long you have been stuck on the same weights. If you aren't getting any stronger, your muscles have plateaued. Take your measurements, weigh yourself, and get your body fat levels tested. Have the muscles grown? Has your body fat level decreased at all? Are your clothes fitting any differently than they were a month ago? If everything has remained the same, you've reached a plateau.

Step Two: Re-examine your goals. Once you've determined that you've

plateaued, this is an excellent time to reevaluate your original fitness goals. Are the goals you set in the beginning still what you are looking for? Reassess your entire body as well. Stand nude in front of a full-length mirror and determine what the problem areas are. Have your legs developed at the same pace as your upper body, or vice versa? Has your stomach decreased in size? Are your thighs still thick and dimpled? Are your breasts drooping?

Step Three: Redesign your program. Once you've reassessed your body, it's time to redesign your fitness regimen. Maybe working with weights has significantly decreased the amounts of body fat in your chest, arms, and legs,

but you still have a gut. Maybe you should increase the cardiovascular component of your workouts. If your thighs and butt are still not what you would like, maybe you should increase the intensity of your leg workouts. Women have a tendency to be afraid of weights, and will do a lot of cardiovascular exercise. But as fat drops off, the skin will start to sag and the only way to firm that up is to use weights.

Even if your goals have not changed, re-designing your program is essential to continued success in getting fitter. Muscles are lazy by nature, which is why strength training works. The muscles send a message to the brain: "Hey, this is hard work, I need to be stronger so that next time this won't be as hard, do something!" But if your

routine becomes routine, the muscles will adapt to it and results won't come as quickly. If you keep changing your workout every few months, the muscles will remain in a constant state of shock. Shock equals results. Don't look at a plateau as a negative thing. It really isn't a bad thing to have happen. It's your body's way of telling you that it's bored and ready for something new. It wants new challenges. The more you challenge your body, the more it will respond. Set new goals. There is nothing your body won't do for you. You just have to keep giving it direction. Above all else, keep your mindset positive. You can do it.

Greg Herren can be reached via e-mail at alexiukr@aol.com.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Wrestling Christians for the soul of a gay man

by J.S. HALL

For many gay men and lesbians, coming out to one's family can be a harrowing ordeal. While some lucky individuals find that their honesty doesn't result in negative repercussions, the same doesn't hold true for most. It certainly wasn't the case for Stuart Howell Miller, as he recounts in "Prayer Warriors."

Although he knew the path before him was a very difficult one—his father had been born again in the '70s and "withdrew from the world," concentrating most of his efforts in the Believers' Chapel, which he helped found—Miller had no idea what trials lay before him. His coming out, an act motivated by love and a desire for honesty, was greeted with anger and venom. His mother said she felt as if she'd been stabbed in the back, while his father quickly orchestrated a reign of terror against his "wayward" son. Although Miller came out in 1992, he still receives missives from these "prayer warriors," urging him to change his "sinful" ways.

For readers unfamiliar with the ways and practices of Southern fundamentalist

Christians, "Prayer Warriors" will be a clarion call to action for them. While it's tempting (and easy) to dismiss followers of the Religious Right as ignorant cattle, such actions only arm the gay community with a false sense of superiority and leave us more vulnerable to the surprising clout they wield in some areas. Miller grew up in one such fundamentalist household—"Norman Rockwell meets Tennessee Williams"—and his memories of adolescence are both touching and telling as he relates growing up with a stern, rigid disciplinarian of a father who alienated most of his family with his sermons, and a dutiful, appeasing excuse-maker of a mother. While it's easy to snicker at the image of a man praying to Jesus for a good parking space at the shopping plaza, it's not so easy to

anguish this man's actions have caused his son.

In some ways, Stuart Miller's tale is a familiar one: a young man who over-achieved to avoid dealing with his sexuality. He doesn't pretend to have lived a perfect life, but in college he was president of his fraternity, and dated a popular stu-

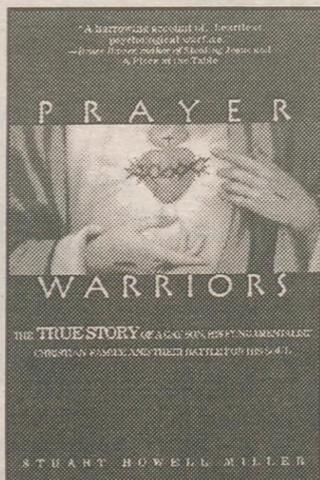
dent, Margaret, for three years before their relationship ended. (Although initially none-too-pleased to discover she'd been used as a beard, Margaret became one of his staunchest allies.)

Miller prepared for his coming out as much as one could have, but still wasn't ready for the bitter rejection and virtual disownment with which his family reacted. Unanticipated condemnations far exceeded declarations of support, sending him into depression and affecting both his professional and private lives. Ironically, while counseling people with AIDS at the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, he was often in need of counseling himself.

Almost any time he'd make some personal progress, a letter from home—or a virtual stranger—would send him stumbling back. But then, considering that his previously supportive Aunt Brenda wrote, "Did you really expect us to have compassion for you? I'm not Jesus!" and that his younger sister Abby wrote "[God] can either change you or kill you," on her "little-girl stationery," this is understandable. Gradually, though, he strove to concentrate on the love and concern buried with his family's efforts to save his soul, and attempted to see things from his father's point of view—provided he returned the courtesy. However, his mother's claim that "by telling you we love you and that you are welcome home anytime to visit, we have met you halfway," showed that nothing had really changed.

In 1996, he began this book as a form of therapy, and as his family was unaware of its impending publication, their reactions to it would've been interesting to know. Do they hypocritically feel he hasn't "kept it within the family," considering how they already did so with the prayer warriors. While a constant letter campaign may not be as dramatic as protesting abortion clinics and harassing its clients and doctors, such an action is nevertheless indicative of the lengths some religious devotees will go to in order to demonstrate the "rightness" of their beliefs.

This book shouldn't be taken as a warning against coming out (which is always a highly personal and individual matter), but as an inspirational tale of transcending the ignorance and hatred of loved ones. To people experiencing similar difficulties with their families, reading this book will doubtless feel like a spiritual balm. By turns distressing and illuminating, "Prayer Warriors" offers both an all-too-human face and personal insight into an increasing national epidemic of bigotry and anti-gay rhetoric from a segment of the population supposedly dedicated to love, compassion and forgiveness.



