

Senate Passes DOMA

ENDA Fails by One Vote

By Deborah Bell and Curt Morrison

Only three months after the victorious *Romer vs. Evans* landmark Supreme Court decision upholding Gay and Lesbian civil rights, the United States Senate overwhelmingly (85-14) passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which denies our community the rights of other citizens to legally marry our partners. "To add insult to injury, the Senate defeated the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), albeit by a narrow margin (50-49).

DOMA was composed in a manner that defines marriages as a male-female union and was designed to allow states the right to disregard marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples by other states. The legislation evolved out of concern over a lawsuit regarding such unions currently pending in Hawaii. Ninia Baehr and Genora Dancel sued the state in 1991 seeking the right to wed. Ironically, the Senate vote came on the same day that the lawsuit was being heard. The outcome of

that case will be irrelevant because the suit will return to the state Supreme Court on appeal. In 1993, Hawaii's Supreme Court declared the state's ban on Gay/Lesbian marriages unconstitutional unless the state could procure a compelling argument to maintain it. As a result, hysteria ensued when other states feared they would have to honor such unions because the U.S. Constitution requires states to recognize the laws of others. With the passage of DOMA, Gay and Lesbian marriages would be the only exception.

The fact that the issue came up during an election year demonstrates the polemics behind the issue. Introduced by a Republican controlled Congress to force President Clinton and the Democrats hand, the bill was designed to use the issues of Gays and Lesbians as propaganda to illuminate the social policy differences between the two parties. Republicans argue that DOMA was necessary to protect the family unit. Democrats argue that the

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HGLPC PAC Endorsements

From HGLPC PAC Release

HOUSTON - The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee voted to endorse and target Victor Morales' race to unseat United States Senator Phil Gramm at its membership meeting last week. The group also endorsed the re-election of President Bill Clinton.

Due to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that has triggered new Congressional elections the HGLPC PAC will hold a special endorsement meeting at 7:30pm, Wednesday, September 18, at 2700 Albany off Tuam Avenue. Screening sessions may be scheduled by calling 713-861-8238.

The HGLPC PAC Screening Committee spent the past several weeks interviewing 34 candidates utilizing three different screening panels, according to Jay Seegers, co-chair of the committee. The members voted to support 30 of those 34, in addition to President Clinton's endorsement, according to Seegers.

"Our Screening Committee, co-chaired by Seegers and Ray Ramirez, worked extremely hard to formulate these recommendations to the membership," said HGLPC PAC Chair Clarence Bagby. "We're especially proud of our top two endorsements, President Clinton and soon-to-be Senator Morales. Both men are strong advocates for equal rights for all Americans."

Bagby pointed out that President

Clinton has issued Executive Orders adding sexual orientation to the non-discrimination policies for all federal agencies. "For the first time in the history of this country, the president has publicly endorsed equal rights legislation for Gays and Lesbians, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). He is clearly the only choice for fair-minded people."

"Mr. Morales enthusiastically supports ENDA, Gays in the military and just plain equal treatment for everyone," Bagby said. He is gaining points on Gramm every

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"Solo" is the work of Houston Voice photographer Steven David - see more inside.

Houston Women's Festival

Entertainment, Art, and Fun

The Houston Women's Festival is an all-day concert, a multi-media art installation, and a community marketplace happening Saturday, September 21, from 1pm to midnight at Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan.

The festival celebrates the rich cultural traditions of the Gulf Coast region, highlights the work of local talent, brings noteworthy artists to Houston, and provides the opportunity for individuals, businesses and organizations to meet and exchange information.

Performers include **The Cow Pattys**, a nationally touring musical comedy group from Austin making their Houston debut.

Texas Monthly

described their show as 'a rootin' tootin' revue ... by four Austin actresses ... delivering pun-filled, sometimes bawdy humor and four-part harmonies sung a cappella. *The Texas Triangle* called them 'a one-of-a-kind act which can only be described as campy cowgirl cabaret' and praised them for 'hilarious home-on-the-range parody with impressive vocals and stage presence.'

The Cow Pattys incorporate stories, jokes and original music into their show, mixing beautiful four-part harmonies with rapid-fire jokes, puns and innuendos. They have

performed in Las Vegas, on the East and West coasts, and in numerous cities in between. They twice performed for Governor Ann Richards.

Also from Austin are acoustic duo **Nancy Scott and Millie Marlow**. Scott has been performing for 18 years and has won awards from the Spree Songwriters Contest, the Billboard Songwriters Contest and the Austin Music Umbrella Songwriters Contest. She was a first-round pick at the Kerrville Folk Festival's New Folk Concert in 1989. Music City Texas



The Cow Pattys bring music and comedy to the Houston Women's Festival

says Nancy Scott is a songwriter who has "an unusually interesting voice, a relaxed, humorous stage presence and a collection of tunes that many a popular, big-name artist would give their eye teeth to own."

Diana Jones is another Austin artist who will be performing at the festival. She is known for her impassioned songs and for her distinctly beautiful voice. Her debut CD 'Imagine Me' is getting strong reviews from a variety of publications. In a recent concert review in *The Austin Chronicle* she was called 'a universal songwriter of the purest order.' Two of her songs have been

(Continued on page 6)

Gunderson and White at Log Cabin Banquet

By Curt Morrison

Log Cabin Republicans of Texas are holding their annual banquet at the Wyndham Warwick hotel this year on September 20. Billed as the "Elegant Elephant '96," the event is designed to raise much needed funds for increased political clout. This shindig will certainly have all the necessary elements for success. Congressman Steve Gunderson and Dr. Mel White will provide the keynote addresses. The Executive Director of the national Log Cabin Republicans, Rich Tafel, will also speak at the benefit and discuss the organization's goals during this pivotal election cycle.

Gunderson and his lover Rob Morris will also be signing copies of their book, the current best-selling house and home. Gunderson is one of two openly Gay Republican congressmen. The recently outed Rep. Jim Kolbe from Arizona is the other. Gunderson represents Wisconsin and has been a staunch ally on issues pertaining to our community. His partner Rob Morris is an accomplished architect. The couple will speak about their lives and the issues that they have encountered. LCR-TX Regional Director and Co-Chair Patrick Ball, who tirelessly worked to secure Gunderson's services also arranged a book signing appearance at Crossroads Market.

Dr. Mel White will also be addressing the group. Mel White is an accomplished author, writer, activist, speaker and minister. His latest book, the best-selling *Stranger at the Gate* (featured on 60 Minutes and Larry King Live), is available in paperback at Crossroads Market and LOBO. White is currently in Washington, DC launching the 'Fast

for Understanding' in front of the Capitol in an effort to defeat DOMA. "If DOMA is approved by the Senate and sent to the President, we will shift our fast to the White House and continue there, praying that God will give President Clinton the wisdom and the courage to veto this tragic bill," promised White.

The former filmmaker and ghostwriter for leading conservative Christians (including Pat Robertson) and his partner Gary Nixon have spent much of their time confronting religious and political extremists including Robertson, Falwell and Lou Sheldon. White is the Justice Minister for the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

Vicki Shaw, 42nd Street, and Jerry Atwood will provide the comedic and musical entertainment for the evening's festivities. Tickets for the gala are available for \$50 at The House of Coleman at 901 W. Alabama or by calling 523-2521 before September 17th to make your reservation.

Log Cabin Republicans is the largest Gay and Lesbian Republican group in the nation and one of the fastest growing organizations in the country.

SPECIAL FEATURES

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New Theater in Houston

By Jon Anthony

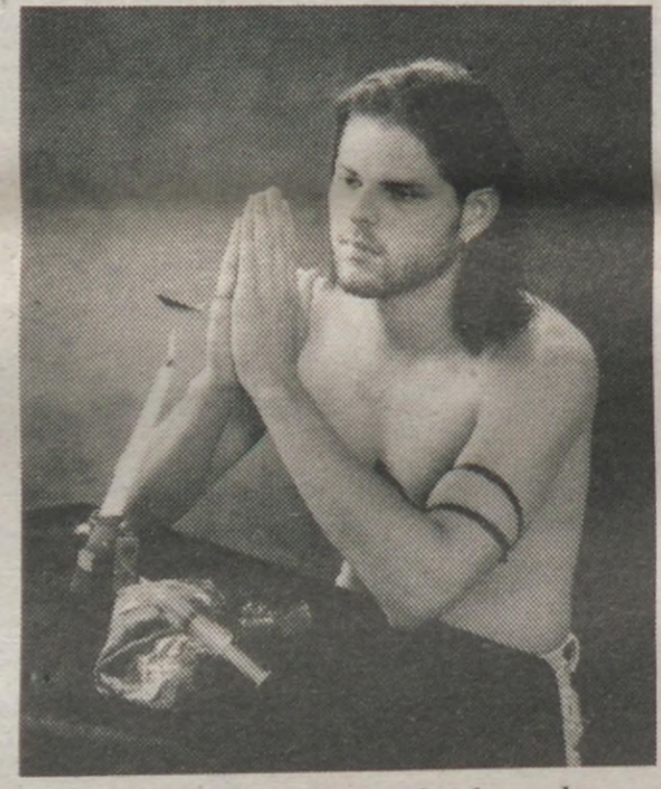
A new theater makes its debut in Houston this weekend, providing our cities cultural art and entertainment enthusiasts with another alternative. The Theater of Instant Gratification, located at the 711 William Street Art Gallery, will open this weekend.

The first production at the theater will be *The Point*, which was scripted by Houstonian Travis Ammons, who is also the founder of Inside/Out Productions. The production company has been pursuing theater space for nearly four years when the generous offer of using the Gallery came to fruition. The Gallery is owned by Richard Leigh Horridge, who has also donated much of his time and money to the project.

Ammons, Horridge and Bob Maddox hope to produce original works, primarily from local playwrights. Additionally, they would like to present audiences with some previously produced fare that may not otherwise reach the Houston market.

According to Ammons, *The Point* feels like a "distorted stage version of *The Last Temptation of Christ* laced with a little *Drug Store Cowboy*." The play takes you on the last days of the friendship between Jesus and Judas, through the eyes of a drug addict living in a tumultuous society. The drama deals with a wide spectrum of topics including heroin addiction and the second coming.

The Point, written and directed by Travis Ammons, opens its six week run this Friday, September 13. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8pm. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 for seniors and/or students w/ID). For more information, call The Theater of Instant Gratification at 869-5295



A drug addict looks at the last days of Christ in the Theater of Instant Gratification production of "The Point"



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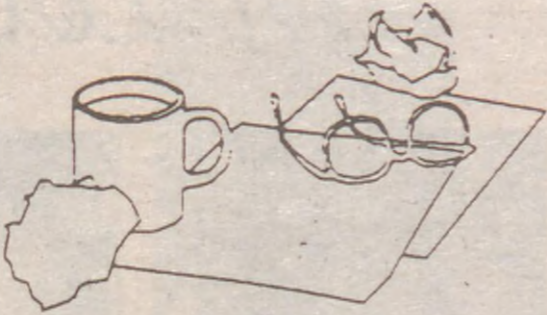
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In My Own Voice

by Deborah Bell



What Was The Question?

Curt Morrison (The Outsider) and I are close friends. This is somewhat shocking to the people who know us individually and politically. When I was named as Editor of the Houston Voice there were dire predictions that Curt's days as a columnist for the paper were numbered. Because he is a Log Cabin Republican and I'm a progressive Democrat (and a radical feminist), everyone was sure that our political ideologies would clash and there were sure to be fireworks. What happened was that Curt and I took an instant liking to one another, found that we each have qualities that we admire in each other, and shock of all shocks, actually agree on a number of issues. We both are hardworkers who believe in taking our politics beyond the voting booth to actual involvement in our chosen parties and organizations. Recently Curt offered a column titled "United We Stand?" where he brought up a number of points. His main point is that as a community we need to be united in our political efforts for common causes if we are to advance as a movement. That is one thing we agree on absolutely.

What we have learned is that our alignment with particular political parties does not define either of us and nothing is to be assumed by anyone on the basis of one being a Republican or one being a Democrat. However, Curt states that our minority status is based on the premise that we share the same sexual orientation. And obviously with the sting of the vote on DOMA and the defeat of ENDA still burning as I write this, that is the perception of the lawmakers. Our minority status might be based on that, but Gays and Lesbians and their allies, the Bisexuals and Transgendered people who align with us, know that is not the basis of our community, our movement, or our lives. We have come together by choice because we do have common ground. All issues are our concern because we are not solely defined by our sexuality. We have concerns about educational issues, the economy, crime, the environment, health, etc. What is problematic is when our differing views on a myriad of issues cause conflict and prevent us from working together on those areas of common ground.

If you are a conservative Republican enjoying white male privilege who is against a woman's right to choose, against affirmative action, for abolishing welfare rather than reforming it, you and I aren't even speaking the same language. Voting Republican means you are voting against me as far as I'm concerned. It is clearly in our best interest to vote for Democrats in office despite their less than complete support on our Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights issues. I'm angry with the Democrats who supported DOMA and particularly angry with Clinton's agreement to it. Actually I marvel that we are not rioting in the streets again. And I agree with Patricia Ireland, President of the National Organization for Women when she speaks of Clinton's betrayal of our community and characterizes our

choice between Clinton and Dole by saying "We want a better choice than Tweedle Dumb and Tweedle Dumber." Ireland articulates my feelings when she identifies Clinton as an option, not the answer.

I also agree with Curt when he suggests that we need to be active in both major parties to influence the directions they take. Sometimes we hear calls for a "Third Party." The reality is that we already have many more parties, some who are much more in line with civil rights issues for Lesbians and Gays than the Democrats. More on this in the future, but suffice it to say none of these alternative parties offer a viable choice for us at this time. Seeing the a Rainbow flag in the center of the sea of Star-Spangled, red, white, and blue ones at the convention hall in Chicago brought tears to my eyes. I've read the reports and I hope the courting the party did of our vote was sincere, not superficial. The reason we had 150 delegates in Chicago was through our grassroots activism and our insistence on inclusion. It is also due to the strikingly different platforms of each party. Many have claimed that the platform doesn't mean anything but that is not true. The issues decided as part of a platform become legislative agenda items that are enacted into law.

While Clinton has promised to sign DOMA, he did endorse the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA), Dole on the other hand opposed "the special interest gay agenda." The anti-gay Christian Coalition gave Dole a 100% rating on his voting record. An even bigger factor in our choice for President this year the matter of appointments to the Supreme Court. Ultimately, DOMA will face a Constitutional challenge and the delicate balance in the make-up of the Court. Remember our "victory" on Roemer v. Evans? A more conservative court could over-turn a woman's right to choose or do away with affirmative action, or even reverse Roemer (the Republican Platform calls for a Human Life Amendment, reversal of Roe v. Wade, the appointment of judges who support that position, maintaining sodomy laws, disallowing same-sex marriage, adoption, and custody rights.) Any vacancy in the next four years could have a more profound effect on the future course of the country than any laws passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Yes, Curt is right, we must be united and we need to decide soon just what it is we are united on. With the national election less than two months away, we can make a difference that will impact the rest of our lives. In light of the most-recent votes by Congress it would be easy to throw up our hands and say to hell with it, but where would that get us? We surely lose if we do that. What can you do? Register, vote, work in campaigns, and be out as a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or ally. No, Clinton is not the answer, neither is the Democratic party, but it is the best option for now. Ultimately, we are the answer.

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.



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In Loving Memory



VICTOR TOLEDO

*Born: July 10, 1961
 Died: August 27, 1996*

In the memory of the one who has spun his way into my heart, Victor Toledo. Victor was the type who would always think of others before himself. He donated much of his time to many charities and organizations throughout his life, including helping PWA's, working with the Catholic Charities of Houston, and just being that friend that everyone needs now and then. He is survived by his mother, Minnie, and a brother and sister, Sonny and Norma, two aunts, Millie and Alice, and his lover and friend of 9 years, Randy. He could make any room a happy place with his music. He spun at Pacific Street for the past 7 years. His many friends will miss the times he would spin a crazy mix and he would say, "Oops! Sounded like a train wreck..." To my love who I will meet again someday, thanks for all the wonderful memories, I will love you forever.

There will be a Celebration of Victor's Life at Pacific Street on Monday, September 16th at 9pm. Join us in a farewell to one of Houston's best.

I love you baby,
 Randy

LARUE

Trixie LaRue died Sunday, August 25 in Houston. Trixie was a longtime resident of Houston where she worked and performed in different clubs. Most recently Trixie helped raise funds for Houston area charities as a member of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. She is survived by her brothers, Marvin and Gilbert, of Bronston, KY, and a host of friends she preferred to refer to as her children. Trixie's friends will gather in the Sanctuary of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection on Thursday, September 19 at 7 p.m. for a Celebration Service of Trixie's life. In keeping with Trixie's wishes, for those who desire, donations may be made to the R.S.I.C.S.S., P.O. Box 980444, Houston, TX 77098-0444 in her name to benefit local AIDS charities.

DAVID ALLEN RORHER

*Born: May 27, 1959
 Died: Sept. 1, 1996*



David was a resident of Houston for the past 10 years. He was with the armed services in Germany, and a member of the American Legion. Services will be held in his home in Iowa.

The Hawthorne Gang, Mary's, EJ's and the many people who love you, miss you so very very much.

There will be a Celebration of Life at a later date. For information, call Billy or Omar at 521-0731.

Personal Outlook

Guns and GOP Connection Is Big Deal

By JONE DEVLIN

I recently mentioned to a friend that while much has been written about the Republican Party's ties to the Religious Right and the Tobacco Lobby, it seems that little has been said about the GOP's ties to the National Rifle Association (NRA). My friend's response was the reason that was is because the GOP's ties to the NRA weren't "such a big deal."

The following story will explain why I have a differing opinion:

Shortly after the Republican-supported Concealed Handgun Law went into effect, two motorists got into a minor accident on a busy freeway in Dallas. The motorist who had been hit became infuriated, stepped from his car and began screaming and threatening the second motorist, who promptly pulled out his licensed, registered, concealed handgun and blew the first motorist away. No charges were filed.

A couple of months ago, at around 7am on a Sunday morning on a back road in Sugar Land a friend of mine who I'll call Leslie rear-ended another motorist. The accident was minor, however the man she hit became enraged and started doing exactly what the man in the Dallas incident did, rushing from his car screaming and threatening her, as well as pounding on her vehicle. Leslie was alone, had no cell phone, and as no one else was around for her to signal for help she simply did what she felt was the safest thing, which was to throw her driver's license and insurance card at this man and drive away. The next day the Sugar

Land police called Leslie in to make a statement. She did so. The police thanked her and told her she would be hearing from them, which she did not. They also told her they had her driver's license and insurance card and would return them to her, which they did not.

Two months to the day after Leslie gave her statement, two policemen showed up at her place of employment to arrest her for leaving the scene of an accident. She was carried off the property of her employer in handcuffs after being patted down in the parking lot for all to see. She then sat in a jail cell from 10:30am that morning until 4:30pm that afternoon, when she was released on a \$750 dollar bond posted by her mother. Leslie (who makes less than \$20,000 a year as a receptionist) is currently facing heavy fines (in addition to the \$750 she owes her mother) jail time, attorney's fees and court costs as well as the possibility of losing her drivers license and having a criminal record. Why? Because when threatened, Leslie backed away instead of just pulling a trigger.

So how important are the Republican Party's ties to the NRA? Thanks to the current GOP leadership in our state, we now live in a society where the best way to handle a potential threat is to kill someone. I don't know about the rest of you, but that's something I happen to consider a very big deal.

Personal Outlook is an occasional feature in the Houston Voice. We encourage submissions that give our personal stories on coming out, dealing with life situations, and relationships as well as personal stories, i.e. Being a Gay Teacher, Being a Lesbian who is Deaf, Surviving Rape, Leaving a Batterer, etcI.



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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Memories of Stonewall

Last week I saw a wonderful movie called *Stonewall*. It is a gritty movie about the night of the Stonewall riots, considered the beginning of the modern gay movement. The movie is exciting, sad, fast-paced, and it answers all our questions about what happened at that time. I recommend you go see it.

I recently met a man who says he lived on Christopher Street in an apartment across the street from the Stonewall Inn and was caught up in the riots. His name is Roy McCarthy. He was 18 years old. The night of the riots, he and his roommate went out to be part of the crowd. The following is his account of his experiences of gay life in the late 1960's. Buckle your seat belt, its going to be a bumpy ride. Keep in mind these are Roy's words, not mine. I couldn't make up anything this crazy.

"Some of the crowd you found at Stonewall consisted of drag queens, hustlers, and Blacks and Hispanics. Not a classy crowd at all. The whole mindset of the people was different at that time for both straight and gay," Roy says. That mindset was inspired by the many race riots in the country and the Vietnam war he said and points out that it was also the summer after the riots at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. It was more confrontational, violently so. Police were very down on people who didn't conform to society's rules.

According to Roy there was a strange relationship between the cops and gay bars. Most of the bars were owned by the Mafia. In every precinct, there were police on the take who would warn the bars when a raid was eminent. What they would do is flash the lights in the bar, so the male couples could separate, and perhaps dance with the Lesbians in the bar. If there were man-woman couples, the police would leave them alone he told me.

Back in those days, if you met someone you wanted to take home, you risked picking up a member of the vice squad. Your name, address, and place of work would be printed in the paper. Also your picture might be published. You risked losing your home and your job. There were a lot of private parties in the city as well. These private parties came about because the

gay people needed a place to party. However, if a partier brought a guest who was a vice squad, the whole house would be busted and the owner would lose his house.

Roy says he was 18 at the time and the American Psychiatric Association said that homosexuals were mentally ill. Parents would petition the courts and would place their sons in the mental hospitals to get them "deprogrammed." Many parents felt their homosexual sons were getting what they deserved for being homosexuals. These men were subjected to the cruelest form of treatment. Electro-shock was the most commonly used. They would put electrical devices on the mans genitals, nipples and head. Then they would show pictures of attractive men in various stages of dress. Those men who showed a response were shocked with heavy doses of electricity. Many of these men today are still in lockdown wards according to Roy. Their minds are completely fried. He says, "mental hospitals were our Auschwitz."

"The night of the riots, I was at home napping when my boyfriend woke me up saying 'The drag queens are rioting,'" Roy recalls. "We both ran downstairs to watch. By the time we got out there, the queens were surrounding the Stonewall Inn where many of the police had gone inside to protect themselves from the crowd. They also barricaded the doors with bar furniture to reinforce the doors."

"Some Gays pulled up parking meters to use as battering rams. I was angry. All I could do was remember Chicago and my teenage friends who were being subjected to torture. One of the cops grabbed my boyfriend in a headlock. The glass from his glasses broke and pierced his head. I was also hurt and four drag queens picked me up from the ground and carried me to a basement, and a guy who was there took me to a hospital for treatment."

