

Montrose Activity Center

NEWSLETTER

November 1989

Issue 15

The Montrose Activity Center is a non profit 501c3 organization whose purposes are to increase understanding of social, racial and sexual minorities, and to encourage acceptance and tolerance of alternative lifestyles so that together, the citizens of the City of Houston and the State of Texas may work in the spirit of peaceful cooperation to build a better society. The organization acts as an umbrella to other organizations. MAC, PO Box 66684, Houston, TX 77266-6684.

Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Names Project Houston March On Austin

DEATH OF A GAY BAR

by Lars Eighner & Hugh Forrest
from The Austin Chronicle September 22, 1989

Before September 7, 1989, on any given night of the week this parking lot would have been full. Now it's empty.

Sally's Apartment 1968-1989 RIP

by Lars Eighner

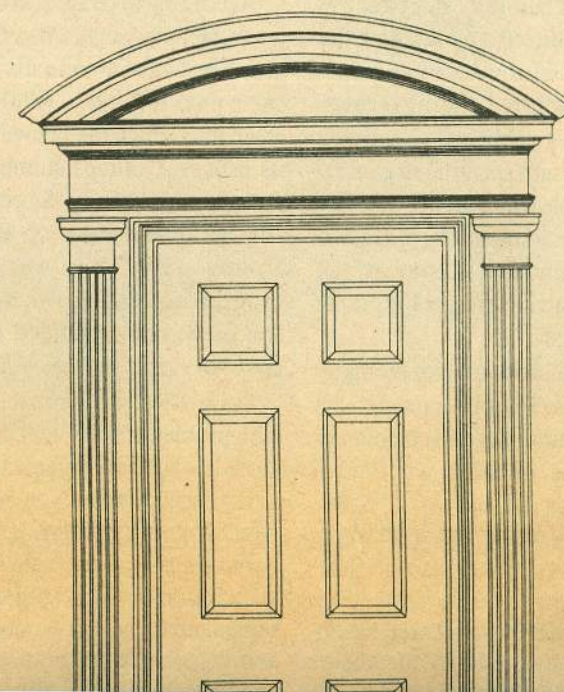
I had finally gotten paid by a magazine that bought a story from me when I was in Hollywood. After doing my laundry, sending money to have my laundry, sending money to have my manuscripts shipped from California, catching up on my correspondence - including sending out change of address cards listing Sally's Apartment as my new address - and buying tobacco at Oat Willie's, I decided to have a few \$1 beers at the Apartment.

relatives' god told them to reject me.

■
In 1968, the Apartment opened as a gay bar at 2828 Rio Grande, near 29th Street. Only two years before, headlines of The Austin American and The Austin Statesman cried out: "Homosexual Ring Uncovered at U.T." The "ring" referred to gay men attending the university who associated with one another, exchanged address and phone numbers, and sometimes had parties.

MAC presents "THE EVENT"

Today a Dream . . . Tomorrow a Reality



by Lars Eighner

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I recognized one of the TABC officers right away. They were in plainclothes except for badges they wore where nerds wear pocket protectors. The one I recognized had cornered some college students at the washateria the night before and made them pour out a 12-pack of Bud Light.

I glanced quickly around the bar. No one seemed close to underage. No one was seriously intoxicated. I relaxed a little. They called Jon out from behind the bar. He was the youngest looking person in the bar, but surely they did not think he was too young to serve liquor.

After several very long minutes the lights came up and Warren's voice came over the PA: "Please surrender your cocktails to the bartenders. I don't know what's going on, but the TABC's here and we have to close at this time. Please surrender your cocktails to the bartenders now and leave the bar. And keep in touch."

I was at something of a loss. Eventually I just sat down on the wheelchair ramp. If this was the end of the Apartment, I wanted to see it out and absorb every moment of it, of the place where I'd met so many friends and lovers, of the place where I'd proof-read the galleys (actually page proofs) of my books, of the place that was home — even when I had a place to live — and the people who became my family when my

Eighner is a free spirit, world traveler, and author of several novels. He lives with his dog Lizbeth wherever he can.

relatives' god told them to reject me.

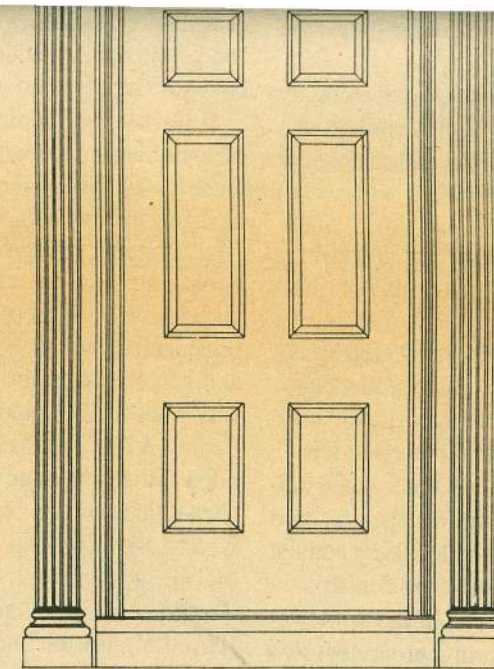
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The year after the Apartment opened, gay people, including a number of drag queens, rioted in Manhattan. The event, often called the Stonewall Rebellion, is generally taken as the beginning of the modern gay liberation movement. At issue was police harassment of a gay bar, the Stonewall Inn.

Gay bars have always been more than just bars in the gay community; they have become the principal institution of the gay subculture. Gay bars became so important because historically they were the only gay-identified places that the majority culture would tolerate.

If a "homosexual ring" was shocking to Austin in 1966, a gay church, a gay community center, or a real bookstore like Liberty Books would have been impossible in 1968. A bar was not. Indeed, the Apartment was not the first gay bar in Austin. Historically, the typical response when majority culture authorities were asked about the existence of gay bars was: "Those people have to go somewhere. Better to have them some place we know about, where we can keep an eye on them." In many cities the price of this toleration was raids around municipal election time. Elsewhere there were tacitly accepted rules of engagement for routine police harassment and systems of direct bribes or carefully monitored campaign contributions.

Generally, gay bars only recently have had the possibility of operating entirely see Sallys Apartment page 7



OPEN THE DOOR TO A NEW HOME!

Ten years ago the Montrose Activity Center was conceived as the nucleus of a Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Perhaps you know us better by some of our other names: Gay & Lesbian Pride Week, Names Project Houston or Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos. But the activities we sponsor are steps toward realizing that **ORIGINAL DREAM.**

Now we are taking the next step ... the creation of a dedicated "Building Fund."

WALK HOME WITH US!

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 3)

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What is MAC?	2	Questioned as to whether he thinks the closing of the Apartment was an attack on the gay community, Brittain is quick to respond. "Definitely. They didn't want a queer bar in their neighborhood."	
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BOSTON: Lesbian/Gay Center opens with big splash

New offices provide for local groups as Center organizers look toward the future

by Jim Kiely
from Gay Community News

In a sea of power suits and tweed, fruit kabobs and cocktails, elbow-rubbers and activists, some 700 people gathered on September 21 to celebrate the opening of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Service Center at 338 Newbury Street. In each of the Center's ten rooms and narrow hallway, the temperature and humidity soared as the crowd laughed, kibitzed and toasted the future. Someplace in the background, it was rumored, there played a string quartet.

The Center was established to provide 15 social, political and spiritual organizations with office space and an opportunity to network with one another. There are also two conference rooms at the Center, which can be rented by outside groups for public or private functions.

In a speech delivered at the opening by Ann Sanders, Mayor Flynn's liaison to the lesbian and gay community and co-founder of the Center, the opening was called "momentous." "For the first time," Sanders said, "members of the gay and lesbian community have a common place to meet and find out who each other is and what we are all about." Sanders was cheered loudly when she thanked everyone in attendance for the "outpouring of support and coop-

erent office space; on the other hand, no organization would donate until they had the space."

One of the problems facing the group was the price of real estate in Boston. For instance, Graves said, they considered renting 2,000 square feet of office space in a building on Berkeley Street, before finding out that the rent was \$25/square foot.

According to Graves, in early 1989 there was a breakthrough when Harry Collings, of the Fenway Community Health Center, came onto the scene. While searching for room into which the Fenway could expand its offices, Collings stumbled upon a vacancy on Newbury Street that was far cheaper than the one on Berkeley Street. Shortly after Graves was told of the vacancy, Larry Basile, owner of the Chandler Inn of Boston, provided seed money to cover the rent for two years.

With the group's initial space and financial problems resolved, a new problem arose — finding organizations interested in setting up shop on Newbury Street. Enter Ann Sanders. Last spring, Sanders formed a committee that generated a questionnaire and sent it to local organizations. Each organization had to be community-based and responsive to the needs of gay men and/or lesbians to qualify for space in the

"The only reason the Center happened," Sanders told GCN, "is because it was a group effort." Although Graves had been working on establishing a community center two years before Sanders, Collings and Basile became involved, Graves said that no competition erupted between them. Graves said "Factions never formed . . . there was great respect and appreciation between all of us." Sanders agreed. "People's talents and abilities came into play at different times," she said. "All of us contributed what we could when we could."

Although the Center has just opened, its management is hoping that some day it will be able to move to larger quarters. John Nicoli, president of Gay Fathers of Greater Boston and acting manager of the Center, told GCN, "The response from the community has been so positive that we're already outgrowing the facilities." In addition to Center members holding weekly meetings and scheduling public events, Nicoli said that outside organizations such as the National Organization for Women and Am Tikva have scheduled functions at the Center. "Space will be getting tight," Nicoli said, "so I hope that, somewhere down the road, the Center will be able to find an old school or some other building that Boston no longer wants so we'll be

MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER

Box 66684
Houston, TX 77266-6684

Board Members:
Jim Owens (President)
Jack Valinski (Vice President)
Brian Keever (Secretary)
Annise Parker (Treasurer)
Deborah Bell, Jim Crary,
Felix Garcia, John Hill, Ray Hill,
Neal Massey, Bruce Reeves,
Joe Watts and C. Williams

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is an official publication of the Montrose Activity Center. Articles and commentary printed in this Newsletter reflect the opinions of their authors and not necessarily those of the Montrose Activity Center. Questions and comments may be directed to the Newsletter editor. This newsletter is mailed to a list compiled from Montrose Activity Center sub-groups. If you would like your name to be added, changed or deleted, please fill out the form and return it. This list is available to organizations requesting it, with direction from the MAC board.

Editor: Jack Valinski
Assistant Editor: Annise Parker

Bulk Mailing for September issue:
Brian Keever
Ray Hill
Jack Valinski

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In a speech delivered at the opening by Ann Sanders, Mayor Flynn's liaison to the lesbian and gay community and co-founder of the Center, the opening was called "momentous." "For the first time," Sanders said, "members of the gay and lesbian community have a common place to meet and find out who each other is and what we are all about." Sanders was cheered loudly when she thanked everyone in attendance for the "outpouring of support and cooperation that have made all this possible."

The formation of the Center is the culmination of three years of work by two groups — one headed by local gay activist John Graves and the other by Sanders.

