

MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER NEWSLETTER

serving the Lesbian and Gay Community of Houston

NOVEMBER 1990

ISSUE 26

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.

GAY/LESBIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION ▼ GAY/LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK 1991
TEAM HOUSTON ▼ AIDS EQUITY LEAGUE ▼ NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON

Women, Gay Men and Lesbians are standing together

by Molly yard and Urvashi Vaid
from *Gay Community News*

Washington, D.C., Sept. 20, 1990. The 1990s present a political landscape of both frustration and renewed hope. The civil rights successes of our movements have generated a right-wing backlash that has targeted gay men and all women for special attack. The right to privacy for women and gay men has been seriously eroded—both in *Bowers v. Hardwick* and in recent attacks on *Roe v. Wade*. Yet these setbacks have inspired a surge of grassroots activism in the progressive community, and particularly in the feminist and lesbian communities.

The National Organization for Women

the discrimination we face and learn the commonality in the liberation we seek. We have seen from the explosion of the right wing that unity is power. We too must grow in our level of cooperation and mutual support in the progressive community.

Today, the ties between the feminist community and the lesbian and gay community are stronger than ever. NGLTF and NOW have been close allies because our struggles for equal rights, privacy and individual freedom are one struggle. The stakes have never been higher. Abortion rights, the "do or

die" issues for feminists in the 1990s, have received strong support from the lesbian and gay men understand the ability of women to control their sexual and reproductive lives free from dictate of the church and the state is exactly the freedom gay and lesbian people seek. On this issue, on the repeal of *Hardwick* and all intrusive sodomy laws, we must fight against the imposition of state-sanctioned controls on our most private, intimate decisions.

NOW and NGLTF are allies on a host of other issues. We are members and co-founders of the Gay and Lesbian

Military Freedom Coalition, which fights the blatantly homophobic policies of the U.S. armed Forces. As one of the largest employers in the world, the military's active and institutionalized discrimination against lesbians and gay men is as outrageous as it is useless.

Health care is another area where feminist and lesbian and gay concerns overlap. The spiraling cost of insurance and resulting inaccessibility of health care have placed a national health care system at the top of our agendas. People with HIV and AIDS, women and children see **Standing Together** page 4

Fears That Haunt a Scrubbed America

The civil rights successes of our movements have generated a right-wing backlash that has targeted gay men and all women for special attack. The right to privacy for women and gay men has been seriously eroded—both in *Bowers v. Hardwick* and in recent attacks on *Roe v. Wade*. Yet these setbacks have inspired a surge of grassroots activism in the progressive community, and particularly in the feminist and lesbian communities.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) are at the forefront of grassroots organization in our respective communities. We recognize we must stand together, steadfast on our diverse yet inextricably connected issues.

One of our greatest challenges as political movements is to resist the urge to protect only our own. The "me first" mentality of the 1980s is a death knell for the coalition politics of the 1990s. We can no longer afford the "divide and conquer," single-issue focus that hobbled us in the past.

We must draw connections between

Molly Yard is President of NOW and Urvashi Vad is Executive Director of NGLTF.

and mutual support in the progressive community.

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Fears That Haunt a Scrubbed America

by David Leavitt
from *The New York Times*

The real target behind attacks on the National Endowment is not obscenity but dread of the nameless 'other.'

Put yourself, for a moment, inside the mind of Jesse Helms. Imagine a scrubbed, manicured neighborhood, a pocket of decency in the heart of our sinful land. The music is by Wayne Newton, the paintings are by Norman Rockwell, and sex takes place only between married men and women in beds

David Leavitt is the author of two novels, The Lost Language of Cranes and Equal Affections. His second collection of stories, A Place I've Never Been, was just published by Viking.

at night.

Then one day a church-reared boy or girl goes to a museum and sees a Robert Mapplethorpe photograph; or goes to a library and checks out a novel by Rita Mae Brown (neither action likely to be undertaken innocently). What does Jesse Helms think happens? Does the photograph or book emit something between a magic fragrance and a sales pitch, luring this high-minded but fallible child into the back alleyways of decadence and sin? The "artist," in this story, is really nothing more than a street-corner beckoner, a wolf in smock and painters' pants, a wolf with a camera or a pen. What he or she creates, under the guise of art, is a "promotion" for sexual deviance, a tool for the "recruit-

ment" of the young.

While the scenario I've just described may sound paranoid, even ludicrous, its dissemination has become the primary weapon in the current attack on the National Endowment for the Arts, an attack that, in fact, has little to do with the arts at all, and everything to do with the extreme right wing's determination to terrorize an already ambivalent American population by manipulating its entrenched fears of anything foreign, unfamiliar or explicitly sexual. People can argue as long as they want about the definitions of obscenity and art; in doing so, they become hopelessly sidetracked, trapped in a struggle to resolve unanswered questions that neatly distracts see **Fears that Haunt** page 10

Vote if you don't vote, you have no right to complain

Why Vote? . . . Why We Don't Want Men to Vote . . .

I don't Want to be in That Number . . .

Roberta Achtenberg: the 'Family Candidate' . . .

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**MONTROSE
ACTIVITY
CENTER**

BOX 66684

HOUSTON, TX 77266-6684

BOARD MEMBERS:

JIM OWENS (PRESIDENT)
JIM CRARY (VICE PRESIDENT)
DEBORAH BELL (SECRETARY)
MICHELLE ANDERSON
BERNIE BARBOUR,
RONNIE DIAZ, FELIX GARCIA,
LARRY GARRETT, JOHN HILL,
JACK VALINSKI
AND C. WILLIAMS

NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAC. 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 MAC SUBGROUPS. 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
ASST. EDITOR: ANNISE PARKER
DEBORAH BELL

**Montrose Activity Center Board Meeting
Annual Meeting — October 11, 1990**

The Montrose Activity Center Board met in executive session at 6:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jack Valinski. The nominations committee consisting of Annise Parker (chair), Jack Valinski, Ronnie Diaz, Kathy Hubbard (Names Project) and Debbie Holmes (Pride Week) reported on the results of their meeting of Oct. 10, 1990 and made a recommendation to the board. We then moved from executive session into a board meeting for an official vote.

Annise Parker moved the recommendation of the nominating committee that the current board members seeking reelection and the two candidates who have submitted resumes be accepted with two vacant seats left open for the time being. This was approved with all in favor. The results of this are two new board members: Larry Garrett and Michelle Anderson. Barbour, J. Hill and Williams remain on the board.

The Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by President Jim Owens. Board members present: Bernie Barbour, Deborah Bell, Jim Crary, Ronnie Diaz, Felix Garcia, John Hill, Ray Hill, Brian Keever, Jim Owens, Annise Parker, Jack Valinski, and Clyde Williams. Board members Elect: Michelle Anderson and Larry Garrett, and Visitors: Louis Kaufman, Joshua Lipsman, Sherri Darbonne, James McKinley, and Michael Oberdon.

Parker presented the treasurer's report and it was approved as presented.

the floor for nominations for the office of President. He then self-nominated, there were no other nominations and his election was passed with all in favor. The floor was opened for nomination for the position of Vice President. Jim Crary self-nominated and was elected. No one self-nominated for the position of treasurer and Parker agreed to continue in the position until someone else is willing to assume it and on the condition that there be immediate audit of the books. This was approved by a vote with all in favor. No one nominated for the position of secretary.

The various committees then gave reports on their activities of 1990. Team Houston: Had the participation of 140 persons representing Houston at the Gay Games in Vancouver. It was a very successful event with the group repaying the \$500 loan from MAC. (Garcia).

Pride Week: 1990 "Looking to the Future" was the biggest and best ever. It was successful in community participation, financially and in quality. (Diaz).

Pride Awards: A MAC sponsored event. Was a wonderful event, with featured speaker Quentin Crisp and four benefiting groups. Next year is expected to be even better. (Barbour)

Star Nite 90: While not a financial success, it certainly was a fun and uniting event. The offspring of the "after parade" events of the past, this MAC sponsored event promises to develop into one of the biggest and most important fundraising and community events in

committees are needed. 2,000 copies are printed with 1,500 of those being mailed and 500 being distributed to Montrose area businesses. The MAC database is probably the best maintained and updated of any community organization. (Valinski)

The Event: A special fundraiser was held in January which was the Houston premier performance of Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" at the Alley Theatre. Mr. Albee was the honorary chair of the event and was most supportive of our effort. We made in about \$5000 from this gala evening. (Williams)

"Arrivaderci Papa" Benefit: Clyde Williams and Joe Watts produced this play as part of 1990 Lesbian/Gay Pride Week with one performance going to benefit MAC in the amount of \$500. (Williams)

Names Project: The Southwest Regional Display which took place Oct. 5-7 was a huge success. It was well attended and brought in about \$125,000, profits to be distributed to AIDS service organizations. (McKinley)

Credit Union: Plans are still in the works with applications being distributed. This is a very exciting element for MAC to be able to provide a foundation for financial support and interchange within the community. (Crary)

Grants/Fundraising: David Bryan reported on the grant requests that have been written and other fundraising efforts and budget needs.

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ASST. EDITOR: ANNISE PARKER
DEBORAH BELL
JIM CRARY
CALENDAR JACK VALINSKI

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713-529-1223

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Parker presented the treasurer's report and it was approved as presented. The board election was announced formally. Retiring board members present were given the opportunity to say a few words and they were all thanked for their years of service and contributions to MAC.

Election of Officers: Owens opened

pation, financially and in quality. (Diaz). Pride Awards: A MAC sponsored event. Was a wonderful event, with featured speaker Quentin Crisp and four benefiting groups. Next year is expected to be even better. (Barbour)

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Newsletter: The MAC monthly newsletter continues to be one of the most visible aspects of our organization throughout the community. Local, original material is encouraged as well as reports from the MAC participating

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Grants/Fundraising: David Bryan reported on the grant requests that have been written and other fundraising efforts and budget needs.

October 16, 1990 at 6:30 PM was set as a special meeting for the board at a location to be announced.

The annual retreat was planned for December 8/9. There were announcements and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Deborah Bell. λ

MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER NEWSLETTER

We need your help

This newsletter is assembled by a very few hard working and perhaps crazy people. We need help in all aspects of its creation. We are interested in people who can put our calendar together, someone who can encourage people to write stories or who is interested in writing stories or opinion. Another area we need help in is getting underwriters to help pay the expenses of this newsletter. If you are interested in getting involved either write us at our address or call Jack Valinski at 529-1223.

THE AIDS EQUITY LEAGUE

BOX 980307

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098-0307

713•748•3555

We are saddened and concerned with the Greater Houston AIDS Alliance's process in the selection of its next Executive Director. From the start, attempts to include the gay at risk community in a meaningful representative role on the Alliance have been repeatedly rebuffed and this seemingly has resulted in an atmosphere conducive to homophobia. Thus during the search process allegations of homophobia have been made by at least one GHAA Search Committee member and specific actions during the search process would give credence to this.