I would like to thank Roy for sharing his memories. He can be heard on "After Hours" radio program on KPFT, 90.1fm Sunday mornings from 1am to 3am. My only real comment is that I am glad to be gay today, where we have a lot more freedom than we did in 1969.



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Senate continued...

(Continued from page 1)

bill is nothing more than election year pandering. Polls show that the majority of the public is opposed to same-sex unions and the passage of DOMA clearly demonstrates that in an election year, members of congress are not going to argue with the electorate, regardless of party affiliation. A poll within the Gay and Lesbian community undoubtedly would have a majority in support. Of the 14 Senators who voted for the bill, only one was facing re-election, Sen. John Kerrey, a Democrat from Massachusetts, a socially liberal state.

"It was a foregone conclusion that DOMA would pass due to politics," said Gary Van Ooteghem, president of Log Cabin Houston. "I would like to see a domestic partnership law brought to the floor in a non-election year, so that the issue will then be depoliticized. The fact that we lost ENDA by one vote is significant in that it was that close during a volatile election year," he added. "We are still too often a convenient target on issues like this," explains community activist and former city council candidate Annise Parker. The bill was introduced as a political tactic, adds Parker, who believes that we should be more focused on who we support for President because of the adverse affect of Supreme Court appointees. "Court decisions will outlast any presidential ones," Parker pointed out.

President Clinton has said he would sign the bill when it comes across his desk; however, some pundits believe he may

veto the bill in an effort to placate the liberal faction of the party, which he disappointed when he signed the GOP Welfare Reform bill. The White House indicated this week that the President would indeed sign the legislation. Clinton has gone on record against same-sex unions as far back as 1992, which has caused some contention between the President and civil rights groups. "If he is going to veto the bill, he needs to veto it now, so it will blow over before election day," suggests Parker, although she believes the President will sign the bill.

"We are saddened by today's vote and believe that it underscores why we must stay focused and engaged this election year and elect a Congress that supports treating people equally and fairly," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). "The civil rights struggle in this country has been a long journey and we will, with steadfast commitment, continue working toward the day when America's promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness will be true for Gay Americans as well," implored Birch who called on President Clinton to veto the act in the strongest possible terms. "With the president 15 points ahead in the polls, Gay and Lesbian Democrats have a real opportunity to get him to veto DOMA," said Rich Tafel, National Log Cabin Republican executive director. "Earlier they claimed Clinton's support for DOMA was for political reasons, with the current state of affairs, those political considerations may not still be there,"

added Tafel.

Both Texas Senators' Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchinson voted to pass DOMA and defeat ENDA. Gramm went on record arguing the burdensome cost of such lessons and its effect on taxpayers. He also indicated that for 5,000 years marriage had been defined as a union between men and women and any alteration of such would have an adverse affect on family and its significance. Others have argued that the threat of same-sex unions is tantamount to a national crises. "I don't see this as a national crises," said Democratic State Representative Debra Danburg. "To hang the demise of family on those Gay and Lesbian individuals who want to commit to each other is outrageous. We should do everything we can to promote monogamy, commitment and relationships whether the reason is psychological, health related or economic," said Danburg.

"I would like to point out to Senator Gramm that we also have a 5,000 year history of supporting slavery, human sacrifice and female genital mutilation - none of which is regarded today as necessary to the preservation of our society or its morals and all of which have been defended as based on religious belief," countered Dale Carpenter, state president of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas (LCR-TX). "If Phil Gramm really wants to save money from the federal treasury, he should end all subsidies to married couples, rather than just singling out same-sex couples. As it stands, the treasury is taking money from Gay couples and giving it to straight

couples and we're tired of subsidizing Phil Gramm's lifestyle," Carpenter retorted.

The defeat of ENDA by one vote was significant in so far that it demonstrated that we are closer to obtaining equal rights as we have ever been in history. The issue will most likely be re-introduced in the next legislative session after the elections. While public support for same-sex unions is low, the opposite is true concerning ENDA. The majority of the populace believes Gays and Lesbians should have the same rights of non-discrimination as afforded to the rest of society. "Though the outcome is not what we had hoped, it lays a strong foundation for work in the next Congress," intoned Birch. "It is no longer a question of 'if we will pass ENDA, it is only a matter of 'when,'" she summarized.

Fest continued...

(Continued from page 1)

selected by Velo Records of Ireland for international release on their Sisters of the World label.

Outrageous is a local trio consisting of lead singer and bassist, Linda Lou Smith, guitar wizard Kat Drake and drummer Robin Borthwick. Although the trio has been combining their talents for less than a year, they are building on their experience in the music scene in former groups known as Libido and THE FREDs. Linda Lou has frequently been mentioned in Public News, where she received notice for her "awesome golden throat, heartfelt lyrics and smooth songwriting talents."

Other featured performers include acoustic duo **Girls with Guitars**, soloists **Rawslyn Ruffin** and **Lesli Wood** and Ontario comedienne **Lynette Louise**. Liviya, who performed at last year's festival as a soloist, returns this year with a full band. She was recently honored by the *Houston Press* Music Awards and opened for Jose Feliciano at Rockefellers. Local comedienne **Nancy Ford** will entertain both as performer and as emcee.

While continuous live entertainment is featured in the outdoor courtyard, a multimedia art exhibit will be presented indoors in the Main Hall. The installation, curated by Laura Kellner of MotherDog Studios, will incorporate work by many respected Houston and regional artists. Painting, sculpture, photography, video, and object design are just some of the mediums that will be featured.

Throughout the festival, a marketplace of vendors will display jewelry, crafts, gift items and information about services for the community. Local bakeries and cafes will offer food and beverages. Beer and wine will be sold.

Festival goers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets and plan to spend the day. Ice chests and dogs should be left at home. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and are available at Inklings Bookshop, Lucia's Garden, Lobo and Crossroads Market.

The Houston Women's Festival is an inclusive event for women and friends produced by the Athena Art Project, a non-profit organization supporting the artistic endeavors of women. For more information contact 713-868-1910, P.O. Box 66604 Houston, Texas 77266-6604, AthenaArt@aol.com.



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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

What's Their Line?

After going to the Republican Convention in San Diego and subsequently watching the Democratic Convention on television in its entirety in Chicago, it was abundantly clear that both parties conventions were strikingly similar in style, content and substance, or lack thereof.

I particularly made a concerted effort to watch both conventions without any preconceived notions. Although I am a Republican, I vote my conscience-irrespective of the candidates party affiliation. And, like most voters, I like to hear the candidates views, review their records and make an educated and informed decision before I cast my vote at the ballot box. Much to my chagrin, neither party provided me with a compelling reason to muster any enthusiasm for supporting their candidates, precisely because neither candidate specifically articulated why they deserve my vote. Empty rhetorical promises and sound bytes do not impress this voter, nor should they impress anyone else.

After using the religious right and their grass-root influence to win the nomination, candidate Dole did an about face and ran back towards the so called center of the political spectrum, no doubt as a result of advice he received from Richard Nixon. The Republicans went to great lengths at their convention to stress to the American public their inclusiveness and moderation. Then there are the Democrats. At their confab, they took pains to convey their conservatism on a host of issues and publicly shun their liberal base. Skewing their message towards independent voters, they left their liberal congressional candidates to fend for themselves. This method of triangulation, created by campaign guru Dick Morris, catapulted the President to his best approval ratings of his presidency. The liberals, fully aware that their brand of politics is not in sync with mainstream voters, fell quiet. Why? Because both congressional Democrats and Bill Clinton are completely aware that avowing yourself as a liberal would be political suicide. The question is, if both candidates are moderates, which one is the Democrat and which one the Republican. Judging from the display of statesmanship at their respective conventions, one would be hard pressed to decipher the equation. The entire scenario begs one to ask: Would the real Democrat/Republican please stand up?

Bill Clinton has a commanding lead of 21 points in most polls over his adversary Bob Dole. While that lead will narrow considerably prior to election day, the odds favor Clinton as the victor come November. Interestingly, however, is the way that Clinton has campaigned and conducted himself in the last year and the positive effect it has had on his political fortunes. Clinton campaigns on the premise that America needs him to be the foil for a mean-spirited Republican congress who will starve children and take away the elderly's mechanism for obtaining adequate health care. Notice that he does not go on the campaign stump spearheading an effort towards turning control of the House back to the Democrats. Keep in mind, during his first two years in office Clinton had dismal approval ratings despite the fact that the Democrats were in control of the House and Senate. It wasn't until the Republicans took over both legislative branch that he started gaining in popularity. Clinton is at his best when someone else sets the agenda, hence providing him with a chance to respond with a sense of clarity and reason.

The problem with both Clinton and Bob Dole is that neither one of them truly have a vision as to the direction this country needs to move in. "Tax Cuts" and "Building Bridges" are great, but it is not the anecdote to all that ails our nation. Illiteracy is at an all time high, drug use is rampantly on the rise, wages are stagnant and the concept of individual responsibility is non-existent. What the public needs is a leader. Someone who has the vision, knows how to articulate it and has the courage to implement his or her agenda. The American public deserves no less. Unfortunately, unless this campaign decidedly changes course, that will not be the case during this election cycle.

On issues relating to the gay and lesbian community, neither candidate has a stellar record. In fact, if our community had done our homework, we would have realized that the candidate with the best record of support for Gays and Lesbians was Paul Tsongas. Yet for some reason, we opted to support Bill Clinton and he hasn't delivered anything but lip service. From the botched Gays in the military fiasco to his pledge towards signing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in the name of family values and constitutionality, Clinton has used our community for everything it's worth and, if precedence is any indication, has no intention of reciprocating that support with some action. Where is the AIDS czar he promised us in 1992 he would elevate to a cabinet level position? What happened to the abolishment of the ban on HIV+ immigrants from entering the U.S.? Has he implemented that executive order banning discrimination at federal agencies across the board? He hasn't done any of the aforementioned and why should he have? He was astute enough to know that this community would support him regardless of whether he acted or not. And we did not disappoint! Appointing openly gay and lesbian individuals to political vacancies does not benefit the entire community in any significant way. It's merely symbolic, similar in concept to the 100,000 new police officers the President claims to have put on the street in his highly touted crime bill. Justice Dept. records clearly show that the crime bill has only added approximately 17,000 police officers to the payroll. In this administration facts are irrelevant. What is relevant is protecting the simulacrum of the President, no matter how footloose and fancy free he is with spouting facts.

Besides his sponsorship of the Ryan White Act and his adherence to a non-binding Senate resolution that eliminates discriminating practices based on sexual orientation in the offices of the Senators who signed on to the agreement, Bob Dole does not have much of a record on issues concerning Gays and Lesbians. He supports DOMA, as does Clinton, and he returned a solicited \$1,000.00 campaign contribution from the Log Cabin Republicans. He issued a statement indicating he would welcome an endorsement by Log Cabin. While that is also a symbolic gesture (a first for a Republican presidential candidate), it is not meritorious of an endorsement on gay and lesbian issues.

Instead of serious debate and discussion on issues of importance to most Americans such as the economy, taxes, education, AIDS, crime, human rights and foreign policy, we have been inundated with two dog and pony shows disguised as political conventions. That's current day politics, style over substance. And, they do it well.

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Rob Morris & Congressman Steve Gunderson



Mel White, Author

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PLAIN SPEAKING
by Larry Lingle

Prostitution is a much maligned profession. After all, it's given us such heroes as Hugh Grant, Wilbur Mills (for political junkies of bygone years) and, now, Dick Morris. The Christian Coalition may rant about homosexual promiscuity but nothing can equal the sexual libido of a politician--from Franklin D. Roosevelt to John F. Kennedy to William Jefferson Clinton. Of course, conversely, we had Richard Milhouse Nixon who doubtless never cheated on poor Pat perhaps because he was too busy violating the Constitution to transgress the faded virtue of a lady of the evening.

Whatever supposed miracle Dick Morris wrought for the Clinton campaign, clearly he is but another link in the long chain of political operatives suckled on the hind tit of political life. Like most political operatives he has no philosophy, counseling Republicans and Democrats alike. Morris, unlike some others of his ilk, is truly the product of new-age politics: Poll the public and then choose the issues.

Thus it is not surprising to learn that months ago, long before his ill-timed downfall on the very day his chief client was preparing to accept his second nomination for the presidency, Morris had already contracted with Random House, once upon a time for a reputable publishing firm, to write a book. And, of course, Random House wasn't paying big bucks to hear his life story pre-Clinton.

There have always been political operatives. Alexander Hamilton wrote speeches for President George Washington, just as he had written letters for General Washington. Both just required a signature. Even Abraham Lincoln had his handlers on the road to Washington, even if he became his own man once in office.

But it is only since the modern age of big government and big business joined in the pursuit of big bucks and big power that political operatives have come into their own. Now they are like the hired guns of the Old West, available in droves for the right price. Some, like James Carville, still have ideological roots while willing to play the game ruthlessly.

And, doubtless, when Clinton is no longer in the White House, Carville will reap big bucks for his memoirs. In the meantime Morris is rushing his book to print for a few million ill-earned dollars. And I am sure he will spill all, since he was hardly reluctant to share the White House line with a whore, prostituting himself should be easy.

If you are looking for a current tell-all look at contemporary politics grab Ed Rollins' "Bare Knuckles and Back Rooms," written with the aid of Tom Defrank (political operatives apparently need a little help with the printed word). Rollins, for the most part, is a Republican, having deserted his party only briefly for Ross Perot.

I'll frankly admit that, prior to reading his book, I had a strong distaste for Rollins. But after realizing that his philosophical commitment was nil, I came to appreciate his skill in what, after all, must be viewed as a profession, even if a somewhat crass one.

Just as Rollins believed in 1992 that Perot had greater appeal to voters than his colleagues recognized, his assessment of the character of Perot is consistent with the declining fortunes of that Dallas mogul in 1996.

Other Rollins' assessments of the likes of George Bush and Jack Kemp are illuminating on both the last and the current election. And Rollins' take of Barbara Bush is one of the views to cast a more realistic assessment of this petty tyrant disguised as a grandmotherly homebody.

More than a history of his own career, Rollins' book chronicles the lives of many of the leading political operatives of the day, survivors of victories and defeats. Like the phoenix, they seem to rise over and over again. Rollins, after all, gave us Lee Atwater, probably the quintessential political operative whose untimely death and his dying recantations nearly made him a figure of legend. And he gave us the first female political operative, Mary Matalin. Rollins cannot avoid pointing out that to understand the Matalin-Carville marriage we must realize that Atwater and Carville are more alike than dissimilar. Atwater was Matalin's boss and mentor.

Rollins' book is full of repeatable tales of political folly, but one should suffice here. During Reagan's second campaign apparently an ally of Filipino President Marcos arranged to deliver a ten million dollar cash contribution for the Republicans. It was delivered to a well-known lobbyist. However, the money never made it to the GOP coffers. Unfortunately, Rollins, for reasons of libel, does not reveal the name of the now wealthy lobbyist.

And for the award for the most erroneously titled book the winner is "Nixon Off The Record" by Monica Crowley. While correctly subtitled, "His Candid Commentary on People and Politics," Nixon dictated and encouraged his latter day Boswell to get it right, knowing that this would be his last chance in a long struggle to re-establish his credibility for posterity.

Nixon, in his own way, shows here that he, too, was a master political operative in his assessments of the weaknesses and strengths of the leading figures on the political stage. But Crowley also uses Nixon's final musings as the linchpin between Nixon and Bob Dole, so that if by some miracle Dole should win, Tricky Dick can take cold comfort from his grave.

Where Crowley, and thus Nixon miss the point is their equal bitterness that Whitewater has not done to Clinton what Watergate did to Nixon. How easy it is through rationalization to overlook the obvious: Whitewater, regardless of who was really guilty of what, was just one of thousands of shady land deals run through hundreds of equally shady savings and loans. Watergate was but one of many dirty tricks conducted under the name of and in the name of a sitting president. And in the subsequent cover-up, Nixon personally participated in a criminal act while president in direct contradiction of the American Constitution. Nixon will forever be remembered as the first, and so far, only president of the United States to resign in disgrace. No amount of moralizing regrets--remember that Nixon never apologized for his actions--or pointing fingers can obscure the reality of a conspiratorial White House. While I wouldn't want to spoil the fun, let me note that both of these books will appear in more than one footnote when the final biography of Bob Dole is written--that is, if footnotes survive the latest academic assault in the name of publish ability.

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HGLPC continued...

(Continued from page 1)

week in the polls and with the help of the Gay community, he'll win on November 5."

"I wish more members availed themselves of the opportunity to screen candidates," said Panelist Annise Parker. "Screening is a learning experience for both the candidates and the screeners. Having been on both sides of the table, as a candidate and a screener, I can say that the HGLPC PAC has the best process of any endorsing group in the city." Parker, twice a candidate for Houston City Council as an openly Gay woman, has served two terms as HGLPC president and three as chair of the HGLPC board of trustees.

Several candidates agreed with Parker, praising the organization for what Harris County Attorney candidate Judge Sylvia Garcia called "an organized, open and fair process."

"We need to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and we need an experienced manager as our county attorney," Garcia went on to say. "I was appointed to the bench the same year my opponent received his law degree. This race is about proven managerial experience and a proven ability to administer a large staff and budget in a fair and open manner."

Garcia, a Democrat, was appointed

presiding municipal judge by former Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire and has been re-appointed twice by Mayor Bob Lanier. She was endorsed by HGLPC PAC in the March primary and received a second nod Wednesday.

"I'm proud of the work our members have done on this screening and I'm proud of the candidates that have been endorsed," said Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus President Pat Gandy. "It's going to be easy to rally behind these people, and take them on to victory in November."

Democratic State Senator John Whitmire, a vocal champion for the repeal of the state sodomy statute and a staunch supporter of Hate Crimes legislation, was endorsed along with Democratic State Representative Jessica Farrar, who championed the Hate Crimes law revision in the House last summer.

Harris County Sheriff Democratic candidate Bruce Marquis was endorsed along with Democratic State Representatives Scott Hochberg, Debra Danburg, Ken Yarbrough, Diana Davila and Garnet Coleman. Of the two Republicans and two Libertarian candidates that sought endorsement, only Libertarian judicial candidate Eileen Flume was approved.

The HGLPC is a non-profit educational

and civil rights advocacy organization while the HGLPC PAC endorses candidates and organizes election activities including phone banking, election newsletters, push cards and block walking.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus PAC Endorsements:

President - Bill Clinton

U.S. Senator - Victor Morales

Railroad Commission - Hector Uribe

Texas Supreme Court - Place 1 - Patrice Barron

Texas Supreme Court - Place 2 - Eileen Flume

Harris Co. Sheriff - Bruce Marquis

State Board of Education, Pl. 4 - Alma Allen

State Board of Education, Pl. 7 - Rema Lou Brown

State Senate Dist. 15 - John Whitmire

Chief Justice, 14th Court of Appeals - Cynthia Owens

1st Court of Appeals Pl. 1 - George Ellis

14th Court of Appeals, Pl. 1 - Frank Maloney

Constable, Pct. 1 - Jack Abercia

Constable, Pct. 6 - Victor Trevino

Constable, Pct. 7 - A.B. Chambers

County Attorney - Sylvia Garcia

County School Trustee #7 - Ronnie Harrison

County Commissioner, Pct. 3 - Fred Stockton

61st Civil Dist. Court - Carolyn Day Hobson

129th Civil Dist. Court - Jana Ivey

215th Civil Dist. Court - Elinor Walters

338th Criminal Dist. Court - Cynthia Rayfield

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 - Dale Gorcynski

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 5 - Reggie Fox

State Rep. Dist. 132 - Scott Hochberg

State Rep. Dist. 137 - Debra Danburg

State Rep. Dist. 138 - Ken Yarbrough

State Rep. Dist. 145 - Diane Davilla

State Rep. Dist. 147 - Garnet Coleman

State Rep. Dist. 148 - Jessica Farrar

The HGLPC is a non-profit educational and civil rights advocacy organization while the HGLPC PAC endorses candidates and organizes election activities including phone banking, election newsletters, push cards and block walking.

Anyone interested in working to help elect these candidates should contact the HGLPC office at 521-1000.



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Family Values
 by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



Victor/Victorious!

Last time was the first time I ever voted for a candidate just because my friends devoutly petitioned me to. It was with great ambivalence that I kept my pact with them and supported Bill Clinton for President of the United States. He clearly has not respected the contract he made with us and I am even less enamored of him now than I was four years ago. In fact there are not any contenders that I feel very supportive of for any office this time, except one: Victor Morales, the small town government teacher who put 70,000 miles this year on his little white pick-up truck in his one-man campaign to win this historic U.S. Senate race against Phil Gramm. Until Morales defeated a six-term congressman in the runoffs, he did not even have the support of other Latino Democrats. Now that the gay and lesbian community, Mexican-American Democrats and the Tejano Democrats, supporters of Affirmative Action and gun control, pro-choice and pro-education citizens are aware of his campaign and his philosophies, they are all lining up to offer endorsement.

Phil Gramm, with his Goliath posture and \$3 million war chest has been reluctant to publicly smear the name of Victor Morales, but he is clearly threatened by Morales' \$300,000 campaign budget. Begging letters to his boosters confide that he is overwhelmed by the burden of competing with the "millions of dollars of free publicity Morales has received from the press," which in his appeals Gramm calls "a media lovefest."

Morales' camp is not threatened by the disparity in funds. They know that all his money could not propel Gramm into a successful presidential race, and that his

favored tactics of posing towards the left in an effort to minimize the differences between 'him and his competition won't work in this race. As a Latino of poor background, a school teacher and a Washington outsider, Morales is not a persona Gramm would want to be confused with. Without doubt, Gramm's camp was delighted with Morales' candid reply to a question posed about Social Security at a recent press conference. He said, "What I refuse to tell you is, 'This is how I'm going to fix Social Security at this time.' Number one, it's a very complicated problem. Number two, I haven't had the time and materials to come up with some nuts-and-bolts answer for you, and I'm not going to do it just to try to get votes."

Callers to an Austin radio station were equally comfortable with that answer. A caller named Jim was typical in his remarks: "I haven't heard anything so far that I don't agree with, including his 'I don't know' answers. I don't know either. I don't trust anybody who has all the answers."

Victor Morales also "doesn't know" about how he will decide on the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA, which seeks to prevent same sex marriage.) Unlike our fair weather friend Clinton (he feels our pain!) and occasional advocate Ann Landers (she's "gone about as far as she can" for us) Morales is not making any promises he might not be able to keep. That in itself is a refreshing campaign concept. This election year I think I'll remind my promise-pressing friends who persuaded me to vote their way four years ago that I have deals to make, too.

September is National Papaya Month. Sept. 15-Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month. Jazz will be celebrating both with gusto.

