



Clinton Ad Raises Community Ire

Response to Similar Dole Ad

by Curt Morrison

Gay groups across the country are upset over an advertisement for the Clinton/Gore campaign that is currently running on Christian radio stations. At issue is the fact that the ads are boasting the president's decision to sign the anti-gay Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA).

"This ad is a mistake and a serious political miscalculation," said Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign. "It was designed to pander to a segment of the electorate that isn't going to support the president under any circumstances. It completely contradicts the president's past statements."

The HRC indicates that the ad was calculated as a response to a recent campaign advertisement from the Dole/Kemp ticket titled "Moral Crisis" which has been running on the same radio stations. In the Dole ad, his opposition to Gays in the Military is promoted as a mean of protecting family values. Clinton's ad sought to counter the Dole ad by promoting Clinton's work to protect religious freedom. "Singing the unconstitutional DOMA is nothing to be proud of, and Bill Clinton know this," Birch said.

"Clinton has decided that the gay vote is marginal and that his gay supporters will remain loyal no matter what he does," opined Rich Tafel, Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans. "This is dangerous political position for any group to be in. After promising the gay

(Continued on page 4)

HOUSTON VOICE ONLINE!

The USAGayNet website
can be viewed at
<http://www.usagaynet.com>.
To reach The Houston Voice,
access the site and click on
the News and Views button.

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt


A picture speaks more than a thousand words.
Next week we will run more pictures and information about
The Quilt Display in Washington, DC.



Halloween Magic

INTERNATIONAL

MALE[®]



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SALE!

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MEN'S FASHIONS AND ACCESSORIES

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For more info call 1-800-444-1234
Presented by ADZ, Inc.
\$1.00 admission

Clinton continued...

(Continued from page 1)

community so much, how could gay Democrat leaders have allowed this to happen?"

In an article in this Wednesday's Washington Times, it was reported that the Clinton/Gore campaign "shrugged off" angry calls to shelve the radio ad. The article cited reports from gay and lesbian groups that the campaign might delete the portion of the ad which boasts his support of DOMA, but quotes campaign spokesperson Joe Lockhart as saying there are no plans to alter the radio ads despite the protests.

Campaign ad text

Protecting religious freedom. It's the foundation of our nation.

When the Justice Department went after a church to gather the parishioners tithing money, the government was stopped cold because President Clinton overturned the

government's policy and protected us.

It's not the only time he's defended our values.

Don't be misled by Bob Dole's attack ads.

President Clinton wants a complete ban on late-term abortions except when the mother's life is in danger or faces severe health risks, such as the inability to have another child.

The President signed the Defense of Marriage Act, supports curfews and school uniforms to teach our children discipline.

The President enacted the V-Chip to block out violent TV programs. His crime bill expanded the death penalty for drug kingpins.

Bob Dole opposed him and is resorting to untrue negative attacks.

President Clinton has fought for our values and America is better for it.

Paid for by Clinton/Gore '96.

Volunteers Needed

The Houston Voice has need of a number of people to work on a voluntary basis. Positions include artists, cartoonists, reporters, reviewers, proofreaders (needed on Wednesdays), help with distribution, and various other tasks as needed. We offer a progressive "Out" environment, some job training and a great group of folks to hang out with, besides it will look good on your resume some day to have this work experience. Interested? Contact the Editor, Deborah Bell at 529-8490.

Sleepers Keeps You Awake

Film Depicts True Tale of An American Tragedy

By JON ANTHONY

Sleepers boasts an all star cast in a drama that at times is both compelling and very disturbing. The movie opens with four young boys growing up on the streets in the late 1960s. They resided in a community in New York City known as "Hell's Kitchen" which was described as a place of innocence, yet it was ruled by corruption. Directed by Barry Levinson, this film grips you until it's climatic ending.

Based on the best-selling book by Lorenzo Carcaterra, it is a provocative story that delves into a world of violence and abuse perpetrated upon children. The lives of these four young men are forever changed when they decide to scam a hot dog vendor and end up seriously injuring a man in the process. Sentenced to a juvenile delinquent boys home, their experiences mar them for life. They are sexually and physically abused by four guards at the institution in what can only be described as scenes that will haunt you due to their brutality. The knowledge that this film portrays real people's lives may make its horror impact you more powerfully.

The film has stirred controversy prior to its opening due to the content and the matter of a prevaricating priest who assists the boys now grown into men in getting their revenge years later (although nothing can erase their painful memories). Robert DeNiro is superb as the priest who befriends these young men through adulthood. Despite the crime and corruption that filtered through Hell's Kitchen, nothing prepared these boys for the physical and emotional inferno that they endured at the Wilkinson Home for Boys. Tortured, abused and raped under the leadership of a sadistic guard named Sean Nokes (Kevin Bacon), the boys were



Jason Patric and Brad Pitt are two of the stars in *Sleepers*.

irreparably damaged emotionally. The subject matter is nefarious and it leaves an indelible impression upon you. This film is not for the faint hearted. It is riveting beyond compression and resonates in your psyche for hours afterwards. The film begins at a dilatory pace in order to build character development. When two of the young men, now grownup, run into Nokes in a restaurant, they get revenge by shooting him down in view of the other patrons. What ensues is a daring plan that would once and for all deliver the justice that the four men so desperately sought for more than a decade and were denied. The execution of the plan is gripping and suspenseful.

This ***** film is one of the years best. Kevin Bacon, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Jason Patrick, Brad Pitt, Bruno Kirby, Brad Renfro and Minnie Driver star. With the exception of Brad Pitt, this stellar cast gave some of their greatest career performances. Hoffman plays a alcoholic burnt out attorney with verve and perfection. Jason Patric is astonishing. De Niro and Bacon are excellent. Pitt seemed as though he was reading a script except in the final scene of the film where he appeared genuine. This is a fascinating film and it will probably garner Oscar nominations galore. It is adult drama that is honestly depicted and is not for the faint hearted.



Costume Contest!

\$500 in prizes!

OUTRAGE

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Saturday, October 26
8:00 pm until midnight
Rich's - 2401 San Jacinto

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Advance tickets available at
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SUNDAY
with
Dyan
Michaels



WEDNESDAY
with
Regina
Dane

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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and COCKTAIL BUFFET at 7pm



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SUNDAY, OCT. 27

CHILLS and THRILLS
A Halloween Nightmare
Showtime at 9pm

COSTUME CONTEST

at 10:30 pm • Cash Prizes

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MALE STRIP CONTEST

with Black Velvet at 11pm

THURSDAY, OCT. 31

COSTUME CONTEST

at 11 pm with

\$150 in Cash and Prizes



NO COVER, EVER

Fais Do Do Fundraiser



A lot of good it is to be royalty, when you get hit in the face with pies



Trudy Denny and Marion Coleman enjoyed the festivities

A Krewe Cut Above

By DAVID RICHARDSON

On 6 October, 1996 the Krewe of Olympus sponsored a Fais Do Do at the Lovett Inn. Many of the communities elite were in attendance and strolled about the grounds, enjoying the sounds of Zydeco and Jazz music while playing festive carnival games. There was also an abundance of delicious Cajun food available for consumption.

Krewe member Bruce Reeves explained that the Krewe moved from New Orleans to Houston in 1991 and their goal is to try and instill a Mardi Gras feeling in the community year round. They are also responsible for a huge invitation only ball inn February with fantastical costumes and a



KOO Board Members and Royalty

spectacular show. Past ball themes have included silver, Lamps, and Yard Sale. Each year a charitable organization benefits from the Krewe's generosity. This year's designated beneficiaries are Omega House and Stevens House.

Resource Guide to Coming Out



GLOBAL celebrates National Coming Out Day with HRC. Mary won a shirt as a door prize



Love is what it's all about—GLOBAL President Robin Maguire and "special friend"

WASHINGTON—In its ongoing campaign to promote the values of openness and honesty about being Gay or Lesbian, HRC's National Coming Out Project announced the publication of its *Resource Guide to Coming Out*. Timed to coincide with National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11, HRC is making the booklet available to lesbian and gay bookstores, community groups, student organizations and individuals.

"Coming out can be such a challenge for lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans, so HRC is providing people with basic information to show them where they can turn as they strive to accept themselves," according to HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Polls show that Americans who know gay people are much more supportive of ending discrimination—so coming out is important both personally and politically."

HRC's booklet provides information to help people come out to themselves and others and includes a listing of organizations and books they can refer to for further assistance. In addition to the *Guide*, HRC's National Coming Out Project sponsored a "Come Out Voting" rally in Washington

on Oct. 11. Hosted by HRC's National Coming Out Day representative, Chastity Bono and featuring Chastity's Mother, Cher, who talked about her own difficulty coming to terms with her daughter's sexuality. She confessed that she had been very "uncherlike" but has since grown to be more accepting.

The rally was just one of hundreds of events around the country celebrating National Coming Out Day, created in 1988 to recognize the importance of coming out and to honor the first anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights. HRC's National Coming Out Project is an ongoing campaign to help end discrimination by encouraging and assisting gay people to be open and honest about their lives.

Copies of the HRC's *Resource Guide to Coming Out* can be obtained by calling HRC's National Coming Out Project at (800)866-6263 or sending an e-mail to ncop@hrcusa.org. The *Guide* can also be accessed through HRC's Website at: <http://www.hrcusa.org/whowhat/whatwedo/ncop/resource>.

In Houston, The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston (GLOBAL) student organization joined with HRC at Toopies Coffees for an evening of music and fun.

Houston Dance Coalition presents


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Liz Harmon—San Diego Business Journal, April, 1994

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Phil Donahue—The Donahue Show, December, 1992

"...they're just as likely to give a terminally ill person a second lease on life."
William Hoffman—Small Business News, April, 1994

PAGE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



That Was Then

I used to be known as a Professional Homosexual. Every day was Coming Out Day for me. My paid work was as a proud AIDS Specialty Nurse at Park Plaza and then at Twelve Oaks Hospitals. I made Names Project memorial quilt panels, wrote for various community periodicals, and volunteered in Pride Week activities. My family was the Lone Star Symphonic Band and in an effort to help finance the trips and activities we so ambitiously pursued, I have washed many a car and sold many a ticket to our famous Barbecue Concerts. I walked in "From All Walks of Life" and traveled to Austin to donate blood (in the Blood Sisters program) for hospitalized PWA's.

That was then. As I looked over my calendar of this year and last, I am amazed at how little connection I have anymore to the lesbian and gay community. I march in the parade and attend concerts and festivals but more as a participant than an insider. As my life has changed so drastically and I miss the involvement, the scoops, the friends.

I used to have friends. Lesbian women, who I used to talk with every day. Women who became grandmothers at about the same time I did, women who lost/changed jobs, lent each other money, advice and support.

I seldom hear from these friends anymore unless there is an unusual event: family crisis, or a party to be invited to. They don't get many calls from me, either. I have a demanding job, an understanding wife and a home to help organize. When we do get together, our common complaint is "There's just not enough time!"

In a rare moment of relaxation, I spied a newspaper want-ad soliciting Lesbians to join a "Just For Fun" friends group. The notice suggested that we all need friends and let's get together and make

some. Some of the activities suggested were: meeting for supper, going to the movies, and discussion groups. The initial meeting was hopeful. Every woman in attendance complained that they were too busy in their lives to meet people and make friends. Our first outing was agreed upon and everyone looked forward to getting together again. Several women offered to bring others who wanted to make new friends, too.

The group met at the appointed evening to share a meal and each introduced themselves and we all visited. The chemistry was sparkling. We all liked each other and eagerly made plans for the next occasion. Several people called each other during the following days to get better acquainted.

The agreed next agreed upon happening was looser and less formal. People mingled and chatted. And we had a slightly different mix than previously, but the women who sent regrets did so sincerely, and the new ones were welcomed and made to feel included.

"This is great!" Jan and I agreed. "We are meeting women we like, and have things in common with. I hope we can go to most of the events they plan."

The third meeting was last Friday night. It was planned ten days in advance and everyone had been looking forward to being able to attend. Thursday evening the organizer of the group called us to say it was canceled. We were disappointed, but secretly relieved. Like us, everyone was just too busy. No one could spare the time.

Jazz wrote this article while she was on call for her other job, baking her son's 21st birthday cake, making dinner reservations, wrapping his present, creating a grocery list, feeding the dog and preparing for yet another family funeral out of town.

Torie Osborn tells us about 'Coming Home' to America

Booksigning at Crossroads

By JON ANTHONY

Torie Osborn will be reading from her new book *Coming Home to America: A Roadmap to Gay & Lesbian Empowerment* (St. Martin's Press, \$21.95) this week at Crossroads Market & Bookstore. Recently I spoke with Osborn about the book and her role as a community activist.

Osborn has been a political activist for more than three decades. She is considered to be a national leader of the gay and lesbian movement and holds an MBA from UCLA. She is the former Executive Director for both the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Currently residing in Washington, DC, Osborn is a management consultant who moonlights as a lecturer, writer and trainer.

Osborn is on a 26 city book tour which brings her to Houston Oct. 21. She felt compelled to write the book after the Gays in the Military debacle. "The crash of that issue on the heels of the high of the Clinton Administration made me decide to focus on the incredible differences we made. I wanted to write a book to show how terrific we are," said Osborn.

Arguing that our strategy must change,

Osborn reflects on the successes our community has achieved. "The country is on our side in terms of discrimination. We've won on discrimination, in order to win tolerance and affirmation, coming out must be a more significant part of our strategy," insists Osborn.

Osborn believes we are at the cusp of a new area, that we are morally equal to the rest of society and that we should learn from mistakes of the past. "Some of our political correctness and activist culture has hindered progress," she remarks. "We must wage the public opinion battle. I don't think we get anywhere telling folks what to do," said Osborn. Osborn expressed disappointment in President Clinton for "pandering to the right." A dedicated and visionary activist, Osborn believes our community can obtain its goals of equality. "I want us to think about long term instead of reactive and short term. We need to build permanent institutions," she said. "Our national groups can only be as strong as our local groups," opines Osborn.

Osborn will be at Crossroads on Monday, Oct. 21 at 7pm. A reception in her honor will follow. She will read from the book and sign copies as well. Crossroads is located at 1111 Westheimer. For more information, call 942-0147.

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



The Power of The Quilt

The power of the AIDS quilt is unmistakable. It draws together thousands of people whose lives have been affected by AIDS. It also draws the curious who wonder what The Quilt is about. The enormous crowds who attended the viewing in Washington this past weekend are no doubt overwhelmed by its intense message. The message is very simple. More than 300,000 people in this country have died of AIDS. The Quilt tells their story and the story of those they leave behind.

An older couple kneel beside their son's panel smiling as if they are having a family reunion. A widowed mother weeps gently while laying flowers on the panel of her son. She had lost her husband only a few years ago and now her only child. A frail man in a wheelchair gazes at the applique of his lover's face on colorful cloth. Several friends are standing next to him admiring the panel that they completed a mere six months ago. A man holds up his tiny daughter so she can better see her mother's panel. He and his wife had met in a drug rehab program. They found out they were both HIV positive after the birth of their child. He is thankful that his daughter is HIV negative and that his sister and her family will be able to take care of her when his panel in The Quilt is sewed into place next to his wife's. Nieces and nephews run around their uncle's panel chasing one another. They are unaware of its significance.

I have always valued being Uncle Glen to my niece and nephews. They in enrich my life in ways that I never thought possible, and it is hard for me to imagine my life without them and their lives without me.

As their eyes move from panel to panel, visitors to The Quilt wonder "who were these people?" I can answer that question because they were people like me and many of them were my friends. This is what I can tell you about them. They were vibrant people, 20 to 40 year olds, living productive lives and the illness cut them down in their prime. Their battle to live was inspiring, not giving up until their strength was totally depleted. Over the years, I have been impressed with the amount of pain they were able to endure. Another thing that has impressed me is that most of them survived as long as they could and without losing their sense of humor.

Many are impacted as I was the first time I saw The Quilt by the overwhelming sense of loss to our society. We have lost so many, some our best artists, writers, and creative people as well as so many community leaders. A whole humanity of people who worked to make this world a better place to live. I am grateful for their accomplishments and I hope my writing will help the world to be a better place.

Like a lot of the visitors to The Quilt I

have watched my closest circle of friends die. There were five of them and they each had an impact on my life. Mike Lefluer and I met at Spotts Park after one of the Pride parades. He was a very handsome, personable man and we became fast friends. He taught me how to use wit and charm, and to be sociable at parties. He called me everyday at 10am and we would have a "chatfest." The worst thing for me after he died was that the phone stopped ringing at 10am.

George Blair was my workout partner at the gym. For three years we worked out together. I was impressed the way he managed to build up his muscular body to stay as strong as he could. He was my inspiration to work harder on myself. He had a tremendous impact on my life and I miss him everyday.

One friend, who I had known ever since I was 18 years old was John Conte. We met in San Antonio while he was going to med school. He went into the Marines as a doctor. He was also a serious body builder and the few times we worked out together he would push me to use the heavier weights. I was a wimp then, but I did the best I could. A strange thing about our relationship was that we would run into each other everywhere I moved. When I lived in San Francisco, I ran into him while he was on vacation there. It may have been fate that our lives intertwined so much, but I feel so lucky to have been his friend.