During interviews at least one gay male finalist for the position was specifically asked if as a "gay man" he would have the ability to work with "the straight community." Ironically the Search Committee Chair, a black female, who herself was undergoing a personal search for another job, would have had an EEOC complaint if she had been asked if as a "woman" she could work with "men" or as an "Afro American" she could work with "Anglos." (The non gay female finalist was not asked if she as a "non gay" could get along with the "gay community" — which composes between 80 to 90% of the Houston AIDS Community.)

Also during the search the Vice Chair of the Alliance asked a gay male finalist if his work on Gay Pride Week was "promoting homosexuality." (Would a black applicant have been asked if his/her actions for a Juneteenth celebration was fostering "black power" or a female applicant been asked if her work with NOW was fostering "women's liberation?")

In another incident, an attorney on the Alliance Advisory board defended the Search Committee process before a community group by stating that the Alliance was looking for an Executive director "who would tolerate gays!"

In a just society which strives towards basic dignity and equality, such statements, insensitive to the gay community at best, hostile at worst, have no place. In an organization whose clientele is predominately gay such incidents are intolerable.

Until the Alliance learns basic sensitivity towards those who it is supposed to serve it can not hope for the respect and trust needed for its successes. We call upon the Alliance power structure and those responsible for their appointments to take all necessary actions to remedy this insensitive environment.

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Racism, sexism and ageism would never be tolerated in any quasi public entity. Homophobia is equally intolerable and the Alliance board must constructively respond to this criticism.

Making Our Voices Heard!

Pokey Anderson
Charles Armstrong
Steven Bradley
John Paul Barnich
Phil Batdorf
Deborah Bell
Zinetta Burney
Billie Carr
Robby Cavanaugh
Jim Crary
George Coe
Dean James Douglas
Joanne Evansgardener
Robert Falletti
F. Sissy Farenthold
David Fowler
Luis Fuentes

Patricia Gandy
Felix Garcia
Myer Goldberg
James Grace
Norman Guttman
Eugene Harrington
Lee Harrington
Ray Hill
Fred Hofheinz
Alberta Johnson
Michael Jozwiak
C. Brian Keever
Thomas Kleven
Larry Lingle
Harry Livesay
Sue Lovell
Joel Martinez

Nancy Molleda
Linda Morales
James Owens
Annise Parker
Denise Parkin
Michael Pittman
Anthony Palasota
Mara Porper
Mike Reardon
Frumencio Reyes
P. Joe Schaffer
Rev. Robert Schaibly
Bill Scott
Dennis Spencer
Jack Valinski
Kenneth Williams
Bill White

WHY VOTE ?

by Annise Parker

Is there really a reason to vote on election day, November 6? What if you're not political? Too busy? Not informed?

Those excuses simply don't work. Voting is not a matter of being political, it is a matter of caring about the quality of your own life and that of your friends. It's about wanting to have some say, no matter how small, in how the rules of our society are written and enforced. You don't have to be an active Democrat or an avid Republican to vote. Voting is a private, personal choice that requires no party affiliation, no money, and no prior experience.

No one is too busy to vote. It takes nothing more than a few minutes of your time. The polls are open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Most of us can accommodate a trip to the polls around our work hours. If not, many employers are supportive of everyone's right to vote. Polling places are within a few blocks of our homes. Anyone may vote absentee, at a convenient location and time.

Yet even if voting involved the long lines and hours of travel that occur in many other countries, the time would be worth the need to be taken. We can never be so busy or so con-

Annise Parker is former President of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and very active in politics

cerned with our own lives that we fail to care about the world around us. That's how a Hitler comes to power.

It's easy to be an informed voter. Perhaps not in every race, but certainly in most of them. You know that candidates endorsed by Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus are qualified. They are also informed on gay issues and, at least, accepting of gays as individuals. Read the voter guides in the daily papers or the one distributed by the League of Women Voters. These publications are not candidate endorsements, but contain information on how various candidates respond to questions or issues in their races. If you don't know about a candidate, skip that race. There are some unfriendly and unqualified candidates on the ballot.

Finally, don't cast a straight party vote. It may save a little time, but it hurts us all in the long run. Judicial races are extremely important and good judges are regularly swept out of office by straight ticket voters who care only about the top race on the ballot. Party affiliation does not determine the ability of a judge. We seldom see judges except in times of crisis, but judicial fairness is always important. When someone dies and wills everything to a gay lover, the family may contest the will in probate court. This court also handles the mental health docket. Lesbians and gays in child custody cases may appear be-

Standing Together

from page 1

dren, people of color, people with disabilities, and people living in non-traditional families whose partners are ineligible for employee health benefits, are disproportionately represented among the 37 million Americans with no health insurance, and the nearly 70 million underinsured.

Breast cancer and other gynecological cancers are a major concern of the women's movement in general, and indeed are of special concern of the lesbian community. Studies show that women who do not have children or have children later in life are at higher risk for certain gynecological cancers. Lesbians are also less likely to get regular gynecological exams. They forego early diagnosis for fear of homophobia or because they do not need regular prescriptions for contraception that often motivate heterosexual women to see a doctor.

The struggle to secure an adequate federal and state response to AIDS remains a priority for the lesbian and gay movement in the second decade of the epidemic. AIDS is also a feminist concern as the incidence of HIV

fore the family court judges. Public intoxication arrests, one of HPD's favorites, should be heard by a judge who doesn't care that the arrest was made at a gay bar. λ

among women, particularly women of color, continues to rise while resources available to women with AIDS remain grossly inadequate.

Family issues are another area of common interest. The right-wing definition of "traditional family" is aimed at subjugating women. It renders completely invisible lesbian and gay families and ignores the diverse arrangements that make up the majority of American families today.

We must fight together to force this country to recognize, validate and support families in all their diversity. Our agendas include domestic partnership legislation, family and medical leave bills that are substantive and inclusive, and foster care and adoption policies open to all. The education our children receive must address the epidemic levels of teenage pregnancy and lesbian and gay youth suicide.

The gantlet has been thrown down before feminists, lesbians and gay men in the 1990s. We face enormous obstacles in the fight for a Federal Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights bill and the Equal Rights Amendment, both targeted for passage in this decade. Yet working together, NOW and NGLTF present a formidable force for freedom and are partners in the struggle for equality. It is a fight we intend to win. λ

Voting information 521-1000

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Voting information 521-1000

I Don't Want To Be in That Number When the 'Saints' Go Marching In

June 5, 1976

by Erica Heller
from *The New York Times*

As a former semi-flower child, fervent peace marcher and honorable hippie of the 60's, I find it mildly amusing, at best, to observe the various Presidential hopefuls as they jockey for position. And as they each proceed to package themselves and become dangerous parodies of one another, it is there that my amusement ends.

These men often speak of wanting to tap "the young vote." Anyone who can do that I'll not only take my hat off to, I'll go to the moon for. Because I think it will be that difficult.

I don't presume to act as a spokesman for my generation, only to sound the siren of one 24-year-old woman's utter political disillusionment.

I was stung by the Gene McCarthy fever several years ago. He provided for me (and for many others like me, I suppose) the perfect transition from adolescence to pre-adulthood. From blase to concerned. We believed in

Erica Heller works for a Madison Avenue advertising agency.

him enough to cut school and go lick envelopes at his midtown headquarters, to wake up at 4:00 AM on a frosty February morning and pile all bleary-eyed onto buses to go to New Hampshire and canvass for him.

And Gene McCarthy's ultimate defeat also provided many of us with our first real taste of bitter disappointment.

The anti-Vietnam peace marches that I seem constantly to attend in both New York and Washington are all still very vivid memories for me. Whole classes at my high school would make the midnight run to Washington to protest the annihilation in Vietnam. And we'd return that night, exhausted, filthy, stinking of tear gas and feeling ever so virtuous.

And wholly incapable of internalizing our irrelevance to the entire 'Nam situation. President Johnson finally did convince us, though. And of course President Nixon reaffirmed it.

And now, with all that behind us we face an election. The candidates toss us the bait and expect us to bite.

I don't envy anyone the task of trying to rouse us from the sweet political apathy that has allowed all of

us to forget how pointless it was to squander our energy in the 60's.

Pushovers we are not.

We are no longer children, and our true personal priorities have, more often than not, emerged since then. We now realize that the ugly business of the world will progress regardless of whether we elect to become involved.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Genocide in one part of the world or another will prevail or else we simply won't — we are fairly powerless to prevent it. Or else it just aren't willing to risk again finding out that we might not be.

We are all into our mid-to-late 20's by now. Some have fled West to escape the cosmopolitan rat race. Others have remained in New York to become extensions of our parents and everything about them that we couldn't then understand and abhorred.

Some of us have been scattered out into the city's publishing houses, some are dawdling through graduate school, others are making their way up the Wall Street ladder.

We sprint out to the Hamptons on

muggy summer weekends, hang out in Soho lofts, dwell in Silk Stocking district studios. We prowls the pavements in Meledandari suits now. Women carry about and cling to their Louis Vuitton handbags as if they were lifesavers. Perhaps they feel that they are.

These are the peace-marching flower children of yesteryear, the much vaunted "young vote" that every hungry Presidential hopeful would love so much to have in his corner rooting for him.

And to each and every one of them, my message is this:

Having been burned so badly in the past, we are not likely to drift back to the fire.

Our generation was one both publicly and privately trampled upon and then ignored by Washington at a time in our lives when we needed desperately to feel important, influential.

But time has passed. We've healed now — but still a bit bitter, and we're lulled ourselves into the alluring quicksand of political apathy that is not likely to be disturbed.

We tend our own gardens now. λ

HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD

Voting is the soul of a democracy. Those necessary attributes of freedom, choice and privacy are linked to the exercise of voting. Commercial democracy suggests that freedom of choice is the choice of buying film at Randalls versus Walgreens. I don't think that's what our grandmothers chained themselves to the White House gates to achieve.

Without your participation, democracy atrophies. With your participation, information and opinion circulate. There are many brave women and men out there who have committed themselves to a demanding life of public political service. Remaining ignorant of our friends belies our own dignity and intellect. It's work, rounding up the League of Women Voters candidate report. It takes effort to compare the gay pushcard to the choices at one's doorstep. Democracy isn't free. Pay attention, exercise it once or twice a year, or lose it.

The commercial writers some of our polls have need help. Don't any of us get marketing degrees? How about panning in to a rural Texas town, where Uncle Tinkertruck and Aunt Marmalade are having a conversation. "Whew," he grunts, turning off the TV in disgust, "Them rich politicians think you an' me's too dumb to see where they been wading." She looks up from stitching her quilt.

lence is death.

Granted, when I'm depressed, I think all coming out does is mark one better for when THEY come to round us up and shoot. But I'll be damned if I let them control my life from now until then! Really. I like the feeling I got giving an honest answer to the clerk at the flower shop where I spent some on a favorite damsel dyke. "A romantic bouquet?" asked the staffer, "for a man?" "A woman." I smiled. "Ohhhhhh!" she paused a moment, and grinned. "No problem!"