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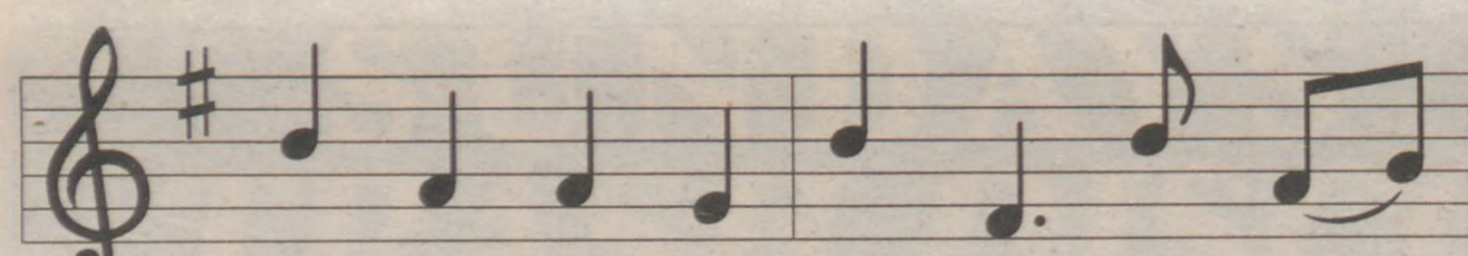
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The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston can offer you many "happy hours." Come hum a few bars with us as GMCH begins rehearsing for the 1996-97 season on Thursday, Sept. 19, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh. We meet there each Thursday night, and new members (singing and non-singing) are always welcome. No auditions or formal music training is required, and we won't ask to see your I.D. at the door!

P.S. Check out the chorus in advance! Join us for coffee and conversation at Crossroads Market on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. We won't be singing that night, but the store will be playing our CD. For more info, call 521-SING. We hope to see you there!



New Drug on Club Scene Deadly

Saltwater, Easy-lay, Liquid X—these are just some of the names that gamma hydroxybutrate (GHB), a new drug, is commonly known by within the club scene. Taken in large doses orally or mixed with alcohol, GHB can be extremely dangerous and have serious side effects ranging from seizures, vomiting, respiratory failure to putting someone into a coma. The easy manufacturing of the drug, which can be done in a kitchen, is one of the primary concerns that has officers with the Harris County Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force and medical experts worried.

Jim Smith, Assistant Director of the Harris County Organized Crime Task Force, hopes that informing the public of GHB will serve as a "public service announcement to the citizens of our communities and especially to the young people." The task force has recently received information that the rise in use of GHB in Houston and Harris County has resulted in overdose-related injuries, many which could lead to death.

"The combination of vomiting and being deeply unconscious certainly has the potential for death," explained Dr. Ginger W. Wilhelm of Hermann Hospital. GHB is usually taken in "cap sizes" to induce a drunken-like state, impairing one's ability to speak, walk or drive. The drug can be taken in liquid

or powder form. So far, there have been no reports of GHB being injected. When used in the proper amounts, GHB can be used as a "date rape" drug and that, officials say, is cause for great concern. Dr. Craig B. Key, Emergency Medical Director for the City of Houston, states that the danger of GHB is that "it's not an entirely benign drug and we want to get the message out that yes, you can go into a coma," and "yes you can have a seizure."

During the early 1990s, GHB was a hot trend among bodybuilders, who believed that it was a growth hormone that contributed to anabolism and lipolysis, the release of stored fat for use as fuel by the body. In some European countries, GHB was used as an anesthetic to treat certain forms of cerebral edema, narcolepsy, tachycardia (rapid heart beat) and to relieve withdrawal symptoms of alcoholics. Dr. Wilhelm emphasized that GHB is "illegal in the state of Texas and the FDA has ruled that it requires a prescription. It is a Class A misdemeanor to possess the drug and a felony to deliver, sell or manufacture GHB."

Anyone with information regarding the illegal use of GHB can contact the Harris County Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force at 450-1623. You need not give your name and all information given will remain confidential.

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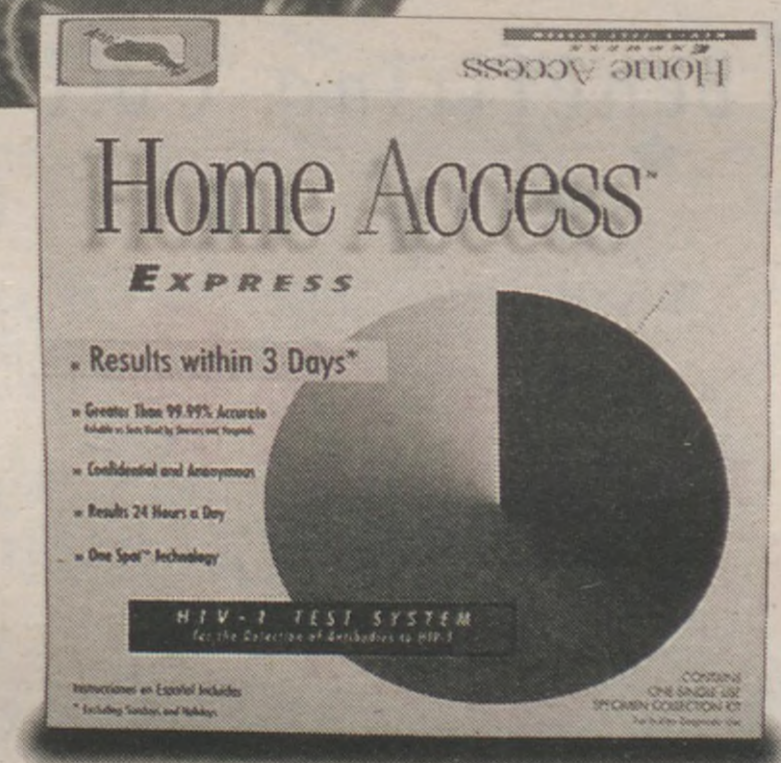
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Houston Ballet Season Opens

Brings Balanchine Back To Houston

REVIEWED BY RICH ARENSCHIEDT

The choreography of American Master, George Balanchine provides a pleasing debut for the 1996-1997 dance season. The performances represent the genius of a single artistic mind, but provide something for everyone—drama, technical complexity and classical elegance.

Three of the choreographer's works comprise the program. The dark 'La Valse,' the quick and sometimes quirky 'Agon' and the stylish 'Theme and Variations.' The performances illuminate various aspects of dances Balanchine created while leading the New York City Ballet.

There are some overwhelming differences between this mixed repertory and the 'usual' offerings from Houston Ballet. Those of us who have long been bored with the endless supply of 'story ballets' find this 'Balanchine Celebration' extraordinarily refreshing. The focus of this show is the dance.

Gone are the voluptuous sets, body obscuring costumes and useless props. True to Balanchine's vision, human form and physicality are paramount. This emphasis may be due in part to the guidance and involvement of Patricia Neary, representative of the Balanchine Trust, 'artistic guardian' of his vision. While in Houston, Ms. Neary has focused and motivated the dancers to communicate these works to us, and in so doing, maintains their integrity.

'La Valse,' set to the music of French impressionist composer Maurice Ravel was the programs intriguing opener. Lighting and costumes were very effective (except for the 'waiter, waiter!' apparel of the men) in evoking a somber mood. The work's two parts consist of an elegant series of waltzes, culminating in what could be best described as a 'llebestod pax de duex.' The young girl, dressed aptly in stunning white, trips the light fantastic with the 'wrong kind of guy' (i.e., the devil). Her attraction is fatal, and after an extended sequence, (including an on-stage costume change), she expires. A choreographic and musical 'whirl-



Li Anlin, Dawn Scannell, and Dominic Walsh perform AGON a Houston Ballet Premiere (photo by Geoff Winningham)

ing dervish' provides the wonderful climax to this mini ballet/psychodrama.

'Agon,' the collaboration between

Balanchine and composer Igor Stravinsky was the 'center-piece' of this rep. Created in 1957, the work maintains much of its original spark and vigor. This opus more so than any other on the program characterizes the Balanchine 'look.' The best definition/analogy I can provide is: Balanchine uses dancers structurally, much the same way architect Philip Johnson uses steel. Both use finite materials to create infinite beauty.

Thoroughly modern in concept, especially in light of its forty year tenure in the repertoire, the piece is an unusual blend of complexity and simplicity. 'Agon' is set for four men and eight women—this universal gender disparity in Balanchine's work is probably best explained by his most famous quote, "Ballet is women."

Dancers in black and white on a stark stage perform an unbelievably intricate series of steps. The almost 'zany' Stravinsky score provides interesting accompaniment and serves to highlight the complexity of the work. Music and dance happen somewhat independently, but the end result works very well.

'Agon' delineates Balanchine as visionary, requiring dancers to present themselves completely to the audience. No theatrical devices interfere with the dancer's message. They appear suspended in seemingly impossible stances defying the laws of gravity, combining with each other in what is affectionately called 'the Balanchine knot.' 'Agon' is an almost witty look at the most technical aspects of dance, with very solid performances by all twelve participants.

The classical, or rather 'neoclassical' Theme and Variations concludes the show with an elegant, somewhat retrospective 'Balanchine looking back.' The lush score of Russian romantic, Tchiakovsky accompanies this staple of the repertoire. The work is quite simply, lovely. In spite of my aversion to tutu's I admit I would gladly watch the women corps de ballet dance this 'spectacle of symmetry' endlessly. Balanchine's respect for the Russian Imperial Ballet is keenly evident in this work. Understated elegance is enhanced by simplistic lighting and costumes fashioned after those in the original production by Karinska.

An entirely enjoyable start to the season—those of you fearing the worst, with the departures of some veteran dancers, will be pleasantly surprised to see some newer faces center stage.

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Strike Against AIDS

PWACH Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary

Chelsi Smith, Miss Universe 1995 is honorary chairperson of "Strike Against AIDS" fund-raiser and anniversary celebration for the People with AIDS Coalition Houston (PWACH). Dust off your bowling shoes and pull out your bowling ball to celebrate the group's tenth anniversary with a "Rock 'n' Bowl-A-Rama" on Saturday, Sept. 28th at 8pm. The place to be is the Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd.

"We've come a long way in one decade," said Lynn Pannill, Executive Director for the PWACH. "Strikes Against AIDS" will be a celebration of how far we've come in the past ten years, but it's also a celebration of where we are headed. We are definitely gaining momentum and looking forward to the future as we continue to grow."

With honorary chairperson and former Deer Park Resident Chelsi Smith, Miss Universe 1995, at the helm, the evening promises to be filled with the sounds of strikes, spares and splits, as guests enjoy live music and plenty of food. In addition, guests can participate in a silent auction featuring fabulous retailer gift certificates, dining gift certificates, pieces of art by a variety of local artists and much more.

Tickets for the event are \$25 and are available at Palace Lanes or by calling the PWACH at 713/522-5428. Potential underwriters interested in supporting the event can also participate at one of four sponsorship levels:

A League of their own —event underwriter at the \$2,500 and above level entitles the giver to name recognition in all related publications and invitations, a lane banner at the event plus eight tickets and eight 1950s-style bowling shirts.

Strikes —Event Sponsor at the \$1,500 to \$2,499 level entitles the giver to name recognition on invitation, lane banner at event plus six tickets and six shirts.

Spares —Event Sponsor at the \$500 to \$1,499 level entitles giver to name recognition on invitation, lane sign plus four tickets.

Strikes —Lane Sponsor entitles the giver to a Lane sign and two tickets.

The People With AIDS Coalition of Houston was established in 1986, initially to address healing methods and alternative therapies. The organization's focus has since expanded to serve the needs and concerns of the entire HIV/AIDS Community. The Coalition is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that supports a wide range of psychosocial programs for everyone in the Houston EMA/HSDA affected by HIV/AIDS.

Debra Danburg Birthday Bash

State Representative Debra Danburg will celebrate her 45th birthday with a party and fundraiser at 3717 Revere, located off Richmond near Kirby. The event will be held Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 6:30pm to 9pm. There will be a \$10 admission and a cash bar.

Debra Danburg, a native Houstonian, has been the State Representative for Dist.137 since 1980. She attended Lee High School which is located in the Southwestern part of the legislative district. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with honors and her Law Degree from the University of Houston.

Debra currently chairs the House Committee on Elections and is a member of the far reaching and powerful State Affairs Committee. She also serves on the Joint Interim Committee on Telecommunications



Happy Birthday Deb!

and the Elections Advisory Committee and chairs the Electric Deregulation Oversight Committee. In the past she has served on the Committees on Appropriations, Criminal Jurisprudence, Environmental Affairs, Business and Industry and Cultural and Historical Resources.

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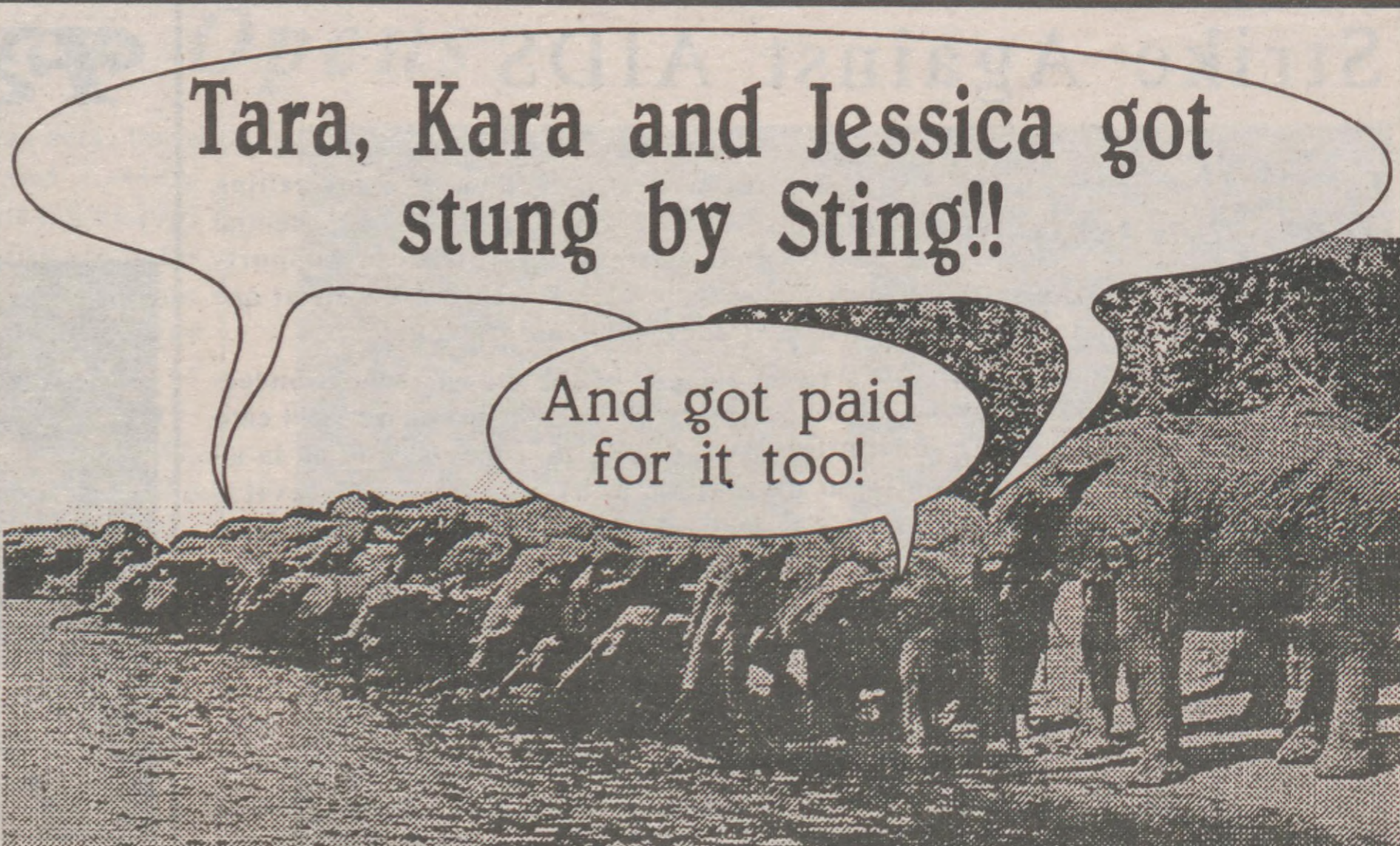
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Best of luck to CHRISTOPHER GRAHAM, Mr. Gay Texas USA, who will compete in the Mr. Gay USA Contest in San Antonio, September 19-22 at The Saint and to OSCAR PAREDES, Mr. Southeast All-American, who will compete in the Mr. Gay All-American Contest in Little Rock, September 18-21.

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News You Didn't See on TV

by Patricia Nell Warren

The Republicans Go Rep-ubli(CC)an

As the Democratic convention makes news, the Republican convention has quickly faded from view. After all, as entertainment it didn't hold a torch to the Olympics. As a "big tent," it was more a pup tent, with San Diego police deployed to arrest dissenters who distributed leaflets.

But as a benchmark of Christian Coalition power, the Republican convention shouldn't be forgotten. We must now speak of the RepubliCCan party.

The CC doesn't just want the White House. It wants to legislate Bible-based "morals" in the U.S. The Old Testament has a sizable platform set in solid concrete. But the CC are pushing only those "moral" issues that they think will galvanize large voting demographics in '96. Candidates are bashing "immorality" of gangs, illegal aliens, homosexuals, drug-users, welfare moms, repeat criminals, etc.—none of whom are viewed as not having a swing vote. Conversely, the CC risk defeat if they push an issue, however "moral," that alienates big voting blocs. So the CC spin doctors are evidently as play-it-safe, cynical and pragmatic as any.

To see how this play-it-safe "morals" campaigning works, let's look at two key issues: homosexuality and adultery. The Bible's plank is clear: death penalty for both.

Technically, the CC should be casting out of the RepubliCCan party every known adulterer. But the Party hasn't said boo about adultery—other than throwing a few dead cats at President Clinton for his alleged philandering. Yet at the convention, RepubliCCans made a big show of banishing open homosexuals from any participation in the balloon-fest.

The same play-safe strategy operates on a broader scale. Galvanized by the religious right, some states are moving to re-arm old sodomy laws. This means long sentences, forced therapy, castration—i.e. grinding non-heterosexuals to a bloody pulp in the machinery of our prisons. Some religious activists even demand death for homosexuals. But no such penalties for adulterers! Jack Kemp wants to bar homosexuals from teaching in schools—but he's evidently okay with adulterers teaching. Adulterers get a fair shake in employment, benefits, housing. They even get custody of children! Indeed, heterosexual adulterers have unlimited use and abuse of the rights of marriage... whilst homosexuals who want to marry get a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.

Our armed forces—whose votes Bob Dole is so diligently courting—are equally two-faced on sexual "morals." They continue to hound Gays and Lesbians

into court martials on sodomy charges. Military law makes adultery an equally punishable offense. But when was the last time you saw a TV anchor reporting a court martial for adultery?

Why is the religious right so politically soft on adultery?

Reason No. 1 is obvious. Millions of heterosexual adulterers are potential church-joiners and money-givers to the CC cause. And a call for national crack-down on adultery would alienate a ton of guilty voters. Statistics show that a goodly percentage of American voters two-time their spouses—including that most active voters are male. The CC know they need the hetero male vote to win.

Less obvious, but compelling, is Reason No. 2. This and that pastor in the Bible lobby has committed adultery. I have listened to talk shows where pastors openly discussed their extramarital lapses on the air. But when was the last time any adulterous pastor was deprived of his or her life—liberty, civil rights, benefits, job equality—because of past "immorality"? Even Jim Bakker would have stayed out of prison if his "crime" were adultery. It's just not politically useful for the religious-right movement to clean house on all their adulterous leaders.

The Bible says other things that stand to be law too, if the CC gets a chance to keep its campaign promises. Americans had better start reading the Bible carefully before Nov. 2, if they want a sneak preview of new "moral" legislation that will come barreling out of a RepubliCCan-dominated Congress, with a RepubliCCan President ready to sign bills.

Come to think of it, maybe a RepubliCCan victory is what this country needs. Americans have demanded more "morals" without inspecting the morals-brokers closely. Maybe that legal machinery needs to start grinding more solid respectable active mainstream voters into pulp. Maybe a few million people need to get legally hamburgered for not worshipping God, observing the Sabbath, respecting parents, having premarital sex...or other things the Bible demands death for.

It can't happen here? In a country where decades of Democrat big government have inured citizens to a disturbing degree of surveillance and control of their lives? Where homeless people can do six months in jail for simply sleeping on the sidewalk? All we need is for the RepubliCCans to capture that monstrous Democratic infrastructure, and put it to their own "morals"-driven uses.

Patricia Nell Warren is author of *The Front Runner* and other bestselling books, as well as a widely published commentator. Her publisher is Wildcat Press. Copyright (c) 1996 by Patricia Nell Warren. All Rights Reserved.

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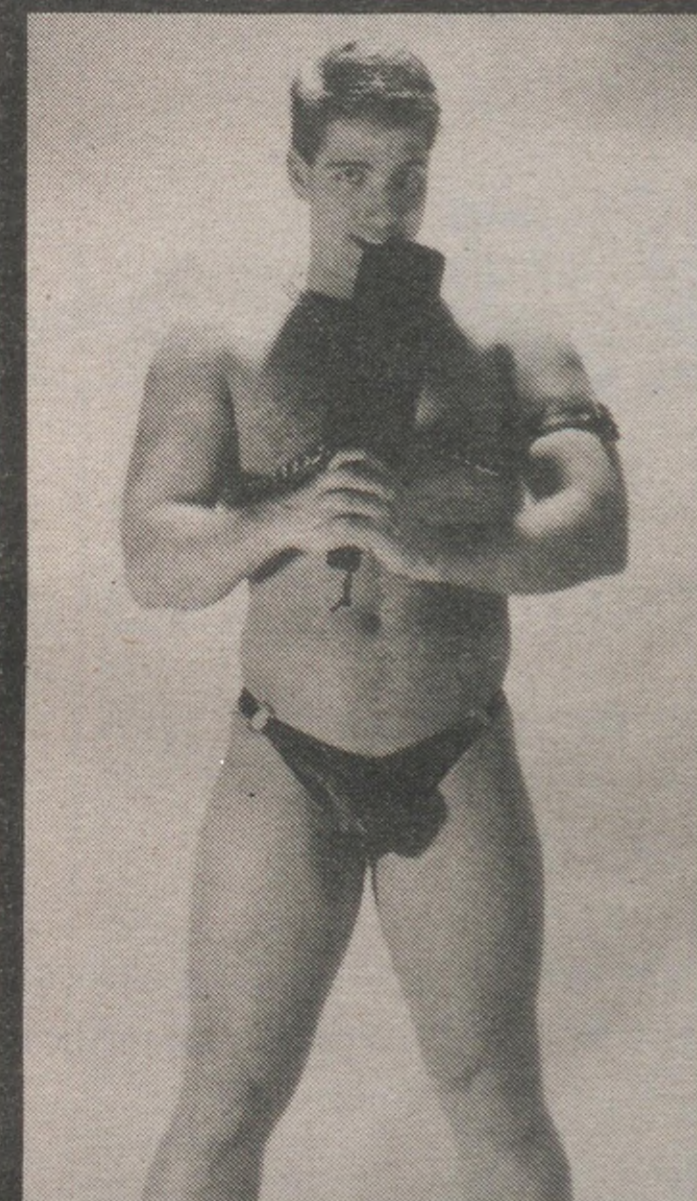
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And There You Have It!