Norman Guttman was a brilliant lawyer and an activist. He threw the best parties I ever went to. His annual "Academy Awards" parties are legendary. I was never sure why it was that such a sophisticated person was friends with me, but I am so glad he was. He never resolved his anger about being sick with AIDS and his death was very painful for me. He was a true friend and supporter.

Of course, my closest friend that I have lost was Kelse, my lover of thirteen years. His death is the most painful of all. He continues to have a great impact on my life. If I am in a situation where I am not sure what I should do, I ask myself "what would Kelse do?" and that helps me decide how to handle the problem at hand. I know we would have been together forever if he had lived.

I would like to have another close relationship before I die. I am afraid that my sickness makes others not want to be involved with me. I miss the love and passion a lover offers as well as the comfort of companionship. I hope I don't die without knowing love again as that would be the cruelest thing that could happen to me.

When you see The Quilt please think of my friends and all the departed ones who have lost their battle with AIDS. And for those of us still fighting, remember us in your prayers. We need your love and support.

Senators Evade Outings

FROM GLAAD RELEASE

As with Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis) and Representative John Kasich (R-Ohio), both Senators Larry Pressler (R-SD) and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) are feeling the heat since voting for the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Sen. Pressler has addressed rumors that he is gay. Author Alexander Cockburn's recent book, *Washington Babylon* states that Pressler married in 1982 "amid speculation he was gay." Pressler insists that Cockburn is connected to Democratic opponent Rep. Tim Johnson and released a campaign ad attacking Johnson, calling the claim "mean-spirited, malicious and untrue." Johnson

has repeatedly denied any connection to the gay allegations and claims that it is Pressler that is making the gay rumors an issue.

Sen. Mikulski, on the other hand, is remaining hushed about her rumored homosexuality. In the *Baltimore Alternative*, Mikulski refused to comment during repeated questions by a reporter, including asking point-blank if she is a lesbian.

Erratum: A headline in the Sept. 30 issue of GLAADlines implied that Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin is a Republican. He is actually a Democrat. GLAAD regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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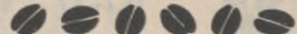
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The Men of the Mine invite you to witness THE REVENGE OF THE SPHINX

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
11:30PM COSTUME CONTEST

Cash & Trophies To Winners
Halloween After Hours
Ghoulish Male Dancers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
\$2.00 LONGNECKS (Domestic)
\$2.25 WELL DRINKS

All Day & All Night
Ghoulish Male Dancers

HALLOWEEN THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 31ST
11:30PM COSTUME CONTEST

Cash & Trophies To Winners
Ghoulish Male Dancers

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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Wake-Up Call

"Protecting religious freedom. It's the foundation of our nation," the narrator intones in an political advertisement touting a candidates support of the Defense of Marriage Act and opposition to late term abortions on christian radio stations. The candidate: Bill Clinton. Excerpts: "It's not the only time he's defended our values...President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act. ...President Clinton has fought for our values and America is better for it." If I hadn't been informed, I'd have thought I was listening to an ad from Pat Buchanan or Jesse Helms.

If ever there was a time for our community to realize that our policy of steadfast allegiance to one party is ill-fated, this is the time. To begin with our community literally turned a deaf ear to the President's earlier remarks owing his support of DOMA to his belief that it threatens family values—a notion that we denigrated Republicans for espousing. To be sure, there was some lip service from leaders of national community organizations expressing disappointment and the likes followed by the usual rhetoric: this is the most pro-gay administration in the history of our movement. Moreover, the Clinton administration took pains arguing that this was an election year ploy by Republicans to force the presidents hands and that it was "gay baiting of the worst kind." Not Surprisingly, the administration seems to have no problem behaving in the same manner.

The only bright side to this entire matter is that the President does consider the gay and lesbian community equal in at least one sense. Clinton has demonstrated that he will flip-flop on our issues just as quickly as he will on any other issue if the polls indicate it will be of benefit to his personal agenda. The sheer lunacy, devoid of any logic, behind the placement of the ad escapes me. Certainly, the Christian Coalition and their ilk are not going to support this President regardless of how many ads he runs on Christian radio. That may not have been the intended outcome. Perhaps the President knew this would draw the ire of the community and make headlines that would benefit him with the general electorate—an electorate which overwhelmingly supported DOMA according to polls. Make no mistake, this President would not hesitate for one moment to stir up a little controversy at the expense of our community, especially if it would benefit his candidacy and be conducive to his reelection chances.

Before anyone out there starts lambasting me with mail concerning Republican nominee Bob Dole's advertisements running on Christian radio, I am fully aware of them and take issue with those ads as well. Dole's ads state the former senators opposition to Gays in the military. There is one fundamental difference between the two camps advertisements. Bob Dole has not been an ardent proponent of our community and has never purported to claim otherwise. With the exception of his co-sponsorship of the Ryan White Act and his office's non-discrimination policy, Dole's record on

gay and lesbian issues is dismal at best. President Clinton, on the other hand, has purported to be concerned about our community's issues. To date, that support has been marginal at best and has only been present on a verbal basis. I have much more respect for someone who is honest and upfront—something that seems to be remiss from politicians entirely.

The question that arises is: Why should anyone be surprised at this latest flip-flop from the president? In many ways we have brought it upon ourselves. Would you worry about making a decision that could offend and irritate an ardent and supportive constituency if you knew that they would unequivocally support you primarily because they do not have an alternative. Think about it. Our community cannot continue the practice of annihilating Republicans for their rhetorical utterances blaming homosexuals for the demise of family values and then turn around and defend the President, a Democrat for uttering the same nonsense. It's hypocrisy in the worst form. We as a community need to decide what our primary concern is. Are we on a mission to obtain civil rights or are we on a mission to coral liberalism back into vogue? No one should take this community's vote for granted and if they are able to do so, then we need to take a long look at how and why we allowed that to happen. Otherwise, we will never obtain the equality so many of us have been fighting for throughout our adult lives.

As far as I'm concerned, neither candidate running for President is deserving of our support. Both of their records are suspect. From Bob Dole's Log Cabin debacle to his stance on Gays in the military. No one expects Bob Dole to champion the cause of our civil rights precisely because he has never indicated he would. Clinton has and in this pundit's opinion integrity is important. An individual's integrity is the only thing that they have entire control over and as such provides an impetus for credibility. Where was the President when we demonstrated in Washington? Why won't he release the names of the 100 or more "openly" gay staff he has purportedly appointed? Why didn't he do more for the community when he had a Democratic controlled Congress? And finally, why is he airing ads on the religious rights turf touting his support of DOMA?

Our community is at a crossroads and where we go from here is entirely up to us. Talk is cheap and it won't get our community's problems solved. The only way to do that is by getting involved. Regardless of your political persuasion, please call the White House and tell them you don't appreciate being taken for granted and demand that an explanation be forthcoming as to why the defeat of our right to get married is being hailed as a family value.

NOTE: The University of Houston College Republicans is holding a dinner reception in the Conrad Hilton Ballroom this Sunday, Oct. 20 from 3-7 pm. The topic is "Diversity in the GOP." Log Cabin Republican, State Pres. Dale Carpenter will speak at the event. For information, contact David Baker 360-4279 or 785-2426.

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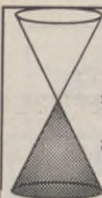
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PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

It's Been Done

A funny thing happened on the way to The Quilt. I didn't go. With plane ticket in hand and a reservation for the same hotel room facing the White House that Bill and I had shared during the 1993 March on Washington, I flat chickened out.

I guess what did it for me was the memory of an incident last June. I had gone to New York the week before Gay Pride Day on business and stopped in the Saks store to visit an old friend of ours who worked in men's underwear (no pun intended). Progressing through the store I passed a display of quilt panels arrayed in anticipation of Gay Pride. And instinctively I found myself unable to even bear a glance at these symbols of loss. Eight months and several hundred Zolof pills later the memories remain too fresh, too painful. Instead, I followed the weekend news on The Quilt, what there was of it. The local television stations and the Houston Chronicle were enthralled with the Hispanic Immigration march, the promoters of which optimistically projected a hundred thousand participants. Buried in a New York Times article was an estimate that three-quarters of a million people including the First and Second Families, viewed The Quilt.

IF the news media focused on any aspect of The Quilt weekend it was a handful of desperate survivors of ACT UP throwing ashes on the White House lawn. Even to die-hard members of the gay and lesbian community this act seemed an incongruous gesture to another time. To the news media it was a photo op, as was the intent of the participants.

It is not even surprising that neither Dour Dole or the unChristian Coalition took issue with Clinton's appearance among The Quilt's panels. The Names Project, endowed with preserving and maintaining The Quilt, has worked hard to remove the Quilt from the realm of a gay issue. It has become, rightly so, a symbol of all those lost to AIDS, a rallying point for the national grief which has now touched millions of households, irrespective of politics or orientation.

But we cannot escape the reality that The Quilt was conceived and fostered by Gays and their immediate supporters, particularly the parents of the thousands of gay men already lost. The hundreds of thousands of men and women who did go to Washington last weekend were from this same community.

Initially, I was disturbed by the media coverage of the lesser protest organized by Hispanics. But from a news worthy point of view the emphasis is understandable. The Quilt is old news, frankly "it's been done." Only its size—and the presence of the Clintons/Gores and Elizabeth Taylor—is fresh news.

Just as the Million Man March a year ago focused attention on a new militancy among African-American men, the Hispanic march, regardless of size, represented the political stirrings of a growing minority which in the past has seen lit-

tle political activity beyond efforts among migrant workers. Yet the Hispanic population will become the largest minority by the next century.

It has been a cliché of politics that Hispanics don't vote, primarily because they fear registering to vote or in any other way becoming recognized. It has not even been clear that Hispanics will turn out in large numbers for a Hispanic candidate, a key element among the African-American community.

This is the same political wisdom which prevailed toward Black voters before the Voting Rights Act of 1964. And while Black precincts still do not produce the turnout found in wealthy areas, they provide a more solid block of voters for their preferred candidates. With time and effort the Hispanic vote will approach the impact already realized by the Cuban-American community in Florida.

The Hispanic march's immediacy is evident in the running battle over immigration and welfare reform. The Quilt has become so nonpolitical that the actions of the ACT UP demonstrators seemed a jarring reminder that it was a preceding administration which was far more deserving of this gesture of anguish.

Whatever Clinton's pluses or minuses on AIDS, he has removed the White House as a symbol of hostility, as a place where never an AIDS word is spoken. It can be argued that even Clinton's appearance at The Quilt was a safe gesture which even his harshest critics on the right failed to fault. But it remains a political fact that he was there, the first president to attend even a display of the Quilt. Dour Dole was holed up in his Washington headquarters that very day planning his latest strategy of personal attack on Clinton, with nary a thought that he could gamble on a stroll among the panels.

Yet Dour Dole is the candidate of the national Log Cabin Republicans. These erstwhile relics of conservatism would sooner bow to the anti-gay Dole and Jack Kemp than acknowledge our progress in the last four years. These Log Cabiners should be right at home in the Republican big tent with the profit-motivated drug companies which sniffed the foul odor of even bigger profits to come as many of our fellow Gays live longer, sustained by the costliest regime yet.

There is one saving grace as our daylight hours decline, signaling the approaching finale to the dulllest Presidential race in my memory. I harbor the distinct feeling that all three candidates—I will at least acknowledge Perot—wish only that it were over as well. Certainly the American public's fondest wish is a return to a semblance of normality. And America's businesses are all too eager to get on with the American way of life—the holiday spending. Far more important to who wins on the 5th of November is whether this will be a big Christmas spending season. After all, that's what capitalism is all about.

GENRE Wins 'OZZIE' Awards

Oct. 9, 1996, Los Angeles—*Genre* magazine was honored by *Folio* magazine with two 1996 Ozzie awards for design excellence. The wins, *Genre's* fourth and fifth in the last two years, were in the categories of "Best Cover" and "Best Use of Illustration."

"These awards only confirm what I already know," says Richard Settles, founder and publisher of the gay men's monthly. "That

Greg Evans' art direction, under the supervision of Editor-in-Chief Ron Kraft, is second to none—and I'm not just talking about only gay books, but mainstream ones as well. I can't express how proud I am of what they have done with *Genre*."

Genre has the largest paid circulation of any gay men's magazines in the country. It is currently in its sixth year of publication.

On October 6, 1996 New York City hosted the First Annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards...Guess where you can find the winners?



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This & That...

by Jon Anthony

The news of the week: **Madonna** gave birth to a daughter and the paparazzi are waiting in the wings. Give the Diva a break... **Melissa Etheridge** will portray rock/blues legend **Janis Joplin** in a bio-pic for an upcoming TriStar film. Based on the book *Love, Janis* by the late singer's sister **Laura**, the film will begin production in early 1997... **Julia Roberts** and **Mel Gibson** began work this week on *The Conspiracy Theory*, a thriller set in New York. In the film Gibson portrays a paranoid conspiracy theorist cab driver. The plot: one of his theories is true. Roberts, who was reportedly paid a hefty \$12 million, will play a Justice Department lawyer... **Woody Allen** will be a featured voice in the upcoming animated film *Antz*, due in 1998... **Whoopi Goldberg** will take over the role of *Pseudolus* in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* on Broadway. The role will be adjusted so that Goldberg can portray the part as a woman. **Nathan Lane** garnered raves during his stint in the production... Famed film director **Francis Ford Coppola** will helm the screen adaptation of **John Grisham's** bestselling novel *The Rainmaker*. The film, produced by **Michael Douglas's** production company, has cast **Matt Damon**, **Claire Danes** and **Danny Glover** to date. Douglas is currently busy at work on *The Game*, co-starring **Sean Penn**. Incidentally, **Jodie Foster** settled her \$14.5 million dollar lawsuit over a dispute that left her out of *The Game*. Foster was set to star with Douglas in the film, a verbal commitment that did not come to fruition. Terms were not disclosed... NBC will move its freshman sitcom *Men Behaving Badly* to a new time period on Wednesdays. The network will air *Badly* at 8pm and move *NewsRadio* to 8:30pm beginning next month. *Badly*, a bawdy comedy that

lives up to its moniker, is the network's highest-rated new sitcom... The producers of *Independence Day*, which zapped \$300 million at the box-office, were given carte blanc to make what ever film they wanted as a followup. Their choice: a remake of *Godzilla*. The film will start production in the spring and Columbia TriStar's promotes that it will be the monster movie for the summer. Really!?!... **Glenn Close** looks ravishingly devilish in the live-action version of Disney's upcoming *101 Dalmatians*. The highly anticipated film with Close as the menacing **Cruella De Vil** hits theaters Nov. 22... Comedian **Joe Piscopo** will appear as a special guest at the Houston Police Activities League (PAL) first ever **Heroes Banquet** on Oct. 17 at 7:30pm. For ticket information contact PAL at 221-0602... CBS has given **Valerie Bertinelli** another chance by signing her to headline a sitcom for next season... Mercury Record will release **Joan Osborne's** *Early Recordings* on Nov. 5. The album is a compilation of her best recordings from two of her previous albums prior to her rise to superstardom... **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Ron Howard**, **Edward G. Robinson**, **Frank Sinatra**, **Dean Martin**, **Ingrid Bergman** and **Mia Farrow** are just a few of the world renowned subjects in the new book *Yul Brynner: Photographer* (Hairy N. Abrams Inc., \$39.95). The late-actor was notorious for hiding a camera wherever he went and taking extraordinary

photos, many of which were published in *Life* magazine... Director **Martin Scorsese** will be honored with an American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award this year... **Placido Domingo** has become the proud proprietor of a restaurant. His *Restaurant Domingo* opens later this month on Manhattan's Upper East Side... **Ann-Margaret** makes a rare television appearance in the CBS movie *Blue Rodeo*. **Kris Kristofferson** co-stars in this poignant tale of a woman's struggle. *Rodeo* airs Oct. 20 at 8pm... **George Burns**, who died shortly after his 100 birthday this year, will return as God in the tentatively titled film *The Best Man*. Burns voice will be done by imitators and he will be computer re-created. This will be the fourth installment of the *Oh, God!* films... **Al Pacino** is absolutely phenomenal in *Richard III*. The film is laugh provoking fun and Pacino does a marvelous job at bringing the Shakespeare classic to the big screen in a manner that resonates... CBS' highly touted sitcom *Ink* starring **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen** makes its debut this Monday Oct. 21. Produced by *Murphy Brown* creator **Diane English**, CBS is banking on their starpower to draw huge ratings... All four of the major networks are in a bidding war for the rights to *The First Wives Club*. The networks believe the premise would be great sitcom material... **Milestones**: **Ted Bessell** died at the age of 61 last week. Bessell was best known as **Marlo Thomas's** boyfriend Donald in the hit sitcom *That Girl* (1966-71). Bessell starred in several other sitcoms and won an Emmy for producing *The Tracy Ullman Show* in 1989... **Making the Rounds**: **Mandy Patinkin** delivers a compelling performance in *Broken Glass* airing on PBS' Masterpiece Theatre Oct. 20 at 9pm. **Elizabeth McGovern** co-stars in the *Arthur Miller* play. **Geraldine Ferraro** and **Larry King** appear as themselves on an amusing episode of *Murphy Brown* Oct. 21 at 8pm on CBS. **Al Pacino** visits the *Today Show* on NBC Oct. 22 at 7am. **Funnyman Don Rickles** checks in with **Jay Leno** on the *Tonight Show* Oct. 22 and singer **Mary Chapin**

Carpenter chats with him on Oct. 24. Tonight airs at 10:35pm. **Lily Tomlin** and **Sheryl Crow** visit with **David Letterman's** *CBS Late Show* on Oct. 22 at 10:35pm. **Loretta Lynn**, singer-actress **Alice Faye** and screen legend **Jean Harlow** are all profiled on this week's *A&E Biography* series which airs weekdays at 7pm and encores at 11pm. **Chaka Kahn** and **Sissy Spacek** guest on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* Oct. 25 at 4pm on ABC affiliate Channel 13 and **Bill Murray** talks to **Larry King** on his live show at 8pm on CNN Oct. 25. **Jenny Jones** goes nostalgic when she welcomes the **Emotions**, **Tommy Tutone**, **KC & the Sunshine Band** and **Toni Basil** to her show for a '70s reunion fest on Oct. 25. Jones airs daily at 11am on NBC affiliate Channel 2... **Top of the Charts**: *Seinfeld* won the weekly Nielsen ratings contest. *The Ghost and The Darkness* debuted at the top of the box-office, albeit barely. *The First Wives Club* came in second by a few hundred thousands. Both films raked in more than \$9 million at the box-office, according to Exhibitor Relations. *The Long Kiss Goodnight* opened in third place making nearly \$9 million itself. *Macarena* is still the top single and *Nirvana's* *From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah* dominates the album charts, according to Billboard magazine. **Stephen King** (*Desperation*) and his alter ego **Richard Bachman** (*The Regulators*) dominate the New York Times bestseller's list for fiction. Both titles are available at Crossroads Market. *The Dilbert Principle* by **Scott Adams** is the #1 non-fiction title... **Quote of the Week**: "I don't think it's a lightning bolt. We're taught that it is. We're told that the room will shake and you'll know. And it's just not..." - **Brooke Shields** in a TV Guide interview talking about her relationship with tennis ace **Andre Agassi**.