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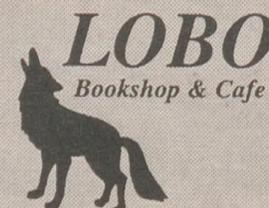
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INFO

Prayer Warriors: The True Story Of A Gay Son, His Fundamentalist Christian Family, And Their Battle For His Soul

by Stuart Howell Miller
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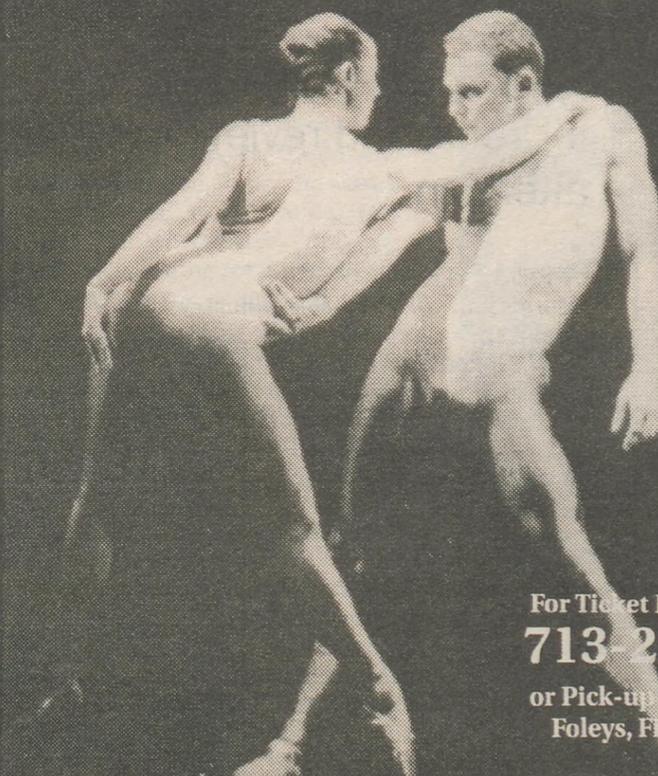
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BookExpo 99 features Texas writer

Lesbian and gay titles are expected to jostle for retail and review attention

by ELLA TYLER

More than 20,000 book industry professionals are expected to attend "BookExpo America" to be held in Los Angeles this week. Seminars about every aspect of the book publishing and retail book selling business begin on Wednesday and continue through Sunday.

The Lambda Literary Awards for gay fiction and nonfiction works will be announced Thursday evening at a ceremony featuring Kate Clinton as the emcee. More than 250 writers and publishers are expected at the event, to be held at the Orpheum Movie Palace.

On April 30, the trade show, with more than 1,500



Kate Clinton

exhibitors, opens.

A "Passport to Pride" will guide visitors to the exhibits of 19 publishers who focus on gay and lesbian titles. These booths will be spread across the convention floor.

Cecilia Tan of Circler Press, organizer of the promotion, said "We used to be on one aisle," she said, "but that never worked for everyone, so we voted to disband and hand out a list. Then, I decided we might as well give people an incentive to stop at the booths."

Passports that have stamps from eight booths are entered into a drawing for three packages of best selling gay and lesbian books valued at \$500, Tan said.

The Alyson Publications booth will feature several of its authors, including Felice Picano, poet Marvin K. White, Lauren Maddison, and Stuart Howell Miller. Maddison is an ex-Texan, ex-debutante whose thriller, "Deceptions," will be released in May. Miller is the author of "Prayer Warriors," (see review page 18).

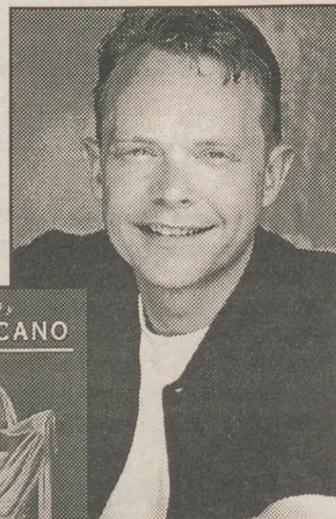
Leon Baily of The Open Book in Sacramento will lead a roundtable discussion about

Gay/Lesbian bookselling on May 1.

Former congresswoman Pat Schroeder, now president of the American Association of Publishers, is the key speaker at the conference opening.

Authors who will appear at different convention events include Bill Murray, Julia Child, Elie Wiesel, Jane Goodall and Nikki Giovanni.

Author Stuart Howell Miller (right) is scheduled to make an appearance.



Looking Glass Lives author Felice Picano is also scheduled to appear.

'Dancemaker' touches life of famous choreographer

Dance from page 13 his abilities as a choreographer."

Surprisingly, the notoriously press-shy Taylor was more than happy to grant Diamond and his cameras complete access to his world—both personal and professional. But, Diamond readily admits his purposely shied away from revealing too many "unnecessary details" about Taylor's private life.

"Early on, I had to decide which film I wanted to make—either a Paul Taylor biography or a story about his dance company," he said. "I finally decided I wanted to make a film about the workplace and all the things that go with it."

"You know, I explored a certain amount of his personal life, but the movie really wanted to be about the work," he continued. "The film does mention there was a time in his life where he had a love affair that went wrong. But, we all have been through that. Do we need to know all the gory details? I don't necessarily think so."

When pressed on why the rumored gay Taylor never once mentions his sexual orientation in "Dancemaker," Diamond (who is married, with two children) becomes a bit defensive.

"Look, you'd really have to ask him about that, it's really not my place to discuss that part of his private life," he said sternly. "Some critics have accused me of leaving things like that out of the film because he didn't want them in there. That's simply not true. I could have asked him anything I wanted. He never said,

'Don't do this. Don't do that.' He never said a word about anything about what would go in the film. I just didn't think his sexual preference was of importance to the film."

Patrick Corbin, one of Taylor's principal dancers, however, is not as tight-lipped about the choreographer's sexuality. In one of film's most touching sequences, Corbin recounts the death of his male lover from AIDS. It's a moving, personal moment that seems to contradict Diamond's desire to keep "Dancemaker" simply about the workplace.

"It really doesn't, if you think about it," Diamond offered calmly.

"It's in the film because it had an impact on their world. In addition to Patrick mentioning that his lover had died, we mention that many of the male dancers of the company have also died of AIDS. It's a pretty substantial number of young men who have been taken away from this company because of this disease. Those deaths impacted everyone very strongly.

"What interested me was the way that all these people had to wrestle with the deaths of their loved ones, on a regular



A scene from Diamond's film

basis," he added. "Most of them, even Paul, came to terms with it in their work. There are a number of dances that touch on the subject of death, and several of Paul's works are dedicated to these young men. I think that whole section of the film helps you understand the closeness, the real feeling of 'family,' that runs through that company of dancers. I mean, when Paul starts talking about their deaths, we actually see him cry. For a moment, you see him as a real, feeling person."

So, how did Taylor react to seeing his rawest emotions displayed on a

30-foot screen for the whole world to see? "I don't know how he felt about that particular sequence, but after seeing it for the first time, he literally said to me, 'How did you get it all in there?'" Diamond recalled with a laugh. "He makes jokes about it, now that he's seen it a dozen times, but ultimately, I think he likes it."

