



HOUSTON

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Louisiana Song Bird page 17

JANUARY 16TH 1998 • www.houstonvoice.com • ISSUE 899

## VOICE EXCLUSIVE

### Mayor confirms he'll issue job protection for gay city workers

by J.C. MICHELAK and TERRY MURPHY

After just eight days in office, Houston Mayor Lee Brown took time to give *Houston Voice* an exclusive interview in his City Hall office, during which he confirmed that he will issue an executive order adding sexual orientation to the anti-discrimination policy in the hiring of city employees.

"I will be doing that," Mayor Brown told the *Voice*. "That is a commitment that I will carry forth."

With an outer office full of TV crews and other people wanting a piece of the mayor's time, Brown sat with *Voice* reporters to discuss campaign promises and issues of particular interest to the gay community in Houston. Among them: his commitment to issue the employment non-discrimination

executive order and a promised liaison between his office and Houston's gay community.

Seeming relaxed and in control of a busy staff juggling the myriad tasks involved in the transfer of mayoral power, Brown chuckled as he was asked when that executive order would be drafted and signed. "Well, I've been in office one week and two days," he said, smiling. "Let me get things going and then I can get to some of the issues. It will be done."

"Just today, I gave someone the assignment to start the process of implementing that," Brown said. "It's going to be done...it's being worked on, but it's not completed yet."

The process involves having the city legal department draw up an executive order and

having the mayor sign it. No approval from city council is needed. Brown assured the *Voice* that his office would give notice when the order signing was imminent.

Brown, 59, has named 200 people to a special transition team that has been given 90 days to completely evaluate all areas of city government and come back to the mayor with a detailed report. That report will shape his administrative and legislative agenda for the next two years, he said. A number of gays and lesbians are included among that 200 ("I know," said the Mayor, smiling. "I appointed them."), and the follow-through on the liaison appointment is part of their charge.

Whether that liaison would be an

See BROWN page 15



Houston Mayor Lee Brown

### '98 Ryan White funding tops \$12.7 million

Increase of more than \$2 million from current funding

by TERRY MURPHY

The Harris County Ryan White Council will have \$12.7 million in federal money for AIDS service programs in 1998, a \$2 million increase over 1997 funding levels.

The newly reconstituted 30-member Council begins the process of distributing those funds with a first-ever retreat Jan. 27. Comprised of 14 HIV-positive members and 16 others, the Council is drafting a new process for assessing needs and distributing funds to the various organizations that provide services and treatments to the county's AIDS/HIV population.

"The demographics [of the infected population] have changed," said Council member Gary Van Ooteghem. "People are living, not dying, and the federal government has encouraged us to change the way we do

See WHITE page 14

### Fired lesbian lawyer loses in U.S. Supreme Court

Justices let stand Ga. attorney general's anti-gay move in widely watched case

by LAURA BROWN  
Special to the Houston Voice

Almost seven years after being fired for planning a Jewish commitment ceremony with her partner, attorney Robin Shahar has reached the end of the line in her case against former Georgia Attorney General Michael Bowers, now a Republican candidate in the 1998 governor's race.

The United States Supreme Court announced Jan. 12 that it would not hear her case, leaving Shahar no further legal resort. By its refusal, the Court let stand an 11th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision that Shahar's "rights had not been violated" because "given the culture and traditions of the Nation, considerable doubt exists that [Shahar] has a constitutionally protected federal right to be 'married' to another woman."

"I'm very disappointed in the Supreme Court," Shahar said on the day of the announcement. "Anyone who has read the 11th Circuit's decision knows that it was

based on prejudice, and I think it is the kind of decision that our society will look back at and feel very embarrassed.

"There is no further step from here, and that hasn't sunken in yet," she said. "It feels a little like stepping off a moving sidewalk—it's a bit of a jolt and I haven't quite caught my balance."

Bill Crane, communications director for Bower's gubernatorial campaign, said his candidate would not comment personally on the Supreme Court's action. "Mr. Bowers' comment on the decision is that he is pleased that this matter is over from a legal perspective," Crane said. "He stands behind his earlier actions and is pleased that the Supreme Court saw no reason to set aside or review the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision."

Shahar's attorneys had argued that the 11th Circuit Court "did not sufficiently

value Robin's constitutional right to freedom of [intimate and expressive] association" and the case could provide the Supreme Court's "first opportunity to import freedom of association rights to protect a gay or lesbian relationship."

But while Ruth Harlow, lead counsel for Shahar, called the decision "frustrating and disappointing," she said it would not set a negative precedent for future challenges to anti-gay employment discrimination.

"Basically they decided not to hear the case, which is not the same thing as affirming what the 11th Circuit Court did, it's just letting their decision stand as the final one in the case," she said. "Unfortunately for Robin, it has a lot more impact, but in the big scheme of things, it's just the court saying they're not going to look at this case. It's

See SHAHAR page 15

### Remembering Bayard Rustin

*MLK's right-hand-mand was publicly black and publicly gay, but historians have trouble integrating his legacy*

by SHAWN STEWART RUFF

Civil rights leader and King confidant Bayard Rustin—chief architect of the 1963 March on Washington—was never publicly conflicted about his gay and black identities. But historians, when reflecting upon his legacy, seem to choose sides.

As Americans celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 19, historians still struggle with the dual identity of this key player in the Civil Rights Movement. The King family and holiday organizers have embraced Rustin's unique role and unique background, and will again stage an annual rally in his honor as part of the larger King Day activities in Atlanta.

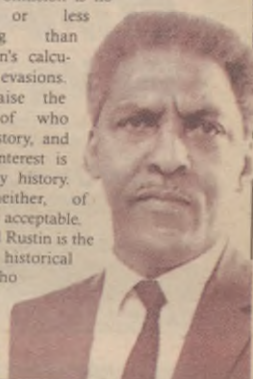
In life, Rustin was both black and gay, always and at the same time, whether the public liked it or not. But historical recognition of him has focused on one aspect to the exclusion of the other, depending, it would seem, on whose interest was best served.

Last year, in a surprisingly inept Rustin biography, *New Yorker* writer Jervis Anderson made very clear that America's black civil rights leadership still hasn't sufficiently matured enough to accept, and be proud of, the truth about one of its great leaders.

At the same time, Charles Kaiser's "The Gay Metropolis," a brilliant history of gay New York, never once even mentions Rustin, who lived most of his life in the city. Kaiser's omission is no more or less appalling than Anderson's calculated evasions. Both raise the issues of who owns history, and whose interest is served by history. And neither, of course, is acceptable.

Bayard Rustin is the type of historical figure who would

See RUSTIN page 14



Friends of Bill—President Clinton blew into Houston Jan. 9 for an education-themed photo opp with newly elected Mayor Lee Brown and U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. Clinton mingled with a crowd of more than 2,000 students and teachers before going to a private fund-raiser for Congresswoman Lee, a supporter of l/g/b/t issues. The event was expected to raise \$200,000 for Lee, who is unopposed in the March election.



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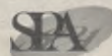
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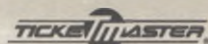
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## Laissez le bon temps...

The Krewe of Olympus kicked off the 1998 Mardi Gras season in Houston with its 12th Night fund-raising event Jan. 7. The city's only Mardi Gras krewe is preparing for its fabulous Krewe Ball, to be held Feb. 7 at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. Queen Olympus XXVII (also known as John Weinland, far right) presided over the 12th Night festivities with (from l. to r.) Ball Capt. Ben Jones, Krewe President Sands Stiefer, Weldon Hickey and Gary McCoy.

## Gay Chamber of Commerce plans casino party bus mixer

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce invites the community to join it for a Happy Hour Party Bus Business and Pleasure Adventure to Grand Casino in Coushatta, La. on Sat., Jan. 17. The bus will leave Jr.'s at 801 Pacific St. at 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15. Call (713) 777-8773 for reservations.

## Gay Lobby to honor supportive legislators

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas will honor 16 members of the Harris County state legislative delegation at a reception Jan. 22.

Legislators who supported equality for lesbian and gay Texans during the 75th Legislative Session last year will be recognized by the group. State Representative Debra Danburg will receive the Naylor Lifetime Achievement Award for her "outstanding job representing us in Austin an here at home," said event co-chair Shelley Porter.

Openly gay Travis County Sheriff Margo Frasier will receive a special Coming Out Award.

The remaining 15 legislators are: State senators Mario Gallegos, Rodney Ellis and John Whitmire, and state representatives Fred Bosse, Scott Hochberg, Ken Yarbrough, Ron Wilson, Sylvester Turner, Kevin Bailey, Senfronia Thompson, Harold Dutton, Gerard Torres, Diana Davila, Garnet Coleman and Jessica Farrar.

The cost of the reception, to be held at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd., is \$25. For more information, call (713) 861-8238.

## Crossroads meeting to screen Rev. Mel White video

Rev. Mel White's just-released video—a pointed response to anti-gay televangelists—will be shown at the Jan. 17 Crossroads meeting at 11 a.m.

Rev. White worked as a ghost writer for Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Billy Graham and other prominent evangelical Christians before he came out as a gay man. He currently serves as the minister of justice for the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the nation's largest predominantly gay denomination.

The video, "How Can I Be Sure that God Loves Me, Too?", was filmed before a congregation of the mainstream church in Michigan and is Rev. White's response to those who misuse the Bible to make outcasts of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, according to Johnny Peden, co-founder of Crossroads, and a former Southern Baptist minister.

Crossroads is a confidential, spiritual, educational and social organization for gay and lesbian church workers of all faiths and denominations, and their friends.

Call (713) 681-9082 for more information.

## Montrose Clinic to hold HIV testing marathon Jan. 16

Montrose Clinic will hold its first annual Test for Life, an HIV testing marathon, on Friday, Jan. 16.

The first 300 people who show up will be offered free HIV tests. The event, sponsored by Walgreens and OraSure, will be held from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the clinic, 215 Westheimer. Call (713) 830-3000 for more information.

The clinic tested 258 people on June 27, 1997, during National HIV Testing Day. "We were so impressed by the number of people who took the responsibility to get tested, that we decided to have an event that offered free oral testing for a continuous 15 hours," said Kay Caldwell, executive director of the clinic. "We want to reach more

people with important information concerning their health. We are very grateful to Walgreens and OraSure for underwriting this event. It is only through their generosity that we are able to offer Test for Life."

Testing with OraSure is safe and painless for both those being tested and those who administer the test. A specially treated pad attached to a handle is placed between the client's lower cheek and gum for two minutes. The pad is then placed in a vial and sent to a lab for analysis.

Montrose Clinic is a non-profit, community based agency founded in 1981 to serve people in the Houston area by providing low- or no-cost health, social, educational and research services.

## Ringlaben named Volunteer of the Year

Paul Ringlaben was named Volunteer of the Year at the annual holiday party at Steven's House on Dec. 11, 1997. He works at the AIDS service organization every Monday evening and the business contacts he has brought to the organization have proven most beneficial.

Steven's House is always in need of donations of money and household goods, such as pillows and comforters, kitchen equipment, furniture and televisions, as well as office equipment, such as a photocopier or desks. Call (713) 522-5757 for more information.



### OBITUARY

Barry L. Nye, a resident of Houston for 14 years, died Dec. 23. Born in Malden, Mass., he was a chef at many Houston restaurants, and lived and worked for several years in Florida.

He is survived by a brother, Bob Nye of Brockton, Mass.; sister and brother-in-law, Dottie Ann and Keith James of Portland, Texas; and three nephews and two nieces.

Interment was at Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, where he received full military honors, having served in the Marine Corps. He will be sorely missed by all his loved ones.

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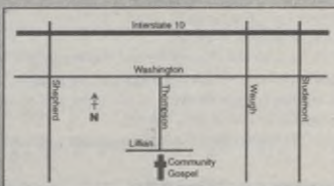
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## REGIONAL

### Austin Area Update

by Steve Labinski

#### Out In Austin

Austin's newest gay bar, the 1920's Club is now open at 918 Congress Ave, exactly one block south of the Capitol. The comfortable, low-key bar promises "martinis, jazz, and a kitchen open all night long." The 1920's Club is in the same location as the now-gone Chicago 20's Cafe, but still serves many items from its food menu. Coming soon—a 100-inch video screen for dance videos.

#### ART

Austin's Mexic-Arte Museum features two art openings this weekend. Conceptual artist Mario Sagradini's work will appear in the main gallery from Jan. 16 to Feb. 28, 1998 with an exhibition entitled *The Purple Land* (La Tierra Purpurea). The exhibition opens Jan. 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission to opening; \$2 during regular hours.

The exhibit is inspired by a book by Uruguayan/English writer W.H. Hudson called "The Purple Land". Sagradini is one of the few artists from Uruguay who lived in a foreign country, and after residing for some time in Italy, returned to Uruguay. His work is a reflection on Uruguayan society and culture, which partakes of memory, reflection, irony, sarcasm, and bitterness.

Sagraadini has exhibited in Europe and South America, and has also studied South American art at the University of Texas at Austin.

Mexic-Arte is also presenting a solo exhibition of works by Cuban-American artist Elizabeth Mesa-Gaido, one of seven artists selected for the 1997 Diversity & Emergence Series. The exhibit runs concurrently with Mario Sagradini: *The Purple Land* in the museum's back gallery space. For more information call 512-482-9373.

Women & Their Work presents an exhibition by Sherry Owens called "This Seed of Space", and runs from Jan 10 to Feb. 14, 1998. Women & Their Work is located at 1710 Lavaca St in downtown Austin.

The Austin Museum of Art-Laguna Gloria presents a retrospective of the paintings, photographs, and videos of William Wegman starting Jan 16th.

show is being produced by a professional, privately owned production company with top-quality cameras and editing equipment, as opposed to some gay TV show efforts around the country that relied on dedicated volunteers working with the sometimes shop-worn resources of cable TV public access stations. Secondly, TriAngle has purchased weekly, regularly scheduled, prime-time, half-hour blocks on Warner Cable Channel 54.

Each weekly episode of "Montrose TV" will air from 8 to 8:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning March 2, he said. Each week thereafter, for the duration of TriAngle's one-year contract with Warner, a new episode will air three times a week.

The content of the show will focus on the people, activities and events that take place in the Montrose area of Houston, according to Baker. Since Montrose is home to the gay and lesbian community, the show will feature segments of interest to gay and lesbian people as well as anyone of any sexuality, religion, race or nationality who lives in the area, he said.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that a broadcaster has agreed to sell air time for a program that will feature the gay and lesbian community on a consistent basis on the same time day," said Baker. Local advertisers will be featured in 30-second spots on the shows, Baker said.

### Lack of contested races means suggests low turnout in Texas primaries in March

HOUSTON (AP) — How can you expect to have much of a turnout when so many major races are uncontested, Texas party officials and election watchers ask.

The answer, they say, is you probably can't expect many voters to show up at the state's upcoming Democratic and Republican primaries.

The races for governor, lieutenant governor or comptroller will only ratify the nominations of candidates who face no opposition or only token opposition.

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Bill White said the trend isn't surprising.

"Both political parties have more of a struggle recruiting high-quality candidates because of the negative, poisonous atmosphere of many campaigns," White told the Houston Chronicle.

"So candidates want to run once in a general election rather than having to endure the possibility of two negative campaigns."

The lack of hotly contested primaries probably means fewer people will bother to vote, University of Houston political scientist Richard Murray said. The Democratic primary likely will have a decent turnout only because of contested races across the state for local offices.

In the governor's race, only Republican Gov. George W. Bush got even token opposition in his primary. Round Rock highway contractor R.C. Crawford is running against Bush on a platform of abolishing the doctrine of sovereign immunity, which prevents citizens from suing the state without the state's permission.

Only one Democrat chose to challenge Bush this year: Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, who first won his office in 1982.

In the contest to replace retiring Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, the major parties are fielding just one candidate each — Comptroller John Sharp, a Democrat, and Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry, a Republican.

Both Sharp and Perry won their current statewide offices in 1990. Perry previously had been in the Texas House, Sharp served as a state railroad commissioner, state senator and a state House member.

The race for the state comptroller's job vacated by Sharp also has just one candidate from each major party — Railroad Commissioner Carole Keeton Rylander for the Republicans and Paul Hobby, son of former Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, for the Democrats.

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### Weekly "Montrose TV" show to feature gay, lesbian life

Auditions for on-air talent slated an. 26

TriAngle Video Productions, a professional, gay-owned television production company, will begin showing a weekly, 30-minute program on cable channel 54 in Houston beginning March 3.

Steve Baker, TriAngle's owner, will hold auditions for on-air talent, including hosts



Steve Baker of "Montrose TV"

and reporters, on Jan. 26. Interested persons should call (713) 523-6302 for an appointment.

According to Baker, two important aspects of the project set "Montrose TV" apart from many previous gay-oriented shows of the past and present. First, the

## Navy defends dismissal of man outed by America Online

BY JOHN DIAMOND  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The e-mail from the senior sailor covered routine matters. But there was something that bothered the recipient. The "screen name" was "Boysrch," presumably meaning, "boy search."

That small clue set in motion a chain of events that led to the dismissal of a 17-year veteran sailor on charges of homosexuality, and to counter charges by gay rights and privacy advocates that the Navy and America Online violated the sailor's privacy and possibly broke the law.

Now supporters of Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh (no relation to the Oklahoma City bomber) said at press time that they had until Jan. 16 to get the Navy to reconsider its decision to honorably discharge McVeigh. (See editorial cartoon, page 8.)

The Navy says the case is a clear-cut violation of the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military. By stating his sexual preference on an online service's computer network, and by using his screen name in an e-mail to someone he knew, McVeigh had publicly acknowledged his homosexuality.

McVeigh says the Navy violated its own rules and plans to appeal his discharge to Navy Secretary John Dalton.

"I find it incredible that such blatant disregard for regulations occurred and then were endorsed by the Navy at higher levels," McVeigh told the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

McVeigh's supporters say it was the Navy that violated the don't-ask, don't-tell policy by asking AOL for information about McVeigh. According to records of McVeigh's discharge proceeding dating from last November, a Navy officer said he called AOL and asked for the full name of a "Tim" listed in the biographical profile page under the screen name "Boysrch."

"I called AOL and talked to a gentleman named Owen at Tech Services," the witness, who was unidentified in the records, said at the hearing. "I said that I am the third party in receipt of a fax and wanted to confirm the profile sheet, who it belonged to. They said it came from Hawaii and that it was from 'Timothy R. McVeigh' on the billing."