Operation Desert Shield is a convenient way to shield the budget deficit and the S & L crisis from the public. One big reason we are over there, it's alleged, is to reward the ex-Emir, who stashed a considerable portion of his fifty billion dollar fortune in the USA. This guy supposedly has 50 wives, and 150 sons from those wives. Kuwait has a population of half a million, ninety percent of whom are homeless and hungry. He could have given each of his people fifty thousand dollars and still had half his fortune.

Kudos to that Cincinnati jury which found its' museum director innocent of pornography for his having arranged the Maplethorpe exhibit. The Establishment can't always get away with stupidity. Cynically speaking, the real moral here is if you're a white

Roberta Achtenberg: The 'Family Candidate'

by Michael Colbruno
from *Frontiers*

Roberta Achtenberg joins Carole Migden as one of two openly lesbian candidates running for the two open seats on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Both are given a good chance of winning in a crowded field which includes former Mayor Jack Shelley's son, Kevin, Police Commissioner Jose Medina, and liberal activist Joel Ventresca.

While Migden, having served as chairperson of the Democratic Central Committee, has established roots within the Party, Achtenberg became a credible candidate when she confronted a well-established element of the Democratic Party.

Achtenberg challenged the "Burton machine," having opposed former Congressman John Burton in a heated campaign for the state Assembly in 1988. She made headlines when she managed to garner enough support among Party activists to block Burton's official endorsement by the Democratic Party.

Achtenberg has also managed to establish herself with the Party's elite, and has gained the support of San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, who appointed her chairperson of the Mayor's high-profile Task Force on Family Policy. Achtenberg says that position "entitles me to the moniker of the 'family candidate.'" She says her work over the last eight years has

Achtenberg points to her years with the Lesbian Rights Project and the progress she made in attaining custody and parenting rights for gays and lesbians as a highlight of her career. She mentions her role as chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the need for society to recognize and deal with the problem of domestic violence: "As things become more difficult for families, women and children bear the brunt and become victims of physical and verbal abuse." She maintains that "we must be committed to protecting women." Achtenberg refuses to discuss Migden's candidacy. "I'd rather discuss my own qualifications. We're both entitled to the support and energy of the lesbian and gay community. We've both worked hard for our community, we have different histories and accomplishments, and we'll appeal to different segments of the three-quarters of the voters who aren't lesbian and gay." Her campaign, Achtenberg notes, will focus on "enriching family life and environmental life," as well as tenant's rights, transportation, toxic waste disposal, abortion rights and AIDS.

"The AIDS epidemic," says Achtenberg, "won't even reach its peak until 1992, according to most epidemiologists, and we must be sure that someone's there to deliver the

VOTE NOVEMBER 6, 1990

...ent free. Pay attention to exercise it once or twice a year, or lose it.

The commercial writers some of our polls have need help. Don't any of us get marketing degrees? How about panning in to a rural Texas town, where Uncle Tinkertruck and Aunt Marmalade are having a conversation. "Whew," he grunts, turning off the TV in disgust, "Them rich politicians think you an' me's too dumb to see where they been wading." She looks up from stitching her quilt. "Course they're full of it! They think we're gonna scream in fright and jump on a table if somebody gay walks by."

Those of us who made the fifteenth annual banquet for HGLPC had a wonderful treat. This marked the first time in six years that Her Honor attended a G/L function, albeit with a last minute publicity-dampening confirmation. She was there to introduce San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, her AIDS Committee appointee with the National Mayor's Association, over which she presides this year. This protocol visit of hers was marked by a characteristically well-delivered speech.

Mayor Art had a few things to say about silence. Silence kills. He notes that every February in his town the politicians publicly gather for a "mea culpa" ceremony over the internment of Americans of Japanese descent. You know, the American concentration camps that the Supreme Court said were constitutional. Well, Mayor Art wondered what his predecessor and others had to say at the time, when the order was issued. You got it. Nothing. No public record then of any mayoral or council protest. Si-

Kathy Hubbard is an active member of Mensa and does Bookkeeping and Income Tax Service. She has begun a monthly column in the MAC Newsletter.

and 150 sons from those wives. Kuwait has a population of half a million, ninety percent of whom are homeless and hungry. He could have given each of his people fifty thousand dollars and still had half his fortune.

Kudos to that Cincinnati jury which found its' museum director innocent of pornography for his having arranged the Maplethorpe exhibit. The Establishment can't always get away with stupidity. Cynically speaking, the real moral here is if you're a white male and have an art degree, the public perceives the value of upholding the first amendment. Not so where the all white jury in Florida found the black male record shop owner guilty on a porn charge (hawking "Two Live Crew" albums). Another white fellow, a Master of Scatology, Andrew Dice Clay, has yet to have his First Amendment rights challenged. The encouraging side of all the Helms/Art/First Amendment news is that ordinary Sunday color com-ics - not just the political satire specialists - are spending lots of page to play with the idiocy of Congressional taste in art. That's right, folks. Even Bubba's laughing.

We minorities can't afford to be stupid. Or silent. Get out there and vote. λ

Why We Don't Want Men to Vote

by Alice Duer Miller
from *The New York Times*

Alice Duer Miller, novelist and poet, lived from 1874 to 1942. This was written in 1915.

1. Because men's place is in the army.
2. Because no really manly man wants to settle any question otherwise than by fighting about it.
3. Because if men should adopt peaceable methods women will

when she managed to garner enough support among Party activists to block Burton's official endorsement by the Democratic Party.

Achtenberg has also managed to establish herself with the Party's elite, and has gained the support of San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, who appointed her chairperson of the Mayor's high-profile Task Force on Family Policy. Achtenberg says that position "entitles me to the moniker of the 'family candidate.'" She says her work over the last eight years has focused on the gay and lesbian family as well as expanding the definition of the "traditional family."

Asked whether more conservative voters are going to support the concept of a lesbian as a family candidate, Achtenberg says, "We are family people whether they like it or not. The Castro voted overwhelmingly in favor of school bonds every year." Achtenberg, who shares a house with her lover, Municipal Court Judge Mary Morgan and their son, Benjamin, says that the focus of the race is on the quality of life for everyone. "Whether you have children or not, we need to improve the quality of school and ensure that our libraries stay open. We have always been civic-spirited and must stay that way."

no longer look up to them.

4. Because men will lose their charm if they step out of their natural sphere and interest themselves in other matters than feats of arms, uniforms and drums.
5. Because men are too emotional to vote. Their conduct at baseball games and political conventions shows this, while their innate tendency to appeal to force renders them unfit for government. λ

ishments, and we'll appeal to different segments of the three-quarters of the voters who aren't lesbian and gay." Her campaign, Achtenberg notes, will focus on "enriching family life and environmental life," as well as tenant's rights, transportation, toxic waste disposal, abortion rights and AIDS.

"The AIDS epidemic," says Achtenberg, "won't even reach its peak until 1992, according to most epidemiologists, and we must be sure that someone's there to deliver the services. The infrastructure is crumbling, and the dollars that are there aren't enough. We need to start acting collectively and stop the in-fighting."

The San Francisco Examiner listed both Migden and Achtenberg as front runners among the new candidates; Achtenberg's media consultant, Michael Terris, says his candidate may be running 5-10 percent ahead of non-incumbents. Terris believes Achtenberg's strength comes from her "involvement on commissions and in neighborhood groups, as well as her experience as chair of the Family Task force and Commission on the Status of Women. She has demonstrated the ability to bring people together from diverse groups, and clearly that's what the people of San Francisco need."

On June 5, hopes were buoyed for both Achtenberg and Migden when lesbian attorney Donna Hitchens became the first challenger to unseat a sitting Superior Court judge in 17 years; activists conjectured that gay voting power may have returned after the stunning defeat of the domestic partnership ordinance last November.

Time—specifically Nov. 6—will tell.

Roberta Achtenberg appeared in Houston for the 15th annual anniversary dinner of the Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus. λ

6, 1990 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM

CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR

UPCOMING & CONTINUING

Absentee Voting, continues through November 6, you do not need an excuse to absentee vote, Monday through Saturday, 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, call 221-6965 for information

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston, announces that its Autumn Phone Staff Volunteer Training will be held November 9 to 11 and 17 and 18. This is an intensive training process consists of 34 hours of class work, group projects, instructional games, and role plays. Those who complete training will have learned effective listening skills useful in day-to-day situations as well as necessary in answering calls at the Switchboard, to apply call 529-3211,

SUNDAY

Houston NAMES Project, a workshop is now set up for panels for your friends, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM, 1410 Fairview, call 52-NAMES for information

Lesbian Incest Survivors (LISA), 4:00 PM, meets at Inklings, 1846 Richmond, call Sherry for more details 527-8712

Volleyball Special Interest Group, open to everybody regardless of their level of skill to join in the fun, sponsored by the Houston Outdoor Group, afternoons in Memorial Park, call 523-3317 for information

MONDAY

Lesbian Therapy Group, Therapy group addressing relationships and issues surrounding being a lesbian and a woman, Sharon Stone and Associates, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, 3935 Westheimer, Suite 360, call 623-6081 for in-

TUESDAY

The Support Group for Gay and Lesbian Codependents Anonymous, This is a non-smoking discussion group for the gay and lesbian community with issues related to codependency. No membership required, 5:30 PM, Montrose Counseling Center, Suite. 203, 900 Lovett, call Sharon 893-0514 or Jack 523-4863 for information

Action for AIDS, 7:30 PM, Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, 529-0100

WEDNESDAY

Women's Hour, Women's music is an integral part of this show. Claire and Yoshiko have added interviews, news stories, and a Women's calendar to their format, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, KTRU-FM, 91.7 FM, for information call 527-4050

HIV/AIDS Support Group, 7:00 PM, Unity Church, 2929 Unity Drive, call 782-1090 for information

THURSDAY

Afro Femcentric, The first group of its kind of recent years to devote itself strictly to social and political concerns of African American Lesbians, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, Call 688-0276 for information

FRIDAY

Breakthrough, Womyn's Music, with Pokey Anderson and Cherry Wolf, interviews and an extensive calendar at 9:15 AM, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, KPFT 90.1 FM,

SATURDAY

SATURDAY

After Hours, Music, discussions, interviews, etc. about the Gay and Lesbian community with the wild & crazy "After Hours" crew, Midnight to 4:00 AM, KPFT 90.1 FM

FRIDAY 2 FULL MOON

Absentee Voting, last day to vote absentee, you need not have an excuse, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, 49 San Jacinto at Commerce, and other JP precinct offices, for information call 221-6965

AIDS, Discrimination, and the Law, a three hour forum on HIV infection and federal and local anti-discrimination laws, sponsored by AIDS Equity League, AIDS Legal Hotline (ACLU), Thurgood Marshall School of Law of Texas Southern University and University of Houston, Graduate School of Social Work, 2:00 PM, at Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, Wheeler Avenue, between Scott and Tierwester

