

Network criticized for dropping episode

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A gay rights group demanded Wednesday, Nov. 21, that NBC-TV reinstate a "lifestories" episode featuring two homosexual characters dealing with AIDS.

The Los Angeles chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance issued a statement saying NBC's decision to pre-empt the episode originally scheduled for Dec. 2 "may have been prompted by the increasingly successful efforts of an intolerant hate group that seeks to drive positive gay and lesbian characters off the air."

NBC spokesperson Pat Schultz denied the group's claims. "We have every intention of broadcasting this episode," the network said in a prepared statement.

NBC replaced the AIDS segment with "The Hawkings Family" which chronicles a 7-year-old boy's struggle to receive a lifesaving bone marrow transplant.

"Lifestories" is off the prime-time schedule after Dec. 2. Network officials have said they want to test the offbeat medical series in alternative time slots. It currently airs Sunday, at 8 p.m.

Conservative groups protesting programs featuring gay characters were recently successful in pressuring ABC to drop a "thirtysomething" rerun showing two homosexual men talking in bed.

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THE NEWSPAPER OF MONTROSE Community Publishing Company • FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1990 • ISSUE 527

OFFICES 408 AVONDALE, HOUSTON, TX 77066 • (713) 529-8490

AIDS awareness group protests at Texas Capitol

AUSTIN (AP)—An AIDS awareness group says it is conducting a "Week of Outrage" campaign to call attention to the problems surrounding women and AIDS.

The group ACT UP's Austin chapter

ter rallied on the Capitol steps Monday, Nov. 26, to kick off demonstrations that organizers said were taking place around the country and would culminate at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga.

"Our purpose is to inform women and men of the extraordinary difficulties confronting women in the face of the AIDS epidemic as it begins its 10th year, and to demonstrate the growing strength and

abilities of the national AIDS activist movement," said a statement issued by ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

"Women are the fastest-growing HIV-infected population, including

a disproportionate number of women of color. Yet 10 years into the epidemic, women are still seen primarily as vectors of transmission of the AIDS virus or as caregivers for AIDS patients," ACT UP said.

Morales discusses 21.06, rights and 'Morales et al'

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Montrose Voice Editor

There are only a few short days to go before the long-awaited trial date of "Morales et al. vs. the State of Texas," the Texas Human Rights Foundation's challenge to Section 21.06 of the state penal code. Linda Morales, designated lead plaintiff in the case, reflected on the sodomy statute itself.

"You know, sometimes I sit and I just think about that law, and I can't believe that it even exists. I just can't believe that a such a law exists, to make this (case) necessary," said Morales. "Because there are so many of us who are gay or lesbian, and because I, at least now, am so comfortable with who I am...it's just beyond me that (according to 21.06) we are criminals."

On Monday, Dec. 10, Morales, along with Tom Doyal, Patricia Cramer, Charlotte Taft and John Thomas, will finally get their day in court. The five plaintiffs, recruited by acquaintances on the THRF board, joined forces last year to begin the second constitutional challenge against the statute. The first such case, Baker vs. Wolf (1979), was tried in federal courts and resulted in two victories before being overturned in New Orleans' Fifth Court of Appeals in 1985.

Morales said she believes the challenge stands a better chance in state court. Overall, however, she said, she believes laws can be overturned in court.

"It's just a stupid law, really. It's a law (that mandates) discrimination," she said. "The Texas constitution is very clear. I really think we have a good chance in the state court."

"I'm of the opinion that what we cannot accomplish in the legislative process, we will in the litigation process," Morales added, noting the conservative attitude of



Linda Morales of Houston, plaintiff in THRF's "21.06 suit," Morales et al. vs. the State of Texas, which seeks to overturn the state sodomy statute

the Texas Legislature.

"As conservative as (the state) legislature is, I can't see anyone even bringing (eliminating) 21.06 to the floor. Right now, even our (gay/lesbian) lobbyists in Austin have a hard time...their job right now is basically just protecting our interests in the legislature," she said. "I definitely think that (a victory) would have to come through the litigation process."

Morales said she is optimistic about the plaintiff's first court appearance, scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Travis County Courthouse in Austin. Judge Paul Davis presiding. She admitted, however, that the plaintiffs really don't know what to expect, or whether the hearing will result in a ruling.

"We really don't know what will

happen," she said. "The case is really in the very preliminary stage, this is the first time it will actually be heard."

So far, the plaintiffs have filed a motion for summary judgment in the case, asking the judge to declare the state statute unconstitutional under the Texas constitution. Attorneys for the state contend with a plea to the jurisdiction, claiming 21.06 is a criminal statute and should not be tried in civil court. (To be tried in criminal court, someone would have to be actually prosecuted under the almost unenforceable law.)

While the law is rarely enforced, the plaintiffs say there is much evidence that it has been used to justify discrimination and deny gay and lesbian Texans their constitutionally protected rights.

They also say that 21.06 encourages hate crimes against homosexuals, and that their career and employment opportunities are restricted because of the law.

The strategy after the court date will probably be a series of follow-up fund raising and educational activities for the plaintiffs, Morales said. She stressed the importance of the educational activity, saying that if the law is overturned, "it won't be the end of the work we have to do. Actually, it will be more like the beginning."

Morales, the only one of the five plaintiffs from Houston, said she was invited to get involved in the 21.06 challenge by her friend, Gene Harrington, a THRF board member here. She said she was told there would be other people involved in the case, but "I wasn't sure at first if I wanted to get involved. I wasn't sure of the criteria."

"I had to take a lot of things into consideration, my family, my job. I told Gene I would like to think it over," she said. About a month later, she said, she agreed to go to Austin to meet the others. Taft and Thomas, both of Dallas, and Doyal and Cramer of Austin. She also met with their attorney, J. Patrick Wiseman.

After getting involved in the suit, Morales said she was asked during a conference call with THRF, Wiseman and the other plaintiffs if she would agree to be named the "lead" plaintiff in the case.

"I said, well, I'm already this much involved, I don't see why not," she recalled.

Ironically, although she has a long history of activism in the women's, Hispanic and gay/lesbian rights movements, Morales describes herself as "a very private person, really." But because of the nature of the challenge and the law itself, she said she felt she had to get involved.

Publicity about the case, and appearances across the state in connection with it, have brought Morales' activism into a higher profile.

"It's kind of like running for office," she said, "people see me somewhere, and they know who I am. It's different. I'm getting used to it."

"The main thing I try to get across is that this is not the Linda Morales show, it's not the Pat Cramer show or anybody else's show. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of all gay and lesbians in Texas, all of us all over the state, for our right to privacy."

"When you think about it, (21.06) has to go. How can you have a law like that? It's a law that says to discriminate." The statute is being challenged on the issues of three constitutional provisions: the right to privacy, due process and equal rights.

Contributing to the Texas plaintiffs' optimism are two recent court victories against sodomy statutes in Michigan and, just last month, Kentucky. Morales said she feels a Texas victory would be a positive sign for gay/lesbian rights across the country, especially considering the conservative legislature here.

"I definitely think it would help the rest of the country know anything is possible," she said.

Morales has been active with local Hispanic and women's organizations for many years, and advocates for gay/lesbian civil rights causes since 1987. She was president of Gay and Lesbian Hispanic Unidos in 1987, and is the president of AMGA, an educational, social and support group for Hispanic lesbians.

(Donald Skipwith, vice chair of THRF, is scheduled to discuss the 21.06 trial on KPFT's "Wide N' Steyn" on Dec. 10, the scheduled opening date of the trial. The program airs at 9:00 p.m. Mondays.)

Instructor offers patient help for sky diving

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP)—A sky-diving instructor in Clewiston wants to help AIDS patient Kimber Bergalis realize a dream by parachuting out of an airplane at 9500 feet.

Instructor Marty Jones said Bergalis would be strapped into a leather harness that would be attached to his, and he would absorb the full impact of the landing.

Bergalis, who told a group of schoolchildren last week she'd like to go sky diving before AIDS robs of her body of any more strength, said Wednesday, Nov. 21, she was excited by the offer but wants to confer with her doctor.

The 22-year-old Fort Pierce resident became a national personality after the spunky couple medical experts reported she may have contracted AIDS from her dental. Jones said a friend read about Bergalis' sky-diving wish in a newspaper last week and said she got it "I'd like to do it."

In addition to going sky diving, Bergalis told eighth-graders at St. Anastasia Catholic Elementary School last week she'd like to take a hot-air balloon ride over the Swiss Alps.

Montrose Singers' 'A Season for Us All' differs from the past

The Montrose Singers, Houston's gay men's chorus, will present their end-of-the-year concert, "A Season for Us All," at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15 at St. Thomas University's Jones Hall, 3910 Yankum at Sul Ross.

In this performance, the Singers will depart radically from their past Christmas concerts by presenting Hanukkah songs and songs of pagan origin in addition to traditional and contemporary Christmas music.

Artistic director Beau Cain explained, "We're not even calling it a Christmas concert. We're applying the idea of (being inclusive) in a broader sense than just gender awareness. And, we want to appeal to our audience in more ways than just sexual orientation."