By David Richardson



With summer rapidly drawing to a close, I felt that I owed it to myself to at least go to the movies once. Upon arrival, many questions began to trouble me. For example:

Why do they call it the silver screen, when as far as I can see, it is white? Have I just been color blind all these years without even realizing it? Maybe the sky is not even blue, but instead peach or char-treuse? I will consult my optometrist about this.

People who work at theatres seem to have an air of indifference, as if sending a message to the general public saying: "Hey, we didn't star in the stupid movie, why should we give a damn if you enjoy it or not?" If I wanted attitude, I'd go to France, where people do it with finesse.

Admission prices borderline the ridiculous. When going to see a recent picture, the surly ticket person with green hair told me it would cost eight dollars just to get in the door. "Um, I just want to see the movie—not buy the studio that made it, darling," I replied. The ticket seller appeared unimpressed and went back to reading her book, which was presumably about astro-turf and its interesting uses as a head piece.

Food is another thing that carries a price tag that makes you say 'huh'? Why, I wonder, does popcorn and a coke at the movies cost nearly as much as a steak dinner? Of course, theatre owners have tried to be slick and invented steak flavored popcorn, but I have never seen a box of Jiffy Pop with a cow's picture on it, so I'm not fooled for one minute. I like my steak on the hoof. Next thing you know they will have a Cabernet Sauvignon flavored soda. How much do they expect us to take?

Question: If movies are, as described,

forms of escapism to free our minds of worry and fear, then why are the biggest grossing ones about disasters or tragedies? In my experience, I have found that valiums and violins are calming. Movies about killer bees, tornadoes, serial killers, etc. are not. Taking a stress filled person to the movies is like putting an 80 year old heart patient on a roller-coaster. Smart move? I think not!

In science, we were told that stars were gassy, light reflecting masses. Looking at some of what's coming out of Hollywood these days, I'm inclined to agree. The purpose of the actors is to take an imaginary situation and make it somehow believable—in this way they are likened to politicians. In fact, recent years have seen these two fields blend together more and more.

And then, there is always a straight couple that insists on sitting in front of me no matter what theater I go to. The male of the couple has seen the film twenty times previous, and insists on reciting dialogue and adding his insights loud enough to wake corpses in Poughkeepsie. The female of the couple has a Marge Simpson inspired bouffant hairdo that blocks the screen and possibly freeway traffic as well. Is it any wonder the last three films I saw seemed to be about shouting hair? Being disillusioned with what the major studios were turning out, I decided to try the art-house circuit. This proved to be equally nerve-wrecking as the surrealistic images and strange dialogue made me convinced someone had slipped something into my steak flavored popcorn. In the future, I think I'll just read a good book... And There You Have It!

And There You Have It! is a new bi-weekly feature of the Houston Voice.

Etta May at Laff Stop

She's A Looker All Right!

By DEBORAH BELL

My first introduction to Etta May was through a promo tape sent by her agent. I had the same reaction as many who see her and wonder if she is "for real?" Striking me somewhat as a cross between Roseanne's domestic goddess persona and Jim Varney (Whatcha doin' Vern?), in her polyester pants, print bandanna and pointy glasses. An Arkansas native from the sprawling metropolis of Bald Knob, she may remind you of the lunch lady from your old school, but this veritable steamroller of southern sass is for real.

Catching up with the colorful comedienne was a bit of a chore, trying to conduct an interview between her wash and load cycles and while she folded sheets at the laundromat prior to her next scheduled road trip. She proved that being a big star has not gone to her head. I actually wasn't sure who was interviewing who as we shared discussion about common interests, growing up in the South and our kids. She asked as many questions of me as I did of her and we plan to "do lunch" once she makes it to Houston. We also talked about her being described as being "Gay Friendly." We agreed that the term is somewhat awkward. "Yeah," she agrees. "It's kinda like saying 'Well, you know I don't hate Blacks,' or 'Those Mexicans are OK by me.' What exactly does it mean? Just because I don't bash gays or make them the butt of any jokes?" she asks. Actually she says she is more of a storyteller and her performance is more of a one woman show. "Good humor is about real life and what people can relate to" she explains, saying what she offers is "The world according to Etta May."

Etta May had a role on ABC's short-lived series **Davis Rules** which starred Houston's Randy Quaid and Jonathan Winters. She says Randy is much more handsome in person than one might realize. She describes comedy legend Winters, who she loved working with, as being "two sandwiches shy of a picnic." Her weekly syndicated radio show



Etta May brings her sassy Southern Humor to Houston's Laff Stop

"Ask Etta" is carried by over 200 country radio stations in the US and Canada. Fans of the show ("Etta Heads" she calls them) write in and she gives them straight from the hip, no nonsense guidance as only Etta can.

I told her that Houston comics Kevin Maye and Scott Kennedy, have spoken highly of her and had shared a few of her secrets. She responded by saying, "Well, I only slept with Kevin twice and the train never did jump the tracks, so he must be gay," she joked. She says that "a number of gay men have actually expressed to her that she is the reason they are gay."

Etta got her start as a Bingo caller, explaining that "the ball sucker got stuck and I was forced to adlib to entertain a room full of angry Catholics, crossing over to stand-up comedy was inevitable." A career school bus driver for ten years, Etta May claims she learned how to handle the unruly kids by armor-alling the seats, tapping the brakes and watching them slide off.

The rest of her story is one of much more depth but between her laundry, a doctor's appointment and phone static we had to cut the interview short but I'm hoping to catch up with Etta May during her Sept. 18 through 22 stint at Houston's Laff Stop and share more of her story.



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This & That!

FALL TV PREVIEW



by Jon Anthony

This time last year, the new fall television season seemed like a *Friends* cyclone hit the medium, as the networks whirled their fare upon us. Since there were no breakout hits last fall, we can all rest assure that the new slate of programs, while not terribly original, will be at least somewhat well rounded. The Big Four (ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox) have spared no expense in their attempts to lure you, the viewer, to their respective monikers in an effort to maintain that precious commodity known as ratings which in turn spawns advertising revenue. The trend this year is towards bringing seasoned veterans back to the foray in the hopes that they will continue to spin ratings gold with their presence. **Michael J. Fox, Bill Cosby, Lily Tomlin, Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, Gerald McRaney and Carol Burnett** are just a few of the old pros who will return to the small screen this fall. All in all, 28 new shows will debut within the next few weeks and, at best, only 2 or 3 will survive. Nevertheless, This N' That provides you a day by day schedule in an attempt to make your viewing pleasure more convenient. We provide you with the networks lineup, a brief synopsis of that day's new shows and 'The Forecast', a critics (yours truly) overview of the probable outcome. Premiere dates are in parenthesis.

MONDAY: 7pm to 10pm - ABC's Lineup - *Dangerous Minds* and *Monday Night Football*: *Dangerous Minds* (Sept. 30): Based on the movie of the same name. **Annie Potts** of *Designing Women* fame, stars in the lead role originally portrayed by **Michelle Pfeiffer** in the hit movie. The premise: Potts as a former Marine, now a teacher in an inner city high school.... CBS's Lineup - *Cosby, Ink, Murphy Brown, Cybill, Chicago Hope*: *Cosby* (Sept. 16): **Bill Cosby, Phylicia Rashad and Madeline Kahn** star in *Cosby*. After the ill-fated *Cosby Mysteries* several years ago, the Cos returns to the formula that has garnered him the most success throughout his illustrious career - comedy. In his latest sitcom, the star portrays an avuncular curmudgeon with Rashad and Kahn as his weekly comedic foils. *Ink* (Oct. 21): Veteran producer **Diane English** has been brought on board to retool this **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen** vehicle. The pilot did not test well and the network wants the series to be successful, since they have committed to a full season order of 22 episodes. The premise: A divorced couple working together at a New York newspaper.... NBC's Lineup - *The Jeff Foxworthy Show, Mr. Rhodes, NBC Monday Night Movie*: *Mr. Rhodes* (Sept. 23): The star, **Tom Rhodes**, described his new show as the "Rolling Stones of sitcoms." Well, that remains to be seen. *Rhodes* portrays a teacher at a conservative prep school whose own liberal ideology is decidedly different. *The Jeff Foxworthy Show* (Sept. 23): Different network. Different cast, with the exception of his son. Different show? Not certain. What is certain, however, is that Foxworthy is immensely popular with best-selling records and books as proof. NBC apparently believes that with the right vehicle, timeslot and producers, Foxworthy will be a valuable asset.... Fox's Lineup - *Melrose Place, Party Girl, Lush Life*: *Party Girl* (Sept. 9): **Christine Taylor** (Marcia in the *Brady Bunch* movies) stars in this adaptation of the 1995 feature film about an airhead who works at a library to pay for her party attire. The pilot was scrapped and re-shot to add **Swoozie Kurtz** to the cast.



Cosby

Certainly not Emmy material. *Lush Life* (Sept. 9): Two party girls. More of the same insipid comedy that denigrates women as nitwits.... The Forecast: CBS wins the night hands down. Unless his show is just not funny. *Cosby* should be a ratings hit. Sandwiched between *Cosby* and *Murphy Brown*, *Ink* will survive. *Lily Tomlin* will add new luster to *Murphy Brown* and *Cybill* is in its prime. NBC's lineup will finish second. *Dangerous Minds*, *Mr. Rhodes*, *Party Girl* and *Lush Life* will be history by next year. **Donna Mills** will do a four week stint on *Melrose Place* as the producers try to make the plots more realistic.

TUESDAY: 7pm to 10pm - ABC Lineup - *Roseanne, Life's Work, Home Improvement, Spin City, NYPD Blue*: *Life's Work* (Sept. 17): **Lisa Ann Walters** stars in this sitcom about a mother who becomes an attorney. **Michael O'Keefe** co-stars. *Spin City* (Sept. 17): **Michael J. Fox** returns to television after a string of success and failures at the box-office. Fox re-teams with his *Family Ties* producer, **Gary Goldberg**, in this show about a deputy mayor of New York City. **Barry Bostwick** co-stars as the mayor.... CBS Lineup - *Promise Land, CBS Tuesday Night Movie*: *Promise Land* (Sept. 17): **Gerald McRaney** (*Simon & Simon* and *Major Dad*) returns to the primetime line-up after a brief hiatus. *McRaney* portrays a genial fellow who travels about with his family to help those whose path he crosses. The show was spun off of last season's sleeper hit, *Touched By an Angel*.... NBC Lineup - *Mad About You, Something So Right, Frasier, Caroline in the City, Dateline NBC*: *Something So Right* (Sept. 17): **Mel Harris** (*Thirtysomething*) and **Jere Burns** (*Dear John*) portray newlyweds with a blended family of children. Sound familiar?.... Fox Lineup - *Fox Wednesday Night Movie*.... The Forecast: A toss-up between ABC and NBC. *Home Improvement* is waning, while *Frasier* is in its prime. *Roseanne* is getting tired and she now has stiff competition from NBC's powerhouse *Mad About You*, which has added **Carol Burnett**, **Carroll O'Connor** and **Mel Brooks** to the cast. *Spin City* will be one of the season's biggest hits. It's funny, cleverly written and Fox is adept at comedy. *Caroline in the City* will probably survive but will not perform as well as last season when the show was in a cushy time period sandwiched between *Seinfeld* and *ER*. *Promise Land* will have a hard time finding an audience in this time slot, but I wouldn't write it off. It's a tough call, but I would venture to say NBC will squeak by and lead the pack.



Spin City

WEDNESDAY: 7pm to 10pm - ABC Lineup - *Ellen, Townies, Grace Under Fire, The Drew Carey Show, PrimeTime Live*: *Townies*: **Molly Ringwald** stars in this seasons only *Friends* clone as a waitress in a working class New England town. A no brainer.... CBS Lineup - *The Nanny, Pearl, Almost Perfect, Public Morals, EZ Street*: *Pearl* (Sept. 16): **Rhea Perlman** stars as *Pearl*, a middle-aged woman who goes to college and has to deal with a grumpy old professor. The show airs Mondays while *Ink* is being revamped and begins its Wednesday run on Oct. 14. *Public Morals* (Oct. 14): **Steven Bocho's** controversial foray into sitcomville. Already the pilot was reshot due to linguistic content. The jokes border on the inane. This is not a show for the politically correct set. 'nough

said. *EZ Street* (Oct. 14): **Ken Olin** (*Thirtysomething*) as an undercover cop who battles corruption. Trend setting? No. Entertaining? Yes.... NBC Lineup - *Wings, The John Larroquette Show, NewsRadio, Men Behaving Badly, Law & Order*: *Men Behaving Badly* (Sept. 18): Another stereotypical sitcom about the 'men are pigs' syndrome. **Ron Eldard** (*ER*) and **Rob Schneider** (*SNL*) co-star.... Fox Lineup: *Beverly Hills 90210, Party of Five*. The Forecast: A three way toss-up with NBC again the probable winner. *Ellen* never materialized to be the smash hit ABC had hoped for and is not a good anchor for the night. *Grace* has seen its ratings decline due to the depressing subject matter that is a constant on the show. CBS' *The Nanny* is a cult fave and *Pearl* is one of the funnier new shows of the season. *Public Morals* will be the first of this lot to receive a pink slip. It's just not funny. *Wings* is aging and *Larroquette* is the worst sitcom on television from a critical standpoint. *NewsRadio* on the other hand is crisp, uproarious and well written. Audiences followed it to Sunday and will probably follow it to Wednesday. *Law and Order* has always been a ratings performer because its consistent, yet fresh and exciting.

THURSDAY: 7pm to 10pm - ABC Lineup - *High Incident, Murder One, Turning Point*: All returning series.... CBS Lineup - *Diagnosis Murder, Moloney, 48 Hours*: *Moloney* (Sept. 19): Veteran television star and miniseries king, **Peter Strauss** stars in this drama as a police psychiatrist.... NBC Lineup - *Friends, The Single Guy, Seinfeld, Suddenly Susan, ER*: *Suddenly Susan* (Sept. 19): **Brooke Shields** so impressed the NBC brass when she guested on *Friends* last season that they developed a comedy series just for her. *Shields* stars as a magazine writer in this ensemble sitcom. The pilot was scrapped and reshot and the buzz is that while *Shields* is truly funny, the scripts have not been up to par. **Judd Nelson** co-stars as the magazine's editor.... Fox Lineup - *Martin, Living Single, New York Undercover*: All returning series.... The Forecast: No contest. NBC's 'Must See TV' lineup has dominated the top ten for years and there is no compelling reason to believe it won't be duplicated this year. *Suddenly Susan* will be the career reviving boost *Shields* has sought.



FRIDAY: 7pm to 10pm - ABC Lineup - *Family Matters, Sabrina, Clueless, Boy Meets World, 20/20*: *Sabrina* (Sept. 27): **Melissa Joan Hart** stars as the comic book teenage witch. *Clueless* (Sept. 27): **Rachel Blanchard** portrays *Cher*, a rich and generous Beverly Hills teen, originally portrayed by **Alicia Silverstone** in the big screen version.... CBS Lineup - *Dave's World, Everybody Loves Raymond, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Nash Bridges*: *Everybody Loves Raymond* (Sept. 13): A truly funny family sitcom thanks to the brilliance of comedian **Ray Romano**. Unfortunately, this gem of a show is in an inappropriate time-slot. CBS would be wise to find a better home for this winner. *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* (Sept. 20): A cross between *Moonlighting* and *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*. **Scott Bakula** returns to television in this insipid show. The premise: The Smiths, not really married, are spies who flirt and fight, for what purpose no one really knows. Why bother?.... NBC Lineup - *Unsolved Mysteries, Dateline NBC, Homicide - Life on the Street*:

All returning series.... Fox Lineup: *Sliders, Millennium*: *Millennium* (Oct. 25): From the producers of *The X-Files* comes this serial-killer thriller. The show promises to be one of the most lauded of the new season and probably the most controversial. **Lance Henriksen** stars as the hero, **Frank Black**, an ex cop.... The Forecast: ABC will win the night because of their TGIF lineup. With the addition of *Sabrina* and *Clueless*, ABC will win the night hands down. Fox's *Millennium* is gritty, yet mesmerizing, and will fast become a cult classic. *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* will disappear fast because it's boring and jejune. If you want compelling drama, watch NBC's *Homicide*, its riveting television at its best.

SATURDAY: 7pm to 10pm - ABC Lineup - *Second Noah, Coach, Common Law, Relativity*: *Common Law* (Sept. 28): Stand up comic **Greg Giraldo** stars as an Hispanic attorney who copes with life and dating a co-worker. How original!? *Relativity*: An hourlong romantic comedy/drama about a Los Angeles couple who fall in love and deal with their relationship. How exciting!.... CBS Lineup - *Dr. Quinn-Medicine Woman, Early Edition, Walker, Texas Ranger*: *Early Edition* (Sept. 28): One of the more interesting premises this season. A guy (**Kyle Chandler**) mysteriously receives tomorrow's newspaper today and uses the information to try and avert disaster for those in peril.... NBC Lineup - *Dark Skies, The Pretender, The Profiler*: All new. All sci-fi. All geared towards the male audience. *Dark Skies*: The show is about two young men in the '60s searching for paranormal affirmations. *The Pretender*: **Michael T. Weiss** stars as a man being stalked by the organization that raised him because he is a genius who can legitimately disguise himself as a pro of any profession. *The Profiler*: The female *Quincy*. **Aly Walker** plays a tough forensic psychologist who meddles with the more dangerous elements of society.... Fox Lineup - *Cops, Married with Children, Love and Marriage*: *Love and Marriage*: A comedy about a couple who have conflicting schedules, incessantly worry about economics and neglecting their children. Gee, that sounds real funny.... The Forecast: CBS wins the night with its Saturday staples *Dr. Quinn* and *Walker*. NBC's male skewed shows will place second and ABC will finish third or fourth. *Coach* is tired and on its own without a solid lead-in, it will not survive.

SUNDAY: 6pm to 10pm - ABC Lineup - *America's Funniest Home Videos, Lois & Clark, Movie*.... CBS Lineup: *60 Minutes, Touched by an Angel, Movie*.... NBC Lineup: *Dateline NBC, 3rd Rock From the Sun, Boston Common, Movie*.... Fox Lineup: *Big Deal/Fire Co. 132* (formerly *LA Firefighters*), *The Simpsons, Ned & Stacey, The X-Files*.... The Forecast: All returning shows. More people watch television on Sunday, than on any other day of the week, so the networks try to bring out their big guns on Sunday. The race to watch is the contest between *Lois & Clark*, *3rd Rock/Boston Common* and *Touched by an Angel*. It'll be close, but whoever wins can help their network carry the evening.

By this time next year, there will be a slate of new shows and we will have forgotten most of the ones premiering this month. This is definitely a festive time for Couch Potato's everywhere. This season's surefire hits will be *Cosby*, *Spin City* and *Suddenly Susan*. Sleepers include *Pearl*, *Men Behaving Badly* and *Early Edition*. As for the rest, it doesn't look promising and the odds are against them. At any rate, check them out and decide for yourself.

Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Board Volunteers Needed

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston (AHCH) is seeking interested persons who would be willing to serve on the 1996-97 board member advisory council. Participants are appointed after self nomination; must be at least 18 years old; and willing to meet once every other month for board business meetings and occasional fundraising events. People living with HIV/AIDS and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Nominations will be accepted at the next AHCH meeting to be held Saturday, Sept. 14, 1996 @ 3pm at 117 Tuam (corner Helena). For info call 521-1613.

Sing!! Sing!! Sing!!

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston (GMCH) wants you to try out a few new bars—musical bars, that is. GMCH begins its weekly Thursday night rehearsals for the 1996-97 season Sept. 19 from 7-10pm at Grace Lutheran Church (corner of Missouri & Waugh).

Potential new members can meet the chorus during a get-acquainted social at Crossroads Market (corner of Westheimer & Waugh) on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 7:30-9:30pm. For info call 521-SING.

Gay Penpals

I.G.P.'s (International Gay Penpals) 1997 newsletter will list more than 750 gay men from more than 50 countries. Any man interested in being listed should contact I.G.P. now for information. Among the countries to be included are USA, Great Britain, France, Ghana, Japan and many others.

Half rates are offered to men with HIV and AIDS. A barter system is available to those who cannot afford the fee. For more info send a stamped/self-addressed envelope to: I.G.P., Ste 320, Box 7304, N. Hollywood, CA 91603.

Soiree Raffle Ends

Soiree Aubergine, raising funds for the Bering Care Center, concluded its raffle last Sunday night at Gentry. Three sets of two tickets for the Elton John Smash Hits Tennis Match at the Summit on Sept. 12 were awarded to three lucky ticket holders. Ed Moniger and Ken Richardson were two of the winners with Lisa & Marlene of Chances winning the grand prize of two tickets, a tennis racquet and tennis balls. Congratulations to all of the winners and thanks to all of you who purchased tickets.

Before the drawing on Sunday, Sept. 8, Sean Carter, Renee Monroe, and Steve Simpson hosted the "Tennis Anyone" Show which totaled with the prior raffle ticket sales netted \$783 for Soiree Aubergine. For info on Soiree, call 524-9304.

Musicians Wanted

The Houston Concert Band is currently accepting new members for the 1996-97 season. Trumpet players are especially needed. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays from 7:30-9:30pm at Rice University. Adult and college musicians with band experience and the desire to rehearse and perform concert band music may call 527-6018 for info and directions to the rehearsal facility.

Women's Center

The Bay Area Women's Center (BAWC) will conduct Fall volunteer sessions on Sept. 14, 17, and 19 at 5307 Decker Dr. in Baytown. The basic training is required of volunteers but is also open to the public, free of charge, as a community education service.

BAWC was founded in 1981 to assist survivors of family violence and sexual assault. Services include emergency shelter, individual and group counseling, 24-hour crisis line and a thrift store. Call 424-3300 to reserve a seat.

ADD ???