Although Academy Award voters didn't like "Dancemaker" as much as they did "The Last Days" (which won Best Documentary at this year's ceremonies), Diamond—who is currently working on a

"Great Performances" adaptation of the Broadway hit musical "Crazy For You"—is just pleased it was recognized at all.

"I've already won several awards in my career, but just being nominated for an Oscar is probably the greatest honor I'll ever achieve," Diamond beamed. "It's something you never think could happen to you, not even in your wildest dreams. Are you disappointed when your film doesn't win? Of course. Are you devastated? I wasn't. I mean, I didn't want to jump up and yell, 'Recount,' when it didn't win. I was just thrilled to be there. We've had a great ride with 'Dancemaker,' and an enormous amount of attention. I just hope everybody loves it as much as I do."

Even those people who skip the next big stock car event at the Astrodome to come see "Dancemaker?"

"Especially those guys!" Diamond declared. "Like I said, I made this film for every man, woman and child that likes to go to the movies."

"When they see it, I know they'll appreciate it...maybe they'll go see it when they can't get into the new 'Star Wars.' 'Dancemaker' certainly has just as much fighting and choreography going on!"

INFO

Dancemaker

Opens April 30
Landmark River Oaks Theater
2009 West Gray
713-524-2175

The Century's best gay flicks

Century from page 15

independent gay love story, "Parting Glances." Packed full of wit, drama, and most importantly, heart and soul, "Parting Glances" is one of the first films dealing with AIDS that gave the ravaging disease of the 20th Century a human face. And what the indie feature may lack in production values is sufficiently made-up by the heart-warming performances of John Bolger, Richard Ganoung and a very young Steve Buscemi. A must see!

★ "The Boys In The Band" (1970): A gay classic—period. And, one directed by William Friedkin, the man who would later go on to create such celluloid masterpieces as "The Exorcist" and "The French Connection," too. In possibly the most intimate film of his career, Friedkin presented film-goers of the early-70s with a group of homosexual men that transcended the limp-wristed, sissified, queeny stereotypes that had dominated Hollywood features up until that time. "The Boys In The Band" was a small step for queer cinema, but a giant leap in the fight for gay acceptance.

★ "Bound" (1996): How could a pair of straight film-making brothers come up with one of the most erotic, smart, sleek and hip lesbian films of all-time? Easy, by cleverly coming up with the idea of writing and directing a nail-biting heist flick where its central characters are two women in love. One of the ways The Wachowski Brothers accomplished this momentous feat was by casting Jennifer Tilly ("Bullets Over Broadway") and Gina Gershon ("Showgirls") as the pair of ladies lusting after each other and \$2 million dollars of the Mob's money. Their performances in "Bound" are what legends are made of.

★ "Longtime Companion" (1990): Between "Parting Glances" and "Philadelphia" there was "Longtime Companion," Hollywood's first real attempt to market a film about the devastation AIDS was having not only on the gay community, but inhabitants of planet Earth. And, luckily, it was a noble and artistically successful effort on their part. This heart-breaking ensemble piece (which features Bruce Davison, Campbell Scott and Dermot Mulroney, to name a few of its high-profile actors) traces the lives and subsequent deaths of a group of gay friends infected with the HIV virus. But, "Longtime Companion" is not a completely maudlin saga, it's also a hopeful, life-affirming call to arms—a cinematic battle cry to become involved in the fight against the disease.

★ "Beautiful Thing" (1996): You can always count on our British cousins to make the most intelligent, true-to-life films about the gay experience. "Beautiful Thing" is one of the best examples of that remarkable skill. This charming (sometimes gritty) story of two young, working class English teens (newcomers Glen Berry and Scott Neal) who fall in love with one another, despite insurmountable odds, is probably the best gay coming-of-age film ever made—from either side of the Atlantic. It'll make you laugh, it'll make

you cry...it'll make you wish you were born a Brit!

★ "Gods And Monsters" (1998): Having just snagged an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay and named the Best Picture of 1998 by many of the nation's leading critics (including this humble one), "Gods And Monsters," the fictional account of the final days of gay director James Whale ("Frankenstein," "Bride Of Frankenstein"), is the little gay film that could. Made on a minuscule \$2 million dollar budget, based on a gay novel by a gay author ("Father Of Frankenstein"), written for the screen and directed by a gay director (Bill Condon), produced by a gay media icon (horror-meister Clive Barker) and starring the openly gay British actor Ian McKellan, "Gods And Monsters" had everything going against it in terms of it escaping the dreaded "gay ghetto" label. But mainstream moviegoers and industry folk can sometimes sense artistic greatness, even when it is buried under prejudice and misconception. Looking for another label to attach to "Gods And Monsters?" "Exceptional" would probably be the most suitable.

★ "Love And Human Remains" (1993): This Canadian import starts out as bright, humorous study of a gay man's (Thomas Gibson) refusal to commit to any meaningful relationship, and his female roommate's experimentation with a lesbian love affair. Midway through the film, however, the story takes on a much darker, more sinister tone. Rapes and murders are being committed, and somehow, the roommates are connected. But how? "Love And Human Remains" is an engrossing gay thriller, full of non-stop twists and turns.

★ "My Beautiful Laundrette" (1986): In one of his earliest film appearances, screen heart-throb Daniel Day-Lewis shines as a tough London street punk who falls for a young, up-and-coming Pakistani businessman (Gordon Warneke). Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Stephen Frears, "My Beautiful Laundrette" was originally made for British television, but stateside, film distributors decided to release the off-beat romance in U.S. theaters. A thoughtful and wise decision. Actually, damn-near unbelievable, when you consider some of those same guys green-lit "The Waterboy."

★ "Swoon" (1992): The telling of the senseless 1924 murder of a young boy by two middle-class, gay, Jewish lovers—Leopold and Loeb—had previously been attempted in the films "Rope" and "Compulsion." Neither, though, came close to dissecting the real reasons behind the crime nor the true intensity of the men's love for one another. "Swoon" did. Featuring chilling performances by Daniel Schlachet and Craig Chester as the infamous kidnapers and murderers, "Swoon" is dark, dangerous and curiously sexy.

★ "Prick Up Your Ears" (1987): A no-hold-barred look at the life and death of gay '60s British playwright Joe Orton. Wildly sexual and devilishly funny, "Prick Up Your Ears" contains two extraordinary motion picture performances: Gary Oldman as the kinky and promiscuous Orton and Alfred Molina as his jealous and mentally unstable lover. Their portrayals as the star-crossed lovers are mesmerizing and

unforgettable, making "Prick Up Your Ears" a complete tour-de-force!

