

Volume 1 ▼ Issue 5

June 15 - July 14, 1994

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Out ▼ Smart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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Volume 1, Issue 5

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Artist Kermit Eisenhut and "Voices for Life."
 Photo by Nick Adamo.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

OutSmart provides positive information to gay men, lesbians and their associates to enhance and improve the quality of our lives. Our goal is to build a bridge of communication and understanding between cultural and social communities that are separated by traditions of ignorance and misinformation, thus creating a healthier community for us all.

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LETTERS

BUNNY FUN

On behalf on the clients, Board of Directors and staff of the People with AIDS Coalition, Houston, Inc., I would like to express our sincere thanks to the participants and hosts of "Bunnies on the Bayou," 1994.

With your generous donations, we were able to purchase 24 beds and frames for PWA's on our waiting list. As of the end of April, we had 56 PWA's waiting for beds. This will give us a real boost in achieving our goal of a ZERO wait for a PWA who needs a bed.

It means a lot to us, and more importantly to our clients, to know that there are people in the community who support them.

Lynn Pannill

Executive Director

People with AIDS Coalition Houston

SEXUAL FREEDOM

I would like to express my opinion on the article that Miss Lewis wrote on S&M in the May issue. I have always thought of myself as a very open-minded person but I had little knowledge on this particular subject. Therefore, my ignorance had closed my mind a little bit and had me thinking that this was only participated in by sick people with a sick mind. I would like to thank Miss Lewis for opening my eyes on this subject. I never thought of it as two consenting adults participating in something willingly and both enjoying the act. I always thought of it as sick and perverse. I have a different view on the subject thanks to Miss Lewis. I would like to thank her for opening my eyes and my mind just a little bit more. Thank you for your time and keep up the good work. I enjoy OutSmart magazine very much.

Diane Dycus
Houston, Texas

ORAL SEX

Thank you for the article on oral sex and possible HIV transmission. So often people think they know the risks involved in oral sex, but when pushed for details you find yourself with more questions than answers.

I have one thing to add to your article.

Yes, there is research, past and present, on oral sex transmission of HIV. Specifically a cohort study in San Francisco following gay males' sex practices and their HIV status (specific to this mode of transmission), research on mucosal immunity, and studies of the virology and biology of the virus with regards to mucus membranes, semen, saliva and vaginal fluids.

To learn about research in this area, I invite you and the community to our forum on oral sex and possible HIV transmission. It will be on Thursday, July 28, 7-9:30 p.m. at the Doubletree Allen Center, 400 Dallas Street (corner of Dallas and Bagby.) Admission is free. We are bringing in Dr. Michael Samuel of New Mexico University, one of the physicians who followed the San Francisco cohort and a recent speaker at the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) forum on oral sex and HIV transmission. Also speaking is Dr. David Parr of UTMB Galveston and Dr. Dorothy Lewis of Baylor College of Medicine. Get answers to questions and find out what research is and is not telling us about oral sex and HIV transmission.

For those of you who read the article in May's issue of Out magazine on oral sex and HIV transmission, I especially invite you to come. That article was based on the reporter's attendance at the GMHC forum in New York this past February. One of the same doctors who spoke in New York will be at this forum.

Again, thank you for your article and please plan to attend the forum.

Steve Nettles

Houston Clinical Research Network

LEARNING FROM AUSTIN

On May 7th, 1994 Austin Texas city employees lost their right to domestic partnership benefits. We all felt the hurt of those election results and I feel we all can learn from what happened and move forward even stronger in the future.

As gay Americans we all have a responsibility to participate in the political process if we are to ever see true equality of human rights. But, what does that mean? Many of us have our own fears that hold us back. Many of us react in extremes that insult the very people

we hope to show that we are deserving of equal rights.

What happened in Austin was a lesson in politics. First, childish pranks (while they are cute and may be well-deserved) harm the cause rather than strengthen it. Second, we have to spread the word and let people know the facts at every level of society. Gay America is now deep in the politics of gaining our rights and we must push forward to stop the RRR (Radical Religious Right) from deteriorating our God-given rights.

On the first point I would like to point out that many people have feelings of being sympathetic to us because of the abuse, persecution, hate and bigotry heaped on by those who are extreme (i.e.; the RRR and its supporters). Many of those people have felt the same from the RRR, although maybe not quite as focused. However when cow manure was dumped by gay Americans, many of these people may have switched their view and voted against Austin's human rights. The RRR then had more fuel to add to the false view of gays and could then point to it and said "see what they continue to do..." We cannot stoop to the level of the bigots. We must rise above that. We are now in the big league and must play big league (mature not manure) politics.

On the second point, we must let people know where we stand. This can be done in very simple ways. We do not have to put on a pink tattoo and run up and down the halls screaming "I'm queer, I'm queer, accept me, I'm here." Far from it. If each of us would tell one person (preferably straight) whom we are very close to that we are gay Americans and what it means to have equal rights, like domestic partnership, then more people would have information to decide to vote in favor of gay Americans. More people would also see that the RRR rhetoric is completely unjustified and a lie. More people would fight with us for our rights. More of us would see that we are accepted by straight people and begin to feel more a part of the mainstream. I hear so many times that gay

Americans want someone to fight for their rights at a national level. As with any political machine we must start at the base level, our own backyard. As we come out to people one at a time we strengthen this knowledge that dispels the myths put out by the RRR and other bigoted organizations. As we begin to take more pride in our own community the national level will fall into place. In Austin there may have been people who actually knew someone gay. But these people did not vote in favor of domestic partnership rights simply because they were not aware that the person they knew was gay and deserved the basic dignity of human rights like domestic partnership benefits. They didn't know that they voted against someone they love.

Austin and other places are being forced to vote on God-given basic human rights. In the 50's and 50's if people were asked to vote on whether black Americans should have human/equal rights, the chances are that the vote may not have been on the side of human rights. We are facing the same here. It takes effort from Congress and we must make them aware (write, fax, call your Congress Person.) We must now project an image that those who are not part of the RRR will see that we are part of the mainstream. We must tell people what it means to be gay and let them know us as we are. We must stop the Radical Religious Right and all of its lies.

—Kevin White
Houston, TX

OUTSMART welcomes your letters. Please include your name and address and a telephone number for confirmation to print. Letters may be edited for length. OutSmart Magazine 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. FAX number 713-522-3275.