According to Graves, in the winter of 1986-87 he helped form a group that was incorporated as the Boston Center for Lesbians and Gay Men. After obtaining tax-exempt status from the federal government, the two goals of the group were to obtain financial assistance from gay and lesbian organizations and to locate office space that could accommodate their needs. However, since the group had little money of its own, the two goals were at odds with each other. Graves said "On the one hand, we needed money from organizations to

cancy, Larry Basile, owner of the Chandler Inn of Boston, provided seed money to cover the rent for two years.

With the group's initial space and financial problems resolved, a new problem arose — finding organizations interested in setting up shop on Newbury Street. Enter Ann Sanders. Last spring, Sanders formed a committee that generated a questionnaire and sent it to local organizations. Each organization had to be community-based and responsive to the needs of gay men and/or lesbians to qualify for space in the Center. A few months later, the committee piled through the questionnaires that had been filled out and returned and decided which organizations would be allotted offices. They were; ACT UP/Boston; Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY); Boston Intercollegiate Lesbian and Gay Association (BILGA); Bisexual Men's Network; Bisexual Women's Network; Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee; Freedom Trail Band; Gay Fathers of Greater Boston; Girth and Mirth; the Greater Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance; Massachusetts Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men; Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus; Metropolitan Community Church; Positive Directions; and Profile Productions.

told GCN, "The response from the community has been so positive that we're already outgrowing the facilities." In addition to Center members holding weekly meetings and scheduling public events, Nicoli said that outside organizations such as the National Organization for Women and Am Tikva have scheduled functions at the Center. "Space will be getting tight," Nicoli said, "so I hope that, somewhere down the road, the Center will be able to find an old school or some other building that Boston no longer wants so we'll be able to relocate."

Sanders shares that hope, but she said that any expansion of the Center should be done with deliberation. "I think that we've started out in a relatively small space is good," Sanders said, "because it will give us time to smooth things out, to raise money and establish our credibility. After that is done, we'll know who we are and where we, as a community organization, want to go."

For more information about the Center or to schedule an event, call John Nicoli at 617-247-2927, or write The Boston Lesbian and Gay Service Center, 338 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02115. λ

What is the Montrose Activity Center?

Montrose Activity Center (MAC) is not a building, it is a board of directors. It isn't a place, but it is the dream of one. It isn't a group you can join, but it has given birth to some of the most important events in our city.

If you are reading this, you may be familiar with what MAC is. MAC is a 501 (c) (3) organization under IRS rules and chartered by the state of Texas. We are non-profit and all donations to us are tax deductible. We act as an umbrella and provide seed money to committees and

events in the gay and lesbian community which are charitable or educational in nature.

Do you remember everything MAC does? We are Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. We are the Names Project Houston. We are the Houston Organizing Committee for the March on Austin. We are the Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos.

MAC was originally conceived as the nucleus of a gay and lesbian community center. That's still one of our hopes for the future. A community center doesn't

just happen, though. You need committed organizers, community support, a strong funding base, and a place. The MAC board is committed. You are part of our community support. It's time to raise money.

In the meantime, we aren't waiting around. This newsletter is a way to create a community center without walls. In these pages you can find a calendar of upcoming events, read interesting articles or catch up on the minutes of meetings of various organizations. Or you can promote your events, submit topical articles, and spread

changed or deleted, please fill out the form and return it. This list is available to organizations requesting it, with direction from the MAC board.

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Assistant Editor: Annise Parker

Bulk Mailing for September issue:
Brian Keever
Ray Hill
Jack Valinski

If you would like to get a free copy or contribute to help pay for this newsletter, you may do so in a tax deductible gift to the above address:

Name	
Address	
City	
State	ZIP
Home Phone	
Work Phone	

the word about your group.

Unfortunately, this newsletter must begin to pay for itself. MAC needs your financial help to preserve this community resource. Please consider becoming a MAC supporter by making a donation to the address above.

Please help MAC help our community. You are the Montrose Activity Center. Thank you!

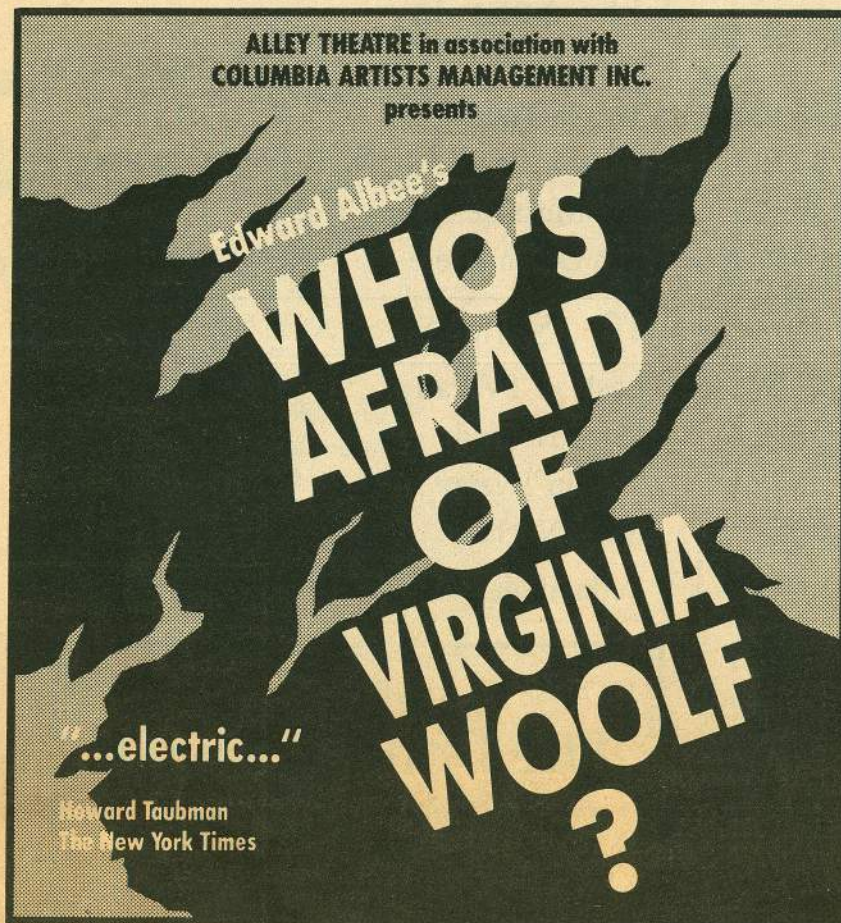
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November 1989

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The Board of Directors of the
MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER

cordially invites you to
spend an evening with George and Martha and Edward*
for a special BENEFIT PERFORMANCE of Edward Albee's



WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

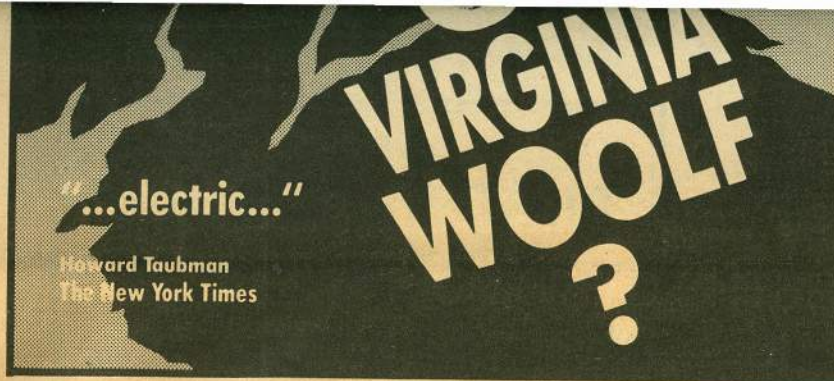
Written and Directed by Edward Albee

January 6, 1990
Saturday evening
Performance: 7:30 PM

ALLEY
THEATRE

615 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

X... evening in the HOME of Albee's brilliant, biting and bitchy couple as a fund



ALLEY THEATRE

615 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

Yes, spend an evening in the HOME of Albee's brilliant, biting and bitchy couple as a fund raiser to bring a NEW HOME to Houston. The proceeds from THE EVENT will be used to start a building fund to open a Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Houston.

THE EVENT is proud to have as it's Honorary Chairman, MR. EDWARD ALBEE.

ORDER NOW! A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Ticket Categories

- ☐ \$250 (the Homeowner) special recognition at THE EVENT, one of the best seats in the house, and a wine and cheese reception with Mr. Albee* from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Alley's 4th floor Board Room.
- ☐ \$100 (the Visiting Relative) choice seating and reception.
- ☐ \$50 (the Neighbor) seating and reception.
- ☐ \$25 (the Guest) seating only.
- ☐ \$? (the Distant Cousin) unable to attend, but would like to make a donation.

R.S.V.P. (the earlier the better, remember, a house is not a home without people there), with your check or charge information to: MAC, Box 66684, Houston, TX, 77266-6684.

Your tickets will be mailed, or \$25.00 tickets can be purchased at Inklings, 1846 Richmond, Lobo, 1424-C Westheimer (at Windsor) or Say Cheese, 3926 Westheimer (Highland Village). Information: 522-2204 or 523-6109.

Your tickets are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Co-Chairs for THE EVENT: Joe Watts and C. Williams.

Name : _____

Address : _____

City : _____

State, Zip : _____

Category of Ticket(s): _____

Number of Tickets : _____

Amount of Check : _____

☐ Master Card ☐ VISA

Card Number : _____

Expiration Date : _____

Signature : _____

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The Austin International Gay/Lesbian Film Festival

3 Friday

She Must Be Seeing Things	5:00 PM
Pink Narcissus	7:45 PM
Western-East of the Wall	9:40 PM
Therese & Isabelle	9:30 PM

4 Saturday

Lesbian TV Party	2:45 PM
Night Visions	5:00 PM
Mala Noche	7:45 PM
Two In Twenty	10:00 PM

5 Sunday

Westler-East of the Wall	2:30 PM
Therese & Isabelle	2:15 PM
Two in Twenty	5:00 PM
Ray's & British	7:30 PM
Seduction	9:30 PM
Dona Herlinda	9:40 PM

Two in Twenty

USA, 1988

At last, after decades of invisibility, lesbian drama with its romance, complexity, and humor has been captured on video. Now, there is Two in Twenty, a riveting lesbian soap opera which follows the adventures of seven diverse

6 Monday

Lesbian TV Party	5:30 PM
Fun Down There	7:30 PM
Night Visions	9:40 PM
Pink Narcissus	9:30 PM

7 Tuesday

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Westler-East on the Wall	7:30 PM
She Must Be Seeing Things	9:40 PM
Pink Narcissus	10:00 PM

8 Wednesday

Ray's & British	5:15 PM
Two in Twenty	7:30 PM
Therese and Isabelle	9:30 PM

9 Thursday

Night Visions	5:30 pm
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Westler — East of the Wall

West Germany, 1985

Westler is a story of love divided by the Berlin Wall. The film starts in Los Angeles, about as far west as

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11 Saturday

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all films at

The Dobie Theater

21st and Guadalupe

Austin

512-477-1324

Seduction 9:30 PM
Dona Herlinda 9:40 PM

Two in Twenty

USA, 1988

At last, after decades of invisibility, lesbian drama with its romance, complexity, and humor has been captured on video. Now, there is *Two in Twenty*, a riveting lesbian soap opera which follows the adventures of seven diverse women. The series blends melodrama, lust, and comedy with some of life more serious issues such as coming out, lesbian parenting, and the pleasures and perils of monogamy. And since no soap opera is complete without commercials, *Two in Twenty* is filled with zany ads for fictitious products. Combining dyke drama and off-beat humor, *Two in twenty* is an exhilarating celebration of gay life.