Jello Biafra, formally of The Dead Kennedys, talks about first amendment rights, censorship and the National Endowments of the Arts, Diverse Works, 1117 East Freeway, call 223-8346

Romanovsky & Phillips, Unique gay male duo with songs like *Ho-ho-homophobia* and *Don't Use Your Penis for a Brain* returns to Houston, special guest the Montrose Singers, at 8:00 PM, Underwood Theatre, Episcopal High, 4261 Fournace, Bellaire, tickets \$15 and available at Inklings and Lobo, call 521-9551 for information

Houston Outdoor Group, Annual Lost Maples Camping Trip, for information write Box 980893, 77098

SATURDAY 3

MONDAY 5

Wilde 'n' Stein, Ray Hill joins Jack Valinski and Deborah Bell as we celebrate his 50th birthday and his life long involvement in gay and lesbian rights and his work on the first amendment rights. Also discussion, news, features, events calendar, music and opinion on issues in the gay and lesbian community, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM, KPFT, 90.1 FM, call 526-4000 for information

TUESDAY 6

Election, voting 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at your local precinct, call 521-1000 for information

Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity, ΔΛΦ, A progressive fraternity which promotes purposeful social, recreational and service activities for gay men. Memberships are not limited to students., 6:30 PM, University Center at U of H, 4800 Calhoun, 529-3211 (GLSH)

WEDNESDAY 7

Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, 7:30 PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, Between Dunlavy & Waugh Dr., for information call 521-1000

Montrose Activity Center Board meeting, 6:00 PM, call 529-1223 for information

WAVE: Women Against Violence Everywhere, meets at 7:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, for information call 529-7329

FRIDAY 9

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston, announces that its Autumn Phone Staff Volunteer Training will be held November 9 to 11 and 17 and 18. This is an intensive training process

for more details 527-8712

Volleyball Special Interest Group, open to everybody regardless of their level of skill to join in the fun, sponsored by the Houston Outdoor Group, afternoons in Memorial Park, call 523-3317 for information

MONDAY

Lesbian Therapy Group, Therapy group addressing relationships and issues surrounding being a lesbian and a woman, Sharon Stone and Associates, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, 3935 Westheimer, Suite 360, call 623-6081 for information

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

Lone Star Symphonic Band, Rehearsal Night, 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM, 1919 Decatur, for information call 862-5058

Wilde 'n' Stein, Discussion, news, features, events calendar, music and opinion on issues in the gay and lesbian community, tune in to join activists Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM, KPFT, 90.1 FM, call 526-4000 for information

HeartSong, open to new membership during November, they welcome women to join their voices with ours in singing music that is women- and life-affirming, a non-professional group committed to producing the highest quality of which we are capable, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5210 Fannin, call 667-8735 for information

recent years to devote itself strictly to social and political concerns of African American Lesbians, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, Call 688-0276 for information

FRIDAY

Breakthrough, Womyn's Music, with Pokey Anderson and Cherry Wolf, interviews and an extensive calendar at 9:15 AM, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, KPFT 90.1 FM,

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The Support Group for Gay and Lesbian Codependents Anonymous, This is a discussion group for the gay and lesbian community with issues related to codependency. No membership required, 5:00 PM, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett, round room, call Sharon 893-0514 or Jack 523-4863 for information

Dignity/Houston Mass, social hour follows, 7:30 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, for information at 528-0111

S.O.S., the Secular Organization for Sobriety, Weekly meeting non-religious self-help group for recovering chemically dependent persons. Open to Gay/Lesbian community as well as others, 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5210 Fannin, at Southmore (art museum area), 721-0371 for information

verse Works, 1117 East Freeway, call 223-8346
Romanovsky & Phillips, Unique gay male duo with songs like *Ho-ho-homophobia* and *Don't Use Your Penis for a Brain* returns to Houston, special guest the Montrose Singers, at 8:00 PM, Underwood Theatre, Episcopal High, 4261 Fournace, Bellaire, tickets \$15 and available at Inklings and Lobo, call 521-9551 for information

Houston Outdoor Group, Annual Lost Maples Camping Trip, for information write Box 980893, 77098

SATURDAY 3

Creating Change Conference, A networking and skill building forum for Lesbian and Gay activists. Speakers include Dr. C.T. Vivian, Barbara Smith and Kate Clinton. Workshops and social activities are also part of this dynamic experience. National Gay/Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), Holiday Inn Metrodome, St. Paul, MN, 1500 Washington Ave. South, Call NGLTF at call 202/332-6483

SUNDAY 4

The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women, topic: A Continuum of Male Controls & Violence Against Women, Karen Stout, Ph. D., Professor in Graduate of Social Work, University of Houston, An exploration of the way violence is employed as a means of controlling women, 10:00 AM in the Sojourner Truth room of the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, call 529-7329 for information

information call 521-1000

Montrose Activity Center Board meeting, 6:00 PM, call 529-1223 for information

WAVE: Women Against Violence Everywhere, meets at 7:30 PM at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, for information call 529-7329

FRIDAY 9

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston, announces that its Autumn Phone Staff Volunteer Training will be held November 9 to 11 and 17 and 18. This is an intensive training process consists of 34 hours of class work, group projects, instructional games, and role plays. Those who complete training will have learned effective listening skills useful in day-to-day situations as well as necessary in answering calls at the Switchboard, to apply call 529-3211,

SUNDAY 11

Alison Bechdel, insightful lesbian cartoonist in her first Houston appearance, with Dykes to Watch Out For: The Slide Show, Hazelwitch Productions brings back the popular dinner and show combination, 6:00 PM, at Treebeard's, 315 Travis, \$15.00, tickets available at Inklings and Lucia's Garden.

The Women's Reading Group, monthly meeting to discuss books from a feminist perspective, for information call Kathy at 664-7438

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE MAC NEWSLETTER

Jay Asher

ERIC E. CHIARIZIO

DON WILLIAMS

Jo Ann Evansgardener
NOW
at University of Houston

MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER NEWSLETTER

PAGE: 7
NOVEMBER 1990

CALENDAR

SUNDAY 11

The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women, topic: Aframerican Feminists Talking: The Insensitivity and Solipsism of White Feminists, an open discussion among women, 10:00 AM in the Sojourner Truth room of the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, call 529-7329 for information

MONDAY 12

American Gay Atheists, regular monthly meeting, 7:30 PM, Metropolitan-Multi Service Center, 1475 W Gray, call 862-3283 for information

Wilde 'n' Stein, Sue Lovell talks about the AIDS Foundation Houston Walk to raise money for services. Also discussion, news, features, events calendar, music and opinion on issues in the gay and lesbian community, tune in to join activists Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM, KPFT, 90.1 FM, call 526-4000 for information

TUESDAY 13

Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity, A progressive fraternity which promotes purposeful social, recreational and service activities for gay men. Memberships are not limited to students., 6:30 PM, University Center at U of H, 4800 Calhoun, 529-3211 (GLSH)

Gay Fathers, 8:00 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, for information call 522-6766

WEDNESDAY 14

Women's Group, Turkey, Dressing, Ham, Pies, AAAAAHHHHHHH !!!!!!! As we celebrate the holidays, food can be both a blessing and a curse. Participants will discuss the many chal-

SATURDAY 17

NEW MOON

AIDS Foundation Walk 1990, Join a crowd of thousands of men, woman and children walking 10 kilometers to fund AIDS Education and Social Services, AIDS Foundation Houston, 11:00 AM, Sam Houston Park, Babgy at Allen Parkway, call 623-6796 for information

Awareness and Self-Defense Workshop for Women, with Suzan Cotellesse, M.Ed., L.P.C., psychotherapist; counselor and educator; expert on and survivor of sexual assault; featured on Channel 13's series exposing the criminal impact of parole violators, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Masterson YWCA, just off Waugh Drive, \$5.00 with scholarships available, call 649-0122 for information

Houston Outdoor Group, Trip to Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi, for information write Box 980893, 77098

529-3211

**GAY & LESBIAN
SWITCHBOARD
4 PM TO MIDNIGHT**

SUNDAY 18

Phranc, with 2 Nice Girls, Phranc is a folksinger with a crewcut trademark and no-holds-barred lyrics; 2 Nice Girls is an Austin folk/rock foursome, sponsored by KTRU, Hammond Hall, Rice University, \$12

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Call for program information, Grace Lutheran Church, 2:00 PM, 2515 Waugh, Call 952-2525 for information

Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF), 2:00 PM,

MONDAY 19

Wilde 'n' Stein, Professor Gene Harrington joins us to talk about the AIDS Equity League and what the Greater Houston AIDS Alliance is up to. Also discussion, news, features, events calendar, music and opinion on issues in the gay and lesbian community, tune in to join activists Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM, KPFT, 90.1 FM, call 526-4000 for information

TUESDAY 20

Gay/Lesbian Pride Week 1991, 7:00 PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W Gray

Delta Lambda Phi Fraternity, ΔΔΦ, A progressive fraternity which promotes purposeful social, recreational and service activities for gay men. Memberships are not limited to students., 6:30 PM, University Center at U of H, 4800 Calhoun, 529-3211 (GLSH)

WEDNESDAY 21

Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, 7:30 PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray, Between Dunlavy & Waugh Dr., for information call 521-1000

THURSDAY 22

Thanksgiving Day, if you are without family or friends many of our community bars have celebrations and dinner. Also there are many community groups who provide food for the homeless and need help in providing this service, call the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston for more information at 529-3211

MONDAY 26

Jane Olivor, 8:00 PM, at Rockefeller's, \$12.50 to \$20.50 tickets available at Ticketron

Wilde 'n' Stein, This program is not finalized yet but we plan an "interview with a drag queen." Discussion, news, features, events calendar, music and opinion on issues in the gay and lesbian community, tune in to join activists Deborah Bell and Jack Valinski, 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM, KPFT, 90.1 FM, call 526-4000 for information

TUESDAY 27

Gay Fathers, 8:00 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, for information call 522-6766

WEDNESDAY 28

Women's Group, It's Holiday Time—So Why Am I So Blue? Have you noticed that your experiences at the holidays have been quite different from your expectations? Many women find this to be true, and experience depression as a result. Angela Passaretti, CSW, will discuss this phenomenon and suggest ways to transform what can be a lonely experience into one of meaningful connection, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Montrose Counseling Center, 2nd floor, 900 Lovett, donation requested, call 529-0037 for more information

NOVEMBER

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17

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Gay Fathers, 8:00 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, for information call 522-6766

WEDNESDAY 14

Women's Group, Turkey, Dressing, Ham, Pies, AAAAAHHHHHHH !!!!!!!, As we celebrate the holidays, food can be both a blessing and a curse. Participants will discuss the many challenges we face when making decisions about eating during the holidays, Angela Passaretti, CSW, and Joanne Steinwachs, CSW, will share some practical tools which reduce the stress of holiday eating, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Montrose Counseling Center, 2nd floor, 900 Lovett, donation requested, call 529-0037 for more information

Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Board meeting, all are welcome, 7:30 PM, 900 Lovett, for information call 521-1000

Gay/Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU), monthly meeting 7:30 PM, Dignity Center, 3217 Fannin, call 880-GLHU for information

FRIDAY 16

Montrose Activity Center Newsletter, Deadline for December Issue, Montrose Activity Center, Box 66684, Houston, TX 77266-6684, or call 529-1223

SUNDAY 18

Phranc, with 2 Nice Girls, Phranc is a folksinger with a crewcut trademark and no-holds-barred lyrics; 2 Nice Girls is an Austin folk/rock foursome, sponsored by KTRU, Hammond Hall, Rice University, \$12

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Call for program information, Grace Lutheran Church, 2:00 PM, 2515 Waugh, Call 952-2525 for information

Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF), 2:00 PM, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 661-1482

The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women, topic: Healing Emotional and Spiritual Wounds Resulting from Emotional and Physical Trauma that Threatens our Sense of Identity, Giselle Ontra, M.A., L.P.C., Founder of the Institute for Identity and Body Image and co-founder and special consultant to the Regenesi Post Trauma Program at HCA Houston International Hospital, In any traumatic situation, the first step to emotional healing is the renewed belief that there is life after loss, 10:00 AM in the Sojourner Truth room of the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, call 529-7329 for information

AMIGA de Houston, holds its business meeting, with potluck dinner following. While the focus of this group is Latina/ Lesbiana - All Mujeres Interested in Getting Active invites all women to join them., 5:00 PM, Call 520-5667 for information

Gray, Between Dunlavy & Waugh Dr., for information call 521-1000

THURSDAY 22

Thanksgiving Day, if you are without family or friends many of our community bars have celebrations and dinner. Also there are many community groups who provide food for the homeless and need help in providing this service, call the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston for more information at 529-3211

SATURDAY 24

Celebrating the Body Erotic with Matthew Simmons, a two day workshop dedicated to assisting gay and bisexual men develop pleasurable, healthy, loving ways of connecting with themselves and with others, \$195, call Dipam at 520-6853 for information

SUNDAY 25

The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women, topic: Fun with Women at the Beach! No scheduled speaker but please come and have an open discussion with other feminists, All women are welcome to stay at the beach, Crystal Beach on Bolivar, anytime from Wednesday to Sunday, enjoy your holiday with Women, for information call Jacsun or Iris at 529-7329

Jane Ollivor, 8:00 PM, at Rockefeller's, \$12.50 to \$20.50 tickets available at Ticketron

meaningful connection, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Montrose Counseling Center, 2nd floor, 900 Lovett, donation requested, call 529-0037 for more information

NOVEMBER

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 9

Lady Victoria Lust's Fourth Annual PWA Christmas, a community benefit, at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos, call 524-6344 for information

APRIL 24-28

National Lesbian Conference, Diversity, Solidarity, Empowerment, proposals are now being sought to fill 400 slots for workshops and panels in both traditional and non-traditional formats, over 5,000 lesbians are expected to participate in this gathering, write Box 1999, Decatur, GA 30031 or call 404-373-0000

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE MAC NEWSLETTER

Let our community know you are out there and help support this
NEWSLETTER
call 529-1223 or write
Box 66684, Houston, TX 77266-6684
for more information
\$30 for one time, \$25 multiple

Suzanne Anderson

PROPERTIES
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
529-8484

Karen J. Hansen, CSW-ACP
private practice - therapist
6300 West Loop South 215
Bellaire, TX 77401
667-5733

Harvey's Children

In search of a new wave of young, gifted, and gay leaders

by Dan Bellm

from *Mother Jones*

Several days a week, you can find Alex Martinez handing out condoms and bleach, and free advice in English and Spanish about AIDS, at corners and barrooms in San Francisco's Mission district. An eleven-year veteran of Pacific Bell, which he left last year after winning a class-action lawsuit over antigay discrimination, Martinez has returned to college to earn a degree in psychology and social work.

"I've always been 'out' as a gay man," says the twenty-nine-year-old San Francisco native. "I never went through the coming-out period that many people describe. My friends and I were the most unpolitical people in the world; we saw people who were into gay politics as *radicals*. They certainly weren't—*us*."

"But when AIDS started hitting my friends, it broadened my vision on issues like gay rights, human rights, choice—the epidemic politicized me. Here was a major disaster being ignored because it was seen as a gay problem. I started realizing how important gay politics is, and I wanted to learn more."

Gay and lesbian youth are the most acutely underserved population in the U.S.

get the cold shoulder from the older generation." Many older leaders, meanwhile, are being lost to AIDS.

New Pacific Academy is the first undertaking of the San Francisco-based Critical Literacy Institute. Adams started the institute last year as "a way to merge inquiry and action, and to sponsor young activist scholars, especially from marginalized groups—which are, after all, shortly going to be the majority of Americans." With a first-year budget of \$633,000, raised from corporations, foundations, and individual donors, NPA is planning to subsidize all but the students' travel expenses and, after the training, will help place the students in volunteer or paid internships throughout the country. Adams pledges that this summer's class will have equal numbers of men and women, and at least half will be people of color: "The next generation of leaders has to look like the community it's serving."

But Adams bristles at recent media portrayals of young gay men as "party boys" who think that staying with their own age group will keep AIDS away. "I work with young people all over the country," Adams says, "and it's not my experience that there's any huge amount of denial going on. . . . I think what young people are doing is developing a new

Blank Walls, Silent Voices

by Craig Lucas

from *Frontiers*

As a playwright, a taxpayer and a gay man, I want to share something with you which I have only just begun to grasp. You do not have to like the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe or the work of performance artists Holly Hughes, Tim Miller, John Fleck or Karen Finley. But you do need to know that for 25 years the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded grants solely on the basis of artistic excellence.

Joseph McCarthy fashioned a loyalty oath not at all unlike the one Mr. Helms has now attached to federal arts grants. Charlie Chaplin, Zero Mostel and countless others—many now recognized as national treasures—were hounded out of the business, reviled and judged by a muckraking press.

Panels of experts in each field were selected to award these grants—other artists, curators, academics, critics—and it costs each of us less than 70 cents per year. Not everyone is going to like all the work which is funded, and what you don't like you don't have to support. You can boycott it; you can

government.

Throughout history, provocative works of art—"Ulysses," "Leaves of Grass," "The Rite of Spring," "La Traviata," the plays of Tennessee Williams—have all been described as filthy by religious leaders or government leaders or so-called Legions of Decency. Martin Luther King was found objectionable by many Americans not so very long ago—something we tend to forget.

This year it is Mapplethorpe, Hughes, Miller and Fleck—all openly gay—and Finley who deals with the oppression of women. I submit that when any voice is silenced—any minority put down—the freedom of all of us is in danger.

Just 40 years ago, another loud and persuasive man in our government found a dangerous threat to our national security, especially within the entertainment industry. Joseph McCarthy fashioned a loyalty oath not at all unlike the one Mr. Helms has now attached to federal arts grants. Charlie Chaplin, Zero Mostel and countless others—many now recognized as national treasures—were hounded out of the business, reviled and judged by a muckraking press.

People who have never even seen the work of Hughes, Miller and Fleck (and that includes the head of the NEA who refuses to give them the grants the peer panel unanimously voted to them) and journalists who have only

"But when AIDS started hitting my friends, it broadened my vision on issues like gay rights, human rights, choice—the epidemic politicized me. Here was a major disaster being ignored because it was seen as a gay problem. I started realizing how important gay politics is, and I wanted to learn more."

Gay and lesbian youth are the most acutely underserved population in the U.S.

Now, Martinez hopes to be one of the first two hundred people, from age eighteen to thirty, recruited into New Pacific Academy, a ground-breaking effort to train the next generation of gay and lesbian leaders. Organized by NAMES Project quilt creator Cleve Jones and Student AIDS Mobilization cofounder Luke Adams, NPA is holding an intensive one-month "Basic Training" this summer. The curriculum is designed as a crash course not only in the nuts and bolts of activism, but in learning healthy respect for gay history and diversity. The "guest faculty" will be drawn from all races, creeds, and persuasions—political, business, and religious leaders, drag queens and leather-S/M aficionados, Radical Faeries and gay Republicans.

"Gay and lesbian youth are the most acutely underserved population in the U.S.," says Adams, twenty-seven. He points to a rising incidence of AIDS among teens, a suicide rate up to three times higher among gay youth than among their straight peers, and the homophobia of many high school teachers and counselors. "This is an intense crisis of leadership. Young activists have very little access to resources, they're constantly forced into reinventing the wheel, and they tend to

of men and women, and at least half will be people of color: "The next generation of leaders has to look like the community it's serving."

But Adams bristles at recent media portrayals of young gay men as "party boys" who think that staying with their own age group will keep AIDS away. "I work with young people all over the country," Adams says, "and it's not my experience that there's any huge amount of denial going on. . . . I think what young people are doing is developing a new sex-positive attitude—celebrating their sexuality while taking steps to protect themselves. And I think that young members of groups like ACT UP have had a lot to do with rehabilitating sex."

This analysis is one example of what Adams means by "critical literacy," a notion drawn from education theorists such as Paulo Freire. "It essentially means having a working crap detector," Adams says—"an ability to question the assumptions of any kind of cultural information." New Pacific Academy is designed to encourage the young to draw from experienced activists and teachers, but also to critique their elders and form a vision of their own. Alex Martinez likes the emphasis on empowering young people to share what they've already lived and learned—in his case, Latino roots, intensive AIDS work, and years of marketing and sales for a large corporation.

Cleve Jones still draws inspiration from the powerful effect that gay San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk had on gay youth two decades ago: he liked to step up to the microphone in front of college audiences and announce with a mischievous grin, "My name is Harvey Milk, and I'm here to recruit you!" Alex Martinez sees this summer's training program as "a manifestation of what's happening to a lot of gay people. We're being moved to action, and I want to be part of it." λ

asures—were hounded out of the business, reviled and judged by a muckraking press.

Panels of experts in each field were selected to award these grants—other artists, curators, academics, critics—and it costs each of us less than 70 cents per year. Not everyone is going to like all the work which is funded, and what you don't like you don't have to support: You can boycott it; you can march up and down in front of the theater or the museum and shout anything you want. But the NEA was created to support all artistic voices—Latino, Asian, black, white, Native American, disabled, male, female, straight and gay.

Now there are some people in Congress who find some of this federally-funded art objectionable—"obscene." It so happens that most of what they find objectionable is produced by gay people, and it is angry and provocative work dealing with AIDS, with the homeless, with violence to women, children and gays. And still you may not like this work. But if you say you don't want your tax money to go to it, and for the first time we allow the content of a painting or a play to enter into the funding decision, then next year, someone else in Congress or in South Dakota or the South Bronx may find the work of someone else objectionable—Jews, say, or Palestinians.

