

Rita Mae and Sneak Pie

Brown talks about her newest book, 'Claws and Effect,' plus an upcoming novel

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INSIDE



Seattle-based Exodus International, a leading ex-gay group, placed John Paulk, above, on probationary status and stripped him of voting rights after he was spotted in a Washington, D.C. gay bar last September. But leaders recently announced they are reinstating Paulk to their board.

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At annual 'spring fling' PFLAG/HATCH announce plan to award \$50,000 in scholarships. Recipient of funds, like Jesus Perez, above, talk about benefits of receiving scholarships.

Page 2



It's a dog-eat-dog world for Todd Porter, above, who portrays Kerr, a man reincarnated as a canine, in the Theater LaB production of 'Chesapeake,' playing through April 21.

Page 15

Good news for gays!

From the world's first gay marriage to the demise of 'Dr. Laura' on TV, the last seven days have held huge victories for gay rights; activists say the progress also shows the work that remains

Call it the "I do" heard 'round the world. On April 1, the Netherlands became the first country to allow gay couples to marry under the same laws as heterosexuals. Shortly after midnight, three gay male couples and one lesbian couple exchanged vows at Amsterdam's City Hall, in a ceremony officiated by the city's mayor and aired on television. They became the world's first legally married gay couples.

Paramount cans 'Dr. Laura' TV show, page 12

Activists in the U.S. acknowledge it will likely be years before same-sex couples here can join their Dutch counterparts in legal matrimony. But the last week had its share of major victories for American gays as well.

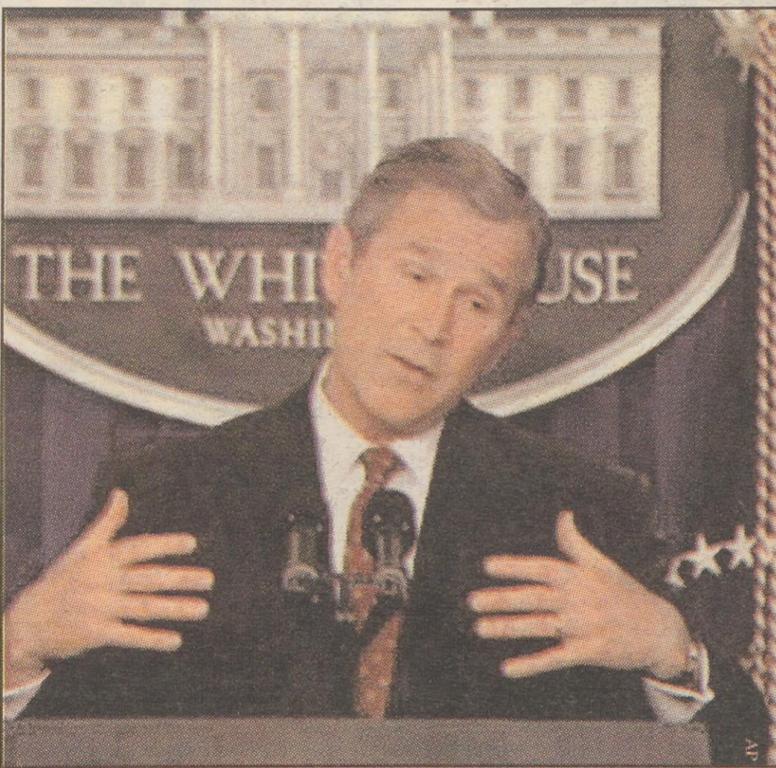
On Friday, gay media activists cheered when talk show host "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger released a statement

> Continued on Page 12



Two days after 'Dr. Laura' Schlessinger announced the demise of her TV show, heavily criticized by gays, four Dutch gay couples exchanged marriage vows at Amsterdam's City Hall, the highlights of a positive week of news for gay men and lesbians.

Bush stumbles on AIDS issues, activists say



President Bush has apparently gutted the federal AIDS office and proposed no new funding for two indigent AIDS care programs.

As gay health advocates release report, Bush leaves untouched the federal AIDS office

by ERIC ERICKSON

WASHINGTON—Despite a February pledge to appoint "a strong AIDS director," President Bush has gutted the federal AIDS office and proposed a budget that caps spending for an indigent AIDS program at current levels, moves decried by AIDS advocates.

The only thing left of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy is a Web site directing calls to an empty office on Jackson Place in Washington, according to the *Washington Post*.

And under a budget for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that Bush will submit to Congress next week, the \$1.8 billion in funding for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act will not change.

"Within Ryan White, there's a program that provides AIDS drugs for people who can't afford them, who are not covered by insurance," said Alexis Schuler, director of government affairs for AIDS Action. "These are literally the drugs that are keeping people alive."

Schuler also said the federal health department budget includes a 48-percent cut in federal funding for the infectious disease programs at the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta.

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Scholarships available to gay youth

PFLAG/HATCH to award \$50,000 in college funding this year

by D.L. MURPHY

The PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation announced they will provide approximately \$50,000 in scholarships this year. This announcement was made at Spring Fling 2001, held Friday evening in the Warwick Hotel's Versailles Room.

Ceremonies began with Gary Teixeira, president of the Youth Scholarship Foundation, reading from a letter from Terrance Baggett of the Elliot H. Matthews Foundation.

"One of the costs of coming out is the interruption of secondary education by the parental refusal to continue to pay for their children's education... for many, the only family they will ever have is the one that they can construct out of our community," Baggett write.

Baggett's letter was sent to confirm the funding of the Elliot H. Matthews Foundation Scholarship, with a grant of \$10,000 this year.

Kevin Davidson, president of HATCH, also announced the formation of the Gary Van Ooteghem Scholarship Endowment Fund. This fund's goal is to raise \$2 million to \$3 million over the next three years. This fund's current balance is approximately \$100,000. Funding is the result of a single donation from someone Davidson would describe only as "a leader of the GLBT community."

Both scholarships are to be administered by the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship



Jesus Perez, inset, a recipient of a scholarship from PFLAG/HATCH during the year 2000, spoke during the group's Spring Fling fund-raiser last Friday at the Warwick Hotel.

Fund.

Other large donations to the Youth Scholarship Fund were announced throughout the evening. The Chase Texas Foundation donated \$2,000, PFLAG \$4,000 and an anonymous gay man donated \$20,000 to the foundation.

This is the third large donation by the "anonymous gay man." This gentleman provides a contribution of \$20,000 each year, has made up scholarship shortfalls in the past, and purchased all of the tickets provided to members of the gay press. The only stipulation this donor attaches to the funds is that one man and one woman receive a scholarship with the funds he provides.

Scholarship recipients spoke of the impact the scholarships have had on their lives. Laura Springler told the audience

"there's two reasons I'm in college right now. One is the high school counselor who referred me to this scholarship; the other is that I've got a community out there."

"I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to succeed."

The scholarships are available to 17- to 26-year-old gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered students pursuing 2-year degree programs, 4-year degree programs or vocational school certification. A maximum of \$2,500 per student per year is available.

The Youth Scholarship Fund is an independent 501(c)3 corporation formed when PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and HATCH (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals) teamed up to provide scholarships to gay youth.

The fund has committed \$130,000 to 19 students to date.

Yard sales, movies and more...



Everything from a community yard sale to power dating nights for both men and women are planned this month at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne.

Community center plans month of activities

The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center continues to provide programs, events, comfortable and affordable space to meet, work or just a great place to drop in, hang out.

For those of you who have enjoyed any number of the center's activities, here is a reminder of what is going on. For those of you who have yet to take advantage of "your queer home in Houston," here is a roster of some ongoing programs and some new, upcoming events.

The center's second annual COMMUNITY YARD SALE will be held on Saturday, April 28. If you keep putting off getting rid of some of your "junk," this is a perfect opportunity to bring it on down to the community center and join in a joint community yard sale. For a \$25 rental fee for space, you can bring your stuff to sell,

> Continued on Page 13

around the nation

Federal court says workplace harassment laws don't cover gays

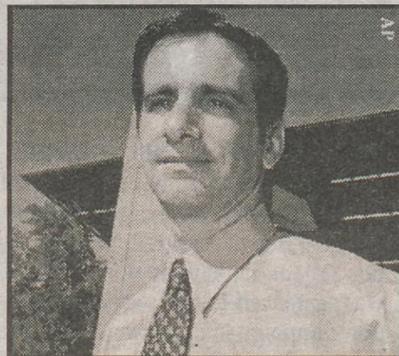
SAN FRANCISCO—A U.S. federal appeals court has ruled that workplace harassment that is solely based on sexual orientation is "appalling" but does not violate federal law, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. The case was brought by Medina Rene, a gay man who worked at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, who said that his male supervisor and co-workers subjected him to harassment almost continually for two years. The case arose in Nevada, which banned job discrimination against gays in 1999 but only allows victims to sue for back pay. Rene's suit targeted a section of the federal Civil Rights Act that provides damages of up to \$300,000 for employment discrimination based on sex. "The degrading and humiliating treatment Rene contends that he received from his fellow workers is appalling," said the majority opinion by Chief Judge Procter Hug. "However, this type of discrimination, based on sexual orientation, does not fall within the prohibitions" of the ban on sex discrimination.

BYU suspends one student, another leaves over gay conduct prohibitions

PROVO, Utah (AP)—Brigham Young University has suspended one student for two semesters for honor code violations that include gay conduct, and a second student has withdrawn over similar concerns from school officials. On March 13, the Mormon-owned school suspended Richard Escoto, who was accused of receiving gifts from other men, visiting gay Internet chat rooms, going on dates with at least three different men and being found "making out" with another male in his apartment. Escoto, 21, disputed the allegations, telling the *Salt Lake Tribune* that his only crime was confiding his "issues with same-sex attraction" to a roommate. Other roommates then turned him in to the school's Honor Code Office, he said. The honor code prohibits same-sex conduct. Matthew Grierson withdrew after he said he was reprimanded for holding a man's hand at a Provo mall, and allegedly kissing a man on campus. "They don't spell it out in the honor code. I just thought it meant no sex," Grierson said. School officials said the code doesn't need to spell everything out. "Students have the maturity to decipher that and listen to what church leaders are telling us," school spokesperson Carri Jenkins said.

Openly gay mayor in AZ defends record in face of recall vote

TEMPE, Ariz.—Openly gay Mayor Neil Giuliano defended his record in office in response to a scheduled Sept. 11 recall election, the *Arizona Republic* reported. "Opinions will differ along the journey, but only a majority of the City Council determines policy and direction, not one member—not the mayor alone," he said. Giuliano called the charges against him "false generalizations without merit." Recall organizers, led by resident A.J. LaFaro, blame the mayor for development decisions, crime, ineffective mass transit and problems with airplane noise. They said that despite the timing, the recall was not launched to retaliate against Giuliano for his support to curb city employee donations to the Boy Scouts of America over its ban on gay Scoutmasters. The city later backed off the plan.



Neil Giuliano, the openly gay mayor of Tempe, Ariz., is defending his record in hopes of fending off a recall vote set for September.

Despite conservative cries, Bush nominee expected to get Senate okay

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite opposition from conservatives over his handling of a gay sex education controversy, Massachusetts Gov. Paul Cellucci is expected to be easily confirmed as President Bush's choice as U.S. ambassador to Canada, perhaps as soon as this week. North Carolina Sen. Jesse Helms, who killed President Bill Clinton's attempt to nominate Cellucci's predecessor, Gov. William Weld, as ambassador to Mexico, has expressed support for Cellucci's nomination, all but assuring his confirmation. Cellucci's nomination is opposed by Public Advocate of Virginia, an anti-gay group that objects to Cellucci's handling of a controversy in which state education department officials took part in a program for teens that included frank sexual discussions about "queer sex." Following an inquiry, the department fired two officials. Public Advocate plans to deliver 100,000 opposition petitions to senators this week.

MN donors boost Scout funding; WI governor abandons payroll plan

MINNEAPOLIS—United Way contributors in the Twin Cities area have earmarked nearly \$659,000 for the Boy Scouts of America, a four-fold increase over the 1999 amount, the *Minneapolis Tribune* reported. That is in addition to nearly \$1 million the Scouts will receive from the general pool of United Way funds. In Madison, Wis., Gov. Scott McCallum ordered officials to abandon a rule barring state employees from using payroll deductions to donate to charities that discriminate based on sexual orientation. "That's not my philosophy," McCallum said of the plan, which would have kept state employees from contributing to the Scouts. McCallum spokesperson Lisa Hull said that the plan must be revised. Openly gay state Rep. Mark Pocan had initiated the review of the policy last November. "The governor is simply playing politics with the issue," Pocan said.

— From staff and wire reports

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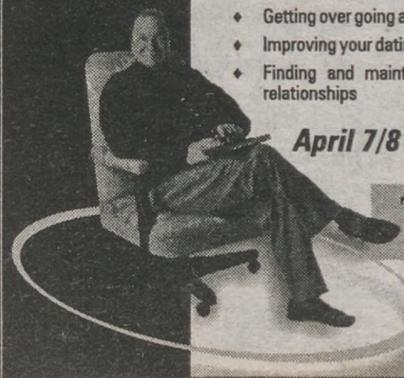
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police beat

D.C. cops sent anti-gay, racist messages through patrol car computers

WASHINGTON—A scandal over homophobic and racially inflammatory e-mail messages sent within the District of Columbia police department is spreading, the *Washington Post* reported. Evidence is turning up that D.C. police officers have sent each other hundreds of offensive messages on their patrol car computers. The messages "seemed to be a potpourri of hate" that included almost every kind of "idiotic, hateful, spiteful comment," said Executive Assistant Chief Terrance W. Gainer. "There were comments in there about, 'Let's go punch this person,' or, 'Let's go stop this person,' based on their race or gender or sexual orientation," Gainer said. The police internal affairs unit is investigating the messages, which could implicate as much as 10 percent of the 3,600-member department. The department's Civil Rights Task Force, which had been meeting on a quarterly basis, will start meeting monthly to address issues raised by the disclosures. "Everybody recognizes that there has to be consequences," said Rick Rosendall, a gay rights activist who sits on the panel.