★ "Another Country" (1984): A hit on London's West End (that town's equivalent of Broadway), this film adaptation of the Julian Mitchell play stars gay actor Rupert Everett as the notorious homosexual British spy Guy Burgess. (Definitely an inspired bit of casting, to say the least.) Focusing on his younger days spent in the arms of his male schoolmates, "Another Country" paints a searing portrait of a gay man embittered so deeply by the England's hypocritical upper-crust educational system that he becomes a traitor against his own country. Thought-provoking and sensual, "Another Country" is a film worth owning.

The Write-Ins:

★ "Salome's Last Dance" (1987): Director Ken Russell ("Tommy," "The Devils") gained his reputation for wild, over-the-top filmmaking for good reason. Unconcerned with silly little industry annoyances like test audiences or box office receipts, the visionary auteur has often gone where no director has gone before. Bored with his own screenplays, in 1987, Russell decided to tackle a classic, of sorts—Oscar Wilde's banned play "Salome." But, in a stroke of sheer brilliance, he offered us more than just a performance of the play itself. In "Salome's Last Dance," we also get the dandy Wilde in the flesh. Absolutely daring and delicious.

★ "Querelle" (1982): For Rainer Werner Fassbinder, unarguably one of Germany's greatest directors, when it came to sex, what did love have to do with it? At least that's the approach the gay director took when he began "Querelle," his final film (he died of a drug-induced stroke, shortly before its release). Based on Jean Genet's book about a handsome and very horny sailor (played by Brad Davis, who would pass away a few years later from AIDS), "Querelle" is Fassbinder's most homosexually-explicit film of his brilliant, yet short, career. Looking for sex in all the wrong places? Watch "Querelle."

★ "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" (1971): Jaws dropped when '70s audiences witnessed Peter Finch's character, who had the hots for Glenda Jackson's boyfriend, Murray Head, exchanged a deep kiss with the young stud in director John Schlesinger's absorbing adult drama. One of the first mainstream motion pictures to pick apart the sexual politics and dynamics behind bi-sexuality and homosexuality, this startling character study won kudos from critics and audiences alike, making it of 1971's biggest box office hits.

★ "Streamers" (1983): Even before our boys reached the jungles of Viet Nam, death was always lurking right around the corner. In Robert Altman's brutal adaptation of David Rabe's award-winning Broadway play, gay lust and male sexual confusion wreaks havoc on the lives of the men (Matthew Modine and Mitchell Lichtenstein) of a training camp for the 83rd Airborne Division. Forget "Platoon" or "Born On The Fourth Of July," with "Streamers,"



Robert Altman has crafted the ultimate Viet Nam tragedy.

★ "Suddenly, Last Summer" (1959): What do you get when you mix Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift and Katherine Hepburn in a film written by Gore Vidal, based on Ms. Tennessee Williams' play about cousin Sebastian, a rich, gay New Orleans socialite who is raped and cannibalized by a group of young, poor, foreign hustlers? The brilliantly campy "Suddenly, Last Summer." Since it was made while the censors and the Catholic Church (which denounced the film) still ruled Tinsel Town, ol' cousin Sebastian's sexual preference could not be referred to openly, therefore, director Joseph Mankiewicz did his darned best to make sure you knew the film's main course was bent (often with hilarious results). And, the fact that gay-boy Monty Clift plays the movie's love interest only adds to the fun.

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“Quote unquote”

“They’re freaks. They were in the ‘Trenchcoat Mafia,’ and that’s something around our school that we consider freaks. ... Nobody really liked them, just cause they... the majority of them were gay. So everyone would make fun of them.”

—Ben Oakley, an angry sophomore from the Columbine High School soccer team, visiting the memorials set up for students killed in last Tuesday’s shootings, talking Thursday about the teen gunmen, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.



“It was hell... pure hell. ... I’m not saying what they did was okay. But I know what it’s like to be cornered, pushed day after day.”

—An unidentified member of the “Trenchcoat Mafia” at Columbine High School, to the *Denver Post*. The friend said that, like others in the group, he had been called “faggot” by the school’s athletes, who bashed him into lockers and threw rocks at him on his bike as he rode home.

“He said, ‘Okay, now comes the truth or dare part: Are you positive or negative?’ And I said, ‘I’m positive.’ And he said, ‘I appreciate your honesty.’ And I said, ‘What about you?’ And he said, ‘I’m negative.’ ... He’s one of the few people who ever point-blank asked me in a situation like that.”

—A gay man named Paul, in an interview with the *San Francisco Chronicle* about how gay men are no longer asking about HIV status before having sex.

“[The Millennium March on Washington is] a great waste of time and energy. It’ll have zero effect of a positive sort. Politicians don’t look at national marches. They care if there are people in their districts that are talking to them. It ignores what we need our people to do, which is to get our people to vote and lobby and be involved in their own areas.”

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., to the Michigan gay newspaper *Between The Lines*, April 1.

“Writing is like working out with weights to me. If I lose one day, I’m disturbed and everything is wobbly.”

—Gay author John Rechy to the *New York Blade News*, April 2.

“Lou Sheldon is an idiot.”

—Lesbian California Assemblymember and former TV star Sheila James Kuehl after conservative Rev. Lou Sheldon said her bill AB 222 “should be called AB 666.” The measure, which passed out of committee this month, bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in public schools.



“[A]ll of the sudden he said he was gay and wanted a piece of me. While he was ‘comming [sic] out of the closet’ he grabbed my nuts and licked my ear! Being a verry [sic] drunk homophobic [sic] I flipped out and began to pistol whip the fag with my gun, ready at hand.”

—Aaron McKinney, one of the men charged with the murder of Matthew Shepard, in an undated letter allegedly written from his jail cell to the wife of a fellow inmate.

“What do you know about Gordon Brown? ... Is he gay? We need to nail him... After several minutes of banter the mood of the meeting was that for our purposes Gordon ought to be gay but maddeningly, we have no evidence of any kind to suggest that he is gay. Bah.”

—Gyles Brandreth, a former conservative member of the British Parliament, on efforts by his party to “smear” Gordon Brown, a member of Prime Minister Tony Blair’s cabinet, with rumors that he’s gay, as told in Brandreth’s diaries, “Breaking the Code.”

“We’re definitely going to explore the dating scene next year. But nothing this year. I’m so glad that we’re not rushing into it because it wouldn’t be interesting.”

—Kerr Smith who plays gay teen Jack McPhee on TV’s “Dawson Creek,” to *TV Guide*, April 10.



“Like it’s the first time you’ve seen my boobs!”

—Lesbian comedian Lea DeLaria to Rosie O’Donnell on Rosie’s talk show April 9 after Rosie mentioned seeing Lea perform topless in Paul Rudnick’s Broadway show, “The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told.”