Singers vice president Bob John Cromeans, who serves as production coordinator for this concert, concurs. "I'm excited about this concert because it will appeal to everybody in the Montrose community, gay, straight, young and old, 'saved' or



The Montrose Singers will present their annual end-of-year concert, with some new twists, on Dec. 15

Openly gay officials to hold informal gathering in Houston

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Montrose Voice Editor

Five members of the National Congress of Gay and Lesbian Elected and Appointed Officials will hold an informal gathering in Houston this weekend, and may meet with local gay/lesbian leaders. The officials, including Brian Coyle, city councilmember of Minneapolis; Steve Camera of Fall River, Mass.; John Heilman of West Hollywood, Calif.; Bob Gentry of Laguna Beach, Calif.; and an unidentified

council member from Rochester, N.Y., will be in town to attend the National League of Cities annual convention, being held at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Howard Armistead of GALAPAC, a national support and fund raising organization for openly gay public officials, said the group had made no formal arrangements for meetings or speaking engagements here, but planned to meet with representatives of local gay/lesbian organizations during the conference.

Dennis Spencer, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, said he had tentatively planned to organize a dinner or reception for the gay officials. However, he said only Thursday that he had not been able to finalize the plans with Coyle, the group's coordinator for the Houston conference.

The League of Cities convention was expected to attract at least 450 elected and appointed officials from cities all over the country, beginning today (Nov. 30). Some of the officials

will be in Houston through next week.

At the conference, the municipal officials are expected to discuss issues including health care delivery, federal anti-drug funding, federal housing assistance, a national transportation policy and solid waste disposal.

The openly gay officials attending the conference are members of the NCGEAO, which held its national convention in Boston Nov. 16-18. It was during that convention that loosely organized plans for a gathering at the Houston

conference were made.

During the Boston conference, gay officials called for a third National March on Washington, said Armistead. The last march, in October 1987, also began with a call to action from the NCGEAO at its national convention, he noted.

The officials were expected to discuss plans for an initial organizing meeting for the march with Houston activists. The meeting is tentatively planned to be held in Washington, D.C. sometime in January, Armistead said.

Gay couple seek DC marriage license in court suit

By RICHARD KEIL

WASHINGTON (AP)—A homosexual couple sued the District of Columbia Monday, Nov. 26, contending the city had discriminated against them by refusing to approve their request for a marriage license.

"We demand the right to marry, and we demand the same legal rights and protections of our relationship that are freely given to people in heterosexual relationships," said Craig R. Dean, a lawyer who filed the suit on behalf of

himself and Patrick G. Gill. "We are outraged by this blatant act of discrimination."

Currently, no state or locality in America allows same-sex marriages, said William Rubenstein, director of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"There were several lawsuits of this nature that were rejected back in the early 1970s," Rubenstein said in a telephone interview from his New York office.

Frederick B. Beane, clerk of the city's superior court, denied the

couple's application for a marriage license on grounds that "the sections of the District of Columbia Code governing marriage do not authorize marriage between persons of the same sex."

However, Dean and Gill contend that the city law explicitly prohibits only polygamists and practitioners of incest from obtaining marriage licenses, and does not require a couple to be of different sexes to wed.

In addition, gay people are protected from discrimination under the city's human rights act.

"The clerk of the court saw fit to deny us the marriage license because we are gay," Dean said. "He saw fit to devalue and degrade our love and the very nature of our relationship."

The lawsuit asks Superior Court Judge Geoffrey M. Alprin to order Beane to grant the couple the marriage license.

Dean and Gill are also seeking \$250,000 in compensatory damages and \$1 million in punitive damages.

"With punitive damages ... we want to be able to make a state-

ment that the clerk ... will not deny marriage licenses to gay people again," Dean said.

However, both men denied that their primary concern was setting a legal precedent.

"We love each other," Gill said. "We are here in an attempt to formalize our relationship."

Beane has 20 days to respond to the lawsuit.

Neither Beane nor Claude Bailey, a spokesperson for the city's corporation counsel, was immediately available for comment.

In Memory of

—STEVEN "BIFF" NOLAND

To friends of Steven (Biff) Noland: The family wishes to express its sorrow for not being able to let all of his friends know Biff passed away on Nov. 24, 1990. Biff was the son of his father, mother and brother of Houston; sister, two nieces and a nephew from LaVerna, Kansas.

Also, we would love to thank everyone for all they have done for him since he moved to Houston.

If anyone ever needs a stand-in family or brother, please feel free to call any time of day or night, even if it is only wanting to talk to someone. 820-4920. We love all of you.

—The Family

—FRANKLIN E. DOBBINS

aka Frankie Fxxx
April 17, 1922—Nov. 21, 1990
Franklin E. Dobbins, also known as Frankie Fxxx, left this world hearing words of love he shared with everyone who knew him, on Wednesday, Nov. 21. Although he had been fighting the AIDS virus for many years, he always made time to fight for others as well. We will remember him for his love, his caring, his incredible sense of humor and his love. All of us who loved him will miss him until the day we meet again.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, Dec. 2 at 7:00 p.m. at Unity Church, 2929 Unity Drive, Houston. "Fly away Frankie, be the wind beneath our wings."

Houston Outdoor Group's plans last camping trip of the year

Montrose Sports by GARY SHAYE

For the Montrose Voice

The Houston Outdoor Group's last camping trip of the year will be to Goose Island, a small lake connected by bridge to the mainland near Rockport on Dec. 7-9. Members will camp at waterfront campsites with shade shelter, electricity, picnic table and barbecue grill, organizers said. Restrooms and showers are available nearby, as are the boat ramp and a 1,600-foot fishing pier.

Montrose Neighborhood Sports

Plans are to set up camp Friday night, including snacks and a campfire. After breakfast Saturday, a trip is planned to the Aransas Wildlife Refuge across the bay. Campers will take an excursion boat into the refuge to see whooping cranes and other waterfowl and wildlife.

On the way back, the HOGs will stop for a picnic at the Lamar Oak (one of the oldest trees in Texas). Other planned activities include hiking on the beach, sun bathing and Our Lady of the Sea Chapel

(1864) or the Pulton Mansion (1877). Those who are interested in fishing off the pier can enjoy the area's reputedly great fishing. (If the fishers aren't so lucky, say members, a trip to Rockport is planned for a seafood dinner).

HOGs will break camp Sunday morning.

A planning meeting for this trip will be held Dec. 3 at Two Paces on Kirby at 7:30 p.m.

Also in December, HOG will hold its annual holiday/Christmas social on Saturday, Dec. 15 in Weston Lakes near Puluhan, Texas. The

festivities begin at 3:00 p.m. and will include a potluck brunch, dinner and gift "grab bag."

—Billiards

The Houston Metropolitan Billiards League is hosting a DJ Spin off contest Sunday, Dec. 16 at Miss Kitty's. Registration is Saturday (Dec. 1), from 4:00 equals 8:00 p.m. at Kitty's, and the contest begins at 8:00 p.m. Sunday. The spin off is open to all D.J.'s, independent of association, (entry fee \$50). For details, contact Steve Mountz, HMBL secretary, at 988-4518.

The league's recent volleyball

tournament at E/A's was a success, and plans for a follow-up are in the works, said Mountz. The first place winning volleyball team was the Gladiators, made up of Kevin Sealy, Mark Hall, Mike Klingensmith, Joe Dege and Mario Arzola. The winners got \$100. Coming in second were the Pelina Five, while third place went to the C and N Men.

In the 14th week league play, these were the top four teams: (1) C and N Men, 14-1 (118-79); (2) Fast Time Precision, 11-3 (119-76); (3) Sons of Hyde Park Station, 11-3 (129-81); (4) 5/611, 9-4 (104-91).

Death always seems to be hovering over our lives like Houston humidity—and equally depressing. At times we wonder if this premature acquaintance of the last decade perhaps numbs us to the reality and sheer awfulness of this epidemic.

Nearly five years ago, while still living in Dallas, we took one of our employees to Parkland, already knowing the truth but required to verify its finality. It was, of course, PCP and officially AIDS. George was then in his late twenties, a Dennis Quaid look-alike with the same infectious smile and personality. After little more than a year, during which he would work when able, George determined he had but weeks to live and to spare his family the three thousand dollars to ship his body he returned to Erie, Pennsylvania, to await the end.

Surprisingly better health care intervened and George lived another three and a half years, until last Saturday. But the disease took its toll long before the end. His financial fear took him from all his friends and true loved ones into a house with a mother and stepfather who resented his daily presence. Only George's basic stubbornness and will to live argued against his many thoughts of suicide. Certainly his quality of life was taken from him even more prematurely than life itself.

In contrast we noted the several obituaries recently for Vito Russo of New York, gay activist, teacher, writer, film historian.

While his death is our loss, it is clear from the words of his friends that Russo chose to live until the end with purpose and retaining his sense of humor. Russo continued to contribute that which he knew best living among those friends who continued to enrich his life and he

theirs.

We have been known to comment that you should never trust a politician without a sense of humor (i.e. Helms, Dannemeyer and gang). Let's broaden that to include everyone. Without our sense of humor gay life would long ago have become unbearable—thus from whence it came. Call it camp or what you will, this ability to find humor in the darkest corners of life helps explain the heart of our community.

A friend of ours who, because of his early involvement with persons with AIDS both personally and organizationally, has experienced the worst of the epidemic, retains a subtle sense of humor which not only lightens his load but brightens those around him. His "mysterious" paintings on the Montrose Esplanade typifies this humor and care. Such persons are the real treasure amongst us. Save us from our activists who cannot laugh at themselves.