NJ trans cop killer sentenced again to death for rôle in 1995 shooting

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey transgendered woman was sentenced again to death March 30 for killing a law enforcement officer in a 1995 shootout at her home. Leslie Ann Nelson's 1998 conviction and death sentence for killing patrolman John Norcross was overturned when it was discovered that police had withheld information from Nelson's lawyers. Nelson, who was born Glenn Nelson, underwent gender reassignment surgery in 1992. Police were coming to her home with a search warrant in 1995 to seize illegal weapons. Moments after they arrived, Nelson, who was described during the trial as a social outcast with a long history of mental illness, opened fire with an AK-47 rifle. She remained barricaded in her home for 14 hours before surrendering. The jury of 12 women could have sentenced Nelson either to death or to life in prison without parole. Nelson now becomes the only woman on New Jersey's death row.



Leslie Ann Nelson, a transgendered woman, was sentenced to New Jersey's death row for a second time for gunning down a police officer in 1995.

Gay sheriff in NJ blames homophobia for corruption conviction

HACKENSACK, N.J.—The sheriff of Bergen County outed himself during a news conference in which he charged that his office was probed for corruption because he is gay, the *(Bergen) Record* reported. "It is my firm conclusion that I became the focus of this investigation for fundamentally one reason: That reason is that I am gay," said Joseph Ciccone, who was sentenced to five years probation for forcing subordinates to raise money for his reelection campaign in exchange for promotions. Ciccone, a Democrat, accused Republican Bergen County Prosecutor William H. Schmidt of engaging in "homophobic hatred, prejudice and discrimination" by singling him out for investigation. Schmidt rejected the charge. "The orientation that anyone was concerned with was his criminal orientation," Schmidt said. Ciccone's statement followed a court appearance that had a celebratory atmosphere for many of the spectators, who said they were glad to see the deposed sheriff go.

Court date delayed for CA couple charged in dog mauling of lesbian

SAN FRANCISCO—The arraignment of two San Francisco lawyers charged with murder and manslaughter after their dogs mauled a neighbor to death was postponed until April 13 to give their attorney time to review the case, Reuters reported. Marjorie Knoller, 45, and husband Robert Noel, 59, were indicted by a grand jury March 27 for the Jan. 26 death of Diane Whipple, a 33-year-old openly lesbian lacrosse coach. Knoller faces one charge of second degree murder as well as charges of involuntary manslaughter and possession of a mischievous animal. Noel, who was not present at the time of the attack, was indicted on the second two charges. Knoller could face 15 years to life in prison if convicted; Noel faces a maximum of four years in prison. Their bail has been set at \$2 million and \$1 million, respectively, a high figure officials said reflects their potential flight risk. Whipple's partner has filed a wrongful death lawsuit and state lawmakers are considering a state law that would allow such lawsuits from gay partners.

Toronto gay bashers use Internet to troll for victims, police say

TORONTO—Police here said gay bashers are posting false information on Internet sites about cruising areas, then assaulting or robbing the men who show up, the *Toronto Sun* reported. "The culprits list a phony location and they then sit and wait. The homosexuals are assaulted or robbed when they show up," said Det. Doug O'Drisco, a member of the vice and sexual exploitation unit. O'Drisco said there have been several incidents in Toronto in which gays were assaulted after arriving to meet colleagues or lovers. "It's not something that happens every day. It has happened before and it will again," he said. O'Drisco said surfers should be careful. The number of men victimized by such scams may be underreported, since assaults aren't always reported by bashing victims, police said.

—From staff and wire reports

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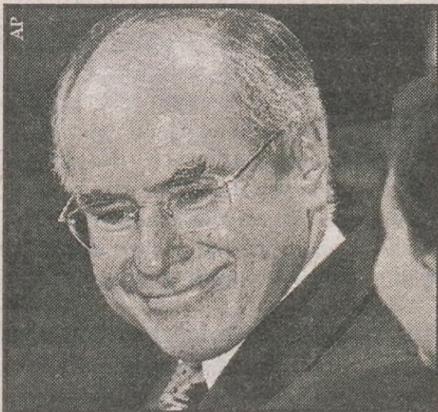
around the world

Lesbian teacher files suit over taunts she says hounded her out of job

LONDON—A British Court of Appeals heard arguments March 29 in the case of a lesbian teacher who was forced into early retirement because she had been harassed by pupils, the *Electronic Telegraph* reported. Shirley Pearce, 53, said she was hounded out of her job and is demanding compensation from Mayfield Secondary School, which she said failed to prevent her being called such names as "lezzie" and "dyke." She took the school to an employment tribunal in 1999, but both the tribunal and an appeals tribunal refused to accept that the harassment amounted to sexual discrimination. "I have always been a quiet person not out to make trouble, but I feel the way I was treated was quite wrong," Pearce said. An attorney for the school cautioned the court not to "confuse [discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation] or manipulate it in order to pretend it is discrimination on the grounds of sex. These are two different kinds of wrong."

Australian prime minister revives debate over in vitro for lesbians

CANBERRA—Prime Minister John Howard was expected to introduce a bill this week that would allow individual Australian states to limit access to state-supported fertility treatments to married heterosexuals, reviving an emotional battle over the right of single women and lesbians to get the treatment, Reuters reported. The legislation was sparked by a decision last July from Australia's highest court, which ruled that the state of Victoria could not withhold in vitro fertilization treatments from a woman because she was single. Conservatives then began a campaign against the decision, with a rallying cry of ending the deliberate creation of single-parent families. "The object of the bill is to ensure that, other things being equal, a child has the prospect of the care and affection of both a mother and a father," Australian Attorney General Daryl Williams said. The vote in the Australian Senate is expected to be close.



Australian Prime Minister John Howard was set to introduce a bill that would ban in vitro fertilization for lesbians, defying a high court decision from last year.

Gay man fights to stay in Japan, fearing for his safety in native Iran

TOKYO—An Iranian gay man who was arrested a year ago for overstaying his visa is fighting deportation from Japan because he fears death if he returns home, the *Daily Yomiuri* reported. The Japanese Justice Ministry turned down the request from the man, only identified as Shayda, in July and gave the go-ahead to proceed with his deportation because they found no cases of gays being penalized in Iran solely on the basis of sexual orientation. "This is the first case... of a gay foreign national fighting for legal status in Japan ... stemming from his sexual orientation," said Shayda's attorney, Takeshi Ohashi. Amnesty International reports that 14 people have been put to death for sodomy or sexual deviation in Iran since 1990, although usually the charges are incorporated with other allegations, like espionage. "If I tell someone in Iran that I am gay, my family will not wait for the government to kill me, a member of my own family... will kill me and no one will ask him why," said Nassim, an Iranian man who works with *Homan*—a Swedish-based magazine for gays exiled from Iran.

Financial adviser wants to market 'pink pensions' under U.K. law

LONDON—Gays may be able to use new provisions of the British pension law to ensure that their partners can receive funds after they die, the *Electronic Telegraph* reported. The new "stakeholder" pensions, which allow designation of a beneficiary other than a legal spouse, go on sale April 6. Ivan Massow, an independent financial adviser and maverick politician, aims to market a "pink pension" to gay couples. "Now the stakeholder [pension law] makes it possible for gay people and unmarried heterosexual couples to benefit from each other's pensions," Massow said. Prime Minister Tony Blair's government introduced the stakeholder pension as part of his plan to reform British retirement laws.

Thai gay group performs safe sex play for gay inmates to curtail HIV

BANGKOK—A Thai gay group staged a play for gay inmates at a Bangkok jail to inform them about the spread of HIV, the *Bangkok Post* reported. The show was performed by eight members of the Bangkok Gay Group at the Bangkok Remand Prison, which houses around 7,000 male prisoners, including 100 gay and transgendered inmates. More than 50 gay prisoners attended the show. Pakorn Pimphthon, who led the cast, said the play reflected the group's dream of stopping HIV transmission across the world. The drama conveyed the message that anyone contracting HIV should not spread it to others and promoted safe sex through the use of condoms, which are banned in the prison because authorities said condoms encourage "abnormal behavior." "We just encouraged [prisoners] to fight for their rights and prove they are not social burdens," Pakorn said.

—From staff and wire reports

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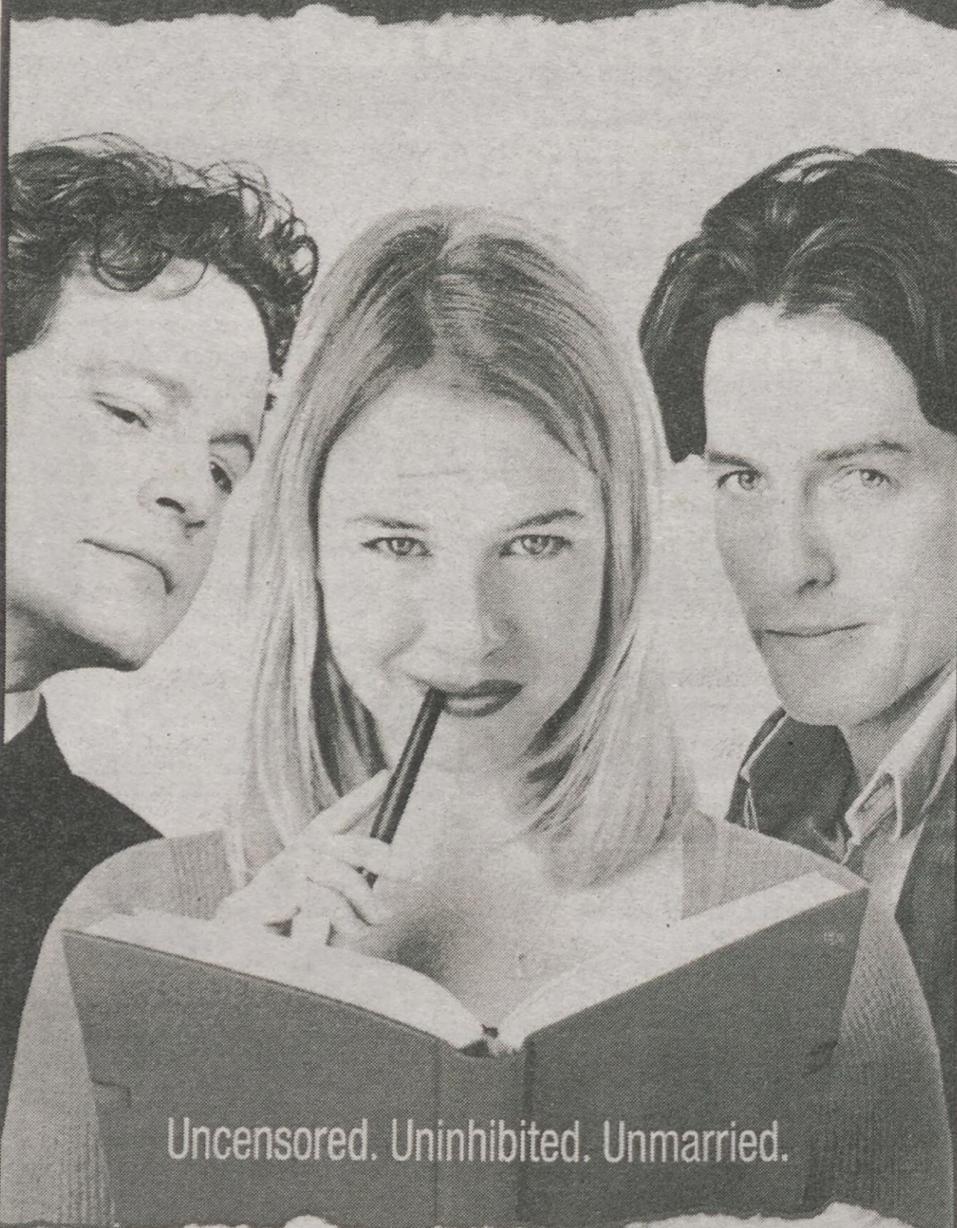


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religion news

Donor gives \$600,000 for OH church to continue outreach to gays

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An anonymous donor gave an Ohio Methodist church \$600,000 to continue to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered members. King Avenue United Methodist Church received the gift from a retired lawyer who has been a member of the church for 35 years, Rev. Grayson Atha said. He said the 500-member church, located near Ohio State University, hasn't decided how to spend the money. "We're in the process now of making some decisions on that. We plan to open it up to people in the congregation for suggestions," Atha said. The donor wrote in a letter that the money is to be used to establish a foundation for ministry to gays. Atha said he believes it's the largest gift the church has ever received.

LA court overturns award to fired counselor who refused gay client

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a 1998 decision by a federal jury in Tupelo, Miss., to award about \$300,000 to a hospital counselor who said her decision not to counsel a gay man about his relationship was rooted in her Christian beliefs. Sandra Bruff sued North Mississippi Medical Center in 1998, following her 1996 dismissal. The hospital claimed Bruff's dismissal had nothing to do with her religious beliefs, but was based on codes of ethics for licensed professional counselors, as well as hospital policies. The Court of Appeals ruled on March 28 that the medical center did make an effort to accommodate Bruff with another position that would not conflict with her religious beliefs. "An employee has a duty to cooperate in achieving accommodation of his or her religious beliefs, and must be flexible in achieving that end. Bruff displayed almost no such cooperation or flexibility," the court wrote. Bruff's attorneys vowed an appeal.