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Lovers Can Break More Than Hearts--Part II

Domestic Violence In Our Community

The Myths & The Facts

By BLANCA BALDERAS

A ugly secret of the gay and lesbian community is the fact that partner abuse and dating violence happens in our relationships just as they do in "straight" relationships. The myth is that it doesn't happen and we wish that were true. The horrible reality is that battering happens in one out of four of our relationships. Despite the fear and community denial, more and more Gay men and Lesbians are speaking out about battering and other forms of abuse perpetrated by intimate partners.

One of the myths that our community has about domestic violence is that it occurs primarily where strict roles (such as Butch/Femme) are practiced, or in certain groups such as the Leather and S/M crowd. The truth is that violence and abuse are found in all parts of our community. No group regardless of race, class, level of income, ethnicity, age, ability, education, politics, religion, or lifestyle is free from domestic violence. Size and weight, butchiness or queeniness have nothing to do with whether or not a person will be a victim or an abuser. The National Leather Association (NLA) passed a statement on domestic violence in 1991 calling on the organization to confront this issue and provide broad education about the critical differences between consensual S/M and abuse. The motto of NLA is "Safe, Sane, and Consensual".

You may think that you could easily and always identify an abuser when you meet one, so it would be easy not to get involved with one. The truth is that there is no way to tell by looking. Gay men and Lesbians who batter or abuse are not crazy and are

seldom seen as mean. They can be friendly, social, charming and even physically unthreatening. In fact, they are sometimes everyone's best friend and the life of the party. They can be kind. They have their good side and other people don't have trouble falling in love with them. Their victims can be individuals who are strong, capable, and dynamic.

Many people think that violence is caused by factors such as substance abuse, stress, childhood violence, or provocation. The fact is that a batterer chooses to be violent and is responsible for his/her behavior. Individuals may deny this responsibility and want to find excuses. Alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic violence. Stopping substance abuse does not guarantee that the battering will stop. Most importantly, there is no direct cause and effect relationship between these factors and domestic violence. There is NEVER a justification for it.

Another myth is that anger always leads to violence. We all get angry sometimes and that is OK. The problem is not anger as we usually experience it. The problem is when that anger has built is acted out in an inappropriate way. When someone acts out their anger without taking into account the consequences of their actions and where there has been an atmosphere of intimidation created within the relationship.

Next week: October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This article is Part II of a three part series. Part III of "Breaking More Than Hearts" will appear in next week's issue of The Houston Voice.

Blanca Balderas is a Crisis Counselor for the Domestic Violence Unit of the Houston Police Dept.



Writers Honored

Lifetime Achievement Award for Joan Nestle

A gala awards ceremony on Oct. 25 at the Algonquin Hotel will honor Joan Nestle, winner of the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement, and Felice Picano and Sarah Schulman, winners of this year's Ferro-Grumley Awards for Outstanding Novel for *Like People in History* and *Rat Bohemia*. The affair will also mark the presentation of the Robert Chesley Playwriting Award to Susan Miller, and the Lifetime Achievement Award to Robert Patrick.

These four awards are unusual among those given for lesbian or gay-themed writing because they each carry a cash prize of \$1000. While the Ferro-Grumley and Robert Chesley Awards are presented by Stephen Grecco and The Robert Chesley Foundation in cooperation with the Publishing Triangle, the selection process for the Bill Whitehead Award depends solely upon the Triangle membership. Each Spring, Whitehead ballots are mailed to all members in good standing, who then have the opportunity to nominate a writer of their choice to be recognized for "an outstanding body of work with significant lesbian or gay content." Members also nominate a panel of judges who consider the nominations and select a

winner.

In odd-numbered years, the Whitehead award goes to a man; this year, it will go to a woman. Previous Whitehead winners have been: Edmund White, Audre Lorde, James Purdy, Adrienne Rich, Samuel Delany, Judy Grahn, and Jonathan Ned Katz. The cash prizes for the Whitehead Award and the Ferro-Grumley Awards are drawn from a charitable trust established specifically for this purpose through bequests from the author Alan Barnett and editor George Stambolian. The Bill Whitehead Award is named for the late editor-in-chief of E.P. Dutton, who worked with authors like Edmund White, Anne Rice (writing as A.N. Roquelaire), and Doris Grumbach. The Ferro-Grumley Awards are presented in memory of Robert Ferro and Michael Grumley, novelists and lovers who encouraged many young writers. The Robert Chesley Award was established by the playwright Victor Bumbalo in honor of his late friend, who was the author of, among other works, *Jerkers*.

For more information about joining the Publishing Triangle, which also sponsors National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, BookAIDS, and various other projects, please write to PO Box 114, Prince Street Station, New York, NY 10012, or email at PubTriangle@nycnet.com.

A Silver Lining in the Marriage Cloud

By JOHN D'EMILIO

Let's admit it. The short-term prospects for the acceptance of same-gender marriage are not promising. A third of the states have passed laws prohibiting recognition of such marriages from another state. By a lopsided vote, Congress has passed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and the President has signed it. And polls indicate that, while most Americans don't give much thought to the issue, when they do think about it, they oppose it. It's true that the courts in Hawaii might pave the way for legalization there. And our activist lawyers tell us that the new anti-marriage laws will not withstand constitutional challenges. But it is also true that reliance on the courts is always an "iffy" proposition. In short, the odds are not good that civil marriage will be coming to us any time soon. And most of us know this. In a recent poll by *The Advocate*, more respondents thought gay marriage would never be legal than that it would happen in less than two years. A large majority predicted it would take a decade or more of campaigning before we succeed. If that's the case, then we need seriously to talk strategy. What useful information can we glean from this year's historic marriage debate? A lot, I think. For instance: though our marriages are not yet legal, the debate is propelling large numbers of us to get married anyway, in churches and synagogues, in rented halls and in public settings. These sometimes huge gatherings in which we openly affirm our love are—dare I use the word—"normalizing" our relationships for the many heterosexuals who witness the joy and hopefulness of our unions—an amazing amount of editorial opinion is with us. Journalists have scrutinized the debate carefully, and many of them cannot find a single good reason for denying us the right to marry.

In the same month that DOMA became law, the city of Denver and the corporate behemoth IBM extended domestic partnerships to their employees. Most importantly, even many of the opponents of same-gender marriage have moved a great distance in the last year. Roy Romer, the Governor of Colorado, opposes same-gender marriages but in the course of his state's debate said that law and public policy needed to change to give stability and protection to our relationships. Senator Patty Murray of Washington, while supporting DOMA, also

came out forcefully for domestic partnership laws. And there are others like them in Congress and in state legislatures. What does this mean for us strategically? A great opportunity has opened for us. We can use the editorial and opinionmaker views that support us, hold elected officials to their word, and propel the movement for domestic partnership recognition and benefits forward. Employee groups all around the country are doing this already. They are seeing the workplace as an important location of change, and recognize that partnership benefits are a logical demand to make.

But why not make this a broad-based nationwide legislative campaign as well? Just as we saw antigay marriage legislation debated in most of the states this year, why can't we see domestic partnership benefits become the debate of 1997 and 1998 in city councils and state legislatures everywhere. The advantages would be great. The educational value would be enormous. It's an opportunity to win allies a step at a time. Any victories we achieve would also bring practical benefits to many couples. And, it lays the groundwork for future change, creates more options for many folks, and may open unexpected possibilities.

The marriage issue has tapped into a very deep emotional place for many of us. I can almost hear some readers saying that a campaign for domestic partnership recognition is settling for second best, is selling out and accepting half a loaf. But let's think historically for a minute. The African-American civil rights movement always knew that segregation was wrong, pure and simple. At the same time, movement leaders thought strategically about how to make change. They did not begin with a full-frontal assault on the heart of segregation. They worked along the periphery at first, attacking the separate but equal doctrine in places like medical schools and graduate education. Only when they had built up a base of initial victories did they go after segregation in the public schools; the smaller victories laid the groundwork for the big ones. It would be a shame if we let the emotional power of the marriage issue cloud our sense of how to move forward and accumulate victories along the way. Despite our losses, this year's debate has softened the ground. Let's start ploughing.

John D'Emilio is the Director of NGLTF Policy Institute.

HOUSTON

VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

As a "hesitant" vendor of Spectrum '96, I made two trips to the George Brown Convention Center to set up the "dog and pony show" for my business. On both visits I was hit with comments of how *The Voice* had "ruined" Spectrum. Curiously enough, I was hearing these remarks on Friday before the event even opened its doors on Saturday morning. I was curious enough about the article to find a copy of *The Voice* and read what it said. It was just too impressive thinking that you could have that much control on the community from an article on page 29 in the back section of the paper (admittedly, I was just a bit jealous). Frankly Deborah, I don't think that it was one of your better pieces. It was so damn factual that it was boring. If I had

not been so keenly interested in the content, I would have never read the entire article.

Alan, how whiney and irresponsible can you be? I suppose your letter of last week answers that question.

The concept of a community business expo is great and hopefully, The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, LiB, and/or EPAH can take the lead to have such an event next year. One that will be of the caliber this community deserves.

P.S. Deborah, please teach me how to be a "Power Goddess."

Suzanne Anderson is the owner/broker of Suzanne Anderson Properties, a community activist and a Power Goddess in her own right.

PLAY SAFE

Charlie's

Coffee Shop

Pete, the new chef prepares Daily Specials

MONDAY
Salisbury Steak
Chicken Fried Steak
Chicken & Rice Soup



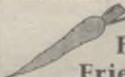
TUESDAY
Meatloaf
Stuffed Bell Pepper
Vegetable Soup



WEDNESDAY
Chicken & Dumplings
Beef Stew
Cream of Potato Soup



THURSDAY
Baked Chicken & Rice
Spaghetti & Meat Balls
Cream of Broccoli Soup



FRIDAY
Fried Catfish
Turkey & Dressing
Gumbo



SUNDAY
Turkey & Dressing
Ribeye Steak
Cream of Chicken Soup

SATURDAY
Country Baked Ham
Chopped Sirloin with
Onions & Gravy
Chicken Noodle Soup

*Daily special includes ENTREE & SOUP of the day
PLUS a dinner salad OR TWO VEGGIES & dinner roll!*

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Saturday, Oct. 26th:
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PSYCHEDELIC!**
Leather, Levi, Tie Dyed!

Sunday, Oct. 27th:
**DECADES OF
DECADANCE!**
Our Shadow Dancers Return!
No Cover 7-9!

Thursday, Oct. 31st:
**PSYCHEDELIC
EXPLOSION!**

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Write:

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Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The President of the United States
President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

White House Public Comment Line: (202) 456-7639
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Church Calendar of Events

Friday-10/18

* "Your Sacred Self"—study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 am. Kolbe Project 522-8182

Sunday-10/19

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 am Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 am at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756

* MCCR worship services 9:00 am & 11:00 am 861-9149

* Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200

* Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm SERVICE IN NEW LOCATION, 4305 LILLIAN 880-9235

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School at 10:00 am 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15 am 526-8095

* Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830

* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 am Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017

Monday-10/21

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-10/22

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.

* AIDS Affected/infected Groups meets at Community Gospel Church. 7:00 pm 880-9235

* Maranatha Fellowship meets to formulate its Mission Statement and Ministry plan at 7:15 pm. 528-6756.

Wednesday 10/23

* MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149

* "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 pm 526-8095

* Maranatha Fellowship MCC meets to formulate its Mission Statement and Ministry Plan from 7:00 pm to 9:15 pm. Everyone is welcome. 528-6756.

* "Coming Out to Yourself" at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.


Thursday-10/24

* Bible Study 7 Pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Community Gospel Church worship service 7:30 pm 880-9325

* Service for Healing with Anointing at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.

If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490.



KOLBE PROJECT

• Oct. 23, 7:30 pm •
"COMING OUT TO YOURSELF"
• Oct. 25, 7 pm •
MUSICAL NIGHT

Catholic Mass - Mon. 7:30pm
Wed. 8:30am - Fri. 10am
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Additional Parking on
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Sunday Worship Service - 11 A.M.
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Lee Takes a Look at MCCR



Rev. Johnson of MCCR

MCCR and Voice Have Long Association

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) began advertising with the Houston Voice on July 17, 1981. Presently located at 1919 Decatur, the church was not always so visible.

On the first Sunday of December, 1972, a few people celebrated their love of God in someone's home. As their membership grew, they moved to a bicycle shop. Wanting a place they could call home, a metal building on Jo Annie Street became the official location of MCCR. Chartered in 1975 by the Metropolitan Community Church, founded by Rev. Troy Perry, MCCR could only claim a membership of fewer than 40 persons. Now, in 1996, MCCR boasts over 400 members with ongoing activities practically every day of the week!

In an interview with Rev. Dwayne Johnson and Associate Pastor Rev. Carolyn Mobley, I learned just how busy the church staff and members keep themselves! The Lay Ministry meets the 1st three Mondays of the month with the Board of Directors meeting on the 4th Monday. The Empowerment for Living Group (an HIV support group) meets on Tuesdays with a Pot Luck Dinner beginning at 6:30pm. On Wednesdays the action continues. Most of the music ministries practice on Wednesday, with a Bible Study and/or Lecture Series ongoing. On Thursday, the Excel Team has training sessions and plans for spiritual retreats. More than 20 groups (over 150 people) meet all over Houston each week for "Re Vision"—a long-range planning study group. CODA (Co-Dependents Anonymous) & SAA (Sex Addicts Anonymous) meet at the church, as do Gay & Lesbian Parents.

To become a member of MCCR, one must attend Membership Classes held in three general Sessions. Session I covers "Who Am I?"; Session II "What is MCCR?" and Session III "Where Do I Fit In?" The philosophy of church membership in MCCR is that people are ready for membership in the church when they can: 1) Define their personal relationship with Christ; 2) Claim the power of Spiritual Gifts active in their life; 3) Affirm Christian Education as a life long adventure; 4) Find that Ministry Involvement brings fulfillment and joy; and 4) Celebrate their Tithe and financial giving to God as generous

and consistent.

When asked about awkward or embarrassing moments of Revs. Johnson and Mobley, both readily offered several instances. Rev. Mobley recalled one instance involving Communion. After consecrating the cup, she noticed that the cup was empty. The Communion could not go on, so Rev. Mobley patiently nodded to one of the church staff members that something was missing and needed to be filled. Rev. Johnson shared the story of the Sunday that he was preaching about Peter the Apostle. Something happened as he was delivering the sermon as he talked about Peeper, not Peter. From that time on, Rev. Johnson slipped almost every time when he exalted Peeper, not Peter. He went on to say that being new to Houston, the biggest fear he had was the idea of having to shave his head since the humidity would make his hair fall. A few weeks later, he attended the Miss Camp America Pageant and decided it was okay to have big hair in Houston; ergo, no shaved head! Both Revs. Johnson & Mobley indicated that elements of reflective, meditative and peaceful deliveries were as important as humor in a sermon.