A couple of years ago we were at the New York Quilt ceremony in Central Park when our better half was reunited with a high school friend. Within minutes they were laughing and carrying on surrounded by people filled with the grief of those panels. Yet in their grief the others realized the laughter was not an affront to the dead, but the natural exuberance of the living.

So, while we shall mourn George, we choose to remember the real George with the ready smile, the wry comment and friendly nature. Just as Russo's worship of Judy Garland connected him with "comforting rituals to warm us in a world grown cold and impersonal," George found his peace in worshipping Diana Ross. At least he had that and his faithful dog Buster to the end. So long George.

A Masterpiece of Mystery



Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas' last step out of the literary haunts and into the Parisian underworld to track down a murderer and art thief. While Gertrude and Alice dig for clues in literary salons and art exhibitions, Johnny McAndrews, a gay American writer, takes us on a wild and wicked romp through the decadent side of Parisian life.

Replete with plenty of punning, Steinian parody, titillating trysts between the male characters and a few what the hell anachronisms, this is a campy delight of a comic mystery.

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The Montrose Voice

HOUSTON, TEXAS
ISSUE 527
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1990
Published Fridays
A Lesbian & Community
Publishing Company
408 Alvarado
Houston, TX 77006
Phone (713) 529-8490
Contents copyright 1990
Office hours: 9am-5pm

Henny McCurg, publisher
Shen Cohen, Dartmouth editor
Skip Feikner, office manager

SUBSCRIPTIONS
(713) 529-8490

ADVERTISING SALES DEPARTMENT
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POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to 408 Alvarado, Houston, TX 77006-3029.
Subscription rate in US by voice carrier or US Mail: \$1.25 per week (\$52.50 per 6 months to \$60 per year).
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Assorted Montrose groups plan annual holiday event

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Montrose Voice Editor
A diverse coalition of Montrose organizations, businesses and institutions will celebrate "Christmas and Hanukkah in Montrose" with a series of events in December. The holiday observance, an annual tradition now in its fourth year, offers a variety of activities in different Montrose settings for the diverse population of Montrose, say the organizers. The two-week schedule of planned events begins Sunday, Dec. 2 and ends Sunday, Dec. 16. The official celebration begins and ends with a Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

"Christmas and Hanukkah in Montrose" is sponsored by the Houston Museum District and area civic clubs, with the cooperation of the Greater Montrose Business Guild, the Newtown Business Alliance, local schools and churches and the University of St. Thomas.
With the observance, the Business Guild will hold its annual "Light the Montrose" decorating contest, according to Bob Bagot, GMAG president. Deadline for entry is Friday, Dec. 21; judging will be done Dec. 26-28. Bagot said. The winners of the contest will be announced at the Guild's annual holiday party on Dec. 28.

Officially kicking off the neighborhood celebration, the children's holiday tree will be lit at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 at the Campanile Center, 4100 Montrose (site of the Montrose Branch Library). The 17-foot tree features ornaments made by children at neighborhood schools. The Madrigal Singers from the High School for Performing and Visual Arts will provide entertainment.

Two events are scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 8. Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, is sponsoring a "Yuletide" featuring German and Scandinavian dancers and singers, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. The event celebrates both the cultural origins of the Lutheran church and early cultural holiday traditions, church representatives explained.

The fourth annual Christmas and Hanukkah in Montrose Children's Parade will also be held Dec. 8, with related activities planned throughout the day. The parade of bikes, big wheels, strollers, scooters and other non-motorized "ridables" will stroll up Montrose Blvd. from Buter's Delicatessen in Chelsea Market to the Campanile Center.

Parade participants will gather in front of Buter's at 9:00 a.m., where students from the University of St. Thomas will help decorate the vehicles. Buter's will treat the participants to hot chocolate and balloons; parents will receive complimentary coffee and hot tea.

The parade begins at 10:00 a.m. Joining the children in their decorated units will be a high school marching band, Big Bird and (of course) Santa Claus. The Grand Marshals, Joseph McFadden, UST president; developer John Calaway and David Walker, space shuttle commander, will lead the parade. Live entertainment, face painting and refreshments will be on hand following the parade at the Campanile Center.

The classic "A Child's Christmas in Wales" will open the Jessie Rhianon Whitebird Memorial poetry reading at 2:00 p.m. in the Montrose Library, presented by Joanie and Scott Whitebird. Scott Whitebird will also read "The Hanukkah Story" and the Poets Workshop will present "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas."

"The International Fest" noon to 4:00 p.m., completes the kids' day, featuring French folk dancers, pinata making, origami paper folding, a British handbell choir and celebrations from the Soviet Union. An American Indian will represent America's holiday traditions with dances and stories.

The Newtown Police Community Center's annual anniversary celebration is also an official event of CAHIM. This year's event takes place from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 13, on the grounds of the Center, 802 Westheimer. Complimentary food, beer and wine will be provided by area restaurants.

The final event on the schedule is the lighting of the Montrose Community Christmas Tree at Mary's, 1022 Westheimer, tentatively scheduled the weekend of Dec. 15-16 (exact time to be announced later).

Although recently "neighbored" into the civic/business coalition's celebration, this event has actually been a tradition in the Montrose gay/lesbian community for years. The tree, usually overlooking the neighborhood from the atop the bar's roof, is a viable symbol of the holidays on the Westheimer strip. Bagot said the event is listed for

the evening of Sunday, Dec. 16; however, Jim Farmer, Mary's owner, said Tuesday the time and date have not been finalized.

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Arson suspect in psychiatric hospital, say investigators

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE

The Montrose Voice

John Matthews, 39, who has been charged with arson in the Oct. 28 torching of a Montrose gay bar, is confined in a Sugarland psychiatric hospital, according to investigators.

According to a Houston Fire Department arson investigation, Matthews apparently admitted himself into Orchard Creek Hospital, Sugarland, sometime in early November.

Diana Seals, custodian of records for the HPD arson division, said the investigation report indicated Matthews had a history of psychiatric problems.

The report said Matthews' sister told arson investigators the suspect had been treated for mental problems in the past. No motive was given, but the report suggested Matthews may have acted in retaliation for being denied admittance to the bar or being asked to leave, Seals said.

Officials at Orchard Creek would not confirm or deny that Matthews is a patient there, saying that because of the type of facility, information on the patients is tightly controlled.

Matthews is charged with one count of arson in the Ripcord fire, and has not been linked to any other Montrose arson case, according to the report. The report was not clear on whether Matthews confessed the arson to investigators, or whether he voluntarily checked in to the mental hospital.

Scott Burns, prosecutor for the 177th District Court, said Matthews is scheduled to appear before a grand jury on Dec. 13.

The blaze, which caused an estimated \$12,000-15,000 in damages and forced the bar to close for a few days for repairs, was started from the outside of the bar's rear wall. Investigators said the arsonist apparently poured a flammable liquid on the wall, then ignited it.

Scientists at Tulane University report third retrovirus

By JANET McCONAUGHEY FOR THE MONTROSE VOICE
NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Scientists at Tulane University have found a new virus which appears related to the AIDS virus, according to an article in the latest issue of the journal Science.

"This may provide some explanation for the observation that persons with a rheumatic disease ... often give false positives in the AIDS test," principal investigator Robert Garry said in an interview.

"The thing that's really more exciting, is we have possibly identified an agent involved in inducing autoimmune diseases," said Garry, associate professor of microbiology and immunology at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

He said the virus may be genetically related to HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, and one of two other known retroviruses—one of the groups of viruses which can insert their genetic material into their hosts' DNA. The third, HTLV, causes a form of leukemia. "It's very exciting and very interesting, and obviously the

retrovirus branch here at CDC would be very interested in being able to confirm it," Dr. Tom Folks, head of the retrovirus branch of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said Friday, Nov. 23.

However, he said Garry's group had not been in touch with him. Since he had not yet received the Nov. 23 issue of Science, Folks said, he could not say whether the techniques used would indeed have isolated a new retrovirus.

"You have to be very careful. Many investigators have made mistakes along the way. There are a lot of little things ... that could mislead you," he said.

Garry said Tuesday, Nov. 27, that the new virus was isolated from two of six patients with Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disease which affects about 500,000 people in this country. It attacks tear and salivary glands, drying out the eyes and mouth.

Garry said researchers then checked 26 patients with Sjogren's syndrome and lupus erythematosus, a disease which attacks the skin, connective tissue,

kidneys, spleen and other organs. Antibodies to the new virus were found in the blood of 24 of those patients, Garry said in an interview Tuesday, Nov. 27.

"We definitely, at this point, haven't proven that this virus is associated. We haven't proven a cause and effect relationship. But the isolation of a new retrovirus is significant in its own right," he said.

Folks said a new retrovirus—especially one associated with an autoimmune disease—would indeed be a very significant discovery.

"It might open the pathway to really understanding autoimmune disease," said Folks. Scientists also believe that genes, hormones and other factors may be involved in autoimmune diseases. If the new virus is part of the cause, said Garry, it is a stepping stone toward finding a vaccine or antiviral drugs, and to screening the blood supply to avoid spreading the syndrome.