Attorney David Sobel, legal counsel for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a Washington-based group that is assisting McVeigh's lawyers, said this conversation may go beyond a possible violation of the don't-ask, don't-tell policy. The Navy, Sobel said, may have obtained evidence about McVeigh illegally when the officer that phoned AOL failed to say he was calling from the Navy.

The 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act bars service providers such as AOL from providing government agencies with information without a search warrant, court order or subpoena. Even though the Navy officer failed to properly identify himself, Sobel said, AOL appears to have violated its own agreement with its customers to give no information to anyone without a search warrant, court order or subpoena.

"What I see as the broader implication of this case is that on-line services handle a lot of personal information and this case shows what happens when it's handled carelessly," Sobel said.

McVeigh, 36, was a senior enlisted man on the USS Chicago, a Los Angeles-class attack submarine, when the inquiry began last year.

Attorneys and officials familiar with the case said it began when McVeigh sent a routine e-mail to a Navy spouse serving as an onshore ombudsman for sailors aboard the Chicago and their spouses. The woman knew McVeigh to be the author of the e-mail, which covered such things as buying presents for Navy children for an upcoming party. But the woman noticed the "Boysrch" screen name. She then went to the profile page in the AOL system that provided more

background information.

There, she saw that the author of the page identified himself as "Tim" from Honolulu and, under marital status, wrote "gay." Under hobbies the profile page listed "driving, boy watching, collecting pictures of other young studs." The woman turned this information over to the Navy, which initiated an investigation.

Kirk Childress of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a Washington-based advocacy group assisting McVeigh, said McVeigh acknowledged the profile page was his during his discharge proceeding, but only after the Navy had presented evidence it had gathered from AOL. Sobel and other advocates for McVeigh said the only evidence presented by Navy prosecutors stemmed from the confirmation AOL provided that McVeigh had authored the profile page.

## Parents of Cunanan victim start memorial scholarship fund

St. Paul, Minn.—Carol and Howard Madson don't want the public to remember their son David only as the second of Andrew Cunanan's five victims.

The Barron, Wis., couple wants people to know that the youngest of their four children loved learning.

That's why the Madsons are establishing two scholarships in their son's honor. They



Carol and Howard Madson

also want to try to create some good from tragedy.

"I don't think we'll ever be the same again. We think about him every day," the elder Madson said.

David Madson, a 33-year-old Minneapolis architect, was "a young man whose character was formed here and who went on to college and who did well in life. And these kids can do the same thing," said his father, a retired hardware store owner.

Over the next decade, \$20,000 will be divided among 30 students from two of their son's alma maters. The money comes from the Madson family and donations from their son's friends.

With the scholarships in place, the Madsons will turn their attention to one of the most troubling facets of their son's death. That is the speculation, which authorities discredit, that Madson might have played a role in the murder of his friend Jeffrey Trail, Cunanan's first victim.

Trail was bludgeoned to death April 27 in Madson's downtown Minneapolis apartment. Madson's body was discovered May 3 in Chicago County, but investigators think Cunanan shot him to death days earlier to eliminate him as a possible witness to Trail's murder.

Cunanan also is blamed for the murders of millionaire Lee Miglin in Chicago on May 3 and cemetery caretaker William Reese in Pennsville, N.J., on May 9. The rampage peaked when Cunanan apparently gunned down fashion designer Gianni Versace on July 15 in Miami Beach.

Cunanan committed suicide on a Miami Beach houseboat where he had been hiding. His body was found July 23.

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## Neb. bishop extends suspension of pro-gay Methodist pastor

Omaha, Neb.—Nebraska United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez on Jan. 9 indefinitely extended the suspension of an Omaha pastor who presided over a marriage between two women last September.

Martinez wasn't specific about how long Rev. Jimmy Creech would be removed from duty. A secretary at the bishop's quarters in Lincoln said Martinez wasn't available for further comment.

"It is my best judgment that additional time will serve the best interests of all, considering the volatility of the climate," Martinez said in a news release.

Creech said the extended suspension wouldn't serve the church.

"I think it will hinder the progress that was being made there," he said. "I hope that people who were supporting the church will continue to give support."

Creech's suspension has split the congregation at First United Methodist Church. Meanwhile, Martinez has been alternately supported and criticized by Methodist clergy members and laity across Nebraska.

Creech performed a union ceremony for two women in September, defying Methodist law and an order from Martinez. In November, Martinez suspended Creech for 60 days.

Martinez said that a review of the situation was moving ahead "in an orderly and deliberate fashion." He expressed confidence that the matter would be resolved as soon as possible.

"I will continue to be in close and continuing conversation with the pastoral leadership at First United Methodist Church, the Staff Parish Relations Committee and with Rev. Creech," Martinez said.

Church council president Bill Rathbun said attendance and financial contributions have dropped since the controversy began.

He said pledges for the 1998 budget are \$250,000 to \$300,000 behind the usual pace.

## Utah scholar's book on gay relationship wins award

Seattle—A Utah scholar's controversial book on same-sex relationships in Mormonism was honored Jan. 9 night by the American Historical Association.

D. Michael Quinn, a Yale-trained historian and former Brigham Young University professor, received the Herbert Feis Award for his book, "Same-Sex Dynamics among Nineteenth-Century Americans: A Mormon Perspective."

The award, given annually to the best work by a public historian or independent scholar, was announced by the AHA's president-elect, Joseph Miller of the University of Virginia, at the association's 112th annual meeting, held here.

A central thesis of Quinn's book was that attitudes of 19th century Mormons toward the whole range of same-sex relationships were far more relaxed than in the latter half of the 20th century.

Quinn, who was excommunicated from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1993 for research on women and the faith's male priesthood, is also the author of a two-volume history of the Mormon hierarchy and other books on Mormon topics.

In "Same Sex Dynamics," he wrote that pioneer Utah was no different than the nation at large in that respect: Adult friends of the same gender held hands and kissed in public, often slept together in the same beds and wrote each other emotionally intense, even passionate letters.

In most cases, these relationships were not erotic. But when they were, Mormons at times were even more tolerant than other Americans, according to Quinn.

The book, published by the University of Illinois Press, created a storm of controversy in Utah, particularly over Quinn's account of the life of Evan Stephens, who directed the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for 26 years and composed some of Mormonism's beloved hymns.

Stephens, a lifelong bachelor, shared his life with a succession of young male singers. All the "boy chums," as Stephens called them, eventually married and Quinn said it was possible Stephens never acted on what the author characterized as his homosexual yearnings.

## ABC-TV pulls AIDS episode of "Nothing Sacred"

Los Angeles—An episode of the ABC series "Nothing Sacred" about a gay Catholic priest afflicted with AIDS is being withheld by the network out of "cowardice," the drama's consulting producer said.

Richard Kramer co-wrote the episode in which Father Ray (series star Kevin Anderson) discovers that a friend, a fellow priest he knows to be secretly gay, is ill with AIDS. Father Ray tries to persuade his

despondent friend to stay in the priesthood. "ABC's decision to bury it was based on cowardice, cruelty and co-opting of the religious right's agenda," Kramer told the Los Angeles Times.

Formerly the series' co-executive producer, Kramer wrote the script with Father Bill Cain, a Jesuit priest. The episode was filmed in July and had been intended to air as "Nothing Sacred's" second hour, after the pilot.

David Manson, producer of the freshman series that has drawn critical acclaim as well as attacks from some Catholic groups, said the unaired episode is about religion rather than homosexuality.

"It's not about this man's sexual preferences but about the nature of tolerance and compassion and about trying to get a man who doesn't feel worthy to come back to the table," Manson said.

An ABC spokesman said Jan. 9 that the episode has not been scheduled and declined further comment. "Nothing Sacred," which has struggled to draw an audience, has been condemned by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights as "a political statement against the Catholic Church." Some priests, however, have endorsed the drama.

Starting Jan. 17, the show has been moved from Friday nights, to Saturday nights at 8 p.m.

## Calif. fails to pass bill requiring gov't. contractors to grant domestic benefits

SACRAMENTO (AP)—Gay rights legislation that would require government contractors to provide equal benefits to employees with spouses and those with domestic partners was killed Jan. 13 by a California State Senate committee.

The measure by Sen. Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles, went down to defeat on a 2-4 vote after four Democrats—three facing potentially tough election campaigns—either opposed the bill, abstained or didn't attend the hearing.

The bill needed at least five votes to move out of the nine-member Judiciary Committee.

Hayden's proposal, modeled after a San Francisco ordinance, would bar state and local agencies from contracting with companies that do not offer equal benefits to employees with spouses and those with domestic partners.

So if a company offered its married employees health insurance that also covered spouses, it would have to provide the same coverage to domestic partners if it wanted government contracts.

"This law is truly about equal pay for



despondent friend to stay in the priesthood. "ABC's decision to bury it was based on cowardice, cruelty and co-opting of the religious right's agenda," Kramer told the Los Angeles Times.

Formerly the series' co-executive producer, Kramer wrote the script with Father Bill Cain, a Jesuit priest. The episode was filmed

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equal work," said Jeffrey Kors, a civil rights attorney and a coauthor of the San Francisco ordinance.

But Art Croney of the Committee on Moral Concerns said domestic partners are different than spouses.

"Domestic partners are adult friends," he said. "They are nothing more than that. Domestic partners are not dependent on one another. They are free to find a better job" if a company doesn't offer benefits.

"Isn't that the same where you have a working family where the husband and wife works?" Sen. John Burton, D-San Francisco, asked Croney.

San Francisco officials said their ordinance has worked well, is generally well-accepted by companies seeking city contracts and hasn't cost companies a lot of money.

Cynthia Goldstein of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission said only a small number of employees apply for domestic partner benefits and domestic partners cost the same or less to cover than spouses.

But Sen. Ray Haynes, R-Temecula, said the bill would discriminate against employers who had a moral objection to homosexuality.

And Sen. Cathie Wright, R-Simi Valley, said cities and counties should be able to decide for themselves whether to impose the requirement.

"If you wanted to slow progress of this issue to about 100 years," Hayden replied.

### More Detroit-area gay employees lobbying for partner benefits

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit-area gays and lesbians are putting more pressure on their employers to offer benefits for their partners.

Groups pushing for health care and other benefits have formed at Ameritech, Detroit Edison and all of the Big Three automakers. Area unions have also made such benefits a priority.

Larry Spencer, 44, an executive at Ameritech, said he receives generous health benefits that he would like to share with his partner of 16 years, Wayne State University philosophy professor Bob Yanal, 49.

Although Wayne State already offers equal benefits for partners, Spencer's benefits are far better.

That's why Spencer and a group of Ameritech employees have been trying for two years to persuade the telecommunications giant to extend the same benefits to them that it offers married couples.

Ameritech officials say they are still considering offering the benefits.

"(Partnership benefits) send a strong message that the companies mean what they say about valuing diversity," Spencer told the Detroit Free Press in a story Tuesday.

Gay and lesbian employees from EDS, Ford Motor Co., Chrysler Corp. and General Motors Corp. get together each month to discuss workplace issues, including domestic partnership benefits.

EDS already offers domestic partner benefits. The automakers do not, although the Canadian Auto Workers successfully won them from General Motors last year.

The number of major corporations offering domestic partnership benefits is growing by about one per month, according to the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign. Walt Disney Co., IBM and Microsoft all offer such benefits.

In reality, few homosexual employees take advantage of the benefits, said Philadelphia-based management consultant Jay Lucas.

The percentage of employees who sign up varies from 0.75 percent to 1.5 percent, Lucas said. They tend to be younger, healthier and have few or no children, keeping companies' costs minimal.

Lisa Mitchell, president of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Employees of DTE Energy Co., the parent company of Detroit Edison, said the symbolism is just as important as the actual benefits.

"It is a signal on the part of the company that they will treat us right," she said.

Detroit Edison officials said they plan to review a benefit plan sometime this year.

### Gay teens in Rhode Island say schools ignore harassment

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Teachers and administrators do too little to prevent harassment of gay and lesbian high school students, some teens say.

Adults in school often "turn their backs" when students are mistreated because of their sexual identity, 17-year-old Violet Smith said.

A male student believed to be gay had his head held in a urinal so others could urinate on him, Smith said. Another male student tormented by classmates was driven to transferring out of the class, she said.

The comments came at a forum held Jan. 12 on a state Board of Regents policy that bans discrimination against gay students. State officials, a gay state lawmaker and high school students attended the Brown University meeting on the 8-month-old regulation.

"We all know discrimination is against the law," Smith told a panel of state officials and gay students. "Yet we learn every day that it's OK from our schools."

Rita McCartney, 16, said the private school she attends compiles a list of lesbian students to "protect" other students, according to the Providence Journal-Bulletin. The implication, she said, was that straight people had something to fear from gays.

"I am not a sexual predator by any means, nor do I wish harm to anyone," she said.

But other students reported progress. Amelia Ortega, a junior from South Kingstown, said a Gay/Straight Alliance at her high school has helped raise awareness of the issue and that some teachers have helped hang fliers for the group.

"People are actually talking," Ortega said. Ken Fish, director of the state Department of Education office for school

improvement, pledged to protect gay students from harassment and encouraged the teens to contact him directly.

The forum was the second in two years sponsored by the Rhode Island Task Force on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth.

### Utah attorney claims God supports firing lesbian teacher

OREM, Utah (AP)—High school teacher Wendy Weaver may have the American Civil Liberties Union to back her up, but the lawsuit opposing her has God on its side, according to the attorney for Weaver's angry accusers.

"Miss Weaver may win her federal lawsuit," said Matt Hilton, a Utah County lawyer. "But a different result will ensue under those laws that were divinely inspired, and that I believe will be divinely enforced."

Hilton made the remarks Jan. 10 to the Utah Eagle Forum, an ultra-conservative political organization which had its annual convention at Utah Valley State College.

Hilton represents a coalition of Utah County parents who oppose the efforts of Weaver, a lesbian, to continue coaching volleyball at Spanish Fork High School.

After hearing about Hilton's comments, Weaver's attorney likened the sentiment to the assaults on civil rights during the 1960s.

"If God's on their side, then God's a bigot," said Rick Van Wagoner, a lawyer practicing in Salt Lake City. "The hysteria and small-mindedness that this citizens group is exhibiting will give way to reason only through the assistance of the courts."

Weaver, a Spanish Fork High School gym and psychology teacher, is suing the Nebo School District in federal court for violating her civil rights. The district last spring forced her to sign an order that bans her from discussing her sexuality and removes her as coach of the school's award-winning girl's

volleyball team.

Hilton's group, which represents Spanish Fork High School parents and other Utah County residents, has filed a lawsuit in state court that accuses Weaver of violations ranging from child abuse to sodomy to unprofessional conduct.

"There was divine inspiration in the adoption of this legislation," said Hilton, who told listeners it is time the state proves its willingness to uphold the those laws.

The state must also guarantee that parents have the right to ensure their children have role models, Hilton said.

### Neb. pastor suspended after officiating at lesbian union

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—An Omaha pastor suspended after performing a lesbian unity ceremony was supposed to be back behind the pulpit Sunday, Jan. 11. His name was even listed on a church program as preacher for the day's worship services.

Instead, about 75 supporters of the Rev. Jimmy Creech gathered that morning outside Omaha's First United Methodist Church to protest the pastor's absence.

Creech was not at church because Nebraska United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez late Friday, Jan. 9, indefinitely extended Creech's suspension—at least until a statewide church committee finishes its investigation.

"I wish I could stand here this morning and tell you that I understand why (the bishop) felt it was necessary to do this, but I can't," said Williams Jenks, who led the pro-Creech rally.

Jenks, chairman of the Omaha church's staff parish relations committee, said many felt "abandoned, dismissed and even betrayed" because the committee met with Martinez on Jan. 8 and had "advocated strongly" against extending the suspension.


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## EDITORIAL

**Some queer ideas about marriage**

by CHRIS CRAIN

We must be at the "end days" of the gay civil rights movement, at least on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Gay rights lawyers are understandably disappointed by this week's refusal by the U.S. Supreme Court to even hear Robin Shahar's lawsuit against former Georgia Attorney General Mike Bowers, who fired Shahar when he learned of her upcoming Jewish wedding ceremony to her partner Fran.

But in the outcome of the Shahar case, and in other recent "signs" on the marriage front, conservatives appear to be so defensive, so queer (in the bad sense), so hypocritical and even bizarre, that it is only a matter of time before Judgment Day is upon us and wedding bells will ring for us all.

Call them the "Six Signs" of impending doom for those who would deny gay men and lesbians the right to marry:

**Sign #1: The victory of Mike Bowers over Robin Shahar.** In sworn court proceedings, former Georgia Attorney General Mike Bowers testified that he fired promising attorney Robin Shahar solely because of her planned Jewish commitment ceremony with her partner Fran. For Bowers, the planned Shahar wedding was problematic because their relationship presumably violated the state's sodomy law, which Bowers successfully defended in famous cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and Georgia's high court.

Five days after the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals rendered a decision in his favor, Bowers admitted to a decade-long extramarital affair with a woman who was formerly employed in his office. Even Bowers has admitted the "moral hypocrisy" of firing Shahar because her relationship presumably violated the sodomy law, while he was simultaneously carrying on a relationship that in fact violated state adultery laws. Who is the role model for marriage here?

Robin Shahar never even claimed that her marriage had legal significance, only personal and religious importance. And yet Judge J.L. Edmondson of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, a long-standing critic of "judicial activism," reached out to the issue of same-sex marriage and held that, "given the culture and traditions of the Nation, considerable doubt exists that [Shahar] has a constitutionally protected federal right to be 'married' to another woman." For good measure, the twice-divorced Edmondson noted that no federal court, in the 200-plus years of American independence, has recognized same-sex marriage.

Our day of victory must surely be approaching when a federal judge can do no better than rely on "the culture and traditions of the Nation" to deny gays a right that

the U.S. Supreme Court has declared to be among "the basic rights of man," vested in Declaration of Independence, before even the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

If Judge Edmondson's "cultural" analysis were applied to this century's famous civil rights cases, our schools would remain racially segregated, Jim Crow would be the law of the South, and interracial marriage would be prohibited in half the states. Fortunately, that sort of judicial activism never survives the test of time, and his opinion in the Shahar case will be remembered as an embarrassment of modern jurisprudence.