Future goals of MCCR were best summed by Rev. Johnson as "people working together building systems, programs, and confidence for our future." It is a definite part of MCCR's future to buy property to better serve the community and be more accessible. "If we move into something that seats less than 1,000, we are not looking realistically at our future," said Rev. Johnson. To further reiterate on that subject, last week's attendance teemed with over 600 worshipers. Realizing that first time visitors need to feel welcome, Rev. Johnson, several board members and long-time members relinquished their own seats so the visitors would feel at home. For Nursery employees to attend the service on Sunday, Rev. Mobley took over their duties. Not often you see a Pastor working in the Nursery!

Rev. Johnson summed up the interview best when he said that "MCCR can be a part of the fabric, texture and beauty where people can come and create family and raise their children in a loving and positive environment."

"Lee Takes a Look..." is an occasional feature of the Houston Voice showcasing some of our longtime advertisers to show our appreciation of their many years of support.



Rev. Mobley of MCCR

Guidelines for community organizations or individual writers interested in having articles printed in The Houston Voice. Please stop by or send a self-addressed stamped business size envelope to:

Guidelines

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★ SATURDAY SUPER SHOW ★
10:30 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

MC: Miss PEACHES

Co-host:

FRANKIE LANE

DIANE JACKSON

MICHAELAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

MC: Miss T.T.

& ERICA LANE

GUESTS:

TRICIA BLAKE

SPECIAL GUEST

We wish Miss 77 Good Luck at Miss Gay America!



FRIDAY NIGHT

8-BALL

LEAGUE MEMBERS ONLY

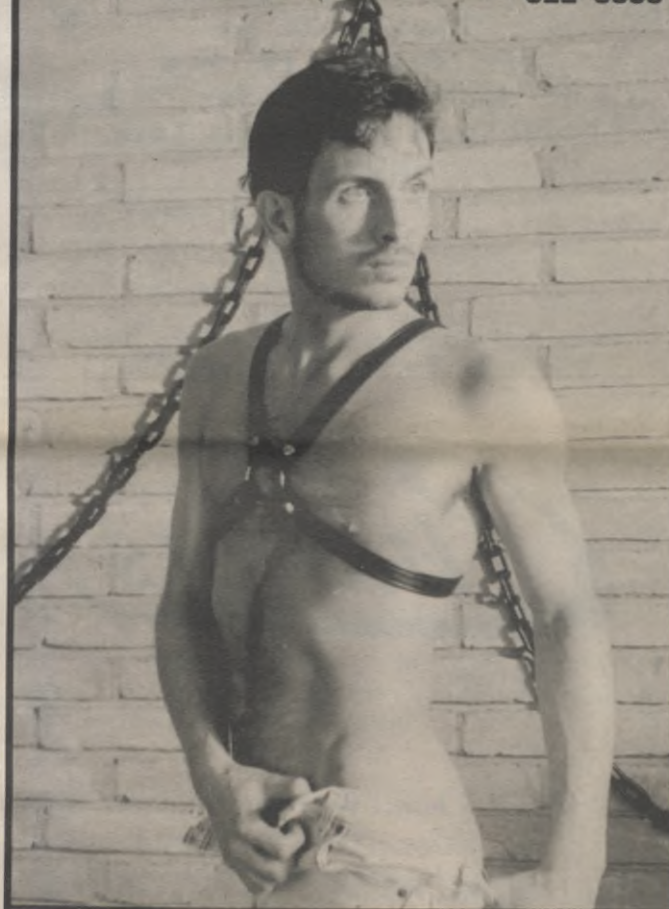
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 9:00pm till ??

Guest Bartenders on the "TOP"
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 10pm
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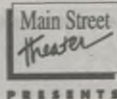
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Mr. Prime Choice • Benefits Steven's House

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 5:00pm till ??

Cookout on the "FAR SIDE"
Houston Area Bears Guest Bartend

8:00 pm GRIN n' BEAR IT

A Bear Contest • Hosted by Anita Mann



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Super Weekend Shows Schedules

Showtime 11:00 pm

October 19
Birthday Bash for
Paivi Lee Love & Miss Zack
11:00 pm

Friday, October 18th	Saturday, October 19th	Sunday, October 20th
Miss Zack	Miss Zack	Miss Zack
Tony Santana	Paivi Lee Love	Erica Lane
Sivi Ross	Tony Santana	Ashlee Houston
Erica Lane	Dyan Michaels	Paivi Lee Love
	Michael Smothers	

Come on down on Thursday nights and see Talent Night
hosted by Miss Zack at 11:30pm. \$50 Cash Prize

Marlene &
the Staff
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An All-People's Bar Dedicated
to Community Unity!

Chances

Fri., Oct. 18, 9:00 pm

Bobbi Jo's Birthday Bash & ANNUAL DRAG SHOW
Simply Sinful!

SAT., OCT. 19

10 AM - Mad Man Justice Band featuring Stevie Muree

11 AM - RIDE THE 300lbs. LUGE!! Shot specials all weekend!

3 PM - MISS WEST FEST CONTEST

COME DONATE A BUCK FOR OUR AIDS FIGHT
and help us elect a NEW QUEEN OF THE FESTIVAL!

5 PM - SHIELA LENNON ON-STAGE

9 PM - RSICSS COURT PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

vying for Ruby & Jim's coveted titles, EMPRESS &
EMPEROR XIII. COME SEE THEIR SHOW AND MEET THEM ALL!

SUN., OCT. 20

10 AM - SHIELA LENNON ENTERTAINS ON OUR OUTSIDE STAGE!

COME OUT EARLY AND ENJOY HER SHOW!

TAKE A RIDE ON OUR 300lbs LUGE! ...OR... HAVE A COCKTAIL IN OUR BEER
GARDEN and people watch.

3 PM - WATCH THE CROWNING OF OUR
NEW MISS WEST FEST AFTER THE DRAG SHOW!

6 - 10 PM - CHOC. COVERED CHERRIES R & B BAND

* 1100 Westheimer * 523-7217 *



*What a World,
What a World...*

by Nancy Ford (appears bi-weekly in the Houston Voice)

Mayberry It Ain't

News from Lexington, North Carolina: 6-year old Johnathan Prevette was suspended from school, in case you haven't heard. Seems the little Prevette kissed one of his classmates—one of the opposite sex, even—on the cheek, and is being disciplined in response to the schools' rule prohibiting "unwarranted and unwelcome touching of one student by another." Wait 'til the school board sees the Robert Mapplethorpe greeting card Johnathan intends to give her for Valentine's Day.

Political Stuff

Did anyone else notice the unusual pre-debate exchange between Bill and Bob at the very beginning of the first presidential debate? I found it mighty odd that, instead of a more traditional greeting, Bob Dole seemed to brush something—perhaps a Big Mac stain off the President's tie. Cheers to Bill for not falling for it. I can't think of anything more embarrassing for our Commander-in-Chief to have glanced down and have his nose flicked on national television.

Religious Stuff

So the Pope is recovering from having his appendix removed. Answer me this: what is the point of being the Pope—His Holiness, God's right-hand-man on earth, the Catholic Mack Daddy... pick a form of address—if you can't have a little thing like an appendix miraculously cured without having to go through the muss and fuss of surgery? All those years of wearing those ridiculous hats ought to count for something. It's just an appendix, for Pete's sake. It's not like he's asking for a new heart or liver or something vital.

I hope he at least got some good painkillers. While he's still groggy, it might be the ideal time to slip him some post-appendix papal encyclicals to sign, reversing the church's stance on birth control, homosexuality, and the role of women in the church. Carpe dietetic diem!

By The Way—

Does anybody out there know anything about discrimination based on sexual orientation in institutions of higher learning? Without going into too much detail, someone I know and love who attends a private Christian college has. How you say? come under the administrative gun for being a Lesbian.

Get this. This school has a handbook that actually states, and I quote: "(University in question) prohibits on its campus ... practice or advocacy of behavior such as, but not limited to homosexuality, premarital intercourse, abortion, adultery, polygamy, rape, child abuse, or prostitution." Is that legal? In 1996? In America? I'd love to know. If you or someone you know has had a similar experience, please call 713/620-2857. It may be time to mobilize.

Sign of The Times

So there I was, driving back to Houston after visiting my lover who is a student at Concordia University in Austin. Yes, it is a private Christian college, in case you were wondering. As I was driving, I was thinking about how strange it is that here we are, and people I know and love are still being persecuted for being gay.

Then I swung onto 59 Northbound from 610 and right there at the Wesleyan exit, big as gay life, was that beautiful billboard: "Someone you know and love is gay." Congratulations to PFLAG and to us. It's not often we can make a positive statement for human rights and cheese off Eleanor Tinsley all at the same time.

Madonna and Child

Congratulations to Madonna and the father (I seem to have forgotten his name. Imagine that.) of new baby girl Lourdes Maria, born Oct. 14, and weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces. That would be 6-9. That crazy Madonna. And what will Madonna sing to the baby when she's cranky? "Don't cry for me, Lourdes Maria..."

Transitions

Tupac is kaput.

Nancy Ford is Houston-based comedian and writer.

GLAMA Award Winners

The Late Michael Callen Sweeps Awards

Oct. 6, 1996—New York City—Winners of the First Annual Gay and Lesbian Music Awards (GLAMA) were presented their awards in New York's Webster Hall. Nominees for each category were chosen by a judging panel comprised of music industry executives, music and gay media personnel, recording artists and others in the industry. All nominated recordings are by self-identified gay, lesbian, or bisexual artists that were commercially released in the United States between June 1, 1995 and May 31, 1996.

The Michael Callen Medal of Achievement, named for the singer/songwriter/activist who died in 1993, was presented to Tom Robinson (Cooking Vinyl), a singer/songwriter who gained notoriety for his 1978 hit, "Glad to be Gay."

The Outmusic Award, given to a recording artist, group or songwriter who has advanced gay/lesbian music through their work as an out musician was presented to Ferron.

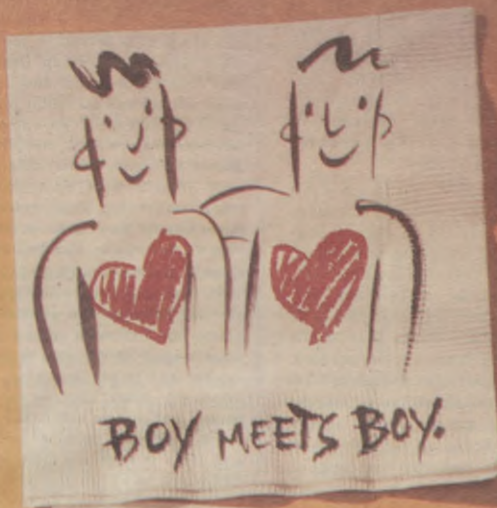
Michael Callen was named Male Artist for his posthumously double CD release *Legacy* on Significant Other Records (SOR). The Duo/Group accolades was also presented for *Legacy* which included the talents of Cris Williamson, Holly Near, Arnold McCuller, and John Buccino in addition to Callen. These artists also were named Best Choral Group for the recording and Michael Callen gained the Best Album Award for it.



Michael Callen Singer/Songwriter was one of The Flirtations and a solo performer. He died in 1993 but his *Legacy* lives on.

Melissa Etheridge was named Female Artist for her album *Your Little Secret* on the Island Records label. David Clement took the Best Debut Artist/Duo/Group Award for his *Be More Like Me* album on Wild Monk Records. Catic Curtis received Original Out Song for songwriter and Best Out Recording presented to a performer for *Radical* from her *Truth or Lies* album on Guardian Records. For more information about GLAMA call 800/956-5262. E-mail GLAMA@nycnet.com or visit their website at www.GLAMA.com.

IT'S A STORY WE'VE HEARD
 MANY TIMES BEFORE. GAY MEN
 ENGAGING IN WHAT THEY
 THOUGHT WAS SAFE SEX,
 ONLY TO CATCH HEPATITIS A
 THROUGH ORAL/ANAL
 CONTACT OR HANDLING
 A CONDOM. THE VIRUS
 RARELY KILLS, BUT IF YOU
 GET HEPATITIS A, VOMITING,
 ABDOMINAL PAIN, JAUNDICE
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'Be Smart About HIV'

Campaign Unveiled

Research Triangle Park, NC—An explosion of new information regarding the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), as well as a variety of promising results from recent medical research provide sound reasons for people with HIV to see their doctor about treatment of the virus. This basic message is the foundation of a multifaceted campaign designed to encourage help-seeking behavior among people with HIV.

"Be Smart About HIV" was launched this week in 12 U.S. cities from Los Angeles to New York. A variety of communications channels, including newspaper, magazine and radio advertisements, outdoor posters, an internet web site, brochures and table top displays will be used to carry the message that results being reported from recent medical research are significant enough to warrant seeing your physician to discuss initiation of treatment. New research suggests that reducing the amount of virus may help patients live longer.

Despite the advances being made in the treatment of HIV and AIDS, estimates are that the majority of people who are aware that they have the virus have not yet chosen to pursue treatment. Study results presented recently at the XI International Conference on AIDS suggest that some drug combinations have the potential to reduce the amount of HIV in the blood to levels so low it cannot be detected using currently available technology.

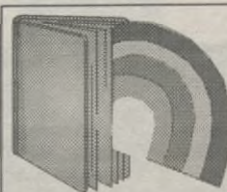
"We must get the word out to all people living with HIV that there is new hope in the form of new therapies that may significantly improve their quality of life and help them to live longer," said Christopher Portelli, Executive Director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association.

"Be Smart About HIV" will initially be focused on the traditionally better informed gay population in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Washington, DC, Dallas, Raleigh-Durham and Boston. A second phase of the program, scheduled for early 1997, will expand to the often underserved African-American and Hispanic communities and increase the outreach to 18 cities.

"Given the recent advances in HIV/AIDS treatment, it is more important than ever that people living with the virus actively seek treatment. The 'Be Smart About HIV' campaign will help promote this vital message," said Paul Kawata, Executive Director of the National Minority AIDS Council. "The second phase of this campaign, which targets African-Americans and Latinos, is especially important as communities of color continue to be disproportionately affected by this epidemic."

Persons interested in learning more about the campaign can call 1-888-TREAT-HIV. "Be Smart About HIV" is sponsored by the National Minority AIDS Council and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association in association with Glaxo Wellcome, Inc.

Look for
Houston Voice
Personals in
every issue



Rainbow Reader

Hiding My Candy Is A Treat

By JONE DEVLIN

for all those who read John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* the name "Chablis" means more than just cheap wine. Chablis, or The Lady Chablis as she calls herself, is the irrepressible African-American Drag Queen that John Berendt met and befriended while writing his best selling novel. Both the novel and Chablis were so popular in fact that she's now had a novel all her own.

Hiding My Candy is part biography and part Good Housekeeping as Chablis tells us her life story (from her birth as Benjamin Edward Knox to the present), then throws in recipes and beauty tips.

Chablis was born in Quincy, Florida in 1957. Even from a very young age she knew she was different. Her grandmother tolerated this difference up to a point, but when at age 9 "Benji" went to live with his mother and stepfather things changed drastically. Brutal abuse at the hands of parents who did not understand why their oldest son liked to do things like sneak off and dress in women's clothing dogged Benji until, at age fifteen, after a particularly brutal beating he ran away. At first he did what all teenagers freed from abuse situations do. He took up with the worst influence in town (in this case a local prostitute) and spent his days smoking reefer and entertaining gentlemen. He also began dressing in women's clothing on a regular basis. Eventually Benji or Miss Pee-Wee as she was now called, got bored with this going nowhere fast lifestyle, and decided she had to get away. But to where?

Enter Miss Tina DeVore, drag queen extraordinaire, who took Benji to Atlanta and a la My Fair Lady made her over into The Lady Chablis, an exciting new drag queen that took four titles in Atlanta including Miss Gay World. It was also at this time that The Lady decided to become a full time woman, albeit a woman with "candy." Naturally there were still problems. It was the seventies after all and extreme racism along with homophobia abounded, even in the gay community. Plus Chablis had also met, fallen in love with and married a young white man named Kevin, a situation which nearly caused her to lose everything, includ-

ing her life, at a show she never played in Alabama. (You'll have to read the book to figure that out!)

Even more dangerous than her relationship with Kevin however, was one that The Lady embarked on shortly after their breakup. In her book she calls it a most abusive marriage. Her partner? Crystal meth. How she freed herself of that particular partnership mostly intact is truly an amazing tale. Also included within the book are stories of the different bars in and around the Atlanta area during the seventies and eighties of which Chablis played at one time or another, how Chablis developed the act that made her a headliner and a show stopper, and of course her meeting with John Berendt, the book writing Yankee that made her even more famous.