Garry said one reason the team studied Sjogren's syndrome is that it affects only the salivary and

lacrimal glands. If a virus was involved, researchers felt it might be found in those glands. And the glands were easy to remove or take samples from.

"We were interested in the disease from a couple of standpoints. First, we knew that ... 5 to 10 percent of patients with HIV disease have symptoms very much like Sjogren's syndrome," said Garry. "They also develop other rheumatic disorders—arthritis and the like."

Patients with the syndrome have about a 25 to 50 percent chance of developing rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus, said Garry.

He said that made researchers think that a retrovirus might be involved in Sjogren's syndrome. The first thing they looked for, he said, was antibodies to retroviruses.

"We found that a fair number of them made antibodies that reacted with AIDS-virus proteins ...

That was very suggestive that a person with Sjogren's syndrome might have a virus of their own. Not HIV, but perhaps related," he

said. Examination by electron microscope and through various other tests found basic differences between the new virus and HIV, he said.

He said the virus may help explain why as many as 30 percent of patients with diseases such as Sjogren's syndrome and lupus test positive for the AIDS virus even though they have not been exposed to it.

Research on HIAP may also bring insight into the origins and development of human retroviruses, and help isolate others, Garry said.

"We used the AIDS virus to find this new one, and I think we'll be able to use this new one to find other retroviruses as well," he said. "Certainly these techniques I used to find the new virus weren't available before the AIDS crisis. A lot of reagents were developed for dealing with the HIV virus."

"Since they're available, we were able to find the new one. It makes for a good rationale for doing research—one thing leads to another."

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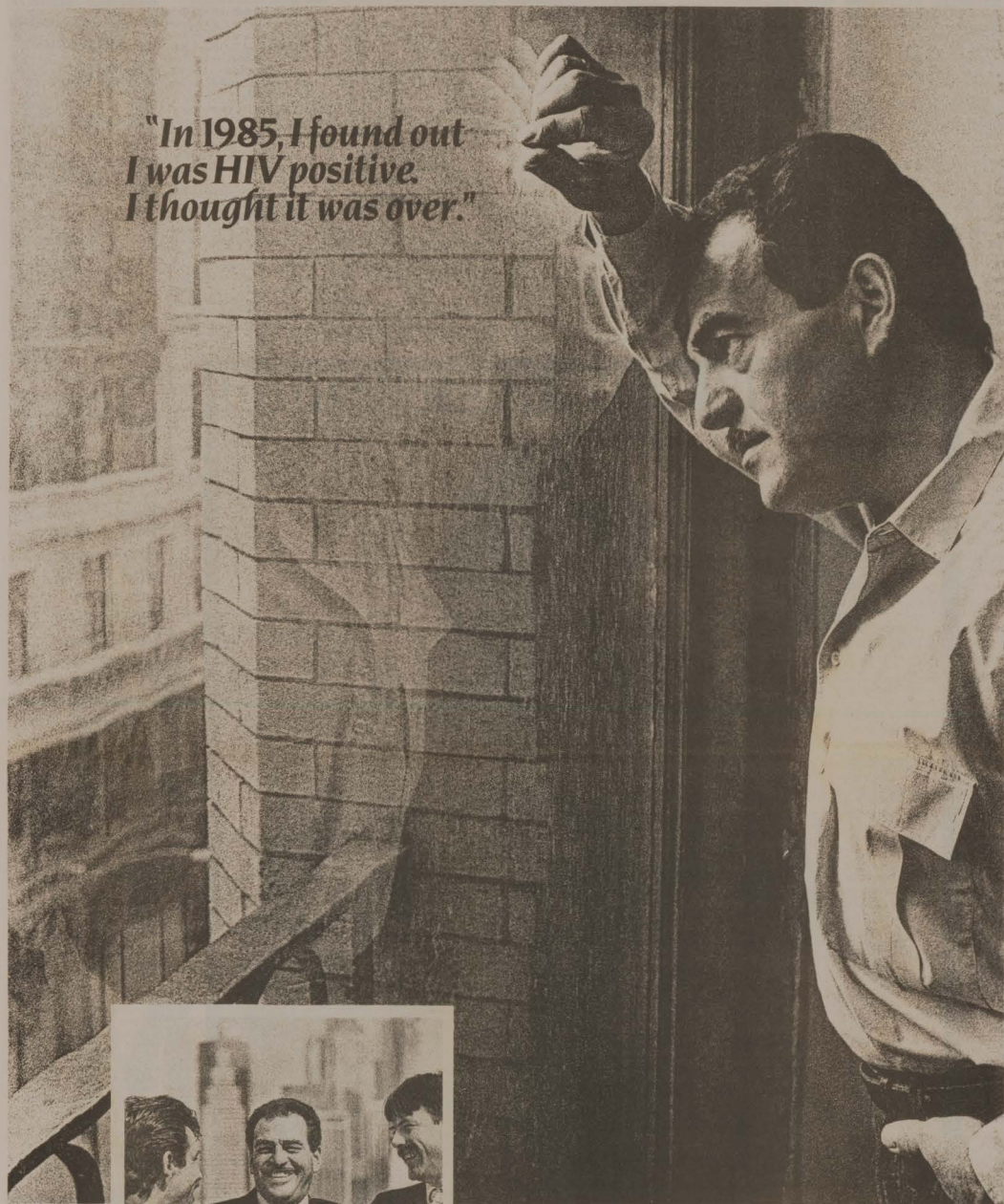
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Gay teenagers face numerous struggles on their own

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Programs for gay and lesbian teenagers are available in some cities, but Louisville's homosexual youths still must struggle with their emerging sexuality largely on their own, concerned parents and others say.

And they say the teens receive little public support as they try to overcome feelings of isolation and pain.

"Gay and lesbian children often, look really good ... but inside you may not know that they're feeling a lot of pain and a lot of isolation and a lot of loneliness," said Jane Hope, whose son Gerry is homosexual.

Hope said her son, a winning swimmer and student-council president, knew he was homosexual from the time he was 12. But she said Gerry didn't "come out of the closet" to her until he was 21.

"That's a long time to be alone with a secret," she said.

Marie Jenkins said "it hit me in the pit of my stomach" when her

daughter Anne told her five years ago she was a lesbian. But Jenkins said she and her husband, Tom, gradually have learned that gay teenagers and their families feel alone, anguished and in need of support.

Jenkins is active with Hope in the Louisville chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report released last year, homosexual youths are two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual teenagers, and up to 30 percent of the teens who kill themselves each year may be gay.

Homosexual youths also are at higher risk for alcohol and drug abuse—in part because their struggle to come to terms with their sexual orientation, in a society generally not accepting of homosexuality, often leads to low self-esteem.

"Many families are unable to

reconcile their child's sexual identity with moral and religious values," the report says.

Teen-agers who openly acknowledge their homosexuality, the report says, "may feel some sense of security within themselves but face tremendous external conflicts with family and peers."

At a recent AIDS conference in Louisville, a panel of homosexual teenagers from Indianapolis spoke of their struggles and the support they get from the Indianapolis Youth Group, an educational and social organization for gay people under 21.

"When you're 15 or 16 and you have feelings that aren't quite

"normal" ... you feel very isolated," said one panelist, a girl named Love. (Teens on the panel used only their first names because some have not discussed their sexuality with their families.)

She added, "We know that gay youth have a high rate of AIDS. It's because they are out on the street," trying to meet other gay

people, because "they have nowhere (else) to go."

The youth group "has given me the self-esteem and the confidence" to speak publicly about being a lesbian, said Vanessa, another panelist. Joining it "was the best step toward the future I could ever make," she said, adding that the support she has found made her understand "it's OK to be gay. It's OK. You're not a bad person."

While the group may not motivate everyone to acknowledge his or her sexuality openly, Vanessa said, those who participate "can at least look in the mirror and say, 'I am homosexual, and I am happy'."

The youth group, funded in part by a \$30,000 grant from the federal Centers for Disease Control, was formed three years ago. So far it has served about 1000 teenagers.

Its adult coordinator, Chris Gonzalez, said the group sponsors roller-skating parties, dances and parents' nights, and educational

seminars on subjects such as prevention of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and self-esteem building. Last summer, it also started a national hot line—1-800-347-TEEN—operated from 7:00 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays by group members trained in peer counseling.

"We are receiving an awful lot of calls from kids from the Louisville area who are looking for direction and a place to go," Gonzalez said. "You have kids within your own community who ... desperately need your help."

In Louisville, a group of concerned adults is at "a very early stage" of discussing whether to set up a similar group, said Jeff Vessels, who has been active in AIDS work.

"The bottom line is that we want to provide a safe environment where young people can be who they are and feel OK about it," Vessels said. "The need is clear, and we're trying to figure out how best to address it."

Safe sex shop blends humor with business of education

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—AIDS is no laughing matter at the Safer Sex Boutiques, but the unique shop offers such lighthearted gifts as condom-shaped candy and boxer shorts adorned with smiling condom cartoons that glow in the dark.

Shoppers also can buy earrings and key chains that discreetly store condoms inside, or use a computer that calculates a person's likelihood of exposure to AIDS.

The unusual store, open this holiday season, is a commercial experiment to market both silly and serious products that promote safe sex and draw attention to the needs of those who have acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"This is designed to talk about and promote safer sex by making it more fun and exciting," said Dave Rompa, executive director of the AIDS Support Network in Madison, an advocacy group that helped develop the business.