Written and directed by women, the program is an unusual example of how lesbians can organize in our communities to create original entertainment. Since its premiere in January 1988, *Two in Twenty* has delighted audiences in various U.S. and Canadian cities as well as in London.

Two in Twenty will be shown in three parts due to its length.

Part One	Episodes 1 and 2	76 min.
Part Two	Episodes 3 and 4	104 min.
Part Three	Episode 5	72 min.

Therese and Isabelle

France, 1966

In this film based on the novel "La Batarde" by Violette Leduc. Therese returns to the scene of her sexual awakening. She remembers her desolation after being sent away to a boarding school by her adored but newly married mother, and meeting Isabelle, a classmate, quite adjusted and unconcerned that her parents have left her at the school. An immediate and intense friendship develops between the adolescent girls. Their intensity leads to hurried caresses in the school chapel, in the bathroom, and ultimately to a brothel that the sophisticated Isabelle knows. Leduc's whispered poetic imagery of the "secret pearl" is narrated during the love scenes conjuring images the screen does not reveal.

9 Thursday
Night Visions 5:30 pm
Mala Noche 7:45 PM
Ray's & British 9:40 PM
Dona Herlinda 9:30 PM

Westler — East of the Wall

West Germany, 1985

Westler is a story of love divided by the Berlin Wall. The film starts in Los Angeles, about as far west as a German tourist can go. Here Felix, the gay German, drives around in a convertible with his American friend Bruce, talking in all the sights of Hollywood. Later, the Old World and the new socialist order replace capitalist glitter when Bruce, taking in all the sights of Hollywood. Later, the Old World and the new socialist order replace capitalist glitter when Bruce visits Felix in West Berlin, and they decide to take a day trip to the East.

During the trip, Felix meets Thomas, and East Berliner. Their only time together is when Felix comes to the East for a day trip, forced to return by midnight. As the trips across the border become more and more frequent, suspicion is aroused and one day a border guard asks Felix to step into an examination room where he is told to strip for closer inspection to see if any smuggling is going on.

Frustrated, the couple plan to meet in Prague where they can at least spend a whole evening together and hopefully plan Thomas' escape to the West.

Fun down There

USA, 1988

Roger Stigliano's first feature is a fresh, comic coming-of-age drama about Buddy, a young man from upstate New York, who arrives in New York city and falls into love affairs with two men at the same time. The film follows Buddy over the course of a week: from home where, anxious to leave, he quarrels with this sister, to New York City, where he meets Joe, and then Angelo. Joe and Angelo initiate Buddy into sex and city life, while demonstrating their own complete ignorance of life outside New York. One of Stigliano's greater achievements in making *Fun Down There* is not the explicit representation of sexual acts, but his realistic incorporation of sexual acts into everyday life. A refreshing performance by Michael Waite as Buddy along with the use of real time and deadpan humor in New York: "Fun Down there."

Seduction 9:35 PM

all films at

The Dobie Theater

21st and Guadalupe

Austin

512-477-1324

Night Visions

Canada, 1989

Night Visions is a hour-long drama dealing with issues of lesbianism and race within the context of an urban community of women fighting for its survival. The story draws from actual events, legal battles, custody cases and actions which have occurred in Canada during the last decade. These struggles are humanized through the simultaneous depiction of passionate relationships through these women -- political, sexual, humorous, serious -- existing amid the political turmoil of the community. A Native single mother (Nea) is fighting a child custody battle, pitted against the Children's Aid and her white ex-husband. A lesbian photographer (Morgan) has her erotic photographs seized by the police. The two women meet through a mutual friend (Helen), a feminist activist who encourages them to find common cause. But cultural differences and racism intervene: contact with Morgan and her friends complicates Nea's life to the point of crisis: the narratives and separately. "Hope lies in what we do amongst ourselves, the messages we send to one another in the night." says Nea to Helena. "You have your struggle and I have mine." In a night of state repression and systemic racism and homophobia, the vision of community and common cause appears and disappears like a dream.

British Films

The Brits are back with three interesting films. Andy the Furniture Maker is a brilliant upbeat sketch on sex and rebellion. Andy gives equal time to its subject's life and work. His stubborn, austere furniture is celebrated, historically and anecdotally. Oremland's film caused a small

see Austin Festival page 7

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November Calendar

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Training

The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston is offering volunteer training class, November 10-12 and November 18-19. The Switchboard is now in its eighth year of service. It provides information and referrals, telephone counseling, AIDS information and crisis intervention, with an additional TDD service for hearing impaired.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and must undergo 30 hours of preparation before becoming volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering may call the Switchboard at 529-3211, afternoons or evenings.λ

Gay and Lesbian
Switchboard
529-3211

THRF to Honor Leaders in the Fight for Gay Civil Rights

The board of trustees of the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) has selected its honorees for THRF's 3rd Annual Robert Schwab Memorial Award ceremonies. The Schwab awards are given each year to individuals who have diligently and courageously led the fight for lesbian and gay civil rights. With these awards, THRF recognizes and honors the continual struggle by various individuals for the civil liberties of lesbians and gay men.

This year's awards go to Senator Craig Washington

Every Week

Sundays

After Hours, discussion about Gay and Lesbian community, 2:00 AM to 4:00 AM, KPFT 90.1 FM.

LISA, Lesbian Incest Survivors Anonymous meets at Inklings, 1846 Richmond, at 4:00 PM and partners of LISA meet at 3:00 PM, call Sherry for more details 527-8712.

Mondays

Adult Children of Alcoholics, meets at 7:30 PM at the Church of Religious Science, North Houston, call 350-9378 for more information.

Gay Fathers meet at Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, 8:00 PM. For more information call 522-6766.

Lesbian Therapy Group, Therapy group addressing relationships and issues surrounding being a lesbian and a woman, Sharon Stone and Associates, 3935 Westheimer, Suite 306, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, call 623-6081 for more information.

Tuesdays

The Women's Support Group, women affected with AIDS, themselves HIV+ or in a relationship with a HIV+ partners meets at Bering Memorial United Church, 1440 Harold, call 526-1017 for more information.

Empowerment For Living, a program for people whose lives are affected by HIV, ARC or AIDS, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur, call 861-9149 for more information.

Fridays

Breakthrough, Womyn's Music, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, KPFT 90.1 FM

Dateline Earth, 4:00 PM, news program on KPFT 90.1 FM includes a series on AIDS.

Friday Feature, Coffee House Socials, An Alternative Gathering PWArty for PWAs, PWArcs and Friends at Bering Care Center 1440 Harold, 7:00 PM, call 520-7070 for more information.

Saturdays

Youth Concerned with Lesbian and Gay Issues, 7:30 PM at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin.

TO GET YOUR ITEMS
LISTED SEE PAGE 12

1 Wednesday

Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 7:30 PM, Call 521-1000 for more information. Strategy will be discussed for the upcoming city and congressional election.

2 Thursday

Medical Information on AIDS, presented by Brenda Haile, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3927 Essex Lane, 623-6796, open to public no charge.

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group meets various

THRF to Honor Leaders in the Fight for Gay Civil Rights

The board of trustees of the Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) has selected its honorees for THRF's 3rd Annual Robert Schwab Memorial Award ceremonies. The Schwab awards are given each year to individuals who have diligently and courageously led the fight for lesbian and gay civil rights. With these awards, THRF recognizes and honors the continual struggle by various individuals for the civil liberties of lesbians and gay men.

This year's awards goes to Senator Craig Washington (Legislator of the Year) for his outstanding work against AIDS discrimination in the 71st Legislative Session; to Lori Montgomery of the Dallas Times-Herald (Journalist of the Year) for her exposure of Judge Jack Hampton's homophobic and prejudiced remarks concerning the murder of two gay men in Dallas; and to Bill Nelson (The Robert Schwab Award), THRF board member and former president of the Dallas Gay Alliance (DGA), whose dedicated vision and activism were essential in founding DGA's food pantry and AIDS Resource Center.

As a tribute to Schwab's vision, in September the M. Robert Schwab Collection (which includes his writings, papers, documents, clippings, tapes and photographs) opened to the public in the archives of the Houston Public Library. These materials, crucial in maintaining a history of the gay civil rights movement in Texas, are on display in the Julia Ideson Building of the Houston Public Library. THRF's legal director, David Bryan, emphasized the importance of Schwab's legacy: "Although Robert died of AIDS in 1983, a glimpse of his life and dedication is now on display for all Texans who have been inspired by his struggle for equal civil rights. His dreams of equality continue to reach fruition through the work of THRF. The Schwab awards are meant to honor those persons who are on the front line in this struggle."

The ceremony will consist of a formal cocktail reception, to be held in Dallas at 7:00 to 9:00 PM, on November 18th at 5824 Del Roy Drive, during which time the awards will be presented. The previous Schwab Award ceremonies, the first held in Austin and the second in Houston, were attended by several hundred guests. Former honorees have included Representative Nancy McDonald of El Paso, Glen Maxey of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby, Cleve Jones of The Names Project, and Molly Ivins of the Dallas Times-Herald.λ

woman, Sharon Stone and Associates, 3935 Westheimer, Suite 306, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, call 623-6081 for more information.

Tuesdays

The Women's Support Group, women affected with AIDS, themselves HIV+ or in a relationship with a HIV+ partners meets at Bering Memorial United Church, 1440 Harold, call 526-1017 for more information.

Empowerment For Living, a program for people whose lives are affected by HIV, ARC or AIDS, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur, call 861-9149 for more information.

Wilde 'n' Stein Radio, discussion about Gay and Lesbian community, 10:00 PM, KPFT 90.1 FM.

Wednesdays

Womyn's Music weekly hour of music of women starting at 6:00 PM on KTRU 91.7 FM.

Women's Therapy Group with inner child focus. Meets every Wednesday from 7:30-8:45 PM, 1807 Lexington. Facilitated by Joyce Gayles, PHD. For information call 528-4863.

Self Healing and Stress Reduction Class, 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM, Center for a Positive Lifestyle, 1505 Nevada at Commonwealth, call 523-4241 for more information.

Thursdays

Gay Fathers of Houston sponsor a support group mothers and fathers in the community. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. For more information call 861-6495.

Recovery Experience Group is a new program for those who want to stay on the wagon, giving up booze and drugs. This is for anyone currently on a 12-step program. For more information call the Montrose Counseling Center. Call 529-0037 for more information.