Anti-gay archbishop in Australia softens rhetoric with promotion

SYDNEY—The new Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, who refused communion to gay activists when he was archbishop of Melbourne, offered words of conciliation upon ascending to his new position, the *Canberra Times* reported. "I bear no ill-will to any group of people, but the Christian teaching on sexuality is designed to protect marriage and the family," Archbishop George Pell told a local radio station. "There'll be no compromise on that, but there'll be every compassion and every sympathy for those who honestly can't share that view." During Pell's time in Melbourne, he called homosexuality a "greater health hazard than smoking" and denied communion to gay Catholics and their parents, who wore sashes declaring their defiance to church teaching on homosexuality. As for his response to Sydney's famous gay-friendly Mardi Gras parade, which has often mocked him, Pell said he wouldn't oppose it, but added, "I won't be sponsoring a float."

Search committee in CO church resigns over bishop's gay clergy ban

DENVER—A local Episcopal church's pastor search committee resigned in protest of a ruling from a Colorado bishop that no gay clergy will be hired in his diocese, the *Denver Post* reported. In February, Bishop Jerry Winterrowd issued "clergy deployment guidelines" which state that no clergy can work in the diocese unless they are "married and faithful or celibate and single." That same month, the seven-member search committee at St. Thomas Episcopal Church quit. In their resignation letter, the committee said three members resigned after the church board turned down their choice for pastor, and the other four

resigned after Winterrowd issued the clergy guidelines. Winterrowd responded to the letter, pointing out that the committee's choice, a gay man from Chicago, was never submitted for his approval, and that if the priest is in good standing, then a bishop has no veto power over their choice. Church spokesperson Kathi Atkins called the resignation a "significant setback."



Episcopal Bishop Jerry Winterrowd issued guidelines that said clergy in his Colorado diocese must be 'married and faithful or celibate and single,' which led to the resignation of a pastor search committee at a Denver church.

New conservative think tank run by anti-gay foe focused on social issues

WASHINGTON—A new conservative think tank that will focus on social issues has been started by groups with a long history of opposing gay rights. The Culture & Family Institute is the brainchild of Concerned Women for America founder Beverly LaHaye, and will be headed by Robert Knight, formerly of the Family Research Council. "I look forward to working with Mrs. LaHaye and the good people at Concerned Women who are making a difference all over America," Knight said. "Unless we resist, we are putting our children at risk as well as our most sacred freedoms." LaHaye issued a press release announcing the creation of the Institute. "I am delighted to launch a division of Concerned Women for

America devoted to culture and family issues, which are absolutely integral to women's lives and well-being," she said.

—From staff and wire reports



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'Ex-gay' Paulk reinstated at Exodus International

Six months after being caught in a gay bar, John Paulk returns to the board of prominent international ex-gay group

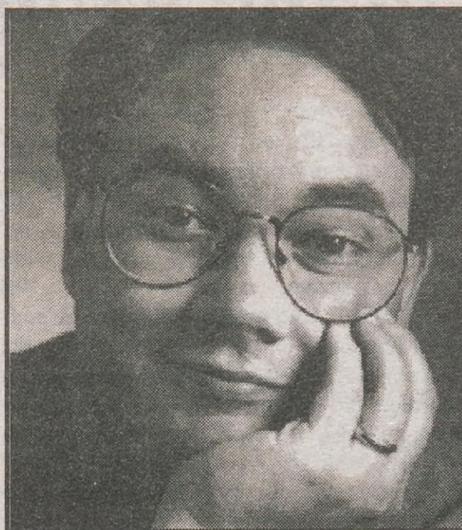
by ERIC ERICKSON

SEATTLE—Six months after the most famous ex-gay in America was seen in a gay bar, he's back at the forefront of the ex-gay movement.

Human Rights Campaign staffers spotted and photographed John Paulk in Mr. P's, a Washington, D.C., gay bar, last September. Paulk, a former drag queen and self-identified gay man, had appeared on the cover of *Newsweek* magazine and on television show "60 Minutes" with his ex-lesbian wife, promoting the ex-gay movement. He also authored the book "Not Afraid to Change: The Remarkable Story of How One Man Overcame Homosexuality."

Seattle-based Exodus International, a leading ex-gay group, placed Paulk on probationary status and stripped him of voting rights after the Mr. P's story broke. But leaders recently announced they are reinstating Paulk to their board.

"God has done a major overhaul on John's



Human Rights Campaign activists caught ex-gay John Paulk leaving a Washington D.C. gay bar last September.

private life," Exodus Executive Director Bob Davies told the Associated Press. "He is in a better place spiritually than ever before. We are confident that his future ministry will be even more powerful than anything God accomplished through him in the past."

But Human Rights Campaign spokesperson Wayne Besen, who snapped Paulk's picture in the gay bar, said he doesn't buy it.

"They're constantly skating on thin ice," Besen said. "It's only a matter of time before the ice breaks. These things don't work; they

never work. Almost all of the people who say they've changed have failed or will."

Besen said the biggest loss of this scandal was Exodus International's current and future credibility.

"They know they've lost a lot of credibility, they even acknowledge that," Besen said. "When he's being written about now and this issue is talked about now, or 10 years from now, if Paulk is still doing this, there's not going to be a story that doesn't mention this chapter of it."

Paulk will not get his position back as board chair, which he held before the scandal. Bob Ragan, head of an ex-gay group in Virginia, will continue in that role.

Paulk also remains with Focus on the Family, a ministry based in Colorado Springs, Colo. The group continued to employ Paulk throughout the controversy.

Focus on the Family representatives did not return phone calls by press time.

"I think it's an indictment of the far right and Exodus," Besen said. "Exodus, and especially Focus on the Family, didn't take this opportunity to look at the failure of their program, to re-evaluate and realize they're destroying a lot of lives."

Southern Voice broke Paulk's story in September, logging more than a half million hits on its Web site in the first four days after the story was posted.

Paulk originally said he did not know Mr. P's was a gay bar and had only stopped in to use the bathroom.

"That statement was widely doubted by both Exodus leaders and by the gay community," Davies said in a September interview with *Southern Voice*. "John's unwillingness to tell the truth from the beginning was most unfortunate, as it has further undermined his public credibility."

Darryl Herschaft, one of the activists who spotted Paulk, said he watched him for about 40 minutes, socializing with several men. When he approached Paulk, Herschaft said Paulk gave his name as "John Clint from Colorado Springs." When asked specifically if he was gay, Herschaft said Paulk said "yes."

"You can find hundreds of John Paulks, and the [ex-gay groups] will still exist as long as gay people are still made to feel ashamed of themselves," Besen said. "We have to remember our community will be here for these folks when they do come out eventually, because I believe the majority of them will."

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ACTION | info

Most black church leaders still mum on gay issues

Survey of African-American congregations brings no comment on any gay-related subjects, but cracks are showing in wall of silence

by PENNY WEAVER

ATLANTA—Black church congregations apparently still adhere to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gay issues.

A recent survey of nearly 2,000 African-American churches failed to elicit any comments from congregation leaders on gay issues and, according to one of the co-directors of the survey, churches may be intentionally mum on the subject.

"There's not a widespread [feeling] that we can talk about this," said Professor Michael Dash. "Unless you come directly out [and ask about gay issues], nobody wants to talk about it."

Dash and Stephen Rasor, a sociology professor, co-directed a survey of about 1,860 black churches conducted by Atlanta's Interdenominational Theological Center. The study, Faith Factor Project 2000, is part of Faith Communities Today, a national survey of more than 14,000 congregations in 41 faith groups or denominations.

The national project was compiled by Hartford Seminary's Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

The ITC survey of pastors showed that most view their congregations as alive and strong with a spiritual focus, while social issues are less of a focus.

Although the traditionally socially active churches still ranked social issues as high priorities, the survey results came back with no mention of any gay issues.

Both Dash and Rasor said they were surprised that no mention of gay issues was made, even though the survey did not include any specific questions on such subjects.

"I'm kind of surprised that it wasn't [brought up]," Dash said. "I think if we'd asked a more specific question, we might have gotten a response."

"My hunch is, unless we ask a direct question," gay issues won't come up in the congregations, he added.

Both professors said they expected the subject to arise in a general question about conflicts within congregations. The question asked pastors which issues, in the last five years, have prompted conflict among their church members. Rasor said no gay issues were noted by pastors.

Instead, church leaders cited money issues, decision making and women in the ministry as top causes for conflict.

Even when discussing social and community outreach, no pastors stated that their con-

gregations are active in any gay-related outreach, including work with AIDS patients.

"Over 90 percent of the black churches across the board... were involved in some kind of social [outreach]," Rasor said. But those types of projects ranged from youth programs to food pantries, voter registration and cash assistance to families in need, and did not include any gay-related outreach.

Rev. Antonio Jones, pastor of the Unity Fellowship Church, a predominantly black gay congregation in Atlanta, said that although he has not reviewed the ITC survey, he is not surprised that black church ministers aren't talking about gay and lesbian issues.

"It is a subject that is still very taboo in African-American churches," Jones said. "The only time it's even addressed in African-American churches is usually now in the context of HIV and AIDS or of course in a 'bashing' mode, or listed as a 'sin,' if you will."

"In terms of having any real healthy conversations around gay and lesbian issues and African-Americans, the black church for the most part is still silent about that," he said.

One of the main ways in which gay and lesbian issues may come up in black churches is through health topics, according to Jones.

"AIDS and HIV became a real challenging subject for the black church because it introduced the subject of sexuality," he said. "That was a subject that was ... sort of not dealt with."

He said most black pastors struggle with



Rev. Antonio Jones, pastor of Atlanta's Unity Fellowship Church, a predominantly black gay congregation, said discussing gay and lesbian issues is still taboo in most African-American churches.

determining how to minister to gays.

"The common belief is that it [homosexuality] is a sin and that it is wrong," Jones said. "[Some congregations] tolerate [gays] ... they don't really openly affirm gay and lesbian folk."

"They are sort of sending a mixed message because they are talking about loving the person but not the entire person," he said.

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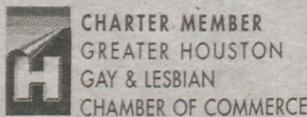
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EDITORIAL

You've come to the wrong newspaper

by CHRIS CRAIN

You would think that a group defined by "a love that dared not speak its name" would be sensitive to silencing unpopular opinions within its own ranks.

Think again.

In the past several weeks, a number of people have attacked this newspaper for publishing opinions that they perceive as offensive, demeaning and hateful. The criticism has centered around Michael Alvear's March 15 column on "the curious lesbian embrace of all things ugly," and a March 22 editorial asking whether gay culture shares some blame for the murder and rape of 13-year-old Jesse Dirkhising.

To be fair, many critics have successfully steered clear of shooting the messenger, taking issue instead with the arguments made in the two opinion pieces.

Pushing people's buttons and making them think is what newspaper publishing ought to be about. More speech is almost always the answer, and you can expect this newspaper to engage in it.

But more than a few others have attacked the *Voice* for printing the viewpoints, comparing Alvear's column to the rhetoric of "Dr. Laura," and the Jesse Dirkhising editorial to right-wing efforts to pin the teen's murder on gay sexual deviance.

"The promotion of this type of shock-for-response journalism is what fuels hate crimes," wrote one angry lesbian in New Orleans. "This is exactly what Dr. Laura promoted with her 'thought-provoking' beliefs regarding gays. The zeal with which she and Michael Alvear both attack a group of people, rather than an issue, definitely can be construed as prejudicial, rather than 'thought provoking.'"

It is probably fair to characterize Alvear's broadside against lesbian aesthetics as an "attack on a group of people," but does it deserve the "Dr. Laura" comparison?

Alvear poked fun at lesbian taste in clothes and interior decorating, a regular topic for lesbian stand-up comics. But he took things one step further, hypothesizing that many lesbians reject conventional notions of beauty because men generally control the conventions.

His depiction of how lesbians run from beauty may well be wrong as a factual matter, and is certainly a gross generalization hyped up for effect, but defamation of the type that led to boycotts against Dr. Laura?

There are plenty of commentators out there who oppose gay rights and challenge basic assumptions about homosexuality being "natural," not a choice, and so on. But they don't attract boycotts. Laura Schlessinger was different because she pawned herself off as a medical doctor whose views about homosexuality being a "biological error" were backed by sound

science.

In fact, "Dr. Laura" has a degree in physiology, not psychology, and her views had no basis in generally accepted science. When Paramount gave her a platform for such misinformation, the activists were right to respond.

Alvear has no pretense of scientific support for his views on the lesbian aesthetic. He pawns himself off as little more than an opinionated gay man with a gift for pushing people's buttons and making them think.

That is why the *Voice* gives him a platform. Pushing people's buttons and making them think is what newspaper publishing ought to be about. If you expect otherwise, you've come to the wrong newspaper.

The same can be said for the Jesse Dirkhising editorial, which asked (without directly answering) whether gay culture

pause to ask the question, even if many of us ultimately decide no one is to blame but those who committed the crime.

Worse yet, some have demanded a retraction (or worse) on the theory that we cannot afford to ask questions about our own culture that might be used as right-wing fodder against us. The Dirkhising editorial was quoted on Fox News Network's ultra-right talk show, "The O'Reilly Factor," and again in a front-page article in the conservative *Washington Times*.