"Some stores will have a safe-sex corner or cute little condom section, but there's never been a whole store devoted to it," he said.

Since the boutique opened Nov. 5, it has drawn about 2,000 people—both shoppers and the simply curious—ranging from teenagers and their parents to divorcees returning to the dating scene, Rompa said.

Wisconsin professor and ROTC crusade continue plodding

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—One year after the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty voted to ban the school's ROTC program, professor Joe Elder says he is still hopeful the military will begin admitting gay men and lesbians.

"The lines are drawn, the warnings have been given," said Elder, a sociology and South Asian studies professor who organized efforts to bring the ROTC issue to a faculty vote.

"The Department of Defense is reluctant to do anything about warnings," he said. "But when campuses start closing their doors on ROTC programs, at that point they can't continue to believe this doesn't exist. The Pentagon's policies are ultimately self-defeating."

UW-Madison's faculty gained national attention by voting to get rid of the university's ROTC programs by May 1993 if the military had not changed its policy of refusing to admit gay people.

"It was the cutting edge of a trend," Elder said of the vote, the first full faculty decision since the early 1970s.

Following the UW-Madison vote, faculty at 15 other colleges and universities moved to ban ROTC programs from their campuses. Some, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, have set deadlines for getting rid of ROTC programs, he said.

"It looks as if there's a groundswell of more and more campuses around the country that think this (the military's refusal to admit homosexuals) is intolerable," he said.

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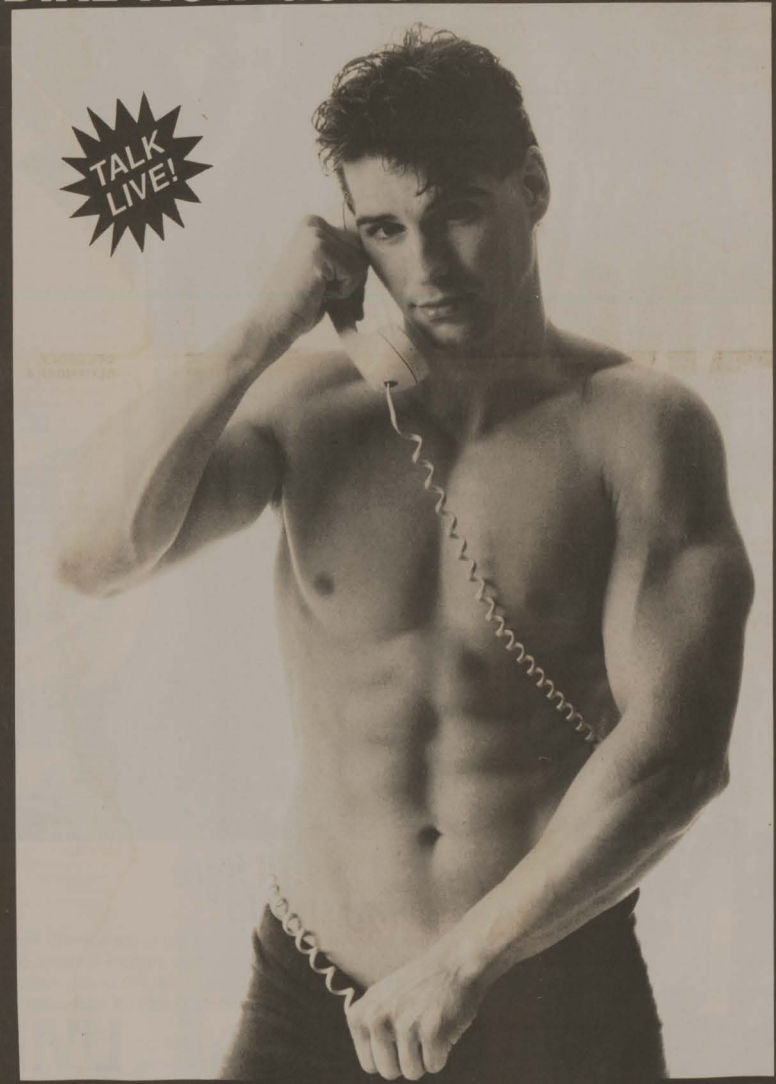
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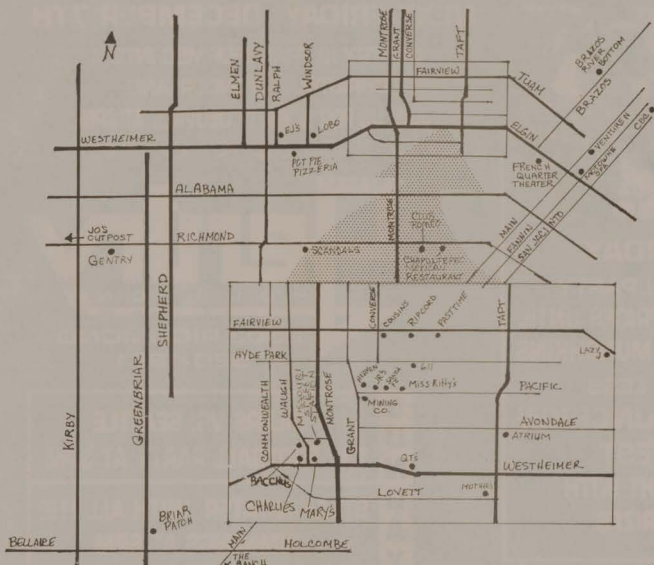
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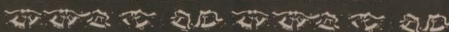
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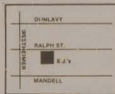


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Me: WM, 30, multi-organism, non-smoker, attractive, shy, 5'11", 170 lbs., br/gy, 32" waist, clean cut, HIV negative, sensitive, smooth, tanned, defined body. Prefer female professional non-smoker with smooth muscled body. Long hair, Hispanic, redheads are all turn-ons. Photo appreciated. Paul, ampo calante. Reply to Ad 25032, c/o Montrose Voice.

HANDSOME, HEALTHY & MUSCULAR

GWM, brown hair, br/gy seeks others who want a friendship and/or to build into a possible relationship. Send photo and phone to Ad 25041, c/o Montrose Voice.

GWM SEEKS SAME

Attractive, energetic, outgoing GWM, 5'9", 125 lbs., seeks same, 20-27, for exciting times. Please send photo with a note from yourself and what you are looking for. Keep in mind I will be discrete in contacting you. All serious responses will be answered. Reply to Ad 25043, c/o Montrose Voice.

ATTENTION ALL ATTRACTIVE GWF

I'm really sick of the role model butch/fuff scene that is such a part of this world. How about you? If so, please respond to this attractive 22-yr-old GWF. Photo would be appreciated. Thank You. Ad 25047, c/o Montrose Voice.

LOOKING FOR INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL STIMULATION?

I am a GWM, professional, 37, 5'9", 160, well-built, hung, HIV- interests include classical music, working out, travel, cooking. I want to meet other bright, masculine, in-shape men, 30-40 for good times and possible relationship. Write with photo and phone to Ad 25066, c/o Montrose Voice.

GAMERS NEEDED

For Montrose RHD group. Modern day mystical campaign using Hero System rules. Variety of genres including X-men. No experience necessary. Reply to Ad 25065, c/o Montrose Voice.

Professional GWM, 30, 5'9", 150 ready to enjoy life with vitality, HIV positive with a healthy outlook and attitude to rise above. I enjoy all cultural pursuits as well as being with a special someone and spending quality time alone together. Am seeking a professional GWM 25-35 pos/neg for friendship and the chance to build a positive caring one on one relationship. Reply to Ad 25064, c/o Montrose Voice.

GWM, 50's, 5'7", 180 lbs., attractive, HIV negative, latter type. Interests include art, working out, travel, cozy nights at home. Seeks aggressive, masculine GWM, 35-45 for mutual fun and possible relationship. Reply to Ad 25067, c/o Montrose Voice.

GWM, 28, 5'8", 148 lbs., HIV negative, professional enjoys working out, art, travel. Seeks masculine GWM, 25-35 for fun and possible relationship. Reply to Ad 25068, c/o Montrose Voice.

Free to good home. Black Labrador Retriever puppie, 660-2091

GWM SEEKS SPECIAL FRIEND

Hi, I'm 46, HIV positive, healthy, drug/alcohol/tobacco free. Sincere and nice looking. Are you able to communicate from the heart? If so, then answer this ad. Be honest and attractive. Ad 25004, c/o Montrose Voice.

Young Asian Architect, 27, 5'9", 140#, looking for intimate relationship with young man 5'6", 140#. Call Neil 880-1266 between 7am & 10am or night.

DO IT ALL AND ENJOY IT!

GWM, HIV negative, mid 40's, look and act younger, smoke, drink, do it all and enjoy it. Seeking similar, good-looking, masculine man that has his act together. Likes sports, outdoors and hot tubs on cold nights, etc. Reply to Ad 25069, c/o Montrose Voice.

SEEKS PARTNER-ATTRACTIVE GWM, HISPANIC, LATIN

I am a GWM, 30, 5'11", 210 lbs. seeking a nice guy for love friendship and other possibilities. Call 777-5342 or write Dennis, P.O. Box 71048, Houston, TX.