The Calendar was compiled by :
Deborah Bell
Jack Valinski

1 Wednesday

Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 7:30 PM, Call 521-1000 for more information. Strategy will be discussed for the upcoming city and congressional election.

2 Thursday

Medical Information on AIDS, presented by Brenda Haile, 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3927 Essex Lane, 623-6796, open to public no charge.

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group meets various locations, call 666-1616 for more information.

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) Houston, general meeting concerning the AIDS crisis and ways to educate the community, at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 7:00 PM.

Ageism, Sexism, and Racism a workshop sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews by noted educator Jane Elliott. Public is invited, to RSVP and for more information call 960-9244. Program beings at 7:30 PM at Emerson Unitarian Church, 1900 Bering Drive.

3 Friday

Last day for Absentee Voting, hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM see accompanying story for details.

The first annual **Austin International Gay/Lesbian Film Festival** through the 12th at the Dobie Theatre, 21st and Guadalupe, Austin call 512-477-1324 for more information.

4 Saturday

Joann Loulan A therapist /humorist and author of Lesbian Sex and Lesbian Passion: Loving Ourselves and Each Other will be presented by Hazelwitch productions, 8:00PMagnus Arnold hall, University of Houston, tickets available at Inklings Bookshop, 1846 Richmond, call 521-3369.

5 Sunday

The Women's Group 10:00 AM at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Shelia Jackson Lee , Associate Municipal Court Judge who is a candidate for an at-large City Council seat, a vibrant and dynamic leader of our community will speak, Come hear what she has to say.

Montrose Activity Center NEWSLETTER

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November 1989

November Calendar

6 Monday

PWA Coalition Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray Call 522-5428 for more information.

Just Say Know, AIDS play, 12 Noon, Texas Women's University, for more information call 623-6796, free.

7 Tuesday

Election Day, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Election Central after the polls close, at Missouri Street Station, 1117 Missouri at Yoakum, free.

Women in Medicine and the Healing Arts meet at the Hungry International on Rice Blvd. in the village. 5:30 - 7:30 PM.

Wilde 'n' Stein Radio, discussion about Gay and Lesbian community, special election coverage, 10:00 PM, KPFT 90.1 FM.

8 Wednesday

Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus Board meeting at 900 Lovett, 7:30 PM call 521-1000 for more information.

Women's Therapy Group with special emphasis on Spirituality, 6:30 PM lead by Karen Hanson, CSW, ACP 364-3843.

Women's Network, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, 2nd floor, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, call 529-0037 for more information. **From Marriage to Mystery!** Join us as we watch a video of a recent *Geraldo* show, and discuss the issues which surface when lesbians come out of heterosexual marriages.

12 Sunday

From All Walks of LIFE will be sponsored by the AIDS Foundation, the ten kilometer Walkathon will benefit AIDS service providers, education providers and agencies involved in the fight against AIDS, call 623-6796 for more information

The Women's Group, 10:00 AM at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Dr. Barbara Shoett, Ph.D., a management consultant will share some of her experiences and thoughts with us.

National Choice Mobilization Day march on the capitol in Austin to coincide with the national march in Washington D.C. To show political strength aimed at state legislators. 2:00 PM on the capitol grounds. For information call Houston Area NOW at 522-6673.

The Women's Reading Group meets 4:00 PM. All Good Women, by Valerie Miner. For information call 669-8540.

OWL (Older Women's League) meets, call 292-8844 for more information.

13 Monday

Montrose Activity Center, board meeting which includes annual election for board members, 7:00 PM, at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, call 529-1223 for more information.

American Gay Atheists, regular monthly meeting of AGA and Houston Chapter of American Atheists, 7:00 PM, 4 Chelsea Place, call 863-1713 for more information.

Mary Daly is the keynote speaker at University of Houston-Clear Lake's "Women's Week". Her topic is: **Recalling the Elemental Powers of Women**. It will be at 7:30 PM at the UH-CL Auditorium. Bayou Bldg. Admis-

15 Wednesday continued

Nutrition and HIV Infection, presented by Richard Elbein, Director of Dietary Services, Belle Park Hospital 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, Montrose Library, call 623-6796 for more information, open to public no charge.

16 Thursday

Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group meets various locations, call 666-1616 for more information.

ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) Houston, general meeting concerning the AIDS crisis and ways to educate the community, at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 7:00 PM.

18 Saturday

Third annual Robert Schwab Memorial Award presentation and reception, 7:00 PM, 5824 Del Roy Drive, Dallas, call 512-479-8473 for more information.

Gail Guidry & Erika Lawson in Concert, presented by WOMYNSPACE. This Guitar/Viola duo will perform at Autry House, 6265 S. Main at 8:00 PM with a reception following. Childcare will be provided. A \$3 donation is requested. This is a chemically-free event and is open to the supportive men of the community.

19 Sunday

The Women's Group, 10:00 AM at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Cassandra Thomas, Director of the Rape Crisis Program of the Houston Area Women's Center will be the speaker.

A Day of Joy with Cindy Freedman A workshop de-

Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus Board meeting at 900 Lovett, 7:30 PM call 521-1000 for more information.

Women's Therapy Group with special emphasis on Spirituality, 6:30 PM lead by Karen Hanson, CSW, ACP 364-3843.

Women's Network, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, 2nd floor, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, call 529-0037 for more information. **From Marriage to Mystery!** Join us as we watch a video of a recent *Geraldo* show, and discuss the issues which surface when lesbians come out of heterosexual marriages.

**Montrose Activity Center
Board & Officer Election
Monday, November 13, 7:00 PM
Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 West Gray
529-1223**

10 Friday

The Gay/Lesbian Switchboard Houston is having another training session. This will take place for two week-ends Nov. 10-12 and 18-19, besides volunteering for a very good cause and organization, you will never forget that phone number 529-3211.

11 Saturday

Gay Men's Network meets at Bering Memorial Church, 1440 Harold, Room 209.

supporters of the MAC NEWSLETTER

**Houston Area National
Organization for Women
Box 66351, Houston, TX 77266-6351**

Bill Ramsey

Josh Lipsmann

13 Monday

Montrose Activity Center, board meeting which includes annual election for board members, 7:00 PM, at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, call 529-1223 for more information.

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Mary Daly is the keynote speaker at University of Houston-Clear Lake's "Women's Week". Her topic is: **Recalling the Elemental Powers of Women**. It will be at 7:30 PM at the UH-CL Auditorium, Bayou Bldg. Admission is \$3 with UH-CL I.D. and \$5 for General Public. Call 488-9288 for more information.

14 Tuesday

Sensuality/Sexuality Class, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3927 Essex Lane, 623-6796, \$10 donation encouraged.

15 Wednesday

N.O.W., National Organization for Women, Houston Area Chapter will focus on Strategies for Special Session and Beyond at it's monthly meeting, Meetings are held at #4 Chelsea Place; Doors open at 6:30 PM with the meeting from 7:00 to 8:30 PM Call 522-6673 for information.

Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus at Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 7:30 PM, Call 521-1000 for more information. Meeting will discuss 1990 election of officers and board members.

WOMEN'S SPACE: This Sunday, Viola duo will perform at Autry House, 6265 S. Main at 8:00 PM with a reception following. Childcare will be provided. A \$3 donation is requested. This is a chemically-free event and is open to the supportive men of the community.

19 Sunday

The Women's Group, 10:00 AM at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Cassandra Thomas, Director of the Rape Crisis Program of the Houston Area Women's Center will be the speaker.

A Day of Joy with Cindy Freedman A workshop designed to achieve harmony through vibration with music, voices, rhythm, movement and attunement to the planet. The workshop costs \$45 and lasts from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Shanti Nivas, 7621 Westview. Call Cindy at 529-9190 for info.

Womynspace meets 12 Noon for scrumptious potluck brunch (bring something delicious to share), stimulating conversation (the latest gossip) and sisterhood. Meeting follows at 1:30 PM, Inklings Bookshop, 1846 Richmond, upstairs, call Deborah 521-0780 for more information.

LOAF (Lesbians Over Age 50) meets at Autry House, 6265 South Main, 2:00 PM. LOAF is a social network group for Lesbians age 50 & over. For more information call 661-1482.

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, PFLAG meets at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr. at 2:00 PM. They will be discussing the the PFLAG Convention. Call 952-2525.

The National Conference of Christians and Jews presents Dr. Don Sinclair of Bering Memorial Methodist Church with an award for his work and ministry focusing on Persons with AIDS. The presentation will be made at St. Luke's United Methodist Church at 3:00 PM.

20 Monday

PWA Coalition meeting, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 7:30 PM, call 522-5428 for more information.

Kudalini Yoga with Satya Khalsa, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3927 Essex Lane, 623-6796, open to public no charge.

Deadline for items to be included in the October edition of the **Montrose Activity Center NEWSLETTER**, write to Box 66684, Houston, TX 77266-6684, or call 529-1223.

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Saturday from
10:30 to 6:30 p.m.,
and Sunday
1 to 5 p.m.

Montrose Activity Center NEWSLETTER

November 1989

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Nov. Calendar

23 Thursday

Thanksgiving Day Celebration for PWAs, family and friends at Bering Memorial Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, in the Fellowship Hall. Turkey and dressing and desserts provided (you bring side dishes if you like) and entertainment. Sponsored by the Bering Care Center and other AIDS Service Providers. Call 520-7070 for more information.

26 Sunday

The Women's Group 10:00 AM at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Open Discussion at group. There will be a Beach House celebration of Thanksgiving

American Gay Atheists, Brunch meeting of AGA, 11:00 AM at Hobby Airport Hilton, 8181 Airport Blvd. Call 863-1713 for more information.

29 Wednesday

Women's Network, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, 2nd floor, 7:00 PM, call 529-0037 for more information. Our children speak out, a group of children and their lesbian mothers will share their experiences of living and loving as a family. This will provide a rare opportunity for mothers, partners and friends to support each other in this challenging life experience, Children are welcome.

Lesbian/Gay Pride 1990 Meeting, beginning of planning for the 1990 events, 7:00 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, upstairs, call 523-2575 for more information.

30 Thursday

Women in Support Brown Bag Series at College of the Mainland, "Communication" (Saying what you really

December 3

Romanovsky & Phillips concert direct from the label of fresh fruit records, 7:30 PM at the University Center, University of Houston. Tickets \$8.00 advance or \$10.00 at the door, Tickets available at Inklings, 1846 Richmond.

January 6

The Event The Montrose Activity Center cordially invites you to spend an evening with George and Martha and Edward for a special benefit performance of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* As directed by the author, 7:30 PM, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue, tickets \$25 to \$250, call 522-2204 for more information. \$25 tickets available at Say Cheese, 3926 Westheimer, Inklings, 1846 Richmond or Lobo, 1424-C Westheimer.