But because of that publicity, a number of middle-of-the-road conservatives and moderates learned that we're not afraid to examine our own house. That brings priceless credibility the next time we ask them to examine their own.

In the same vein, Alvear's in-your-face column about lesbian taste aired a view held by many gay men and within mainstream society generally. We've all heard the jokes.

The avalanche of responses included, amid the personal attacks, some powerful rebuttals that will cause many middle-of-the-road gays to examine their own assumptions about lesbian stereotypes.

More speech is almost always the answer, for that reason alone. And you can expect this newspaper to engage in it.

But you can, too. There is absolutely no reason that the provocative questions asked by Alvear couldn't be asked by a leftie lesbian, a black gay man, or an angry trans activist. The only thing preventing your voice from being heard is you.

This newspaper welcomes letters to the editor on any range of topics, and the paper's Web site (www.houstonvoice.com) includes a reader forum that is excerpted every week in the paper.

Do you have more to say? Want to do it on a regular basis? Then submit a writing sample (of 800 words) along with a cover note outlining the kind of topics that will set your keyboard into action.

Over the next several months, the *Voice* will be debuting new voices on its opinion pages. Instead of carping from the sidelines, why not make one of them yours?

What do you think?

YOUR VOICE

Now's your chance to have your say. *Houston Voice* is looking for new voices to fill its op-ed pages on a regular basis. Send submissions (800-word max.), along with a cover letter highlighting the topics you'd like to write about, to:

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VIEWPOINT

Finding harmony between the blue and the gray

by D.L. MURPHY

My Southern self has discovered that life with my Yankee spouse leaves me in need of a support group. I propose that others join me to form GASP, Gay Adult Southerners Partnered with Yankees.

The mission of GASP is to support those queer men and women who have, despite everything their mothers told them all of their lives, decided to marry Yankees. This support takes many forms, including, but not limited to: a telephone help line, support groups and workshops designed to teach us the skills to deal with our Damn Yankees.

The workshop descriptions are as follows:

Understanding Your Yankee: This workshop will teach you to understand the slang used by your partner. You will learn the literal and implied meanings of hundreds of words and expressions. Think you don't need this workshop? Define "snarky."

Appreciating Yankee Cuisine: This workshop will introduce you to dozens of previously unknown delicacies including pirogues, grinders, fish fry (Buffalo-style), disgusting (oops, delicious) freshwater fish, prairie oysters, corned beef and cabbage, steamers (not the liquid kind), and pink (ugh) clam chowder.

Understanding Yankee In-Laws: Examples of the many things you will learn in this workshop include why Yankees do not cherish their "eccentric" family members (hint, it has to do with differing senses of humor), why money seems to count more than good manners

and a good heart (it doesn't, it's just that these people believe its okay to discuss money), why they are surprised when you know which fork to use (they think all Southerners grow up in trailer parks).

Understanding Yankee Manners: In this workshop you will learn that you seem "affected" to our Yankee brethren. We will teach you special deep breathing exercises to help you cope with the continued assault on your sense of propriety and decorum. We will review the fundamentals of Yankee manners so that you

you don't have to shovel it).

How to Cover Your Yankee's Social Faux Pas: You already know the rules around this. In this workshop you will learn to develop the good interpersonal boundaries, while needed for any relationship, are especially needed here.

Explaining Differing Wedding Customs: This workshop will provide you with the reasons you need to calmly explain why true Southerners do not have catered, sit down dinners for 400 as part of a wedding reception.

flowers in their room are a waste of money, and help you find peace around not having a selection of popular novels on the bedside table.

Explaining Why You Don't Do Winter Sports: No one in Yankee Heaven will ever believe that the reason you don't do winter sports is that you do not enjoy being so cold your (fill in the blank) hurts. You will learn such socially acceptable reasons for being inside as "I'd love to cook lunch for ya'll."

Small Talk With Yankees: Yankees don't make the polite chitchat we learned at our mothers' knees. This workshop will teach you how to cope with our northern brethren's and sistern's annoying habit of telling us more than we ever wanted to know about things we don't really want to hear about.

Helping Your Yankee Understand the War of Northern Aggression: See "Explaining Differing Wedding Customs" above.

Registration information:

Who should attend: Any Southerner who is trying to develop the skills and understanding necessary to peaceably live with his/her damn Yankee.

Author's disclaimer: I personally love my damn Yankee, my damn Yankee friends, and summering in Yankee heaven. I reserve the right to tease about our differences; poke fun at my loved ones and myself and just generally be goofy.

Any compliments concerning this article should be sent to possumproducts@cs.com. All complaints concerning this article should be sent to editor@houstonvoice.com. Please indicate in your note if you are a Southerner.

Yankees don't make the polite chitchat we learned at our mothers' knees. This workshop will teach you how to cope with our northern brethren's and sistern's annoying habit of telling us more than we ever wanted to know about things we don't really want to hear about.

will be able to differentiate when you are being "dissed" and when you are being complemented.

Fitting In While Visiting Yankee Heaven: Here's a freebie: keep your mouth shut. In Yankee Heaven, a southern accent equals stupidity. At best, they will think you are the strong and silent type. At worst, they will think you are judging them, and the verdict is negative.

When Your Yankee Disparages the South: This workshop will teach you a variety of rejoinders suitable for any complaint your Yankee may make about your home. We cover everything from "it's so much better back home" (so, why did you move here?) to "it's too hot" (well, at least

Making Your Yankee Understand Sundays: In this workshop you will learn how to make your Yankee understand why you go to church even though you are an agnostic, why you visit Uncle Clarence even though you hate one another and why you have to spend a couple hours on the phone sharing the news with all of your siblings, even though you don't really say anything of any importance.

When Your Yankee's Friends Are Visiting: This workshop will help you understand differing social customs around house guests. It will also help you learn to just grit your teeth and toss the towels on the bed, understand that fresh

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





VIEWPOINT

The ho-hum outing of Rosie

by JENNIFER VANASCO

We've all heard the gay celebrity rumors. Tom Cruise. Jodie Foster. Rosie O'Donnell. So, three years ago, when an acquaintance confirmed that Rosie was indeed a lesbian, I was thrilled.

I like Rosie O'Donnell. I like how down to earth she is, how open she is about her likes, dislikes and foibles, how she can find humor in ordinary situations.

An out Rosie, I was convinced, could change the straight perception of the gay men and lesbians forever. After all, if Rosie could convince people in middle America who've never been to New York that they should support Broadway musicals, then she should be able to convince people who don't think they know any gays that being gay is okay.

I was sure that since Rosie was so open to the staff of her show, she was about to come roaring out of the closet, cracking jokes on the cover of the *Advocate* and granting serious interviews with "20/20."

But Rosie didn't come out. She hinted. She and Ellen DeGeneres joked that they were "Lebanese." At the Grammy awards last year, she called Nathan Lane her "beard" and the audience roared. Rosie continued to share every small detail of her life with her audiences—the adoption of her children, her crush on Tom Cruise—

and yet she managed to leave out the bit about how she has a female partner.

So someone else decided to out her. In the March 5 issue of *New York* magazine—their first issue ever devoted to gay life in the city—Deputy Editor Maer Roshan takes issue with journalists who let celebrities like Rosie keep a glass closet, transparent to their social circle and circumspect journalists, but locked shut to their fans.

Roshan asserts that entertainment journalists, who dance around the issue of a celebrity's sexual orientation, are applying a double standard.

It's Rosie's prerogative to hide her sexual orientation from her public, Roshan writes, "but are the media really compelled to play along?" After all, he adds, "When Jack Nicholson shows up at a Laker's game with a date, the columns report it the next day. But when O'Donnell's blonde friend accompanies her week after week to her box at WNBA games, she turns invisible."

Roshan's article has reinvigorated the debate over celebrity outing. When is it appropriate for a journalist to mention someone's sexual orientation?

On the one hand, by presuming heterosexuality and requiring a public statement before identifying someone as gay, journalists perpetuate the idea that to be gay is to be a pariah. After all, entertainment jour-

nalists have no trouble labeling someone a drug addict. Is being gay worse than that?

Most of us are instinctively troubled by the way that journalists slide over sexual orientation, preferring sly innuendo to facts. Entertainment journalism is already so invasive that surely adding sexual orientation to the mix can't hurt.

Indeed, some journalists, especially news journalists, have started tentatively moving in that direction—Barbara Walters, for instance, asked Ricky Martin whether he was gay in a "20/20" interview.

Cathy Renna, media director of GLAAD, pointed out that outing celebrities before they are ready doesn't help other gays as much as you might think. "From GLAAD's standpoint, we don't want celebrities to be outed," she said. "We'd rather have them come out when they're ready and can acknowledge that they have a responsibility to the community as a role model."

So maybe entertainment journalists shouldn't out for outings' sake. That is, they shouldn't make the fact that someone is gay or lesbian a story in itself. But it seems to me that including the fact that someone is living an openly gay life—that he or she has a partner, supports gay causes, goes to gay bars—should become a regular part of an entertainment journalist's repertoire, just as heterosexual activities are.



An editor for *New York* magazine outed Rosie O'Donnell, but a spokesman for the Queen of Nice said she and her partner "never hide away."

Rosie, it turns out, was unperturbed by the *New York* story. A spokeswoman said that Rosie and her girlfriend "never hide away. Rosie's sexuality has never been important to her and it's not going to be now. I don't think it's important to her public. She is what she is."

Perhaps the journalists are more sensitive than the celebrities—who, after all, have been living gay lives all this time.

Jennifer Vanasco can be reached through this publication or send e-mail to vanasco@chicagofreepress.com



VIEWPOINT

AIDS always benefits from what we don't talk about

by MARK KING

There are gay men putting their lives in danger right now despite our best efforts to educate them. They're continuing high-risk behavior when they know the consequences could be deadly. They even think that new treatment breakthroughs will save them in the end.

But enough about smokers.

Welcome to "2001: An AIDS Odyssey," where the disease feels routine, HIV-positive men are questioning authority, and we're all still patiently waiting for the word on oral sex. There are new attitudes mixed with established human nature, including:

AIDS has been normalized in the minds of gay men. Until the mid '90s we had tremendous prevention campaigns. They were called funerals. Nothing today offers such stark motivation. I once thought people who took sexual risks were blithely screwing on the bodies of my dead friends. But any activist, educator or physician who still feels the same needs a time-out.

The relative danger of risky sex now feels, to many, on a par with plenty of other life-threatening habits. And the fact remains that most gay men make thoughtful sexual choices, whatever they may be.

Disclose your status and be done with

it. A gay man today who isn't ready to disclose his status isn't ready for sex, either. I dislike the debate about who bears more responsibility—positive or negative men—because it's a destructive dead end.

That said, an HIV-negative guy has a lot more to lose by not having the conversation, and a poz guy not disclosing is the more shameful.

Single poz men who seek out poz partners for unprotected sex are practicing their own form of natural selection, and preventing new infections in the process.

Sex was never completely safe. Not so long ago, getting an STD was a rite of passage, not a morally reprehensible act. That's why the idea of acquiring an STD makes me feel "nostalgic" for simpler times, even if I have stated this gracelessly in the past.

While it is true that hepatitis poses a serious threat, its primary transmission route (rimming or handling a dirty condom) can foil even the safest sex. Have you had your shots?

Show us the research. The single Canadian report suggesting that re-infection of a positive person may be harmful,

or even possible, came along quite by accident. There is still no formal study to investigate this possibility.

Real studies to help us make informed decisions (the risk of oral sex, the effects of substance abuse on viral replication, the infectious degree of someone with no HIV viral activity) are desperately needed, and results should be used to design new edu-

cation campaigns. Which brings us to...

In the absence of science, poz men are making their own rules. Imagine how difficult it would be to curb cigarettes if no research confirmed that smoking after you were diagnosed with cancer was harmful. Think Grandpa would give up his Lucky Strikes?

Many positive couples who forgo the condoms are—stay with me here—making a choice to embrace life, and intimacy, and defiantly thumbing their noses at years of grief and slaughter.

Meanwhile, single poz men who seek out

poz partners for unprotected sex are practicing their own form of natural selection, and preventing new infections in the process. If the worst we have to say about this practice is the unknown risk of catching a more virulent strain, expect them to continue. If research proves otherwise, let's share it.

Barebacking as psychotic behavior is a myth. I've questioned supposedly HIV-negative "gift receivers" online, and they usually admit to being positive men who want to bareback. Or negative men who, as any Sexuality 101 class will explain, are eroticizing danger without further intent.

Any men who actually want to go through with it comprise a sick little corner of life only the Internet could reveal. Focusing on this phenomenon tells me we finally got tired of demonizing circuit parties and needed a new target of scorn.

AIDS is tainted with too much grief, anger, judgment, and high drama for any of these issues to come easily. Let's hope the efforts of our community partners, and of each of us, can continue the dialogue in such a way that the complexity of human nature is acknowledged and respected.

Mark King worked for AIDS non-profits for 12 years until 1999. He can be reached at marksking@aol.com.

health news

Skeptical Supreme Court takes up 'medical necessity' case for marijuana

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments March 28 over whether states can enact laws that legalize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. California and some other Western states have passed such laws. Lawyers for the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative want the court to carve out what they call a "medical necessity" defense, giving federal judges and juries the power to decide if the drug is warranted. The issue for an openly skeptical Supreme Court is whether a patient's need for marijuana trumps a 1970 federal law that classifies it as an illegal substance with no known medical value. "I thought the medical necessity defense was for an individual. That's a vast expansion beyond any necessity defense I've ever heard of," Justice Antonin Scalia said. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy seemed to agree. "You're asking us to hold that this defense exists ... with no specific plaintiff before us, no specific case," Kennedy told the Cooperative's attorney. The court's ruling is expected by the end of June. Some AIDS and cancer sufferers use the drug to ease nausea and improve their appetites.



Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said 'medical necessity' for marijuana use was a 'vast expansion' of federal law, a skepticism voiced by other justices last week.

Money for indigent AIDS drug program increased last year, report says

WASHINGTON (AP)—The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is getting more medicine to more low-income patients than ever before, though wide variations among states remain, according to a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation. The 13-year-old program pays for AIDS medication and targets patients who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid. Most of the money comes from the federal government, part of the Ryan White CARE Act. The program spent \$724.5 million last year, a 9 percent increase over 1999. Some 82 percent of the money comes from the federal government. Many states also augment the program by adding more money, though 14 states contributed nothing last year. Several states reported shortfalls, forcing them to create waiting lists, cap spending per person and limit the choice of drugs. All states except for South Dakota now pay for the anti-retroviral drugs that fight the AIDS virus and account for the bulk of the program's spending.

HIV hibernates in thymus gland during drug treatment, study finds

WASHINGTON—Medical research has found that HIV uses the thymus gland to hibernate and hide during drug treatment, Reuters reported. In a study involving mice implanted with human tissue, AIDS Institute researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles found that HIV invaded the thymus, an organ key to the creation of the body's immune system. The finding may not lead to a cure for AIDS, but it could enable some HIV-infected people to improve their lives, said Dr. Jerome Zack, who led the study, which appeared in the journal *Nature Medicine*. He said the study could help in the development of drugs to target latent HIV in the body, allowing some patients to get off the highly toxic and expensive combination drug therapies used to combat AIDS. "I am very excited about this because I think it has the potential to eventually be helpful for patients," Zack said in an interview.

Slow and steady beats 'no pain, no gain' for weight loss, research shows

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A new study suggests that moderately paced, sustained activities promote weight loss more effectively than brief, high-intensity health club workouts based on the "no pain, no gain" mantra. Walking, bicycling, even climbing stairs during TV commercials can contribute to weight loss if performed consistently, researchers said. The Dutch study, conducted by Klaus Westerterp, measured the activity levels of 14 women and 16 men for two weeks, all of whom were healthy, non-obese participants between the ages of 22 to 32. Westerterp measured the amount of energy expended by using a device that records movement and found that the time distributed between low and moderate intensity activities is ultimately what determined how many calories were burned, and that metabolic responses to moderate exercise suggest it's physiologically beneficial. The activities can be as simple as parking at the far end of the mall and walking the long route to the store.

New safe sex campaign targets Australian state with rising HIV

MELBOURNE—The Australian state of Victoria is starting a new safe sex campaign targeted at young gay men after an alarming increase in new HIV infections, the *Age* reported. That state reported a 41 percent increase in new HIV infections, from 140 cases in 1999 to 198 last year. That marked the first time infections have gone up in Victoria since 1994, and reflected an increase that was not evident elsewhere in Australia. The National Center in HIV Epidemiology in Sydney said it was too early to say whether different risk factors were at play in Victoria. The center's deputy director, John Kaldor, said another six to 12 months of data was needed to convince him that the Victorian increase was not a fluke, but a new safe sex campaign would be worthwhile regardless.

—From staff and wire reports

For more news, visit www.houstonvoice.com

'Dr. Laura' to fade from small screen

Host says advertiser boycott championed by gays crippled TV talk show

by PENNY WEAVER

Gay activists who fought to get "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger and her anti-gay comments zapped from television airwaves welcomed news last week that filming for the talk show has ended, less than six months after its debut.

Schlessinger issued a statement last Friday attributing the end of her television forum largely to a boycott of advertisers powered by portions of the gay community.

"I believe it could have earned a substantial audience in time, but the television advertiser boycott precluded that," she said. "I have mixed feelings about the show ending after one season.

"On the one hand, I'm relieved, because taping a one-hour show for television and then doing three live hours of

radio every day was exhausting. On the other hand, I'm very proud of the show and sad we won't continue," Schlessinger said in a statement reported by Reuters.

The last episode was taped March 29, a fact that Paramount Pictures, which produces the show, confirmed. But Paramount officials refused to comment beyond an official statement issued by the company.

"We commend Dr. Laura, her producers and staff, for their desire to create an alternative program for daytime viewers, and are proud of their efforts to do so," Paramount said in the statement.

Original episodes will continue to be edited and be available for broadcast through September.

Supporters of StopDrLaura.com, which led much of the campaign against the show, had declared victory in January, stating that the Web site was shutting down. They argued that the 'Dr. Laura' television show was doomed.

Co-founders of StopDrLaura.com are John Aravosis, Joel Lawson, William

Waybourn, Alan Klein and Robin Tyler. Waybourn is president of Window Media, the parent company of *Houston Voice*; Lawson had served as Window's director of Internet operations.

Tyler, who coordinated the national backlash against the TV show, said supporters of StopDrLaura.com wanted nothing less than the cancellation of Schlessinger's show.

"This is all that we would accept: A, we did expect it, but B, we would accept nothing short of this," Tyler said. "She's a homophobe. She's horrific. Now at least in television they're going to see that homophobia does not pay."

Tyler said she heard comments from Schlessinger on the show regarding its demise.

"I thought it was interesting that she said that GLAAD was disingenuous in dealing with her," Tyler said. "I think that that's an inaccurate statement. I'm very happy that she's giving the movement credit in getting her off the air."

Crediting a mass of cooperation among



'Dr. Laura' Schlessinger said her TV show was pulled in part due to the success of pressure gays put on advertisers to boycott the show.

gay activists with successfully combating Schlessinger's show, Tyler said the one-two punch of the Internet and traditional activism helped knock out "Dr. Laura."

"I think why this worked is what we called the air war in the air, the Web... and the ground troops on the ground," Tyler said. "The Internet is really important to our community. We coupled it with the grassroots movement. This is a whole coalition of people."

Tyler said she is concerned that gay activists have not rallied to protest anti-gay rhetoric by rapper Eminem as they have "Dr. Laura."

"People do not draw the connection between Schlessinger and Eminem," Tyler said. She believes it is "easy to vilify a woman," but when a "buff" male entertainer is involved, "all of a sudden it's called art."

"I'd like to see the same uprising around Eminem," Tyler said.

'I do' marks up week for gay news

> Continued from Page 1

acknowledging that her controversial television show—which had garnered protests and pickets from gays around the country—had been canceled.

The same day, Maryland's House of Delegates approved a bill banning sexual orientation discrimination in housing, public accommodations and employment. With strong support by Gov. Parris Glendening, a similar bill had already

passed the state Senate—leaving final passage virtually assured.

When Glendening, a Democrat who has cited his gay brother as his motivation for supporting the measure, signs it into law, Maryland will become the 12th state in the country to ban anti-gay discrimination.

With similar bills clearing hurdles recently in Illinois and Delaware, states 13 and 14 may not be far behind.

"What all of this shows us is that we

have an unprecedented opportunity to engage non-gay people on our full equality and inclusion," said Evan Wolfson, a gay rights attorney and outgoing Marriage Project director for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

"There's no need for us to bargain against ourselves or retreat to a defensive posture, when all of America is talking about gay people and our rights," Wolfson said.

—Laura Brown

National AIDS Policy Web site directs calls to empty office

> Continued from Page 1

The White House did not return calls seeking comment.

The proposals come at a time when studies indicate that HIV infections are on the rise among gay African Americans, other minority groups, and teens.

"The battle is certainly riot over when it comes to prevention, and yet this budget seems to be proposing huge cuts in CDC infectious disease and prevention programs, which is just as serious as the problem with the Ryan White funding," Schuler said.

But Bush has said he will seek a \$2.8 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health, the largest increase in the agency's history.

Bush has taken little action on reviving the robust federal AIDS office from the Clinton administration. But the president has apparently designated a member of his Domestic Policy Council to coordinate AIDS issues in the White House, along with managing all other health

care issues for the panel, the Post reported.

Some AIDS care advocates are taking a wait-and-see approach.

"I'd rather it be done right than fast," Helene Gayle, who heads the HIV prevention program at the CDC, told the Post.

But gay health issues are not entirely off the national landscape.

On Friday, the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association released a 400-page companion report to the federal Healthy People 2010 document, which is a blue print for the nation's health care needs for the next 10 years.

The draft of the document made only two mentions of gays, so GLMA and other gay health advocates coordinated a committee to produce the companion report.

"If we weren't included in the Healthy People 2010 national document, then any unique LGBT issues would not, could not have been funded by the federal government," said Michael Cover, a spokesperson for the Whitman Walker Clinic in

Washington. The agency helped organize the gay companion report.

The companion document addresses a myriad of topics, including health problems associated with coming out, violence against gay men, breast cancer, weight loss and nutrition, which is of particular importance to people with AIDS.

Absent from the Healthy People 2010 companion document was the name of the Health Resources & Services Administration, an arm of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services which funded the companion report with a \$50,000 grant, according to the *Washington Blade*.

Former openly gay HRSA administrator Claude Earl Fox, who resigned on March 23, removed the agency's name over concerns that HHS officials would delay the release of the report to avoid creating a conflict with Congress or White House, according to the *Blade*.

Officials with HHS did not return calls seeking comment.

INFO

President George W. Bush

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

call: 202-456-1414

fax: 202-456-2461

e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Web: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Gay & Lesbian Medical Association

459 Fulton Street, Suite 107

San Francisco, CA 94102

call: 415-255-4547

e-mail: HP2010_LGBT@glma.org

Web site: <http://www.glma.org>

Mainstream magazine goes gay

New York magazine dedicates entire issue to gays, but some prominent celebrities refuse to play

by ERIC ERICKSON

In its first ever issue dedicated entirely to gay life, *New York* magazine opened the city's closet door for good. With articles about everything from gays in the media to politics, the March 5 issue sat on newsstands with "gay life now" emblazoned across the cover.

But not every gay New Yorker wanted to be involved with this ground-breaking ode to the city's gay community.

In an article titled "Inside Out," writer Maer Roshan took issue with gay celebrities who insist on keeping their sexual orientation hung neatly in the closet and the journalists who "guard the door."

Roshan said he asked 40 socially powerful and openly gay New Yorkers to pose for the magazine's cover. Almost all refused. Roshan also attacked journalists who not only allow these gay celebrities to stay in the closet, but seem to encourage it. He blasted reporters for their inconsistencies when writing about celebrities.

"Journalists play along," Roshan wrote in the article, "in the sincere belief that they are protecting gay people, but in doing so they serve the interests of a few individuals at the expense of the larger community. By dancing around the sexuality of gay public figures, they reduce them to oddly neutered figures."

"When Jack Nicholson shows up at a Lakers game with a date, the columns report it the next day. But when [Rosie] O'Donnell's blond friend accompanies her week after week to her box at WNBA games, she turns invisible."

Roshan said in an interview that the magazine's gay issue provoked a lot of talk, most of it positive. "It was a very, very discussed issue," he said. "Just the mere virtue of devoting the whole issue to the subject was the statement that was picked up and noticed."

"There was a columnist with the *Daily News* who wrote a column attacking me for not outing enough people," Roshan said. "The people who I chose to mention as far as I was concerned lived pretty openly gay lives. I felt like if people chose to go out in public, go out to gay bars, go out with their girlfriends, then it wasn't my duty or the obligation of any journalist to look the other way. Discretion is their requirement, not the requirement of the journalist."

"This has gone on for too long. The

media, like it or not, is allowed to cover every aspect of society. The personal lives of public figures are no longer considered out of bounds," Roshan said. "We talk about Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe's daily marital infidelities, we talk about people going through rehab. Why this should be considered so taboo that its unspeakable, it doesn't make any sense any more."

Roshan, an openly gay journalist, said this issue was very important to him on a personal level.

Gay people "are a big part of our readership and a big part of New York City's population," Roshan said. "The *New York Post*, which generally rates the magazines every Monday—and it's a pretty conservative paper—said it was one of the best issues we've done in a long time, which was kind of a surprising place for that praise to come from."

INFO

New York Magazine

444 Madison Ave.

New York, NY 10022-6999

call: 212-508-0700

back issues: 212-508-0755

e-mail:

NYLetters@primediagram.com

Web: www.newyorkmag.com



The March 5 issue of *New York* magazine put the spotlight on the city's gay community and pointed fingers at closeted celebrities.

Power dating for women starting at HLGCC

> Continued from Page 2

browse through everyone else's, mingle, linger, listen to some music and make a little profit. Start now to "spring clean" your home or apartment and come on down.

"FAMILY" MOVIE NIGHT is held on the first Friday of every month. If you are at loose ends and would like to just sit down, munch popcorn and be entertained, just come on by. Usually, a favorite classic is the featured film for the evening, but the event is not restricted to that genre. Film time is at 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S GAME NIGHT meets on the second Friday of every month. From 7 p.m. until the games are over, women are welcome to come by, bring a favorite game, snack, friend or check out someone else's favorite game. A great way to spend a TGIF evening letting your hair down, having some fun, and if you are up to it, get a little competitive.

HAWTHORNE MEN'S CLUB is a newly formed men's discussion/support group based on the book, "Golden Men: The Power Of Mid-Life." This group gathers on the third Friday of every month. It is open to any man who is interested in exploring the context of this book as well as having some stimulating conversations with other interesting men. This group meets at 7 p.m.