There are a lot of laughs here, but a lot of serious moments as well, as Chablis talks about AIDS, her life as a woman, friends she has lost (both through death and her own drug abuse) and the hard times that all performers inevitably fall on. As all of this tale is told in Chablis own inimitable, inspirational fashion you will find yourself laughing even at the most sobering tales up to and including the moment when Chablis tells us of how this year city officials wouldn't allow her to ride on a "Midnight in the Garden" float as herself during South Carolina's St. Patrick's Day parade. This after she had spent the last year and half doing public appearances promoting the book as well as bringing all kinds of money into the town as fans came from all over the country to see her do her show at a local club! But if there's any deep resentment or bitterness over this, you'll never hear it from The Lady, who has much more class than the officials of her hometown. The Lady Chablis is one of the few truly remarkable people in literature and if you haven't read *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* I suggest you go to your nearest library or bookstore and pick it up. Then, once you've been properly introduced to The Lady, run, don't walk back to that same library or bookstore and get *Hiding My Candy*.

Jone Devlin is one of the co-hosts of *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, heard Thursdays at 8pm on KPFT Radio, 90.1fm.

Loving Arms Day Care Center

For the past 4 years, the "Loving Army" have put together one benefit a year with all proceeds going to charity. The previous 3 years have involved touring Broadway Casts and have netted between \$6,000 and \$10,000 to local AIDS organizations as their designated charity for the benefits. All benefits have provided 100% of the proceeds to the charities, as all costs of the event underwritten or donated.

This year, the organization is taking a slightly different approach to the need for funding, and are hosting a CASINO NIGHT at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel on Nov. 1, 1996 with the grand prize being a trip to Las Vegas for the high roller of the evening. As in the past, they are selling sponsorships to the event to offset any costs, and again to provide 100% of the proceeds of the event to Loving Arms Foundation. The goal is to raise between \$8,000 and \$10,000.

Loving Arms Foundation is one of six

services of its kind in the United States. It provides free day care to children diagnosed HIV+ or with AIDS. The center also provides free transportation to and from doctors visits, schools, and home for these children which are affected with this deadly disease in an attempt to provide the children with as normal a life as possible. Loving Arms exists solely on public grants and private donations in an effort to keep as much money coming through the doors available to the children with minimal administration fees realized.

As with all charity organizations, Loving Arms Foundation has been hit especially hard this year with budget cuts in assistance providers, and the number of grants available decreasing. For further information, please contact B. Fishman (Loving Arm-y) at 849-5558, or Audrey Gassema (Loving Arms Foundation) at 526-8798.

Hepatitis A Vaccine, Inactivated Havrix®

See complete prescribing information in SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals literature. The following is a brief summary.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Havrix is indicated for active immunization of persons ≥ 2 years of age against disease caused by hepatitis A virus (HAV).

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Havrix is contraindicated in people with known hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.

WARNINGS: Do not give additional injections to patients experiencing hypersensitivity reactions after a Havrix injection. (See CONTRAINDICATIONS.)

Hepatitis A has a relatively long incubation period. Hepatitis A vaccine may not prevent hepatitis A infection in those who have an unrecognized hepatitis A infection at the time of vaccination. Additionally, it may not prevent infection in those who do not achieve protective antibody titres (although the lowest titre needed to confer protection has not been determined).

PRECAUTIONS: As with any parenteral vaccine (1) keep syringes available for use in case of anaphylaxis or anaphylactoid reaction; (2) delay administration, if possible, in people with any febrile illness or active infection, except when the physician believes withholding vaccine entails the greater risk; (3) take all known precautions to prevent adverse reactions, including reviewing patients' history for hypersensitivity to this or similar vaccines.

Administer with caution to people with thrombocytopenia or a bleeding disorder, or people taking anticoagulants. Do not inject into a blood vessel. Use a separate, sterile, disposable syringe for every patient. When giving concomitantly with other vaccines or I.V. use separate needles and different injection sites.

As with any vaccine, if administered to immunosuppressed persons or persons receiving immunosuppressive therapy, the expected immune response may not be obtained.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Havrix has not been evaluated for its carcinogenic potential, mutagenic potential or potential for impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with Havrix. It is also not known whether Havrix can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. Use Havrix to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed. It is not known whether Havrix is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, use caution when administering Havrix to a nursing woman.

Havrix is well tolerated and highly immunogenic and effective in children.

Fully inform patients, parents or guardians of the benefits and risks of immunization with Havrix for persons traveling to endemic or epidemic areas, contact current CDC advisories regarding specific locales. Travelers should take all necessary precautions to avoid contact with, or ingestion of, contaminated food or water. Duration of immunity following a complete vaccination schedule has not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: Havrix has been generally well tolerated. As with all pharmaceuticals, however, it is possible that expanded commercial use of the vaccine could reveal rare adverse events.

The most frequently reported by volunteers in clinical trials were injection-site reactions (50% of adults, 27% of children) and headache (14% of adults, less than 1% of children). Other solicited and unsolicited events are listed below.

Incidence 1% to 10% of injections: Irritation, redness, swelling, fatigue, fever 0.37-3.32, malaise, anorexia, nausea.

Incidence <1% of injections: Hematoma, pruritus, rash, urticaria, pharyngitis, other upper respiratory tract infections, abdominal pain, diarrhea, dyspepsia, vomiting, ataxia, elevation of creatine phosphokinase, myalgia, lymphadenopathy, hyperemic episode, insomnia, photophobia, weight.

Additional safety data

Safety data were obtained from two additional sources in which large populations were vaccinated in an outbreak setting or which 4,836 individuals were immunized with a single dose of either 720 EL.U. or 1440 EL.U. of Havrix. The vaccine was well tolerated and no serious adverse events due to vaccination were reported. Overall, less than 10% of vaccinees reported solicited general adverse events following the vaccine. The most common solicited local adverse event was pain at the injection site, reported in 22.2% of subjects at 24 hours and decreasing to 2.4% by 72 hours.

In a field efficacy trial, 19,037 children received the 300 EL.U. dose of Havrix. The most commonly reported adverse events were injection-site pain (3.5%) and tenderness (8.1%), reported following first doses of Havrix. Other adverse events were analogous and comparable to the control vaccine (Engerix B® (Hepatitis B Vaccine, Recombinant)).

Postmarketing Reports: Rare voluntary reports of adverse events in people receiving Havrix since market introduction include the following: local edema, anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reactions, sore throat, syncope, jaundice, hepatitis, erythema multiforme, hyperhidrosis, angioedema, dyspnea, lymphadenopathy, convulsions, encephalopathy, dizziness, neuropathy, myelitis, parosmia, Guillain-Barre syndrome, multiple sclerosis, congenital abnormality.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) to accept reports of suspected adverse events after the administration of any vaccine, including, but not limited to, the reporting of events required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986. The toll-free number for VAERS forms and information is 1-800-822-7967.

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Community Bulletin Board

Wholistic Health Expo

On Saturday, Oct. 19, *Centerpoint* celebrates their 10th Anniversary from 10am til 6pm at 7621 Westview Drive with a Wholistic Health Expo. Admission is \$2. For info call 492-6077.

Little Room Downstairs

Wilde Rush is the latest production from The Little Room Downstairs on Friday & Saturday evenings, Oct. 18 through Nov. 9 at 8pm, 1108 Peden.

This world premiere production pits Oscar Wilde against Rush Limbaugh in a fictional debate that touches everything from poverty and socialism, to feminism, morality, and of course, the love that dare not speak its name. Robert Honeywell is Oscar & Tom Maples is Rush. Tickets are \$10 & reservations must be made at 523-0791.

Love, Lust & Intimacy

The Aids Foundation Houston (AFH) next workshop explores "Love, Lust, & Intimacy" on Oct. 22 from 7-9pm at 3202 Wesleyan/Annex. Will I ever find Mr. Right? What will I say? How will I react? Questions like these will be addressed. For info call AFH Hotline at 524-AIDS or toll-free 1-888-524-AIDS.

New Officers

Dignity Houston is pleased to announce it has selected new officers for the 96-97 term. Kevin Kelly will serve as the President. Mike O'Donnell was selected to serve as Vice-President. The chapter treasurer will be Mike Goertz, while Robert Geisberg will be Secretary. The three at-large board members are Mike Trancynger, Jon Bancroft and Lisa G. They will serve as officers thru Sept. 30, 1997. *Dignity Houston* is an organization for Catholic gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered people meeting every Saturday at 7:30pm for Roman Catholic Mass at 1307 Yale in the Heights. For info call 880-2872.

Odds & Ends Sale

The *Montrose Counseling Center* is having a Parking Lot Sale, Saturday, Oct. 19 at 701 Richmond from 8am to 1pm. Proceeds will be used to provide Holiday Food Baskets for MCC clients in need. Persons interested in sponsoring a gift basket can do so by making a check payable to MCC-Holiday Gift Baskets for \$15 each.

On Wednesday, Oct. 23, Lynn Waldman, LMSW-ACP will discuss "Women's Network—Grief: A Natural Cycle. Donations are accepted although the session is free. For info call 529-0037.

Young Democrats

The *Harris County Young Democrats* will host a Candidate Forum & Get Out the Vote Party on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6:30pm at the Moose Cafe, 1340 W. Gray. Congressman Gene Green has already confirmed his attendance. He & other candidates will speak on issues important to young people. The event is free with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Please bring two non-perishable food items for the Star of Hope Mission. Call 522-9631.

Gay Men's Chorus

Members & friends of the *Gay Men's Chorus of Houston* contributed \$1,000 toward the current billboard campaign sponsored by Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG).

The series of billboards that recently went on display in Houston is intended to send positive messages about Lesbians & Gays to mainstream America prior to the November elections. For info call 521-SING.

Dis of Dos Lesbos

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

Revue are funny things. Composed, as they are, by thematically related, but otherwise stand-alone, musical or comedy sketches, revues, more than most theatrical productions, are predisposed to a wide range of quality within the same show. "Dos Lesbos," which is being presented by The Group (Theatre Workshop) at the Lovett Inn, is one such revue. In covering certain aspects of lesbian life in the 90s—harassment on the job, coming out to the parents, meeting the partner's parents, and, of course, the ever-present joys and problems with sex-writer (playwright just doesn't seem appropriate) Terry Baum offer some funny observations. But there aren't nearly enough of them, and those that are present are largely obscured by uninspired directing and flat delivery. And these shortcomings are laid bare right from the beginning.

The opening number, "I Don't Care," is a cute enough little ditty, but the two women—Kim Sevier and Sue Ulu—who comprise the cast are riding bicycles while they sing. And there just isn't room in the small space utilized as the stage. The result is truly awful; each woman has to physically stop before entering the stage area to let the other woman exit. It makes for a rough, choppy, sputtering presentation that diminishes the song's appeal. Further the staging is so awkward that it's difficult for me to understand how anyone could have imagined this as working, for the revue or the audience.

"The Job" is a passably humorous

bent on what must surely be a gnawing frustration faced by those who endure bigoted, moronic remarks in the workplace.

What follows—"Coming Out to the Parents"—is an interesting collection of the title story in various theatrical manifestations and to varying degrees of success: Greek tragedy—exaggerated gestures make this physically funny, but it quickly wears thin; Restoration comedy—plaster smiles mark the comically restrained emotions of this hilarious bit; 50s sitcom—with "Leave it to Beaver" theme music backing it up, this one also starts with a laugh but also fades too soon; and a horror/thriller (I think) that reveals itself more through the raspy organ chords associated with the genre than with anything in the dialogue or the staging, not funny at all.

Next comes "Men," which lacks the acerbic tint so often present in female assessment of males, but which compensates with a song, "Jill the Ripper," that could serve as an a capella anthem for Lorena Bobbit.

After an intermission (included solely to promote the sale of refreshments), two sketches "Meeting the Parents Before" and "Meeting the Parents After," cover the pre-apprehension and the post-anger, and this leads to "Twelve Days." This song—a parody of the "12 Days of Christmas"—makes fun of the comments women might hear on a visit home.

"Misery Loves Company" is the theme song for the "Depression" piece, about which the only notable thing was the use of ukuleles (or were

they toy guitars?). In any event, also not funny.

The final sketch was "Sex," in which the author attempts to pinpoint what makes a woman a lesbian. Genuinely interesting (and the potential to be fleshed out into so much more) but once again not really funny.

In what amounts to the biggest flub of the evening, the production closes to the melancholy melody of "Lesbian Seagull." The song, written by Tom Wilson Weinberg, was intended as a ballad and was based (as indicated in the program) "on a 1970s study in which scientists determined that some female seagulls form couples, build a nest together, migrate together, and live as monogamous lesbian couples." While this is all well and good, and certainly worth noting as zoological evidence of homosexuality, it does not make for the most touching of metaphors. Worse yet, with lyrics such as "a fish squirming in her bill" (hard to believe, isn't it?!), any attempts at poignancy are swallowed along with the suppressed laughter that accompanies this musical schmalz.

Both Kim Sevier and Sue Ulu do well enough given the material and the direction. But this effort hardly constitutes a demonstration of their abilities.

Director Joe Watts has descended to a directorial nadir. It's almost as if shows are being staged for the sake of putting on a show, regardless of the material or the preparedness of the production for presentation.

"Dos Lesbos" might be funnier (on another cosmic plane), but this production is sadly inadequate.



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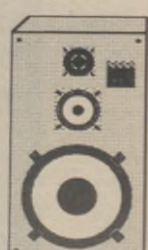
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Theater LaB Houston Opens Fourth Season

Fascinating Women

Theater LaB Houston, Houston's acclaimed small professional non-profit theater, announces its fourth season for the 1996-97 theatrical year. All productions are southwest premieres. The theater will once again present a selection of the finest contemporary theater by nationally and internationally renowned playwrights and will introduce its inaugural cabaret and children's series.

For the new season TLH has chosen the banner of *FASCINATING WOMEN*, a series of plays that look at strong, independent, memorable, and most of all, fascinating women. Mother, sister, first lady, diva, saint, nun, pop star, and aviatrix—legends all. The selection of plays will be just as fascinating, controversial and bold as those offered under the previous seasons of *Dangerous*, *Sin*, and *Rapture Theater*.

Opening the new season, TLH introduces its New York Cabaret with a special one week appearance of Steven Brinberg performing his critically acclaimed show, *Simply Barbra*. A one-man, all singing cabaret impersonation of Barbra Streisand, *Simply Barbra* is based out of New York's *Don't Tell Mama*. The New York *Daily News* wrote, "Brinberg vocally is amazing with his musical mimicry... his act is done with lots of fun and affection and thanks to his (Brinberg's) artful imitation, there's not much reason to rain on his parade." Piano accompanist will be Steven Jones. *Simply Barbra* will play a limited run of six performances, Wednesday Oct. 23rd-Saturday, Oct. 26th.

From its opening in April 1993, Theater LaB Houston has quickly established its identity as an innovative and exciting theatrical space in the historic First Ward district, bringing new and unique approach to theater in Houston. The theater's professionalism, flexibility of

staging and intimacy have captured the attention of an enthusiastic and loyal audience, with a season subscriber base of over 270. Since TLH opened, total audience has exceeded 25,000 patrons. Previous critically acclaimed productions have included *Poor Super Man* (sponsored by The Houston Voice), *ASSASSINS*, and *My Children, My Africa!* Season tickets and additional information regarding special events are available by calling Theater LaB Houston's box office at 713/868-7516.



Steven Brinberg portrays one of the most fascinating of women, Barbra Streisand in the Theater LaB Houston Southwest Premiere of *Simply Barbra*.

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GLAAD *lines*

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

Present Our Past

In honor of Lesbian & Gay History Month, GLAAD is encouraging two major media purveyors of history to embrace our heritage. TheHistoryNet, an extensive website devoted to history, has yet to address Lesbian & Gay History Month. "We hope that they proclaim October as Lesbian & Gay History Month, as well as highlight historical events in the lesbian and gay civil rights movement," said Loren Javier, GLAAD's Interactive Media Director. "We'd also like to see profiles of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people who have contributed to our society, culture and technology." Additionally, while the site has many links, it fails to link to the official Lesbian & Gay History Month page (<http://www.glaad.org/glaad/history-month>). The History Channel also has not declared October Lesbian & Gay History Month, nor have they established any special programming around it.

Please let both media outlets know that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history is rich and diverse. Explain that Lesbian & Gay History Month is part of an important tradition recognizing communities frequently overlooked by history, not unlike Black History Month and Women's History Month. Contact: TheHistoryNet, e-mail: historynet@newmedium.com, WWW: <http://www.thehistorynet.com/general/emailconnect.htm>; Nicklos Davatzes, President/CEO, A&E and The History Channel, 235 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017, fax: 212.949.7147, WWW: <http://www.historychannel.com/feedback/feedback.html>.

The Doctor Is Out

On Oct. 7, CBS's highly acclaimed hospital drama Chicago Hope explored the budding friendship between two doctors in a frank, open and comical way. In a previous episode Dr. Alan Shurt's (Adam Arkin) found himself in an uncomfortable situation when Robert, a new male colleague, makes a pass at Alan mistakenly believing that he is Gay. In this week's episode, the two grow to be good friends as they work on a research project together. They discuss each of their respective failed marriages, their problems with relationships, and about some of Alan's problems dealing with Robert's sexual orientation. Their exchanges are often as comical as they are fraught with a sense of commonality. When Alan attempts to crack Robert's back, Robert warns him that "if you hurt me, I'll kiss you."