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CALENDAR

If you are part of a group or have a function that you would like listed in our calendar, please send announcement by the 1st of the month to: CALENDAR EDITOR, OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006. Inclusion in the calendar is based upon general interest to our readers, space availability and the whims of the editorial staff.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

JUNE

15 **MEN'S NETWORK** for gay and bisexual men, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037.

17 **LESBIANS IN BUSINESS**, 6 pm, The Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza, 529-0077.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM at the Heights Pavilion & October Gallery—music, mystic readings, \$200 gift certificate for best costume—6-9 pm, Heights Pavilion, 244 W. 19th Street, 861-3411.

19 **FATHER'S DAY**

20 **LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP WITH AIDS** legal specialist Mitchell Katine and financial planning consultant Mickey Trustee, 7-9 pm, Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose. Sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston, 623-6796.

21 **EROTIC CHOICES IN SAFER SEX WORKSHOP** explores the options of safer sex and sensuality through discussion and games, 7-9 pm, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3203 Wesleyan, 623-6796.

22 **WOMEN'S NETWORK** for lesbian and bisexual women, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037.

24 **ASHLEY ALLEN & SOUTHERN HEART**, live country music, 9 pm-1 am, The Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 666-3464.

25 **GAY GAMES** Closing Ceremonies in New York City.

26 **STONEWALL 25**—Gay Rights March on the United Nations and Rally in Central Park in New York City.



Michelle Britton as Starlite Pride in the Houston premiere of Dan Barclay's *Having It All*, set to run June 19-July 31, 1994 (Sundays at 5:30 p.m.) at Curtains Theater. For tickets call (713) 461-8394.

DOG DIP AND FOOD DRIVE sponsored by The Pet Patrol, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot of Basic Brothers, 1232 Westheimer.

27 **THE AGORA** monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 729-4267.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF HOUSTON general meeting, call 681-2607 for meeting time and place.

28 **AIDSEQUITY LEAGUE**, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 871-0092.

EROTIC CHOICES IN SAFER SEX WORKSHOP explores the options of safer sex and sensuality through discussion and games, 7-9 pm, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3203 Wesleyan, 623-6796.

30 **"BREAKING THE SILENCE: WHEN THE ONE YOU LOVE...HURTS YOU,"** free seminar on lesbian battering offered by the Houston Area Women's Center, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur, call MCCR at 861-9149 or HAWC at 528-6798.

JULY

6 **MEN'S NETWORK** for gay and bisexual men, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037. Topic to be announced.

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS, general meeting, 7:30 pm, call 521-1000 for location and information.

8 **ASTRO RAINBOW ALLIANCE OF THE DEAF**, general meeting, 7:30 pm, call 1-800-735-2988 for location and information.

8-30 **CLOSETS: A Stonewall Celebration** consists of nine 10-15 minute pieces written by Texas writers to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Westheimer Art Bar & Theatre, 1102 1/2, \$12, 522-2204.

9 **"RHINESTONES AND STUDS"** pre-pageant party for Miss Camp America—silent auction, raffle (Las Vegas trip), cash bar and show—7 pm, Tower Theater, Westheimer @ Waugh. Tickets to the Miss Camp America Pageant to be held September

17 at Music Hall will be made available for the first time at this pre-pageant party.

10 **P-FLAG** general meeting, 2 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, 345 Piney Point Road. P-FLAG Houston Helpline: 867-9020.

12 **AIDS EQUITY LEAGUE**, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 871-0092.

13 **WOMEN'S NETWORK** for lesbian and bisexual women, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037.

14 OutSmart Advertising, Sales and Promotions Representative **Jim Kiniry** celebrates his 47th birthday, 520-7237.

15 **LESBIANS IN BUSINESS**, 6 pm, The Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza, 529-0077.

NEW GROUP FORMING...

TWENTY-something is a social- and community-oriented group for young adults ages 20-29 addressing issues concerning bisexuals, lesbians, and gay men. Great for those seeking friendship and understanding, coming out or just hanging out. For more information, contact Quincy, 541-4217, or write to Shawn Black, c/o Bering Memorial UMC, 1440 Harold, Houston, TX 77006.

ONGOING

ACT-UP GULF COAST, 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7:00 pm, 3400 Montrose, Suite 520, 523-9199.

AIDS ALLIANCE OF THE BAY AREA, support group for those infected and affected, Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, 17511 El Camino Real, #106, 488-4492.

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON, free creative writing workshop for anyone affected by AIDS with freelance writer Gregg Rodriguez. Mondays, 3-6 pm. Call 623-6796 or 868-0008 for more information.

BINET (Bisexual Network of Houston), Wednesdays, 7 pm, MCCR Church, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

CARING STEPS is offered to parents, family, friends, and loved

ones of someone who is HIV positive. Call 520-2085 for scheduling.

DAS KAFFEEHAUS is a new entertainment spot for young people to meet for fun, conversation, dancing and artistic expression such as musical performances, dance programs, comedy monologues, poetry readings, etc. Saturdays 7 pm-1 am, basement of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, \$1 cover charge includes coffee and tea.

DELTA LAMBDA PHI: a progressive social fraternity at the University of Houston. Founded by gay men for all men. For more information on how to become a member call 529-3211.

DIGNITY HOUSTON is dedicated to the welfare of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends. They meet every Saturday at 7:30 pm, 1307 Yale, Suite H, (713) 880-2872.

THE DIZINGER FOUNDATION offers free classes in art and photography to HIV+ individuals. The Foundation also gives grants to people for their completed works. Please feel free to visit the Foundation office at 3701 Montrose to view the many works on display. 522-8660.

EMPOWERMENT FOR LIVING, a weekly support program and pot-luck supper, Tuesdays, 6 pm, MCCR, 1919 Decatur. For more information call 861-9149.

EN*LIGHT*EN UP, a gay men's spirituality group, Thursdays, 7:30 pm, The Center for Light, 3408 West Lamar. Call Michael Coll at 520-6996 for more information.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SUPPORT GROUP for partners, family, friends and caregivers of persons with HIV disease, facilitated by Jim Anderson, LMSW and Harry Livesay, MSW(c), New Counseling Center, 3415 Graustark, 529-1913.