“Who except a reprobate would attempt to honor or lend respect to sodomy, behavior that God has condemned? Let it be noted here that President Clinton, who has committed a form of sodomy with Monica Lewinsky, has also stood up for

sodomites’ ‘rights.’”

—Jack Mayberry, from Sheridan, Ark., in a letter to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* newspaper.

Community Calendar

► Friday, April 30

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cousin's 8 p.m. to midnight. Inergy 8 p.m. to midnight. Evolution's (Galveston) 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Houston Tennis Club at 7:30 p.m. 713-864-8468.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Lesbian Avengers. Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Positive Art Workshop, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Mishpachot Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Co Dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. At MCCR. 713-861-9149.
Healing Eucharist. 7 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral. 1117 Texas Ave. 713-222-2593.

► Saturday, May 1

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Toyz Disco 9 p.m. to midnight, Pec's (Galveston) 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Visual Arts Alliance. 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.
Rainbow Fishing Club meets. 713-526-7070.
Dignity mass at 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary at 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Pet Adopt-a-thon. 11 a.m. 713-523-0918.

► Sunday, May 2

The Women's Group. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders, a bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
FrontRunners. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.
Lone Star Volleyball plays. 281-878-4629.
Houston Tennis Club. 10:30 a.m. 713-864-8468.
Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I at 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II at 8:55 a.m.; Education hour at 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 a.m. 713-528-6756.
Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. 713-526-5200.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Sunday School for children. 4305 Lillian. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org. Houston Mission Church. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Baptist Church. Service at 1:30 p.m.; education hour at 3 p.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. Sunday school at 9:40 a.m. 713-526-1017.
MCCR. Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 402 Church St. in Galveston. Service at 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult

forum at 10 a.m. Service at 11 a.m. and noon. 1504 Wirt. 7713-686-5876.
Pet Adopt-a-thon. 11 a.m. 713-523-0918.

► Monday, May 3

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.
Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.
Outpatient Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group. 713-526-1017.
Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
AIDS Caregiver's Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.
HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project Park Plaza visitation. 713-861-1800.
AIDS Foundation Houston. Free creative writing class at 3 p.m. 713-623-6796.
FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Texas Medical Center Lambda. 5 p.m. 713-523-5539.
Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m. Autry House, 6265 Main.
Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. 6 p.m. Guest Speaker Frank Billingsley. 713-944-2306.

► Tuesday, May 4

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Club Houston 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m., 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.
Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037
AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.
PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Kolbe Projects. Park Plaza Visitation. 713-861-1800.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Love, Lust and Intimacy. Discussion group at 7 p.m. 713-524-2374.
MCCR. Tuesday night program at 7 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Maranatha Fellowship MCC. Home groups meet for fellowship, sharing God's word and prayer. 713-528-6756.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. The Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
HIV support group. For men over 50. 7:30 p.m. Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne.
Love, Lust & Intimacy. Improving communication and intimacy in relationships. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Week. General meeting. 7 p.m. 713-529-6979.
Lesbian Health Initiative. 7 p.m. 701 Richmond.

► Wednesday, May 5

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams to people with HIV. 713-520-2000.
Houston Pride Band. Practices at Dignity Houston. 713-524-0218.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 p.m. 713-864-8468.
Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.
Ongoing Mixed Living in Process. Group for men and women. 713-622-7250.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.
Free Yoga classes. 7 p.m. 713-965-9642.
Bering Spiritual Support Group. 6:45 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 5 p.m. to 8

p.m. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. Free from AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
Rainbow Ranglers. 8 p.m. at the BRB.
Lambda Rollerskating Club. Skating at 8 p.m. 713-933-5818.
Thomas Street Health Center Council. 2 p.m. 713-902-2231.
Healing and Happiness Through Wellness. 7 p.m. 713-623-6796.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Bible study at 12:30 p.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
MCCR. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.; service at 7 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 7:30 p.m. 713-520-7847
Maranatha Fellowship MCC. Home groups meet for fellowship, sharing God's word and prayer. 713-528-6756.
Kolbe Project. Healing Service at 8 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Healing and Happiness Through Wellness. 7 p.m. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713-623-6796.
Rainbow Roller Skating. 8 p.m. Skateworld Northwest, 9514 Anderson Mill Road.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Mary's 4 to 8 p.m.; Nighthawks 8 p.m. to midnight. Mela's 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. General meeting. 7:30 p.m. 713-521-1000.

► Thursday, May 6

Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m. 713-225-9411.
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
Living in Process Groups. For gay men. 713-622-7250.
HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center, 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Outpatient Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center. 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center. 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Meditation and Chanting Group. 7 p.m. 713-942-0923.

HIV Affected. CASA. 7 p.m. 713-796-2272.
HIV Survivor Support Group. 7 p.m., 2929 Unity Drive. 713-782-4050.
Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
HIV Prevention Community Planning Group. 9 a.m. 713-794-9251.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.
Montrose Ice Picks. Skating. 8 p.m. 713-629-1432.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.
Community Gospel. Choir practice. 6:30 p.m.; service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Kolbe Project. Ecumenical outreach to gays. 7 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Montrose Ice Picks. 8 p.m. Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer. 713-629-1432.
BiNet Houston. Discussion group at 7:30 p.m. 713-467-7031.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.
Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. BRB 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. 713-520-2000.
Gulf Coast Transgender Community. 7 p.m. 713-780-4282.
BiNet of Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-467-7031.
Lesbian Health Project. 6 p.m. 710 Richmond. 713-529-0037.

► Friday, May 7

Positive Art Workshop, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Rich's 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cousin's 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Gay Alumni Noon Group. 1 p.m. Guest Speaker. The Montrose Library. 713-622-6918.
Moving Forward. DiverseWorks. 2 p.m. 713-228-0914.
 To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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Classifieds

Announcements

Seeking Women for Motorcycling Group

Starting a group for day and weekend trips • No Rules....Just Ride! • Make, Model, & Size not important. • Call Jettie at 281.980.7478.

Bienvenue Theatre Audition Notice

Auditions for David Dillon's play, "PARTY" will be held on Sunday, May 2, 1999, 7:00pm, 3722 Washington Avenue. Needed: 7 male actors, ages 20-30. This is a gay comedy. It contains adult situations and nudity. Audition appointment and information, call 713.426.2626.

Ryan White Planning Council PUBLIC HEARING

Ryan White Planning Council for Houston Area HIV Services needs your input on service priorities for our HIV/AIDS Community. Let your voice be heard at the Metropolitan Multi-Purpose Center, Thurs., May 27, at 6:00pm. To request child care and/or transportation assistance or to pick up an information packet contact the Ryan White Planning Council Office at 713.572.3724 (There will be a second public hearing regarding allocations in July 99).

Are you a person living with HIV/AIDS?