**Sign #2: Bob Barr's sponsorship of (and Bill Clinton's signature on) the 'Defense of Marriage Act.'** The arch-conservative congressman introduced the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996 to preserve the institution of marriage and its sacred wedding vows. But the good Congressman has himself been married four times, allowing Elizabeth Birch her finest moment as executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. In a debate with Rep. Barr on CNN's "Crossfire," Birch asked Barr exactly which of his four marriages he was defending.

DOMA, which unconstitutionally denies federal benefits to gay married couples, was signed into law by admitted adulterer Bill Clinton, who has since taken the moral high ground on gay rights issues, claiming discrimination against gays is morally wrong.

**Sign #3: A Georgia judge orders a man to marry his victim/girlfriend or go to jail.** Darrell Meadows was copping a plea to avoid prosecution for threatening to kill his live-in girlfriend and their two-year-old daughter, apparently provoked by her plans to leave him. What sentence did conservative Cherokee County Judge C.J. Gober hand down? Probation, so long as Meadows "did right by" his girlfriend and daughter by getting married within 60 days. No one asked his girlfriend if she wanted to get married to the man who had threatened her life and her daughter. In fact, she didn't.

An interesting concept of marriage is at work here. Happy, loyal, loving gay relationships are denied any legal recognition, while a man accused of threatening his girlfriend's life is ordered to marry her within 60 days, whether she likes it or not, or face jail time.

**Sign #4: The "domestic partnership" benefits offered by the state of Hawaii.** Recognizing that there is no compelling reason to deny gay couples many of the same legal benefits and protections afforded straight married couples, the state of Hawaii has enacted a sort of second-class marriage status for gay men and lesbians. This half-

step is reminiscent of the "separate but unequal" world of Jim Crow, and only demonstrates in sharper relief the inequity of the law's treatment of gay relationships.

**Sign #5: The hypocrisy and bigotry of Bill 'Mr. Morals' Bennett on the subject of gay relationships.** In brilliant fashion, gay conservative Andrew Sullivan deconstructed and obliterated the recent high-profile attacks on gays by former Education Secretary Bill Bennett. Long the darling of social conservatives, Bennett has appeared on ABC's "This Week" and has written in *The Weekly Standard* that the average life span of gay men is 43 years, this based upon a long-discredited study that reached conclusions based upon a sampling of obituaries in gay newspapers.

In a rebuttal published in the Jan. 5 issue of *New Republic*, Sullivan not only attacked Bennett's "scientific" claims, he also pointed out the moral hypocrisy underlying Bennett's position. If, as Bennett claims, gay men live short lives because of promiscuity and AIDS, then why doesn't he advocate gay marriage as a means of addressing the problem? Is he afraid of encouraging homosexuality? No, even Bennett admits that most gays are "hard-wired" to be "that way."

If the idea is to limit gay promiscuity, then why isn't marriage the answer? "Would he think," asks Sullivan, "that mere lecturing would be enough for heterosexual men if they too had no right to marry their loved ones?"

**Sign #6: The "mushy-middle" finally "gets it."** Only one additional "sign" stands between gay America and the recognized right to marry for same-sex couples. The first five signs, outlined above, demonstrate the absolute moral and logical bankruptcy of those who oppose gay marriage. Middle America needs only to understand the merits of arguments on both sides.

To get there, we must first address the "yuck factor" that prevents most fair-minded folks from even seriously considering the issue. Already, "Ellen" and other accurate portrayals in the entertainment media have opened the door. Our own willingness to live openly and to tell our stories to friends and family will prove to be the difference. Already, fully half of all college freshman surveyed this year support full legal recognition of gay marriage.

Within our lifetime, maybe even in this century, the right to marry will be realized, and the gay civil rights movement will end victoriously. Some on the religious right will undoubtedly see that victory as a sign of the Apocalypse. In that case, let loose the plagues of locusts, Judgment Day can't come too soon.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR****Dissatisfied with full disclosure**

I look forward to reading the *Houston Voice* each week and I am anxious to see the changes that will happen to the publication as a result of its ownership by Window Media. The first change I would like to see is less of the sexually explicit photos in the back pages.

The nature of these ads is not objectionable, but they are too explicit for my taste. Would it be possible to use a little editorial control and require that the people in them be fully clothed? These ads make the paper look more like a sex rag that caters to men rather than a news source for the whole community.

I want Houston's local gay & lesbian newspaper to be a high-class publication, one that we can all be proud of. It can't do that with the back of the paper in its present state.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Merritt



## OPINION

## It's boring here, outside the closet

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Somebody asked me once what I thought was the most ironic thing in gay culture.

How about guys looking like girls, the girls looking like guys, and neither friendly with the other?

Was it our penchant to aid those who would hurt us—like my attorney friend, active in gay rights, who represents Newt Gingrich?

Was it AIDS organizations lending their names to circuit parties that till the AIDS soil?

No, those examples may be twisted, but at least they have plausible, if not slightly nauseating, explanations.

My vote for the most ironic thing about gay culture is ... well, gay culture. There's nothing that can even masquerade as a reason for the inanity and banality of gay life for gay people.

Here's the irony: As a community, we entertain the larger culture with brilliant, creative music, literature, film, theater and television. But how do we entertain ourselves?

With drag. With soul-less music. With mind-numbing repetition.

We give The Lion King to middle America, but we keep The Lying Queens to ourselves. We give Armani to the larger world, but we keep the tight, Lycra shorts. We give the world Disney, but we keep dim and dank nightclubs for ourselves.

We move the earth with Shakespeare's pen, but *The Advocate* can't write past the

fifth grade level. We intoxicate the world with Tchaikovsky's "Pas De Deux," but we overdose ourselves with techno music.

I don't get it. We give everyone outside of ourselves bold, visionary culture. But we reserve the cheap crap for ourselves. We bring out the good china for guests. We eat on flimsy paper plates and plastic forks.

What is it with us? Why do we reserve the best of ourselves for others? You would think that our night life, our entertainment scene would be a hotbed of creativity, always changing, always looking for the next big "it."

Instead, all we have, night after night, is drag. Bad drag. Which is redundant. Like saying "rural Alabama."

It's not that I don't like drag. But like my grandmother used to say when she was a novelty act on Ed Sullivan that was wearing a little thin: "Enough already!"

Another item in our wildly imaginative culture is male strip clubs. Men in beef armor. As talented as the drag queens. Only not as real.

And don't forget the ever-changing, chameleon-like bar scene. It's as wild and diverse as the music that blasts out of their tired walls. It's not the drugs that are making people pass out on the dance floor, it's the music. If you ever get hungry for food as techno does for melody, the people around you would have to hold you up, too.

On and on, the drum of Gay Generica

beats on. No deviation, no twists, no curves. Unless it's for the straight world. Then we give them the full panorama of our creativity.

It doesn't make sense. Look at everything we give to American culture—from fashion to language. If Darwin ever considered us a species, he'd think we were so high up in the creative food chain that we'd never go extinct.

As far as entertaining America, if we were any more cutting edge, we'd bleed. But as far as entertaining ourselves, we'll bleed before we do anything cutting edge.

My straight friends get so disappointed when I take them to the gay hot spots. One of them told me it was like going to AT&T World Headquarters and finding out they use rotary-dial phones.

Where are the nightclubs that display our creative talents? Where are the live music clubs featuring up-and-coming gay artists before we lose them to the larger world? Where are the artsy coffee houses with poetry readings and other live performances? Where are the gay theater or comedy troupes, the fashion shows, the whatever-but-make-it-creative-and-outlandish gathering places?

It's boring here, outside the closet.

Michael Alvear directs public relations for a health care chain.

## OPINION

## Hype drives holiday film season

by LARRY LINGLE

I don't know which has become more vital to the holiday season and the New Year, shopping until all your money is gone or tramping to the multi-screen cinemas for the floodtide of new movie releases.

It's not just the number and cost of the holiday cinema blockbusters, it's the entire movie-going experience. Only small towns have the luxury of single-screen theaters. Now your choices are either a rebuilt old theater chopped up into twos and threes or entering a wonderland of 10, 20 or 30 screen monoliths teeming with hordes of people, most under the drinking age.

There are nearly twice as many movie screens today as there were 20 years ago, and nearly the same ratio compared to 40 years ago. And while the movie industry (does Jack Valenti have nine lives?) totes record movie-ticket sales, in real dollars there is an entirely different picture. In 1996 Americans spent approximately \$6 billion dollars at the box office. Yet 40 years ago, with half as many screens, Americans spent \$8 billion dollars (in 1996 dollars).

Far few films are made, just much more expensive ones. So the movie makers are playing Russian roulette, betting bigger bucks for fewer hits, trying to lure customers into more mini-theaters with less and less product. Much like a best-selling book, a new movie must make it as a hit immediately or it's off to video Siberia faster than Random House can remainder that wannabe best seller.

It is not unusual for a movie studio to spend \$100 million to make a movie and another \$30 million to hype it. The only thing new this holiday season has been that the studios conspired to stagger wannabe hits over several weekends—and staggered some films across the country—in an attempt to avoid shooting each other in the foot.

Because the time between the expensive hype and the release is limited, and the couple of weeks a new film is allowed to make it or not at the box office, the hype is the thing. Word of mouth has killed more than one expensive bomb.

So using The New York Times, I perused the industry's initial hype for some measure of this holiday fare. And I found one similarity in all the ads: Rave quotes by "review-

ers" attesting to the fact that any particular film was the best one ever made, bar none. Beginning with a film so far seen only by lucky audiences in "select cities," "The Apostle" with Robert Duvall already has word of mouth going for it. In the ad the raves are from Roger Ebert as well as reviewers for the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the New York Post, and Newsweek. Pretty respectable.

Then we have "Scream 2" with a two-page ad including six review quotes mainly attesting to the movie being "fun" (two) and hip (two). Not a master of cinema making but apparently fun for those who are into being scared.

A late entry into the holiday season was "The Postman", a prime example of the big-budget, big hype campaign. Kevin Costner did everything in this movie except sell tickets. Apparently it's not easy to hype a futuristic story about a postman delivering old letters. Someone should have reminded Costner against going postal. Warner Brothers advertised this with the requisite "rave" quotes, five from local television stations and one from a radio network. That should have been a clue right there.

Then there is Steven Spielberg's epic "Amistad" which also had a big hype budget as well as publicity from the controversy surrounding whose book this was based on. And not to be outdone, Dreamworks Pictures took our a double page in the Times as well, and with sixteen rave quotes. These ravers included both newspapers and television stations with the notable absence of the Times itself. But for good measure it included two reviewers from the same newspaper, the Boston Globe, and both applied the same adjective to the film, "powerhouse".

"Tomorrow Never Dies", the latest James Bond, got not only two pages in the Times but color as well, a recent innovation for that venerable newspaper. It also had the requisite six review quotes, all from local television stations, no one you have ever heard of unless you personally know Bill Zwecker, Patty Spitzer, Jason Miller, David Sheehan, Jim Ferguson or Tim Shermo.

The less said about "Mouse Hunt" the better. It's full-page ad served up four local reviewers, two raving about the mouse and the other two touting this as a fun kids' film.

I couldn't wait.

I must be honest here, I only made it to two of the big holiday films. "As Good As It Gets" was one. And by the time this film made the rounds it had already garnered six Golden Globe nominations so there was no need for scouring the tabloids for choice quotes. I found it quite entertaining, with Jack Nicholson playing a stellar interpretation of Jack Nicholson. Unintentionally, I also watched on video this past week an earlier film, "Reds", probably Warren Beatty's best performance playing the American radical, John Reed. Interestingly, Nicholson plays Eugene O'Neill in that film, and he actually portrayed O'Neill, in one of his better and more understated roles.

The other film I saw was not considered one of the holiday blockbusters, witness the limited number of screens carrying it. But "Good Will Hunting" is my choice for the best movie of not only this holiday season but the year. Robin Williams, who like Jack Nicholson, can often play himself, nonetheless manages to rein in his usual bravado and delivers one of his better performances. And Matt Damon deserves an Oscar nomination, to say nothing of an admiring gay following.

There were other films like (Disney's "Flubber" and Universal's "For Richer or Poorer") which carried Times ads without any rave quotes. "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil", was, I suppose, a holiday movie, if somewhat earlier. And I did see this one also, but this less said about this film version of a good book the better.

I purposely left out "Titanic", for no other reason than I have not yet gotten around to seeing it. But this unsinkable ship will probably be the winner of the holiday sweepstakes, entering the biggest film budget and largest hype budget and now the greatest box office take. Frankly any director who can tell a story, told many times before on film, about an unsinkable ship that sinks - and everyone already knew this ending, and build a model of this great ocean liner on nine-tenths of full scale, deserves kudos for that alone. And think of the sequels: The Lusitania, the Andrea Doria, the Britannic (a sister ship). He could fill Long Beach harbor, alongside the permanently docked Queen Mary. Well, that should take care of the next several holiday offerings.

## Va. AIDS cases decline for second year running

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—For the second straight year, the number of new AIDS cases in Virginia has declined, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

However, the 2.9 percent drop reported Monday for 1997 was much less dramatic than the 22 percent decline in 1996. Also, the numbers increased slightly among teenagers, blacks and people aged 40 to 49.

Still, Casey W. Riley, director of the department's AIDS division, said the back-to-back decrease was historic.

The state reported 1,177 cases of AIDS in 1997, compared with 1,211 in 1996. Cases of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, held basically steady, with 11 more cases reported in 1997 than in 1996.

## Ala. court upholds mandatory HIV reporting

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—The state Supreme Court on Jan. 9 upheld a lower court ruling that ordered a Birmingham doctor to reveal names of HIV-positive patients to the state Health Department.

The health department learned in 1994 that Dr. Mark Middlebrooks of Medical Center East in Birmingham was not reporting the names of his patients who are infected by the virus that causes AIDS.

Under Alabama's notifiable disease law, it's a misdemeanor for any doctor to violate the reporting rules. Doctors convicted are subject to fines ranging from \$100 to \$500.

In a March 1997 ruling, Circuit Judge William J. Wynn ordered Middlebrooks to divulge the names. He agreed, however, with the doctor's argument that there was a certain inequity in the law because those who used home tests for the virus weren't subject to having their results reported.

But the high court refused to rule that the

law created unequal treatment under terms of the 14th Amendment.

"The purpose of the Equal Protection Clause is to prevent states from enacting legislation that treats persons 'similarly situated' differently," the court wrote.

"We conclude that the state has made a reasonable classification in this instance. It appears to us that the out-of-state testing labs that analyze the results of the testing kits are not, as to those required to report HIV and AIDS cases under (the law), similarly situated."

When the health department learned that Middlebrooks was not reporting the names, it tried to negotiate with him, but department officials said they were forced to sue.

Assistant state health officer Dr. Charles Woernle said the Health Department doesn't want to fine doctors, it just wants the names and locations of people with reportable illnesses.

Once a person's name is reported, the next step usually is an interview by a state worker attempting to discover and notify former sex partners that may have been exposed to the virus.

When he ordered Middlebrooks to reveal the names, Wynn agreed with the doctor on the point that people who use home-testing kits don't face the same actions as those who are reported after a positive test in a physician's office.

Because the home-testing market is unregulated, the names of people who test positive are not reported.

"As the defendant points out, this is clearly unequal treatment under the law and obviously Dr. Middlebrooks is a very courageous person to defend his patients and beliefs to these ends," Wynn wrote.

## Study rates effectiveness of various AIDS drugs

CHICAGO (AP)—Prescribing expensive drugs to prevent every AIDS-related infection is not a cost-effective way to fight the disease,

researchers say.

Giving treatments to prevent HIV-related pneumonia makes the most fiscal sense, but prescribing drugs to fend off eye and fungal infections is not a financially sound approach, according to an article in the Jan. 7 Journal of the American Medical Association.

"If resources are unlimited, then one may want to use all of these medications," said Kenneth Freedberg, the study's lead researcher and co-director of the HIV diagnostic evaluation unit at Boston Medical Center.

"But this study should help put into perspective what to do if resources are limited. You can't put everyone on every plausible medication."

Researchers say the study could help officials who control the federal AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which funds drugs for patients who don't qualify for Medicaid, decide how to best spend the money.

The researchers compiled data from several clinical trials and AIDS studies to determine the cost-effectiveness of drugs that prevent AIDS-related infections, not those that treat the virus itself. Cost-effectiveness takes into account the effectiveness and cost of medication, and the likelihood and potential severity of the infection, Freedberg said.

Patients who received no preventative medications had a projected life expectancy of 39.08 months, after adjusting for quality of life, with average total lifetime costs of \$40,288, the researchers found.

Giving them the clinically recommended trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole to prevent AIDS-related pneumonia and toxoplasmosis, a brain infection, increased life expectancy to 42.56 months with a cost of \$16,000 per quality-adjusted year of life saved, they found.

But using ganciclovir to prevent cytomegalovirus, a progressive eye infection, was the least cost-effective at \$314,000 per quality-adjusted year of life saved, according to the study.

The findings support current clinical guidelines of working to prevent pneumo-

nia, toxoplasmosis and a tuberculosis-like infection. Doctors currently do not routinely prescribe preventative drugs for eye and fungal infections.

"Everybody wants to know if what we're doing really makes sense in the long run," said Dr. Catherine Creticos, interim medical director for Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center, who was not involved in the study. "Not that we're going to make all of our decisions based on finances, but it's nice to have the data that proves it."

## In reversal, major AIDS organizations endorse HIV reporting

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation's leading AIDS service agency wants doctors to begin reporting HIV-positive people to the state Health Department, The New York Times reported Jan. 13.

The Gay Men's Health Crisis and other AIDS and civil rights groups have long criticized HIV reporting as a violation of privacy and a deterrent to testing and early treatment.

The turnaround by the New York City-based GMHC, the most prominent nonprofit AIDS service, was revealed in a policy statement obtained by the Times.

The statement said HIV reporting is necessary to secure up-to-date information on AIDS and that mere tracking of people who develop the condition no longer effectively measures the rate of infection.

"This is not a static epidemic and our position cannot be a static position," Ronald S. Johnson, GMHC's managing director, told the Times.

Twenty-eight states have HIV reporting systems for adults and adolescents, but those states account for only 24 percent of all reported AIDS cases.

New York, which does not require HIV reporting, has the highest rate of reported AIDS cases—69 per 100,000—with 450,000

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infected with HIV statewide, according to health officials.