Are you impulsive, easily distracted, quick to anger, underachieving, restless or inattentive? Adult Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) may in some way effect up to 20% of the adult population.

The West Houston Adult ADD Support Group meets at the Memorial Dr. United Methodist Church, 12955 Memorial Drive in Rooms D217 and D218. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 16 from 7-9pm. Speaker James Allen, LPC, will speak on "Skills every ADD adult needs to live in a non ADD world." For info call 870-0191.

Group Theatre

The Group (Theatre Workshop) invites Gay and Lesbian artists to submit their work for the upcoming performances of *Boys In A Bed On A Cold Winter's Night* and *Dos Lesbos*, respectively.

Both will be performed at the Lovett Inn in an unusual and intimate setting where the audience will feel as if they are *inside* the performance. Works of art will be offered to showcase before, during and after the performance. For info call Joe Watts at 522-2204.

Jungle of Cities

The Alley Theatre will kick off their 50th Anniversary on Sept. 13 with the production of *In the Jungle of Cities, The Fight Between Two Men in the Gigantic City of Chicago* by Bertolt Brecht. Featured performers are Raymond Chandler and Quentin Tarentino.

For groups of 10 or more you can receive discounts of as much as 54% off the full box office price. Group rates start as low as \$13 each! For info call 228-9341, ext. 350.

Exhibition Of Terry Shaw's Collection

Hyde Park Gallery announces a special cocktail opening for the Exhibition of Terry Shaw's Collection on Friday, Sept. 13 from 7-10pm. The Gallery is located at 711 Hyde Park and is open from 12-6pm Sunday, Monday, and Thursday. On Friday & Saturday hours are from 12-9pm. For info call 526-2744.

Celebracion De Las Americas

Coronando la novena de las series anuales Hispanicas de BellasArtes con una celebracion de las Americas. Renombrada autora. Graciela Limon y el sensacional grupo musical Sud-Americano. Los Del Sur. Daran vida a la gloria perdida de viejas civilizaciones con sus tributos a los Aztecas y los Incas. El domingo Septiembre 15, de 3 a 5pm en al auditorio Brown del Museo de Bellas Artes, 1001 Bissonnet y Main. Admision general \$4, \$3 para miembros del museo, ancianos y estudiantes. Para mas Informacion llama 743-2841.



"Sunflowers in a Blue Vase" is one of the paintings that will be on exhibit at the Hyde Park Gallery showing of the works of Terry Shaw

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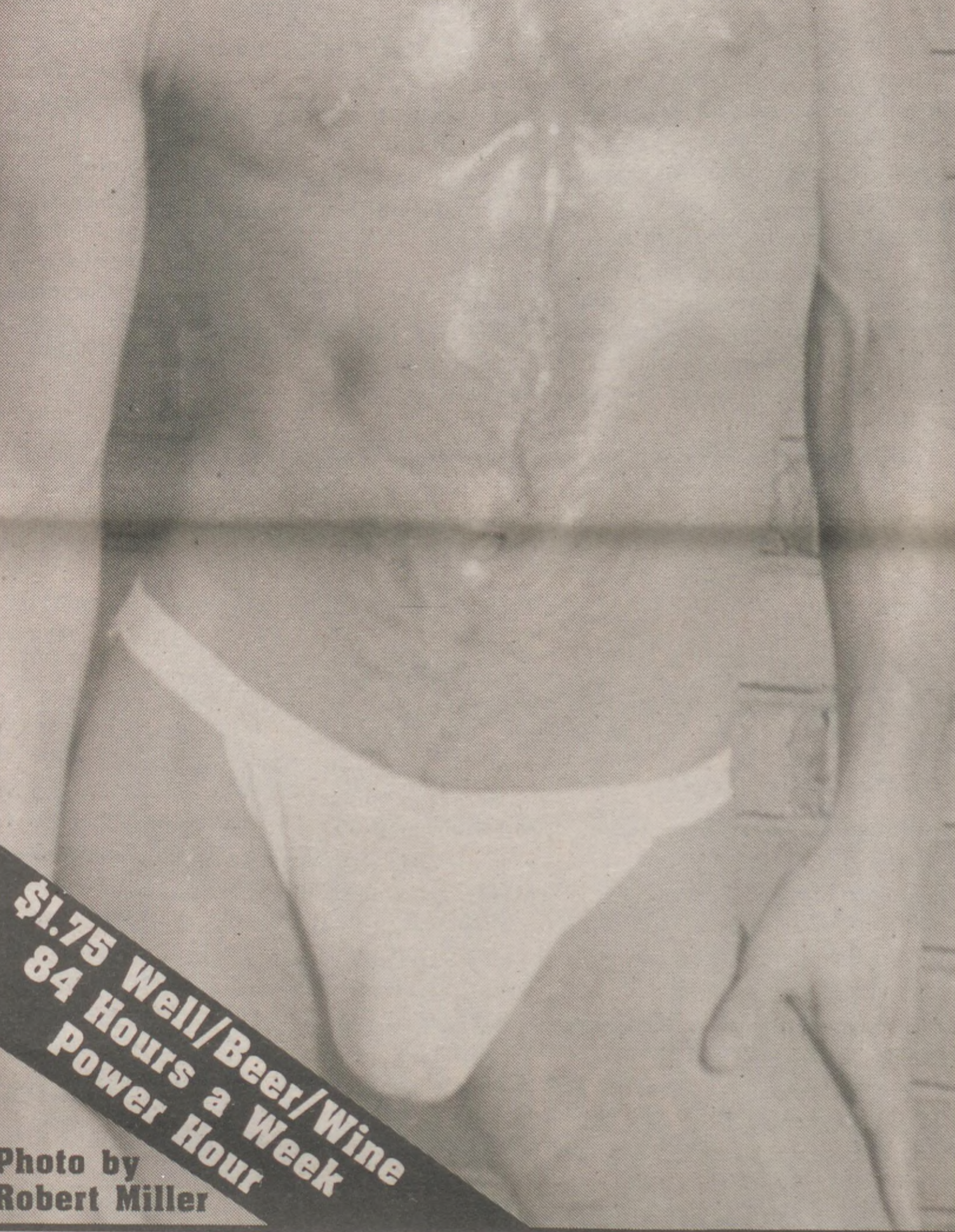
Super Weekend Shows Schedules
Showtime 11.00 pm

| Friday, September 13th | Saturday, September 14th | Sunday, September 15th |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Miss Zack Naomi Warwick Jessica Van Shelton Kara Dion | Miss Zack Paivi Lee Love Leah Halston Sivi Ross | Miss Zack Diane Jackson Victoria Nicole Ashlee Houston |
| Friday, September 20th | Saturday, September 21st | Sunday, September 22nd |
| Miss Zack Paivi Lee Love Nikki Collins Sivi Ross | Miss Zack Kara Dion Ashlee Houston Black Velvett | Miss Zack Kara Dion Victoria Nicole Leah Halston |

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BBQ by Don Woods • HAIRCUTS by Don Gill
Help send Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer, Don Woods, off to
San Francisco for the International Mr. Drummer Contest

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 8:00pm
"A BEAR CONTEST"
Hosted by Miss Montrose, Cherry Maraschino
5:00pm till ?? Guest Bartenders on the
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Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, Sept. 13

- * 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.
- * Art Classes at AIDS Foundation Houston at 1:00 pm. 526-1118.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 527-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.
- * Tai-Chi and Pa-Kua classes at Borders Books. 6:30 pm. 782-6066.

Saturday, Sept. 14

- * 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.
- * 11th Annual Cat Springs Antique Show. 409/865-5618.

Sunday, Sept. 15

- * 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.
- * 11th Annual Cat Springs Antique Show. 409/865-5618.
- * Houston Area Bears' monthly meeting at the BRB at 4:00 pm. 867-9123.

Monday, Sept. 16

- * 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.
- * AIDS Foundation Houston's

Creative Writing Class meets at 3:00 pm. 623-6796.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

- * 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 Center. 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.

Wednesday, Sept. 18

- * 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 Toopees. 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 at 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.
- * Tai-Chi and Pa-Kua classes at Borders Books. 6:30 pm. 782-6066.
- * Houston Council of Clubs' monthly meeting at the BRB. 7:30 pm.
- * BiNet of Houston meets for dinner at the Pot Pie at 7:30 pm. 467-4380.

Thursday, Sept. 19

- * Free HIV testing and counseling

- by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N. 4:00pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Art Labs at The Art League. 1:00 pm. 225-9411
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 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 at 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.
- * Tai-Chi and Pa-Kua classes at Borders Books. 6:30 pm. 782-6066.
- * Houston Area NOW meeting at 7:00 pm 3217 Montrose.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.

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- ▶ Trust your instincts. Only you know whether or when to fight back.
- ▶ If you are attacked, respond quickly (in the first 30 seconds): Yell, blow a whistle, fight - kick knees, gouge eyes, stomp on feet, knee groin - RUN!
- ▶ Call the police as soon as possible.
- ▶ If you hear a call for help or witness violence, yell out at the attacker, call police - gather other people and rush to the scene - not to intervene, but to scare off the attacker(s).

Consider becoming part of the Q-PA-TROL - Call 528-SAFE (7233)

GLAAD

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

lines

Dragging Out The Class of 1986

On August 31, an NBC special entitled The Class of 1986 featured a drag queen and several frank discussions about homophobia. The program, created by the producers of MTV's The Real World, followed a group of heterosexual twentysomethings for four days leading up to their 10-year high school reunion in Portland, Oregon. During one conversation in which a group of "soc" (the popular crowd from high school) decide where to go out, a debate ensues over whether or not to go to a gay dance club. While the majority want to go, Joe, an ex-football player, vehemently protests, saying he refuses to go to a "fagot" bar. The rest of the group questions his homophobia and his ignorance. Later on, the group readdresses the issue, and Joe is more explicitly labeled a bigot for his small-minded views. Finally, during the reunion itself, a person named Kevin comes back to his alma mater as his drag performance personae, Poison Waters, and entertains his now-supportive former classmates.

Please let NBC know that the inclusion of the discussions about homophobia was valuable and well-presented. Additionally, the non-sensational coverage of Poison and his appearance at the reunion added a positive transgender dimension to the program. While it was disappointing that none of the fifteen or so individuals mainly featured for the show were openly lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, The Class of 1986 showed that drag queens, homophobia and gay-supportive straight people are all part of the mosaic of the real world. Contact: Jonathan Miller, Programming Vice President, NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112-0002, fax: 212.664.7234, e-mail: entertainment@nbc.com.

Mr. Jenkins' Speech Slurred: Outs Waitress

In a Tanqueray advertisement that has appeared in several magazines recently, including Rolling Stone and Vanity Fair, the normally queer-supportive Mr. Jenkins makes a bad judgment call in outing his waitress as a transsexual. The ad reads, "Mr. Jenkins informs the brunch crowd that his zesty 'Tanqueray Red Snapper' was the original 'Bloody Mary.' And that the waitress was originally a man."

While seeming fairly innocuous, this advertisement has several disturbing undertones. Whether intentional or otherwise, the transsexual waitress is used as the punch line to Mr. Jenkins' joke, made out to be outrageous, shocking and funny both in tone and in the visual context of the ad, where one woman sits in mouth-agape amusement. Additionally, saying that a transsexual was "originally a man" is similar to saying that a gay person was originally straight. While transsexuals may originally have male or female genitalia, gender is far more complex than biology alone. To reduce their identity to the biological make-up of their birth is to demean their sense of self. As with gay people, straight people, or anyone else, transsexuals are who they are, and have always been transsexual, whether or not they previously identified as such.

Tanqueray and their ad agency for the Mr. Jenkins campaign, Deutsch, have always been gay-positive, and Tanqueray has given a great deal of support and sponsorship to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community through events like the AIDS Ride. Please help Mr. Jenkins become educated and more sensitive about transgender issues. Contact: Mr. Jenkins, c/o Margaret Hekker-Conway, Media Supervisor, Deutsch Inc., 215 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003.

A Beacon of Truth For Gay Children

The August 20 Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal ran a sensitive and thought-provoking story entitled "Living With an Unsettling Secret," about the struggle that young children face when they begin to realize that they are gay. Through interviews with Mary Ann Cantwell, author of the book Homosexuality: The Secret a Child Dare Not Tell, as well as parents of gay children and gay men, Beacon Journal staff writer Thrity Umrigar explores the ways that pre-adolescent children often feel that they should hide their homosexuality even before they know how

to identify themselves as lesbian or gay. As Mike Mahern, a gay man, puts it, "I knew in a vague way (that I was different) when I was 5 or 6, but at the same time I knew the need for circumcision."

Umrigar also explains that it is important for parents to talk about lesbian and gay issues when a child is young. Confiding in a parent can make a child feel more comfortable when trying to articulate sexual identity in early adolescence. Additionally, according to psychologist Karen Cimini, "simply expose your child to a multitude of role models, both gay and straight." Finally, several of the people interviewed encouraged parents to overcome their own homophobia so if they do have a gay child, they will be able to talk about the subject with sensitivity and openness. As Cantwell says at the end of the article: "How much richer we'd all be if these children could grow up knowing they are fine the way they are."

Please commend the Akron Beacon Journal for a well-prepared and thoughtful discussion on an issue frequently not discussed by parents, much less the mainstream media. Contact: Letters to the Editor, Akron Beacon Journal, P.O. Box 640, Akron, OH 44309-0640, fax: 216.376.9235, e-mail: beaconjrnl@aol.com.

PlanetOut Lands On The Site

On Sept. 4, Denise Caruso of MSNBC's news program on interactive media, The Site, welcomed Karen Wickre and Tom Rielly, Executive Producer and President, respectively, of PlanetOut and co-founders of Digital Queers. PlanetOut recently launched on the World Wide Web and America Online.

On The Site, Wickre and Rielly spoke of how they came to form Digital Queers to offer technology support and resources to the gay and lesbian community and how PlanetOut seemed to be the next logical step towards reaching out to the community. Rielly explained that the Internet has become a central means of connecting to the community for gay men and lesbians, especially those in isolated areas, adding that the anonymity of cyberspace allows those struggling with their sexual orientation a place to gain support.

Please thank The Site for recognizing the important work of Digital Queers and for citing queer technology pioneers Karen Wickre and Tom Rielly as two of the most fascinating contributors to the Internet. Contact: Denise Caruso, The Site, 535 York Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, fax: 415.437.5881, e-mail: zdtvhhome@zd.com, World Wide Web: www.thesite.com.

Working Woman Comes Out

The July/August Working Woman featured a story about lesbians coming out in corporate America, examining the various reasons why more management-level lesbians are coming out now than ever before and why some still feel they must stay in the closet. Citing domestic partnership benefits, increased understanding and sensitivity in the corporate culture and anti-discrimination policies, the article profiles a number of powerful women who are out of the closet and climbing the corporate ladder. In addition to all of the structural changes in corporate America, the article notes, younger lesbians are less willing to live a lie once they graduate from college, and their presence in the ranks is being felt. However, author Kara Swisher notes, "the process remains a risky career move. ...A lesbian faces a double bind. She differs in not one but two important ways from straight male executives, who still tend to surround themselves with similar colleagues at the very top of the ladder."

Let Working Woman know that their recognition of the struggles and victories of management-level lesbians was pertinent and well-researched. Contact: Lynn Povich, Editor-in-Chief, Working Woman, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169.

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. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334) Visit GLAAD's Web Site at <http://www.glaad.org>

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Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Important Stuff

Basic Brothers is having an underwear sale!

The annual Dog Show at Mary's was a howling success.

Local gals Tara & Kara Dion and Jessica Blair had dinner with rock star Sting!

Mark Your Calendars!

9/13

Hard Luck party at Pacific Street at 9:00 pm.
Male Strip Contest at E/J's at 11:00 pm.
Sheila Lennon performs at the Ranch.
All-American happy hour at J.R.'s.
Black Jack at the BriarPatch.
Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

9/14

Rascals' grand opening party at 6:30 pm.
Xavier Luna, candidate for Mr. TGRA '97 performs at Bacchus II.
8-Ball tournament at the Lazy J at noon.
Miss Camp America Pageant. Call 227-ARTS
Drag show at E/J's at 11:00 pm.
Fundraiser for Don Woods at the Venture-N at 9:00 pm.
Car Wash at Chances at 10:00 am.

9/15

RSICSS Benefit at E/J's at 8:00 pm.
Amateur Talent contest at PastTime at 5:00 pm.
Celebrity Impressionists perform at Rascals at 9:00 pm.
Star Search '96 (benefit for the Colt 45's) by Robert Harwood at the BRB at 8:00 pm.
"Swinging Doors" (benefit for Soiree Aubergine) at Gentry at 9:00 pm.; male strip contest at 11:00 pm.
"Friends" (benefits AFH Stone Soup) by Ken (Daddy of Montrose) Claude at Mary's at 4:30 pm.
Fundraiser for Yolanda (Miss Gay Texas 96/97) at Rich's at 9:00 pm.
Bear contest at the Venture-N at 8:00 pm.
Cook-out and Houston Area Bears guest bartend at 5:00 pm.



Thumper and a big bag of dog food donated by Vetmart at the Mary's dog show



10 years together

Beer bust and trash disco at the Montrose Mining Company. 4:00 pm.

Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.
Chocolate Covered Cherries Band at Chances at 6:00 pm.

Drag show at the Lazy J at 11:00 pm.
Pool side buffet 1-3 pm at Club Houston.

9/16

Boxer night with Sean and Mike at Gentry.
Clint tickles the ivories at the BriarPatch.
Male strip contest at E/J's at 11:00 pm.
Half-price night at Club Houston
Boxer short night at the Ripcord.

9/17

Trash Country and Dumpster Disco at the BRB.
Pizza Party at Gentry at 7:00 pm.
Amateur talent contest at E/J's at 11:00 pm.
\$2 Cuervo at Mary's.
Twisted Video night at the Ripcord.

9/18

Burgers at the BRB at 6:00 pm, dance lessons at 9:00 pm.
Male Strip contest at Gentry at 11:00 pm.
Ladies' night out at Bacchus II.
Sheila Lennon performs at Chances.
Wayne plays the songs you want to hear at the BriarPatch.

9/19

Burger night at the 611' Hyde Park Pub.
South of the Border night at E/J's at 11:00 pm.
Nancy Ford at Ms. B's at 9:00 pm.; open mike at 11:00 pm.
Ladies night at BerryHill II.

Coming Up!

9/20 Camp Drag show at Chances.
9/21 Shelby St. John performs at Bacchus II.
9/21 RSICSS Car Wash at Gentry from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.
9/22 Miss Kitty Litter contest (benefit for Pet Patrol) at E/J's.
9/?? Fog rolls into the Club Houston!

Birthdays!

Happy birthdays to Mike P. (BRB), Buffy Bob, Billie Duncan, Bud May, and Ray (Houston Voice).

Rodent Droppings

The little critters have been getting lots of baths lately with flea season in full bloom. But, after my diligence, the fleas have flown!
My disclaimer is in force.

Shawna St. John: What is this I overheard about you climbing a mountain high?

Shelby St. John (Miss TGRA): Slim Fast, Lean Cuisine, Weight Watchers, Quick Weight Loss. I have all their numbers if you need them! And why did you get home at 8:30 am Sunday morning? Don't the bars close at 2:00 am?

Nicole Blake: I understand that you were bright eyed and bushy tailed (or was that your wig) Saturday morning while getting your tickets to see Reba? Can we say addicted?

Jessica Blair: I have heard that there was a mystery man who gave you a ride home from the Sting concert. And in drag! You go girl!

Rodent Rooter: Hanging out in the gutter again?

Lynn (Charlie's): Why have you been seen "sniffing" all over Montrose? Wife out of town?

Marlene (Chances): Yes, I can make it from my office to your bar in 3.5 seconds when a Cuervo is waiting!

Steve (Chances): Why has Kody (Chances) been poking you in the ear?

Paul (Venture-N): What! There not enough trash on Main Street, so you had to go to Chances to find more?

Mike G. (NLA:H): Why were you buying all that rhinestone jewelry?

Houston Area Bears: Just how many jello shots can you sneak on a plane?

Babe (Charlie's): So, how much did they bribe you to go back to work at Charlie's?

Kody (Chances): Is it true you are still looking for Mr. Right? Or is it another Mr. Right Now?

Chris B. (Venture-N): Your mad dash from a den of iniquity to your car Saturday afternoon wasn't quite quick enough, dear. Or was it from underneath a rock?

Tommy Sue (BRB): Why are people calling you the retired Charlie's Angel who was always too ugly to be broadcast on national TV?

Darlene (Outpost): Paula told Vera you needed kissing lessons! And I quote: "Ya'll have testicles, I have pussiticles!"

Molly (BRB): I hear you were caught break dancing on the patio last week and no one came to help you up!

Darla K.: If you go 3 sizes too small, what size do you get?

Vera (BRB): Why do you have scratches on the back of your neck? Can't control yourself?

Kurt (Rascals): Really, must you take the repairman to the rest room?

David (BRB): Hear you have a sore neck. It is not from the wreck you had, it is from the wreck you live with!

Doug (Rascals): Bitter is not in your vocabulary.

Kale (Gentry): Honey, we know you are the new meat in town, but really, I hear you have



Laura Lee Love at the family reunion

quite a trick card collection already!
Aaron (Rascals): Why the chaps all night? Runners in your fishnets?

Ricky (hangs at the BRB): Why do you set up only a part of the bar on Vera's shift? Are you afraid Vera can't remember that many drinks at one time?

Christopher Graham: If you would stand still long enough, your secret admirer might surface!

Jeremy (Gentry): Fall in love at Steam?
Don Dowden: And I quote: "I'm the best schnauzer here!"

Overheard at the Dog show at Mary's: "You can eat a bite now, but I'll have to check your stool in the morning before you can have more!"

Crystal Rae Lee Love: New bracelets?
Jim (Ripcord): Why was your tongue hanging at the Dog Show? Harry Dog?

Ova Ewe: I saw you letting dogs lick your snatch!

Cindy (Rascals): Boots in the living room? Details!