Homophobia in the work place is a major problem for many Gay men and Lesbians. Please let CBS know that we appreciate the warm, touching and honest way that Chicago Hope is depicting these two characters intimate, yet still professional, friendship. Contact: CBS Television Network, 7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036, fax: 213.651.0285, e-mail: marketing@cbs.com.

Mazda, Lesbian Ellen Just Doesn't Feel Right

In the Oct. 7 issue of Advertising Age,

Mazda Motor of America said it would pull out of any "lesbian episode" of the ABC show Ellen. According to the article, "When it comes to gay TV characters, marketers may be more scared off by the controversy surrounding them than by the actual subject matter." Linda Collieran, Senior Vice President and Media Director at Foote, Cone & Belding, which represents Mazda, said that "It's not the Ellen character—I like to see TV reflect reality—it's all the press around it" that makes the marketer skittish. Collieran said that Mazda would return when the controversy died down. According to the article, an informal survey of ad executives found that most would not flatly refuse to buy time on Ellen if the character comes out.

Please thank Advertising Age for a well-written article that looks past the hype to the true bottom line of Ellen sponsorship. On the other hand, inform Mazda that instead of being fair-weather friends, they should have the courage to hold their ground and let lesbian and gay consumers know their dollars are important. Contact: Advertising Age, 220 East 42nd St., 9th Floor, New York, NY 10017-5846, fax: 212.210.0200, e-mail: sdonaton@adage.com; George Toyama, President, Mazda Motor of America, 7755 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, CA 91628, fax: 714.727.6101.

Time's Touting Outing

In an article entitled "The Baiting Game," the Oct. 14 *Time* magazine discusses the new outing resurgence by examining several Congressional races around the country. "In recent weeks some Republicans have found that the issue of sexual orientation—specifically their own—has re-entered the campaign," the story states. "Why are these episodes happening now?" *Time* asks. "Partly because the defeats on same-sex marriage and workplace discrimination raised bitter questions about whether closeted gay lawmakers were guilty of hypocrisy. 'If Sarah Brady owned a handgun, would you write about it?' (asks openly gay Rep. Barney Frank.)" Log Cabin Executive Director Rich Tafel comments that "the sad thing in all this is that everybody involved believed that being 'charged' with being Gay is bad." The article concludes by saying that "Republicans may have fostered that climate. Will Democrats be any better if they turn it to their advantage?"

Please commend *Time* for balanced coverage of this complicated issue and for raising the question of why many feel that being identified as gay is such a bad thing in the first place. Contact: Norman Pearlstine, Editor-In-Chief, *Time*, Time-Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.0323, email: letters@time.com.

GLAAD is the lesbian and gay news bureau and the only national lesbian and gay multimedia watchdog organization. GLAAD promotes fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of challenging all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334) Web Site at <http://www.glaad.org>.

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Dirk schmoozes with superstar June Pointer at Pacific Street.

Important Stuff

We welcome Main Street Theater to our family of advertisers. Check out their ad on page 16 for "Of Thee I Sing" playing for one night only on Oct. 26. Call 524-6706 for reservations and information.

It is Gray Party weekend! I hope to see all of you there!

The 5th annual Bear Auction hosted by Anita Mann and Lee Baber, held at the Venture-N this past weekend, raised \$1143 to be donated to the Pet Patrol!

Over \$600 was raised for the Colt 45's Stone Soup this past Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom. Congrats to Tommie Sue-the Bitch of the BRB; Don Dewise-the Whore of the BRB; and Owner Bill Havard-the Drunk of the BRB!

Basic Brothers is having a clearance sale on all Halloween costumes! Go soon, 'cuz they are going fast!

Check out the Slave Auction, hosted by Mr. Prime Choice Candidate Ken Claude, to benefit Stephen's House at the Venture-N this Saturday night!

Fat Man Productions present "The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid" on the stage of the Joe Frank Theater until Nov. 3. For more info, call 523-1530.

"Simply Barbara" is on the stage of Theater LaB Houston until Oct. 26. For more info, call 227-ARTS.

The Houston Dance Coalition presents "Dance Houston!" at the Cullen Performance Hall on Oct. 19. Call 227-ARTS for tickets and information.

Timeless Taffeta has tons and tons of Halloween stuff. Masks, wigs, costumes, make-up, and well, everything! Stop in and check out their one stop



Reno (J.R.'s) and friend!

Halloween shopping spot!

This weekend is the Westheimer Street Festival! Mary's, naturally will have their world-famous Roof-Top Revue. The retiring (again?) Lee Chardon will highlight the performances! Chances will entertain on both stages both days. Also, Rascal's will be having shows at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 pm both days.

Jewel's has high fashion for the fashion minded! For Halloween, Jewel's has tons of costume wigs from \$10-\$15, costumes, masks, and lots of other goodies. If you are looking for sequined gowns for the holidays, tell Jewel you saw her ad in the Houston Voice and she will take 10% off the in-stock gowns! Jewel's is located at 2404 Taft.

TV Janet will be making herself available for photos at the Westheimer Street Festival. Check out her ad on page 29.

The Texas Cowhurls will be hosting a fundraiser at the Venture-N on Nov. 8.

Mary's, naturally has after hours on Saturday nights!

Milestones

A very happy birthday to Betty at Dr. Crad Duren's office.

Happy birthdays to Paivi Lee Love, Miss Zack, Lee Baber, and Shelby St. John!

Happy birthdays to Houston Area Bears Joe A., Joe C., and John Du.

A happy belated birthday to Tommy of Chances!

A happy birthday to Wesley at Rascal's!

Rodent Droppings

My usual disclaimer is in force. This part is not fact, but mostly fiction! It is lies, gossip, and trash heard in and around the gay, lesbian, and transgendered community! WARNING! Some of this material should be rated "R" for sexual content and innuendos! If you find this kind of thing distasteful, read something else! Harvey chased Ratrat into the bathroom last night. Ratrat took refuge on top of a jumbo pack of Charmin. Harvey is too clumsy and fat to climb up plastic wrap, so he stayed at the bottom, hitting the Charmin package into the side of the bathtub. Ratrat was holding on for dear life! It is one of those "you just gotta see it" to

understand! Ratrat finally was knocked off his perch and onto the floor!

I spoke with Tequila Rose (JT) in Utah! She is doing well. For reasons beyond her control, she has had to keep her legs in the air a lot! Hugs from JT to all!

Ed (Ripcord): So, I hear you have been hanging out with Pauly Shore! You name dropper you!

Mike P. (BRB): Why did you buy Band-Aids at Sam's last week? After 2 weeks in San Francisco, which lips will you put them on?

Ray (Rascals): So how far did the dancer have to spread for you? Answer: "I always break in the new boys!"

Greg (LOBO): So, why do they call you the widow woman?

Tommy Sue (BRB): Since you have dirty knees, does that make you the "head" bartender? And, why is it every time you speak in forked tongues, you miss a day of work? Bill H. wants to know!

Doug (Rascals): I'll tumble for you! I'll tumble for you! How



Jason (Rascals) daughter Amber Renee!

hard are those back stairs?

Dirk (PS): So, how was your ride in the back of the police car? And, thanks for the trip to Phobia!

Don P. (BRB): I hear the only reason you work on Saturday mornings is to be close to Art!

Chuck and Jerry (hangs everywhere): I hear that you tried to break dance at home and fell into the bathtub!

Smurf (Rascals): UPS only delivers roommates until 10:00 pm.

Narene (hangs at the BRB): Is it true you don't wear a bra when you know Jan is coming in? Woody never wears one!



Fun times at E/J's.

Ken (Daddy of Montrose) Claude: Have you been locked out of your own place lately? Has a ladder left you in the lurch lately? So, just why did you have to spend the night on Don Dowden's sofa? And on another note, how did you lose your pants at the Ripcord, again?

John (Houston Voice): Felicia Flintstone? How did you get that name?

David (BRB): I hear Dr. Vera has prescribed "Twin Beds" to cure your headaches!

Butt Boy (Rascals): If the luggage costs \$1180, there better be \$1150 packed inside!

Lady B (hangs at the Outpost): And I quote: "I've had a lot of strokes, but this is better than a hair weave!"

Don D. (New at the BRB): I hear you were found laying on the pool table with a jar of lube in one hand and an umbrella in the other last Wednesday morning!

Bubbles (BRB): Your little yellow costume needs some ruffles!

Walt (Outpost): Somewhere over the Rainbow? Jennifer and you walking down what aisle?

Pat (hangs at Rascals): Why are you always so hateful towards your true friends?

Don Dowden: How was your limo ride?

Wilma (Toronto): And I quote: "If I get bored, I'll use the condom as chewing gum!"

Steve (Rascals): What do you and a Slurpee have in common?

Larry Jo (E/J's): Welcome home! Lulu says no more trips to the hospital for you!

Mr. D (hangs at Rascals): The real truth is you were not born in the Reagan era... more like JFK's!

Miss TT (Lazy J): Good luck at the Miss Gay America Pageant!

Kenny (Rascals): How do you spell "match burn?"

Doug=Skid marks.

Lee Chardon (Mary's): Retiring, again!

David (Midtowne): How was your night at Hotel Reisner?

Day Leigh Edwards (Miss BRB): We were very surprised to see you looking so "manly" Saturday night. Did you forget to shave or were we role playing?

Nicole Blake: I understand that you were seen chatting with a

very attractive Hispanic man. Imagine that! Do you ever stop? And what is with this degree in being a bitch?

Jeff (Evalita): Carpet burns on the elbows?

Tuna Melt: What type of rose is that you have peeking out of your bush?

Shelby St. John: We know your birthday is this week, and yes you are another year older! But is that really a reason to go with no bra, hair, or dress?

Byron Norton (Mr. Montrose): Maybe you and Shawna should do the duet "Secret Lovers!"

Stacy G. (Ms. Bacchus): What is this I hear about you picking up members of a rock band at the Outback? Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time!

Kitten (hangs at Chances): Yes! You do need a vibrator!

Sam (BRB): Look out June Cleaver! You were adorable!

Rodent Rooter: Thanks again for the tips! Harvey and Ratrat are waiting to meet you! They love to root around in the gutters also!

Kimberly (hangs at Chances): Dancin' by yourself?

Nancy Ford: Been doin' the "BadaBing" in Austin a lot?

Kip (Gentry): So what do you want to be when you grow up?

Randy (PS): Just how good could you be at basketball? Did you really break a nail?

Tommy (Chances): \$150, for a cup of coffee? Also, I have a message to you from JD Lee Love: "Be afraid, be very afraid!"

Reno (J.R.'s): I'm never gonna tell who gave me that cute photo of you!

Bear (hangs on every barstool): Thanks for the drink! It was fun gossipin' with you!

John (Venture-N): Do "we" have a new beau?

I missed a few people this week! Just wait 'til next week!

Have a safe weekend!

Cuervolyn



Lady B

This Week in Sports

MSL Results

The *Montrose Softball League* (MSL) reports the results of games played on Sunday, Oct. 13. Red defeated Purple 10-4 but lost to Green 8-5. Yellow lost to Purple 23-5 and Orange 17-3, who also triumphed over Blue 10-4. Blue came close to winning out over Green, but Green won by one point with the final score 7-6. Next week's schedule for Sunday, Oct. 20 is at 11am Green (6-0) v. Yellow (2-4); 12pm Purple (1-5) v. Orange (2-4); 1pm Orange v. Red (4-2); 2pm Purple v. Green; 3pm Yellow v. Blue (2-4) and at 4pm Red v. Blue. All games are played at Tim Hearl Field, corner of Waugh & Memorial. There is never any experience needed to play in MSL & it is never too late to join. Call 867-3913 for info.

Rollerskating

The *Lambda Rollerskating Club* will skate with the Rainbow Wranglers this Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 8-10pm at Starlite Skating Academy, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is \$5 plus \$1.50 if you need skates. All are welcome! For more info, call Keith at 933-5818, or visit <http://members.aol.com/gayskate1/lambda.htm>.

HOGs On Horseback

The *Houston Outdoor Group* will meet at Heather Hollow Stables, less than an hour from town on FM 249 with 150+ acres of meadows and woods. Lessons are available for just \$10/hr per horse. A lunch will be served afterwards. Reservations to Heather Hollow at 440-9528.

Cycling Anyone?

The *Chain Gang Cycling Club* is hosting a Texas Renaissance Festival ride on Saturday, Oct. 26 @ 8am. Car pool with

the Club and later ride to the festival. For info or to join, call 863-1860.

Billiards League

The *Independent Billiard League of Houston* (IBL) reports Week 13 standings as follows: in 1st Si Como No (Pastime); in 2nd Yo Mama's (Outpost); and in 3rd Hot Pockets (Venture-N). The top three players are Billy Lea (Outpost), Richard Chew (Mining Company), and Carlos Romero (Pastime). Congratulations to Richard Chew & Bob Miller for a break and run!!

Bowling Results

The *Montrose Monday Night Men's League* reports Division I Standings, in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are We Go There, The Eclectic Twits and Dog Tired. In Division II, Pearlized Sisters, Thirsty Wives Club & Not So Easy Pickups occupy the top spots. High Scratch game of 268 and Handicap Game of 277 was bowled by Chris Bennett. Mace Adams bowled High Scratch Series of 704 and handicapped series of 787. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9pm on Monday. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The *Inner Loop Sunday Evening League* reports Macarena & Cheese in 1st, Please Don't Eat the Daisy in 2nd and We Go There Too in 3rd. High Scratch of 257 and Series of 725 was bowled by Chris Bennett and Handicap Game of 292 by David Furlong for the men. For the women Peri Cain bowled High Scratch Game of 217 and Diann Thomason series of 578. Judy Hatfield bowled High Handicap Series & Jerry Panepinto Handicapped Game. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7pm on Sunday.

The *Wednesday Night Mixers* reports The Rump Rangers are in 1st with Party Line and We Come When You Call in 2nd & 3rd. Men's High Scratch game of 212 &

series of 602 was bowled by Jeff Charlesworth who also bowled high handicapped series. Mark Lankford bowled high handicapped game of 269. Women's High Scratch game of 179 and series of 506 was bowled by Marla Aizenshtat. Nancy Wintle bowled high handicapped game of 269 & series of 781. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The *Monday Night Women's League* bowls at 6:15pm at AMF Southway on Mondays. TAZ Club is in 1st with Marks A Lot in 2nd, Lesborados in 3rd & In The Hole 4th. Call Pat at 437-6218.

No-Tap Candlelight Doubles this Saturday at Palace Lanes at 8pm. Bring a partner or come alone. Entry fee is \$11.

Traveling Bowlers

Houston bowlers were traveling again this past weekend to Dallas & Seattle. Gardy Harvey & former Houstonian Steve Stepleton placed 2nd in the Team Event & 9th in Doubles in Seattle.

The Dallas 1st Place Team Event & Team All Events was taken by Houstonians Brian Elley, John Marr, Randy Finley, and Gary Shope. In the Doubles Event, John & Brian placed 5th, with Ron Grose & Gerald Hagan taking 6th & Don Burken & Jerry Ankenbrandt placing 8th. Dwayne Pavelka placed 16th in Singles & Brian Elley placed 10th in Singles All Events. In the Optional Scratch Divisions, Kent Tillison took High Game & Series for Division A. In Division B, Gary Shope captured 1st place All Events, 2nd place High Series & 3rd Place High Game. Steve Thistle had 3rd place High Series. In Division C, Stacy Moore took 2nd place High Game & Series & 5th place All Events. Division D had Brian Elley 2nd place in All Events & High Game & 3rd in Series. Bob Roberts had 7th place All Events & 4th Place Game.

Take the Streetcar



Wanda June Smathers and Venezuela M.C.D.A.V.V. Gonzales star in "Streetcar" (photo by Jann Whaley).

Don't miss it! The annual Halloween Magic show, this year titled "A Streetcar Named Montrose... The Musical" will unfold on Saturday Oct. 19. The Place to be will be the Texas Medical Center Conference Center, 2151 Holcombe (aka The Grand Ballroom of the by-gone Shamrock Hotel). Included with the show are hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, and there will be a silent auction.

Tickets are \$35 available through calling 713/587-6005 or purchasing at these fine community businesses: LOBO, Inklings, Basic Brothers, and the River Oaks Antique Center. "Halloween Magic" is traditionally a sell-out grab up some of those few remaining tickets. Benefits Body Positive and the Bering Community Service Foundation.

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**TUESDAYS
7AM to 11PM
\$1.00
WELL DRINKS
and
Domestic Longnecks
All Day All Night**



Sunday, October 20th, 8pm

**BRB Salutes
Xavier & Jamie,
Candidates for
Mr. & Miss TGRA
Benefiting
Xavier & Jamie**

**also Mexico Dream Trip
to Cancun for 3 Nights
to be given away. Tickets
on Sale at BRB • \$5.00**

**This looks like the right
place. Where Country is
Country. The BRB!**



**Renegades on the
Patio, October 19th**

**Don't Forget
our Daily
Drink Specials**

**Mon. All Day
All Night**
**Tues. \$1.00 Domestic
Longnecks
All Day All Night**
**Weds. \$1.75 Domestic
Longnecks
All Day All Night**
**Thurs. Till 11pm
Hamburgers 6-9
Dance Lessons 9pm**

Community Calendar

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call 529-8490 or fax at 529-9531.