While GMHC does not outright oppose reporting names, it is urging the state to consider using coded identification systems, similar to those used in Maryland and Texas, for tracking HIV-positive people.

However, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week reported that those systems were found to be unreliable in accurately tracking cases of HIV infection.

## Calif. AIDS deaths drop 60 percent

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The number of AIDS deaths in the most populous state dropped 60 percent during the first half of last year, yet experts cautioned against reading too much into the decrease.

"It's astonishingly good news," said Derek Gordon, a spokesman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "The big question for us now becomes, 'How long will this last?'"

In the latest national figures, AIDS deaths in the United States dropped 26 percent from 1995 to 1996.

There were 1,112 AIDS-related deaths in California from January to June 1997, compared with 2,788 in the same period in 1996. Experts credited the widespread use of protease inhibitors and other drugs for the drop in a state with 31.5 million people.

But Gordon and others said the lower number may represent a "honeymoon" period as HIV-positive patients develop resistance to protease inhibitors.

## Calif. firm seeks HIV vaccine test approval

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. (AP)—Officials at VaxGen Inc., a small biotechnology company, are seeking approval from the FDA to begin human trials of an AIDS vaccine later this year, the company said Jan. 12.

The so-called Phase III portion of the VaxGen study would involve 7,500 healthy volunteers and would take about three years to complete, company spokeswoman Donna Walters said. If successful, the vaccine could be available to the public early in the next century.

There had been newspaper reports that the FDA already had approved clinical studies for the company's vaccine, known as AIDS-VAX. But Walters said the company is still seeking approval.

"These reports are premature," the company said in a statement, adding that it is in the process of reporting the results of its first two testing phases to the FDA. VaxGen is a spin-off of Genentech Inc.

The vaccine, which contains the protein gp120, reintroduces a strategy that several years ago was widely thought to have failed.

The mixed results of studies of an earlier version of the protein vaccine were not considered encouraging. VaxGen researchers have, however, come back with a similar vaccine that appears to be much more effective because it deals with two strains of the virus rather than one, Walters said.

Dr. Donald Francis, VaxGen president and a veteran virologist, said preliminary studies are hopeful. All but a handful of the thousand people injected with an early form of the vaccine have shown a strong immune-system response.

"There's nothing magic about this vaccine, but it's our best hope so far and it's time to take the next step," he told the San Jose Mercury News. "I am optimistic."

Some AIDS activists said they hope news of the VaxGen vaccine will spur increased investment in and attention to vaccine development, which is fraught with scientific, economic and ethical problems.

"Yes, it's exciting. Yes, it's a big step," said Sam Avrett, associate scientific director for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. "But we're not going to get answers overnight. We're going to need to do a lot more large tests if we're going to succeed."

VaxGen has raised at least \$18 million for

its new study, which mostly is being funded by private investors.

Some 5,000 of the volunteers—most of whom would be considered at high risk of contracting HIV—are expected to be in the United States. An additional 2,500 would be in Thailand. Half of the volunteers would get the vaccine; the other half would get placebos.

## CDC study faults Texas method of HIV reporting

Tracking HIV by using names rather than codes is a more reliable way to count the number of cases, according to a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health officials in Maryland and Texas came up with a system in 1994 that uses a code to identify patients, instead of listing them by name. The code is a 12-digit number that uses the person's Social Security number, date of birth and other digits to represent gender and race.

According to the study, the 12-digit codes used in the system were incomplete as much as 40 percent of the time, making it impossible to gather critical data.

In the Maryland portion of the study, only 25 percent to 50 percent of cases were reported to state health authorities, and CDC officials said no routine follow-up was done to gather basic information, including how people contracted the virus.

"Clearly, the system was not able to generate information on the majority of people who are HIV-infected," said Dr. Stan Lehman, a CDC epidemiologist and project officer for evaluation of the system to monitor those who test positive for the human immunodeficiency virus.

The codes are a combination of a patient's Social Security number, date of birth, race and gender. Only Maryland and Texas use the "unique identifier" system, rather than names.

Wasserman said some providers were unable to find Social Security numbers and used incomplete codes. One large public laboratory, which he would not identify, accounted for much of the problem because it did not report any cases during the study

period, he said.

Wasserman said 1997 figures show much better rates than the CDC study. He also noted that his department has been able to detect trends, including the increased number of women and young people who are contracting HIV.

AIDS advocates and a recent study from the American Civil Liberties Union joined Wasserman in calling Maryland a model for other states.

"You don't have to have a count of every individual in order to do planning. This is a very good model," said Michele Douglas, lobbyist for the AIDS Legislative Committee.

The CDC report comes during a nationwide debate over how HIV-positive people should be tracked.

Names are reported routinely in Maryland and around the country for those who suffer from full-blown AIDS and other infectious diseases such as tuberculosis.

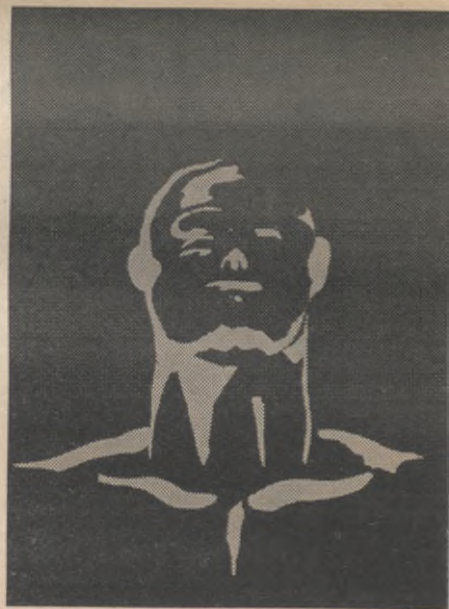
Thirty-one states report the names of HIV patients to confidential registries; three of those states count only pediatric cases.

In other states, lawmakers are arguing over which system is better.

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## GLOBAL

### Australian court OKs firing HIV-positive GIs

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A federal court on Jan. 13 upheld the Australian armed forces' right to expel HIV-positive soldiers, saying it was justified because of the inherent risk of bloodshed—and infection—during military duty.

Three three-judge panel, sitting in Brisbane, ordered Australia's Equal Opportunities Commission to reconsider its finding that the army acted discriminatorily when it discharged an HIV-positive soldier.

The soldier was expelled a month after he enlisted in November 1993 when a routine test showed he was carrying HIV.

### Slaying of Italian raises specter of serial killer

ROME (AP) — Italy's gay community demanded a parliamentary investigation last week after the slaying of a nobleman who belonged to the Vatican protocol corps raised speculation about a serial killer preying on gay men.

Enrico Sini Luzi, 67, was found dead in his Rome apartment Jan 5 with his skull bashed in and a silk white scarf around his neck, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

ANSA quoted investigators as saying they had no suspects but there was nothing in how the slaying was carried out to confirm fears by some Italian gay organizations that one killer might be to blame.

However, Il Messaggero, a Rome daily, said police believed there were elements "which lead investigators on to the trail of homosexual killing."

Sini Luzi's death was the latest in a string of slayings over the last seven years in Rome of 18 men authorities believe were gay, police said. Police also have studied the slaying

of a nobleman in his Florence apartment last year to see if there were links to the Rome cases.

Only eight of the slayings have been solved.

Homosexual groups cautioned gay men in Rome to be on guard.

"The crime involving Enrico Sini Luzi is only the latest in an incredible series of killings that seem to have no end," said Franco Grillini, president of Arcigay, an Italian gay advocacy group.

Grillini asked for a parliamentary inquest into violence against gays.

According to the autopsy, Sini Luzi was killed Sunday night or early Monday. He was struck on the head with a brass candlestick, police were quoted as saying.

His elegant apartment had been ransacked and his Vatican medals were missing, but there was no sign of forced entry — leading police to believe that he knew his killer.

Sini Luzi belonged to "His Holiness' Gentlemen," a protocol group whose duties include ushering personalities during Vatican ceremonies.

### Gay man sets himself on fire at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Protesting what he called society's injustice toward homosexuals, a 40-year-old man set himself on fire in St. Peter's Square Jan. 13.

Alfredo Orlando of Palermo, Sicily, his body in flames, was trying to reach the entrance of the basilica when he collapsed. Police officers outside the Vatican put out the fire. Orlando was hospitalized in serious condition with burns over 90 percent of his body.

The ANSA news agency said police confirmed they found two letters in the man's coat complaining that his family and society did not understand homosexuals' problems, ANSA said.

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- Catholic Mass at 10:00 am; Movie Night at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm.

**Saturday-January 17**

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

**Sunday-January 18**

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at 239 Westheimer.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service at 11 am.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm. Bible in the book of Genesis. 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
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- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
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- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.

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

**Monday-January 19**

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or www.community-gospel.org.

**Tuesday-January 20**

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

- "Women who did what they Could" by Diane Wimberly, Associate Pastor of St. Paul's United Methodist Church Houston. At the Kolbe Project. 861-1800.

**Wednesday-January 21**

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

**Thursday-January 22**

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm.

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**AIDS**

**AIDS WATCH**

**New Tuskegee Study: AIDS patients put at risk**

by Bruce Mirken

Last August I wrote about a government-sponsored AIDS study known as ACTG 343 that appeared on its face to be unethical. Following in the path of AIDS activists whose pleas had already fallen on deaf ears, I argued that the trial should be shut down immediately before its volunteers suffered irreparable harm. Not surprisingly, nothing happened.

Now, five months too late, the federal AIDS Clinical Trials Group has finally stopped the most dangerous parts of the study. What we don't know for sure yet is how much damage was done to how many people and what the government intends to do to compensate them, but the early indications aren't encouraging.

ACTG 343 attempted to test the notion that those whose HIV viral load had become undetectable on triple-drug therapy could keep it undetectable with a weaker "maintenance" regimen. Volunteers were given AZT/3TC/indinavir for the first 24 weeks, then two thirds of those who stayed undetectable for 8 weeks or longer were randomly switched to either AZT/3TC alone or indinavir alone, in flagrant violation of both the government's own HIV treatment guidelines and a similar set of guidelines published by the International AIDS Society—USA.

There was little reason to think it would work, and—guess what—it didn't. According to the interim analysis distributed to researchers on Jan. 8, of 309 volunteers who made it into the maintenance phase and whose results could be analyzed, 45 saw their virus rebound after a median of just seven weeks. Of those 45, 42 were the unlucky ones on the weakened regimens;

while just three who stayed on all three drugs experienced a return of detectable virus.

Faced with those results the folks running the trial did the only ethical thing they could do: They offered everyone taking AZT/3TC or indinavir monotherapy the chance to get back onto the original three-drug combination. Hopefully by the time you read this all will have been contacted and will have resumed treatment with a regimen that actually has a shot at keeping them alive.

But their troubles may not be over. There is much we don't know about HIV, but one thing we do understand is that when the virus is able to replicate in the presence of a drug or drugs, it is extremely likely to develop resistance. That means 23 unlucky PWAs have very likely developed resistance to AZT/3TC, a combination that has proven to be a cornerstone of the highly active anti-retroviral combinations, while 19 have probably developed resistance to indinavir.

The interim analysis document blatantly fudges the resistance issue. It states truthfully that "it is not known whether" resuming triple-drug therapy in those whose viral loads have stayed undetectable will keep their HIV successfully suppressed or encourage the emergence of resistant virus, but it simply ignores those whose virus has bounced back. There is every reason to think that many and perhaps most of them will now have HIV that is resistant to some of the most potent drugs in our arsenal. In other words, thanks to this study they've played cards they can never get back.

Nothing in the instructions that were sent to the trial sites along with the interim analysis suggests that these Mengele wannabes have any grasp of the gravity of what they have done to their unfortunate patients.

The ACTG's handling of this is criminally negligent. The victims of this foolish and dangerous trial may have lost forever their best chance to keep their virus under control, and no compensation one could conceive will ever be adequate. But free medical care for life might help.

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COMMERCIAL MEMBER



## RUSTIN/ from page 1

likely be greatly amused by the quandary created by his legacy. By all accounts, he had a wicked sense of humor, and was the sort who liked to play pranks and exaggerate for dramatic effect.

Had he not devoted himself to social causes, he might have been a great opera singer, an actor, or a writer (he was also a remarkable raconteur).

He dressed as if on intimate terms with a fine haberdasher, and spoke with the precise cadences and accents of a British aristocrat.

To be sure, Rustin was self-made, a product of American ingenuity, because the truth was far from grand: He was raised by a Quaker grandmother, in a small town in Western Pennsylvania in 1912, not knowing that one of his siblings was actually his mother. If this truth was a source of great pain to him all his life, then it was perhaps the foundation for an immense compassion. As poet Robert Penn Warren said of Rustin, he was "a strange mixture of strength and sensitivity."

Though Rustin's career culminated in his masterful administration of the 1963 March on Washington, he had been an activist for 40 years, holding leadership positions in the Congress of Racial Equality, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the War Resisters League. He was never afraid of controversy, and he never committed to anything, he said, "I do not fully believe in."

Rustin's many interests often overlapped, putting him directly in the line of fire of the black intelligentsia. His long-standing interest with the labor movement and Jewish groups, not to mention a long list of peace issues around the world, was constantly under attack. Critics believed such interests were invariably counterproductive to the desired dialogue between white conservatives and black liberals.

According to James Farmer, then national director of the Congress of Racial Equality, Rustin's interest "on any issue is transitory. He has the tremendous ability, because of his real talent, to speak on any side of the issue. But one wonders what he believes."

Everyone but Rustin loyalists—and there were many—and Rustin himself, questioned his beliefs. True to form, Rustin no doubt nourished all the attention and never failed to rise to the occasion. In the aftermath of U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young's resignation over U.S. policy in the Middle East, Rustin was attacked for defending his pro American-Jewish position.

"I got [booed]," Rustin said in an August 1983 interview with the *Washington Post*, "very definitely for black Americans to support Israel. What people forget is that when I was raising money for Dr. King, a great deal of that money came from Jewish people. They also forget that two Jewish boys, along with a black boy, were murdered in Mississippi. I can't call on other people con-

tinuously to help me and mine, unless I give indication that I am willing to help other people in trouble."

Impervious to pain though he appeared, such criticism hurt him deeply. Still, Rustin held fast to his convictions, no matter what the consequences, no matter what criticism, however trivial. In an oft-quoted argument with NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins, Rustin lost his temper after Wilkins criticized him for being persnickety over, among other things, the number of portable toilets needed for the 1963 March. Rustin memorably shouted, "You can't have these people pissing all over Washington."



Bayard Rustin (Left) with Martin Luther King

Given a rare opportunity to discuss the plight of Haitians on the NBC's "Today Show" in 1982, Rustin instead discussed Afghan refugees, to the violent chagrin of black civil rights activists. Rustin countered criticism by saying that he was calling attention to Haitians through other conferences and committees, and he added, "I believe you cannot separate what happens to blacks in America from what happens to people seeking justice all over the world."

For Rustin, that principle included gay men and lesbians. Like black gay novelist James Baldwin, who in his writings cleverly grafted gay issues on top of race issues, Rustin found a way to make a point by example. Rustin loved men, and in fact was devoted to one man in particular the last 12 years of his life, and he didn't care who knew about it.

This openness, too, put Rustin in the line of fire, and indeed cost him a high profile role in the 1963 March. Ten years earlier, Rustin had been arrested in Pasadena, California, for "sexual perversion," after allegedly being caught in the act in a public restroom. At the time, the media ate it up. When asked if he was homosexual, Rustin simply said yes.

Not surprisingly, during the planning of the March on Washington, opponents from inside and outside the movement seized upon his arrest as a reason to remove him from a highly public leadership role. The event's success stands as proof of Rustin's importance to the movement.

At the time, though, Rustin was living by his own creed: honesty, compassion, and hard work. In retrospect, he was also making a point. Years later, in a *Village Voice* interview, he would reflect on being out and gay:

"I think that the gay community has a moral obligation to continue the fight and to do whatever is possible to encourage more and more gays to come out of the closet. God knows, people stay in the closet because it's very painful to come out.... [Otherwise,] we cannot play the political role we could play, because we don't have the numbers."

Coming as he did from an age when things were more dogmatically black and white, Rustin was one of a kind. How strange that his memory would be so carelessly preserved by history.

## WHITE/ from page 1

things. They're moving more money into drug programs and prevention. Last year we voted to reorganize the Council, so everything [about the way funds are distributed] is new this year, and we're going on this retreat to begin that new process."

The Council, whose meetings are open to the public, is a long way from finalizing which organizations will get how much money for 1998, according to Ooteghem.

Meanwhile, the \$2 million increase comes about via two distinct processes, he said.

The bulk of the funding—\$7 million—is based on a simple formula that determines what percentage of all HIV-positive Americans live in Harris County. The formula money is up 13 percent from 1997, representing the increase in Harris County AIDS cases (as a percentage of the national total) from 1995 to 1996.

Another \$5.7 million comes to Harris County in the form of supplemental funds, Ooteghem said. "Those funds are granted by the federal government based on programs put in place here in Harris County that the government likes and believes will be successful," he said. "We try to be very advanced in what we're doing here in Harris County."

U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen, D-Houston, announced the increased Ryan White funding for Harris County last week. "We had to work to get the increase because we are in a period of a retracting budget," Bentsen said. He worked with the members of the House Appropriations Committee, other members of the Texas congressional delegation and the White House staff to ensure the funding.

"On one hand, we think the number of AIDS deaths may have crested, but the rate of infection has increased particularly among women," he told the Houston Chronicle.

**BROWN/**from page 1

appointee to the mayor's staff, a prominent private citizen with access to the mayor himself, or a committee of community representatives, has not been finalized, according to the mayor. "My commitment was for an individual who would serve" as a liaison to the gay community, Brown said. "We're trying to determine how best to serve the commitment that I made. I won't rule out anything...my goal is to make sure that there be a direct link between me and the gay and lesbian community."

Another issue of concern to the gay community is the possibility of getting employee benefits for the domestic partners of city employees. The issue has been dead in the water in local politics since city voters overwhelmingly rejected the issue in a 1984 referendum. Mayor Brown made no promises regarding the issue during his campaign, and did not seem eager to tackle it early in his administration.

"What I've committed to do is to work with the gay and lesbian community and see if we can develop consensus on how to address [domestic partner benefits]," he said. "Obviously nothing has been done on that at this point in time...[During the campaign] I chose not to give a definitive answer as to what could be done. I think you could jump into something prematurely like we did with the [1984 referendum], which was a resounding defeat."