March 22-25, 1990

Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men, the oldest regional conference in the nation is now in its 15th year. Workshops already scheduled are on sodomy laws and the effect of AIDS on society. Also covered will be topics concerning the conference theme "Working to Strengthen our Southeastern Communities." For more information: SECLGM, Box 28863, Raleigh, NC 27611-8863 or 919-833-1209

June 20-24, 1990

Sixth International Conference on AIDS, theme will be "AIDS in the Nineties: From Science to Public Policy." Conference organizers are working to design a program that emphasizes presentation of the highest quality science on AIDS, considers the implications of scientific advances on AIDS for public policy, and closely examines the

Poets for Life

Seventy-Six Poets Respond to AIDS

Edited by Michael Klein
(Crown \$18.95)

Memoir

by Honor Moore

for J. J. Mitchell,
dead of AIDS 7/26/86

I first remember you in Paris, blase
of a smile, eleven years ago. Today
Joan tells me you're dead, the first I've loved
dead of that disease. It was New Year's Eve.
We sat on St. Germain drinking, watching
a boy in a black and white, convict-striped
Edwardian bathing suit weave festive
traffic on a skateboard—you, wild with
talk and blond hair. We had run into you
and Joe, and with you we walked to a dark
turreted flat on Ile St. Louis to meet
the silent, pale boy who was your lover.

I would not have said love then, didn't know
as we drank I watched your face to learn
what ignited your laugh: How might I live
to come to that? You lived outside Paris,
"in a forest" you said, at an old mill
with a famous woman painter. My mother
has died. The man I loved bored me. You had
drugs and you were homosexual. I
wouldn't have said I too had drugs, was

information. Our children speak out, a group of children and their lesbian mothers will share their experiences of living and loving as a family. This will provide a rare opportunity for mothers, partners and friends to support each other in this challenging life experience. Children are welcome.

Lesbian/Gay Pride 1990 Meeting, beginning of planning for the 1990 events, 7:00 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, upstairs, call 523-2575 for more information.

30 Thursday

Women in Support Brown Bag Series at College of the Mainland, "Communication" (Saying what you really want to say to others; hearing what is really said to you), free college hour seminar.

November						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	28	29	30	31	1	2

from Austin Festival page 4

ensorship scandal at Britain's Channel 4, not so much for its subject as for its sex-positive attitude. Ands is the ideal TV tease - "a bit Lippy" - with one eye always scanning for offscreen reaction. "Being a rent boy [hustler] boring? I don't get an erection when someone wraps a 20 pound note around it. Takes a bit more than that to get me excited." *Hypnotic Gentlemen* is an ode to the public toilet - "Jarman Meets Orton" and a teacher interviews for a job in Pedagogue, Stuart Marshall's send-up of current British homo-hysteria.

Dona Herlinda Y Su Hijo (Dona Herlinda and Her Son)

Mexico, 1985

Dona Herlinda is a wealthy, fantastically manipulative widow living in Guadalajara who quietly accepts her son Rodolfo's affair with a handsome young music student, Ramon. After she invites Ramon to live with her family

laws and the effect of AIDS on society. Also covered will be topics concerning the conference theme "Working to Strengthen our Southeastern Communities." For more information: SECLGM, Box 28863, Raleigh, NC 27611-8863 or 919-833-1209

June 20-24, 1990

Sixth International Conference on AIDS, theme will be "AIDS in the Nineties: From Science to Public Policy." Conference organizers are working to design a program that emphasizes presentation of the highest quality science on AIDS, considers the implications of scientific advances on AIDS for public policy, and closely examines the complex interaction between science and political activism as they relate to AIDS. For more information: University of California, Box 1505, San Francisco, CA 94143-1505 or 415-550-0880.

July 18-22, 1990

The Third International Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and Eight National AIDS Forum. Co-sponsored by the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation and The George Washington University. For more information: NLGHF Programming Committee, 1638 R Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009.

("Rodolfo has such a big bed," she says) the situation becomes hilariously complicated by Rodolfo's marriage of convenience to Olga, a feminist and employee of Amnesty International.

Dona Herlinda's comedy lies in watching Dona Herlinda flawlessly manipulate the people in her life while maintaining a Nancy Reagan-like facade of cold detachment. Despite all the possibilities for disaster the characters in this film react to unbelievable situations with deadpan nonchalance.

Jaime Humberto Hermosillo has directed twelve features -- most dealing with the conventions and petty concerns of middle class society. Dona Herlinda is his third collaboration with producer Manual Barbachano Ponce, one of Mexico's most important independent film producers.

Based on a story Hermosillo read in Guadalajara newspaper *Dona Herlinda* has met with interesting reactions in Mexico. According to Hermosillo: "The most disturbing thing about the film to some of the 'machists' audience in Mexico has not been the sex but the film's tenderness."

the silent, pale boy who was your lover.

I would not have said love then, didn't know as we drank I watched your face to learn what ignited your laugh: How might I live to come to that? You lived outside Paris, "in a forest" you said, at an old mill with a famous woman painter. My mother has died. The man I loved bored me. You had drugs and you were homosexual. I wouldn't have said I too had drugs, was in my wine where you were in whatever one drinks with a famous woman at the end of her looks, or smokes with a quiet boy.

"He killed himself," you said, smoking on the street

years later in New York. I didn't say I had become homosexual, and you didn't say the boy's death had caused you much aside from anger. But you got sober. Paul said so Christmas Eve before he left us to cook what he would serve at your bed. And I got sober. Today when Joan told me of your death, we both said, "but he was in recovery." The young woman who drank with you amazed at a boy on a skate New Year's Eve never saw you grin sober,

but I have the image of Paul and St. Marks days after your death, waving. I didn't know what I was learning in how he lifted his hand, but I have what the loss meant: how his hat hid his eyes, how blond winter grass hides a blue pond as I stop my car now to speak a prayer for the dead. "Sober you can do anything," you told Joan. Jimmy said your last days the virus at your brain had you in summer at the door on Fire Island offering refreshment as guests arrived, beautiful men, one after another.λ

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November 1989

Sally's Apartment 1968-1989 RIP

from page 1

within the law. Most liquor codes included some kind of moral turpitude clause — some had explicitly anti-homosexuality language — which provided a legal excuse to shut down gay bars whenever authorities felt like doing so.

The Apartment was never zoned as a bar. B. K. "Bunch" Brittain told the planning commission and later the city council that when he took over the Apartment, two years after it first opened as a gay bar, he was aware that the zoning was compatible with a restaurant that also served alcoholic beverages. He says he was told by city officials that this meant only that the Apartment

could not advertise itself as a lounge or tavern and that it had to have the ability to serve food. No one appeared at either forum to contradict Brittain on this point. That the Apartment operated as a gay bar for more than 20 years speaks for itself.

Another customer and I sat on the ramp, until Mr. Brittain arrived.

"What are you all doing out here?" he asked. "Why don't you come in for a drink?"

"But the TABC . . ." we both began.

"I can give away my liquor whenever I please," Bunch said. "Ya'll come in for a drink."

We followed him inside. The TABC

men took a dim view of Bunch giving away his liquor whenever he pleased, but evidently were not sure enough of their ground to forbid it. They left.

Bunch is a very generous man. But opening the bar was a smart move, if he had any hope of reopening the Apartment. The grapevine is the principal source of information in the gay community, and the rumor that a bar is closed or closing is the kiss of death.

That Bunch would give away drinks to keep the bar open made me think he had some hope for the bar. And if things all got worked out in the morning, serving free drinks for three hours would be a small

price to pay.

Sure enough, the phone began ringing. The tea was stirring already. But Bunch could say, quite truthfully, "Our door is still open and we're still serving." Perhaps it was the third white Russian, but I deeply admired Bunch's knowledge of his business — and I complimented myself on knowing my culture well enough to understand perfectly the logic of it.

The specials sign was changed to read: "Tonight, free drinks all night."

By 1 am it looked a lot like an ordinary Thursday night at the Apartment. I didn't detect any large group of people who had heard of the free drinks. No, these were

Not in My Neighborhood

by Hugh Forrest

from The Austin Chronicle September 22, 1989

According to attorney David Frederick, justice was blind in the demise of Sally's Apartment, AKA Sally's, the Apartment, and Dirty Sally's. Frederick represents four people from the Shoalcrest Neighborhood Group who are suing the gay bar before the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC). "It was not a straight versus gay issue," he says. "Bunch Brittain [the Apartment's owner] was able to rally politicians and other people to his cause because he cloaked himself as a cause for the

ume of sworn testimony containing their allegations against the bar. Among the main problems outlined in the report were noise and rowdy behavior. Complaints were cited that patrons frequently urinated in the parking lot or in the alley behind the bar (against city regulations, the Apartment had only one restroom). Also detailed was the lack of adequate parking facilities, a situation compounded by the fact that many patrons who did not wish for their cars to be seen in front of the Apartment used the sidestreets of the neighborhood instead. Problems were said to be particularly bad on Sunday afternoons, when the bar swelled to capacity

however, had not reached 51% when the June date arrived. Thus the city of Austin notified the TABC that the Apartment had not complied with the demands and that the bar's liquor license should be revoked. On September 7, TABC agents "raided" the Apartment. The bar has not since reopened.

"It was all a complete shock to me," says Brittain, claiming that the TABC's closing took him completely by surprise. Brittain says a TABC letter dated August 15 that would have warned him of this action and given him the ability to appeal it never reached him. In fact, Brittain's version of

Chuck Patrick, publisher of This Week in Texas, a monthly [weekly] magazine published in Houston aimed at the state's gay community, agrees. "It seems to me that it's selective enforcement of the law. It appears to me that the neighborhood association plotted to close down the bar, probably because it was a gay bar. The strange thing is that it was allowed to go on for twenty years before they enforced the zoning."

With regard to the closing of the Apartment, perhaps this twenty-year figure is significant. Much has changed in the U.S.

According to attorney David Frederick, justice was blind in the demise of Sally's Apartment, AKA Sally's, the Apartment, and Dirty Sally's. Frederick represents four people from the Shoalcrest Neighborhood Group who are suing the gay bar before the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC). "It was not a straight versus gay issue," he says. "Bunch Brittain [the Apartment's owner] was able to rally politicians and other people to his cause because he cloaked himself as a cause for the gay community. But the real issue here was that Bunch Brittain didn't have the skills to run a bar in a residential area. That was the issue."

Members of this neighborhood group, indeed, contend that the lifestyle of its patrons was never at the root of their complaints against this bar. Harvey Jones, who organized the group in 1984 with the help of now-city councilmember Smoot Carl-Mitchell (also a resident of the neighborhood), says formal action was first taken against the Apartment in 1985. Although unhappiness with the bar had long been a sore spot, Jones credits Beatrice Lopez for finally pushing the issue of a bar in a residential area to the forefront of the Shoalcrest agenda. "I'd been waiting for shoe to drop for years," says Jones.

Pat Ray, who has lived on 28 1/2 Street since 1985, says he feels the neighborhood group had initially proceeded somewhat warily, out of deference to the Apartment's clientele. "We did not want to pick on a minority. Personally, and I think I can speak for a number of other people in the neighborhood as well, I did not want to put gay people out of one of their primary outlets of social interaction. I understand that these kinds of places are limited. But we had had about as much as we could take."