Friday, Oct. 18

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 782-6066.
- * HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Lesbian Avengers meet at 7:00 pm at Toupee's.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 527-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * AIDS Mastery workshop starts. 861-6453.
- * Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.
- * Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.
- * Shower dancers at Midtown Spa.
- * Wayne Gray plays at the BriarPatch!
- * Free hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; \$1 Schnapps at Rascal's.
- * Bad Boys dance at 6:00 pm; \$2 Kamikazes at Gentry.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Rooftop revue all day at Mary's.
- * Boyz night out at Club Incognito.
- * \$1.75 Well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm. The Lancer's MC guest bartends starting at 9:00 pm.
- * Bobbi Jo's birthday bash and annual drag show at Chances at 9:00 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 19

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 am. to 3:00 am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 am. 583-8408.
- * Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.
- * Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch.
- * Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Absolut-ly anything at Gentry.
- * Drag show at the Lazy J at 10:30 pm.
- * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks at Mary's from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. After Hours until 4:00 am.
- * After hours at the Ripcord until 4:00 am.
- * Ladies' Night at Club Incognito.
- * Drag shows at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm; \$1.75 well drinks and \$1.50 domestic longnecks until 8:00 pm at Rascals.
- * Mad Man Justice band at 10:00 am; Ride the 300 lb. Luge all day; Miss West Fest contest at 3:00 pm; Sheila Lennon on stage at 5:00 pm; The Court's meet the candidates at 9:00 pm at Chances.
- * National Leather Association: Houston guest bartends at Pacific Street at 9:00 pm.
- * Dance Houston! at Cullen Performance Hall at 8:00 pm. 227-ARTS.
- * Creating Families workshop by Moore and Hunt at 8:00 am. 522-4282 x10.
- * Houston Bonsai Society Fall show and sale at 9:00 am at The Garden Center at Herman Park.
- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's from 10:00pm to 2:00 am.
- * Wholistic Health Expo at 10:00 am. 492-6077.
- * Autumn's Seasons Bondage Club discussion group meets at 10:30 am. 788-5593.
- * The Garage at Midtown Spa at 10:00 pm.
- * Happy Hour 4-8 at Rascal's.

Sunday, Oct. 20

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.
 - * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.
 - * FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.
 - * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
 - * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.
 - * Films at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Cinema of Tears at 2:00 pm and Johnny 100 Pesos at 7:00 pm. 639-7300.
 - * Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.
 - * Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.
 - * Super Sunday show at Heaven. 11:00 pm.
 - * Beer Bust at the Montrose Mining Company.
 - * Cook-out and the Houston Area Bears Guest bartend at the Venture-N at 5:00 pm, Grin 'n Bear It contest at 8:00 pm.
 - * Rascal's opens at 2:00 pm for football action; shows at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 7:00 pm; \$1.75 well drinks and \$1.50 domestic longnecks until 8:00 pm; Mimosas \$2. well drinks \$1.25.
 - * 99c well Vodka juice drinks from noon until 11:00 pm; male dancers at 6:00 pm; swimsuit contest at 11:00 pm; display of Ryan Gieger's art all weekend at J.R.'s Video Bar.
 - * Sheila Lennon on stage at 10:00 am; Ride the 300 lb Luge all day; Crowning of Miss West Fest at 3:00 pm; Chocolate Covered Cherries Band at 6:00 pm at Chances.
 - * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
 - * \$1 Bud and Bud light all day and all night at E/J's.
 - * Super Sunday Show at Club Incognito. 11:00 pm.
 - * Steak night from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm; Salute to Mr. and Miss TGRA at the Brazos River Bottom at 8:00 pm.
 - * \$1.75 Well drinks and longnecks from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; rooftop revue all day at Mary's.
 - * Houston Bonsai Society Fall show and sale at 11:00 am at The Garden Center at Herman Park.
 - * Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; \$2 KoolAids; Male Strip with Dyan Michaels at 11:00 pm at Gentry.
- ## Monday, Oct. 21
- * Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 pm. 861-6181.
 - * HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 pm. 947-1488.
 - * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 pm. 529-1223.
 - * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 pm. 539-0037.
 - * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
 - * Lambda Network meets at Toupees Coffee Bar at 7:30 pm. 284-2954.
 - * Houston Wrestling Club meets at 1:00 pm at Midtown Spa.
 - * Male Strip contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.
 - * Male dance contest at J.R.'s. 11:00 pm.
 - * Escape! at Pacific Street. No cover until 11:00 pm.
 - * Half price lockers from noon to midnight at Club Houston.
 - * \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.
 - * Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Crown Royal at Gentry.
 - * Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.

* Monday night football on the big screen; free pizza; Miller Lite products for \$1.50; Cuervo shots \$2. Rascal's.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Don (Mr. Wonderful) Gill guest bartends from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* Drink specials all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night at Midtown Spa.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 pm. 495-8009.
 - * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
 - * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 pm. 488-4492.
 - * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
 - * PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 pm. 520-7870.
 - * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.
 - * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30 pm. 778-2677.
 - * FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
 - * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
 - * Female Dancers at BerryHill II. 10:30 pm.
 - * Jockey shorts contest at J.R.'s. 11:00 pm.
 - * Executive night at Pacific Street. No cover with your personal business card.
 - * Bad Boys dance at Gentry at 9:00 pm; \$2 Windex shots; The Imperial Court Reign XIII candidates reception and cocktail buffet at 7:00pm; "I'm Coming Out" show at 8:00 pm at Gentry.
 - * \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.
 - * Male Strip Contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.
 - * \$1 domestic longnecks all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom.
 - * \$1.75 well drinks and \$1.50 domestic longnecks at Rascals.
 - * Half price lockers, rooms and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.
- ## Wednesday, Oct. 23
- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 pm. 537-1348.
 - * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
 - * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 pm. 743-7539.
 - * Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopies at 7:00 pm. 867-9581.
 - * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
 - * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 pm. 933-5818.
 - * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.
 - * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
 - * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
 - * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 782-4050.
 - * Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call 520-2000.
 - * AVES offers free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.

* Films at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston: Scream of Stone at 7:30 pm. 639-7300.

* Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; Male Strip Contest 11:00 pm; \$1.25 Schnapps at Gentry.

* Showtunes night at J.R.'s. 10:00 pm.

* \$1.50 domestic longnecks; Lil' Rascals strip contest at 11:00 pm; Free happy hour buffet at Rascals.

* Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at Chances at 9:00 pm.

* \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Prime Meet! at Pacific Street. No cover with a pass!

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day and all night at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night and shower dancers at Midtown Spa.

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm.

* Art Labs at The Art League at 1:00 pm. 225-9411

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 pm. 521-7464.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 pm. 315-6786.

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. 866-6505.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 pm. 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 pm. 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 pm. 942-0923.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 pm. 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 pm. 782-4050

* Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 pm. 738-RACE.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.

* Burger Night at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Male Dancers at BerryHill II at 10:30 pm.

* South of the Border night at E/J's at 11:00 pm.

* Star Search Gold Karaoke at J.R.'s at 10:00 pm.

* Amateur strip contest at Heaven at 11:00 pm.

* Sexx Thursdays at Pacific Street. No cover with current gym card.

* Half-price lockers, rooms, and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3 Skyy vodka at Gentry.

* Retro Rewind: \$1.50 vodka drinks at Rascal's.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Drink specials until 11:00 pm; Burgers on the patio from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; dance lessons at 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Women's HIV Coalition's third annual conference at 9:00 am. 527-8219.

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.

such is LIFE!

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StreetWise on MTV

Jays Janney, Program Administrator for StreetWise Houston, has announced that StreetWise programs for homeless and street youth will be focused on the program "MTV News Unfiltered" to be shown throughout the month of November. Even though the actual televised segment will be just over a minute in length, MTV will also be putting contact information and a description of StreetWise on its World Wide Web site located at [HTTP://MTV.COM/MTVNEWS/UNFILTER](http://MTV.COM/MTVNEWS/UNFILTER) in November.

Ms. Janney is hoping that the national exposure will help StreetWise increase the

services it can provide by bringing in more financial support.

In the past year, StreetWise has received donations from local groups Bunnies on the Bayou and the Houston Mission Church, and most recently received a \$5,000 donation from the Elton John AIDS Foundation to help continue their HIV/AIDS prevention efforts with homeless youth—many of whom are Gay, Lesbian, Bi or Transgendered. StreetWise also offers a weekly support group for HIV+ youth under 21 years old. If you would like more information about StreetWise, please call (713)524-5757.

Austin Best Place to be Lesbian

Austin, Texas was named number one in *Girlfriends* magazine's "Ten Best Lesbian Places to Live" because of its new community center, over 650 gay-friendly businesses, a flourishing club/music scene, and opportunity for many outdoor activities. Tampa was number two due to a newly unified lesbian community, sunny climate, and access to the Hillsborough River. Atlanta moved up to our number three spot from last year's number nineteen. Previously gay meccas such as Aspen and Northampton ranked near the bottom this year due to high rents and low job growth.

Girlfriends ranked cities on their climate,

health, economy education, housing, and job growth. The editors also factored in domestic partnership legislation, the presence of anti-discrimination or gay civil rights laws, local companies that prohibit discrimination, lesbian resources including bookstores, publications, and the absence of sodomy laws. They worked in conjunction with Lanie Dill's and Lynn West's second edition of *Great Gay & Lesbian Places to Live* (Relocation Station).

Girlfriends is committed to providing readers with intelligent, entertaining, and visually pleasing coverage of culture, politics, and sexuality—all from a critical lesbian perspective.

Reasons for Hope

Light On The Horizon

By THE BOSTON AIDS WRITER'S GROUP

The 36th Annual International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy ("Bugs and Drugs") in New Orleans this month shed light on a combination of protease inhibitors that works for many people who are no longer benefiting from other therapies. There also is a whole series of new treatments for HIV disease some of which will become available in the next 12 months. Dr. Douglas Richman highlighted the optimism in the scientific community about these new therapies by asking "Will HIV disease become a chronic infection or will it be possible with the new therapies to clear out the virus entirely?"

For now, the goal for treating HIV disease is to reduce viral load (the amount of virus in the bloodstream) to zero or at least to levels that cannot be detected by the most precise viral load tests. Reducing viral load to undetectable levels slows progression to AIDS by stopping the virus from further damaging the immune system, and by reducing the risk of HIV becoming resistant to antiviral treatments. Researchers at the Conference presented new and effective ways to reduce viral load which included more information about antivirals in early phases of testing that appear to be effective. Some of these are new versions of drugs which are already known to work, like protease inhibitors and an antiviral similar in function to AZT. Still, others apply different strategies to combat HIV.

How To Make The Grade

Unfortunately, for many people, reducing viral load to undetectable levels has not been as easy as the drug companies have advertised. The famous triple drug combinations including protease inhibitors do work, but not for everyone. When the virus reproduces, many of the copies are not exactly the same. Some of the variations are not always affected by a particular drug. These "resistant strains" make many drugs ineffective after some time. This is especially true of drugs used alone (monotherapy), or in combinations that do not lower viral load enough to stop resistance. HIV in many people has become resistant to some or all of the available nukes (the nucleoside analogues: AZT, ddI, 3TC, ddC, and D4T). The resistance to these nukes has made success with triple combinations marginal compared to those who have never used these drugs.

These people whose HIV became resistant allowed scientists to discover the strengths and weaknesses of the early

drugs. This discovery was crucial to the development of new and better treatments. These people need to find a combination of drugs to which they are not resistant. These developments accounted for what could be considered the most exciting news that came out of this conference, an update on a study combining two protease inhibitors, saquinavir and ritonavir. Both have been approved by the FDA and are available by prescription, but more importantly, few people have HIV that is resistant to them. The promise of this combination is furthered by ritonavir's apparent ability to increase the accessibility of saquinavir to the cells that need it. In the case of saquinavir, the more drug available the better the effects.

The study of people who had never taken protease inhibitors showed that, seven out of every ten people reduced their viral loads to undetectable levels (below 200 in this study) by using this combination for twelve weeks. The people in this study had an increase of about 100 T cells, and the combination even proved easy to take as it is only required in the morning and just before bed. Not only was this combination beneficial, but also side effects common to ritonavir like nausea, vomiting and diarrhea were minimal because lower doses of ritonavir were required. The most encouraging aspect of this study, however, is that people who did not benefit from previous attempts to treat their disease were helped as much as people who had never before taken any antivirals. If the final results of this study are as good or better than this, the ritonavir+saquinavir combination could be the standard of care for people with AIDS. This combination could help to answer a question that puzzled doctors for the past two years: How do you help people whose virus has become resistant to most available treatments? (Note: There was also a presentation at the Conference which indicated that using saquinavir in combination with another protease inhibitor, indinavir (Crixivan) is an unwise choice. If you are considering trying a two protease combination be sure to discuss the decision with a doctor thoroughly familiar with these drugs.)

Researchers at the Conference also presented results of another study on the effectiveness of Hydroxyurea, an old cancer drug, coupled with ddI, another nuke. This combination reduced viral load by 90% in half of the people involved in the study. Of the people who started the trial with more than 300 T cells, half of them experienced viral load reductions to undetectable levels. However, studies of this combination report that these results are limited to people who have never used

ddI before and who have more than 300 T cells. In the same study, only 5% of those who began with fewer than 300 T cells reduced their viral load to undetectable levels. (If you are interested in participating in a study of this combination, call CRI of New England at 617.566.4004 ext. 30 for more information.)

In The Pipeline

Researchers and doctors at the Conference were optimistic not only because of the encouraging presentations about available treatments, but also because of a number of antivirals in development.

One serious problem in the use of protease inhibitors has persisted, known as cross resistance. When HIV develops resistance to one protease inhibitor it may also be resistant to others to which it hasn't yet been exposed. A new protease inhibitor, called "nelfinavir," made by Agouron Pharmaceuticals looks as potent as the rest of the approved protease inhibitors, but it might have added benefits. Agouron claims that nelfinavir might not be cross resistant with the available protease inhibitors. This preliminary data only suggests that nelfinavir is not cross resistant if used by a person as their first protease inhibitor. Studies to see if it is still useful after using other protease inhibitors are going on now. Nelfinavir will likely be approved by the FDA in early 1997. If your virus seems to be resistant to other protease inhibitors then you might be eligible for Agouron's compassionate use program. Call 1-800-621-7111 for more information.

Another report from the Conference on Glaxo Wellcome's new protease inhibitor, Vertex, was also favorable. It too might not be cross resistant to any of the currently available protease inhibitors or to nelfinavir. Still other protease inhibitors are in early phases of testing and most are being designed to overcome the problem of cross resistance.

In another study using the familiar protease inhibitor Crixivan in combination with a new antiviral called DMP266 showed excellent results. DMP266 is a from a different class of drugs called NNRTI's, (Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors) which includes the available antivirals Nevirapine and Delavirdine. Though more is still being learned about how NNRTI's and protease inhibitors react with each other, this particular study shows that half of the people in the study got their viral load down to undetectable levels. Scientists believe that the results will improve with higher doses of Crixivan as DMP266 tends to reduce the amount of the drug in the body. (Note: It is not advisable to mix these

drugs until more is known about them.)

Finally, T-20, a totally new kind of drug which will be tested in people before the end of the year. This drug stops HIV from infecting cells of the immune system in a different way than all other antivirals. It is called a "fusion" inhibitor, because it stops HIV from attaching to cells and beginning the infection process. It has proven to be effective in mice and hopes are that human testing beginning later this year will yield positive results.

Overall, it looks as though the virus might be able to be contained in most people. It is important, however, to determine the correct combination of drugs that will do this on an individual basis. This can be a challenging task, especially for people who have already taken many antivirals. These developments seem to offer new options even to those whose HIV has become resistant to the currently available treatments.

The Future

Many questions remain in the fight against HIV. Can scientists develop cheaper antiviral drugs with fewer side effects? Can the doses of antivirals be substantially reduced after viral load is reduced to undetectable levels? Can drugs be discontinued after several years of successful use and the body eliminate the virus? Clearly, the understanding of how HIV works and how the body controls it must be further developed.

While the answers to these questions have not yet been found, they are being heavily pursued and are not unattainable. These answers are essential to the progress and development of HIV treatment and the focus of medical research today.

The AIDS Writers Group consists of Robert Folan and Lou Pesce of ACT UP Boston; David Scordias, Robert Krebs, Lauren Heller, Derek Libby, and Larry Bresslour from Search For A Cure. The Review Panel consists of Dr. Cal Cohen, Research Director of CRI, New England; Dr. Ken Mayer, Director of The Brown University AIDS Program; Dr. Steven Boswell, Medical Director at The Fenway Community Health Center; Stewart Landers, Senior Consultant at John Snow Inc.; John James, Editor and Publisher of AIDS Treatment News.