If so, this is your opportunity to participate in a needs assessment survey. The survey will take about 45 minutes to complete. Come to The Hollyfield Foundation at 2700 Albany (Albany & Fairview). • Noon to 6:00pm, Monday, May 3rd. • Your voice counts. Get paid for your opinion. • All participants will receive: \$15.00 Cash, Refreshments, and Chance to win a grand prize or one of several other prizes. • Join in a confidential survey sponsored by the Houston Planning Council and Consortium and help plan for HIV and AIDS services that will be offered in the future. Your input will have direct impact on the types of services offered in the coming year. • To sign-up or for more information call: Christopher Schmitt at 713.743.8143.

Houston Area Community Organizations Encouraged to Apply for Grants

Grant applications currently are being accepted for consideration by the sponsoring organizations of

The Human Race, a city-wide event scheduled for October 10. The Human Race, sponsored by Holocaust Museum Houston, Enron and the Linda and Ken Lay Family will raise funds for local organizations whose efforts include promoting better understanding and respect between diverse communities in Houston. Grant applications will be accepted through May 1. Recipients will be determined by June 1. All non-profit organizations whose programs encourage education of cultural diversity can apply. To receive a grant application, organizations are encouraged to call the museum at 713.942.8000, ext. 112.

PWA Coalition desperately needs the following: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, and small appliances. Available for pick-ups. Call Wilson or Kerry at 713.522.5428.

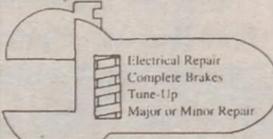
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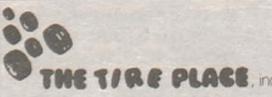
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HIV Positive? Need to work? We can help! Nightingale Employment Services (Division of NADC) is a non-profit organization that provides job seeking, skills training and placement assistance for your job search. For Houston & surrounding counties call 713.981.1543.

Customer Service

Customer Service Assistant for an insurance agency. Entry level position. Learn computer network processing, handle renewal billings, filing, phones & general office work. We offer excellent group health benefits and potential for advancement. Call Rob at 713.661.7700.

Are you a cruise specialist or other niche travel specialist? We are looking for a dynamic sales person with lots of ideas. Fax resume to 713.237.8294 or call Rick at 713.228.1113.

MALE MODELS

Needed for XXX gay web site. • Seeking Lean & Muscular MEN •18+ • Leave Message @ 713.443.9078.

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Employment Specialist

Nightingale Adult Day Center is hiring an Employment Specialist to help people with disabilities find jobs. • Sales or placement experience necessary. • 2 years of college required. • Knowledge of HIV/AIDS Services required. • Bilingual a plus. • Please FAX resume to 713.995.6376, Attn.: Human Resources.

HOUSTON VOICE

Houston Voice is seeking a freelance news and several freelance news photographers. If you have experience writing hard news stories/features or if you have a photography background and want to work in photojournalism, Houston Voice is looking for you. Degree is not necessary. Positions could lead to full-time position. If you can produce to deadline, are self-motivated and work with the highest regard to accuracy, please send your resume and samples of work (send copies not originals) to: Anthony Connolly, Editor; Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, TX 77006-3942. Deadline is April 30, 99. Please no phone calls, qualified applicants will be notified for an interview.

BASIC BROTHERS

We are now accepting applications for Full/Part-time retail sales. Prior experience and computer knowledge a plus, but not necessary. Join our team and receive one of the best benefit packages around (health, life and dental). Apply in person Mon.-Fri., 10am-4pm at 1232 Westheimer. No phone calls, please. •

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The Homeless Pet League will be hosting its annual fund-raiser on Friday, May 14, 1999, in celebration of its 10th Year of helping Houston's stray and abandoned animals. This event honors those who have helped HPPL. The event will be held at the Houston City Club from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Advanced tickets are \$25.00 per person and can be purchased by calling 713.862.PETS(7387).

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• Downstairs flat, 2/2, W/D connections, \$29,900

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Adorable Heights bungalow • 2-1-1, lots of charm • \$80,000 • Call Alan Morlan at Swilley-Hudson & Assoc. 713.459.1705.

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AHCH is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit and needs volunteers & groups to donate or help raise money to be able to provide safe, low cost housing for PWA's from our community. Please send checks in any amount payable to AHCH to 117 Taum Ave., Houston, TX 77006-3213 or call 713.521.1613.

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AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
___ HIV Services & Education
___ Volunteers
___ Non-Profit Organizations

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$7:

___ Announcements
___ Auditions
___ Employment-Seeking
___ Pets-Free or Lost & Found
___ Roommates
___ Personal Websites

BUSINESS RATE \$12:

___ Auto Repair
___ Business Opportunities
___ Entertainment
___ Help Wanted
___ Help Wanted-Seeking
___ Home Improvement
___ Items For Sale
___ Licensed Massage
___ Moving Services
___ Professional Services
___ Real Estate For Rent
___ Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ # OF ISSUES: _____

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

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

TEXT: _____

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Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

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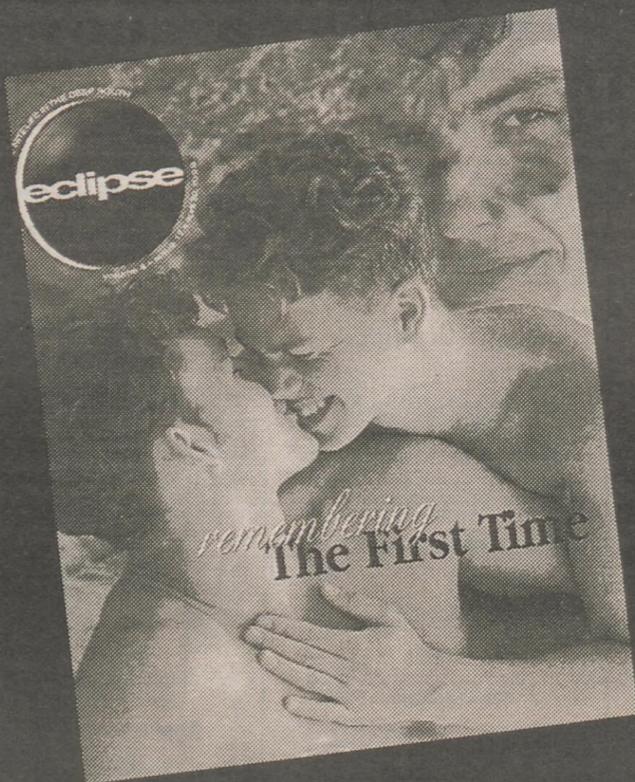
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you've got male

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by JOSEPH MOLINA

April 30 - May 6



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

Happy Birthday Taurus! This week, the Full Moon occurs in your opposite sign, temporarily causing you to lose your personal sense of self control and forget your future goals. Well, Taurus it's party time, take a few days off work, drive out to the country or to the beach, kick back and relax.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

Are you almost ready Gemini? Less than one month till your birthday season, has the anticipation begun to hit you? Romance will abound and although it is not quite your birthday season yet the party is sure to begin.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

The Full Moon in the sign of Scorpio, promotes some heavy thoughts. Issues about money, your security and living situations will begin to bombard your psyche. What do you want for your life now? How do you foresee your future? This lunar phase triggers an emotional roller coaster assisting you to open up, deal, and resolve these tense inner matters.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUG. 23)

The cosmic cycle you find yourself in may not be the easiest and could produce some hard luck. You could be motivated to be social, play and party with friends. Cutting ties, the separation could be what is causing your anxiety. Learning to let go people, situations, and places you will handle this cycle so much the better.