Soon the neighborhood group filed letters of protest against the Apartment with the TABC. In March of 1987, the group presented the TABC with a book-like vol-

and rowdy behavior. Complaints were cited that patrons frequently urinated in the parking lot or in the alley behind the bar (against city regulations, the Apartment had only one restroom). Also detailed was the lack or adequate parking facilities, a situation compounded by the fact that many patrons who did not wish for their cars to be seen in front of the Apartment used the sidestreets of the neighborhood instead. Problems were said to be particularly bad on Sunday afternoons, when the bar swelled to capacity and beyond because of its all-you-can-drink beer and liquor bashes. Having listed these concerns, the neighborhood group asked that the TABC withhold renewal of the Apartment's liquor license.

Learning of these complaints, B.K. "Bunch" Brittain hired legal representation. In response, Shoalcrest hired David Frederick. An initial hearing before the TABC was scheduled for September of 1987, but Brittain's lawyers sought and were granted a postponement. Fifteen months later, after a series of TABC hearings, a compromise between the two sides was finally established. Officially entered February 28, 1989, the compromise recognized that Sally's Apartment was unlikely to ever gain a zoning variance from its C1 restaurant status granted in 1968 when the establishment first opened. Hence the agreement stated that by March 15, 1989, the Apartment would have to "substantially comply" with the C1 zoning by constructing a kitchen and establishing a menu. Both parties agreed that food sales would have to reach 51% by June 19 in order for the Apartment to remain in business. (Whether sales had to reach 51% by that week, or have averaged 51% throughout the period remains somewhat unclear.)

Although construction on the restaurant (which eventually was named "Bedrock Cafe") was not completed by March 15 as initially specified, it was decided that the compromise agreement would remain valid if the June 19 deadline was still met. Sales,

however, did not comply with the demands and that the bar's liquor license should be revoked. On September 7, TABC agents "raided" the Apartment. The bar has not since reopened.

■
"It was all a complete shock to me," says Brittain, claiming that the TABC's closing took him completely by surprise. Brittain says a TABC letter dated August 15 that would have warned him of this action and given him the ability to appeal it never reached him. In fact, Brittain's version of the event surrounding the closing of his bar differs substantially from the version presented by members of the Shoalcrest group.

The Apartment had always strived to maintain good relations with its neighbors, says Brittain. He contends that noise problems from the bar were minimal. "The police reports we had were few and far between. In fact, they were mostly calls we had made ourselves. The police said we were probably one of the best bars in town. And in my 20 years of business, we never had any problems with the TABC. We were never filed on for serving minors." Brittain asserts he was never asked to come to meetings in which problems concerning his business were being discussed. "We asked to come to the meetings but they wouldn't let us." (In contrast, several different members of the neighborhood group say Brittain was repeatedly invited to the meetings and that had he made efforts to work with the neighborhood, the Apartment might still be open today.)

Questioned as to whether he thinks the closing of the Apartment was an attack on the gay community, Brittain is quick to respond. "Definitely. They didn't want a queer bar in their neighborhood. They said so several times. And the whole thing with the city was a farce. They knew what they were going to do the whole time. But I spent \$20,000 building a kitchen so I could try to comply with their standards. My attorney says my biggest mistake was trying to play the game with them."

published in Houston aimed at the state's gay community, agrees. "It seems to me that it's selective enforcement of the law. It appears to me that the neighborhood association plotted to close down the bar, probably because it was a gay bar. The strange thing is that it was allowed to go on for twenty years before they enforced the zoning."

■
With regard to the closing of the Apartment, perhaps this twenty-year figure is significant. Much has changed in the U.S. since the late 60s. Civil rights, including those for homosexual citizens, progressed greatly throughout the 70s and 80s. Much of the progress was spurred by affirmative action, a policy granting a measure of favoritism to people disadvantaged due to their longstanding oppression. But affirmative action is a policy no longer held in favor by mainstream politicians. And recent Supreme Court rulings have overturned many of the hard-fought civil rights struggles of the past quarter century. For better or worse, Americans are more likely today than twenty years ago to weigh the merits of the conflict as opposed to making judgments based on the values represented by the separate parties involved.

Such appears to be the case with the Apartment, where the rights of a neighborhood prevailed and a gay institution was, sadly, closed. To the relief of nearby residents (and perhaps to their financial benefit, as real estate values are likely to rise), the corner of 29th Street and Rio Grande is quieter now. If we are to believe the words of these neighborhood leaders, neither the sexual preference of the Apartment's clientele nor this bar's significance in the gay community were significant factors in their pressing for its demise — the issue was a straightforward case of zoning violation. Whether such indifference to circumstance and implication makes justice in our society more objective is a question not so easily answered.λ

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mostly people who had come to the Apartment because it was the Apartment, and had they found the door locked, they would have been out elsewhere spreading the news. Perhaps it was the vodka and tonics, but I began to feel very hopeful. I stayed until the last minute. But what bothered me was that one of the staff told me the word on the papers from the TABC men was "canceled." A very final sounding word.

■

In what appears to have been its last years, the Apartment was a principal place for fundraising. In many periods the Apartment provided more than half the donations to the food bank for people with AIDS. It led the way in distributing free condoms and safe-sex information in Austin. It was the first gay bar to allow public health workers to offer HIV testing on premises, just as in pre-AIDS days it offered VD screenings.

The Austin Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus distributed voter registration materials, raised funds, and passed out its endorsement cards at the Apartment. The Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf held a carwash in the Apartment's parking lot. The Apartment was instrumental in organizing the gay community's Last Splash, Splash Day, and Fourth of July gatherings.

Yet none of that, not even all of that put together quite expresses what a gay bar is. Being gay in a homophobic culture means spending most of every day surrounded by the enemy. It means often, especially in Texas, being alienated from family, from the church you were raised in, from co-workers and fellow students, and from virtually every institution of straight soci-

town, the principal source of funds for gay community projects, and — save one — the only gay bar not confined to the downtown ghetto. Brittain applied to the planning commission and appealed to the city council for bar zoning that would allow the Apartment to continue to operate exactly as it had for twenty years. "A bar in a residential neighborhood?" asked Mayor Pro Tem Sally Shipman in casting the deciding vote. "Never."

That left the Apartment to try to comply with the zoning it had by opening a restaurant in the stand that faces 29th Street. At various times this stand has been a fajita shack, El Carnivore and several other ventures. Unfortunately, in the twenty years the Apartment was open, statutory language had been enacted defining a restaurant as a place that derived at least 51% of its receipts from food sales. Short of a ruse, like requiring the purchase of a bread and butter finger sandwich (for, say, \$1.75) with a drink (for, say 50¢) — a solution once employed by bars in Indiana — there was no way the Apartment could comply. Gay bars in Austin have several times attempted to operate restaurants. The combination did not work at the Private Cellar, The West End Pub, or Uncle Charlie's. It has never worked here, but no one knows exactly why.

Antone's, which is only a few hundred yards from the Apartment, had a similar zoning situation. Antone's, however, got an exemption in 1986. Junior's, a keg and carry-out beer store across the alley from the Apartment, is not zoned for that kind of business, either. It continues to operate.

■

The Power of Being Frank

from The Guide to the Gay Northeast

For the past month, newspapers, magazines, and television shows have been full of reports of Congressman Barney Frank's involvement with male prostitutes. The often sensationalistic coverage of this "news" has frequently been tainted with crass homophobia, and some rabid conservatives are clamoring for Congressman Frank to be charged under the District of Columbia's sodomy statute as well as face prosecution and censure for engaging a prostitute.

Such moralism doesn't surprise us coming from the mainstream press with its long-standing, simplistic equation that sex-outside-of-marriage equals scandal. But, distressingly, articles, letters, and even editorials in many gay and lesbian publications have subtly and not-so-subtly attacked

what Frank did "wrong"?

Those who worry in the gay press that the Congressman's hiring of a hustler was indeed wrong surely cannot judge his action on the basis of its illegality. Any sort of gay sex Frank, or anyone else, chooses to have in Washington, DC, or any number of states, is proscribed by law.

We as a community must have the courage to say that laws that seek to force people to conform to social norms by regulating consensual sexual behavior are bad laws and not worthy of respect. Engaging in sodomy or hiring a prostitute (where the sex is compensated in cash rather than the more socially acceptable expensive dinners or furs or whispered *I love you's* may be illegal, but neither action is inherently wrong.

Nor can we afford to let ourselves be pressured to try to prove our "respectability" to straight society by throwing one of our own to the pack of morality wolves. Scapegoating Congressmen Frank for the sexphobia and homophobia of straight society not only is unfair to him, but endangers us all by only whetting an appetite that is insatiable.

Congressmen Frank has a tough act. Surrounded by fearful and nervous advisors concerned for their own Washington careers, he will be told again and again that he must endlessly apologize and defer to public morality. And indeed, he has done some of that.

But the challenge for Frank is to find

editorial

Congressmen Frank for "letting us all down" and "making us all look bad." Some have tagged Frank's actions as "stupid and wrong." Others have noted that many of us have been left confused by the affair, unsure how to respond.

With basic sexual freedom under attack and the career of one of our most articulate advocates at stake, the matter merits our thoughtful attention and examination.

wash in the Apartment's parking lot. The Apartment was instrumental in organizing the gay community's Last Splash, Splash Day, and Fourth of July gatherings.

Yet none of that, not even all of that put together quite expresses what a gay bar is. Being gay in a homophobic culture means spending most of every day surrounded by the enemy. It means often, especially in Texas, being alienated from family, from the church you were raised in, from co-workers and fellow students, and from virtually every institution of straight society. It means always running the risk of inadvertently overhearing what smiley-face liberal people say behind your back.

A gay bar that is an institution means respite from that. It is where you have met the only friends you are certain you can count on. It is where you receive the only news you trust. The planning commission seemed amused when the Apartment was compared to a community center. But it is difficult to think of a more analogous nongay institution. Of course it is a place to have fun, too.

Several years ago, the Shoalcrest Neighborhood Association began to cause trouble for the Apartment. Zoning laws have often been used to confine minority people. And the zoning situation provided the neighborhood association with the opportunity of destroying the oldest gay institution in

attempted to operate restaurants. The combination did not work at the Private Cellar, The West End Pub, or Uncle Charlie's. It has never worked here, but no one knows exactly why.

Antone's, which is only a few hundred yards from the Apartment, had a similar zoning situation. Antone's, however, got an exemption on 1986. Junior's, a keg and carry-out beer store across the alley from the Apartment, is not zoned for that kind of business, either. It continues to operate.

I was a little hung over in the morning, but I made myself as presentable as possible and Lizbeth and I went up to the Apartment. A sign on the door said "temporarily closed."

It was Friday. If the situation was not cleared up by the time folks started getting off work, the game would be up. At least for quite some time. Five-thirty came and went.

It's like you go through the motions for a few days after someone close to you dies. You know intellectually, but it has not yet sunk in deep.

Sometimes I think if only they knew what they were doing they would stop. But then I remember. They know exactly what they are doing. They are systematically and deliberately doing their best to destroy a cultural group.λ

Editorial

Congressmen Frank for "letting us all down" and "making us all look bad." Some have tagged Frank's actions as "stupid and wrong." Others have noted that many of us have been left confused by the affair, unsure how to respond.