FRONTRUNNERS encourages beginning, recreational and competitive running. Weekly runs are Sundays at 9 am and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 pm at The Tennis Center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.

GAY VETERANS OF HOUSTON is committed to ending discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals in the military services. Meets the first and third Fri-

Continued on next page

Suzanne Anderson

PROPERTIES

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day of the month at AFH Stone Soup, 608 Westheimer, 359-3720.

THE HOMELESS PET PLACEMENT LEAGUE is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues and rehabilitates stray and abandoned cats and dogs. To inquire about volunteering, foster care, or adopting call 862-PETS.

HOUSTON AREA TEEN COALITION OF HOMOSEXUALS (HATCH) is open to gays and lesbian under 21, meets Fridays at 7:15 pm and Sundays at 6:30 pm, call 942-9810 for location and information.

KOLBE PROJECT: HIV/AIDS Positive support group-Tuesdays, 10 am; Lesbian & Gay Issues support group-Wednesdays, 6:15 pm; HIV Negative support group-Thursdays, 8 pm; Female impersonators/transsexuals-Mondays, 7 pm. For more information contact 522-8182.

THE MOVIE CLUB: meets every first and third Saturday evening of the month to view a recently released film and dining at a nearby restaurant prior to the movie. Call 952-4048 for more information.

NEXT STEP: a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Call 520-2000 for schedule and to register.

PROTECT (People Respecting Ourselves Through Establishing Community & Trust) is an HIV-negative support group providing a safe place to share experiences, strengths and hopes in an effort to remain HIV negative. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, Bering Church Office, 1440 Harold. For more information, call Marty Yaklin, 520-7870, or David White, 752-2604.

Q-PATROL is an organization dedicated to the prevention of hate crimes against lesbians and gay men. We patrol the bar areas in Montrose and are always on the lookout for volunteers. If you have at least one Friday or Saturday night per month you can donate to the protection of gay men and lesbians, please call 871-8519.

STONEWALL 94 Houston Chapter meets every Wednesday, 7 pm, 3223 Smith, Suite 100, 528-6835.

RADIO AND TELEVISION

AFTER HOURS: (Radio) Saturdays, Midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Caper. KPFT 90.1 FM.

LESBIAN & GAY VOICES: (Radio) Fridays, 6-8 pm. Features news, music, interviews, reviews and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM.

OUT! IN HOUSTON: (TV) presented by The Agora on Public Access Cable. Showtimes are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels. For more information call The Agora at 949-3119.

AIDS TALK HOUSTON: (TV) Public Access Cable. Showtimes are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels.

LIFE... TODAY: (TV) Public Access Cable. Showtimes are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels.

MONTROSE CLINIC: (TV) Public Access Cable. Showtimes are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels.

FEM TV: Public Access Cable. Showtimes are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels.

THEATER

ACTORS THEATRE OF HOUSTON 2506 South Blvd. 529-6606. Opening June 25: *The Wizard of Oz*.

ACTORS WORKSHOP 1009 Chartres. 236-1844. Opening June 24: *Breaking Legs*.

ALLEY THEATRE 615 Texas Ave. 228-8421. Large Stage. June 2-July 3: *Shakespeare For My Father* with Lynn Redgrave. July 8-17: *Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None* (a.k.a., *Ten Little Indians*).

COMPANY ONSTAGE 536 Westbury Square. 726-1219. Saturdays through June 18: *Cinderella*. Opening June 24: *Sherlock's Last Case*.

CURTAINS 3722 Washington Ave., 862-4548. Through June 25: *The Foreigner*. Sundays, June 19 through July 31: *Having It All*.

EXPRESS THEATRE Children's Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz. 759-1314. June 17-July 10: *Pocahontas*.

HOUSTON SKYLINE THEATRE 1617 Fannin. 759-0701. Through June 18: *The Barbecue*.

MAIN STREET THEATRE 2540 Times Blvd. 524-6706. June 16-July 24: *The Crucifer*.

NATIONS BANK HOUSTON BROADWAY SERIES Presents: *Phantom of The Opera*. Through July 10. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. 227-ARTS.

STAGES 3201 Allen Parkway. 527-8243. Through June 19: *Jeffrey*. June 17-July 17: *Nonsense*.

TEXAS MIME THEATRE Heinen Theatre, 3517 Austin. 665-7145. 1994 Lively Arts Festival. June 15, 16, 17 (10:30 am): *The Tale of the Mouse*.

THEATER LAB HOUSTON 1706 Alamo. 868-7516. Through June 18: *The Kathy and Mo Show: Parallel Lives*.

THEATRE SUBURBIA 1410 W 43. 668-3525. June 3-July 2: *All My Sons*.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park, 622-TUTS. July 13-23: *A Chorus Line*. Free.

WESTHEIMER ART BAR & THEATRE 1102 1/2 Westheimer. 523-7217. Currently: *The Zoo Story*. July 8-30: *CLOSETS: A Stonewall Celebration*.

MUSIC

HOUSTON SYMPHONY Cynthia Mitchell Woods Pavilion: June 18: Christoph Eschenbach conducts Bernstein, Gershwin and Mahler. Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park: June 22: Stephen Stein conducts Verdi, Vivaldi, Respighi, Rossini, Donizetti/Pasculli, and Ponchielli. June 24: James Paul conducts Berlioz, Saint-Saens, Ravel, Dvorak. June 25: William Eddins conducts Tchaikovsky. June 29: Alasdair Neale conducts Barber, Mendelssohn and Beethoven.