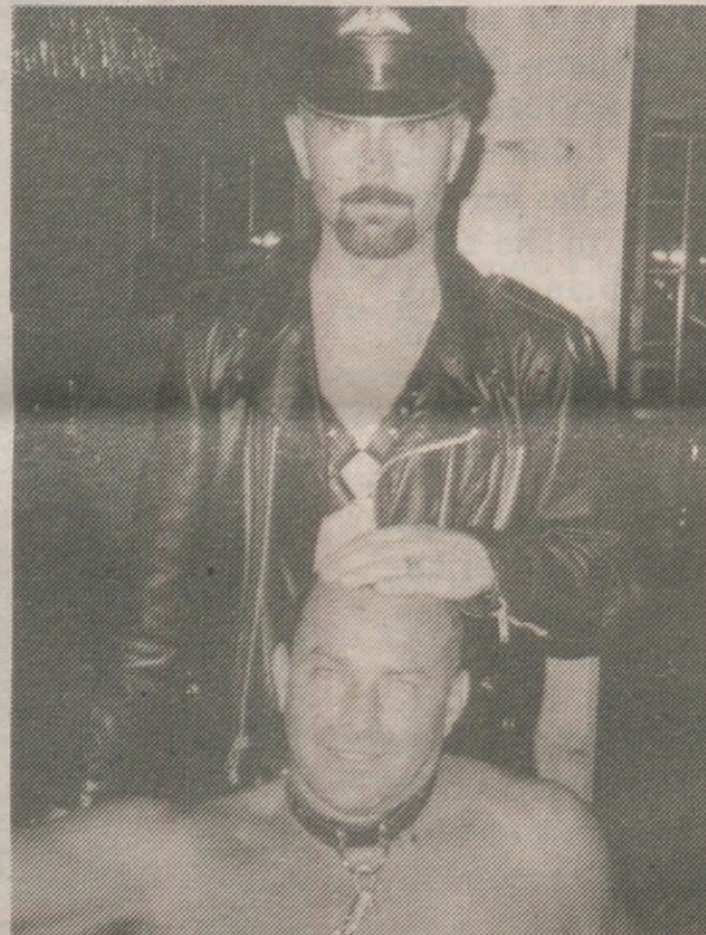
Jeanette and Dot (RSICSS): Thank you for the cute mini-bottle of Jose Cuervo!
Have a great week!

Cuervolyn

Fashion Sheriff

It is with great remorse that I end this column. As I have stated previously, this column was never meant to single out or hurt anyone. It was designed to arouse curiosity and to try and bring out those who might not otherwise come out to see what is going on in the community. Obviously, I was mistaken about our community's sense of self worth. Instead of being taken for what it was intended, it caused groups of people who do very fine work for many very worthwhile causes to start questioning each other and finger pointing. I also regret that I thought this column was a good idea. I was sadly mistaken. It was my intent, like my alter ego Mr. Blackwell, to bring out a best and worst dressed list and give out awards for those chosen. I personally will continue to support any worthwhile cause and encourage others to do so as well. Regretfully, I hang up my badge. This could have been not only fun, but rewarding to everyone involved. I will however, still be putting my talents and resources towards many other worthwhile endeavors. As always, look well, dress well, and be well.

Mr. Illwell



Aaron & Aussie of Rascals



David and Roxanne Lee Love at E/J's



Kara, Sting, Jessica, and Tara

SPORTS NOTES



New MSL Officers

New Officers

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) elected 1996-97 officers at their Annual Fall Meeting Sunday, Sept. 8. Pictured are Stephen Haddock, Commissioner; Richard Gay, Asst. Commissioner; Lenise Peterman, Secretary; Jackie Gilbert, Competition Coordinator; Gary Gano, Public Relations Coordinator; Bruce Metsker, Fundraising & Sponsorship; and Vincent

Sanchez, Treasurer.

Fun Fall League starts play on Sunday, Sept. 15 at Tim Hearn Field. There is never any softball experience needed to play in the MSL. All are welcome! For info please call 867-3913.

Additionally, the Houston Women's Softball League Fall season is also beginning Sept. 15. Double headers will be played each Sunday for 5 weeks. The cost is \$10.

For further information please call 721-6854.

Fall Bowling

The Fall Bowling League begins this week. For info about the Inner Loop (Sunday at 7pm), Montrose Monday Night Men (Monday at 9pm), or Wednesday Night Mixers (Wednesday at 6:30pm) call Tom at 522-9612. For info about Monday Night Women's League (Monday at 6:15pm) call Pat at 437-6218.

Trash Disco Skating

Skate to your favorite Disco hits with Lambda Rollerskating Club on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is \$5 with an additional \$1.25 for skate rental. Skating starts at 8 and ends at 10pm. All ages are welcome. The first 50 skaters will receive a free disco whistle!

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please call 787-0625, or dial up gayskate1@aol.com.

Downtown Bike Ride

The Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club invites all to their Downtown Bike Ride on Saturday, Sept. 14 beginning at 9am. All cyclists will meet at Heaven, 812 Pacific Street to begin their 15 mile ride through downtown Houston. On Friday, Sept. 20, club members and interested potential members should meet at Ninfa's on Navigation at 7pm for an evening of fun and food! For more info call 863-1860.

Outdoor Group

The Houston Outdoor Group (HOG)

invites all interested persons to join them for Steak Night at the BRB on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 6pm. For \$6, you get a T-bone, tater and salad bar. Then dance off all of those calories while exploring the possibilities as a member of HOG. For info call 864-0082.

IBLH Pool Results

The Independent Billiard League of Houston reports that Week 8 standings are as follows: the top three teams are Si Como No (Pastime), Nellie Times Three (Cousins) and Underdogs (E/J's). The top three players are Bob James (Suicide Squad, Mary's), Carlos Romero (Si Como No, Pastime), and Billy Lea (Yo Mama's, Outpost).

Marathoner Alert!!

The Houston-Tenneco Marathon has changed name, address and phone numbers. Now known as the Methodist Health Care Houston Marathon, the new address is 720 N. Post Oak Rd., Ste 335 and their phone number is 957-3453. It's almost time to start warming up for this usually brisk event.

Sex, Sports, and Rock'n Roll



Football Player, Dr. Kristen Anderson

Football Playing Psychologist To Speak At Lib Meeting

What is your passion? What drives you? What motivates you? Whether you are interested in sex, sports, rock and roll, all three or something else all together, this presentation promises to include something of interest for all women. Sex, sports, and rock 'n roll all have something in common—when performed well, they evoke passion and a feeling of exhilaration and aliveness. We feel powerful. We may even be in awe at our own body—what our body can do and feel. Dr. Anderson will be talking about the importance of feeling the power of our bodies and ways to enhance our appreciation of our own body. In short, Dr. Anderson will be addressing how our physical as well as mental self plays a role in living life to its fullest.

Dr. Anderson is a licensed psychologist in Houston. She teaches psychology at Houston Community College in addition to her private practice. Also, with her life partner who is a physical therapist, Dr. Anderson has recently developed a consultation business called Mind and Body Fitness. Together they focus on mental and physical well-being to assist people in achieving their personal goals, such as improving self-image (inner and outer), enhancing athletic performance, and increasing overall enjoyment of life. As one of her passions, Dr. Anderson has formed the Houston Women's Flag Football League which will debut this fall. She is also an active board member with Team Houston for the Gay Games in Amsterdam.

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ASK THE PASTOR



Q: "In the Bible in the book of Romans, it says that a man should not lie with a man and a woman should not lie with a woman. What does this mean?"

A: Last week we looked at the Scripture in Romans 1:26,27 and saw that it had a reference to the book of Leviticus. Leviticus addressed homosexual behavior as it related to idolatrous practices. Unfortunately, most homosexual acts addressed in the Bible are in a negative context. What we must understand is how that relates to homosexuality as an orientation. Romans 1:26,27 is a part of a long discourse given by Paul. The assumption that Paul is making is that people who do not receive from God the basic revelation of who God is and walk the other way (a God-rejecter), find their minds blinded to the truth. They begin to seek other forms of worship (worshipping the created instead of the Creator --- which is an idolater), and indulge in every form of pleasure in order to achieve satisfaction. In twentieth century thinking, many people believe that people engage in homosexual activity and then wander away from God. This is not true. Homosexuality is not related to being opposed to God at all. What we must come to understand is that people have been created for worship. Each human being has the desire to worship something or someone. The only One who can fill that void in our lives is God. When we seek to fill it with a substitute, we find that we will engage in any and every activity to fill the void in our lives. This is what Paul is talking about. He is not isolating homosexuality as the tale-tell sign of a godless life. There are many variations of sexual activity that enter into the life of a person who is not a God-worshiper. Homosexuality is not a sign of a godless person, nor does it reflect that a person engaging in homosexual activity is a pagan, or idolater. The Scripture addresses a mind-set, a way of life, a mentality that has written God off as non-existent. The behavior of a God-rejecter can take many forms. If we look further into the first chapter of Romans, we find verse 29 to say, "They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice..." The list goes on. It is important for every person who is a homosexual to know that this Scripture is not about YOU! This Scripture is for every godless person --- gay or straight --- who writes God off as having nothing to do with their life. The sexual references are only a small part of this person's activity. You and I know that anyone can engage in homosexual activity, and they do not necessarily have to be a homosexual by orientation. Let us for once denounce what the traditional interpretations have projected onto our community and move on to see the TRUTH! According to 11 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in right living, so that the person of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" Why not learn the truth about YOU in Scripture. It is just as important to know what it says about you as well as what it does not say about you. To do this, we must all become familiar with the Bible!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

Church Calendar of Events

Friday-9/13

* "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

* AIDS Healing Service & Eucharist at Goding Chapel. 1117 Texas. 7:00 pm. 432-0414.

Saturday-9/14

* Services at 7:30 pm at Dignity Church 880-2872

Sunday-9/15

* 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-9/16

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

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

Tuesday-9/17

* 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 Group meets at Community Gospel Church. 7:00 pm 880-9235

* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 pm These groups are open to all people. Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

Wednesday 9/18

* MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149

* Worship Service 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

* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 pm. These groups are open to all people. Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

Thursday-9/19

* Bible Study 7 pm at Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429


* Community Gospel Church worship service 7:30 pm 880-9235

* Bible Study at MCCR. 7:30 pm. 861-9149.

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

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If you are an adult who thinks you are gay, lesbian or bisexual, KOLBE PROJECT's workshop "Coming Out to Yourself" may help you understand your sexual orientation. This free workshop will be held every Wednesday in October from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. To learn more about this workshop and to make a first name only reservation, call co-facilitators Loren Connell or Ralph Lasher at 522-8182.

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Welcome MCCR's New Pastor

Meet Rev. J. Dwayne Johnson

CURT MORRISON

In a classroom 23 years ago, 13 year old Dwayne Johnson became infatuated with another young lad in his class. After incessantly staring at his classmate, the young man asked with a hostile tone to his voice just exactly what was it Johnson was looking at. "Your handsome face," replied Johnson. His classmate's reaction to that statement was one of those lessons in life that linger in your psyche for years because of the impact it makes on you. The lesson being that society was not ready for a man to express open affection for another.

Today, Johnson has come full circle. Beginning this Sunday, he will preside over the congregation at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) for the first time in his capacity as their new pastor. Johnson seemed comfortable sitting in his office during our interview, as though he felt right at home. Asked how he likes it so far after moving here from his last post in Richmond, Virginia he joked that the good food Houston has to offer compensates for the rough weather.

Johnson's calling to the pastoral field came late in life after some serious introspection. Growing up, Johnson became interested in the journalism field because of the way it was portrayed on his favorite television program of the time, Lou Grant. Johnson graduated from the Mid-America Nazarene College in Olathe, KS with a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude. A triple major graduate in Communications, Psychology and English, Johnson received the honor of appearing in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, circa 1980-1982. After stints as a columnist for a local paper and college yearbook Editor, he moved to Seattle to do some soul searching. He asked God to show him spiritual guidance. As a result he dedicated himself to promoting the word of God, albeit hesitantly. "I'm not the pastor type, I'm gay. Do you know what you're doing," he recalls asking God. Having served as the Senior Pastor at MCC in Richmond, Johnson came to Houston because he felt it was "the right thing to do."

Johnson ascertains that spirituality is powerful and simultaneously difficult to describe. He adds however that, as pastor, his mission is to "help people rediscover their relationship with God." Outspoken and benevolent, Johnson doesn't shy away from controversial topics of conversation and he makes clear that he is indeed on a mission. "God has been misrepresented by the radical right and I see a need to clear up those misconceptions," intoned Johnson. Although he asserts that he is not a

counselor or therapist, he cautioned those who have resisted religion as a result of misrepresentation not to "blame God for the mistakes of the church."

On other topics, he is just as candid. Take the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Johnson believes that there are several ways to look at it. First he ponders why we would want to emulate dysfunctional heterosexuals citing statistics that show more than half of their unions end up in divorce. This is not to be taken as a sign that he does not believe in gay unions because he does. "Our relationships are absolutely valid and we should be able to be married," he states. Johnson shared that he is still in a bereavement period over the loss of his partner to AIDS six months ago. He thinks DOMA "is threatening and it's mindset is potentially frightening." While he is frustrated with President Clinton for supporting the legislation, he opines that the president has "genuine intent" where the gay and lesbian community is concerned. "He cares for Gays and Lesbians, but cares for himself more," he surmised.

Johnson contends that education and presentation are the best weapons we have against the radical right. "People's natural personal reaction is anger, but beyond that a common ground needs to be found because heated debate and confrontation are not going to heed results," he implied. "Ongoing communication is essential. As people interact with Gays and Lesbians, they become more comfortable because they see the human element rather than stereotypes. People who know Gays and Lesbians are more tolerant," he said.

In response to arguments perpetuated by religious radicals intoning that homosexuality is a sin of the worst kind, Johnson says absolutely not. "Basically, anytime you interpret scripture, you have to go back to the original languages (Arabic, Hebrew, Greek). Through translations, there have been many mistakes which in turn build up misconceptions of inadequate language. For those who argue that homosexual sex must be immoral or nature would have allowed same-sex couples to procreate, he has this to say: "Procreation happens in more ways than creating another life. Besides giving the birth, you can give life to ideas and art." Perhaps Johnson's philosophy in life can be paraphrased best by reading his favorite scripture Mark 12: 28-31.

His first official sermon at his new home church is this Sunday, Sept. 14 at MCCR Houston, 1919 Decatur (go North on Montrose from Westheimer, turn right on Washington and go to White St., turn right, MCCR is on the SE corner of the intersection of White and Decatur). Services are at 9am and 11am.



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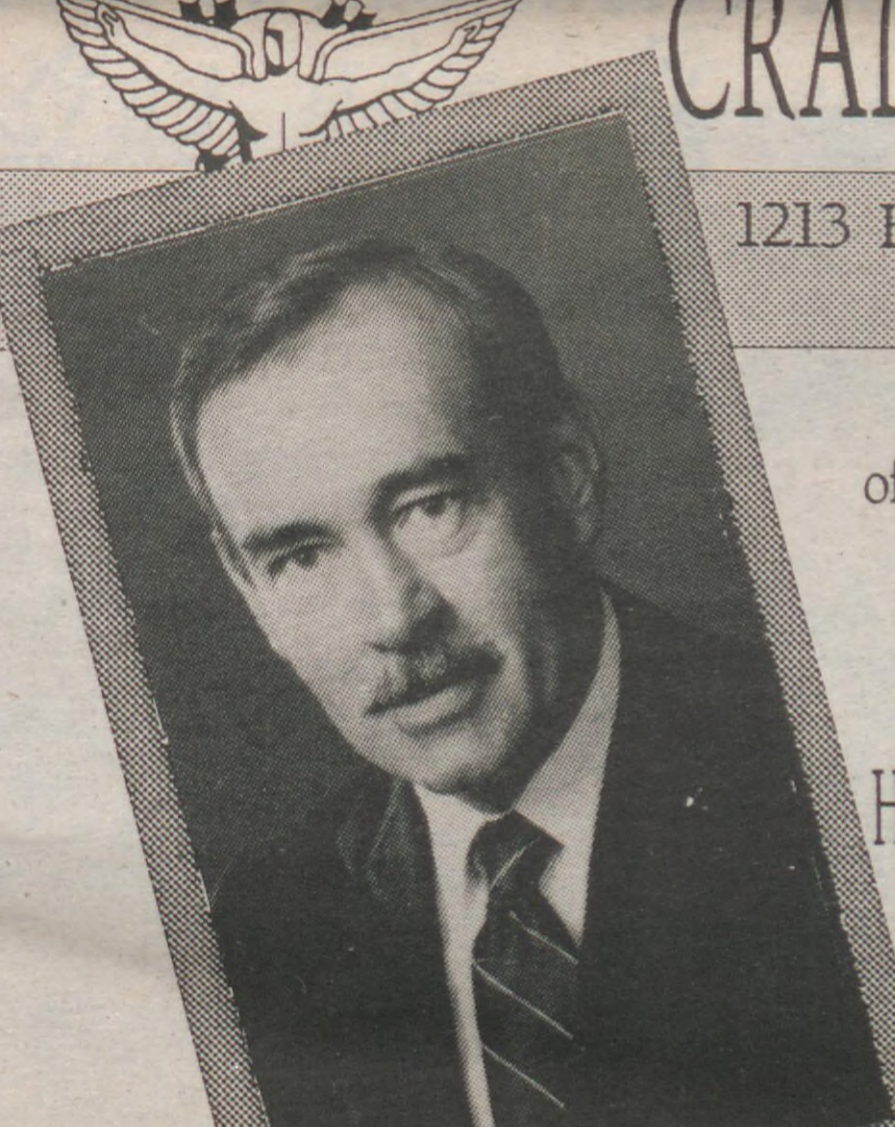
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Dee Mosbacher Luncheon Speaker

Montrose Counseling Center Hosts Workshop

HOUSTON—Dee Mosbacher, MD, Founder and President of Women Vision, will speak on homophobia during a luncheon at Montrose Counseling Center's workshop, "Issues in Providing Services to Gays and Lesbians." The workshop, aimed at professionals but is open to the public, will be held from 8am to 6pm Friday, Sept. 27, at the Renaissance Houston Hotel, 6 Greenway Plaza East. Keynote speaker is David Hawkins, MD, CGP, FAGPA, of Duke University and President-Elect of the American Group Psychotherapy Association, who will address issues of coming out. Closing speaker is Karen Holmes,

PhD., ACSW, LMSW-ACP, Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Houston, who will speak on "Issues in Education." A total of 16 workshops will be offered on subjects ranging from "Chemical Dependency & HIV" to "Clinical, Legal and Ethical Perspectives on Assisted Suicide."

Cost for the workshop, including the luncheon is \$95. Continuing Education Credits are available. Call Montrose Counseling Center, 529-0037, for registration and luncheon ticket information. Montrose Counseling Center is a non-profit, community-based organization which offers innovative and effective programs in the areas of psychotherapy, HIV/AIDS, alcohol/drug abuse treatment and community education.

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Houston Black Tie Dinner Board Members Amanda Barhost (on left) and Shannon Scoville with the Grand Prize

In a new twist to support the twelve 501(c)(3) organizations chosen as beneficiaries by the Board of Directors of this year's Houston Black Tie Dinner the group has chosen a fabulous city wide secondary event: A raffle for a 1997 Ford Mustang GT Convertible. The raffle is sponsored by Central Ford and J.R.'s Bar and Grill. Tickets are priced at one ticket for \$10, three tickets for \$25 and ten tickets for \$50.

The Grand Prize Mustang will be displayed and tickets made available every Sunday between 5pm and 9pm at J.R.'s Bar and Grill between now and the date of the drawing on Sunday, Oct. 27th at 9pm. Tickets are on sale at the offices of the Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105 and are also available at Basic Brothers, LOBO, Crossroads, and from representatives of the twelve beneficiary

organizations.

The Houston Black Tie Dinner is Houston's largest annual fund-raising event for the Lesbian and Gay community and for those affected by HIV/AIDS. The event will be held on Nov. 2 this year. For tickets or additional information call 523-9611.

The beneficiaries of this year's events are: Allan Caulkin Fund (LGRL), Assistance Fund, Bering Community Service Foundation, Body Positive/Houston, Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, Names Project/Houston, Omega House, Texas Human Rights Foundation, People with AIDS Coalition/Houston, and PFLAG Houston. The event will also benefit The Victory Fund on the national level.

Photographer is Emerging Artist

The Work of Steven David

By DEBORAH BELL

Steven David has been a generous contributor to the Houston Voice providing the paper with photos of people and events. His work is beginning to gain national recognition and is rating gallery showings. This Florida native, transplanted to Texas is ready for the challenge. He has been a "shutterbug" since the age of 16 when his Mother gifted him with a "really good camera" that he had asked for at Christmastime. "She wrapped it in front of me a few weeks before Christmas Day. I would unwrap it every night and study it and the instructions, then rewrap it and put it back under the tree. By the time Christmas came, I knew everything that there was to know about it."

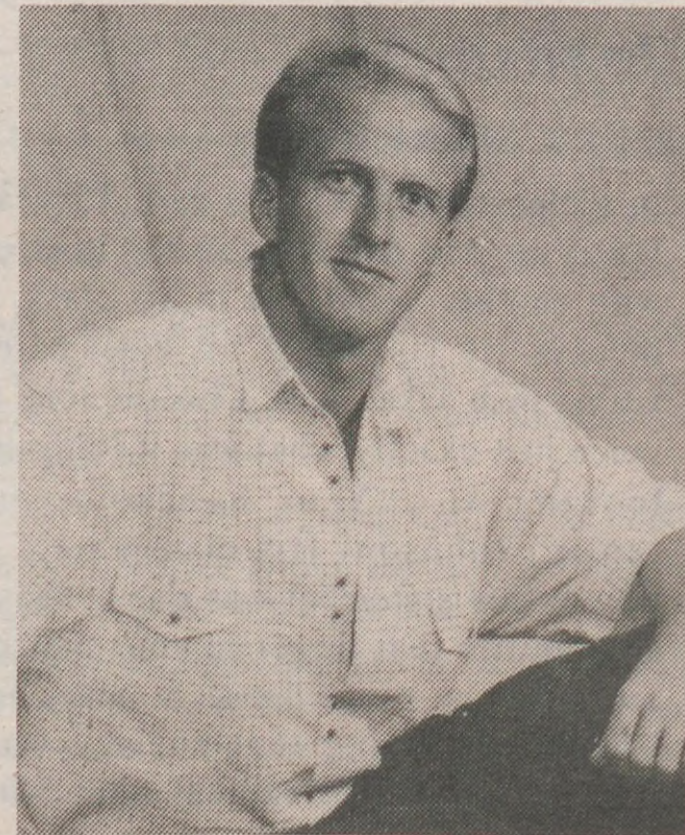
Prior to that he had used the old fashioned box cameras and a Kodak 110, sometimes staging his friends in go-kart wrecks to photograph. Born in Winter Haven, Florida, Steven grew up on Merritt Island where his Dad worked for the space center. He was active in scouting, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. He worked for a while in North Carolina where he was the still photographer on a film and took photos of Reba McEntire when she was on a television "Statler Brothers Special," this was before she was a big name he adds.

An early success in his photography came when he was one of nine photographers who took part in shooting a folk dance festival held in North Carolina. "I had used equipment, a cheap camera and a broken flash, but out of 25 pictures the festival bought, 20 of them were mine," he recounts proudly. "The Mexican troupe I worked with even paid for me to go with them to Mexico to take additional pictures," he adds.