Brown, who was elected with 53 percent of the popular vote, is Houston's first black mayor. Precinct returns clearly show Brown received the bulk of gay votes (60-plus percent) in the Dec. 6 run-off. Precinct results showed run-off turnout was low in areas with large gay populations, and political observers noted that the gay vote was not a deciding factor in the election.

That was not the case in the general election, however, in which gay voter turnout was much higher, perhaps prompted by the candidacy of George Greanias, who garnered the endorsement of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) and Log Cabin Republicans - Houston (LCR-H). He received nearly 80 percent of the gay vote in the general election.

Greanias, a fiscal conservative and social moderate, threw his support to Brown in the run-off. Brown's opponent, Republican Rob Mosbacher, had little support in the gay community because of his malingering criticizing Greanias for his alliance with the gay community.

In addition, Brown garnered the endorsement of the HGLPC in the run-off election. Log Cabin did not endorse in the run-off. Brown campaigned as the "mayor for all the people" and ran on the strength of his record as police chief in Atlanta, Houston and New York, and a stint as President Clinton's

National Drug Czar.

Will Greanias be a player in the mayor's administration? Probably not, according to Brown. Greanias indicated to Brown that he is not interested in a position with the city, the mayor told the *Voice*.

As the Mayor began his second week in office, he was pre-occupied with finalizing his City Hall staff. "What I'm doing now is looking at the positions that are available," Brown said. "We don't have a lot of senior-level positions, but [a candidate] being openly gay or lesbian would not preclude a person from consideration."

Brown and his staff will have their hands full as the mayor faces a self-identified cabal of Republican City Council members—the R-7 group—who seem intent on making Brown's first term a difficult one. The former police chief and federal drug czar seemed unfazed, however.

"There's a history behind this," he said. "It's not new. When Kathy Whitmire was [mayor], they had something called the 'Breakfast Club.' In 1994, we had new council members come in, they were doing the same thing. What history tells all of us is that council members can deliver more for their constituents if they work with the administration and not against it...I don't intend to diminish the power of the office of the mayor."

And he has considerable background to draw upon, given his tenure in law enforcement and Washington.

"The day after my election, the Vice President called me [from Air Force 2], he was two hours outside of Japan. The President also called, and said he wanted to do everything he could to assist me. I had calls from other members of the administration and cabinet members," Brown said. "I see that as a benefit to the city, having the President and the Vice President as friends—in the context of having worked with them for two and a half years. They want to see Houston prosper and I will take advantage of those relationships to the benefit of Houston."

During the campaign, Brown promised to bring neighborhood-oriented government to Houston. According to Brown, the idea is that "the issues priorities and concerns of one neighborhood would differ from the issues, priorities and concerns of neighborhoods in other parts of the city. It's a matter of empowering the people to help identify what are the priority items in their neighborhood."

In the case of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, which is centered in a few geographic neighborhoods but stretches throughout the city, Brown said he would respond to what amounts to an "issue-oriented neighborhood" that could approach his office with concerns about hate crimes and gay youth, for instance.

**SHAHAR/**from page 1

not a precedent setting decision." Now managing attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Harlow first developed and filed the Shahar case as an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Teresa Nelson, executive director of the ACLU of Georgia, joined Shahar in calling the court's decision "an embarrassment to the state of Georgia." "It's essentially saying it's OK if you commit sodomy and don't admit it, but you admit to having an adulterous affair, but if you're in a loving committed relationship with someone of the same sex, then you're unfit to perform your job. It's saying we have one standard for heterosexuals and another for homosexuals, and that is just wrong."

As Georgia Attorney General, Bowers withdrew a job offer from Shahar after learning that she planned to participate in a private Jewish commitment ceremony with her lesbian partner, telling the court the public would assume Shahar and her partner engaged in sodomy, which is against the law for both heterosexuals and homosexuals in Georgia. Shahar would be unable to successfully perform her job as an attorney upholding Georgia laws if perceived as breaking one of them, Bowers said.

"As the chief legal officer in this state, inaction on my part would constitute tacit approval of this purported marriage and jeopardize the proper functioning of this office," he wrote in her July 9, 1991 dismissal letter.

A trial court dismissed Shahar's initial suit against Bowers in 1991. She appealed, and in 1995, a three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in her favor. Bowers appealed that ruling to the full court, which sided with Bowers by an 8-4 vote on May 30, 1997. Just five days later, he admitted he participated in a long-term extramarital affair.

Shahar petitioned the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to rehear her case in light of the admission, since adultery—like sodomy—is illegal in Georgia, and Bowers stated he broke the law, while her conduct was only presumed. But the 11th Circuit Court voted 9-3 August 1 to deny Shahar's request, making the United States Supreme Court her last avenue of appeal.

"I lost but Bowers also lost, because of his own behavior," Shahar said. "He had to come forward and admit that his firing me was hypocritical, and I think that he has infuriated a lot of the Georgia public. It doesn't make sense to, on the one hand, call yourself Mr. Morals, and on the other hand fire someone for being honest about her loving relationship while simultaneously lying about an adulterous affair for 10 years."

"A lot of what this case has been about has been public education, and in that regard, I feel confident that we've won," she explained. "This is a case that has received national attention, and it has come at a time when our opponents were screaming that gay men and lesbians wanted 'special rights' and it was such a clean example that we weren't asking for special rights, we were asking for equal rights. I think that issues of discrimination are much easier for people to understand when they have a live example, and my case was an example that people were able to grasp very easily."

Despite her final disappointment and the stress of living in the public eye throughout the case, Shahar also said she is glad she chose to fight her firing "for the public education reason and also because I think that people need to fight injustice when they see it."

"Just because this case didn't win, it doesn't mean that it won't help the next person," she said. "The public education moves not just Joe and Jane Member-of-the-Public, but it also educates judges and legislators. E So all of us fighting these battles are really paving the road for some future plaintiff who is going to win."


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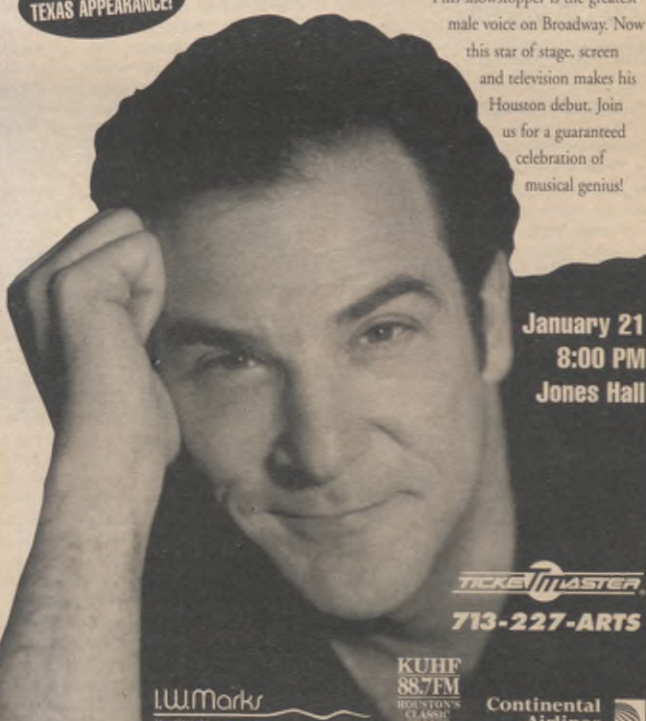
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## Rethinking the "Titanic"

*The story of the Ship of Dreams delivers a message for gays and lesbians*

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Americans are fascinated by the movie "Titanic"—the "Ship of Dreams." Movie buffs crammed theaters and wrestled for the best seats to watch James Cameron's replica of the ship slip into the sea. And the movie is a marketer's bonanza: box offices report sales of over \$197 million in the first four weeks of release. Fortunately for Cameron, the movie is about to break even. Now he can look for the real money to come in.

But to dismiss America's obsession with the "Titanic" story as merely an incredibly successful marketing ploy is to miss the point of the "Titanic" myth entirely. Cameron, I think, hit the mark by scripting the psychological voyage of Jack Dawson



(Leonardo DiCaprio) and Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet) into the plot. Admittedly, the love story drags in some parts and gets fairly cheesy in others. But it

is the awakening of the lost self in Rose which makes the film a compelling part of the human situation for gays and lesbians.

Rose's psychological condition when she boarded the "Titanic" was a Jungian feast.



Her unconscious self plunged her sanity into a suicidal fit when the conscious demands of her egocentric personality burst under the regulating equilibrium of her unconscious mind. Rose knew her marital engagement was a sham and her attempt to keep up the social front to please her mother collapsed when her unconscious self surfaced. Jung, perhaps, would have commented that her androgynous whole—the male and female in unison within one mind—suffered from a cavernous division. If Rose were to survive,



the deadly split must be healed.

Rose projected her lost self onto Jack's image. Jack, of course, finds Rose attractive, and he likes the chase and the competition. But Jack, low-class and penniless, exhibits a zest for living which the high-society Rose has hardly known. When Jack takes Rose down to a party in the steerage section below decks, she steps into a world of which she was hardly conscious. The third class quarters were alive with song and dance, and Rose experiences a child-like joy she had long forgotten when she joins in the revelry.

The steerage passengers, in a way, are an archetype of the collective unconscious. Pushed into the shadows by a society obsessed with social class, their lives nonetheless were bursting with life-force. Denied and rejected by the pompous rich, the microcosmic world aboard the "Titanic" was divided and incomplete without them. But they were there anyway, full of joy and love.

How different is the microcosmic world of the "Titanic" from the world we live in today? Not much really. Except in the case of gays and lesbians, we are denied and reject-

ed based on our sexual orientation as well as social class. But like the awakening of the lost self of Rose, America is awakening to an undeniable part of its lost self—gays and lesbians. We have hopes and dreams and we're alive with life-force, too. Fortunately, the voyage toward acceptance by the mainstream is picking up speed, but we must not allow ourselves to be seduced into an unsinkable sense of security.

The movie about the Ships of Dreams ends with a dream: Rose and Jack meet once again with all the passengers assembled on a staircase in first class. Gone are the artificial barriers of social class which separated the haves (consciousness) from the have-nots (unconsciousness). Cameron's message in this closing scene is this: The world really is an indivisible whole. This world, for its own survival, must unite and transcend its sinking weaknesses. And for the world to be whole, that includes everybody—especially gays and lesbians. When the people of this world rise above their cultural, religious, and personal limitations, then the promise of the Ship of Dreams will make it safely into port.

## Sun sets on the Empire in "Oscar and Lucinda"

Ralph Fiennes and Cate Blanchett bet all odds against the Victorian world in visually stunning film.

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"Oscar and Lucinda," a period drama set in the Victorian era, is a visually stunning film which explores the pecksniffery of British imperialism and Anglican passivity.

Victorian England attempted to build the Kingdom of God on the earth—and it just about succeeded—but the imperial gamble proved a spiritual disaster for its saints. Society monetized morality: if you had lots of cash, God liked you more. Laissez-faire and utilitarian ideology gave the well-to-do the justification needed to exploit the working class, and Britain's bourgeois enriched their bank accounts while relegating the proletariat to poverty and squalor. Women suffered the double jeopardy of working in dangerous factories for low pay on the one hand or wearisome leisure on the other. The proper role for a Victorian woman was to accept her lot and forget her dreams, for the Empire had a place for her—and wanted her in it.

The Anglican Church and its social-club Christianity cloaked these Victorian hypocrisies, absolving the rich in general and men in particular of responsibility for the Empire's sociological mess. The church sanctified the status quo and seduced the working class into submission by preaching faith, hope and love. But the church had another reason to walk lightly and carry a little stick: British imperialism allowed the church

an opportunity to civilize and "Christianize" the world as the Empire expanded. And in the Industrial Age—as in any age—more converts meant more tithes for church coffers.

Set in this milieu, Oscar Hopkins (Ralph Fiennes) plays the son of Theophilus (Clive Russell), a stern preacher, who rules his household with an iron fist. One Christmas Day, maids sneak young Oscar some Christmas pudding. Theophilus discovers the trespass and punishes Oscar for his disobedience: the sweet pudding, pontificates Theophilus, is "Satan's food." Oscar resents his father's strictness and one day he asks God to smite Theophilus whilst his father fishes in the sea. Theophilus arises from the water with a deep, bloody gash on his leg and the portent empowers young Oscar to envision a life away from his father's domination.

Oscar escapes his ultra-Puritan prison and lives with a rival Anglican minister named Hugh Stratton (Tom Wilkinson), who takes Oscar in and talks him into attending divinity school at Oxford. Oscar, now a young adult, lives a hermitic collegiate life until a new dorm mate, Wardley-Fish (Barnaby Kay), introduces him to horse betting. Oscar wins big, but he keeps just enough money to get by on and donates the rest to the church. He is genuinely meek, unfashionable, and a rather dull chap—until he hits the track. Strangely enough, Oscar's transformation is like Jekyll and Hyde: holy and saintly on the one hand, but devilish and scheming on the other.

Lucinda Lepplaster (Cate Blanchett) lives quite the opposite kind of life—which eventually intersects with Oscar's dark side. Lucinda's mother is a feminist who raises her to be independent and self-reliant. Her independence blossoms when she inherits her mother's fortune and purchases the Prince Rupert Glass Works in Sydney in partnership with a fellow glass enthusiast, Rev. Dennis Hasset (Ciaran Hinds). But Lucinda's self-reliance makes her life a lonely one—until



Lucinda (Cate Blanchett) and Oscar (Ralph Fiennes) bet on a little peace and quiet.

she turns to gambling in the secret card rooms of Sydney's speakeasies.

Lucinda's approach to life is utilitarian at best—she lives for the pleasure principle. She is a pioneer in a pioneering world order, for female industrialists hardly existed in the Empire. But Lucinda's industrial ventures, her trendy bloomers, and her gambling generate so much controversy that she must leave Australia for England—under the pretense of purchasing new equipment for the glass works. It is on the return to Australia that Lucinda meets Oscar.

"Oscar and Lucinda" strike up a friendship on the steamer Leviathan when they discover their mutual interest in gambling. The duo entertains a fierce game of cards, playing into the wee hours of the morning. But the hasty friendship quickly degenerates when Oscar relapses into his Anglican sensibilities. How can Oscar be a man

of God and lead Lucinda into an immoral garden of forbidden fruits? But "Oscar and Lucinda" cannot resist the bond that exists between them—their gambling addictions are like spiritual glue.

After arriving back in Sydney, the two gamblers—"one obsessive, one compulsive"—conspire in the riskiest wager of their lives: Oscar promises to deliver a steel-framed glass church to Rev. Hasset who is exiled to aboriginal New South Wales when saucy rumors circulate of his friendship with Lucinda. Lucinda goes so far as to bet her entire inheritance that Oscar can't do the deed—Oscar wagers to win Lucinda's trust and love. The steel-framed glass church is eventually delivered to Rev. Hasset after a treacherous and dangerous expedition into the outback.

But the steel-framed glass church, in a sense, is a double caricature of British industrialism and See MOVIE page 18

## NEW MUSIC

## Victoria Williams: Louisiana song bird soars above the clouds

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Victoria Williams seems frail and innocent enough to be of little threat to the globe. However, petite packages, as the saying goes, sometimes come with a big bang. Victoria, quite a petite package indeed, nonetheless delivers her own trademark snap, crackle, and pop—an earthy brand of pop music inspired by the misty swamps and crawfish boils of Cajun Acadiana.

It's hard to figure out if her new CD, "Musings Of A Creekdipper," is a variation on childhood memories or political hype for Greenpeace. But the girl deserves credit for consistency, at least—well, at least this time. The bucolic motif is upbeat in a Kris Kristofferson sort of way—the kind of way you get told you're screwing up the ozone as a lone voice accompanies angry fingers strumming a cheap guitar. Victoria has some positive things to say about the planet and about life—without the angry fingers or the cheap guitar.

The idyllic songfest is all wet from the start. "Rainmaker," no doubt, can't help but make you think about getting caught in the rain—and liking it. Just crawl up to the nearest thing that will keep a little of it off you. If you're soaked, don't worry. Watch the clouds go by and ponder what's going on in town.

Urbanization, to Victoria, is enough reason to stay in the backwoods. "Tree Song (Eucalyptus Lullaby)" instills a trance, an agrarian tranquil-

izer, to resist the city's muck. Nope, no reason to play hooky at the movie house—that's filthy, too. Oh yeah, don't mind how muddy country roads are when it rains—being dirty is just part of georgic life. A return to the Garden can't be bad for anyone, could it?

Rest, reflection, and fresh air are a great prescription for frazzled nerves. But sometimes the fates demand accommodation. "Let It Be So" prescribes resignation and release for the pain of the past—just the ones in this life, though. Forget about those former incarnations—you're still paying for those. The post-catholic musing is the easy way out: bad things were meant to be, no matter how good you are. So, disengage those memory cells and get on with life.

An idle mind is the devil's workshop and you can't have Satan prancing around in the country, for God's sake. How to keep those jittery youngsters busy? Lots of chores, chores, chores. But "Grandpa In The Cornpatch" plots a way to get out of that hateful child labor thing. Sprout some wings and fly like a bird, a Harpy if you must. It would be nice if a kid's life worked that way. Weren't grandparents suppose to spoil you instead of putting you to work?

Victoria's world is far from picture perfect. Sure, there's the picket fence, the backyard garden, and bunches of cats and dogs manning the fort. And there's time. Plenty of time to look up and contemplate what Wordsworth preached—a return to Nature. In a sisterly sort of way, Victoria gets you to think about the tiny pleasures of life—like fresh air, fresh water, and a fresh mind. Remembering those country pleasures is like remembering not existing—it's easy to do cause they've always been there. So, just relax, resign, and begin to dream—you'll have to one day, whether you like it or not.—Victoria Williams' new CD "Musings of a Creekdipper" is available in stores this week from Atlantic Records.