It was just in this past year that the Ayatollah Khomeini judged "The Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie to be objectionable and he placed a price on Rushdie's head; the voices of students in Tianenmen Square were clearly objectionable to the Peking

Craig Lucas is the playwright of Prelude to a Kiss and screenwriter of Longtime Companion.

like the one Mr. Helms has now attached to federal arts grants. Charlie Chaplin, Zero Mostel and countless others—many now recognized as national treasures—were hounded out of the business, reviled and judged by a muckraking press.

People who have never even seen the work of Hughes, Miller and Fleck (and that includes the head of the NEA who refuses to give them the grants the peer panel unanimously voted to them) and journalists who have only "heard about the work" are trying these four in an imaginary court—The Washington Times, The Washington Post. And now even the theaters which attempt to present these artists are being threatened with loss of funds and prosecution. I hope you hear me: Dennis Barry, curator of the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati, stands to go to jail for exhibiting photographs some people don't like.

A very vocal right-wing minority is appealing to the worst fear in all of us, defining "homoeroticism" as obscene and damaging. It's no wonder that, as reported in The New York Times, three-quarters of American teen-agers think it's all right to hate gay people; their government told them so.

As a taxpayer, I am happy to see my dollars go to funding artwork which is both explicitly homoerotic and politically direct. Obscene to me is the money we spend stockpiling nuclear warheads; the human body and its functions are in and of themselves glorious and to be celebrated. I refuse to accept "community standards" of decency, since many communities in this country have, in the not so distant past, accepted lynching and gaybashing and the burning of private homes. I decry this attempt to isolate the powerful statements of homosexual and feminist artists as obscene, and I call upon all of you to do the same. λ

For more information about New Pacific Academy, call 415-252-1690.

Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival

The third annual Austin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival will be held November 2 to 11, 1990. This year's festival continues in the tradition of being the largest gay and lesbian film festival in the southwest, offering more than 18 films and shorts from several countries.

Director Gregg Araki will be present opening night (Nov 2) with his film *Three Bewildered People in the Night*. He will do a question and answer after the screening.

Coming Out and *Nocturne* will only on opening weekend (Nov 2-3-4). The rest of the films will play throughout the festival. *Coming Out* and *Nocturne* were two the most popular films at the San Francisco and New York festival and are really a must see.

Susie Bright will perform one show each night on closing weekend.

Sat Nov 10 ALL-GIRL ACTION

Sun Nov 11 HOW TO READ A DIRTY MOVIE

All films are \$5.00 with exception of Susie Bright will be \$8.00 each show.

Festival passes are available for \$20.00 are good for any 6 films. Passes are not valid for Susie Bright.

Also this year, as in the past, all screenings for these films will be done at Dobie Theater, located at 2021 Guadalupe in at Dobie Mall, with free parking available

HIGHLIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Coming Out: The first significant gay movie from East Germany opened on an historic night last fall, the day the wall came down.. It's a classic story, a sort of Marxist, modernday *Maurice*. Schoolteacher Philipp finds himself distracted from his colorless romance with colleague Tanja by the attention of a teen he meets in a concert ticket line. Haunted by memories of his schooldays desire for gay pal Jakob, and his parents' plea to stay on the straight and narrow. Philipp becomes torn between his two lovers, and risks losing both. Philipp's predicament propels him into the city's gay scene. Heiner Carow shot *Coming Out*, largely at real East Berlin bars and back alleys.

Nocturne: Made for British TV, *Nocturne* has a tightly constructed (hourlong) plot, as well as characters we sympathize with or love to hate, even when they turn on us. Marguerite, a 45 year old upper class woman, returns to the family mansion to attend her mother's funeral. Flashback sequences reveal her emotionally impoverished childhood as the mature Marquerite roams the relic-filled rooms. Meanwhile, down the road, two lesbian lovers are thumbing a ride. Picked up by a man in a sedan, they smirk as he warns them against hitchhiking, alluding to grisly crimes committed in the area.

Wonderland: From the creator of *Letter to Brezhnev*, a completely mad concoction of rent boys, arias and dolphinariums. Eddie is a shy teen queen who watches old weepies with his mum; his best pal Michael takes him to a local Liverpool drag disco hosted by a gingham-gowned Robbie Coltrane. When the boys witness a gangland murder, they head south fast—to Brighton (Britain's Russian River) in the back seat of an aging opera star's Bentley. Things get weirder when Eddie starts skinny-dipping with a dolphin called Sooty, and Michael stars sleeping with the

Under the signature of Zenith Films, Richard used the Athletic Model Guild studios in Los Angeles for his early posing-strap shorts. He even convinced AGM's legendary Physique photographer, Bob Miser, to start making 8mm films himself to sell via his popular *Physique Pictorial*. Both men used historic motifs in their work, Richard in films and Bob in still photography. The props and models and concepts flowed freely from one medium to the other. Between them, they reinvented the glamorous sexual iconography of the gladiator.

Extramuros: This exquisitely beautiful adaptation of Jesus Fernandez Santo's novel of the same name takes us back to XVII century Spain. As the reign of Philip II came to an end, the decline of Spain began. Crushing taxes, wars, and disease decimated town and country, forcing the people to either emigrate, join the army, or enter a religious order.

This story takes place in a convent, in an atmosphere where hunger, drought, and disease run rampant. Just when the convent is on the verge of closing its doors, forcing the nuns out into the hostile world, Sister Angela and Sister Ana, fearing the impending separation from each other, conspire to save the convent by bring fame to their order. Sister Angeles feigns the appearance of stigmata on her hands and sets off a tragic chain of events.

Looking for Langston: You've never seen anything like *Looking for Langston*—honestly. On paper, a collage of archival footage illuminating the 1930's Harlem Renaissance and a reconstruction of Black gay life, then and now. But to the eye, Isaac Julien's essay is a quite different, dreamy thing. You'd have to go back to *Chant D'Amour* to match his lyricism and erotic imagery, but what's so fresh about *Langston* is the libidinal tussle between analysis and ardour. This

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Also this year, as in the past, all screenings for these films will be done at Dobie Theater, located at 2021 Guadalupe in at Dobie Mall, with free parking available Dobie Garage. As an added attraction, there will be a special appearance by Susie Bright, author and editor of *On Our Backs*. She will perform her two highly acclaimed shows which both sold out the 1,550 seat Castro Theater in San Francisco.

Among the other highlights of this year's festival are *Coming Out*: the first significant gay movie from East Germany, which was the favorite at this year's New York and San Francisco festivals; England's *Nocturne*, a film which describes a lesbian landscape full of contradiction, innuendo, and hauntings from a lesbian-positive point of view; Spain's *Extramuros*, starring Carmen Maura (of Almodovar films) in an extraordinary lesbian love story set in a 16th century nunnery; England's *Looking for Langston*, a moving look at Langston Hughes, a gay artist of the 1930s Harlem Renaissance; and England's *Flames of Passion*, a new gay melodrama by Richard Kwietniowski (of *Policing the Bedroom*), based on the tear-jerker scene in *Brief Encounter*.

Passes for this year's festival will be available. For more information call 512-472-3240.

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Beyond Gravity: Is a New Zealand comedy-drama about life, love and the end of the earth, directed by Garth Maxwell. Richard (Robert Pollock) is obsessed with space when he's not working as a glass-blowing technician; he's just getting over a bad relationship when he meets Johnny (Iain Rae) a Kiwi-Italian who owns a lime green Fiat Bambina. Johnny drives Richard into adventures of crime and of the heart.

Flames of Passion: takes its title from the movie *Celia*, Johnson and Trevor Howard walk out of in the classic '40s film *Brief Encounter*. This pocket-sized update revels in the same black and white brilliance, emotive orchestration and train station seduction. A British Film Institute Production, *Flames* is written and directed by Richard Kwietniowski, whose earlier shorts *Alfalfa* and *Ballad of Reading Gaol* are also distributed by Frameline.

The Days of Greek Gods: Richard Fontaine is the spiritual father of modern gay erotic, the fountainhead from which all else has flowed. Although he didn't invent the idea of erotic gay films, he pioneered their commercial possibilities. His landmark *The Days of Greek Gods* (1949) is the earliest known gay erotic film to play theatrical engagements.

Angela and Sister Ana, fearing the impending separation from each other, conspire to save the convent by bring fame to their order. Sister Angeles feigns the appearance of stigmata on her hands and sets off a tragic chain of events.

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All-Girl Action, The History of Lesbian Erotica: In 1985 lesbians made the first erotic videos by and for women. But for the past 20 years, since the advent of X-rated film, the movie business has had a controversial affair with the lesbian sexual image. From 1970's soft-focus Euro-trash to early lesbian feminist sapphistry, from B-grade Hollywood fantasies to *Desert Hearts*, the lesbian erotic picture has been a mixture of stereotype and authenticity, and whether male produced or not, it's been a reflection of the changing lesbian consciousness. Susie Bright, editor of *On Our Backs* magazine and *Herotica*, will show explicit and provocative clips from the past two decades of lesbian sexuality on the screen, as well as introduce the contrasting perspectives of modern day lesbian erotic video makers.

November 2 to 11, 1990 at the Dobie Theater in Austin

Fears That Haunt a Scrubbed America

from page 1

them from the real crisis at hand, the way a computer can be distracted indefinitely by being asked to calculate the value of pi.

From Robert Mapplethorpe to Holly Hughes, the message is ringing out loud and clear. Gay and lesbian artists who deal frankly with sexuality are being singled out and refused grant money they were awarded by peer panels, as part of a conscious attempt to censor, humiliate and discourage all artists whose work challenges the right wing's rigid notions of "correct" sexual behavior. The N.E.A. is simply another target in an effort to legislate sexual demeanor that also encompasses attacks on abortion rights and on laws that protect homosexuals from violence and discrimination.

Consider the language of the infamous clause this year's National Endowment recipients were forced to sign: It binds the artist to guarantee that he or she will not use the grant money for works that include "depictions of sado-masochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts, and which, when taken as a whole, do not have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific merit."



'Homoeroticism' In Bad Company

Is it only because I'm gay that when I read that sentence, the word "homoeroticism" leaps out at me? Or is it because there is nowhere in the clause a reference to "heteroeroticism," only to

Of course, to any gay person who, as a frightened and confused teenager, searched desperately for books or films or television shows that offered even a mention of homosexual experience to latch on to, the idea of gay "recruitment" is laughable. It is also profoundly insulting.



Artists as Outsiders

Tennessee Williams, Michelangelo, W.H. Auden, Gertrude Stein — I hardly need to repeat history's long and illustrious list of gay and lesbian writers and artists. If a lot of gay people have felt the urge to produce art over time, it's probably only because our early-percieved status as outsiders in a largely heterosexual world forced us to call into questions those assumptions about sexual identity that our straight brothers and sisters could simply take for granted.