The ideas expressed in this article are those of the Boston AIDS Writers Group and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review Panel. The "Reasons for Hope" Series is an occasional feature of The Houston Voice.

Teoría Holística HIV Retiro En Houston

El Noveno Año AIDS Medicina Y Milagros. La teoría del bienestar total de la conferencia del HIV se llevara acabo en el hotel Renaissance de la Greenway Plaza del 7 al 10 de Nov. Este retiro nacionalmente aclamado atrae a familiares, amigos y personas dedicadas al bienestar y la salud de individuos HIV positivos. El año pasado este evento fue bien recibido en Houston. Bart Loeser de la fundación AIDS Houston dice "Es el día mas reconfortante uno pudiera pasar."

La conferencia explora el uso

de la medicina tradicional Occidental y las terapias complementarias alternas proveyendo un fuerte énfasis en el cuidado total de la persona. Varias secciones plenas de actividades creativas se ofrecen para tocar, de alguna forma, el corazón y el alma. Estas secciones incluyen tratamiento del HIV, intimidad de la pareja, pena y muerte, técnicas de masaje, espiritualidad, nutrición, abuso de estupefacientes y mas.

Dentro de los oradores están: Terry Tafoya, PhD. La escri-

tora Americana de cuentos tradicionales Sally Fisher creadora del taller de ensayo, Dominado AIDS; Marge Poscher MD, doctorada en HIV/AIDS. Cade Fields-Gardner, MS, RD, HIV especialista nutricional; Gregg Cassin creador del Centro San Francisco Para Vida; y Karen Williams, "Divina De La Comedia."

Los tres institutos de todo el día se efectuaran comenzando el Jueves Nov. 7, incluyendo uno llamado "Motivando Cambio En Nuestra Vida Diaria," dedicado a

mujeres que viven con HIV. El instituto en Español dará a nuestra comunidad Latina información de los últimos adelantos en el tratamiento del HIV en un proceso de grupo. Para personas al cuidado de la salud y miembros de organizaciones del AIDS este instituto es llamado Cuidándose.

El precio de la conferencia es de \$155.00 por los tres días incluyendo alimentos. Gente que vive con HIV son elegibles a una tarifa reducida de \$55.00 Los participantes de la conferencia también son elegibles a una tarifa de

hotel de solo \$75.00 por noche. Hay un numero reducido de inscripciones gratuitas para personas con AIDS que están deshabilitadas.

Patrocinadores de la conferencia incluyen: Fundación AIDS Houston, Cuenpo Positivo Houston, HIV Centro Para El Bienestar De Austin y El centro De Recursos Para AIDS De Dallas. Para mas información o para recibir un brochure de registro. Contacta la oficina de AIDS Medicina Y Milagros en Boulder, CO. al 1-800-9875-9770.

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HOUSTON VOICE needs 6 people to work Thursday Oct. 24 placing inserts in the Voice. \$5 per hour. Hours 11am - 4pm. Please call (713) 529-8490.

Desperately seeking doorman for Houston's #1 location Leather, Levi dance club. Call 523-0213, 10am to 2pm, Mon. - Fri.

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Donations of Household Items Sought

The AIDS Housing Coalition Houston/AHCH will be holding the 1996 Fall Rummage-A-Rama sale on Saturday, Nov. 3, 1996 from 8am to 2pm. Hundreds of items will be offered. All proceeds benefit the TLC House emergency PWA shelter program located in Montrose. Sale will be held @ 117 Tuam Ave. (end of Fairview) @ Helena. Please

help support this all volunteer, gay positive humanitarian effort.

AHCH also needs the communities support in the form of donated items to be brought in anytime between now and Nov. 3rd. Anything that is still in operable or useable condition is welcome. Typical items include TV's, radios and all kitchen appliances.

Bathroom items, lamps, tables, chairs, art and other small furniture items (sorry no used mattresses or worn out couches needed). Jewelry, clocks, and antique anything welcome!

AHCH is also seeking the donation of a van or pick-up that is in good condition for program usage. IRS tax receipt available on all donations. If you

don't have any items to donate please write a charitable gift check payable to AHCH. Let's end homelessness in the PWA community in Houston by working together as good neighbors! Please call 521-1613 for Montrose area drop off instructions. And Thanks!

Guest Commentary

The Reason To Vote

By RAY HILL

It has become cliché to warn of the coming of the Nazis. So often is it done that those making the claim are usually discredited. It is however important to remember the history of 1930's German politics and watch for the repeat of the signs that should have warned those who ultimately lost their freedom and many of their lives.

It started with pictures. "Good and decent Germans" were shocked by photographs, movies and art depicting nudity and sex. Artists, the Bauhouse bunch and a few liberals were the only defenders of the offensive material but they burned it anyway. They also kept a list of the defenders who would pay a high price later. To make sure that the process went smoothly the censorship supporters carefully selected the courts where the cases would be considered and salted the jury panels to get the desired verdicts. After the pictures, the fires that lit up the night were fueled by pamphlets from Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals and of course Magnus Hershfield's library of gay and lesbian material. When the books ran short, they began burning people.

Last week, for the first time in over a decade, a young video store clerk was convicted in a Harris County courtroom for displaying with the intent to sell a heterosexual adult video tape and a gay male magazine. The last times such trials were held here were the three trials of "Deep Throat" many years ago and an attempt to prosecute the projectionist at the River Oaks Theater for showing an Italian art film but those prosecutions were unsuccessful. In this recent case, the judge granted the clerk probation after a very hostile jury found the Vietnamese man guilty. The effect on his immigration status has yet to be determined. That is another battle for another day.

The jury appeared to be salted. Several members of the panel were very and openly prejudiced against adult material and gay people, but assured the court over and over again that they could consider the evidence and a true and impartial verdict render. They appeared to be trained on the correct wording to prevent being struck for "cause." The prosecutor, Missy Medary and her assistant openly ridiculed the defense witnesses and referred to gay people as perverts and sexually dysfunctional. She objected to any testimony from gay witnesses about the book on trial. AIDS Foundation Education Director Bart Looser deserves your thanks for helping the defense. Although there are several

bases for an appeal of this case, it will not happen. The defendant is too frightened to pursue the matter any further and there is no money to do so.

There is something that you can do to help the situation: VOTE! In the general election, Nov. 5, 1996. Several candidates that will play a future role in these cases are on the ballot. In the race for the Sheriff of Harris County, the slick well-funded politician you see on the big billboards on the freeway is not a friend of the First Amendment. He allows fundamentalist vigilante, Ed Christiansen to virtually supervise deputy sheriffs in the field. The abuse of Gay men, Lesbians and People with AIDS in Harris County Jail is well documented and has continued for years under the incumbent candidate's supervision. You must vote for Bruce Marquis for Sheriff of Harris County. You must tell all your friends, relatives and work mates of the importance of replacing the sheriff in this election.

Current Houston Police Chief Sam Nuchia is running as a Republican for an appellate court bench. "Sandbox Sam" as former Police Chief Pappy Bond used to call him has no commitment to the truth of any of the provisions of the United States Constitution nor that of Texas. Sam Nuchia is a clear danger to all of the freedoms that adults think they should enjoy. Unfortunately District Attorney John B. Holmes does not have an opponent, but do not vote for him anyway. He has long been hostile toward members of the gay community and the freedoms most of us treasure.

The most educated ballot you can cast is to follow the endorsements of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus PAC. That organization has carefully screened all those interested in your vote and selected the most deserving of your support. They turned down others. The process is open and democratic and I would encourage you to join and participate in the process for the next election. If the process of securing a HGLPC endorsement card is too complicated for you, I suggest you vote a straight (on pun intended) Democratic ballot. Your freedoms have more friends on the Democratic ticket than on the Republican this year. However, some of those on the ballot will have to be voted for separately since the redistricting done at the hands of Republican judges has complicated the matter. If the Log Cabineers can get control of that party out of the religious righteous hands, there may be hope in a vote for candidates in both parties.

Opinions expressed in Guest Commentary are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Houston Voice, its publisher or staff.

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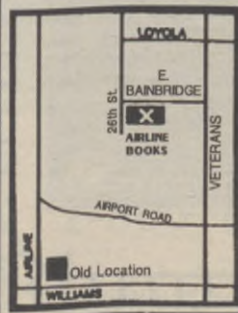
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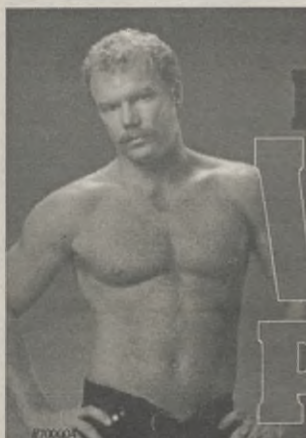
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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women Seeking Women

SWF Late 40's. Looking for a White female to help me come out. I like fishing, hunting, dancing & boating. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5237

SWF 30, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a female, between 28-40, who is a soft butch. Wanting to date or hang out. Like going to movies, boating, fishing, etc. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & a non-smoker. Call Ext. 5215

SWF 43, non-smoker. Enjoy cooking, the mall & parks. Looking for love. Should be interesting & White or biracial. Call Ext. 5208

SWF 5'7", 130 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, 20. Looking for a beautiful, feminine woman who is preferably the same as me. Wanting to share life, should like going to the beach, the movies & anywhere our hearts desire. I'm very attractive, so you must be also. No jokes or running around. Call Ext. 5207

SF Looking for a feminine Black female to have a relationship with. I would like for her to be gay, height weight proportionate & in her mid-40's. I'm available for a long-term relationship & friendship. Please call. Call Ext. 5197

SBF 45, 6', Looking for companionship & romance. I like sex. I'd like to meet some interesting people. I like music & I live on the west side of town. Looking for a woman, no butch. Call Ext. 5194

SWF My hobbies are playing pool, shooting darts, dancing & clubbing. Looking for a female in the age group of 25-40. I'm 190 lbs., 5'11" & a security guard. Call Ext. 5173

SBF I'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. 5164

SWF I'm 40, I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. 5114



SWF I'm 5'3", with blonde hair & brown eyes. I'm a professional in the health care field. I enjoy the beach, the woods, the theater, movies & different restaurants. I'm a soft butch. I'd like to meet some new friends. I enjoy the company of a feminine woman. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & smoke-free. Leave a message. Call Ext. 5119

SWF 33, 5'3", 135 lbs. Looking for a single White female, soft butch or fem to hang out with or date. I like to dancing, theaters & going to antique stores. Call Ext. 5169

SWF Late 40's, 160 lbs., 5'8", green eyes, gray & brown hair. Seeking a relationship with a single gay female who is height/weight proportionate. Race is not important for companionship, friendship & possible romance. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. I'm considered soft butch. I'd like to meet a very feminine female. Call Ext. 5162

SF If you like to be wined & dined, I'm the one. I'm cute, with a wonderful personality. Check me out. Desiring a sincere, honest & intelligent female. Call Ext. 5161

SF 44, 5'11", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. 5138

SF I'm sexy, 21, 5'6" & 152 lbs. I'm bi curious & in search of a sexy, bisexual female of any race. She should be 120-170 lbs, big-breasted & very elegant. Call Ext. 5107

SF Do you like dumpster diving, junking, camping or biking? I'm gainfully employed & looking for the same. She should be 35-50 & a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Call Ext. 5108

SWM 44, 5'9", 165 lbs. I'm a bottom, with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm clean-shaven, with short hair. I'm straight-acting & discreet. I enjoy giving blow jobs & receiving anal action. Looking for a White male who is a top man. Someone who is taller than me. Must be muscular, with above-average endowment. Smokers & light drinkers are okay. Call Ext. 5244

SBM Handsome, 26, new to Texas. I hear things grow big in Texas. I'm very straight-acting & looking. In search of a 20-30-year-old who is straight-acting & appearing. Race is unimportant. Must be in shape. Call Ext. 5242

SWM Bi, 20, 6' brown hair, hazel eyes. Interested in other gay White males in my area who like to have fun indoors & out. Must have a sense of humor & not be afraid of what they want. If you are the one, leave a message. Call Ext. 5236

SWM 31, muscular, tan, smooth, 156 lbs. Like to meet a man who is stockier than I am. Not looking for a chubby guy. Would like to meet a top. If I sound attractive, leave a message. Call Ext. 5175

SM I'm 30 years old, straight-acting & straight-talking. I'm looking for a professional, sincere & normal person who is 38-50. If you are this person, straight-acting & straight-talking, please call. Call Ext. 5253

SM 178 - Would like to get in contact with you. Call my box. Call Ext. 5204

SWM Gay, 41, 5'5", green eyes, reddish-blond hair. Enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, rock 'n roll music & playing board games on occasion. Looking for a White or Hispanic male to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5220

SM I'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. Enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. 5203

SWM 29, 6'2", nice-looking. I have long hair, I enjoy alternative music. In search of a Hispanic male, 18-29 who likes the same things. Call Ext. 5131

SWM 29, 6', 160 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth chest, tan body. I'm a construction worker from Louisiana. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male to show me around, in more ways than one. Friends first, possibly more. No games. No chubbies or above. If you are 21-35, a brunette & 5'4" or taller, call me. I will bring you there. Call Ext. 5238

SWM 50, 5'9", slim build, very good shape. Looking for Afro-American male who is over 30 & has the same build. Give me a call sometime. Call Ext. 5233

SWM Brown hair, very blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs., very muscular, 34. Looking for a very sensual, feminine TV or TS. Let's have a really good time & see where it goes. Call Ext. 5232

SWM 27, 6'3", 195 lbs., in very good shape. Looking for a gay White man who is 27 or older, tall & masculine, to have fun with. Call Ext. 5231

SBM 22, 5'11", 143 lbs. In search of a single White male, 18-30, who is pretty masculine, handsome & not into games. Call Ext. 5229

I'm a married man, 40's, 5'9", 165 lbs., clean, discreet & HIV-. Looking for sexual buddies who are the same & want to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5228

White male, 38, blonde hair, blue eyes, athletic, I'm wealthy, married & bored. You must be young, hot & a little wild. I'm a healthy, imaginative top. Call Ext. 5227

SM I'd like to meet a big, aggressive man who is HIV+ & would like to go at it like rabbits. Call Ext. 5156

SWM 37, dark olive complexion, very muscular, husky, 168 lbs. Looking for a guy who is larger than myself, very masculine & enjoys being a top. I would like to talk to you in person, if this fits your description. Call Ext. 5201

SM 32, Caucasian, very muscular, husky, smooth build, nice tan, greenish eyes, medium-to-short dark brown hair, nice tits, good-looking arms. Looking for a guy who will be a top man. If you're a daddy that's cool, please call. Looking for a guy who is larger & taller than myself who likes to be aggressive & have a lot of fun. Call Ext. 5190

SWM 40, 5'11", 230 lbs., football player build, professional, HIV+, excellent health. Looking for someone 30-50, for friendship & a possible relationship. Enjoy traveling, the theater, cooking & quiet evenings at home. Prefer a non-smoker, non-drug user who can enjoy life to the fullest. Call Ext. 5223

SWM 37, 5'8", 165 lbs., muscular, smooth build, nice-looking, short dark brown hair, bottom. Would like to meet a man who is my age or older. Should be mature, fun, good-looking, well-built & have body and facial hair. I like tops. Prefer someone over 5'11" & over 190 lbs. If this is you, leave a message. Call Ext. 5123

SM 5'11", 190 lbs., goatee, blue eyes, salt 'n' pepper hair, hairy body. Like to have fun with friends. Interested in Hispanics. Leave a message. Call Ext. 5219

SBM Well-hung. Looking for someone to have a good time with. Call Ext. 5216

SWM 6'1", green eyes, mustache, goatee, 39, tall, smooth body. I'd like to meet White or Hispanic guys. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5221

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. 5171

SWM 5'7", 195 lbs., 45, furry, Italian, brown hair, attractive, easygoing, romantic. Enjoy the quiet life, movies, dining, entertaining & being a homebody. Looking for someone to develop a special friendship & long-term relationship with. If you're my ideal guy I'll be 35-40, able to support yourself & enjoy being a bottom. Blonde hair & blue eyes are a huge plus! Give me a call. Call Ext. 5170

SWM 38, 6'2", 180 lbs., salt-and-pepper hair, mustache, goatee. I have a smooth body & I'm in good shape. I'm HIV+ & interested in trying to develop a relationship. Call Ext. 5135

SM 31, blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a good time. Call me. Call Ext. 5133

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. 5171

SM 35, 5'10", 175 lbs., blue-gray eyes, dark brown hair, goatee. Considered very attractive & well-endowed, with an athletic build. Gentleman, I'm only looking for this & the description must be precise. You're handsome, under 35, muscular, with a small waist & 10" or more. Call Ext. 5172

SM 31, blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a good time. Call me. Call Ext. 5133

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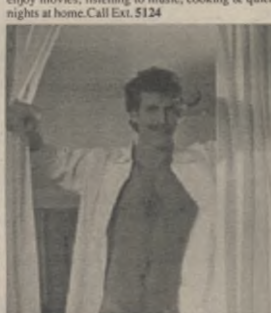
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