With basic sexual freedom under attack and the career of one of our most articulate advocates at stake, the matter merits our thoughtful attention and examination.

When some call Congressman Frank's actions "stupid" they don't mean that he was perhaps a poor judge of character in a specific instance; they mean that the revelation that he has hired prostitutes will cost him votes in certain quarters and therefore he shouldn't have done it. But Frank's decision to come out as an openly gay man also jeopardized some votes, as did his support as a Massachusetts State Representative of measures to legalize prostitution. In fact, Congressman Frank has built his highly respected career on a whole series of controversial, as often unpopular, stands that others would be quick to label as politically stupid. Frank's history demonstrates that his real power flows from his identity with, not distancing from, just causes and issues.

So the question comes down to: was

Scapegoating Congressman Frank for the sexphobia and homophobia of straight society not only is unfair to him, but endangers us all by only whetting an appetite that is insatiable.

Congressmen Frank has a tough act. Surrounded by fearful and nervous advisors concerned for their own Washington careers, he will be told again and again that he must endlessly apologize and defer to public morality. And indeed, he has done some of that.

But the challenge for Frank is to find some way to get his constituents, and the media, to look beyond their pre-programmed responses and to examine whether his actions we in any truly moral sense "wrong." Congressman Frank has only risen in stature and influence since his decision to come out two years ago, so it is clear he has the skills to get people to confront such basic issues. By confidently embracing the truth that what he did was not wrong, Frank can only enhance his real influence (whether it eventually be inside or outside Congress), for all power is ultimately based on its truthfulness.

And we as a community of sex outlaws should be supporting anyone who is facing harsh judgment for violating social strictures against consensual sex. We must be clear that challenging unjust sex laws is never stupid.λ

The following underwriters have helped support the cost of the Montrose Activity Center NEWSLETTER

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Planning for walk-a-thon continues

A morning walk is good for you. AIDS Foundation Houston is organizing a morning walk that will benefit you and people with AIDS, too.

Scheduled for 9 o'clock the morning of Sunday, November 12, AFH's "From All walks of Life" is a 10 kilometer stroll that begins downtown in Sam Houston Park and ends 1 1/2 to 2 hours later. To complete the event, there will be a celebration and picnic complete with hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and music.

The purpose of the walk is to raise money for AFH and up to 10 other organizations that assist PWAs in Houston. All proceeds that go to these organizations will fund educational outreach and social services programs.

Each walker will collect donations from as many sponsors as possible. Almost \$10,000 had been contributed as of September 7. Pledged donations will be col-

lected at the pre-walk registration, which begins at 8:00 AM the day of the walk. Those donating \$50 will get a T-shirt, gifts of \$100 earn a sweatshirt, and a pair of sport shoes will be given to people contributing \$200.

Walk teams are being fielded by the Houston Bar Association (which also made a cash contribution), Coca-Cola, the four hospitals whose AIDS patients are visited by AFH volunteers and the Houston Post. But many more walkers and volunteers are still needed.

Many Houston business, organizations and individual are contributing money, products and/or services to the fund-raising event, which is being organized by AFH Special Events Coordinator Sandra Bedgood.

Anyone interested in either volunteering to help with this event or walking in the walk-a-thon should call Sandra Bedgood at 623-6796.

WE NEED
YOUR
HELP FOR **A**
PLEDGE WALK TO BENEFIT
AIDS CARE, EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1989

REGISTRATION 8:00 AM

SAM HOUSTON PARK
HOUSTON, TEXAS

10K WALK

PICNIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Absentee voting runs through November 3

Absentee voting is scheduled for Oct. 18-Nov. 3 at Courthouse Annexes throughout the county.

Houston residents will vote on Mayor,

▼ Justice Precinct 4: Cypress Creek Branch Library, 6815 Cypresswood, Spring, or Courthouse Annex 3, 121 W. Main, Humble.

CALL

Absentee voting runs through November 3

Absentee voting is scheduled for Oct. 18-Nov. 3 at Courthouse Annexes throughout the county.

Houston residents will vote on Mayor, and City Council, while all county residents will decide the fate of the Port of Houston Authority Bond Election and state constitutional amendments. Some voters will select a new U.S. Congressman, new Houston ISD trustees, City of Bellaire officials and Houston Community College trustees.

All county residents may vote absentee at the downtown Houston absentee voting location, 49 San Jacinto. People also may vote absentee at a branch office in the justice of the peace precinct in which they live.

But since no one has to pretend they're going out of town on election day, Nov. 7, some people have suggested they change absentee voting to "early voting."

Absolutely everyone who registered by Oct. 8 can take advantage of convenient absentee voting.

The schedule:

- ▼ Oct. 18-Nov. 3 : Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., all locations.
- ▼ Oct. 28-29, 1-6 p.m., all locations.
- ▼ Nov. 2-3, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., all locations.

Absentee Polling Places:

- ▼ Justice Precinct 1: Courthouse Annex 31, 7300 N. Shepherd.
- ▼ Justice Precinct 2: Courthouse Annex 4, 109 E. Shaw, Pasadena.
- ▼ Justice Precinct 3: Baytown Community Building, 2407 Market, Baytown, or San Jacinto College, North Campus, 5800 Uvalde.

▼ Justice Precinct 4: Cypress Creek Branch Library, 6815 Cypresswood, Spring, or Courthouse Annex 3, 121 W. Main, Humble.

▼ Justice Precinct 5: Bear Creek Park, Community Center, Bear Creek Dr. at Patterson Road, or Bayland Park, Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet.

▼ Justice Precinct 6: Courthouse Annex 9, 1001 S/Sgt. Macario Garcia Dr.

▼ Justice Precinct 7: Courthouse Annex 14, 5737 Cullen.

▼ Justice Precinct 8: Courthouse Annex 10, 16603 Buccaneer, Clear Lake, or Courthouse Annex 25, 7330 Spencer Highway, Pasadena.

Moved recently?

People who moved recently but did not fill out a new card should return to their old precinct to vote.

No card?

If you registered by Oct. 8, but do not receive a card, you can still vote. You must inform your precinct officials that you did, in fact, register by Oct. 8. They are required to allow you to sign a brief affidavit and vote. If they refuse to allow you to vote, call the County Voter Registration Office at 224-1919. Also call that number before election day with any voter eligibility questions.

Anyone who loses their card can vote simply by showing a photo ID.

Missed the deadline?

Anyone who did not register by Oct. 8 should fill out a card quickly because of possible run-off elections next month and statewide party primaries in March 1990.

REGISTRATION 8:00 AM
SAM HOUSTON PARK
HOUSTON, TEXAS
10K WALK

PICNIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

CALL
AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON, INC.
(713) 623-6796

Check one:

☐ WALKER

☐ VOLUNTEER

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (OFFICE) _____

PHONE ((HOME) _____

Send to:

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON, INC.
3927 Essex Lane
Houston, Texas 77027

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There's a New Sound in Pop Music: Bigotry

by Jon Pareles
from The New York Times

Has hatred become hip? From isolated spots in pop culture, racial and sexual prejudice have slithered back into view. Andrew Dice Clay, a comedian whose Nassau Coliseum performance on Saturday sold out immediately, mixes dirty-word jokes with vicious put-downs of women, homosexuals, blacks and Japanese. During a sketch on "The Tonight Show" Aug. 11, Johnny Carson, as his yokel character Floyd R. Turbo, invoked "baseball the way it was meant to be played, on real grass, with no designated hitter and all white guys"; the studio audience gasped, then tittered nervously.

In a recent Rolling Stone magazine cover story, Axl Rose of the heavy metal band Guns N' Roses, whose debut album sold nine million copies, defends his song "One in a Million," which includes the verse: "Immigrants and faggots/ They make no sense to me/ They come to our country/ And think they'll do as they please/ Like start some mini-Iran or spread some [expletive] disease." He also savors the word "niggers" in a verse that continues, "Get outta my way/ Don't need to buy none/ Of your gold chains today."

Across the color line, the rap group Public Enemy fired, then rehired, Richard (Professor Griff) Griffin, who as its "minister of information" said in a May interview with The Washington Times: "The

Instances of racism and other prejudice in rock and in comedy signal a growing tolerance of the intolerant.

that taboo is cracking.

"On the one hand, it seems like a new openness," said Alvin Poussaint, associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical school and a consultant to "The Cosby Show." "But on the other, it shows a new acceptance, a license to say derogatory things about other people. The argument is that the people making these statements are being for real and not covering anything up, and they have a point. Young kids, particularly kids from working-class backgrounds, have had these racist attitudes for a long time. But until recently, it was not publicly acceptable to say so."

Popular culture, like the regulator that jiggles atop a pressure cooker, vents tensions in the society it addresses. "One in a Million" and Mr. Clay's comedy suggest not only deep resentment but an attempt to reassert white male heterosexual power over others. Whether it is a last gasp backlash or a new majoritarianism remains unclear. Meanwhile, minorities battle one another.

Prejudice against and among minorities isn't confined to popular culture, where it is still relatively rare. But culture shifts

the Reagan Administration set the tone. They were openly, militantly against affirmative action and for giving Federal money to segregated, church-related schools. Reagan didn't even make any symbolic gestures toward the black community. He set a tone that you can keep blacks shut out and they can't do anything about it."

Increasing Prejudice In the Age of AIDS

Another longstanding prejudice, homophobia, has been rekindled by fear of AIDS, which was at first stigmatized as the "gay disease." The offhand virulence of homophobia in music with a largely teen-aged audience is particularly telling. "Male teenagers generally go through a period of fear that they're going to be homosexual," Dr. Poussaint said. "Some teen-agers, especially those with a lot of conflict, go through a very homophobic stage to reinforce their heterosexuality." Heavy D.'s rap, Gun N' Roses's heavy metal and Mr. Clay's comic universe are all overwhelmingly male clubhouses; they flaunt homophobia.

Randy Shilts, author of And the Band Played On, a book about the AIDS epidemic, sees resurgent homophobia as a political backlash. "Whenever you have a group that begins to assert itself, you're going to have a reaction. Something like Guns N' Roses is obviously emblematic of the alienation that some younger people feel from what they presume to be a reigning liberal morality—it's a way of rebel-

with performers on everything from packaging to song choices, they obviously don't expect Heavy D.'s homophobia or Mr. Rose's scapegoating to hurt their prospects. Most popular music steers away from divisiveness in order to garner larger audiences; rock has a tradition of embracing (or exploiting) the contributions of racial and sexual outsiders. Yet in an increasingly fragmented pop market, it is also possible to succeed by rallying a single constituency against outsiders.

Mr. Rose in his interview indicated that to him, racial epithets represent artistic freedom, a position echoed by his recording company, Geffen Records. According to Bryn Bridenthal, Geffen Records' director of media and artist relations, "There were a lot of discussions about 'One in a Million,' and if it were totally a label decision, the decision would probably have been not to release it. But if you're going to start censoring your artists, it's going to damage your relationship. There's always somebody who's going to release it, and if you've got an artist like Guns N' Roses, you want to keep the relationship with the company. In the end, Geffen Records just does not support censorship of the artist's creative desires."