## QUICK CUTS

## DANCE

Twist This Pussy  
Various Artists  
Twisted Records

Twisted Records is the innovative New York dance label responsible for two of last year's biggest hits, **House Hero's Magic Orgasm** and **Funky Green Dog's Fired Up**. The label specializes in pounding tribal dance records with eerie, electronic, and diva vocals. Twisted's new release, *Twist This*



*Pussy*, is a continuous tribal journey expertly programmed by Peter Rauhofer, the mastermind behind **Club 69**. Peter, in a fit of self-promotion, kicks the party into gear with **Club 69's Drama**. Peter remixed *Magic Orgasm* for the compilation, but the only thing recognizable about this version is the electronic vocalization. However, the tribal rhythms add an interesting flair and flavor to the track. Another special Club 69 remix on the CD is *Perfect Love* by **House Of Prince**. *Perfect Love* hit the top spot on last week's Billboard dance chart and I find Peter's remix quite a bit livelier than the domestic double pack. Peter ends the journey with *Get Funky* by **The Water Chamber**, another trancey, tribal escapade. I think the CD is an overall winner and it should be a must have for the muscle boys who spice up their lives on the party circuit. — Stephen Underwood

Rhythm Formula  
U\*S\*A Vol. One  
Various Artists  
Popular Records

Now, this is a great dance CD. For starters, Disk 1 of the two-disk compilation is a non-stop mix of hi-NRG anthems. Euro-chart topper *Number One* by **Alexia** gets things goin' and remixed versions of Euro-hits like **D&G Music** and **Antares** *Whenever You Want Me* round out the 12-song trek. Secondly, Disk 2 is a compilation of remixed hits—but in single form. Things get jumpin' with **Red 5** *Da Beat Goes* and keep hoppin' with great songs like **J-Cock** *Come Together*, **Gusto** *Disco's Revenge*, and **Temperance** *Lost In Love*. Some remixes borrow heavily from the string pizzicato effect so popular in **Faithless'** *Insomnia*, but the variation



evolves to seem authentic, not copied. DJs **Joey 'D'** and **Kevin Kaye** program the mix and their overlays are flawless! This is a great CD, and I highly recommend it for your dance collection. — Stephen Underwood

## R&amp;B

Saturday Night  
Zhane  
Motown Records

Philadelphia's **Renee Neufville** and **Jean Norris** are **Zhane** and the duo's new release *Saturday Night* is a great follow-up to their platinum debut *Hey Mr. DJ*. Selections like the title track *Saturday Night* are smooth and cool—hip enough to keep your attention, but mellow enough not to raise your blood pressure. The divas reinterpret **Chic's** disco

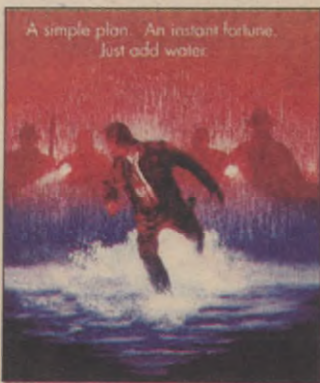


classic hit *Good Times*, with some lyric and vocal liberties added to the mix. And bucking the trend to use pre-recorded tracks, live musicians perform most of the music on the album—now, that's way cool. Overall, the collaboration seems fluent, classy, and snazzy. If the duo were a quartet, I'd probably be tempted to compare them to groups like the **Supremes** and **En Vogue**. But **Renee** and **Jean** prove a flawless combination in their own right on this excellent release. — Stephen Underwood

## SOUNDTRACK

Movie Soundtrack to *Hard Rain*  
Composer Christopher Young  
Milan Records

Sexy **Christian Slater** stars in this action packed thriller about an armored car hijacked during a thunderstorm—go figure. But with natural disaster movies about killer tornadoes, killer volcanoes, and killer dinosaurs floating around, why not have a film about killer rain? Christopher Young's score is as exciting as it gets for a movie about precipitation and larceny. Christopher adds some unique devices to the score—like a harmonica to symbolize the bad guys and an extra large brass section to depict the "omnipotent power of water." The album insert has one picture of **Christian** all wet—if it had more, what a find that would be! But if you're in the habit of collecting movie scores, you'll probably like this one. And for an added bonus, the contemporary **Christian**



rock group up **Jars Of Clay** lend their popular release *Flood* for the final cut. — Stephen Underwood

**MOVIE/** from page 16

Victorian Anglicanism. Industrialization, like the steel frame of the church, was an amoral, rigid, soulless system that promised riches for the masses but delivered only for the few. Victorian Anglicanism, like the glass tiles of the church, was a fragile, wavering, pseudo-spirituality compromised by the political designs of the bourgeois. In effect, the bourgeois and the church molested the working class economically and spiritually. And the British Empire, extraordinarily powerful and almost irresistible, found nothing to check its eastward colonization of the world once England proper was colonized first. This pharisaic culture robbed Oscar of his authentic self, but Lucinda denied the Brave Old World a chance to rob her independence.

"Oscar and Lucinda" is a marvelous film and director Gillian Armstrong expertly guides the talents of Ralph Fiennes and Cate Blanchett.

Cate, the young, golden girl of Australian cinema, delivers a gifted performance. She possesses a treasury of expressions. Similarly, Fiennes is spectacular, genuine and perfectly believable as Oscar. He demonstrates a unique synthesis of power and control. Both actors would have been subjects of the colonial system had it lasted the 1,000 years prophesied by Winston Churchill. But fortunately for them—and the rest of the world—the sun eventually set on the British Empire.

**HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ★★★★★**

**Rated:** R, Adult Situations, and violence  
**Time:** 131 minutes

**Genre:** Drama - Art/Foreign

**DIRECTOR:** Gillian Armstrong

**CAST:** Ralph Fiennes, Cate Blanchett, Ciaran Hinds, Tom Wilkinson, Richard Roxburgh, Clive Russell, Bille Brown, Josephine Byrnes, Barab Kay, Barry Otto and Linda Bassett

**Mandy Patinkin makes Houston debut Jan. 21**

Acclaimed star of Broadway, Hollywood and television, Mandy Patinkin makes his first-ever concert appearance in Houston at 8 p.m. in Jones Hall.

Sponsored by the Society for the Performing Arts, Patinkin performs his critically acclaimed theater concert, with accompanist Paul Ford. Patinkin, who began his concert career in 1989 at Joseph Papp's Public Theater, has since toured throughout the United States and Canada.

The critics at each of the previous tour stops have been impressed. The New Yorker review of the show read, in part, "Mandy Patinkin is in the business of show-stopping. He is a musical force of nature."

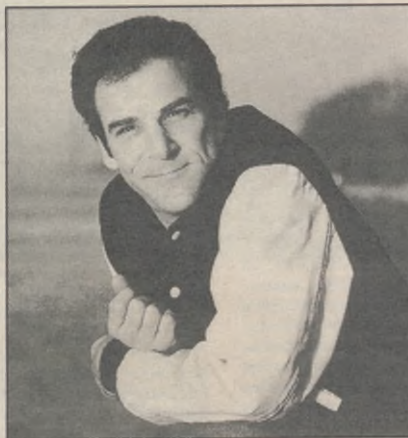
The Chicago Tribune wrote: "God and Mandy Patinkin only know what he will do in performance... But judging from his opening night show, whatever he does, it's going to be terrific." And no less than Variety weighed in with: "...this evening is more than just a concert, bigger than cabaret, not quite theater, but rather some combination of all these forms... It takes a rare talent to pull this off, and Patinkin does, spectacularly."

Patinkin has been busy off stage as well. He has released four CDs; the newest of

which, "Oscar and Steve," features the songs of Oscar Hammerstein II and Stephen Sondheim.

Among his Broadway credentials is a Tony-winning lead in Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park with George." He also starred in "Falsettos," "The Winter's Tale," "The Knife," "Henry IV, Part I," "Hamlet," "Trelawney of the Wells," "The Shadow Box," and "Savages."

In 1995, he won an Emmy Award for his role as Dr. Jeffrey Geiger on the critically acclaimed CBS television drama "Chicago Hope," and his performance as Quasimodo in the television movie remake of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"



Broadway legend and former star of CBS' Chicago Hope will perform his critically acclaimed theater concert at Jones Hall January 21.

has just premiered on TNT.

Patinkin's numerous film credits include "The Princess Bride," "Yentl," "Ragtime," "Impromptu," "Alien Nation," "Dick Tracy" and "The House on Carroll Street."

Tickets for the Jan. 21 concert, \$15 to \$50, are available at the Houston Ticket Center in Jones Hall and Wortham Center, as well as through Ticketmaster outlets in Blockbuster Music Plus, Fiesta, Foley's and Randall's. To charge by phone, call (713) 227-ARTS or 1-800-828-ARTS.

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Guest Bartenders: The Misfits

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**Sunday, Jan. 18 • 6pm til...**

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"Gay Metropolis" fails to live up to hype"

Review by Ella Tyler.  
The Gay Metropolis 1940-1996  
by Charles Kaiser  
Houghton Mifflin Company  
\$27.404 pages

"The Gay Metropolis" gives new meaning to the caveat "you can't judge a book by its cover." The book jacket says this book "covers the major social, political, and cultural events that have affected the way gay people view themselves and how they have been treated by the larger society". Quotes from well-known people praise the book's readability and importance.

The book doesn't live up to its promises or deserve its hype. It covers some events that affected rich or very attractive white gay men, generally literary ones, if they lived in New York City. As for the glowing quotes on the back—five are from people who were covered extensively in the book.

Most importantly, if, as the author says, New York City became "the place they (gay people) chose to learn how to live openly, honestly, and without shame", you couldn't tell it from this book. At least four sources are quoted under pseudonyms. A lot of pages are spent on closeted people or people like ex-

Houstonian Walter Clemons, a writer and book critic about whom Kaiser says, "many of his closest friends never met his companion: like so many members of his generation Clemons would always lead a compartmentalized life." No wonder the book doesn't talk about "Outing".

In short, the book really is a gossip book about the toniest

of New York gay society, unredeemed by a shred of a sense of humor.

There is interesting, new and significant material in this book. Unfortunately, finding it is like eating hard-shelled crabs—a lot of work for a little meat.

The book's most significant contributions to gay social history are its documentation of the psychiatric profession's debate about homosexuality and its discussion of some of the news coverage of gays. It does particularly well at reporting the information crisis and in the early days of the AIDS epidemic.

The book claims that the "Army operated as the great, secret, unwitting agent of gay liberation" because, in World War II, it brought so many men together. Considering this premise, it is curious that the book ignores gays in the military after World War II until they become a '90s political issue.

The omission is probably because Kaiser cares most about wealthy and/or literary gays who lived in New York. What should we expect from someone who lists Vogue and Vanity Fair among his credits?

All too often, name-dropping obscures important information. The account of Washington's "homosexual panic" of 1950, which followed the revelation that 91 State Department employees had been fired for being homosexual mentions at least 10 people and wanders off on tangents about most of them. One such tangent is speculation about whether Jerome Robbins' testimony before the McCarthy committee three years

later was coerced by threats to reveal his homosexuality.

The tangle of irrelevant quotes by Ben Bradlee, Truman Capote and James Baldwin combine with the story about Robbins to obscure the real news about the "Panic".

Whether or not Robbins was blackmailed, when New York Post columnist Max Lerner investigated the question of gays as a security risk, he could not track down a single case of someone being blackmailed about being homosexual. Lerner also found out that statistics about the number of federal employees who were homosexuals had been conjured up by a vice officer. The 12-part series he wrote was the first time the issue of homosexuality had been treated seriously and extensively in a New York paper.

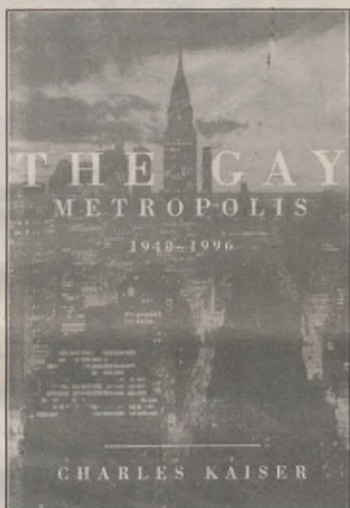
Although a story about lesbian Sandy Kern opens the book, lesbians are, for the most part, ignored. Pseudonyms replace the names of the women with whom Kern had relationships, and one of the lesbians who is profiled is given a pseudonym. Laura Nyro is mentioned only because of "Eli and the Thirteenth Confession" which "explicitly celebrated the pleasure of cocaine and bisexuality". Her other hits are not mentioned. Rita Mae Brown, even though she helped found Columbia University's Student Homophile League, mentioned as one of the first gay students' organizations, is not given even a footnote.

Rita-Mae is in good company. Harvey Milk, who was born and raised in Brooklyn, rates a mention only because Randy Shilts wrote a book about him. These omissions could be forgiven except for the amount of material of dubious connection to gay history and culture. Even if group sex in the back of trucks is a part of the culture, were The Beatles? Truman Capote's Black and White Dance in 1966, to which none of his gay friends were invited? Studio 54?

If anyone doubts the shallowness of this book, consider that the only mention of Andy Warhol in this book is as a guest at Studio 54, the bar where rich straights and rich or good-looking gays mixed. Studio 54 rates more pages in the book than any other venue, including the Stonewall Inn.

The book focuses almost exclusively on the social life (read sex) of its characters. You need a program to keep track of the players. Little is said about other human concerns like work, other reports of a few men who were denied exceedingly prestigious positions because of their being gay.

There are so many honest and inclusive books about gay history that it is a shame to spend money and time on this one. Books that have much more to offer include: for sex, "Farewell Symphony" by Edmund White; for history, "The Oldest Gay Couple In America" by Gean Harwood, "Lonely Hunters: An Oral History of Lesbian and Gay Southern Life, 1948 to 1968" by James T. Sears or "The Queerest Places" by Paula Martinac. For really good gossip, try "Stepping Out: Nine Walks Through New York's Gay and Lesbian Past" by Daniel Hurewitz.



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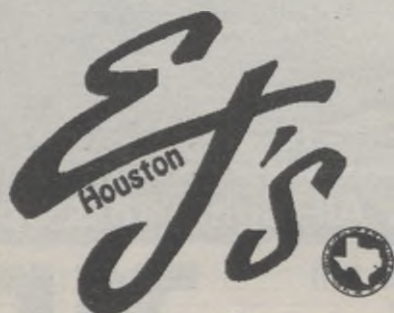
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WED	1/21	Granny's Burgers!
THUR	1/22	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

## Bayliss Bi in Baltimore?

The Jan. 2 episode of the critically acclaimed NBC crime series "Homicide: Life on the Street" centered around the murder investigation of a gay man, introducing the possible emergence of one of the series' main characters as bisexual.

Detectives Bayliss (Kyle Secor) and Pemberton (Andre Braugher) investigate the brutal murder of a man found dead in a dumpster behind a Baltimore gay restaurant.

The owner, Chris Rawls (Peter Gallagher), works with the investigators to track down the young, cocky hustler responsible for the murder.

Throughout the episode the officers confront homophobic attitudes among fellow officers, public outcry by local gay organizations, closeted gay men and internalized homophobia.

By episode's end, Bayliss, unhappy in love, accepts Chris' offer to have dinner with him at the restaurant, leaving Pemberton confused and upset. This episode tackles a variety of issues of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, but left many unanswered questions for viewers unfamiliar with internalized homophobia, anti-gay violence and gay culture.

Contact: Barry Levinson and Tom Fontana, Executive Producers, Homicide: Life on the Streets, NBC Studios, 330 Bob Hope Drive, Burbank, CA 91523, e-mail: [homicide@nbc.com](mailto:homicide@nbc.com).

## Psycho Lesbian on Melrose Place

The Jan. 5 episode of "Melrose Place" marked the passing of the golden days of milquetoast Matt Fielding (Doug Savant) when it was revealed that the season's newest psychotic character, Connie Rexroth (Megan Ward), is a lesbian. Connie was introduced earlier in the season as the best friend of Samantha Reilly (Brooke Langham). She has tried to break up Samantha and hubby Billy Campbell (Andrew Shue), continuously accusing Billy of infidelity by hitting on him. On the Jan. 5 episode, a woman (Charlie) comes by looking for Connie, and asks Billy where she is. He recognizes the name "Charlie" as the same name of the person Connie has consistently called her "lover" and starts asking, "You mean, her..." Charlie finishes his sentence with "lover." She warns Billy that Connie is trying to steal Samantha from him.

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender viewers may welcome a wild gay character on this show which in the past paraded hypersexual heterosexual psychos while the gay character stayed sane, yet celibate. Others may be concerned by this portrayal of a scheming psycho lesbian in the tradition of Basic Instinct. Please write

Contact: Executive Producers, Melrose Place, Spelling Entertainment, 5700 Wilshire Blvd., #575, Los Angeles, CA 90036, fax: 213.965.5808, or Peter Roth, Entertainment President, Fox Broadcasting Company, 10201 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, fax: 310.369.7363; or call the viewer hotline at 310.369.3066.

## GQ Scores Big With NFL Story

The January *GQ: Gentlemen's Quarterly* has a lengthy, excellent story about homophobia in the National Football League (NFL) and Dave Kopay's struggle as the only outspoken openly gay professional football player, retired or otherwise.

"Twenty years ago, Kopay was a sociological phenomenon, the first NFL player to publicly acknowledge his homosexuality," writer David Kamp says. "Since he took his great leap, he has been joined by precisely two people: his old Redskins teammate Jerry Smith, whose death from AIDS in 1986 occasioned posthumous discussion of his homosexuality, and a former guard with the New York Giants named Roy Simmons, who outed himself on Donahue in 1992 and

disappeared from public view."

Kamp points out how all-pervasive the silence around homosexuality in the NFL is today in spite of Kopay's courageous move in the 1975 to come out. "A whole new generation has come up never knowing there was this gay guy who played football," he writes. He discusses the issue of the overt anti-gay hostility of today's NFL with league spokespeople, sportswriters and Kopay's former teammates. Finally, he gives an intimate portrait of Kopay, an unlikely hero and accidental activist.

It ends with the suggestion to Nike to feature Kopay in one of their ad campaigns: "[Kopay] knows what it's like to pay the price of ostracization from the game he loves. He was out there ages ago, with nothing to gain but his own sense of well-being. He was good at what he did. He has survived, even remained in love with the game in spite of everything that's happened. So why not?"

Contact: Art Cooper, Editor In Chief, *GQ: Gentlemen's Quarterly*, 350 Madison Ave., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017-3704, fax: 212.880.8757.

## House & Garden's "Domestic Bliss" Includes Gay Couple

The Jan. issue of House & Garden features a gay male couple, Tom Christopher and Marty Asher discussing the pitfalls and perils of shopping for plants via mail-order catalogues. The story, written by Billy Norwich, is accompanied by a cartoon of two men looking through the "Bloom and Blossom 1998" catalogue. Without sensation, the magazine includes the two men's humorous and decidedly gay perspective on the subject.