Female in a world of men, Jewish in a world of gentiles, black in a world of whites: it's the same difference. It's rare to find a artist who, as a child, wasn't in some way treated as a member of some minority and therefore felt the need to

refract the complications of his or her world through the prism of that "different" self; to offer untroubled people a troubling perspective; to reveal the strangeness of the ordinary and the ordinariness of the strange.

What distinguishes gay and lesbian artists is that their "difference" is located in the realm of sexuality; the assumptions they question are assumptions about sexuality; and therefore the work they create, in a culture that is both sex-phobic and homophobic, becomes particularly susceptible to the charge that is "obscene," or dangerous for young people. This last notion is especially distressing; while homoerotic art may have the power to awaken subconscious homosexual feelings in individuals who already harbor them, the suggestion that it can brainwash or corrupt chaste minds is almost mediievally superstitious.



History offers some scary examples of what happens when a government tries to control a culture. Consider Hitler's now infamous 1937 "Degenerate Art"

show, in which the works of such painters as Max Beckmann, Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse were jammed chaotically onto the walls of a Munich museum, along with hand-scribed labels denouncing the artists and implying their links to "unfit" members of German society.

I attended a recreation of that exhibit in Berlin last year; in the next room was another recreation, of the "Great Exhibition of German Art" Hitler had set up as a contrast to the "Degenerate Art" show. Here gargantuan sculpted Aryan torsos thrust their muscled arms into the sky, while in paintings happy blond families frolicked on farms. Photographs from the opening of the exhibit show a rare smiling Hitler. A failed watercolorist, he apparently considered the show something of a high point in his career: what was the appropriation of political power in comparison, after all, to the appropriation of culture, not to mention the redemption of his ambition — thwarted by teachers who said he had no talent — to be a painter?

see page 11

Gay, straight, friends, lovers, coming, going

A Place I've Never Been

tory. Both are caught up in their own fears and needs and neither possesses the courage to turn to the other and admit how great their love for each other is.

Celia reappears in "I See London, I see France," perhaps the strongest piece in the book. She has found, she thinks,

define their lives. In "Spouse Night," the characters have all experienced the terrible disruptive power of death. Members of a support group composed of partners whose spouses have died from cancer, they are forced to find new emotional ties to replace those which death has broken. "Gravity" finds a

masochism, homoeroticism, the sexual exploitation of children, or individuals engaged in sex acts, and which, when taken as a whole, do not have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific merit."



'Homoeroticism' In Bad Company

Is it only because I'm gay that when I read that sentence, the word "homoeroticism" leaps out at me? Or is it because there is nowhere in the clause a reference to "heteroeroticism," only to the portrayal of "individuals engaged in sex acts," which is of course an entirely different matter? "Sodomasochism" and "the sexual exploitation of children" can of course be both heterosexual and homosexual, and in any case represent just the sort of vague, fear-mongering terminology the right wing adores. Totally nonsexual photographs of nude children, taken with their parents' approval, have been appropriated by the F.B.I. under the latter heading; who's to say that one of Il Bronzino's Cupids — portrayed, in the 16th century, as eroticized, chubby little boys — would not be as well?

By situating the word "homoeroticism" next to a taboo extreme of sexual behavior few would be willing to argue in favor of, the authors of the clause make their position glaringly clear: while only selective or extreme heterosexual content is to be forbidden, a homosexual content is to be forbidden. Once again, the fear that children may be molested, abused or lured to "deviant" life styles is being exploited as a tool to strong-arm Americans into approving the Moral Majority's effort to control artistic expression.

Behind this language — though unspoken — is the right wing's perpetual insistence that gay men and lesbians try to "recruit" young people to homosexuality by disseminating art and writing that "promotes" the homosexual life style.

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see page 11

Gay, straight, friends, lovers, coming, going

A Place I've Never Been

by David Leavitt. Viking. 194 pp. \$18.95
By Edward Osowski
from *The Houston Post*

At first glance, the 10 stories in David Leavitt's new collection seem almost too quiet. Although filled with shocks and surprises — death, AIDS, cancer, lovers who leave, dreams that fail — which rock the safe, predictable patterns of middle-class life in which his characters have grown comfortable, Leavitt never grandstands. His strength is that he writes with great sympathy and understanding of the ways relationships (gay and straight) thrive and fail.

When he is good — and several stories in *A Place I've Never Been* are very good indeed — Leavitt ranks among the best short story writers working today.

In the book's title story, Celia and Nathan stand on opposite sides of a chasm that divides their friendship. In Celia's words, each has been "exiled" to a foreign place where their friendship cannot thrive. What she wants from Nathan, love, is something he cannot give her. A gay man, trapped in the fear that the AIDS virus is slowly ticking away inside him, Nathan fears he will kill anyone he touches. He turns from Celia and from their 12 years of shared his-

Edward Osowski, a member of the National Book Critics Circle, is a Houston librarian.

tory. Both are caught up in their own fears and needs and neither possesses the courage to turn to the other and admit how great their love for each other is.

Celia reappears in "I See London, I see France," perhaps the strongest piece in the book. She has found, she thinks, her prince charming in Seth, a translator, and has quit her job to travel with him to a conference in Italy. One afternoon, they visit friends of Seth at their villa. The setting is lovely, a scene from a Renaissance painting. Celia describes it this way, "A landscape of hills somersaulting down to dry, clay-colored valleys; overviews of cities burnished by the sun, and always, those strange, wonderful Italian trees."

But for Celia, the fairy-tale setting cannot drive away the thought that she is an outsider who does not belong among these beautiful people. Grief soon overwhelms her as she remembers her childhood spent "in a few rooms on the fourth floor of a brick apartment building fringed with fire escapes."

As the afternoon passes, the emptiness of the hosts' lives takes center stage: the husband plays at being a sculptor; the wife weaves fabrics no one ever sees; and their daughters, gorgeous children, fight and curse, their behavior threatening to ruin the afternoon. Celia remains blind to all of this. As the story ends, she has become a child again and memory brings her back to Brooklyn. There, she skips rope, sings "I See London, I See France," and cannot imagine that life will ever bring her riches or love or the places in her song.

Innocence and experience are the poles around which Leavitt's characters

define their lives. In "Spouse Night," the characters have all experienced the terrible disruptive power of death. Members of a support group composed of partners whose spouses have died from cancer, they are forced to find new emotional ties to replace those which death has broken. "Gravity" finds a mother and her son, dying of AIDS, struggling to create a new and comforting emotional place in their hearts as they face his illness. "When You Grow to Adultery" and "Houses" look at how easily established domestic arrangements split apart when the characters fall in love with someone else.

Not every story in *A Place I've Never Been* is a success, however. "My Marriage to Vengeance" describes a lesbian's response to the marriage of her former lover, now ostensibly straight. It seems unnecessarily still and heavy-handed. "Chips Is Here" is a minor effort, at best, in which the narrator considers murdering the neighbor who may have killed his pet.

David Leavitt was 23 when his first book, *Family Dancing*, appeared in 1983. Reading that collection of stories was a startling experience because there was nothing immature or precocious about them. With his two novels, *The Lost Language of Cranes* and *Equal Affections*, Leavitt established his reputation as a writer who understood that emotional ties cut across the boundaries imposed by the words "straight" and "gay." If anything, the stories in this new collection suggest a deepening of his talents. They are never derivative, rarely forced or strained, and always truthful to the mysterious ways in which the human heart operates. λ

Now, five decades later, when history has redeemed the work of the "degenerate artists," it is frightening to see videotapes of the performace artist David Wojnarowicz being incorporated into Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs being appropriated by Cincinnati sheriffs and put on trial; or to see videos used by right-wing pressure groups to demonstrate N.E.A.-sponsored decadence and obscenity; or to try to imagine the kind of "art" a Jesse Helms-run N.E.A. might choose to give its money to.

What distinguishes gay and lesbian artists is that their "difference" is located in the realm of sexuality; the assumptions they question are assumptions about sexuality; and therefore the work they create, in a culture that is both sex-phobic and homophobic, becomes particularly susceptible to the charge that is "obscene," or dangerous for young people.

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The Side Effects Of Cultural Control

The National Endowment crisis, however — so far, at least — is not about banning art; it is about denying artists money. And what are the consequences of that going to be? Initially, at least, refusing grant money to these artists will probably result in a sudden wave of interest in their work. In England, the notorious Clause 28, which allows the Government to censor art that "pro-

Who's Driving the Bus?

The leadership Crisis in AIDS Service Organizations

by Roger McFarlane
from *The Village Voice*

Our penchant for cannibalizing our leaders in the gay-rights and AIDS movements is legend, but the past few months have been especially brutal, and the blame-laying is just heating up. At the same time, 10 years into the epidemic and facing millions of new cases through the '90s, mismanagement and sleaze among our own have gone unchecked and seem likely to continue.

One of the saddest and most damaging moments in the war against AIDS came on May 20 when the National AIDS Network, the Washington-based umbrella association of America's 800-plus community-based AIDS service organizations quietly closed its doors amid financial ruin. Founded in 1986, NAN had provided a desperately needed information network on funding; lobbied government, business, and foundations for support; and helped set up education and client service programs in all 50 states.

Paying the bills was a problem from the start. Membership dues always accounted for less than 10 per cent of income, since the organizations represented by NAN were themselves barely surviving day-to-day. The most successful, like Gay Mens Health Crisis (GMHC) and AIDS Project Los Angeles, long since had balked at the idea of paying for a national group for everyone else. NAN never cultivated individual

involved with Keeling, unbeknownst to most fellow board members. (Keeling's wife later filed for divorce.) Both Keeling and Engstrom unequivocally deny charges from some former staff and board members that their personal relationship predated or influenced Engstrom's appointment.

Confronting 1990 with dwindling revenue and a swelling deficit, payments for employees benefits—including health coverage—were missed, rent and tax contributions fell months in arrears. That's when the fancy bookkeeping began. With Keeling's and Engstrom's approval, and without the knowledge of other board members, treasurer Jim Graham began to borrow cash to meet payroll operating from the D.C. Sovran Bank, using as collateral millions donated to local AIDS relief programs by the Ford Foundation and others which were being held in trust by NAN.

But the rent remained unpaid, and when the landlord threatened eviction, the courts got involved, froze the foundation funds, and NAN's operation was shut down. After the smoke cleared, more than \$250,000 had been forfeited to NAN's creditors—money which had been earmarked for services to people with AIDS.

If NAN's board members failed their oversight responsibilities as NAN slid down the shit-chute, in part it's because they were being beaten down at home by spiraling caseloads. Even the most well-established groups were having

the job. But as this issue goes to the press, the board is expected to announce that acting director Tim Sweeney will step in. One officer of the board says: "Tim's the only viable candidate, but he would take the job only if we guilt-tripped him."