Virgo (AUG. 24 — SEPT. 23)

With a pressing need to follow a new direction, change in your life is inevitable. Once you redirect your mental energy toward this end, you may find a renewed sense of hope befalls you and you can see a means out of all your present difficulties.



Libra (SEPT. 24 — OCT. 23)

This week you may be called upon to decide a path in relation to love or friendship. Someone could put you in a corner and you may have no other choice but to give in. A friend may ask you to stay with them for a while or you could find someone asking you for a loan.



Scorpio (OCT. 24 — NOV. 22)

You need some private time. Take a few days off work and turn off the phone. Mars leaves your sign at the end of the week and you should feel as though a tone of weight has been lifted off you.



Sagittarius (NOV. 23 — DEC. 22)

Discovering love and finding fulfillment in relationships at times can be so obvious that one is blind to its reality. This week, you have entered a twilight zone where attractions are heightened, your libido is flaming, and you have an irresistible need for attention. Love is in the air, can you smell it? Get set, get ready, romance is everywhere.



Capricorn (DEC. 23 — JAN. 20)

Time to organize your house, put your finances in order, and get your mind set on your future goals. With the aid of the Sun pushing you forward, now is the best time to initiate business plans and career endeavors. Although, one thing to keep in mind—completion is of utmost importance so finish everything you start or else you won't be finishing anything else.



Aquarius (JAN. 21 — FEB. 19)

What a karmic cycle this week continues to be. The full moon in Scorpio stimulates all sorts of events through out your life. You may find your life slows down and you are given time to think. Love may be something that you push away in favor of solitude and introspection.



Pisces (FEB. 20 — MARCH 20)

The full moon encourages you to take some time to enjoy the simple things in life. Partake in the beauty of nature and the serenity of the ocean. You could find yourself in church or meditating with a group of friends. This cycle is a corrective cycle, placing too much stress on yourself, you're liable to lose it and find yourself taking a spontaneous trip or week long party.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

Sacrificing and giving in to the will of the universe may be your only path out of difficulties. Treading forward, the life you have been leading is left behind and you are put on notice that your future is in the making.

Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic for over 15 years, can be reached at astralwind@astralwind.com.



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Spring reading round-up

► Lots of new gay- and lesbian-oriented books are in the stores (or on their way) to keep you company at the pool this spring and summer

by DAVID GOLDMAN

Spring and summer are big seasons in the book business. After all, everyone's looking for just the right read for amusement at the pool or beach.

And it's an even bigger time of year in the gay and lesbian book business. Publishers of gay books see the annual summertime round of Pride festivals across the nation and in the South, as the ideal tie-in for their new titles.

Now on the shelves

The new releases for spring and summer will join many gay-oriented titles that are already available.

- "Mortal Love: Selected Poems 1971-1998" is the latest book from Atlanta author and psychotherapist Franklin Abbott. The volume is something of a departure for Abbott, whose three previous books have been anthologies about gender. But Abbott has a long history with the poetic form—he was the poetry editor for *RFD* and *Changing Men*. Abbott was also an early member of the Radical Faerie Movement.

- In "The Truth Shall Set You Free," Sally Lowe Whitehead describes the long, painful process of learning, after a 20-year marriage producing six sons, that her husband was gay.

- The words of African-Americans from RuPaul to James Baldwin to Josephine Baker appear in "Respecting the Soul: Daily Reflections for Black Lesbians and Gays." Its author, Keith Boykin, was previously noted for "One More River to Cross."

- The millions of readers who were captivated by the characters in E. Lynn Harris' "Invisible Life" and "Just As I Am" will want to pick up his latest, "Abide With Me," which concludes the trilogy.

- Also adding to a successful series is Steven Saylor. "Rubicon" is the new addition to his Roma Sub Rosa series, a reflection of his lifelong fascination with ancient Roman culture. In this edition, Gordianus must find the killer of Pompey's cousin and protégé.

- "Blood Moon," the latest from Darwin Porter ("Razzle-Dazzle," "Butterflies in Heat") is a thriller about the adventures of some sexy, dangerous Southerners. Protagonists Gene and Buck have been called "two of the hottest men in literature today."

- From her humble origins in a 'zine, the protagonist of Dianne Dimassa's "Hothead Poison" has become a bona fide lesbian icon. Now two previous collections have been combined in a single volume—"The Complete Hothead Poison: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist." If you dig a heavily armed lesbian with a feline accomplice and a lot of scores to settle, this is your book.

- You won't be taking "Women Together" to the beach, but only because it's too large and pretty. Definitely a coffee table book, it features essays by Mona Holmlund and photos by Cyndy Warwick documenting 29 lesbian couples.

- Cynthia Thayer's debut novel "Strong for Potatoes" is drawing comparison to the works of Dorothy Allison. The book is the story of a Maine farm girl who turns early tragedy into

happiness.

- In the title work of "Salt Water and Other Stories," Barbara Wilson tells of two women with lovers at home who find themselves drawn together while attending a conference. Wilson's "Blue Windows" took the 1998 Lambda Literary Award for best lesbian autobiography. In

- "The Survivor's Guide to Sex," Staci Haines offers women tips on enjoying sex in spite of the painful legacy of past sexual abuse.

- Even though lesbian pregnancy is now a commonplace part of gay life, Rachel Pepper's "The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians" claims to be the first comprehensive book on the topic.

- Stuart Howell Miller was just trying to be honest when he came out to his fundamentalist family in 1992. But rather than accept him, they were determined to pray him straight. Miller relates his personal struggle in "Prayer Warriors: The True Story of a Gay Son, His Fundamentalist Christian Family, and Their Battle for His Soul." See our review, on page 18.