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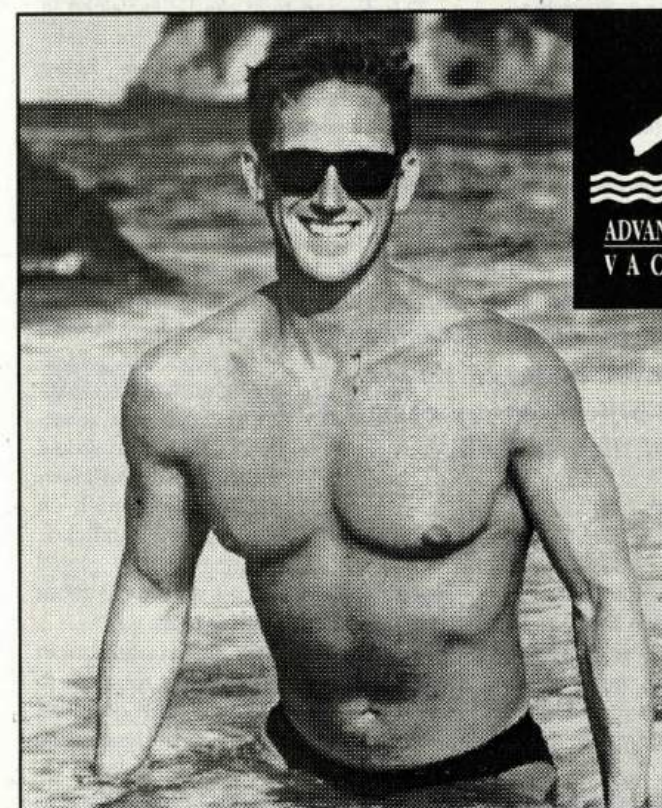


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CLINTON'S MILITARY DISASTER: ONE YEAR LATER

In the 1987 film, *Broadcast News*, William Hurt plays Tom Grunick, a telegenic, but superficial and disingenuous, network reporter. At one point in the movie, Grunick conducts an emotional interview with a victim of date rape. Although Grunick did not actually cry during the story, for effect he later splices onto the tape an image of himself crying. When you realize the fraud Grunick has perpetrated, your skin crawls. It is a chilling moment. I get that feeling now almost every time I hear Bill Clinton speak.

Clinton campaigned for President on a promise to end the ban on gay military service and solicited gay votes, gay campaign work and millions of dollars from gay contributors, largely on the strength of that prominent vow. It's now been almost a year since Clinton announced his "compromise" on gays in the armed forces before a packed house of beaming military brass. The approach of that dark anniversary provides an opportunity to examine the fledgling policy—in theory and in practice—as it affects uniformed gays.

The old policy, the one inherited from and rigorously enforced under both Republican and Democratic administrations, simply banned gays from the services. In so doing, it had a certain comprehensible simplicity. The new policy—dubbed "Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue"—is far more complicated. Now a service member cannot be discharged for "homosexual orientation" alone, unless her orientation is manifested by "homosexual conduct." The policy defines "homosexual conduct" as a "homosexual act," a "propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts," or a "homosexual marriage" or "attempted marriage."

In theory, Clinton's new policy is a tangled web of imbecilities and irrationality. As a frank inducement to lies and double-standards, it is perhaps without parallel or precedent in national policy. Under it, you can be gay, but you can't say you are. Your commander can't ask if you're gay, but if you privately divulge your orientation to a friend, you can be discharged. You can go to a gay bar, but you can't kiss your lover. You can read gay erotica in the barracks, but you can't get aroused



BY DALE CARPENTER

There are widespread reports that commanders are abusing the considerable discretion the Clinton policy gives them to initiate investigations of homosexuality in the ranks. Anecdotal evidence slowly mounts of what one Pentagon official describes as "overaggressive enforcement" of the new policy.

"rebut" that presumption. The "compromise" policy requires military officials to have "credible information" of some dreaded "homosexual act" before they investigate you, but it gives commanders more discretion than ever before to decide when to investigate. On paper, it is a mess.

In practice, the evidence increasingly suggests, the Clinton policy is a disaster.

According to an investigative story in *The New York Times* (May 9, 1994, p. 1), gay service-women and men are generally worse off now than they were under the old ban. The military has dismissed more than 125 gays since the policy took effect on February 28. There are widespread reports that commanders are abusing the considerable discretion the Clinton policy gives them to initiate investigations of homosexuality in the ranks. Anecdotal evidence slowly mounts of what one Pentagon official describes as "overaggressive enforcement" of the new policy. Commanders intimidate co-workers into incriminating suspected gays. They seize on flimsy evidence to commence full-scale investigations. Gay members of the services attribute the increased intensity of the witch hunts to the bitterness that resulted from last year's battle over the issue. Rather than fostering understanding and tolerance, the episode hardened sentiment against gays. "It used to be ambiguous, but now everyone has had to take sides," says a Navy lieutenant commander in Washington.

This phenomenon can be explained in part by the manner in which the Clinton administration mishandled the policy "debate." Rather than ending the ban, as he promised, immediately upon inauguration when he was at the height of his popularity and had tremendous political capital, Clinton delayed the proposed change. This delay allowed Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, head of the Armed Services Committee, to initiate his own highly publicized "investigation" on the effect of ending the ban. The subsequent slanted hearings and tendentious investigation, which focused luridly on group showers and close sleeping quarters, played devastatingly on the worst stereotypes about sexually predatory homosexuals.

Worse still, neither Clinton nor anyone in his administration formulated a response to Nunn's nonsense. Vice President Al Gore didn't appear on Larry King Live to debate Nunn, as he did Ross Perot during the debate over NAFTA. Clinton never twisted arms or traded votes to end the ban, as he recently did to get his semi-

automatic weapons bill passed. At the height of the furor, Clinton, in a live television appearance at the Rose Garden, even said that the government should be careful not to "condone" the homosexual "lifestyle." We could have expected that sort of talk from Jesse Helms. We were entitled to expect much more from Clinton. Challenged to articulate a reason to end the ban, Clinton mumbled something about the necessity of using all the nation's resources in a competitive world, as if a matter of simple justice and decency could be reduced to a formula for efficient resource utilization.

He just didn't get it, did he? He shoved gay service members out on a limb, some of whom publicly revealed they were gay, in the expectation that he would live up to his word, and then all but abandoned them when Nunn and his ilk began sawing it off. By the summer of 1993, Clinton had permitted Nunn's crowd to dominate the "debate" so thoroughly that ending the ban was political alchemy. So we have a "compromise" that exposes gays wanting to serve their country in uniform to even more hostility than they faced before. And that policy is now congressionally mandated, so that a future President couldn't change it by executive order even if he had the guts and principles to do it.