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GWM, 33, brn hair, grn eyes, muscular. Very attractive, well proportioned. Seeks skilled French chef to serve main dish. Be well versed in advanced techniques of hot marinating and slow basting to maximize natural juices. No stuffing, skewering or other cheap greasy Greek cuisine. Drop me a line with your favorite recipe & maybe we can whip up a tasty snack real soon. Reply to Ad 25039, c/o Montrose

7727-0048. Call Friday, Saturday & Sunday only.

ADAM:

We met in Boston, 1am, 10/8 & 90 at Maximum Security. Your beautiful smile has been on my mind ever since. Please write: Jon, 18 Leonard Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139

B-WF, 28 attractive, enjoys leather and B & D would like to meet B&F. GF, 16-35 with similar interests for friendship and decadent pleasures. Describe yourself and pleasures and include photo. Reply to Ad 25031, c/o Montrose Voice.

25031, c/o Montrose Voice.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

GWM, 44, wants to meet other GM into mountain biking (non-motorized) for evening and weekend rides. I ride mostly Ho Chi Minh. Off-road only, no city street riding. Letter w/ phone appreciated. Reply to Ad 25052, c/o Montrose Voice.

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Workers in AIDS-related jobs keep going despite stigma

By JERI WATERS
FOR THE MONTROSE VOICE

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Working with AIDS patients has been an enriching experience for volunteers, but some feel unsettled with the public's perception of their jobs and snubs from medical insurance agencies.

Many medical professionals and volunteers who work with people who have acquired immune deficiency syndrome or carry the HIV virus are finding that they are not spared the animosity faced by their patients.

For some, the prejudice is a fact of life.

"I expect it a lot of times," said Katharine Whisnant, a social worker with AID Atlanta, who was forced to end a relationship with a boyfriend because he could not accept her work with AIDS patients or her gay friends.

She said the experience has made her reluctant to tell people

where she works or what she does. At a recent party, she tried to avoid the issue.

"I thought, 'Oh, I don't want to deal with it.' So I just said I was a social worker."

Carol Schaljo, who works with AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, remains convinced her job was the reason an insurance company denied her application for medical coverage.

"The irony of this is I'm a health educator," Ms. Schaljo said. "I educate the general community ... in the prevention of coming in contact with and being infected by the HIV virus."

Ms. Schaljo says for a woman of 61, she's "so healthy, it's ridiculous."

"No one is guaranteeing me the right to be insured, but a necessity to get along in the world (is) basic medical insurance coverage," she said.

There is also the fear in the back

of the care givers' minds that they will contract the disease through an accident. However, Kent Taylor of the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta said the risk was slight.

There are 37 known cases of the virus being transmitted to workers, he said.

The virus may be passed along when HIV-infected blood or contaminated body fluids come into contact with an open wound or are injected into the skin, according to the CDC.

In a June 1989 report, the CDC said a person faces one chance in 200 of being infected by the HIV virus as a result of a single contaminated needle stick.

Carol Lynne Yaretts, an AIDS Nursing Care Specialist with the Columbus Health Department, said she tackles negative reactions to her occupation head-on.

"I figure I can either blow people away and tell them what I do, or I can avoid the issue and say I am a

nurse," she said. "But my attitude is that for every one person you educate and give them the facts, that could be five more people that they in turn educate or correct their misunderstanding."

Public fear toward people who work with AIDS patients has eased as general knowledge of the disease has grown since the early 1980s, AIDS workers say.

The growing awareness has resulted in more volunteers becoming interested in AIDS-related work.

Hospitals and other organizations that provide services to people with the disease initially drew volunteers from a pool of young, gay white males who most likely had lost someone to AIDS.

Volunteer coordinators said that as the disease affected other segments of the community, the people offering their services became more diverse.

"People really have been falling all over themselves to become part

of the project," said Dennis Davis of the Jerusalem House in Atlanta, which is presently home to five AIDS patients who otherwise would be homeless.

Despite the day-to-day pressures, AIDS workers say their experiences have enriched their lives.

"Once you catch the fever, it's hard to let go because it's a cause," Ms. Whisnant said. "It's hard work, it's depressing and painful, but what you get back, it's tenfold."

"I have turned down several jobs because I want to stay in this job," said Rick Gower, a research associate with the Ohio State University AIDS Clinical Trials Unit.

"The reward is in being someone on the front line of AIDS research. This job goes way beyond the monetary rewards," he said. "I want to be working in this job when a cure for the disease comes around. I come up with the same kind of hope that the patients do."

Researcher says teens misunderstand threat

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Teen-agers continue to have unprotected sex with multiple partners because they fail to realize that AIDS is not just a homosexual disease, a sociologist says.

Robert Fulton, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Death Education and Research, said preliminary data appear to confirm that high school and college students are more sexually active than they used to be and many are not using protection.

Fulton has been studying the attitudes and behavior of college freshmen.

For some, the more active they were, the less likely they were to take precautions," he said in an interview with The Columbus Dispatch published Saturday, Nov. 24. "The implications for the spread of this disease are tremendous."

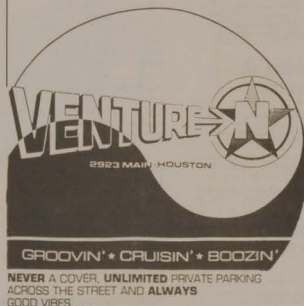
Fulton is to speak in Columbus on Monday, Nov. 26.

Many teens still do not think they are at risk because they believe AIDS happens only to gay men or intravenous drug users, Fulton said.

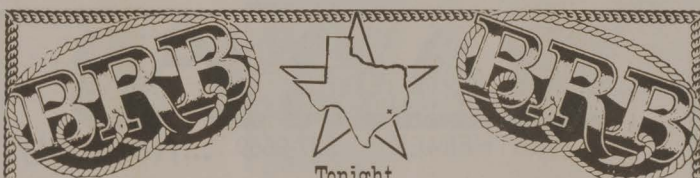
One of the riskiest behaviors is what Fulton calls "networking"—when students sleep with more than one partner and that partner sleeps with more than one partner.

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Local Houston organizations help observe World AIDS Day

Several local organizations are planning activities this weekend and throughout next week in observance of World AIDS Day and World AIDS Week. World AIDS day, Dec. 1, was designated by the American Association for World Health as a "day for coordinated action against AIDS" and to educate people about HIV and AIDS.

This year, the theme for the international observance is "Women and AIDS."

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP-Houston), for the third consecutive year, will observe World AIDS day with a rally on the steps of City Hall on Saturday, Dec. 1. The rally will begin at noon with a "Speak Out" sponsored by the group, in which concerned people will address HIV and AIDS awareness. The names of persons who have died of AIDS in Houston will be read.

Scheduled speakers at the "Speak Out" include state Rep. Debra Danburg, activist Ray Hill, Bill Napoli of the People With AIDS Coalition, Ralph Leasher of the Montrose Clinic, Glenda Gardner of the city health department, Masteen Beath of Over the Hill, Lynne Tyrne of the American Red Cross, Stan Harrell, ACT UP Syracuse, Brian Bradley and Michael Crawford of ACT UP Houston, Gertrude Barnstone, state board member, American Civil Liberties Union, Phyllis A. Tucker, and Stephanie Burke, according to ACT UP members Leslie Perez and Joe Thornton. ACT UP is urging those attending the rally to wear pink, and to bring a pink rose to honor a friend or loved one.

Also on Saturday, Dec. 1, Body Positive/Houston and the Houston NAMES Project will host the third

annual lighting of the "Christmas Tree of Hope" at 6:00 p.m. in the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center. Guests are invited to bring an ornament to hang on the tree in memory of someone who has died of AIDS. For information, call 624-8274.

Montrose Neighborhood Events

On Tuesday (Dec. 4), the AIDS Equity League is urging persons concerned about AIDS to attend the Houston City Council public forum, which begins at 9:00 a.m. in council chambers. Representatives of several AIDS service provider organizations are scheduled to speak, and council members will be asked to wear green ribbons to mark the observance, members said.

League members said other "surprises" are planned to make the group's council appearance memorable.

Public forum is open to anyone in the community who wishes to speak, but an appointment must be made in advance. Speakers are allowed three minutes. Persons who wish to address the public forum Tuesday should call the city secretary, 247-1840.

FWACH to elect officers

The December meeting of the People With AIDS Coalition Houston will be held at 7:00 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3 at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray. Elections for 1991 will be held at this meeting, and members are encouraged to attend, said Bill Napoli, president. For more information, call FWACH at 528-8488.

Silent auction for ART

A silent Christmas auction titled "That's What Friends are For" will be held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9. The event is a benefit for the AIDS response team (ART), and will be held at Missouri Street Station, 1117 Missouri Street. A special guest performance by Marlene Oertzen is scheduled. For information, call ART at 528-2898.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First

Gay Fathers/Fathers First of Houston has announced that its annual toy drive will be held on Dec. 13 at the Brazeal River Bottom. This year,



GF/FF is hosting an evening of "Dance Lessons with the Daddies" from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

For the last few years, the drive has benefited area hospitals, for the children who had the misfortune to be there on Christmas day. This year, the beneficiary is different, and the drive has been slightly altered to include a larger variety of items.