LESBIAN FILM NIGHT is the oldest ongoing program at the center. Every fourth

Friday of the month, a member of a different women's organization hosts the evening with a film of their choice. This month, LOAF (lesbians over age 50) will be showing "Late Bloomers." Stop by around 7 p.m. for some social time and snacking. The movie begins at 8 p.m.

THE LESBIAN COMING OUT GROUP has also been a long-standing program at the center. Every Tuesday, Deb Murphy welcomes women at every and any phase of coming out and facilitates a discussion/support group from a consciousness-raising format. This group also plans and participates in lesbian "field" trips and social activities.

POWER DATING FOR MEN has been taking place at the center on the third Thursday of the month. Any man is welcome to show up, find out what power dating is, and perhaps, end up with a date of his dreams! The games begin at 7 p.m.

And, since it is such an intriguing concept, POWER DATING FOR WOMEN will begin this month. Deb Murphy, the facilitator for the lesbian coming out group, will be hosting this evening on the fourth Tuesday of every month. All single or wannabe single women, please be sure to check this out this month on Tuesday, April 24 at 7 p.m.

"FAMILY" DINNER is a monthly pot luck supper open to the entire queer community. Every third Sunday of the month,

plan to prepare a dish and have Sunday dinner with some new and extended "family" members! A great low-key evening to share with some fine food and fine company! Dinner is served at 6 p.m.

RACIST RAINBOW group grew out of a public forum on the existence of racism in the gay and lesbian community. Every first and third Sunday of the month, there is an opportunity for anyone who is interested in the process of unlearning and healing from racism to join others with the same priority. The group generally has a topic to focus on and is an outgrowth of the members' needs and priorities. The group meets at 5:30 p.m.

WHAT LESBIANS DO has been doing it for more than a year! Every and any aspect of lesbian sex and sexuality is the focus of this group. In a comfortable and encouraging environment, all women are welcome to explore ideas, ask questions, share opinions and experiences. Topics have ranged from fantasies to female ejaculation to not only multiple orgasms but multiple partners! This group meets at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month.

LESBIANS IN ACTION was organized specifically by and for women who are "20-ish." Kim Ortiz coordinates this group. They meet on the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the center for the purpose of planning activities, conducting business, and welcoming new members.

ATTENTION COMETS FANS! Since Comets season is right around the corner, the community center has plans to add to the excitement. Look for an opening party to kick off a back to back-to-back-to-back-to-back season! And, if you do not have season tickets, just come on by and turn on the big screen TV, pull up a chair, a cold drink and cheer on the team!

The summer season at the community center will be filled with barbecues, outdoor film nights, pool parties. So, keep an eye out for what interests you.

All existing programs have been directed and organized by members in the community. It is an all volunteer organization, so if you are interested in getting involved, call or stop by. The community center is also a nonprofit organization and relies on grants and donations. A \$3-5 donation is welcomed, but not required to attend center programs.

INFO

Houston Lesbian And Gay Community Center

803 Hawthorne

713-524-3818



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PHOTOS BY DALTON DEHART



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A variety of political and fund-raising activities took place last week, including a benefit for Progressive Voters in Action held at the home of Jim Kovach and Ben Mantalbano on April 1. Houston City Councilwoman Annise Parker greeted guests and spoke to those attending her campaign trail kick-off party March 29 at Saba Blue Water Cafe downtown. Organizers of the Krewe of Olympus presented donations to several local organizations last week, including PFLAG, the Assistance Fund, H.A.T.C.H., the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum and the Montrose Counseling Center.

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April 11th

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April 12th

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Out on the Bayou

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HOUSTON VOICE • APRIL 6, 2001

Sneaky Pie and Rita

Rita Mae Brown
talks about her
literary feline friends

by MARIA MINICUCCI

The mention of author Rita Mae Brown typically brings smiles to the lips of lesbians across the country as they became enamored of Molly Bolt, the lesbian heroine in "Rubyfruit Jungle."

Brown gained fame and a lesbian following with this publication which appeared more than 30 years ago. Subsequently, Brown's audience expanded and her publications have been numerous including "Venus Envy," "Dolly," "Six Of One," "Bingo" and the Sneaky Pie Brown mystery series.

Since I was among the lesbians who was introduced to Brown through "Rubyfruit Jungle" and attending some of her public speaking engagements in the '70s and '80s, one of the first things I asked her was how she made the transition to the Sneaky Pie collection and the genre of mysteries.

Her quick retort was, "Sneaky Pie (one of many of Brown's cats) arrived on her own and began writing what she wanted.

"My books come out in the fall and her books come out in the spring."

What stands out about Sneaky Pie as an author? According to Brown, "Obviously, Sneaky Pie is more concerned with animals than with humans. She certainly can point out the stupidity of humans."

An example of Sneaky Pie's astute observation is "who willingly submits to income tax besides humans?!"

For those readers who are familiar with Crozet, Virginia, the setting for the Sneaky Pie Mysteries, and its inhabitants, Brown would only go as far as revealing that additional books will be written and that Harry, (Mary Minor Hairsteen, one of the main characters) definitely has to sort out her life and make some changes, but we don't know what they will be.

I asked Brown if, among her works, did she have one in particular that was her nearest and dearest.

"My favorite is always the one I am working on."

Currently, Brown is ready to release, "Alma Mater," which

> Continued from Page 16



Author Rita Mae Brown visited Houston last week to promote the latest in her Sneaky Pie Brown series of mystery novels, 'Claws and Effect,' at Murder By The Book.

Portrait of the artist as a young dog

by D.L. GROOVER

It's not often when I get to describe an actor as a dog and mean it as a compliment, but Todd Porter in Lee Blessing's political comedy CHESAPEAKE portrays the most convincing black Labrador retriever since Ripple, my neighbor's dog.

In the beginning he plays Kerr, a bisexual performance artist who loses his grant from the National Endowment for the Arts through the machinations of Southern light-wing Sen. Therm Pooly. The senator views his theater piece as obscene, although Kerr only uses the Bible's "Song of Solomon" to "fill a few little spiritual canteens," while he allows the audience to remove his clothes one article at a time.

For revenge, Kerr decides to kidnap Pooly's beloved pet Lab, videotaping the deed to use as the basis of his next work. It's a great artistic statement, but all goes hilariously awry. The dog's most uncooperative; Kerr accidentally shoots himself in the foot

with the tranquilizer dart; he can't shake the senator's assistant who's chasing his van; and as the last straw, both he and his canine victim are swept over a dam where both end up falling to their deaths. But that's just Part I.

No encores, Kerr thinks while hurtling downward into the maelstrom. Think again.

When he regains consciousness, Kerr has been reincarnated as a black Lab, whose owner, in an ironic dose of cosmic poetic justice, just happens to be Sen. Pooly. Oh, happy day, Kerr says, wagging his tail with vigor. He can still get his revenge, and he hatches his new plot whereby he will change those hard-right reactionary social views of the senator's into a good and true liberal's.

He realizes that his time to accomplish his feat is precious, since the dog inside him

> Continued on Page 16

Underdog gets his day in Theater LaB's 'Chesapeake'



Todd Porter portrays topsy-turvy Kerr in the Theater LaB production of 'Chesapeake,' playing through April 21.

Upcoming Brown tome set at William and Mary College

> Continued from Page 15

she claims was written just for her. What is it about? Not giving too much away, she tells us that it is about three friends, two women and a man, who all attend William and Mary College in Virginia.

Brown says that each and every book she writes has a particular purpose for her.

"I have to do them all to get to the next step."

Some of those steps for Brown have also been in the territory of screenwriting. Although she is more well known for her novels, Brown has also had quite a successful foray into writing screenplays. She has won Emmy awards for "Long Hot Summer," and "I Love Liberty." A made for TV movie, "My Two Loves" was also nominated for an Emmy and the screenplay was written by Brown.

Who reads Brown? Pausing briefly, she says that the Rita Mae Brown stuff generally has somewhat of a younger audience whereas as the mystery series attracts a slightly older population.

She also says that more women tend to read Sneaky Pie Brown's mysteries, although men do make up a substantial portion of her reading audience.

And what about Rita Mae Brown? What does her life look like? What does she enjoy besides writing?

Brown proudly talks about her Southern heritage.

"I grew up on the Mason/Dixon line in Hanover, Pennsylvania. We moved to the deep south when I was 10 years old and I have lived there ever since. She also tells us that writing was a lifelong ambition.

"I chose to become a writer very early on and very carefully trained myself to become one. I took Greek and Latin in school, which is absolutely necessary to write well.

Then I worked in many newspapers along the way to practice and hone my skill."

Brown lives, writes and works on a farm in Virginia.

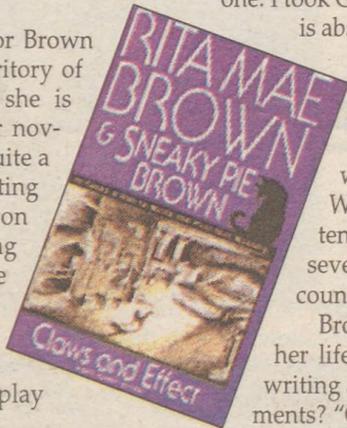
When she is not writing, she tends to 60 fox hounds, 30 horses, seven dogs and too many cats to count.

Brown unabashedly admits that her life is full of her two passions—writing and animals. Any parting statements? "Oh, definitely," says Brown.

"First of all, if you want to be a writer, learn Latin."

Another very important message from Brown that is dear to her heart is for every reader to consider adopting a cat or a dog from the SPCA or donate money to the organization.

Houston was Brown's last stop on a 10-city tour. She greeted her Houston audience at Murder By The Book on Friday, March 30 to read from her newest Sneaky Pie Brown mysteries, "Claws And Effect."



Theater LaB's 'Chesapeake' offers sweet K-9 revenge

> Continued from Page 15

is beginning to overwhelm him more and more; that soon he will be "all dog, all the time."

Yet, he loves his walks, the smells, the rolling in the dirt, the retrieving, the scratching behind the ears, the uncomplicated rutting with the neighborhood bitch. Life could be good as a dog. Here is real performance art, close to the ground, miraculous.

By pawing at the computer and writing messages at the senator, he shocks Pooley into seeing the error of his ways. In effect, Kerr has turned Pooley into an advocate for miracles, an explorer: an artist.

The National Endowment is saved, while Kerr curls up at sunset to probably greet the next day with real bark and bite.

Granted, Blessing's comedy preaches to the converted. There's not much new to be gained by all these witty barbs aimed so accurately at the paper tiger targets, but the play's witty and clever nonetheless, refreshing with its odd dog's-eye perspective, and by its end is heart-warming and rather touching as Kerr drifts off on his last human sleep.

He embraces his fate with such joy in new discovery, that though we will miss his anarchic performance art, we're

assured he will make a great dog.

In appropriate black T-shirt and pants, with goatee, Mr. Porter as Kerr and cur is a sight to behold—hands curled up into paws, wagging his ass, bounding about like a frisky pup, or lapping water from a cup.

With "Chesapeake," he makes his professional acting debut, after graduating from Sam Houston State University, and his next roles—which we hope will be in nearby theaters and not too far in the future—are eagerly awaited.

Directed with off-handed simplicity by Jim Miller, with effective lighting and sound design by Juan Felix and Crys McDonald, "Chesapeake" is a true shaggy dog tale, whose gentle bark and bite make the point without fuss or bother.

Sure-footed enough not to trip over the food bowl and spill dog chow all over the floor, it's a lovable mutt, eager to please, a pleasure to pet.

Good dog.

INFO

Chesapeake

Through April 21

Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo

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ALSO INSIDE: Spring gets hoppin' in Houston



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Spring pruning

Trimming back trees requires more than a good pair of sheers

by JAMES W. DOYLE

It's spring once again and if you're like most people, you are looking for things to do in your yard. One thing many people do this time of year is have their trees pruned.

This is a busy time of the year for arborists. This is also a busy time for people who call themselves arborists, but who do not have the technical training to properly care for your trees.

What is the difference? Arborists must decide which branches to remove based on the general health, shape and age of the tree.

There are four primary types of maintenance pruning: thinning, cleaning, reduction and raising. The person you hire should know the difference between each and write a specific proposal stating which will be used on your trees. If the person you are talking to isn't considering these variables but is instead offering a "one-size-fits-all" approach, you should keep looking for the right help.

More importantly is the amount of branches that are to be removed. Many trees in Houston have been severely overpruned. This happens when untrained workers are told to thin the trees with no other instructions. Usually, they remove every branch from the base of a limb to some point near the end. This causes structural problems as well as stress from the loss of food making leaves.

The ANSI A300 Pruning Standard specifies that not more than one quarter of the leaf surface be removed during a single pruning operation. This will benefit the tree by maintaining a greater leaf sur-

face area for producing food. More is not always better when it comes to pruning.

Many times, trees that are overpruned one year are thinned the next year for removal of sprouts. Stripping sprouts is rarely beneficial and may eventually create many more problems for the tree.

Leaving interior and lower branches

Many trees in Houston have been severely over-pruned. This happens when untrained workers are told to thin the trees with no other instructions. Usually, they remove every branch from the base of a limb to some point near the end. This causes structural problems as well as stress from the loss of food making leaves.

on a tree is equally important when thinning the crown. The majority of thinning cuts should be on the outer portion of the crown. Unfortunately the opposite often occurs because many homeowners equate proper pruning with removal of all interior limbs.