I'm told that Clinton delivered a riveting and passionate fund-raising speech before a group of gays in Los Angeles during his election campaign. He brought himself and his admiring audience to tears in his defense of the principle of equality for gays. That performance got him a lot of money and galvanized gay support for his candidacy around the country. Tom Grunick, we hardly knew ye. ▼

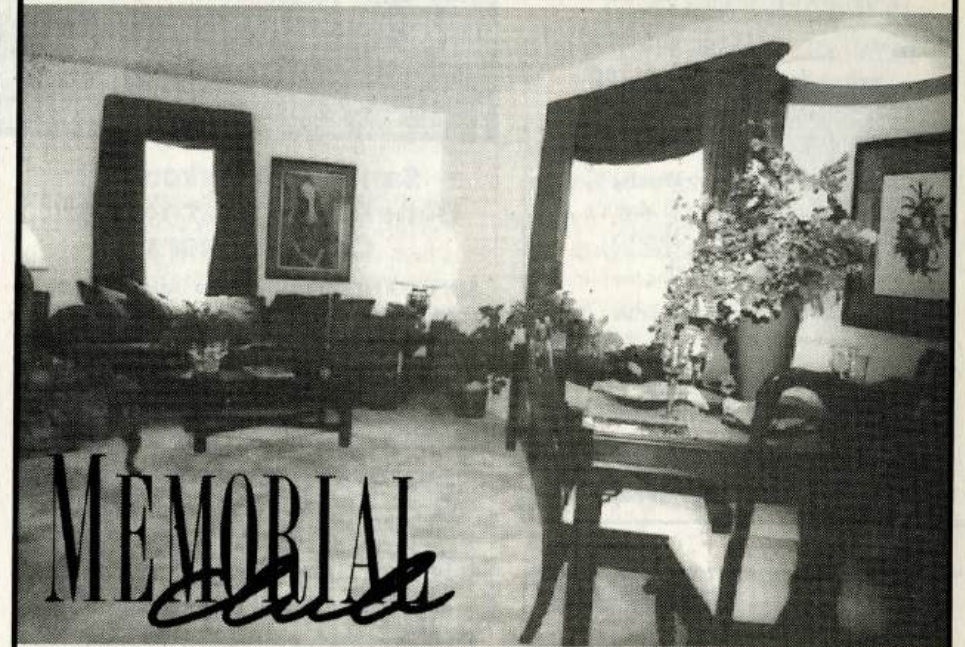
Dale Carpenter is a lawyer in Houston. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by the HGLPC or any of its members.



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News on People, Politics, Health and Activism

San Diego Extends Benefits to Partners of City Workers

SAN DIEGO (GayNet) — The San Diego, Calif., city council narrowly approved a measure extending health care benefits to the domestic partners of unmarried municipal employees. The council approved the measure on a 5-4 vote during a session concerned with contracts between the city and union workers. Councilwoman Christine Kehoe, a lesbian who recently became the council's first openly gay member and sponsor of the measure, said, "It's a fairness issue. What the city has done is made it—I hope—OK for other employers in San Diego to say this is the kind of coverage I want to offer." The new partners measure drew the immediate anger of anti-gay fundamentalist ministers who said the benefits would lead to "the depreciation of traditional family values and the sanctity of heterosexual marriages."

Time Drops Plans for Gay Magazine

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Time Inc. has said abandoned plans to launch *Tribe*, a national gay magazine that would have been the first such publication started by a major mainstream publisher. There were reports that *Time* had been the object of intense letter-writing campaign by anti-gay fundamentalists, but executives with the publishing firm denied their decision to drop plans for the new magazine were a result of any outside pressure and insisted the switch in plans was based entirely on economics. "We have a number of developing properties underway with other magazines that we continue to nurture and we had to make a decision, based upon the limited number of resources," a spokesperson for the publishing house said. The *Village Voice* had reported, however, that Time Inc. had dropped plans for *Tribe* after Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association had launched a campaign by his group against the magazine.

Activists Call for Boycott of Italy

ROME (GayNet) — Gay rights activists in Italy called for an international boycott of the country after remarks by a neo-fascist running for a seat in the European Parliament that gays should be sent to "concentration camps." A German rights group held a 3-hour vigil outside the Italian embassy in Bonn earlier and delivered a letter of protest over the incident. Franco Grillini, head of the Italian group Arcigay, urged "foreign governments to boycott Italy until we have assurances that the presence of fascists in government won't affect democratic rights." In Bonn, the Society for the Threatened People said it had called the vigil outside the Italian embassy be-

cause of concern for the rights of minorities in Italy. The group condemned the presence of members of the neo-fascist party in the Italian government at all. And in Bologna, about a thousand gays and lesbians marched through the center of the city to place a wreath at a memorial to homosexuals killed in concentration camps during World War II. Demonstrations were also being planned in Paris. Piero Buscaroli, a National Alliance candidate for a seat in the European Parliament who made the remarks, later said his comments had been "inopportune" but insisted that homosexuality is a vice.

Sweden Approves National Gay Partnership Law

STOCKHOLM (GayNet) — Following a 4-hour debate, the Swedish parliament (Riksdag) narrowly adopted legislation that would allow same-sex couples nearly—but not all—the same benefits and responsibilities of marriage. The bill establishing registered partnerships in the country passed 171-141. The law, which will go into effect at the beginning of 1995, allows same-sex couples a civil (but not church) ceremony similar to a wedding; couples are not allowed to adopt or have children through artificial insemination. Denmark and Norway already have similar laws. "It means a lot for us to have our love recognized," said Tobias Wikstrom, chairman of the Swedish National Association for Sexual Equality.

Minneapolis Partners Measure Ruled Illegal

MINNEAPOLIS (GayNet) — District Court Judge Deborah Hedlund has ruled that the Minneapolis City Council overstepped its authority when it enacted a measure that extends benefits to the partners of lesbian and gay city workers. Judge Hedlund declared the partners ordinance illegal and ruled that the state of Minnesota had given cities the legal right to finance employee benefits only for the spouses and dependents of city workers. Because same-sex couples cannot legally marry, the judge ruled, they cannot become eligible for such benefits. It was not immediately clear, but many observers expect the city to appeal the ruling since gays and lesbians cannot legally marry anywhere in the U.S.