A job brought him to Houston when his company opened a lab here. For a long time he wouldn't photograph people, only flowers and landscapes. He also spent a period where he didn't even pick up a camera. About five years ago he started photographing nudes and feels he has developed an eye for a new, fresh look. His work is featured on his self-produced cards and notepads as well as appearing in many Gay and Lesbian publications and in advertisements. "Lover's Embrace" which is of two men kissing recently graced the cover of Denver's "H." magazine. But this emerging artist has his eye on other venues.

"I work in photo lab, processing film as my day job, and I do all my own printing and framing. I hope to do a book someday." His time is limited to work on his photography which he wants to do full-time. "My goal is to get into galleries, have shows, get noticed by the art publishers. I don't really want to do commercial work (for advertising purposes)." He admits he is excited however about an upcoming Damron/Advance cruise to Barbados over Halloween, just before his Nov. 2nd birthday he notes. "My partner, Tim and I will go as guests and I will be taking photographs for the agency, but they are giving me free range, so I have a lot of artistic control."

"Right now I have to work on my stuff after hours and on weekends which limits the amount of work I can do. I really need an investor," he quips. He says he is frustrated at times at the difficulty of an emerging artist getting the much needed



The artist as the subject—Steven David hopes to receive recognition soon for his work as a photographer

recognition it takes to launch a career. "Galleries don't want to show your work unless you already have showed elsewhere, so it is a Catch-22," he explains. There are also those people who don't consider photography to be art.

Another frustration is the attitude some people especially in the gay community have when they learn he specializes in nudes. "There's always the jokes about sex and that asking someone to model is a come on, but that is not the way it is at all." He emphasizes that, "My models are paid and many of them are straight. I work with both men and women, although I can't always find Lesbians who are willing to pose." He explains that there seems to be an attitude that you have to be drop dead gorgeous to be a photographic model and that too is a misconception. "I really would like to work with some 'regular people,' because everyone has a certain beauty to the camera." Attractive enough to model himself, he confesses that like most photographers, he hates to have his picture taken.

This is obviously serious business to this self-taught Scorpio, who prefers to work in black and white. "I've been limited and challenged by what I can do with the photographic equipment I have. I can't afford a lot of the professional items which can be really expensive, so I work with a minimum of lighting for example. That also allows me to try different things. I want people to look at my work and see something beyond the ordinary, to push the envelope a little. I want them to think about what they see and maybe question it a little and for them to be excited by it," he expresses. "Photography as art is more than a picture of something. It is about lights and shadows, sensual feeling rather than sexual, curves and lines of the human form, the emotions invoked," he continued to explain.

"Solo" featured on the cover is part of a series of works. It will be offered in an auction at the People With AIDS Coalition Houston "Strike Against AIDS" Fundraiser on Sept. 28. Steven serves on the Board of Directors for that organization. He got involved through his good friend Ray West who is President of PWACH. He is also active the Lambda Rollerskating Club which raises money for various causes with rollerskating events.

Visit Steven David's Website at <http://netcom/d.cards/art.html> or call 787-0625 to find out more about this young talent.

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Artist Lari Pittman at CAM

A Spectacular Extravaganza

By DEBORAH BELL

Viewing the works of artist Lari Pittman is at first glance like looking at the bright colors and garish lights of a carnival. A second look reveals something much more profound with details and content that can challenge what it is to be human. Modern and abstract as the paintings are, they depict the real world and demand riveting attention. David Pagel of the Los Angeles Times says of Pittman's work, "Across their hyperactive surfaces, immediately recognizable images are juxtaposed and interwoven to form tense compositions that invite you to supply any number of open-ended narratives."

This 44-year old artist, who is openly gay, "has no interest in occupying one of the safe, marginal positions contemporary institutions currently provide for art about race, gender, class, sexuality or religion—as if these topics were endangered and in need of special treatment," Pagel continues. Describing Pittman as "The most engrossing American Painter of his generation," Art critic Pagel praises the show as "a spectacular extravaganza whose influence is likely to echo well into the next century."

While issues of gender, sexuality, and homosexuality are addressed the work has other overarching philosophical concerns because Pittman understands that part of his job, is to help route the perception that these are all human activities—not female, or gay, or whatever—and that they fall under the general rubric of human experience which in the most inclusive sense is the basis of his art. Pittman's career took a dramatic turn

after a near-death encounter at the hands of a gun man who broke into his home in 1985, but it is not "about being shot," Pittman asserts. Pittman credits his partner of 22 years, Roy Dowell, who he met in 1974 while students at the California Institute of the Arts, with getting him back in the studio following the painful recovery period. It was Dowell, another highly regarded artist, who cajoled, nagged, and nudged him to get back to painting.

Drawing from many sources for influence which include textiles, wallpaper and 19th century needlepoint he states that his highly decorative pieces are from an art-historical view is "that decoration is content and meaning, not a surrogate for meaning." He trusts that the audience will reach some clear conclusions about who he is and what the painting is trying to convey.

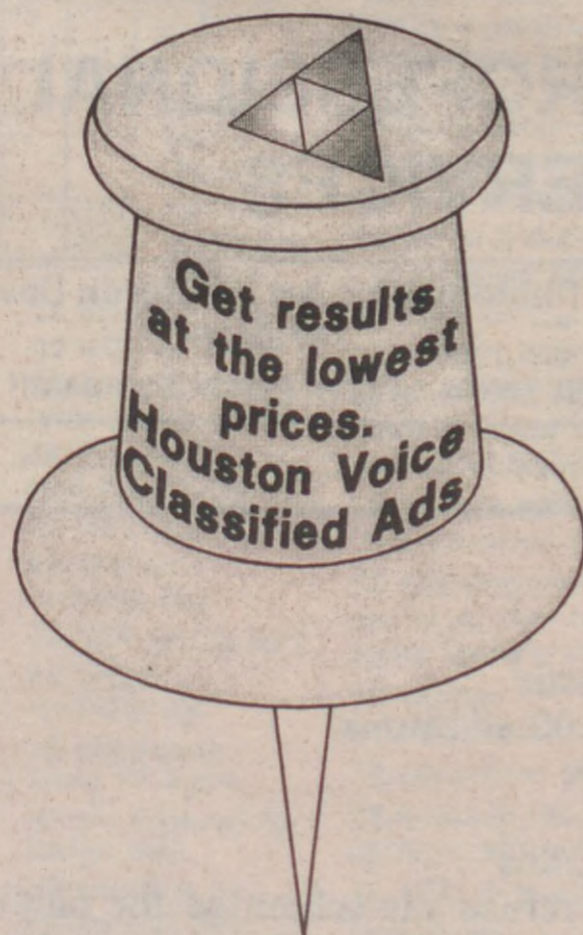
Houstonians will have a chance to see for themselves what Pittman's work addresses and conveys when his show opens at the Contemporary Arts Museum Upper Galley, 5216 Montrose Blvd. from Sept. 21 through Dec. 31. The exhibition features twenty-five works. Pittman will give an informal gallery talk about his work in the exhibition on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 4pm in the Upper Gallery. Additional events associated with the exhibition will be held each month through the duration of the showing including a Gallery Talk by Dana Friis-Hansen, Senior Curator of the Contemporary Arts Museum who will lead on an informal tour of the exhibition on Dec. 12 at 7pm. The Gallery Talk is co-sponsored with *The Houston Voice*, Crossroads Market Bookstore & Cafe, Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus and the Pride Committee of Houston. All events are free and open to the public.



"A Decorated Chronology of Insistence and Resignation #15," 1993 Acrylic, enamel, and glitter on wood panel, 83" x 80" (Clyde and Karen Beswick)

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ACCOMMODATIONS

GALVESTON ISLAND WOMEN'S GUEST HOUSE

Charming queen bedrooms, sundeck, jacuzzi, many amenities! Half block to beach & many restaurants. Deluxe continental breakfast. Non-smoking. (409) 763-2450 for brochure.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREY PARTY 14

If you have moved or want more information please write to: P.O. Box 130773, Houston, TX 77219 or E-Mail Grey Party@AOL.com

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Deborah L. McLeod, M.A., L.P.C.

Individual, Group, Family and Relationship Psychotherapy. (713) 621-8855.

Linda J. Harris, M.Ed., L.P.C.

Individual, Group, Family and Relationship Psychotherapy. (713) 529-7440.

FOR RENT

SHARON PARK VILLAGE - Galleria area

Offering 1 & 2 bedroom apartments with 8 sparkling pools, fitness center and on-site store and dry cleaners. A gated community set in lush courtyards will complement your lifestyle. No application fee with this ad. Prices start at \$385. 1 Free Month with 12 month lease. Call 667-5620 or stop by 5600 Chimney Rock, just south of 59. Open 9-6 daily.

2 bedroom townhouse condo, Westbury Gardens \$600.00
1 bedroom flat \$425.00
1 poolside efficiency \$325.00 unfurnished; \$375.00 furnished.
Call 729-9316. Agent.

HEIGHTS AREA HOME: 2/1/Den, new paint, new carpet, appliances, ac, w/d connections, pet deposit. \$575.00 first + last. 863-9906 or 536-5441 (pgr).

MONTROSE: 2bdrm/2-1/2ba townhome in small complex. (713) 522-8021.

FOR SALE

ALTO SAX, SELMAR AS 100.

New, never used. Music stand, straps, lyres, flip folders, case, music included. Retail \$1500. Sacrifice \$900. Jazz 868-5153.

DAYBED, BRAND NEW.

White, very feminine. Includes new mattress, coordinating linens, dust ruffle, pillows with shams and comforter. Must sell. \$100. 868-5153.

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Retail

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You know Calico Corners. We have the world's best selection of decorative fabrics for your home, the finest customer labor sources, and talented staff to help you express your own personal style. But did you know we also offer exciting...Part-Time Career Opportunities for:

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CALICO CORNERS
6271 FM 1960 West
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International company looking for hard working, business minded, success driven individuals. Call (713) 277-4189 for appointment.

HOUSTON VOICE HELP WANTED:

Advertising professional with proven record of success wanted to carve new territory in Greater Houston Market for weekly gay publication. Commission basis. Must be aggressive and have a positive attitude. Call Deborah Bell at 529-8490.

HOUSTON'S #1 LEVI-LEATHER CRUISE BAR - THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY- is accepting applications for honest, hardworking team players to work as bartenders, barbacks and doorstaff. Apply Mondays 12-2 p.m. with a recent photo. No phone calls. **MONTROSE MINING COMPANY, 805 Pacific, Houston**

Here's your chance! **CHANCES** is looking for bartenders, barback & waitstaff. Call 523-7217 after 2pm. Ask for Marlene.

The **CLUB HOUSTON** now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2205 Fannin

GENTRY is accepting applications for *door, barbacks and bartenders*. Please apply in person at 2303 Richmond Ave. from 2 pm to 6 pm. A recent photo is required. No telephone calls please.

Seeking energetic, honest, dependable, and hard working individuals who want the opportunity to grow with a service oriented company. Positions available include floor/desk staff. Apply in person only. No phone calls. **MIDTOWNE SPA, 3100 Fannin.**

The **BRB** is accepting applications for all positions. Apply between 9am - 4pm at 2400 Brazos. Photo required. No phone calls.

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Margaret 364-8822.

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NW HOUSTON 290W.43rd - Gay couple to share large 3/2 home with pool. \$300/mo plus 1/3 utilities. Nonsmoker. (713) 690-5954.

WANTED: Mature male to share house. Heights area. \$300. 862-3989

ALIEF: Must be employed & have own car. No drugs. \$325/mo. Call E.C. 495-5862.

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C L I N K O K E T L E A R S M P F R I O L
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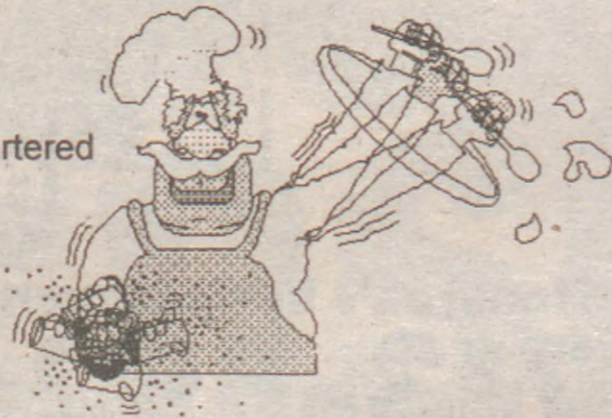
Publication Date: Fridays
Deadline: Tuesday, 12:00 noon
Rate: \$.50 per word/per issue
For 3 or more issues - \$40 per word/per issue
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RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Hey y'all! I made this recipe last year over the Labor Day weekend when my significant other's family was here for three days. I always enjoy having company, and it gives me the opportunity to try out some new recipes. This one turned out pretty good and is worth repeating.

Ham Alexandria

- 6 Tbs. butter or margarine
- 8 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 2 14-ounce cans artichoke hearts, drained & quartered
- 3 Tbs. all-purpose flour
- 2 C. milk
- 1 C. shredded Swiss cheese
- 5 English muffins, halved and toasted
- 10 thin slices cooked ham
- 2 hard-cooked eggs, chopped (optional)
- 20 pimiento strips (one 2-ounce jar) (optional)



In a large skillet, melt 2 Tbs. of the butter or margarine. Add the mushrooms; cook and stir for 2 to 3 minutes. Add the artichoke hearts and continue to cook and stir for 3 minutes more. Transfer the mixture to a bowl.

In the same skillet, melt the remaining butter or margarine. Add the flour and stir until smooth. Add the milk all at once. Cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Stir in the Swiss cheese and continue cooking until melted. Add the mushroom-artichoke heart mixture. Season with salt and pepper to taste; heat through.

Arrange the English muffin halves on a platter. Top with the ham slices, then cover generously with the sauce. Garnish with the eggs and, if desired, the pimientos.

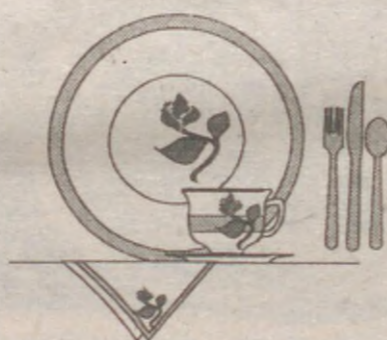
Some hints:

I used some Dak ham I purchased from Sam's. It is sliced very thinly, and is 97% fat free. I also omitted the egg and pimientos.

This dish will stay hotter if you build it under the broiler. Place the untoasted muffin halves on the rack of a broiler pan or on a baking sheet. Broil 4-5 inches from the heat for 1 to 2 minutes or until the muffins are toasted. Top with the ham slices and broil 1 to 2 minutes to heat through. Transfer to a plate and top with the hot cheese sauce. Garnish with the egg and pimiento, if desired.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE



HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13 - 19, 1996



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You are in tune with the sexual potential all around you. People will notice a new vibrancy about you and want to be with you more. If you are looking for love, you could quite easily connect with someone, probably a very passionate partner.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Have confidence in your hunches or intuitive flashes this week and follow through on them when the timing is right. Keep your eyes set on your ultimate goals and it will be easier to achieve them if you take it all just one step at a time.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Try not to become involved in another's financial dealings - the outcome may be much worse than you could have ever thought. Taking stock of yourself and how you intend to achieve specific goals should be part of your self-analysis - quiet time will help.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Your week is a bit hectic with problems arising with a family member. Harsh words may be exchanged over future plans - let things cool down a bit before you start the discussions back up again. Be alert for an educational opportunity within your reach.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) A new romance is just around the corner, if you are looking for it. Work is really the name of the game this week, and if you try to get out of it, you'll no doubt land in an even more restrictive setting. Make the best of a rather dreary day.

LEO (July 24- August 23) Your love life, pleasurable or creative interests, and fun matters involving children will be featured this week, providing you discard negative thoughts and feelings. Your charm and powers of persuasion will help you win an important business deal.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) A number of diverse interests will be highlighted this week. Domestic matters, possibly concerning children, improvement of property and innovative career concepts may keep you busy. It's time to turn on the charm if you are seeking progress at work.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) There are some romantic developments in the works for this week. A partnership may work nicely for you, and money dealings should be sound if you put your trust in reports from experts. Any close alliances are now in a positive mode, work with them.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) You will probably take the initiative in a business-financial situation early in the week, however, this could be a time of win some and lose some. A new chapter will open soon in your life concerning a family member or property interest. Don't act impulsively.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) Both your interests at home and monetary gain are linked this week. Personal plans may cut into work time, but you are currently pretty organized and will be able to cope with a number of interests. Travel plans for later in the year arouse deep interest in you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) You will no doubt need to strive very hard to keep your head above water this week - try to look at it as a positive learning experience, a lesson to be learned. Communication between you and a special person will become more meaningful in the near future.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) This week will start a moderate trend in which your best traits and talents will be intensified, and your self-confidence will soar. Give renewed consideration to a financial matter involving others. This may be a case where diplomacy pays off.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) You are feeling attractive this week and that feeling is communicated to everyone around you. Naturally, you will get your share of attention as a result. Although you enjoy romance, it is more likely that you are presently being pursued, instead of doing the pursuing.

The Great American Puzzle

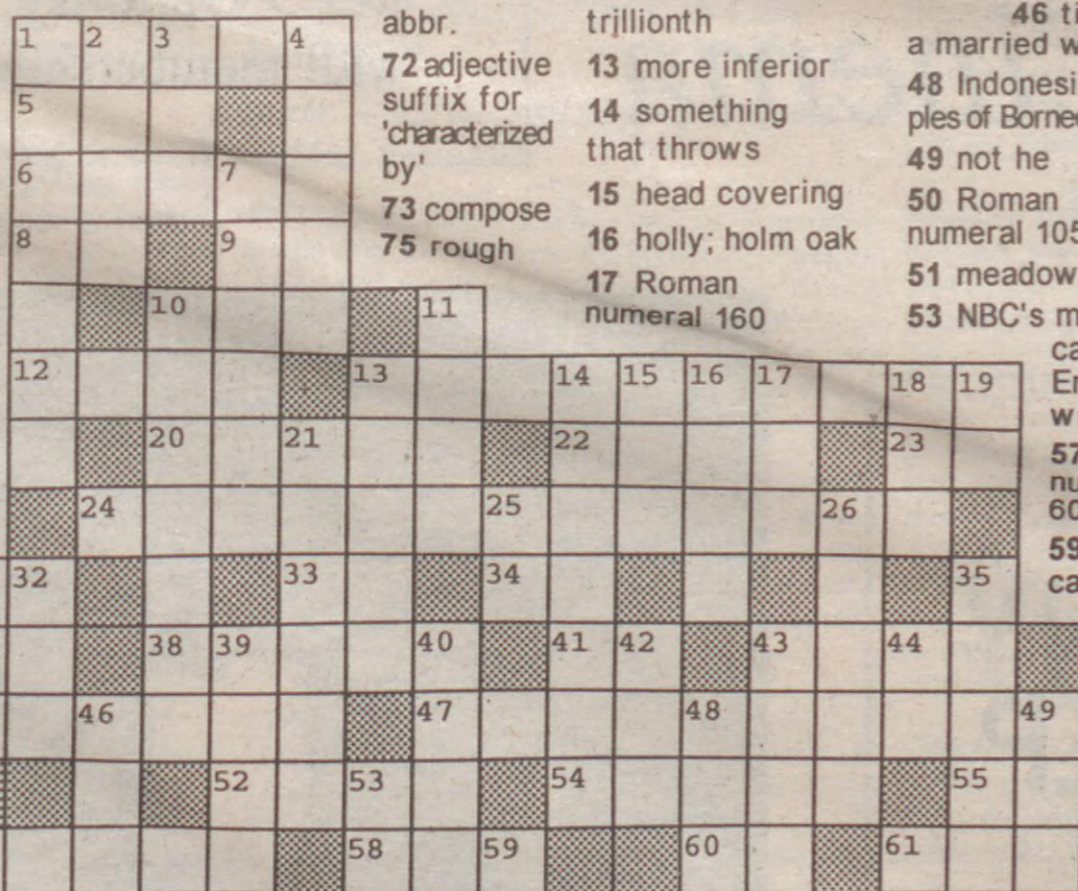
TEXAS EDITION

- 42 in favor
- 43 won 1996 Emmy for best comedy series
- 44 Roman numeral 4
- 46 title for a married woman
- 48 Indonesian peoples of Borneo islands
- 49 not he
- 50 Roman numeral 105
- 51 meadow
- 53 NBC's medical show, Emmy winner
- 57 Roman numeral 60
- 59 hurricane that

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 Greek mythology monster
- 5 cable TV old movies channel
- 6 ancient mythology lesser goddess
- 8 gloss (explanatory note attached to a text) abbr.
- 9 prefix for again or anew
- 10 Wernher ???



Braun

- 12 Texas county with Leakey as seat; actual
- 13 east Texas wilderness region, 2 words
- 20 shrub with pink, white or purple flowers
- 22 Texas county with Memphis as seat; walkway
- 23 Yiddish interjection to express dismay
- 24 state song, 3 words
- 27 Scrooge & others are in this "On The Strand" every Dec. in Galveston
- 33 Pine Tree State, abbr.
- 34 archaic spelling of woe
- 36 turn up soil
- 37 Sooner State, abbr.
- 38 splits, rips
- 41 Quaker colonizer Penn, initials ("Only trust thyself, and another shall not betray thee.")
- 43 220-mile river of S. Texas flowing into the Nueces
- 45 WWII fleet admiral

Texas

- 47 car gears allowing speed faster than engine speed
- 50 Roman numeral 150
- 52 back part of the foot
- 54 Darrell of the UT Longhorns, winningest coach in Texas football
- 55 interjection used to urge silence
- 56 treaty giving Texas independence from Mexico
- 58 referee abbr.
- 60 because
- 61 direction Dallas to Houston, abbr.
- 62 chopping tool
- 63 senior abbr.
- 65 110-year-old Austin hotel
- 69 19th century American poet Whitman, initials ("The universe is duly in order, everything in its place.")
- 71 Cotton State,

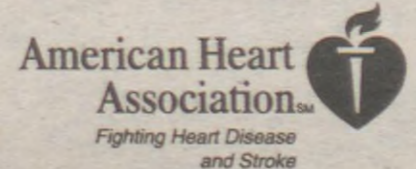
fruit covering

- 77 Canada's Northwest Territories abbr.
- 78 VIA in a mirror
- 79 a cereal grass
- 81 sharpen
- 82 in a direction toward

struck N.Car. Sept. 5

- 61 20th century American novelist Lewis, initials ("There are two insults no human being will endure: that he has no sense of humor, and that he has never known trouble.")
- 64 actor & 40th U.S. President, initials
- 66 Land of Lincoln state, abbr.
- 67 river that forms much of Texas' border with Louisiana
- 68 adverb suffix, 'in a specified way'
- 70 Old English runic letter that became today's W
- 74 uneasy skin sensation
- 76 ultraviolet abbr.
- 78 American cartoonist Peter; Italian river
- 80 TOO in a mirror
- Solution elsewhere this issue
- c.1996 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX196

Get off it. Exercise.