In addition to toys, donations of nursery items (such as diapers, baby wipes, soy-based formula) will be collected. Items donated this year will go to the Children's Home, a hospital for children with AIDS. For more information on the drive, contact Al Morrow at 863-7826.

On Oct. 1, Gay Fathers of Houston and Fathers First merged, forming Gay Fathers/Fathers First of Houston. GF/FF is a non-profit support organization open to all gay fathers, men contemplating fatherhood, or gay men in a child-nurturing role. It is a mutually supportive group with meetings and an open forum of problems, experiences, concerns and education with respect to parenting and raising children. Guest speakers are periodically invited to address issues of interest to the membership.

Social activities include pot luck dinners, group outings, fund raising for community causes, and guest bartending at the BRB.

GF/FF meets every Monday night at the Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, Suite 203, Room 3 at 8:00 p.m. Contact co-chairs Beau Briggs at 541-8502 or Al Morrow at 863-7826 for more information.

FWA legal services

The Houston Young Lawyers Association and the Houston Bar Association, with the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association, have ex-

panded their legal services to people with AIDS with the addition of an AIDS legal hotline. The AIDS legal hotline has been in operation since 1986 under the auspices of the Houston office of the American Civil Liberties Union. Beginning Nov. 4, 1990, persons with AIDS-related legal problems can access the hotline through Houston Volunteer Lawyers as part of a program that offers free legal services to low-income persons with AIDS-related problems.

The hotline operates Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The hotline number is 528-7702.

"Tree of Hope"

In recognition of World AIDS Day 1990 on Saturday, Dec. 1, Body Positive/Houston, and the Houston NAMES Project will host the third annual lighting of the "Christmas Tree of Hope." The ceremony, which is open to the public, free of charge, will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray in Houston.

Guests are invited to bring a Christmas ornament and hang it on the tree in memory of someone who has died of AIDS. Names of people from the Houston area who have died of AIDS in 1989 and 1990 will be read. Music will be presented by HeartSong and the Montrose

Singers and refreshments will be served.

Body Positive/Houston, a support offering peer counseling and buddy programs for HIV-positive individuals, will also sponsor its third annual Christmas hospital visitation and caroling on Sunday, Dec. 23.

Donations of magazines, novels, toiletries (shaving cream, soap, toothpaste, comb, hair brushes, etc.), socks, candy, soft drinks and Christmas cookies are requested by the organization. In addition, items for pediatric AIDS patients such as diapers, formula (lactaid), baby lotion, powder, shampoo and pajamas are also needed.

Donations should be dropped off at the Body Positive offices in the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Suite 176, on or before Friday, Dec. 21. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The gifts will be packaged up in stockings and wrapped boxes and delivered to patients at Ochs de Amigos, Park Plaza, Twinkl Oaks, Veterans Administration, Ben Taul, St. Luke and Memorial Southwest hospitals. Christmas caroling by the Montrose Singers will accompany the deliveries.

For more information, call Body Positive at 524-2374.

Catholic bishops sign AIDS statement

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Iowa's Roman Catholic bishops have signed a joint statement calling for compassion for people with AIDS and their families while upholding church teachings on sexual ethics.

The one-page document also says the church, as an employer, should not discriminate against people with AIDS and should support non-discriminatory public policies for AIDS sufferers.

The document was signed by Archbishop Daniel Kucera of Dubuque and three other bishops of dioceses that include about 500,000 Iowa Catholics. Bishop William Bullock of Des Moines, one of the signers, said the statement is intended to clarify the church's concern and compassion for those touched by a deadly medical infection "verging on epidemic proportions."

Bishops Gerald O'Keefe of Davenport and Lawrence Soons of Sioux City, and the Most Rev. William Franklin, auxiliary bishop of Dubuque, also signed the statement.

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Liberace's former lover testifies in Canyon slayings trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The ex-lover of the late Liberace testified that a former nightclub owner accused of murdering four people threatened to "get even" with thieves who stole \$1 million in drugs and jewelry from his home.

Scott Alan Thorson, 32, testified Monday, Nov. 26, that he heard defendant Eddie Nash make the threats while he was visiting Nash's home to buy cocaine.

"He screamed that he'd get even and he was going to get to the bottom of what went on and who was responsible (for the theft)," Thorson said in Superior Court.

Nash, 61, and co-defendant Gregory Diles, 42, are accused of the July 1, 1981, bludgeoning deaths of four people in a home in the Laurel Canyon area of Los Angeles.

IGBO, gay bowling event, tournament marks 12th year

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Bowlers who organized an international tournament 12 years ago for gay people predicted 400 participants for this year's annual event.

Gay and lesbians bowling help demonstrate "we're part of mainstream life," Pat Prudlow said.

"We carry these 16-pound things in our trunk all the time too, just like everybody else," tournament director Timm Elmer said.

Bowlers from throughout the United States and Canada, and one from Australia, were enrolled for the \$12,000 Holiday Invitational Tournament.

The event features three days of singles, doubles and team bowling, ending with a banquet tonight.

Across town, a better-known tournament, the American Bowling Congress Fall Classic, was in progress.

Free-Lance Graphic Artists Wanted

Community Publishing Company seeks free-lance artists to prepare gay-themed "clipper-style" ad layouts. We are now working on Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day events. Layouts should reflect these events from a gay perspective (i.e., a Valentine's layout might show gay men holding hands surrounded by hearts). Come up with your own ideas. Work can be in any medium.

Submit rough-sketch ideas or completed art work to Jerry Mulholland, 365 Canal, suite 2300, New Orleans, LA 70130. (504) 524-1408. Or to Henry McClurg, 408 Avondale, Houston, TX 77006. (713) 529-8490. We will pay per piece, \$25 and up. Possibly way up. Your work will be used in the Crescent City Star, the Montrose Voice, Texas Gay Press and as part of our photo and art clipper service to other gay publications.

Dallas retiree auctions her paintings to help AIDS patients

By STEVE BLOW

The Dallas Morning News
FOR THE MONTROSE VOICE

DALLAS (AP)—When you're 79 years old, Evelyn Pruitt believes you shouldn't plan too far in advance.

"I don't go out and buy any green bananas," she says.

In truth, the vivacious "Miss Evelyn" is always planning a whole month ahead—to her end-of-the-month charity art auction.

But that's getting ahead of the story. Let's go back about 15 years to when Miss Evelyn began taking sick people to and from the doctor. It was just her own little retirement project, a good Samaritan effort for anyone needing a ride.

Then, about six years ago, a call came that dramatically changed the course of her work. "A woman called and said, 'Are you afraid of AIDS?' I said, 'No, not a bit.' The truth was that I didn't know a thing about AIDS."

Today, the north Dallas grandmother knows more about the devastation and heartache of AIDS than almost anyone in the city.

That original phone call was a request to carry a seriously ill young man from his apartment to the hospital. "He cried all the way there. The poor little thing said, 'I don't know what I am going to do. My parents won't have anything to do with me. Will you stay with me?'"

Miss Evelyn naturally agreed to stay. "While we were unpacking his suitcase, his apartment manager called him and told him not to come back. She said she couldn't have people with AIDS living there."

"He cried. I cried. I didn't even know him, but it broke my heart!"

And from that eye-opening experience, Miss Evelyn became one of the city's preeminent friends and comforters of those with AIDS. She makes her position clear.

"I'm not gay, and I'm not opposed to them. I say everybody to his own notion."

As she began her work with AIDS patients, however, Miss Evelyn heard all the objections from her friends and family. "You're going to catch it. You know how they got it. You know they're doing wrong."

"All I know," Miss Evelyn replies, "is they are sick and they need help."

Unfortunately, providing that help has driven a wedge between Miss Evelyn and her three grown children. "They ignore me," she said.

But Miss Evelyn said any estrangement from her family has been more than compensated for by her newfound family of friends. In fact, Miss Evelyn is a "bona fide" celebrity in some quarters of the city.

In addition to being known as a wonderful humanitarian, Miss

Evelyn also has become a famous artist.

As she worked with more AIDS patients, Miss Evelyn saw that many were in desperate financial shape. "They were being evicted from their apartments. Their utilities were being shut off. It was terrible, and I kept thinking, 'Lord, how can I help them?'"

"Now I won't say that I actually heard God's voice. Some people say they do. I didn't hear anything, but a thought kept staying with me—Sell your paintings."

For decades Miss Evelyn had been painting pretty landscapes. She had even sold a few through her sister's floral shop. But mostly the paintings just accumulated around her house.

With the help of friends, an art auction was arranged at an Oak Lawn-area bar. "They went wild. I think one painting brought \$500," she said.

Since then, Miss Evelyn has held an auction on the last Friday

of every month at The Hideaway Club. Actually only one painting is auctioned. Three or four others are raffled off at \$1 a chance.

Miss Evelyn faithfully visits The Hideaway for a few hours every Friday night to sell her raffle tickets and spread good cheer among "my boys."

All the money goes straight to the AIDS Crisis Fund at Metropolitan Community Church. Last year, Miss Evelyn raised \$10,000. This year it will be near \$20,000.

"I can't say enough good about Miss Evelyn," said associate pastor Paul Tucker. "She's like everybody's grandmother."