The most important question you need to ask is: "am I getting my money's worth?" This is a deceptively simple question since many of the cheapest "tree service" companies are also the least competent. While they may seem cheaper before the work is done, the damage they can do will degrade the value of your trees as well as lead to premature decline and death of the tree.

Also, while proper pruning occurs about every two or three years, improper pruning causes problems that require new pruning every year causing severe stress to your trees and costing you money. You really do get what you pay for.

James W. Doyle is a certified arborist with the Texas Chapter of the ISA and a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborist. He can be reached at Bartlett Tree Experts, 713-862-4777 or by e-mail at jdoyle@bigplanet.com.

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Bayou Calendar

'Dinner With Friends'

With his play about marriage and friendship, lightened with many fine rifts on food, Donald Margulies won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Gabe and Karen, two married baby boomers, much to their chagrin must re-examine their life together when their best friends separate. The realities of life, the simple things, are dissected with comic, yet disturbing, proportions. Life's not a cabaret, but a soufflé; enjoy every mouthful before it deflates.

Through May 5
Alley Theatre, 615 Texas
713-228-8421

'The Exorcist'

Good Lord, wasn't William Friedkin's 1973 horror gore-fest masochistic enough? Now there's been 10 more minutes added to this head-twister. Simple-minded religious philosophizing be damned; let's have more green vomit. Linda Blair never recovered from the type-casting. Max Von Sydow, looking extremely uncomfortable throughout the ordeal, prayed to Ingmar Bergman for forgiveness.

April 6 & 11, 7 & 9:30 p.m.
Rice Cinema Entrance #8, University Blvd. & Stockton Drive
713-348-4853



Bernadette Peters

Broadway's reigning diva ("Sunday in the Park With George," "Into the Woods," "Annie Get Your Gun," comes to the island equipped with her own klieg light and enough sultry sizzle to send Bayou temperatures soaring. Singing and dancing to beat the band, Ms. Peters is a ravishing glamour gal with more talent than a Zeigfeld show. Two days only is not enough.

April 7, 9 p.m. April 8, 2 p.m.

Galveston Grand Opera House,
2020 Postoffice St.
409-765-1894

'How to Watch a Song'

Is there such a thing as a music video that doesn't look like a music video? Check out these works by various media artists who explore the non-commercial. They might make you forget Madonna and that Jackson mutant.

April 7, 9 p.m. April 8, 3 p.m.
Aurora Picture Show, 800 Aurora
713-868-2101



'Red, White & Tuna'

Joe Sears and Jaston Williams bring the "second smallest town in Texas" to riotous life dur-

ing Tuna High's class reunion. All our favorite citizens, played in glorious 3D by this dynamic duo, arrive with comedic baggage and burst from the proscenium with fireworks. This hilarious, loving send-up of Americana is theater at its best. July 4th will never be the same.

April 10-15
Houston Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., Galveston Island
409-765-1894

'The Civil War'

Fiddle-dee-dee, as Miss Scarlett would say. This 10-ton musical Big Bertha, concocted by Frank Wildhorn, Jack Murphy and Alley artistic director Gregory Boyd, is much like living through Sherman's bombardment of Atlanta: ear-shattering, frazzled nerves, never ending. The team can rewrite to their heart's desire, but the damage has been done long ago: there are no characters we really care about in this cantata; there's only one good song; and there's not much going on, even though the authors try their best to convince us otherwise. Burn, baby, burn.

April 10-15
Jones Hall
713-629-3700

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"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER

"The Republic of Namibia does not allow homosexuality, lesbianism here. Police are ordered to arrest you and deport you and imprison you."

—Sam Nujoma, President of Namibia, March 19

"If I weren't the most famous lesbian in the world, no one would notice. But everyone was watching us like we were the only lesbians on the planet. That alone made being together difficult. ... We became such a target. Everyone had something to say about our relationship, and we tried to space everything out and just work on our own problems, but that became harder and harder."

—Ellen DeGeneres (right) on her breakup with Anne Heche to Britain's *Now* magazine, March 22



"I thought we were going to grow old together and we'd be there for each other for the rest of our lives."

—Ellen DeGeneres on her breakup with Anne Heche to Britain's *Now* magazine, March 22



"On a scale of one to 10, I'll give him a 20. He's all man. I wish every man were so gay."

—Ines Misan, singer Ricky Martin's new gal-pal, as quoted in the British tabloid the *Sun*, March 22

"If somebody asks me if I'm gay, it's like, 'No, I'm not gay. I'm bisexual.'"

—Actor Gabriel Romero (left) who plays the gay doctor Fernando on Telemundo's "Los Beltran", to the *Advocate*, March 27

"A large part of our audience [is] straight women, who are involved with the characters and turned on by the show. There's a long history of men being enthralled by the idea of two women being together, and women haven't had access to that. They're finding it surprisingly exciting."

—Actor Peter Paige who plays Emmett Honeycutt on Showtime's "Queer As Folk," to the *Boston Globe*, March 20

"You have all these people pushing you to come out. And then you do it. In my case it was partly in response to Matthew Shepard's death. And then these same people say, 'Why did you make such a big deal about that? Everybody already knew.' You can't win. But I'm glad I did it; I don't have to be coy anymore."

—Actor Nathan Lane ("Birdcage") to *Out* magazine, April issue

"I met these two girls at a party and I was fascinated with the idea of whether it was easier to understand one another when you're both girls. You can fall in love with anything, it's the sparkle in their eyes. Or it might be spiritual."

—Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) (right) to Britain's *Attitude* magazine, March 27



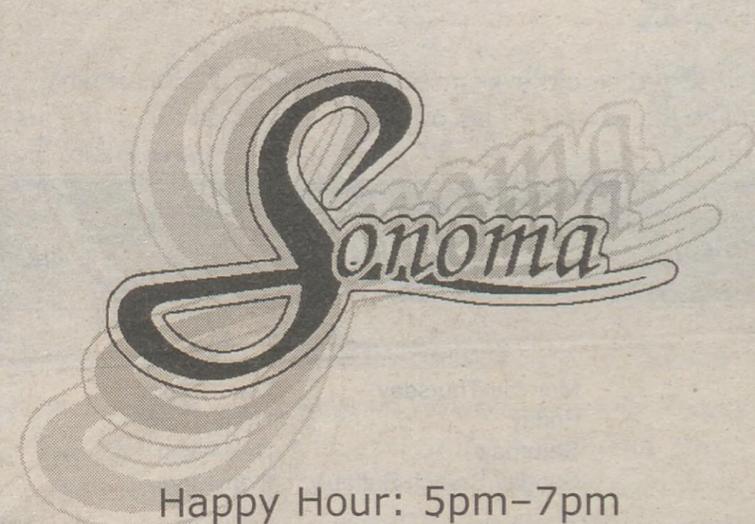
"There appear to be significant numbers of [police officers] who are either ignorant or racist or homophobic or a terrible combination of all three."

—Washington, D.C., Police Executive Assistant Chief Terrance Gainer after an investigation revealed that D.C. cops have sent each other hundreds of vulgar, racist and homophobic messages via their in-car computers, to the *Washington Post*, March 28

"This is historic for the transgender community. But I don't put my sexual identity first. Above all, I am a citizen."

—New Paris City Councillor Camille Cabral, the first transgendered person elected to public office in France, to *Gay.com France*, March 18. Paris also elected an openly gay mayor, Bertrand Delanoë.

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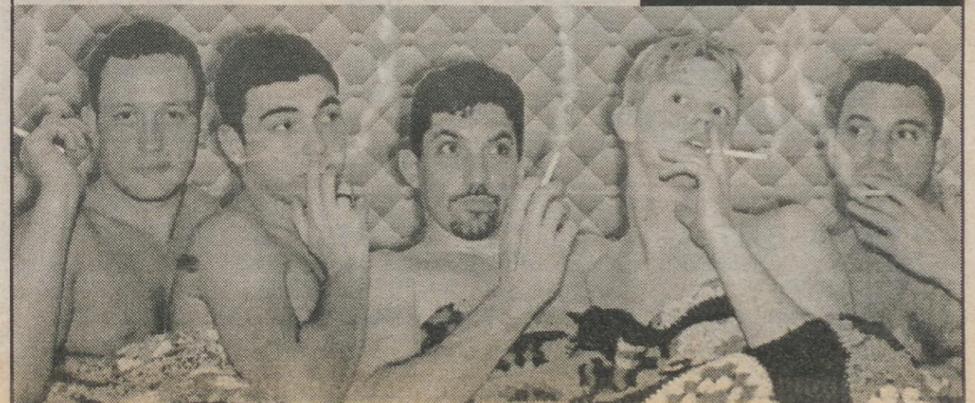
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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

No habla tapas

Ibiza staff may be clueless, but cooks know their stuff

by KATHREEN LEE

For those who are geography challenged, such as me, **IBIZA** is named after one of the Spanish Balearic Islands located in the Mediterranean Sea.

Considering the source of its name, its tag line as a "food and wine bar," and its shared ownership from the same proprietors of Tasca Kitchen and Wine Bar, a well-known tapas restaurant in the core of downtown, one does not make a considerable leap of logic in assuming that Ibiza, too, may serve tapas.

When I called to make reservations for a group of friends, I asked the friendly hostess if they served tapas. Anyone even remotely familiar with Spanish cuisine would have easily understood my meaning.

However, the unacquainted hostess innocently replied, "No, I'm sorry. We have a bar you can sit at, but we're not that kind of establishment."

I tried to clarify my meaning and to let her know that our party of four will not be leering at the wait staff, but I only confused her further. When I call a Spanish restaurant to inquire about a staple feature of Spanish dining, and they don't know, I worry.

When I called to make reservations for a group of friends, I asked the friendly hostess if they served tapas... the unacquainted hostess innocently replied, 'No, I'm sorry. We have a bar you can sit at, but we're not that kind of establishment.'

Don't be fooled by the address. Ibiza is not just another downtown restaurant reserved for the sprouting hip townhome-dwelling yuppies, although its swank minimalist décor and superfluous valet parking may suggest otherwise.

One of Ibiza's evident distinctions is its extensive wine list. While other restaurants may charge you \$50 for a bottle of your favorite grocery store wine, Ibiza only charges retail. Therefore, at the end of your meal, your bar tab constitutes only a fraction of your bill, rather than the usual half.

Although I was initially anxious about the hostess' unawareness, Ibiza's dishes revealed that their chefs could prove their mettle when it comes to their expertise in

ibiza
FOOD WINE BAR
2450 Louisiana
713.524.0004

FOOD FILE

Food: 

Service: 

Value: 

Scene: 

 Opt for bread, water at home

 OK, if you really must

 Fine for most

 Worth the drive, so live a little

 As good as it gets

Spanish cuisine. The Black Mussels (\$7) were deliciously steamed in Muscadet, a French wine, and saturated with onion broth. An oblong slice of grilled sourdough floated in the broth and sponged up the thick flavorful broth.

Ibiza may not serve tapas, but some of my dinner companions preferred to select a variety of small dish items in lieu of a main course option. The grilled Portabello Mushroom, for example, (\$6) was well seasoned with mint red Thai curry, and the juicy and flavorful head offered a rich and meat-like texture.

The Ravioli Stuffed with Snails (\$7) was incredibly rich and decadent. The snails were swathed in anchovy parsley butter and garlic, and the Boursin cheese added the perfect bite. Despite the low price, the ravioli tasted expensive, rich, and delicious.

The Six-Hour Lamb Shank (\$15), braised in its own natural juices, severed from its bone effortlessly, and the incredibly tender meat practically melted in your mouth while it oozed its own succulent flavor.

The mint cous cous, on which the lamb was served, received mixed reviews. Some found the tangy sweet flavor of the cous cous a complementary distinction, which accentuated the lamb, while others found that the cloying sweetness of the mint jarred with the deep lamb flavor.

The delicate white meat of the Seabass (\$22) flaked in perfectly moist and luscious chunks while the mildly sweet mango chutney glaze graciously topped the slightly crisp and burnt seabass crown. While I wished my serving was a bit larger, I savored the delectable dish and just saved room for dessert.

The presentation of the entire menu, down to the dessert, was delivered used-car-salesman style by our waiter.

Every item had a history, a unique taste that we just couldn't let pass by. And unlike our unwitting hostess, he knew what he was talking about.

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on screen

FILM, VIDEO & TV REVIEWS

by STEVE WARREN

Spring 'blows' for big screen fare

Cartoons become feature films, an icon comes out of hiding and two new action epics from old standbys are part of this month's fare

BOYS LIFE 3, a fine compilation of shorts, opened on short notice in Atlanta last week. **BEAU TRAVAIL**, one of last year's queer films that didn't get a commercial showing, will have its night at the High Museum in Atlanta this month. Look for Paul Reubens (remember Pee Wee Herman?) to revive queer stereotypes of the '60s and '70s in **BLOW**.

The summer movie season begins next month, six weeks ahead of the solstice. Meanwhile, our brief spring hardly looks more promising than the long winter just ended.

April 6 ALL ACCESS

Imax puts you onstage and backstage with 15 musical acts, including Santana, Sheryl Crow, B.B. King, Moby and Macy Gray.

ALONG CAME A SPIDER

Forensic psychologist Alex Cross (Morgan Freeman) of "Kiss the Girls" teams with Secret Service agent Monica Potter to find a senator's kidnapped daughter.

BLOW

George Jung (Johnny Depp) recalls his heyday as the principal U.S. connection for Colombian cocaine. Penelope Cruz marries and fights with Depp while Paul Reubens drools over him.