Contact: Billy Norwich and Dominaque Browning, Editor, House & Garden, 342 Madison Ave., 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10073.



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**Friday, January 16**

- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootpees', 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program: 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club meets for dinner. 768-8793.
- Spay-Neuter Assistance Program. 713-522-2337.
- LiB general meeting at 6:30 pm. 713-526-1017.

**Saturday, January 17**

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

**Sunday, January 18**

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- Rainbow Riders: A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-868-5039.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- LOAF meets at 2 pm. 713-661-1482.
- P-FLAG Galveston meets at 2 pm. 713-867-

- 9020.
- African American Lesbian Gay Alliance meets at 5:30 pm. 713-864-2242.
- AWARE (Southwestern Bell's Corporate Group for Gay and Lesbian Employees meet at 6 pm. 713-235-7929.

**Monday, January 19**

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Parka Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309.

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.

**Tuesday, January 20**

- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Parka Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- Dating and Mating: Erotic Choices in Safer Sex meets at 7 pm. 713-524-2374.
- Pride Committee of Houston Board meeting at 7 pm. 713-529-6979.

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm, Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H ) meets at 4pm. 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootpees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.

**Wednesday, January 21**

- Rainbow Ranglers auditions at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.
- OutVote meets at 7 pm. 713-520-VOTE.
- Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum meets. 713-779-8620.
- Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers meets at 7:30 pm. 713-942-7002.
- Houston Area Bears monthly meeting at 8 pm. 713-867-9123.

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Frontrunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Houston Outdoor Group meets at 7:30 pm. 713-KAMPOUT

**Thursday, January 22**

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm, Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H ) meets at 4pm. 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootpees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.

**GALAXY GAZZER A Houston Voice Exclusive**  
Your Horoscope for the week of January 19 thru 23

**ARIES:** (March 21-April 20) You will see financial dealings improving this week. And it may be best to stick to time-tested realities. Steer clear of all who cannot be trusted, or seem to be working towards a goal purely for themselves. You enjoy change, variety and adventure.

**TAURUS:** (April 21 - May 21) Think before you speak and to make sure you have all your facts straight. If you are involved in a love affair, it can be especially intense right now, and may be an excellent time for a proposal. If uncommitted, it's time to discuss the future with a potential mate.

**GEMINI:** (May 22 - June 21) This week may not be the best time to settle old grievances or new arguments, or try to make much of an impression with anyone. It may be best to adopt a low profile. Avoid hassling with a co-worker, for it's a no-win situation. There is high potential for monetary gains.

**CANCER:** (June 22 - July 23) Now begins a fortunate period for your family and home interests. It's time to make a list of changes you've been contemplating, perhaps a sale of real estate. Feelings are intense in the romance department, so sidestep a showdown that could be memorable.

**LEO:** (July 24 - August 23) Don't bottle up your feelings; express your anger in a positive way. Remember to speak clearly to avoid any misunderstanding. During this year, relatives are bound to play a bigger role in your life, and pleasantly so. Avoid arguing with family members.

**VIRGO:** (August 24 - September 23) Expectations are high and you are apt to run into obstacles wherever you turn. It may be best to lie low, and not make waves, waiting for a more opportune time. Money trends are promising, but not immediate. People you deal with tend to be overemotional.

**LIBRA:** (September 24 - October 23) Happiness and financial success are surely on their way to you. Someone may be trying to involve you in a financial deal which just does not feel right for you - hold your

ground. There is delightful rapport with a mate, lover or close friend.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 - November 22) A new romance may be waiting in the wings for you. It might not be a new person, but somebody you already know, and hadn't realized the possibilities before. You will make great progress in self-knowledge and spiritual growth in the coming year.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 23 - December 21) It's an excellent time for beginning a domestic project or closing a real estate deal. Most of the week will find you in an upbeat mood, possibly planning a get together with friends. Don't let minor money problems dampen your spirit - things will work out.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 - January 20) There seems to be questions from all sides regarding your career and business interests. But after this week, these problems will clear up for many months. Meanwhile, it may be best to postpone important decisions. There may be tension on the homefront.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 - February 19) Your physical energy is at a low point this week. In the next few weeks, you are bound to make major decisions regarding your personal life, so think about your moves and plan accordingly. It looks like time to cultivate a whole new circle of friends.

**PISCES:** (February 20 - March 20) This week will basically be another struggle for survival, primarily on the job, but also in other people's conflicts. It will be tense for awhile, and it would be best for you to tread very lightly on others' sensitivities. Keep business facts to yourself for now.

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK:** Look towards the goal you've established for yourself in your career. Try to sidestep any minor difficulties and see the whole picture. Pay attention to your mental and physical vitality, and stay away from situations which will end in overspending, overdoing or overindulging.

**Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle**  
"The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

- By Henry McClurg
- ACROSS**
- 1 British wit
  - 6 right-wing preacher who referred to Ellen DeGeneres as Ellen Degenerate
  - 12 Strom Thurmond's state, abbr.
  - 13 popular antibiotic
  - 16 bovine mammal
  - 17 noun suffix for recipient (grant to grant...)
  - 18 network of 'Ellen'
  - 19 Old Dominion State, abbr.
  - 21 I am,
- DOWN**
- 1 gay
  - 22 acronym for 'transient ischemic attack' (a minor stroke)
  - 23 clothed
  - 26 change hide into leather
  - 27 Houston gay area
  - 29 Cotton State, abbr.
  - 30 TWA in a mirror
  - 32 concern for others
  - 33 strike
  - 35 famous Calif. photographer specializing in beefy men
  - 37 limitation
  - 38 gateway (as a postal address) abbr.
  - 39 Kevin ..... was on the cover of Esquire in 1997 as 'I hear he's ...'
  - 42 condition with a sense of alienation
  - 43 symbol for element dysprosium
  - 44 Centennial State, abbr.
  - 45 chemical symbol for gold
  - 47 gay resort town in Mass.
  - 52 dislikes intensely
  - 53 on 2 occasions
  - 54 nestling

the United States  
6 in accounting, abbr. for fiscal year  
7 approach aggressively  
8 abbr. for lines  
9 marry a woman  
10 verb suffix,  
cause to be  
11 makes flat  
12 Miami gay area, 2 words  
14 'Somewhere over the .....

tonic, the relief, the surcease for pain.")  
20 family that served as 2nd & 6th U.S. presidents  
21 1997 movie where Kevin Kline & Tom Selleck kiss, 3 words

22 in a direction toward  
23 colonel abbr.  
24 Italian fashion king Gianni ....., gunned down in Miami in 1997  
25 lift  
27 19th century author 'Twain,' initials ("Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.")  
28 destructive rodent  
31 sounds like 'double you gee'  
34 newspaper advice columnist ... Landers  
35 Constitution State, abbr.  
36 adverb suffix, 'resembling' (sister to sister...)  
38 cheats

39 occur at the same time  
40 small shed  
41 AWAY in a mirror  
43 Roman numeral 502  
46 belonging to the UN  
48 sports tie-breaking time period, abbr.  
49 German car  
50 what names Chad Everett & Clint Eastwood have in common  
51 Yiddish interjection to express dismay  
Solution elsewhere this issue c. 1998 GULF FEATURIES, PUZZLE GAY32

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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			47	48	49		50		51	
52				53						54

**Important Stuff**

It is Coronation weekend. The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star will announce their new Empress and regent Emperor for reign XIV on Saturday night, January 17. After the pomp and circumstance, stop by Chances, the home bar of the Court for a sandwich buffet, Susan Masar singing the songs you want to hear and celebration cocktails! On Sunday, the "Victory Show" will be at the Venture-N at 8 pm.

The New Miss BRB is Shawna St. John. The contest was this past Sunday. I have judged a gazillion contests, and this one was the most well organized and delightful one I have ever judged. Devon DeVasquez, as the 1997 Miss BRB did a great job!

The BRB and Bricks II have scheduled a



At the Miss BRB contest

bus run to Mardi Gras in Galveston. Stop in either place to get your tickets. The Ripcord has their annual bus run to Mardi Gras also. The tickets go fast, so buy yours soon!

The Metroplex (in Shepherd Square) is having a grand opening soon. Watch this space for details. Rumor has it that Thumper Knight Leigh will be behind the bar there on Wednesday nights!

Get your calendars out. The annual pancake breakfast at Bering Memorial Church is April 18. Yum yum. The Miss Gulf Coast Leather Contest is March 6, 7, & 8. The 11th annual Silk Stocking Ball is on February 20.

Paradise is holding an amateur strip contest on Wednesday, January 21.

Be sure to check out the Vintage Bar. They are located at 4356 Westheimer (on Mid Lane). Owner Tina Lassiter invites you all to stop in and enjoy a glass of wine, champagne or port. They also serve tasty cheese and pate. For more information on their nightly wine tasting, call the Vintage Bar at 713-355-3093.

Rich's has trash disco on Sundays! Get this, no cover and 75¢ well drinks all night long! Put on your platforms and boogie on



Masked Marvel at the Barn

down at Rich's.

Need a martini? The BriarPatch has the biggest ones in town.

Friday, January 16 @ 9 pm, be the first to hear Marsha Wash's new CD "The Collection" at JR's. You can also register to win your own copy.

**Milestones**

Feel better hugs to Marlene (Chances), Armand (with the fabu cars), and Rocky Guzman.

Birthday hugs to Bob (of a Man's Resale), Eric Bush, David (the DJ), Deborah Bell, James Preuss, and Raci of Chances.

**Rodent Droppings**

Pepper, the wonder dog has met Harvey and Rascal. I held the very anxious puppy down while I let the ferrets (one at a time) run around her. I think Pepper scared the poop out the ferrets, 'cuz I sure found lots of droppings in their box.

My usual disclaimer is in force. Lies, trash, and gossip! If you would like to read real news written by real writers, please turn the page.



Party pals at Bricks II

Pooh Bear (hangs at Bricks II): I'm so sorry I missed you in drag! AND did you enjoy your horse back ride?

Jerry Sherman (BCLA): And I quote: "I



Who us, drink?

can't get the damn thing out!"

Steve (Leather Forever): Did you really steal Mr. Ball's Christmas stocking off the wall at Mary's?

Alec (JR's): Do you miss him already? He will be back soon.

Scott Lewis (Heaven): Did you get lucky in the Windy City?

Jason (Metroplex): You sure pour a tasty Tequila!



The EJ's gang

Tony and Michael (Lobo): I understand that you two pour a terrific cup of coffee at the new coffee cafe at Lobo. I'm gonna have to stop in and have a cup.

Micah (hangs at the 611): Cinderella lost her slippers at the ball and you lost your knee pads at Mary's. AND one does not pick peas at the "p" farm.

Linda Owens (Montrose Clinic): Yes, dear Ramona is a nice person. She won't bite, unless you ask her to!

Jim (hangs at Mary's): I hear you look



Only at Pacific Street

lovely in an orange jumpsuit and ankle bracelets.

Vicci (The Ranch): I'm still picking on you!

Kip (Gentry): Lulu ((EJ's)) is really ticked

at you for "Kip-napping" Patty (from St. Louis). All Lulu got was a post card.

Ken (BBHOL): I hear you actually left the bar with someone!

Jerry Jones (Mary's): Why did the chicken cross the road? To get into your bedroom?

Wiley (Chances): Did you like the "piece of tail" I gave you at lunch last week?

Papa Del (Gentry): Have you broken "in" your new recliners yet?

Kody (The Barn): No drawers, again?

Val (Gentry): New Year's Eve is not Cinco de Mayo!

JD (hangs at the BRB): What happened



The Briar Patch's bartenders

that your sheets got so messy?

Chester (hangs at the 611): Thank you!

Thank you! Thank you!

Barry (New Barn): And I quote: "I didn't do the farm animals, but I did do a few farm



Pet of the week, "Sissy" owned by Linda Owens of the Montrose Clinic.

boys."

Adam: Where did your brain go?

Edith (BriarPatch): You really can crank it up! AND if I had not scene it with my own two eyes, I would not believe that you carry a spare false eyelash in your pocket!

Barbara Walker (Montrose Clinic): I hear you are going through "Mental-Pause."

Dog Boy (hangs at the BRB): Just what I want to know is HOW you lost your false teeth down the pocket of the pool table.



Baby!

Eric (with the long hair that hangs at Rich's): What happened to your standards?

Jennifer (RSICSS): Did you really give all 67 head on the ranch?

Over heard in a bar: "I never knew you

drank until I saw you sober."

Jeanette Vaughn (RSICSS): And I quote: "Don't give me THAT look!"

Kimberly (hangs at Chances): You have been chasing 20 year olds again.



Susan Masar The Blues Broad and Boots at Chances

Byron (BRB): I hear you switch from Firewater to Cuervo 'cuz the Firewater was making you drunk. So what will the Cuervo do?

Thumper Knight Leigh want every to know that he wants a husband!

Officer Julie (PS): Having a 3-way at the front door?

Mark (Paradise): So what is a fish stick? Do you need some tartar sauce or maybe cocktail sauce?

Terrace (BRB): And I quote: "It is hot enough!"

Andre (QT's): I understand that you lean



Will (of Mary's) and 2 of his babies

a little when you pee

Rodgers (New Barn): How did you get from the Chain Drive to Chances in less than 10 minutes?

AND I quote: "After the first one they all stay in my hand!"

Craig and Byron (Bricks II): Rumor has it



Smiling at Gentry

you have been seen swapping spit! Upcoming nuptials?

Wesley (Paradise): What a "special" package you delivered to the bar last week.

Leon (611): You are a sick and twisted person, but we all love you!

Nancy (Bite Me) Ford: Thanks for the tip! I'll see if I can weasel it in this column this week.

T-bone (BRB): I hear you are a virgin bar-back.

Has everyone seen the fabu write up on the Houston Voice in the Jan. 14 issue of the Houston Chronicle? Way cool. Also, the Houston Press has added another section to their "Insider" column called "Weasel Droppings." What, they could not find a rodent?

Have a great week!

Cuenvolyn

**Friday, January 16**

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am till 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well, \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm. \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer, \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps, Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: "Fuel" 19 and up. DJ Chris Sill and Fusion.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

**Saturday, January 17**

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am till 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well, \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy Hour 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic long-

- necks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard; D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

**Sunday, January 18**

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBO.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps.No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks.; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Trash Disco T-Dance. Doors open at 7 pm. DJ Chris Sill. Super cheap drinks!
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; snacks on the "Far Side" & guest bartenders 6pm till???
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

**Monday, January 19**

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all nite 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.

- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtown Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Tuesday, January 20**

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Nights at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtown Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am; \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo. Dart Tournament at 7 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Wednesday, January 21**

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4

- to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtown Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight. Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's doors open at 9 pm. 18 and up.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

**Thursday, January 22**

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtown Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karokee
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's Club Hedo.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting. 355-3093



# HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS

## Women SEEKING Women

**SWF** Attractive, professional. Seeking someone 38-45, to explore a discreet relationship. Must be feminine. Call Ext. 5672

**GWF** 42, non-smoker. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I like dining out, traveling, movies, learning how to dance Country Western. You should have similar interests, be fun-loving, spontaneous, enjoy trying new adventures & have a good sense of humor. Call Ext. 5654

**GHF** Medium build, attractive, short black hair. I work & live alone. Looking for somebody for a possible relationship. Friendship at first. Someone to talk to, listen to music with, going out & to the beaches. Call Ext. 5666



**SF** Professional, 34, 5'5", 150 lbs., height/weight proportionate. Looking for a friend. I like to listen to music, read, take walks in the park & camp. Call Ext. 5643

**SBF** Bi sexual, 18, dark brown hair, brown eyes & medium build. Looking for single female age, race is unimportant. If you would like to get together to have some fun, then give me a call. Call Ext. 5641

**SF** Bi racial, 5'4", 110 lbs., curly golden blonde hair, big blue eyes, height/weight proportionate & feminine. I'm secure & independent. Looking to meet Black or Hispanic females, must be height/weight proportionate & be feminine only. I love to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5640

**SBF** Looking for an attractive, single Black female. Someone who I can spend my time with. Should be very caring, loving & willing to share different things with. Call Ext. 5579

**1-800-461-5930**

Just call and place your **FREE** ad today!