Gay Residential Community to Be Built in Thailand

BANGKOK (GayNet) — According to the Reuter news agency, the Wachira Royal Valley realty company is planning to build a residential community

for gay men only about 90 miles northeast of the capital city of Bangkok. The news agency quoted Dejdiow Srichai, the firm's manager, as saying "There are many, many gay men living in Thailand now and I think they would like a little privacy and to live in beautiful surroundings." The development is slated to consist of some 800 units on an 80-acre plot. The \$10 million project is scheduled to begin in March and would be known as Flora Town.

Holland Temporarily Postpones Partners Law

AMSTERDAM (GayNet) — The Dutch cabinet has tabled a measure that would have established "registered cohabitation" by same-sex couples, extending to gays and lesbians who registered many of the same benefits as married heterosexuals. No explanation was given for the action which is believed to be only temporary.

HIV Military Discharge Amendment Fails

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — An amendment by Rep. Robert Dornan (D-Calif.) that would have required discharges for any member of the U.S. military infected with HIV was defeated in the House of Representatives in favor of a less draconian proposal that would permit such discharges but would not mandate them. Some 3,600 service members could have been discharged as a result of the failed Dornan amendment.

Lesbian Can't Adopt Partner's Daughter: Court Rules

MADISON, Wisc. (GayNet) — The Wisconsin State Supreme Court has ruled that the lesbian partner of a woman cannot adopt her 8-year-old daughter because the two women "are not married" and the relationship between the child and the non-biological mother "is not one that has traditionally received constitutional protection." The ruling prevents Annette Grinkey from adopting the biological daughter of partner Georgina Grinkey. The couple's attorney said they will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ontario Nixes Partners Law

TORONTO (GayNet) — The Ontario Parliament has rejected on a 68-59 vote a government-sponsored measure that would have established a domestic partner registration in the province. It was the second vote on the failed-and watered-down-partners measure, meaning that it is now officially dead in Ontario for the time being. The measure had been a compromise that would have excluded same-sex couples from adopting children together, among other issues.

San Francisco Gives Partners A (Tax) Break

SAN FRANCISCO (GayNet) — Same-sex couples here took another incremental step toward equal recognition of their domestic partnerships with an exemption from the city's real estate transfer taxes if they dissolve their relationship—an exemption married couples enjoy under state law. The exemption measure, unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 31, is the most recent legal effort here to extend benefits to gay and lesbian couples already enjoyed by married couples. "We're endeavoring to chip away at the issue of lesbian and gay equity in society," said Supervisor Carole Migden, author of the measure. "Lesbians and gays live here in great numbers, the majority of whom are hard-working, taxpaying citizens who should be entitled to the same rights awarded to others."

Stanford University Opens AIDS Clinic

PALO ALTO, Calif. (GayNet) — California's Stanford Hospital will offer specialized primary medical care for patients with HIV/AIDS at the newly opened Stanford Positive Care Clinic. According to the clinic's director, Dr. Andrew Zolopa, the goal of the new clinic is to give HIV-infected patients comprehensive health care, as well as offer them access to the most

current drug and vaccine research trials. The clinic will also provide the area's HIV/AIDS patients with access to all levels of care at a single location, dispensed by staff members specially trained to treat the disease.

Congressional Subcommittee to Probe HIV Vaccine Trials

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee, will investigate charges that Army researchers deceived the public about the experimental AIDS vaccine gp160. The Public Citizen's Health Research Group gave Waxman copies of Defense Department documents suggesting researchers had misinterpreted data on preliminary drug trials for the vaccine and had omitted negative results. In announcing the hearings on the military drug trials, Waxman called the allegations "serious charges."

Sissyfag to Run in D.C. Mayor's Race

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — AIDS activist Luke Sissyfag, noted for his public heckling of President Clinton, has announced that he will run for mayor of the nation's capital as an independent candidate. Sissyfag, who has criticized Clinton, Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, and the federal government for not doing enough to prevent the spread of HIV, says his goal is to force the other District candidates to focus attention on the epidemic. Kelly, he charged, has failed in her condom distribution programs for high schools and prisons, as well as in her needle exchange program.

Scientists Spat Over AIDS Research

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — Two prominent U.S. scientific journals, *Science* and the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, have clashed over

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the validity of research findings in a published report about an AIDS-related skin cancer. The dispute centers on an experimental compound regarded by AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo as promising for the treatment of Kaposi's sarcoma. Public debate erupted when JAMA printed a report by Dr. Marlys H. Witte of the University of Arizona in Tucson, who attempted, but failed, to duplicate Gallo's experiments with mice and confirm some of his key findings. The researchers say Gallo's work is flawed by systematic errors and omissions, and that their challenge of the validity of the findings was foiled by another journal, *Science*. Witte and his colleagues had originally submitted their own report to *Science*, which had initially published Gallo's study, but the journal called the Witte team's experiments "an extraordinary waste of time and effort" and rejected the paper. When an expanded second report, was again rejected by *Science*, the Tucson researchers decided to air the dispute in *JAMA*.

Gay Games Protested by Anti-Gay Activists

NEW YORK (GayNet) — About a dozen gay rights opponents protested the upcoming Gay Games IV in New York, claiming the event constitutes a "threat to the morals of children" and would increase the risks of HIV transmission because of the large numbers of infected gay and bisexual men the games will draw to Manhattan. Reuben Diaz, a member of the city's police civilian complaint review board, said U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno's waiver of federal restrictions of HIV-infected tourists for the games would draw some 10,000 HIV-positive people to the city for the event.

P-Town AIDS Benefit Taps Garland Memorial

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. (GayNet) — When thousands of expected Judy Garland and "Wizard of Oz" fans descend on Provincetown, Mass., June 17-19, they will be on a two-fold mission: to memorialize the 25th anniversary of Garland's death and to raise funds to fight the AIDS epidemic. Dozens of celebrities have offered unique items, including Garland memorabilia, for an auction to benefit the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. Auction organizer Jerry McCarthy said he and other AIDS Support Group members have been working for more than a year to pull off the event.

A New Way to 'Play Safe' With Condoms

ROME (GayNet) — Ummm... can't be too sure this is all that newsworthy in the larger scheme of things, but it certainly caught our fancy... Seems Lino Missio, a 26-year-old Italian physics student and amateur inventor, has invented a condom that plays a short tune by Beethoven if it should break. Apparently the condom (now patented, thank you) is coated with a chemical compound that conducts a slight constant electrical current; if the condom bursts, the current changes and sets off a tiny, flexible microchip at the base - which sets off the brief Beethoven tune. Missio says he's trying to find a company to market the little dickens commer-

cially. Roll over Beethoven... and give Tchaikovsky the news. Seems like The Supremes' "Stop ... In the Name of Love" might be a better tune for the gizmo to play - but, hey, what do we know about musical condoms?