For the November auction, Miss Evelyn has produced a medley of tropical sunsets—palm trees, blue lagoons, the whole works.

But she holds no illusions about the demand for her paintings. "People buy them for the cause—not because I'm good," she said.

"The only thing I can say is that I'm better than Picasso."

Photographers Wanted

Community Publishing Company seeks professional photographers who have photos for sale of male models for varied use in advertisements and promotions.

• Advertising for assorted display accounts in the Crescent City Star, Montrose Voice and Texas Gay Press.

• Display advertising in other gay publications that subscribe to our photo and art feature service.

We currently need photos with Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras themes (i.e., a Mardi Gras photo might show two men in costume, holding hands). Come up with your own ideas. Photos should be black and white but color prints will be accepted. Unable to use slides.

Submit sample photos to Jerry Mulholland, 365 Canal, suite 2300, New Orleans, LA 70130. (504) 524-1408. Or to Henry McClurg, 408 Avondale, Houston, TX 77006. (713) 529-8490. If we choose to use your work, we will make you an offer to buy negatives.

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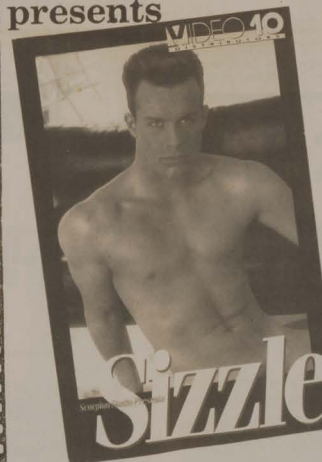
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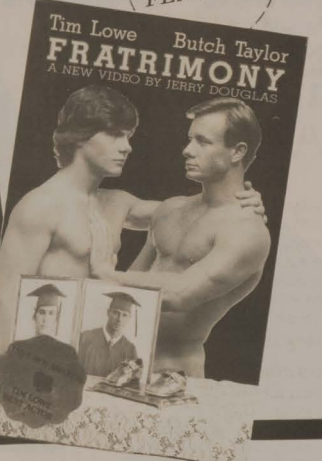
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Rebecca Spencer has ruby slippers in TUTS' 'Wizard of Oz'

Houston Live by the staff of the Montrose Voice
 Texan actress Rebecca Spencer has been awarded the ruby slipper role in Theatre Under the Stars' spectacular holiday stage production of "The Wizard of Oz," Dec. 4-16 at the downtown Music Hall. Drawn from the pages of L. Frank Baum's classic children's story of 1900, TUTS' elaborate holiday staging will more closely mirror the popular MGM film version of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman, and the Cowardly Lion and their adventures in the magical land of Oz.

A multi-media production, TUTS' yuletide staging features witches and monkeys that zoom through the air, an enchanted forest that comes to life, poppies that sing and dance and a tornado that whisks Dorothy away to Oz. The score, written for the movie version by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg, includes such favorites as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "If I Only Had a Brain," "We're Off to See the Wizard" and "Ding Dong! The Witch is Dead." Background music is by Herbert Stothart and the musical version was adapted by John Kane from the motion picture screenplay.

A cast of 58 will appear with Spencer in the musical, which is directed by Philip William McKinley with choreography by Carole McCann. Toni DiBueno appears as the Wicked Witch, Jeanne Lehman as Aunt Em, Glinda; Ronald Young as the Scarecrow; Russell Garrett as the Tin Woodsman; Michael Mulhearn as the Cowardly Lion; Charles Krohn as the Wizard; and Carter Smith as Uncle Henry.

As Dorothy, the Dallas-based Rebecca Spencer will make her TUTS' debut in the role that first brought fame to Judy Garland.

Houston audiences saw Spencer in Jekyll and Hyde at the Alley Theatre, where she created the role of Jekyll's fiancée, Lisa Carew. She has appeared as Magnolia in the Minnesota Opera and Opera Omaha productions of "Show Boat" and as Anabel in "Lucky Stiff" at the American Heartland Theatre.

Spencer has appeared off Broadway in "The Desert Song" as Margot; in "Kismet" as Marisnah and in "Sweethearts" as Sylvia. Her regional highlights include Cuneo in "Candide," Marietta in "Naughty Marietta" with Alan Jones at the Paper Mill Playhouse and Johanna in "Sweeney Todd" for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. She has toured nationally as Shirley in the Goodspeed Opera's "Lady Be Good" as well as Antonia in "Man of La Mancha" starring Hal Linden.

Allen Grubbs is in charge of Musical Direction, and Robert Lindler will conduct the Wizard of Oz orchestra. Lighting designer Pamela Gray Bones and sound designer Jan Banker will create the magical atmosphere for the spectacular sets by Paul Wonesek, modeled after the MGM movie version of "Wizard of Oz" and provided by the St. Louis Municipal Opera. Ray Dele Robbins is the costume coordinator for the costumes provided by A.T. Jones of Baltimore and designed based on those in MGM movie version. Special flying effects will be created by Flying by Foy.

John Holly is the producing director, John Breckinridge, production manager; Mark Tynan, production stage manager; Karen Bell, assistant stage manager; and Darryl Aikin, production assistant.

Performance dates for "The



Rebecca Spencer stars as Dorothy in the Theatre Under the Stars holiday production, "The Wizard of Oz," Dec. 4-16 at the Music Hall.

Wizard of Oz" are Dec. 4-16, with performance times as follows: Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at the Music Hall. There is a special ahead preview performance on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2:00 p.m., benefiting the Goodfellows.

—Alley Theatre

The Alley Theatre, under the artistic direction of Gregory Boyd, has announced its holiday production of "A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas," opening to-night (Nov. 30) on the Large Stage. Based on the classic by Charles Dickens, this all-new production is adapted and directed by Alley associate director Michael Wilson. The production previewed last night (Nov. 25) and runs through

Dec. 23.

"A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas" is the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly, cynical tyrant who is transformed by ghostly visitations which show him the evil in his ways and lead him to spiritual redemption. Written in 1843, this tale by Charles Dickens has become the most popular of the yuletide season. In this production, Wilson plans to emphasize the subtle of the story. "The ghost story theme will be reinforced throughout the play," Wilson said. "It will be spooky, with the intent not to scare, but rather to lure the audience into the extraordinary mystery and supernatural dimension of the story."

"Since most people are already

familiar with the tale, we are concentrating on the 'telling,' bringing a freshness to how we dramatize and stage the holiday classic. For those new to the tale, the story will be intact, but for those familiar, there'll be something new," explained Wilson.

"The important message in this play is to avoid 'Scroogish' self imposed isolation and to recognize the personal value in being part of our world community," he continued.

The design team for "A Christmas Carol" includes Jay Michael Jagtin (set design); Anisette Bruneau (costume design); Howell Binkley (lighting design); Joe Pino (sound design); John Dickson (musical direction) and Jeni Bren (choreography).

For the large cast, Wilson has gathered a variety of Alley company veterans as well as some newcomers: Gerald Hiken (Ebenezer Scrooge); Noble Shropshire (Mrs. Dilber/Jacob Marley); John Elbert (Fred); Peter Webster (Fred); Paul Thomas (First Solicitor/Fezziwig); Allen Morris (Second Solicitor); Betty Fitzpatrick (Spirit of Christmas Present); Colin Martin (Young Scrooge); Christiane McKenna (Mrs. Fezziwig/Mrs. Cratchit/Laurel); Lisa McDevitt (Bob); William Preston (Fiddler/Undertaker) and Jonathan Alloré (Watchmakers' Vendor).

Tickets are available at the Alley Theatre Box Office (ticket prices and information: 228-8421). Performance times for "A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas" are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

"Pay What You Wish" performances are scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 27 and Sunday (evening), Dec. 2.

State closes parking lot, nature trail at wildlife refuge

ISLE OF WIGHT, Va. (AP)—State officials have closed the parking lot and nature trail at the Rappahannock Wildlife Management Area to combat use of the refuge as a meeting place for gay men.

Workers put a gate across the parking lot Monday, Nov. 26. The closed area served as the primary access point for those wanting to picnic, hike along the nature trail and boardwalk or fish in the James River.

A second parking area that is posted for use by boaters, hunters and fishermen only remains open. The rest of the 1,537-acre refuge, much of it marsh, also is open to the public, but access is limited to those in boats or on foot.

Police have made dozens of arrests at the refuge during the past several months on charges of sodomy, indecent exposure and sexual battery. They said men came to the site from as far away as Maryland and North Carolina.

Such incidents have declined, in recent weeks, but Gerald Simmons, chief law enforcement officer for the state Department of Game and Fisheries, said closing the public access area was the only way to deal with the problem.

Males Needed for Models

Community Publishing Company seeks adult males to be models for articles in advertisements and promotions.

● Photo advertising for advertised shop, bar and phone service accounts in the Montrose Voice, Crescent City and Texas Gay News (Austin/San Antonio).

● Photo advertising to entice gay publications that subscribe to our photo and art feature service.

● Exotic photo features in Quasi For Men monthly magazine.

We currently need models for Valentine's and Mardi Gras themes. If interested, submit a normal photo that clearly shows your face. It will be returned. If we choose to photograph you, you will receive a set of the photos. Submit to Photo Editor: Montrose Voice, 408 Avondale, Houston, TX 77006. (713) 529-8490.

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