JUST VISITING

The American remake of the French hit "Visiteurs" retains stars Jean Reno and Christian Clavier. John Hughes worked on the rewrite so the medieval time travelers turn up in Chicago.

MEMENTO

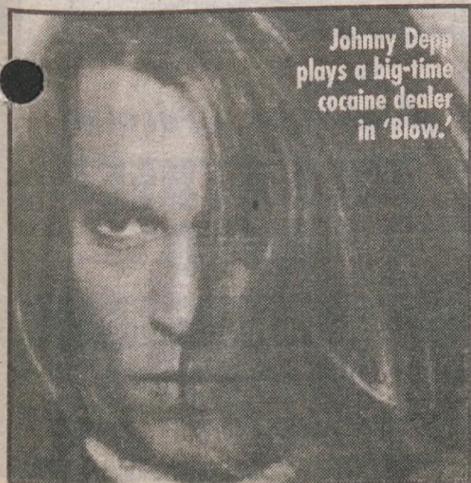
Guy Pearce develops short-term memory loss after his wife's murder in Christopher Nolan's twisted thriller that tells its story backwards.

POKEMON 3 THE MOVIE

In Japan's latest mega-marketing venture Ash falls under the spell of the Unown and Pikachu and Pichu have an adventure.

THE WIDOW OF ST. PIERRE

Juliette Binoche and Daniel Auteuil



sympathize with condemned murderer Emir Kusturica while awaiting a guillotine, in Patrice Leconte's drama.

April 11 JOE DIRT

David Spade stars as a rednecked, mullet-haired janitor searching for the parents who abandoned him as a child.

JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS

The '60s comic and '70s cartoon comes to the screen with Rachael Leigh Cook, Tara Reid and Rosario Dawson as bandmates who play rock and roll and solve mysteries. Alan Cumming co-stars.

KINGDOM COME

A not unwelcome death in the family brings together Whoopi Goldberg, LL Cool J, Vivica A. Fox and Jada Pinkett Smith, in a dramedy directed by Doug McHenry.

April 13

AMORES PERROS (LOVE'S A BITCH)

Mexico's Oscar entry is a Tarantinoesque trilogy of tales about three diverse dog lovers who happen to be at the scene of a car crash.

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY

The release date doesn't scare Bridget (Renee Zellweger), a British misfit who will take any date she can get. Hugh Grant and Colin Firth are among her prospects.

April 20 THE CLAIM

Michael Winterbottom's atmospheric Western, from a Thomas Hardy novel, is set in a frontier town being surveyed for the railroad by Wes Bentley.

CROCODILE DUNDEE IN LOS ANGELES

Perhaps because the stock market went down under, Paul Hogan dips back into his favorite croc for another fish-out-of-water comedy.

FREDDY GOT FINGERED

Gross-out comedy king Tom Green plays a guy who moves back in with his parents (Rip Torn, Julie Hagerty) and refuses to leave.

April 21 BEAU TRAVAIL

Macho French Foreign Legion sergeant Denis Lavant becomes obsessed with young recruit Gregoire Colin as Claire Denis transposes "Billy Budd" to the African desert (High Museum of Art).

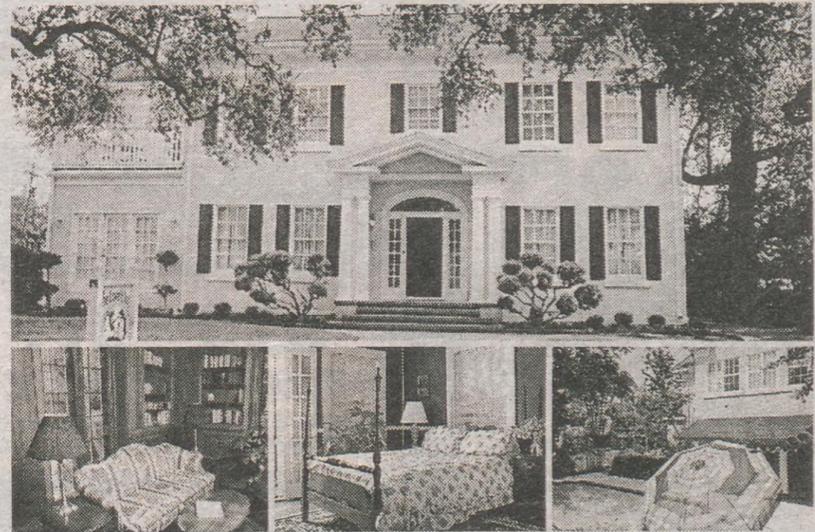
April 27 DRIVEN

Sylvester Stallone scripted and stars as a racetrack "Rocky" hired by Burt Reynolds to mentor promising young driver Kip Pardue.

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community

saturday, april 7

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Mr. Prime Choice contest & Fundraiser. 10 p.m. Ripcord. 713-521-2792.
Imagine Love. Relationship workshop for single Gay men. www.houstontherapist.com

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Lenten Scripture Study. Kolbe Project. 6:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Classic Chassis Car Club. Spring Fling Car Show road trip. 713-520-8677.

sunday, april 8

Blessed Sacrament Liberal Catholic Church. Study Group 11:30 a.m. Mass 12:30 p.m. www.blessed-sacrament.net. 713-476-9776
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

monday, april 9

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-1017.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 200.
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Public Meeting hosted by mayoral candidate liaison Janine Brunjes. 5 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Board meeting. 713-523-7576.

tuesday, april 10

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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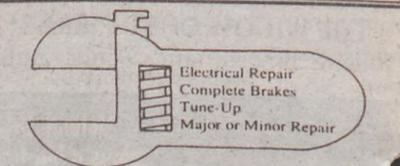


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calendar

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 713-2555.
 Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Classic Chassis Car Club. Officer's meeting. 713-792-8615.
 PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 713-867-9020.

wednesday, april 11

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & EJ's. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 713-880-0670.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.
 Houston Area Bears. Dine out and meeting. 713-867-9123
 Craft Day. Kolbe Project. 1 p.m. 713-861-1800.

thursday, april 12

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-524-9530.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Craft Day. Kolbe Project. 1 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Family to Family Adoptions. Seminar. 6:30 p.m. 713-249-5941.
 Bi-Net Houston. Women's Mixer. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.
 L & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force. 8 p.m. 713-426-3128.
 Positive Singles. Social. 713-807-7304.

friday, april 13

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Game Night. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Good Friday Services. Kolbe Project. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Garden and Yard Society. Meeting. 713-661-6378

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

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Classifieds

Announcements

PROJECT L.E.A.P.

The PWA Coalition-Houston announces the start of Project LEAP, an intensive training program for HIV positive individuals and others who want to be advocated for HIV/AIDS related services and funding • A 100 hour, 6 month program begins in April and will teach you all you need to know • For more info call Rich Arenschieldt at 713.522.5428 ext 28 or 1.800.999.0325

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club now forming • Walk Memorial Park 8:00 AM every Saturday morning • 3 Mile track • then head to breakfast at Java Java Cafe at 911 11th Street • Call 713.861.9149 or see our website: <http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.htm>

Youth Empowerment Advocates of Houston, an outreach center for homeless youth, is seeking the following donations: clothing, hygiene supplies, towels, books, videos and backpacks • Call Andrea 713.523.9324

The Spay & Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) will provide FREE spaying, neutering, rabies vaccination and Houston city license for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog & cat guardians • Call 713.522.2337 for qualifications, locations or more information.

QUIT SMOKING!

Volunteers needed for research study using hand-held computer at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Free nicotine patches! Call 713-792-2265

BAY AREA GAYS

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EJ's

Now accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks, Clean-Up and Door Security • Applications accepted Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm only • Recent photo helpful • Absolutely no phone calls, please • Apply in person at 2517 Ralph

Retail Sales Opportunity

Salesperson needed for Lady's & Man's Resale Shop • 14020 Memorial Drive • Apply in person Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm • No phone calls, please

Project CAESAR is looking for a P/T Outreach Educator • Bilingual a plus, and minorities are encouraged to apply • Experience in HIV/AIDS education preferred but not necessary • TDH grant funded position, up to 30 hours per week • Great job for student • Fax or mail resumes to: Director of Education, AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., 3202 Wesleyan Annex, Hou, TX 77027 • FAX 713.623.4029 • No phone calls please

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Nightingale ADC offers free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals • Including job preparedness training, resume development, job search assistance • For more information call 713.981.1543

The Club Houston is now accepting applications for Certified Personal Trainers • Apply in person at 2205 Fannin or at www.the-clubs.com

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Office Space for Lease

Office for rent

Second-floor office available immediately at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne at Stanford. Dimensions are 14' x 12'6". Nonprofit glbt organization preferred as tenant partners but all inquiries are welcomed. Contact Tim Brookover for rate and details. 713.524.3818, brookover@ev1.net
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Housemate wanted • \$500/mo, all bills paid • No lease • Nice home near Med Center & universities • References required • 713.303.4238

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New 2/2/2 townhome, 3 levels • Want professional male, gay or straight • \$650/mo + 1/2 utilities • 713.989.4635

GWM wants same to share 2/1 apartment in Montrose • \$450 + 1/2 bills • Laundry room, private pool, deck • 281-831-8291

SPRING

Need roommate to share large 3 bedroom house with many amenities, private backyard, off street parking • \$425/mo + shared utilities • Avail. 4/1/01 • I'm temporarily in Connecticut, please call 860.229.1508, 860.402.8889

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Occasions

Birthdays

Houston Area Bears Keith M. (4/12) and Bruce R. (4/13) claw their way to the birthday cake this week.

Belated birthday hugs to Paul (Rosey Cheeks) Pruitt.

Miss Pitty Pat Magnolia Sugarbaker smiles in a gem of a birthday on April 8.

Texas Renegade David slides in a birthday on April 8.



Louis H., member of Asians and Friends, has a birthday on April 12.



Big birthday hugs to Chris Crain, editorial director of Window Media and our fearless leader, for his April 8 birthday.



Our adorable pet of the week is Krysten, and she is available for adoption at the Houston Humane Society. Contact HHS at 713.434.5555 or e-mail pr@houstonhumane.org.

Tuna Melt & Pearl

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CALENDAR

Friday • Apr 6 Morning Prayer 10am	Saturday • Apr 14 Breakfast Club 9:30am
Sunday • Apr 8 Lenten Scripture Series 6:30pm	Monday • Apr 16 Office Closed—No Eucharist
Monday • Apr 9 Eucharist 7:30pm	Tuesday • Apr 17 Brenham Field Trip Poor Clare Monastery 8am Call Project for more information
Wednesday • Apr 11 Easter Craft Day 1pm	Wednesday • Apr 18 Enneagram Workshop 7pm
Thursday • Apr 12 Easter Craft Day 1pm	
Friday • April 13 Stations of the Cross 10am No movie night	

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My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

April 6 -12

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

Venus retrograde in your sign means that it's time to bring a confusing love matter from the past to its appropriate conclusion. Rather than wondering, "What if?" it's time to do what you are dreaming of. A Virgo is turned on by your forcefulness.

TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

You may not want to hear what an ex-lover has to say to you, but actually, you will benefit from those words. Saturn is slowly ending its stint in your sign, so hang in there, dear—relief is on its way. Your birthday in the spring will bring joy. But for now, be good and do as you're told. A Scorpio will remind you of your own secret powers.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

The moon's opposition to Jupiter on April 11 should bring you some excitement (and a little bit of inconvenience) in your romantic world. It's okay to experiment in your love life. You can go through a trial period in a significant relationship and try on different hats. A Leo fits you like a glove.

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

The moon in your house of love in mid-April could make you feel horny but vulnerable. Love is the answer, babe. If you are settling for second best, you are doing yourself a grave injustice. Experience a full range of emotions—and sexual positions—with an Aries.

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

This is a great time for you to push your own agenda on the work front. Why are you holding yourself back, doing the same old things in the same old way? Force yourself to be daring and adventurous. You can also get a Capricorn to go all the way with you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Mars in your house of home and family is spreading passion through your intimate relationships. You need to be true to yourself, and I mean the real you—you know, the one with integrity? If you are attracted to someone who is cruel to you, refocus your attention on someone more deserving. A Pisces is waiting.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

This is your time of year for romance, but also for trouble, dear Libra. With so many planets hanging close to your descendant (doorway to your house of love), it's no wonder you are drawing suitors to you like flies. At work, use the power of suggestion. Plant an idea, then trust that others will come through for you. Another Libra certainly will.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

The Sun, Mercury and Venus are all transiting your house of daily work and service. Put your huge ego aside and start thinking about helping others, but be as ballsy as ever behind the scenes. A Cancer will want to get behind closed doors with you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

You are easy as pie to be with right now, as the Sun sheds major charisma all over you. If you've ever thought of performing in public, now's the time. Why hide behind the flighty facade? You're bigger and better than that, and a Gemini will be the first to respond to your fabulousness.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

Make the most of Saturn (your ruler) as it transits through your bawdy and artistic fifth house. Your ability to show off gets you enthusiastic applause from your colleagues. This is a grand old time for you to push your way slowly and sensually into the arms of an ideal lover—perhaps an Aquarius.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

This is a wonderful time for you to plan a business trip that could turn into a pleasure trip (or vice versa) that could ultimately change your life. Make a vow to quit all the stupid clubs and obligations that no longer serve you or the world! Stop being so obscure and get back on track with a savvy Sag.

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

You may have a chance to invest in a business of your own, creative, creative Pisces. Your mantra should be "commitment." If someone powerful seems jealous of you—they are! And that's a sign of how powerful you are becoming. A Leo loves this new diva side of you.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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