Civilian Discrimination Complaint Against Navy Settled

LOS ANGELES (GayNet) — Thomas A. Swann, a former Marine Corps sergeant and 12-year civilian employee with the Strike Systems Department at the Pt. Mugu Naval Air Weapons Station, has reached a settlement in his federal complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, charging that he was harassed and discriminated against by the Navy because of his sexual orientation. Details of the settlement were not disclosed, but Swann said he was "pleased" with it and that "I believe this deal has made me whole again." As part of the settlement, however, Swann will keep his civil service rank and transfer to the base's comptroller's office as a management analyst.

Infections Among HIV Vaccine Trials Stir Concerns

CHICAGO (GayNet) — Several volunteers in a federal government study to test experimental AIDS vaccines have become infected with HIV, raising concerns about the safety of such trials according to a report in the *Chicago Tribune*. The vaccines, which are being tested in limited clinical trials at 5 universities, do not contain any of the virus' genetic material and can't cause infection. But even so, 7 of some 1,400 participants—including two people who were receiving only placebos—have tested positive for HIV. All seven positive volunteers had been counseled about how to reduce the risk of HIV infection, but researchers have long worried that trial participants might erroneously believe that they are protected and engage in high-risk behaviors. Scientists say some new infections were to be expected during the trials and that no prospective vaccine would likely be 100% effective.

British Gays Protest Catholic Catechism

LONDON (GayNet) — Activists with the British group OutRage briefly disrupted consecration services at Westminster Cathedral, protesting that the Catholic Church's new catechism degrades same-sex love. More than a dozen demonstrators confronted Cardinal Basil Hume, Catholic prelate in Britain, over the new catechism, but left after about 10 minutes. The catechism, which gives guidelines to Catholics on their personal behavior, calls homosexuality a "grave depravity." A spokesperson for OutRage said, "The catechism denigrates gay love and gives theological legitimacy to anti-gay prejudice."

10,000 in Paris AIDS March

PARIS (GayNet) — More than 10,000 people walked

5 miles by the Seine river in Paris to show their support for people with AIDS and HIV and to raise public funds to fight the epidemic. The "March for Life" ended at the Eiffel Tower. France has the highest number of AIDS cases in Europe. An estimated 150,000 people there are infected with HIV, the virus generally believed to cause AIDS.

Jewish Protesters & Gays Scuffle at Holocaust Memorial

JERUSALEM (GayNet) — Conservative Jewish demonstrators scuffled with gay rights activists at the Holocaust Memorial in Israel during a ceremony commemorating the gay and lesbian victims of the Nazi concentration camps during World War II. Just days before the ceremony, a group of 19 rabbis took out an ad in the *Jerusalem Post* denouncing the ceremony as "an abomination" and threatening a boycott of the Holocaust Memorial if the ceremony went ahead. One protester shouted "You are full of shit and AIDS" at a gay rights activist tried to convince him to leave the memorial during the wreath-laying ceremony. Although there was some pushing and scuffling between activists and protesters, no serious incidents were reported and no arrests were made.

Changing Advertising in Gay Press

NEW YORK (GayNet) — According to a study of 76 gay publications by the Mulryan/Nash ad agency, the nation's gay print media has undergone a growth recently in expanded types of advertising—although some categories of advertisers continue to shun the lesbian and gay market. Estimating the net ad revenues of the gay press in the U.S. at more than \$53 million per year, the agency reported that bar and club ads continue to dominate the gay press, accounting for some 19.5% of the total ad-line, with telephone contact lines second at 12.6%, and professional services accounting for 10.8%. But the agency reported that local auto dealership ads represent a significant growth area for the publications, accounting for some 2% of ad spending "because dealers have seen a very positive effect on sales" as a result of the targeted advertising. "Dealers representing all imported and domestic auto makers are advertising in large and small gay newspapers nationwide," said Paul Poux, the agency's media director. Other ad categories, however, remained negligible, the agency reported. Among these: home furnishings (1%); investment firms (0.2%); and banks (0.1%).

Federal Court Rules For Discharged Lesbian Colonel

SEATTLE (GayNet) — Margaret Cammermeyer, a decorated and highly regarded National Guard colonel discharged after she acknowledged she is a lesbian, has been ordered reinstated by a federal court judge. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Zilly ruled the National Guard's discharge of

Cammermeyer was "based solely on prejudice" in the 51-page ruling. "Prejudice, whether founded on unsubstantiated fears, cultural myths, stereotypes or erroneous assumptions cannot be the basis for a discriminatory classification," Judge Zilly ruled. Cammermeyer, a 27-year veteran and Army nurse who was awarded the Bronze Star for her 14-month tour of duty in Vietnam, was thrilled at the ruling. "This is what I've been waiting for," she said at a press conference following the ruling, "being permitted to return to the military. This process has been traumatic, but today's ruling means the exoneration of me and all the others who have been separated from a military career for saying they were homosexual." It was not clear what would happen next since Judge Zilly ordered Cammermeyer immediately reinstated, even though it is likely the federal government will appeal the District Court ruling. The court ruling applies only to the Pentagon's previous ban on homosexuals in the armed forces and does not directly affect the recently modified "don't ask, don't tell" policy enacted by Congress last year. Last year a federal court in California handed down a similar ruling against the old Defense Department policy in the case of discharged sailor Keith Meinhold, and a 3-judge federal appeals court panel also found in favor of U.S. Naval Academy midshipman Joseph Steffan. But both rulings have been appealed by the government.