Coming soon to stores near you

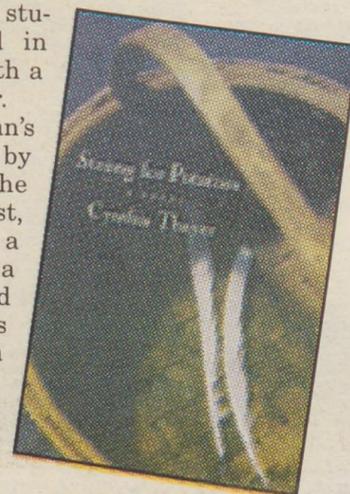
- Fans of Alison Kaine will want to pick up her new "Just a Little Lie"—it's the latest in her Kate Allen series.

- One of the most bizarre and decadent crimes of the '90s takes center stage in "Disco Bloodbath: A Fabulous but True Tale of Murder in Clubland" by James St. James. The book documents the downfall of Michael Alig, celebrated entertainment entrepreneur who was convicted of murdering a New York drug dealer. St. James is a veteran of the scene he documents.

- "Burning Girl," the just-released new novel by Ben Neihart, tells the story of a working class student who gets involved in three-way relationship with a wealthy brother and sister.

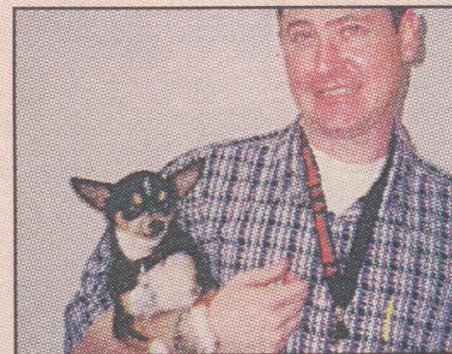
- Also just out is "Po Man's Child," the debut novel by Marci Blackman. As the novel opens, its protagonist, who has just sustained a serious "S&M" injury in a scene with her lover and learned that her father has died, checks herself into a psychiatric hospital.

See you at the pool. Remember, books are not waterproof!



Occasions

Pet of the Week: Michael White holds his precious Chihuahua, Bruno.



Holy Unions

Clyde Williams and Vickie McClanahan celebrate their love of 10 years by getting married on May 8.

Clyde and Vickie

Get Well Hugs

Keith of the Lazy J is in the hospital. Our prayers are with him.



Keith

Back To Work

Welcome back Will of Mary's, naturally. Will's recovery from heart surgery has sent him back to work behind the bar.



Will of Mary's

Birthdays



Ed Glasser

The new Mr. Prime Choice Ed Glasser celebrated his birthday on April 27. He also recently became a grandfather.

Ex-bar fly "Patty Duke" celebrates her birthday (sober this year) on May 8. Stop in the Montrose Kroger and give him a birthday hug.



Patty Duke

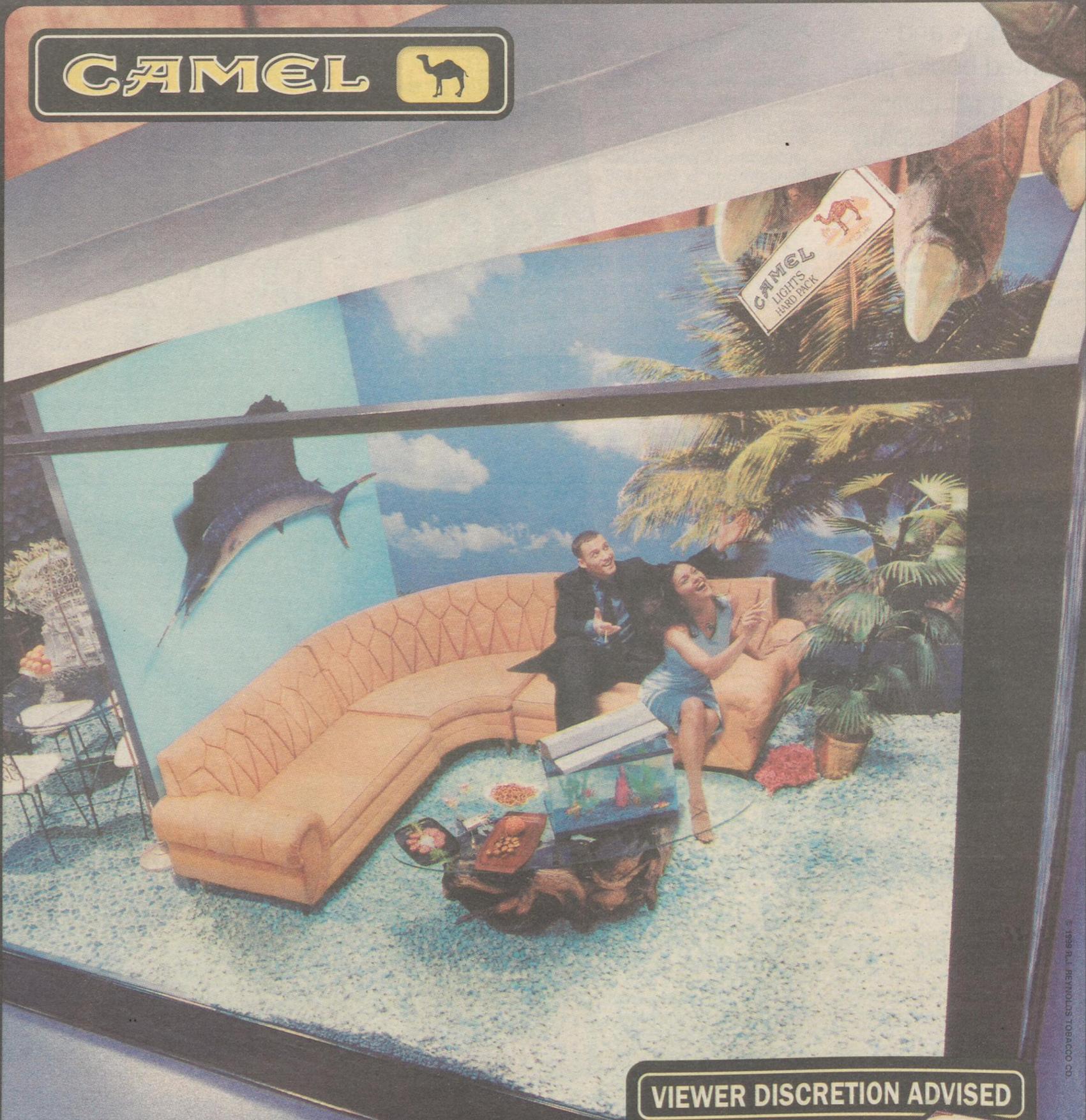
Ryan (hangs at the Outpost) celebrated his birthday on April 23.

In Memory

Gary Peaden, the life partner, of eight years, to Paul Smith, died at St. David's Hospital in Austin on April 23. Following cremation, a memorial service was held at Trinity United Methodist Church. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Waterloo Counseling Center, 1524 South IH 25, Austin, Texas 78704.

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