Meanwhile, in Washington, AIDS Action Council director Jean McGuire, the leading AIDS lobbyist and successful champion of federal disaster relief, was lured away this summer by the Harvard School of Public Health. In New York, Marie St. Cyr, the tireless director of the cutting-edge Women and AIDS Resource Network and one of the few credible voices on the national scene for the growing legion of desperately poor people hit by HIV, announced that she too was moving on to greener pastures.

This summer also saw a growing rift between National Gay Rights Activists and Lambda Legal Defense, the two primary legal advocates for people with AIDS, who, despite their common litigation agenda and funding bases, refused to discuss merger or even to cooperate superficially because of old feuds and NGR's much publicized history of dicey bookkeeping and personnel abuse. Suffering repeated reorganizations, dismal fundraising, and out-of-touch leadership, New York's Community Research Initiative—the model of patient-centered medical research—is losing confidence among its supporters. These patterns of desperate mismanagement and perennial tran-

The Side Effects Of Cultural Control

The National Endowment crisis, however — so far, at least — is not about banning art; it is about denying artists money. And what are the consequences of that going to be? Initially, at least, refusing grant money to these artists will probably result in a sudden wave of interest in their work. In England, the notorious Clause 28, which allows the Government to censor art that "promotes" homosexuality, prompted a surge of enthusiasm for gay literature, theater and film. Alan Hollinghurst's brilliant novel "The Swimming Pool Library" became a best seller, as did works by such gay American writers as Edmund White and Armistead Maupin; the BBC had a major hit with its four-hour television version of Jeannette Winterson's lesbian novel "Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit."

Here in America, meanwhile, where banning has always been a perverse form of publicity (consider Henry Miller), the brouhaha over the Mapplethorpe show in Cincinnati drew huge crowds to that show. And Karen Finley, the performance artist, is much better-known now than she was a month ago, though hardly for the reasons she might wish. Ms. Finley was the only heterosexual among the four performance artists whose grants were retracted.

Such a reaction, however, will probably be only temporary. Soon enough the really terrible side-effect of cultural control will start to manifest themselves. There may be a mass exodus of artists out of America to Europe, where state support of the arts is already much stronger, and where a booming economy has made it possible for governments to welcome foreign artists and writers as well.

Last year I spent five months in see **Fears that Haunt** page 12

and client service programs in all 50 states.

Paying the bills was a problem from the start. Membership dues always accounted for less than 10 per cent of income, since the organizations represented by NAN were themselves barely surviving day-to-day. The most successful, like Gay Mens Health Crisis (GMHC) and AIDS Project Los Angeles, long since had balked at the idea of paying for a national group for everyone else. NAN never cultivated individual donors, and federal dollars were directed to mainstream contractors after Jesse Helms intimidated everyone in 1986 by falsely accusing the U.S. Centers for Disease Control of paying for GMHC's flagrantly gay safer-sex comic books.

Some of NAN's problems came from a convoluted computer accounting system that auditors later likened to a "video game." In May '88, with no clear idea of its monthly cash position, and an \$800,000 surplus on paper, NAN's board adopted a bold expansion plan. But without income to match its ambitious, NAN was scrambling to cut its budget as early as July, and entered 1989 more than a hundred grand in the hole.

By June 1989, in the wake of mounting fiscal confusion, board chair Richard Dunne was replaced by Richard Keeling, student health director of University of Virginia, and executive director Paul Akio Kawata had been forced out. After an eight month search for a new director, having rejected numerous candidates, Keeling personally recruited Eric Engstrom, a member of the search committee, to head NAN.

At some point in 1989, Engstrom, former head of the Minnesota AIDS Project, had become romantically in-

Roger McFarlane, elective director of Broadway Cares, is a former board member and former executive director of GMHC.

the courts got involved, froze the foundation funds, and NAN's operation was shut down. After the smoke cleared, more than \$250,000 had been forfeited to NAN's creditors—money which had been earmarked for services to people with AIDS.

If NAN's board members failed their oversight responsibilities as NAN slid down the shit-chute, in part it's because they were being beaten down at home by spiraling caseloads. Even the most well-established groups were having severe problems of their own.

Late in July, Jeffrey Braff abruptly resigned as the \$100,000-plus per year executive director of GMHC, American's first, largest, and by far wealthiest AIDS service provider. His appointment last November had followed one of the longest and most expensive searches (rumored to cost at least \$50,000) in the brief and troubled history of paid professionals hired to manage gay-rights and AIDS groups.

As a senior executive at Bell Canada with the huge budget and staff that went with that position, the charismatic Braff seemed to boast precisely the "management" expertise that the GMHC board thought it needed. With volunteer attrition and staff turnover compounding the surge in clients, GMHC wanted someone to work internally. But Braff also was expected to be a high-visibility activist. His staff and board often fought bitterly about the time Jeff allotted to his competing roles.

Arguing among themselves about what went wrong and how to proceed, the GMHC board met in executive session on July 23 while Jeff attended an ACT UP meeting, and voted to dump him. He "resigned" the next morning, and a press release was issued citing personal demands on Jeff back in Toronto. With two directors let go this way in two years, many insiders doubted any serious candidate would consider

gation agenda and funding bases, refused to discuss merger or even to cooperate superficially because of old feuds and NGR's much publicized history of dicey bookkeeping and personnel abuse. Suffering repeated reorganizations, dismal fundraising, and out-of-touch leadership, New York's Community Research Initiative—the model of patient-centered medical research—is losing confidence among its supporters. These patterns of desperate mismanagement and perennial transience are duplicated in hundreds of groups across the states.

Even more alarming, it does not seem likely that the boards of most AIDS groups can be depended on for particularly visionary leadership either. A recent retiree from GMHC's board sums up the dilemma faced by all these groups by observing, "It's childish to think we can hire people to show us the way out of this mess."

Of course, even if these boards had the flash of insight they've so far lacked, hundreds of thousands of people with AIDS will still suffer miserably, die prematurely, and millions more will be needlessly exposed until local governments and traditional medical and social service agencies pick up their share. The bottom line is that the community can't possibly care for any more people with AIDS than it already is.

At the same time, if our leaders are overextended, short-sighted, foolish, or worse, it is because we in the trenches have not demanded enough accountability from them. As a community under siege, our tendency is to sweep internal problems under the rug.

It is also because too few of us have joined the battle. We have to give more of our money and our bodies if our leaders are to have anything to lead with. If we fail in the end, it's because we settled for less from everyone and did not fight hard enough ourselves. λ

Fears That Haunt a Scrubbed America

from page 11

Barcelona as a guest of the Catalan Government. During my stay in Barcelona I could hardly keep count of the number of exhibitions (many of them Government-sponsored) of work by American artists and photographers, some quite avant-garde, not to mention the extraordinary publicity those exhibitions received. Jennie Livingston, a film maker who received money a few years ago from the National Endowment to work on "Paris Is Burning," a documentary about the gay culture of Harlem, ended up finishing the film with the help not of the N.E.A., but the BBC. If Europe continues to pick up the slack, the attack on the N.E.A. could result in the depletion of yet another precious American resource: our artists.

The most devastating effect of a Helms-controlled National Endowment, however, is one we won't see until a few years from now, when the furor has died down: the effect on the young novelist who cannot quit his job in order to devote a year to finishing his first novel, and therefore doesn't finish it; or on the young painter who cannot afford supplies, and therefore doesn't paint; or on the young film maker who, fearful of the strictures imposed on her by an N.E.A. run by the Republican Senator from North Carolina, censors her own creative impulses to satisfy such an

organization's dubious morality.

I had my N.E.A. grant in 1985, in another time, before the infamous Mapplethorpe exhibition at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, before the addition of that notorious clause, before people's grants started being withheld. That year a friend sent me a clipping from the editorial page of The Manchester (N.H.) Union Leader, a vehement attack on the National Endowment that questioned the Government's right to spend taxpayers' money to support artist or writers whose work those taxpayers might find offensive or obscene. To my surprise, it was me who was offered up as an example in the article; do the American people really want their hard-earned dollars going to an author of "paeans to homosexual love," the newspaper asked.

Vote Nov 6

I remember laughing uncomfortably at the phrase, joking that if anything, my stories were paeans to the lack of love — homosexual or heterosexual. Apparently for The Union Leader, any piece of fiction with a gay character in it was necessarily a "paean." Thus, I dismissed the editorial as right-wing nonsense

and went on to finish a novel the financing of which, in the current atmosphere, would certainly have been questioned, and most probably retracted.

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Art Slowed But Not Stopped

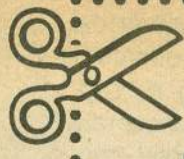
These days I think a lot about that editorial, and when I do, I wince at my own failure to recognize what it foreboded. Perhaps those of us who depended on the National Endowment, regularly or sporadically, got too comfortable, too complacent, cozying up as we did to a Government that handed out the money and never asked questions. In a chastening editorial in Outweek magazine, the novelist Sarah Schulman has suggested that the current crisis simply puts those few white, upper-middle-class gay and lesbian artists to whom the N.E.A. previously gave its seal of approval in the same position as the vast majority of artists who because of their race or class were never able to benefit from the N.E.A. reward system in the first place.

If the example of Hitler's "degenerate art" show teaches us anything, it is that while art can be slowed, it cannot be stopped. But the attack on the National Endowment is not simply about art, just as the "degenerate art" show was not simply about art; it is about tying to eradicate or at least suppress anything in American culture that challenges a

fundamentalist Christian vision of family happiness that in its portrayal seems eerily similar to Hitler's artists' vision of Aryan farm life. Traditionally the head of state gives the opening address at the annual international AIDS Conference, no matter what country that conference takes place in; George Bush's decision this year to attend a Jesse Helms fundraiser instead cannot be considered a coincidence.

Fear of change, fear of difference, fear of cultural erosion: all these fears of the extreme right mask, in fact, a deeper fear, a fear of the underground sexual desires every individual harbors (look at Jimmy Swaggart!) and for which homosexuals have traditionally been made into a catch-all symbol.

To say that gay men and lesbians are everywhere is only to say that sexuality is everywhere, that there are no rules other than the ones that we impose. Even in houses where Jesse Helms's picture hangs over the fireplace there are children who will grow up to be gay or lesbian, and some of them may become our greatest artists and writers. The influences that would supposedly seep into and corrupt the healthy American family landscape are in fact an integral part of that landscape already. What the N.E.A.'s opponents really seem to be fighting is the difference in themselves. λ



**FREE LISTING OF COMMUNITY
EVENTS IN THE MAC NEWSLETTER**

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FREE LISTING OF COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE MAC NEWSLETTER

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE PART OF ANY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN MEETINGS, FUNDRAISERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS ARE HAPPENING. WE WILL THEN INCLUDE THEM IN THIS NEWSLETTER. AT PRESENT WE ARE PRINTING 2000 COPIES AND MAILING 1600. YOU CAN GET LISTINGS IN THE NEWSLETTER BY MAILING TO THE ADDRESS ON THE RIGHT.

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DAY OF THE WEEK: _____

EVENT: _____

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT: _____

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