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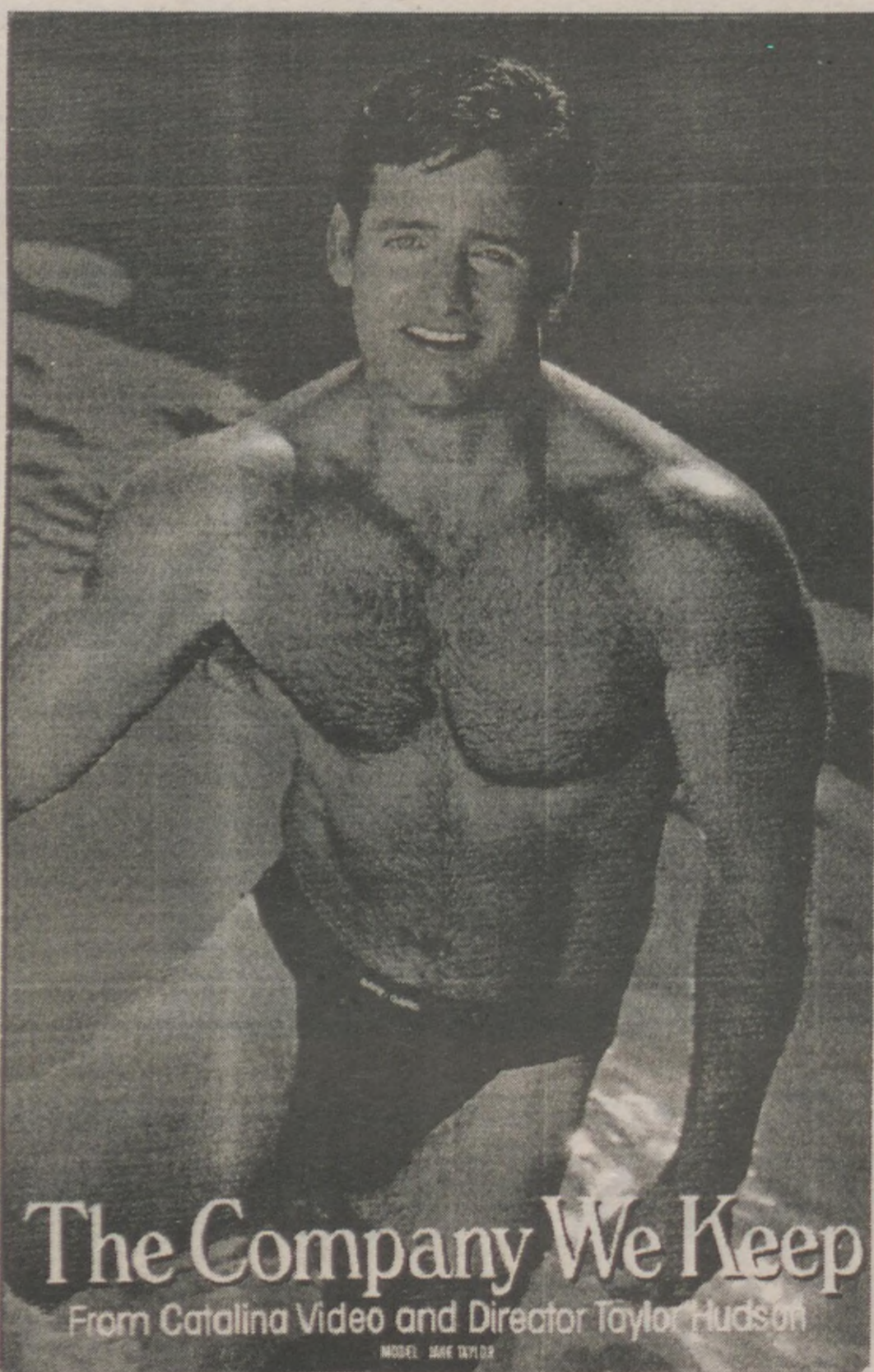


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THE COMPANY WE KEEP

AND

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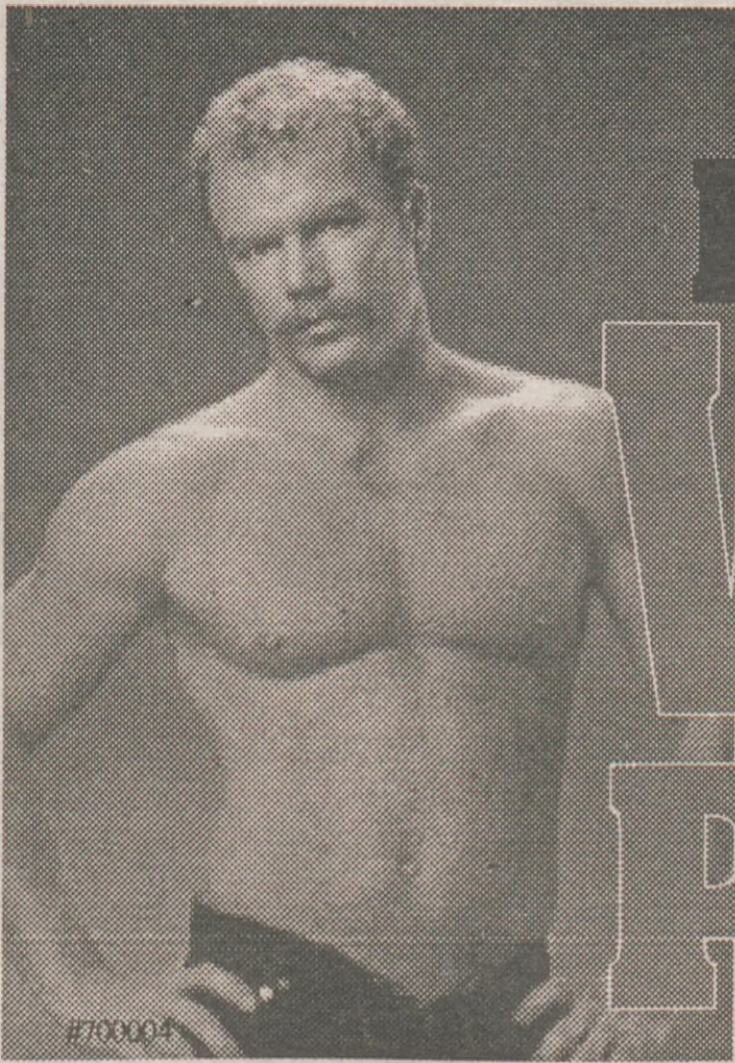


dino dimarco chad conners

66 perfect...
 gay porn...
 a gay porno...
 Night Walk???

mind-boggling...
 the ultimate...
 dreamscape??

Michael Nimm & Gino Colbert's
NIGHT WALK
 a his video gold plus release



HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

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

SWF 1'm 40. I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. 5114

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

SBF 1'm bi curious & I've had all of the satisfaction I can get from a man. I'm 5'7" & 162 lbs. I have big lips & a small waist. I'm looking for a woman of the same build who has blonde or brunette hair, for a night of fun. Call Ext. 5105

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

SF 44, 5'1", 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

SWF 1'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. Call Ext. 5119

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., 5'1" & a security guard. Call Ext. 5173

SBF 1'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. 5164

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

SBF 1'm lonely, 34 & 5'4". I have short, black, curly hair. I enjoy outdoor sports, biking, swimming & fishing. I play the drums. I'm looking for a single, feminine Black female who is serious about life. She should have career goals. Call Ext. 5092

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

SWF 5'8", long blonde hair, deep-blue eyes. I'm straight-looking, but a soft butch inside. I'm a professional in the environmental field. I have an outgoing personality, with a compassionate soul. I'd like to meet a woman, 35-45, who is a professional, with feminine traits. Call Ext. 5148

SF 1'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. 5117

Men SEEKING Men

SM 1'm 50 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 1'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. I enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. 5203

SWM 1'm a very young 43-year-old, sailing skipper looking for a sailing captain. I'm a 6', 220 lb. teddy bear. I'm considered stocky, beefy & a linebacker build. I have red, strawberry-blonde hair, hazel-green eyes, a mustache & a hairy chest. Looking for guys with similar qualities, or those who are attracted to my qualities. Also looking for a gay sailing club & interested in forming one if one is not out there. Call Ext. 5212

#5178 ~ Would like to get in contact with you. Call my box. Call Ext. 5204

SWM 1'm 25, 5'11" & 198 lbs. I have masculine build, brown eyes, a military cut & a goatee. I'm straight-acting, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy working out, movies, reading & self-improvement. I'm in search of a stockily-built man who is masculine, with a goatee. He should enjoy being a top & be 25-35. Call Ext. 5103

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. 5143

SWM 1'm 5'9", 130 lbs. & masculine. Looking for a Black brother who is the same. Someone who is 18-28, self-assured, masculine & not into games. Call Ext. 5094

SWM 1'm a certified sailing skipper. I lost my captain to the North Carolina waters. Looking for a captain with a crew. I'm also interested in forming a gay sailing club. Call Ext. 5149

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. 5141

SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. 5145

SHM Looking for a 30-something White or Hispanic male to explore possibilities with. Call Ext. 5166

SWM 41, 6', 190 lbs. Looking for a top daddy who is 40-50, to take care of. Also looking for a top cowboy to ride me all night & then hold me. Must be open-minded, with above-average equipment. Willing to wear collar for the right daddy. Call Ext. 5163

SBM 27. Seeking other Black males. I'd like to meet a top. I enjoy swimming, bowling, reading & having fun. I'd prefer to meet someone 20-30. Call Ext. 5158

SM 1'm a very muscular, smooth, 5'8", 155 lbs., handsome, intelligent, athletic, well-traveled man. I'd like to meet a good-looking, well-built man, preferably a cop. Looking for a friend, a sex partner & possibly more. I'm attracted to masculine men who like to be loving & caring. Must enjoy being a daddy to this exceptionally handsome, well-built boy. Call Ext. 5201

SM 1'm 28, 5'6" & 128 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I enjoy music, cooking, wine tasting, walking on the beach & quiet nights at home. I'm an accounting professional seeking someone 30-40. A beard & a mustache are a plus. I'm hairless. I have a slight mustache. Call Ext. 5110

SBM 1'm 26. Race is not important to me if it is not a problem to you. Give me a call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5087

SAM 1'm 20, 5'6" & 137 lbs. I have black hair & brown eyes. I'm very cute. I like dining out, movies, walking on the beach, jogging & going to the gym. Looking for a gay White male 20-38 who is height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5049

SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. 5200

SWM Handsome, smooth, muscular. Looking for a dominate, masculine, White, Hispanic or Black male. Should be 5'11" or taller, above 170 lbs., be between 30-40 & enjoy being in control. I have a nice body & am willing to follow orders. Let me be your boy. Call Ext. 5190

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 you'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 40 & a lively 270 lbs. I have a goatee & love to disco down. Looking for a dance partner for disco night. No strings attached. Why sit & watch others dance, when you can boogie-down? Call Ext. 5168

SM 6'2", 190 lbs. Looking for football player build type of guys who are under 40. Call Ext. 5196

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

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 36, 5'9", 148 lbs. Looking for a drug-free, slender, gay White male. He should not be into the bar scene. Call Ext. 5128

SM 1'm 43, 5'10" & 175 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm a professional man in the administrative field. I enjoy a quiet lifestyle. I enjoy movies & dining out, to name a few things. I'm nice-looking, drug-free & disease-free. I'd like to meet someone 30-45 who is masculine, with dark hair. Call Ext. 5101

Gay male, 23, 6'1", 172 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, well-toned, smooth. Looking for bodybuilders to have good times with. I'll call you back. Call Ext. 5195

SM 1'm 40, 5'6" & 155 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a mustache & a hairy chest. I'm a loving & caring, but demanding guy. My son must be young, handsome, healthy & masculine. He must be intelligent, self-supporting & willing to satisfy my every need. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5083

SM Where are you? If you are like me, you are getting tired of driving to the bars every Friday night to meet guys. I would like to meet some nice guys from this area. Call Ext. 5082

SHM 1'm 31, 5'11" & 240 lbs. I'm seeking an older White male who is 55+, for discreet encounters. I'm disease & drug-free. I have nice legs. I like to kiss. Call Ext. 5085

SM 5'8", 150 lbs., smooth, muscular, tan, light-brown hair, hazel eyes. Looking for a masculine man who would like to get-together for casual encounters & good times. Possible dating. I prefer men who have a larger, stockier build. I prefer men who enjoy being tops. Call Ext. 5123

SBM 1'm a professional. I'm 36, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I'm looking for someone to spend some time with. I enjoy movies, listening to music, cooking & quiet nights at home. Call Ext. 5124

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 46, 6', 280 lbs., graying hair. Seeking a gay White, Asian or Hispanic male, 25-50, who is drug & disease-free. He should be slim-to-medium-built, with fuzzy legs. I enjoy friends, music & honesty. I'm compassionate & affectionate. Call Ext. 5192

SM Asian. In search of a Married White cop who needs to relieve the stress of work & family life. If you want some mid-day encounters, give me a call. Call Ext. 5189

SWM 60, 5'8", 290 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. I'm a bottom. Looking for guys in their 20's or 40's. Race is not important. Honesty & sincerity are prime factors. Let's share respect, love & an active physical relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, dancing, traveling, the beach, dining in, dining out & the company of an affectionate friend. Call Ext. 5187

SHM 32, thin. Seeking a gay White or Hispanic male who is 32 or older. Seeking a lifemate. Serious replies only. No games. I don't drink or smoke. I need sincerity & stability. Call Ext. 5160

SM 1'm 25 & straight-acting. I'm ready to experiment with the bottom since I have been on the top. Give me a call. I'm looking for well-endowed Black men to have a good time with. Call Ext. 5116

SM 1'm 6'2" & 210 lbs. I'm looking for a hairy-chested top who would be interested in a lot of anal intercourse. Call Ext. 5115

SM 1'm 27, 5'7", 155 lbs. & from Spain. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm looking for friends. I'd like to meet a blonde guy who is under 30. I'd prefer to meet a bottom. Must be straight-acting. Call Ext. 5113

SBM 27. Seeking other males who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5159

SWM 34, 6'1", 275 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. I own my own business. I enjoy movies, dining in, dining out & intimacy. I have a lot of love to give. Looking for someone to love & get to know. Possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5186

SWM Attractive, 38, HIV+, long brown hair, brown eyes, mustache & beard. I'm straight-acting & appearing. I like to enjoy life, concerts, movies, traveling & good friends. I'm retired, healthy & financially secure. Looking for that special friend who is also straight-acting & appearing, with similar interests. Looking for someone who wants to get out & enjoy life. Call Ext. 5178

SAM 1'm 32, 5'4" & 140 lbs. I'm looking for a single White male for a possible long-term, monogamous relationship. I would prefer to meet someone who is straight-acting. I'm outgoing & looking for the same. I'm organized, flexible, romantic & loving, with a strong personality. Call Ext. 5106

SBM In search of other masculine Black males who are 19-45. Seeking someone who is well-endowed & masculine. Call Ext. 5154

SM 1'm 5'8" & height/weight proportionate. I'm in my 40's & relatively new to Houston. I have brown hair & blue eyes. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are my age. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5102

SM 1'm 5'9" & 160 lbs. I have dark hair & blue eyes. I'm a physical education teacher. I enjoy all sports. I'm looking for a masculine man who enjoys sports. Call Ext. 5118

SM 1'm 5'6". I have blue eyes & blonde hair. I'm looking for a guy who is a jock. I like to give blow jobs. I enjoy anal sex, kissing & hugging. Call Ext. 5104

SHM 1'm 5'4" & 130 lbs. I have light skin, brown hair & hazel eyes. I have a semi-muscular build. I like playing tennis, movies & working out. I'm looking for a single White male 20-35 who has a semi-muscular build. Call Ext. 5075

SM 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Cuban/French. Interested in guys who are versatile & 20-30. Race is not important. Looking for someone to really have a good time with. Sex would be great! Let's get good & nasty. Call Ext. 5177

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 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 5'11", 155 lbs., blonde hair, bluish-green eyes. Looking for Hispanic males 18-35. I enjoy going to the beach, the gym & hanging out with friends. Call Ext. 5155

SAM 21, 5'6", 135 lbs. I'm very cute. I enjoy movies, dinner & occasionally going to bars. Looking for a gay White male, 22-28, who is handsome. Call Ext. 5140

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV- & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Call Ext. 5137

SWM 1'm a chubby nudist in search of other chubby nudists. I'm 38, 5'7" & 228 lbs., with strawberry-blonde hair & blue eyes. Race is not important. Call Ext. 5157

SWM 37, 5'7", 155 lbs., well-built, muscular. I have a really good tan. I'm HIV+. I'm healthy & I feel fabulous. I'm interested in meeting a guy who is good-looking & well-built. I'm turned on by guys who have beards, mustaches & body hair. Call Ext. 5156

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+. Looking for a Hispanic top who is HIV+ & interested in trying to develop a relationship. Call Ext. 5135

SWM 40, red hair, blue eyes. I'm a gay transvestite looking for some young transsexuals to have get-togethers with, dressing & undressing. If you need a place to dress or you need clothes & make-up, give me a call. I love to get all dressed up. Looking for a playmate. Call Ext. 5126

SWM 1'm a professional in my 40's. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & eyes. I'm darkly tanned & nicely shaped. I enjoy movies, cars, music & dining out. I'm in search of a younger Hispanic, Latin or Asian for dating which could lead to a monogamous relationship. I'm a social drinker & a non-smoker. I prefer the same. I have a lot to offer. Call Ext. 5099

SM Please give me a call. Call Ext. 5097

SWM 1'm 35. I'm looking for a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5096

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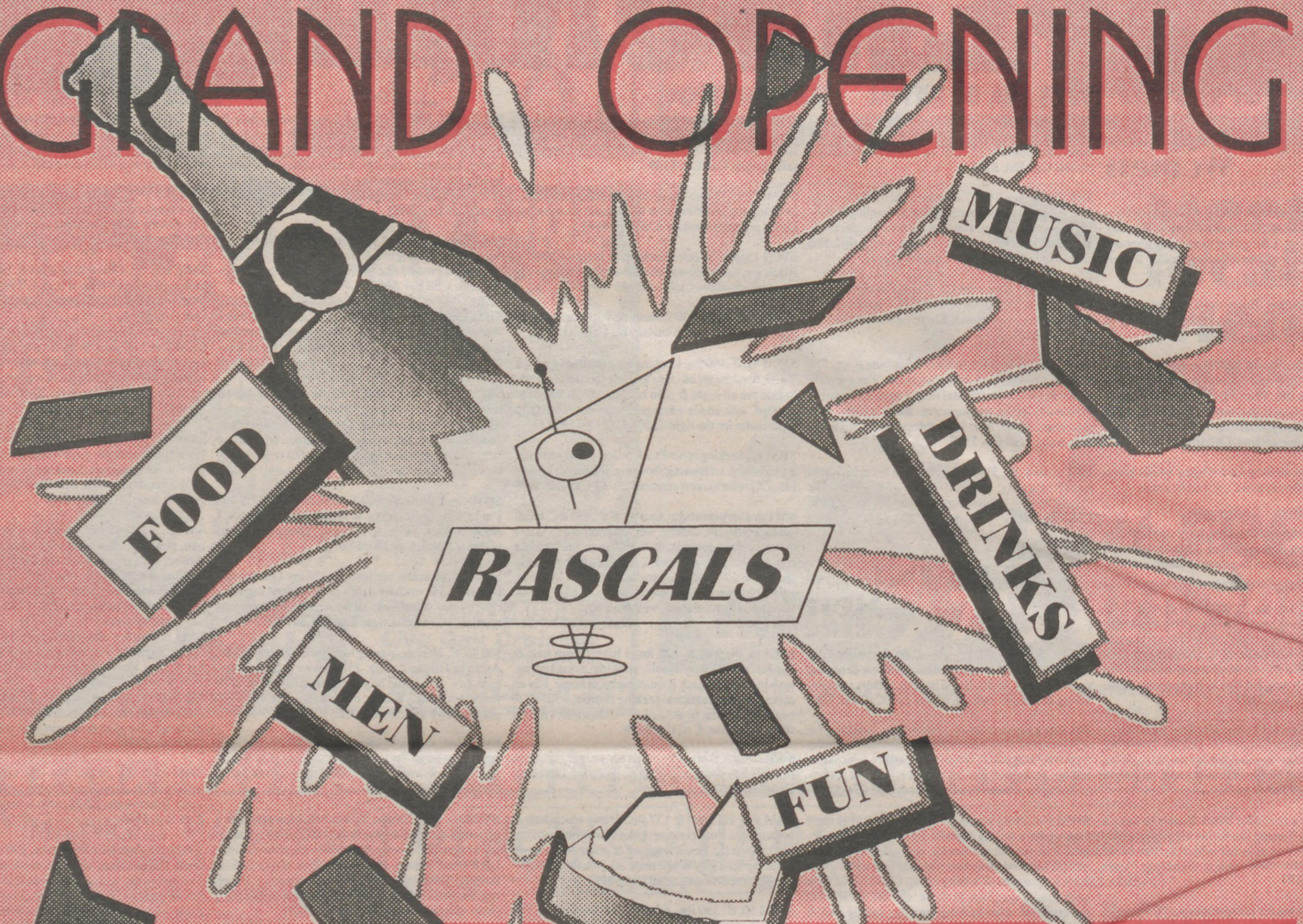
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YOU'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH!
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FOR THE RASCALS

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Join us for our **WEEKLY SPECIALS**

WEDNESDAY: \$1.50 Longnecks

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And get down with **ROSS'S RETRO REWIND**

FRIDAY: \$1.00 Schnapps

SUNDAY: \$2.00 Mimosas & \$1.25 Well Drinks

This Sunday, **Rascals** is proud to present:

A Celebrity Impressionist Extravaganza

This star-studded spectacular features Rascals own **JILL JORDAN** as **Dolly Parton & Patsy Cline**. Starring, Direct from Carnival La Cage, **La Wanda Jackson & Jessica Blair**. Also starring **Paivi Lee Love, Buba McNeeley, & Jef Johnson**.

Join us for an evening of Star Gazing when these talented performers transform themselves into stars such as **Tina Turner, Neil Diamond, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Nancy Sinatra, Cher & Ace Ventura**.

Watch as the stars come out! Show begins at 9:00 pm Sunday, September 15th.