**SBF** 46. I enjoy sports & games. I'm looking for someone between the ages of 36-49, to spend time with, have fun & especially if you are interested in playing pinochle. Call Ext. 5637

**SF** 29, blonde hair, brown eyes, feminine. I'm interested in meeting new people to go out & enjoy movies & dancing. Call Ext. 5634

## Men SEEKING Men

**SWM** 40, masculine, 5'10", 185 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, nice looking. I'm seeking a girl 21-45, who is really a guy & healthy like myself. I want someone to share both nights out on the town & quiet times at home together. You should be a pre-op transsexual or a feminine looking transvestite or cross dresser. A transgender guy that looks like a girl. Call Ext. 5675

**SHM** 35, 5'7", 150 lbs. Looking for another Hispanic or White male 23-33, who is a top for friendship & possible dating. Someone masculine & straight acting. I have a lot of interests that I would like to share with the right person. Call Ext. 5674

**SHM** 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., dark brown eyes, black hair, mustache, goatee, earrings, sideburns, hairy bottom. In search of tops, for friendship, dating, sex & possibly more. Age, race, looks are unimportant. Cowboy types & body hair are a plus. I've never had any complaints. Call Ext. 5673

**SWM** Bi, tall & slender. In search of a passive, feminine, White males 30-45, who are into cross-dressing, role playing & pleasing both men or women. Call Ext. 5366

**SM** 5'6", 170 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair, good looking. Looking for a couple of guys who would be interested in hanging around with a chubby guy. Must have buff bodies, be good looking & interested in giving pleasures as well as receiving. Call Ext. 5493

**GWM** Mid-40's, 5'9", 145 lbs., blue eyes, light brown hair, smooth skin, mustache, HIV+. I'm very good looking & athletic. I like fishing, mechanics, outdoors & manly work. I'm honest & lonely. Looking for someone 35-55, who has many type actions, honest maybe for lifetime. No queens, hairy or overweight people. Call Ext. 5664

**SWM** 20, bisexual. Looking for a first time experience. I'm looking for other guys, maybe it's their first time or looking for their first time. Looking to get to know some people & let it go from there. Call soon. Call Ext. 5670

**GHM** 33, 155 lbs., handsome, spiritual, honest, creative, friendly. In search of a Hispanic, masculine top, who is HIV+ or HIV- for quality friendship. I love the company of a younger guy, who is willing to be himself & let me be myself. Race is unimportant, but Hispanic is a plus. Don't wait another day to respond. Call Ext. 5661

**SM** 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, 155 lbs. Hi guys, please no fems or fatties. I'm a bottom looking for a top. I'm very oral & I wish for you to be the same way. I like to dine out, go to movies, take long walks or staying at home having good conversations. Looking for someone between the ages of 32-40 years old. I'm HIV+, so those that are, need to apply only to my ad. Call soon. Call Ext. 5669

**GWM** 43, 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, HIV-. I like going to the theater, movies, dining out & good conversations over drinks. Looking for White men, who would like to go out & party. Should have a hairy chest but, not necessary. Call soon. Call Ext. 5665

**GWM** 5'10", 190 lbs., 34, dark hair, green eyes, professional. Looking for someone who is older & taller than I am. Should be mature, have a good personality, good disposition & comfortable with yourself. Interested in a good friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5651

**SM** 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, uncut. I like to go to the movies, live theater, dancing & the outdoors. Looking for someone who is hairy & has the same interests as me. Should be fun-loving & versatile. Call Ext. 5663

**SBM** HIV+, 6'3", 180 lbs., masculine, athletic build, mustache, goatee. I enjoy sports, riding motorcycles, horse back riding & quiet, romantic evenings. I would like to meet masculine, physically active man 28-48, for friendship & possible long term relationship. Call Ext. 5662

**GWM** 38, HIV-, 5'11", 170 lbs., green eyes, hairy chest & masculine. I'm deeply spiritual, cherishing honor above all, loyalty, duty & civility. Seeking a petite, gentle, HIV-, bottom, for walks in the parks, conversations in coffee shop's, movies & trips to the museums. Let's court each other & take it slow. Asian, Eurasian, Pakistanis is a plus. Call Ext. 5660

**GHM** 28, brown eyes, hairy chest, 5'5", 170 lbs. Looking for a White gay male, between the ages of 30-45 years old, very to medium hairy & weight is not important. Should be versatile but, strictly tops would be considered, for a possible relationship if the guy is right. Call Ext. 5659

**GHC** 27, top & 32, bottom. We are both in good shape. We would like to meet some Black men who are versatile, to have a threesome. Call Ext. 5656

**SWM** 38, 6'1", 190 lbs., HIV-, blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth body, 30" waist. In search of a long term relationship with someone who has dark hair, olive skin & a hairy chest is a plus. I enjoy cooking, movies, theaters, plays, walks on the beach, quiet evenings at home with a good man & a fine bottle of wine. Call Ext. 5655

**GWM** 38, 5'10", 165 lbs., mustache/goatee. I'm easygoing, straight acting & moderately hairy. Looking for other gay White males 38-50, hairy is a big plus & should be height/weight proportionate. I'm not into the bar scenes or the gay lifestyles. Call Ext. 5653

**SWM** 45, 6'1", 150 lbs. I drink & smoke, nothing heavier. My 25 year old White female friend wants me to do more than kiss & tell. In search of closet, mature, transvestites or cross dressers. Discretions is assured for the married. Call Ext. 5355

**GWM** 33, 5'7", 220 lbs., little overweight, hazel eyes, my hair is balding but, it is sandy-blond hair. Would like to get know some people & go out to dinner. Call Ext. 5650



**SBM** 29. Looking for friends to hang out with. I'm in a long distance relationship, so I get lonely. My interests are movies, sports & working out. Looking for guys of all races between the ages of 20-35 years old, to do stuff with. Call Ext. 5652

**GWM** 5'11", 180 lbs., blonde hair, 18. I'm financially secure & moving to the Houston area soon. I would like to meet someone who is also HIV+ & very physically fit. Call Ext. 5649

**GWM** 50, 6'1", 165 lbs., masculine, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm very oral. Looking for a HIV- top for natural sex. Must be height/weight proportionate. Seeking friendship, sex & a long term relationship would be great. Call Ext. 5648

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**SWM** 6'1", 155 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache/goatee, one piercing & one tattoo. Looking for a versatile gay or bi male, married is all right. Should like to role play, cross dress & want a little extra something in her life. Call Ext. 5647

**SBM** 29, 5'6", 166 lbs. attractive, HIV+ but, very healthy. My interests are sports, fishing, fast cars, movies & dining out. Seeking a White male 24-32, with the same interests for friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5646

**SGM** 50, HIV+, healthy, brown eyes, brown hair, 5'8", 165 lbs. I work out to improve the body. I'm a non-smoker & a non-drinker, but I tolerate moderation. Looking for someone to share my life with & really good at being in love. Call Ext. 5642

**SGM** 26, 6', 155 lbs., pretty, but have a classical masculine look. Seeking a long lasting relationship with a happy, sincere, generous business man. I'm sensitive, athletic & disease free. Call Ext. 5639

**SWM** 44, 5'6", 160 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, hairy chest. Are you a good looking, young Italian, Mexican or Puerto Rican? Are you passionate, loving, caring & HIV negative? Are you looking for someone to love & be loved by? Give me a call. Call Ext. 5496

**GHM** 5'11", 185 lbs., new to Houston, professional. I'm looking for a dominate, hairy, gay White male, who is about the same height/weight as I am. I'm looking for a good friend to show me around & have some good times with. Call soon. Call Ext. 5623

**GHM** 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., mustache, goatee, dark brown eyes, black hair. I am a hairy bottom. I am seeking a top, any race or age for a good time & or friendship. Call Ext. 5633

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**Newspaper Editor**  
The Houston Voice, the weekly gay newspaper for the country's fourth largest city, seeks a talented, aggressive career-minded individual to serve as the paper's editor. Applicants should have a background in journalism, pub-

lic relations, or related fields. Highly competitive salary and benefits package. Join the fastest-growing gay media company in the country. The Houston Voice is a Window Media publication and an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (no phone calls, please) to Editor, Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer Rd., Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006 or fax to 713-529-9531.

**Sales Representative**  
The Houston Voice, the weekly gay newspaper for the country's fourth largest city, seeks an aggressive individual with sales experience for the position of display advertising sales representative. Position includes base salary and territory. Join the fastest-growing gay media in the country. The Houston Voice is a Window Media publication and an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (no phone calls, please) to Assoc. Publisher, Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer Rd., Suite 105, Houston, Tx 77006 or fax to 713-529-9531.

**Part-Time Editorial Intern**  
Learn the newspaper business at the country's fastest-growing gay media company. The Houston Voice seeks a talented, aggressive individual to work as an intern in the paper's news operation. Background or strong interest in journalism is preferred. Flexible schedule. The Houston Voice is a Window Media Publication and an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (no phone calls, please) to Editor, Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer Rd., Suite 105, Houston, Tx 77006 or fax to 713-529-9531.

**Church Pianist/Accompanist**  
Christ Center

This position requires extremely strong sight reading skills, ability to do some improvisation, ability to follow conductor in choral settings, ability to accompany soloist and the ability to work on a team. This part-time position pays an excellent salary. If interested please call MCCR at 713-861-9149.

**BUSINESS MANAGER**  
Stages Repertory Theatre

Not-for-profit professional theater seeks a financial manager to oversee an annual budget of \$750,000. Duties include budget creation of monthly financial statements, bank deposits, maintenance of bank accounts, management of accounts payable, maintenance of employee records, and production of weekly payroll. This individual reports directly to the Managing Director and works closely with the Board of Directors' Finance Committee. Computer skills required. Knowledge of Peachtree Accounting system is preferred. Commitment to the arts is important. This is a full-time, year-round position with health insurance benefits. Salary in low to mid-twenties. Please mail cover letter and resume to: Donald Hightower, Managing Director, Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, #101, Houston, TX 77019.

Local Agency with major insurance company seeking FT/PT in/outside commission sales/telemarketing people. Flexible hours. Learn while you earn. Bi-lingual a plus. Kirby/Richmond area. Call Edward Garcia at 713-526-5553, Mon. & Tues. Noon to 4pm ONLY.

**Barbers and Cosmetologists**  
We have a large styling room available after 1/9/98. Call 713-961-1693

Montrose area builder needs someone to help around jobsite. No experience necessary. 713-529-5993

Help Wanted! Houston-Start the New Year Right! Join the friendly staff at Montrose's

Favorite Men's Dance Bar: Pacific Street! Applications Now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent Photo Required. Apply Mondays & Fridays Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

Midtowne Spa - Houston  
**\*NOW HIRING\***  
Call 713-522-2379 for more details.

Mary's, naturally is accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks & clean-up. Apply with photo Tues. - Thurs. 9am-2pm.

**General Labor: 713-942-8600**

Venture-N is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time = Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

The CLUB HOUSTON now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon.-Thurs., 10am - 2pm 2205 Fannin

The BRB is accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person with recent photo. No Phone calls please. 2400 Brazos.

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance, JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY are looking for honest, self motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Monday through Friday between 1pm and 5pm at HEAVEN, 810 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

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**Sharon Park Village - Galleria Area.**

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**AID\$ Emergency Housing - Montrose**

Bed Space available at TLC House for HIV infected males. Weekly rental, no deposit, bills paid, free laundry/phone. No drugs/alcohol - Social Service vouchers welcome! AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. (713)521-1613.

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**FM 1960 Area Condo/4-Plex**  
2/1, W/D, New Remodel, Pool, Walk to Rainbow Room, \$39,900, 10% Down, 8% no qual., Seller loan, \$244 P&I, 281-876-4969.

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ROOMMATE to share 322 Westbury South, \$300.00 + 1/2 Utilities 713-721-1241.

ROOMMATE, SGWM, Non-Smoker, Non-Drug User, Seeks Roommate to share 2/1 Apt. Richmond Square, A/C, Cable, Pool. \$325 Plus 1/2 Bills. 713-520-7662.

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[www.HoustonGayWeb.com](http://www.HoustonGayWeb.com)

<http://www.dupontmerck.com>

[www.basicbrothers.com](http://www.basicbrothers.com)

[www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org)

<http://ticketmaster.com>

[www.agouron.com](http://www.agouron.com)

[www.theclubs.com](http://www.theclubs.com)

<http://www.Roxane.com>

[www.pacificstreet.com](http://www.pacificstreet.com)

<http://www.midtowne-spa.com/spa>

[www.dudejack.com](http://www.dudejack.com)

<http://www.bureaucom.com/houstonv>

[www.confidentialconnection.com](http://www.confidentialconnection.com)

[www.movo.com](http://www.movo.com)

[www.hic.net/ripcord/journal.htm](http://www.hic.net/ripcord/journal.htm)

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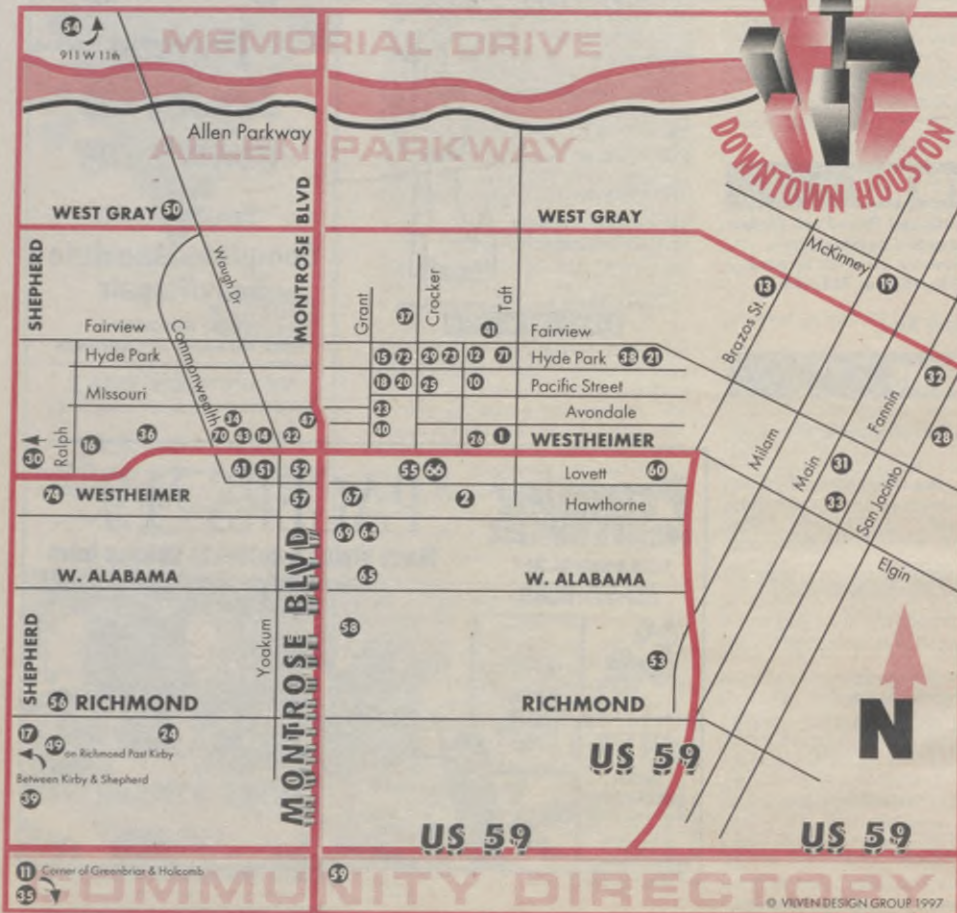
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10	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
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12	Bricks II	617 Fairview 713/528-8802
13	Brozos River Bottom	2400 Brozos 713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview 713/528-9204
16	EJs	2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
17	Genry	2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific 713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific 713/521-2559
21	Lazy J	312 Team 713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific 713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 713/523-0213
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30	Vintage Bar	4356 Westheimer 713/355-3093
31	Venture N	2923 Main 713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
33	Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin 713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
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	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy 713/666-3436
36	Rascals	1318 Westheimer 713/942-1108
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker 713/522-7366
38	Mala's Tejana Country	302 Team 713/523-0747
39	Metroplex on Midlane	2165 Portsmouth 713/520-5000
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40	Baba Vega	2607 Grant 713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview 713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby 713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam 713/524-9932
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th 713/862-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer 713/529-8490
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57	Kruger Grocery	3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939 S. Montrose 713/522-3154
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer 713/524-7785
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer 713/521-7741
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
69	STAR Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (AS) 713/522-7373
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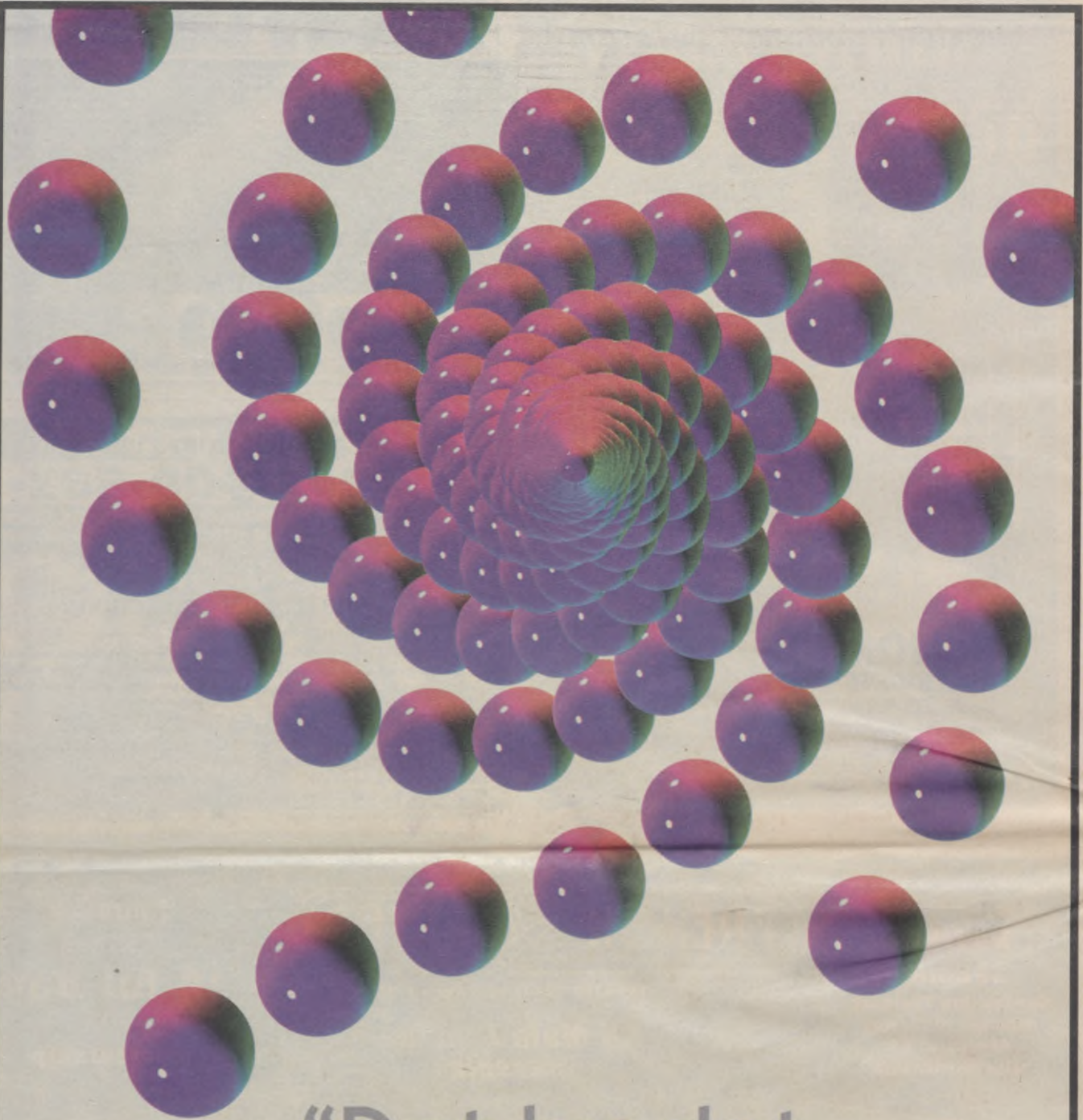
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