"Gun N' Roses have a lot of power because they've sold a lot of records," she added. "But if they hadn't sold a lot of records, no one would have paid any attention to that song." Interestingly, Geffen

sense to me/ They come to our country/ And think they'll do as they please/ Like start some mini-Iran or spread some [expletive] disease." He also savors the word "niggers" in a verse that continues, "Get outta my way/ Don't need to buy none/ Of your gold chains today."

Across the color line, the rap group Public Enemy fired, then rehired, Richard (Professor Griff) Griffin, who as its "minister of information" said in a May interview with The Washington Times: "The Jews are wicked, and we can prove this." He went on to say that Jews are responsible for "the majority of wickedness that goes on across the globe." Mr. Griffin was made the group's liaison to the black community and local youth programs, but no longer gives interviews. In a statement announcing the rehiring, Public Enemy's leader, Carlton (Chuck D.) Ridenhour, said, "Please direct any further questions to Axl Rose."

Meanwhile, numerous rappers include homophobic asides in the course of an album. For example, Heavy D. and the Boyz, whose album "Big Tyme" recently reached No. 1 on Billboard's black-music chart, boast that with their rhymes, "you'll be happy as a faggot in jail."

It's ugly stuff, and, as the sticker on Mr. Clay's album package puts it, "offensive." While those examples are vastly outnumbered by nonracist, nonhomophobic cultural messages, they are like cockroaches in a clean kitchen, signaling more trouble to come.

Ethnic stereotyping runs deep in American popular culture. Blacks have been caricatured since the days of slavery; during World War II, the Japanese were portrayed as evil incarnate. Ethnic jokes have always been comedians' staples. But the triumphs of the civil rights movement of the 1960's, and the feminist and homosexual-rights movements that followed, made prejudicial statements less tolerable in mainstream society, almost taboo. Now,

jiggles atop a pressure cooker, vents tensions in the society it addresses. "One in a Million" and Mr. Clay's comedy suggest not only deep resentment but an attempt to reassert white male heterosexual power over others. Whether it is a last gasp backlash or a new majoritarianism remains unclear. Meanwhile, minorities battle one another.

Prejudice against and among minorities isn't confined to popular culture, where it is still relatively rare. But culture shifts with politics. Surveys have shown renewed prejudice in the United States across all income levels and classes in recent years, not least among young people—who, experts in race relations point out, face competition for entry-level jobs and may resent newly franchised, visibly distinguishable minorities. Another factor they cite has been the Reagan Administration's opposition to affirmative-action programs, a signal that minority rights were vulnerable.

Joel Kovel, a social science professor at Bard College who teaches a course on ideology in mass culture, said, "The need in our society to express identity by excluding others has always been very, very strong. With the decline of the cold war, demonizing the Soviets doesn't carry the symbolic weight it used to, and there's a resurgence of more old-fashioned nativism and racism."

Racial divisions have made headlines in recent politics. This week's mayoral primary in New York takes place under the shadow of a racial killing in Bensonhurst. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan official, was elected to the Louisiana Legislature; George Bush's Presidential campaign was accused of stirring racial fears with its Willie Horton commercial about a black convicted murderer who raped a white woman while on furlough from prison.

"That commercial legitimized prejudicial speech, and the Bernhard Goetz case legitimized it," Dr. Poussaint said. "And

universe are all overwhelmingly male clubhouses; they flaunt homophobia.

Randy Shilts, author of And the Band Played On, a book about the AIDS epidemic, sees resurgent homophobia as a political backlash. "Whenever you have a group that begins to assert itself, you're going to have a reaction. Something like Guns N' Roses is obviously emblematic of the alienation that some younger people feel from what they presume to be a reigning liberal morality—it's a way of rebelling against authority. But to me, it's an incredibly unsophisticated analysis that sees gay people as part of the power structure. Nobody can look at what's gone on around AIDS and gay people in the United States and think that gay people are in power."

As power relationships are redrawn and an us-against-them mentality sets in, sexual and ethnic lines make convenient divisions. "For young men growing up," said Peggy R. Sanday, an anthropologist at the University of Pennsylvania, "their manhood seems to be based on expressing their rights, but with those rights phrased in terms of power over others."

Prejudicial statements have slipped through the mass media. Many radio stations, especially in the South and Middle West, broadcast "One in a Million," with its four-letter word bleeped out; rappers, however, generally save their homophobic lines for album tracks rather than more widely broadcast singles. Mr. Clay had his own Home Box Office special, and he serves up his milder material on talk shows. Mr. Carson's line came out of the mouth of a comic character, and in that context was approved for broadcast after discussion between programming and network standards executives, said Pat Schultz, an NBC spokeswoman. In context, she added, the line "clearly did not represent the opinion of Johnny Carson or the 'The Tonight Show.'"

Record companies' main concerns are commercial. Although they regularly work

damage your relationship. There's always somebody who's going to release it, and if you've got an artist like Guns N' Roses, you want to keep the relationship with the company. In the end, Geffen Records just does not support censorship of the artist's creative desires."

"Gun N' Roses have a lot of power because they've sold a lot of records," she added. "But if they hadn't sold a lot of records, no one would have paid any attention to that song." Interestingly, Geffen also released Mr. Clay's album, "Dice," produced by its Def American subsidiary—but the album was deemed so controversial that no Geffen information appears on the package, Mr. Clay's next album is tentatively titled "No Tolerance."

It is up to listeners to repudiate messages they dislike and to disburse bigots of any claim to the mainstream.

Censorship of popular culture would not eliminate prejudice, although censorship efforts are rising. Universities are trying to regulate prejudicial statements published by students; pressure groups are battling what they see as permissiveness on television; the United States Senate recently moved to restrict public support of controversial art. (The Parents' Music Resource Center in Washington, which monitors rock lyrics, has concerned itself with violence, sexual explicitness, drug references and blasphemy, not bigotry.)

Racist and sexist statements are a byproduct of societal tensions, and they belong well within constitutionally defined free speech. They're worth allowing because the alternative, the imposition of governmental regulations — like Senator Jesse

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Helms's guidelines for government financed arts programs — could hobble virtually all controversial expression. Politically correct art, under any definition of political correctness, tends to be strangled art.

Free Speech Allows Denunciation of Bigotry

But legal tolerance need not mean acceptance. Free speech allows those who are disgusted by prejudicial conduct to denounce it, as Jewish groups did after Public Enemy's actions; the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith called Mr. Griffin's firing and rehiring a "repugnant charade." Yet Guns N' Roses, 10 times as commercially successful as Public Enemy, have generated hardly a peep. According to Ms. Bridenthal, Mr. Rose's comments to Rolling Stone brought not protests but requests for more interviews, which he has refused.

"Axl does not believe that what he said was a horrible racist thing," she said. "I think he's reflecting a whole stratum of our society that feels the same way. That may be a scary thing, but part of what art is supposed to do is to make people look at things, and that's how it changes the world."

There are differences between Public Enemy and Guns N' Roses. The rap group's overall message is one of self-determination for blacks. Mr. Ridenhour's lyrics are angry—one song describes Public Enemy

as "prophets of rage"—and on stage he performs surrounded by what the group calls a "security force," young men in uniform who hold plastic Uzis. (Mr. Griffin used to lead them through quasi-military maneuvers; now his successor does.) The stance is militant, confrontational.

But Mr. Ridenhour kept racism out of Public Enemy's songs. While he calls himself a "follower of Farrakhan," referring to the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who has made inflammatory, anti-Semitic statements, he does not include such sentiments in his songs. His adversaries are the likes of "the media" and "the government," not targeted groups. In "Party for Your Right to Fight," mostly about the history of the Black Panther Party, he uses the phrase "grafted devils," alluding to black-supremacist Nation of Islam theories that consider whites the end result of a diabolical genetic bleaching process. But the lyrics change the "devils" with specific offenses.

Mr. Rose spewed his racism in a song on a Top 10 recording, the two-million selling "G N' R Lies," and he considers himself brave and forthright.

"Why can black people go up to each other and say, 'nigger,' but when a white guy does it all of a sudden it's a big put-down?" Mr. Rose complains in the Rolling Stone interview. "I used the word 'nigger'

to describe somebody that is basically a pain in your life, a problem. The word 'nigger' doesn't necessarily mean black."

Mr. Rose ascribed the "immigrants" verse to his being harassed at a convenience store run by immigrants, and to "very bad experiences with homosexuals"—inadvertently supplying classic examples of bigoted illogic, which extrapolates from individuals to demonize whole groups. Although the Gay Men's Health Crisis dropped Guns N' Roses from a June benefit concert for AIDS research, the band has been otherwise unscathed. Its record company is still solicitous about their "relationship."

In popular culture's market system, it is up to listeners to repudiate messages they dislike, passively or actively—and to disabuse bigots of any claim to the mainstream. Rock and comedy have a mandate to probe taboos, and they should be expected to go too far now and then. But what's pitiable about the current outbursts is how timid they are. They don't break new artistic ground—or, as Public Enemy chant, "fight the powers that be"—they scapegoat groups perceived as weaker. While the promise of American popular culture is its willingness to defy conventional wisdom and establish hierarchies, performers who spew prejudice offer only their own ignorance and cowardice.λ

"QUOTABLES"

"Considering the way in which oppression deforms us, the miracle is that more of us aren't mad."

"... activism is not only valuable for the community but also for one's own mental health. Being gay in a straight world, even in a hypothetically permissive straight world, is so alienating that the only way to avoid depression is through the assertion of one's own gay identity. Anger can take three forms — self-hatred, uncontrollable rage, and calm but constant self-assertion. The first solution is tiresome, the second useless, the third wise..."

From *States of Desire*, "Texas: Sissies, Cowboys, and Good School Citizens" by Edmund White.λ

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supposed to do is to make people look at things, and that's how it changes the world."

There are differences between Public Enemy and Guns N' Roses. The rap group's overall message is one of self-determination for blacks. Mr. Ridenhour's lyrics are angry—one song describes Public Enemy

brave and forthright.

"Why can black people go up to each other and say, 'nigger,' but when a white guy does it all of a sudden it's a big put-down?" Mr. Rose complains in the Rolling Stone interview. "I used the word 'nigger'

depression is through the assertion of one's own gay identity. Anger can take three forms — self-hatred, uncontrollable rage, and calm but constant self-assertion. The first solution is tiresome, the second useless, the third wise . . ."

From *States of Desire*, "Texas: Sissies, Cowboys, and Good School Citizens" by Edmund White.λ

v o t e

If you don't vote you have no right to complain.

Polls open 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Tuesday, November 7

Absentee voting last day November 3 (see page 10 for more information or call voter registration at 224-1919).

The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide information to the community. It is to serve as a network. For this to happen I need your help. If you are part of any community organization, please let me know when meetings, fundraisers, special events are happening so that I can include them in this newsletter. At present we are printing 2000 copies and sending out 700 of those directly to people who have asked to be put on the list. You can get listings in the newsletter by calling me, Jack Valinski, at 529-1223 or write to the address on the side.

Send in by November 20 for the December issue:

Event: _____

Organization: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Address: _____

Description of event: _____

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