California GOP Official Out After Pro-Gay Remarks

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (GayNet) — Robert "Bob" Carpenter has either resigned or been fired as executive director of the California Republican Party after he reportedly criticized conservative elements in the GOP for their intolerance of gays and lesbians. Carpenter, and his wife Pat Giardina-Carpenter, who was the state party's finance director, were unavailable to reporters after news of his departure from the state party broke only days before the scheduled June 7 state primary. Back in April the Carpenters jointly appeared at a meeting of the Log Cabin Club in West Hollywood and became members. During a speech to the predominantly gay and lesbian GOP group, Carpenter reportedly said, "Unfortunately, the people who are the leaders at this point are the Jim Dignans and the Bill Dannemeyers and others. They have created a Republican Party that is probably intolerant of anyone other than themselves and, quite frankly, it scares the hell out of me." Dignan is a former state GOP party chairman. The arch-conservative anti-gay Dannemeyer is a former congressman from Orange County who is now seeking the party's nomination to a U.S. Senate seat.

Texas Researchers Develop Substitute Blood

AUSTIN, Texas (GayNet) — Researchers at the University of Texas have developed and patented a substance they identify as "hypersmolar oxyreplete hemosubstitute," a blood substitute that eliminates the risk of accidental HIV transmission during blood transfusions. University of Texas professor Thomas Runge, who invented the blood substitute, says the

substance is useful because even transfusions using screened human blood still present some risk of transmitting HIV and other diseases. In human blood, Runge says, it can take 180 days to detect HIV, but because blood should be used within 42 days, there is still a slight risk of contracting disease.

Greek Sports Agency Expels Lesbian Gymnast

ATHENS (GayNet) — The organization, Greek Homosexual Community, reports that the Panhellenic Sports Center in Athens is trying to oust Isabel Aktypi, who has been a member of PSC since 1987, after the gymnast publicly acknowledged that she is a lesbian. PSC's board voted in late March to expel Aktypi, claiming a "storm of protest" over Aktypi's membership in PSC. The sporting association did not, however, produce any evidence of any complaints about Aktypi. Greek activists are urging people to protest PSC's attempt to expel Aktypi to: Mr. George Liania, Vice Minister of Sports Matters, Panepistimiou 25 101 10 Athens GREECE, fax: 30-1-325-1533; or Mr. George Kouvelakis, Minister Mesogeion 96 115 27 Athens GREECE, fax: 30-1-775-5835.

Lesbian Avengers 'Pride Ride to Stonewall'

HOUSTON (GayNet) — The activist group Lesbian Avengers is planning a "Pride Ride to Stonewall 25" through a number of southern cities to attend the June celebration commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 1969. Kicking off from Houston on June 16, the Lesbian Avengers caravan will stop off for "visibility actions" in Vidor, Tex., New Orleans, Montgomery, Ala., Atlanta, Overt, Miss., Durham, N.C., Washington, D.C., and Rehobeth Beach, Del. The Avengers are slated to arrive in New York on June 24. The group can be contacted by writing: Lesbian Avengers, 44 East Ave., Ste. 300, Box 69, Austin TX 78701; by Internet email: grrrl@utxvms.cc.utexas.edu or by phone at (512) 370-4613.

N.Y. Gay Councilman Announces Race for Congress

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Tom Duane, New York's first openly gay city councilman, has announced that he's throwing his hat in the race to represent part of Manhattan's West Side 8th Congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. Duane, 39, announced during his 1991 bid for a seat on the City Council that he is HIV-positive. He will face Democratic incumbent Rep. Jerrold Nadler.

AT&T Goes After Gay Market

NEW YORK (GayNet) — AT&T has launched its first efforts at direct-mail marketing aimed at up-scale gays and lesbians. A brochure mailed out to tens of thousands of households in the U.S. in mid-May features photos of same-sex couples talking about long distance services. The giant long-distance carrier determined that gays and lesbians represent a

large, untapped market segment and has initiated efforts to position itself as the leading service in the market. "The particular market segment is a good one to target because it's composed of affluent, highly educated and very brand-loyal consumers," an AT&T spokesperson said.

S.F. Police Won't Honor Dead Gay Cop

SAN FRANCISCO (GayNet) — Thomas Cady's name will not join the marble roster of police officers killed in the line of duty, but officers who contract AIDS in job-related incidents may, in the future, be included in the San Francisco Police Department's "Wall of Honor" because of him. The city's police commission unanimously adopted a policy that calls for officers who die as a result of job-related injuries within 5 years of the injury as eligible for enrollment on the police honor wall. Police Chief Tony Ribera refused to add Cady's name to the wall because he didn't die on the job. A court ruled last year that Cady, who died in January, was eligible for police disability pay during his illness after he was bitten in 1984 by an assault suspect who later died of AIDS. The city had battled against the disability payment, claiming that Cady, who was gay, had become infected through his personal sexual activities.

Only 'Fruits' Wear Earrings, Cincinnati Reds Owner Says

CINCINNATI (GayNet) — Controversial Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, who got into hot water with the major league baseball officials for using racial and ethnic slurs in public, said in a speech before Ohio officials that "only fruits wear earrings," even in pro sports. "I was raised to believe that men wearing earrings are fruity," The Reds owner told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* following the speech. Major League Baseball executive committee chairman Bud Selig refused to comment on Schott's remarks, but said the organization would "look into" the reports. Schott was suspended by the organization for 8 months last year and required to attend diversity sensitivity workshops as a result of her racial and ethnic remarks.

State-Federal Fight Looms in Australia Over Sodomy Laws

SYDNEY (GayNet) — The Australian federal government is launching legal moves to nullify Tasmanian state laws that bar male homosexual acts following failure of state and federal officials to reach any compromise. The UN Human Rights Committee earlier this year declared Tasmania's male-male sodomy statute a contravention of international human rights accords. Australian Attorney General Michael Lavarch said he would recommend that the federal government take steps to assure that Tasmania's homosexuals enjoy the same rights as other citizens. "It's not appropriate for police to be looking into people's bedrooms and see what sex they are having," Lavarch said at a press conference. "In my view such laws are bad in principle." But Tasmanian Premier Ray Groom said the state would defend its sodomy laws if necessary all the way to the Australian High Court. Gay activists, who started the wheels of this complex fight between the federal and Tasmanian governments by successfully taking their case of human rights violations to the UN, said they hoped to see some sort of legal reforms by the end of the year. "Our understanding is that any Cabinet submission (Lavarch) took would succeed," said Rodney Croome, spokesman for the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group.

Gay Rights Law - Sort of - in N.C. City

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (GayNet) — A resolution before the Asheville City Council barring anti-gay employment and housing discrimination passed by a narrow 4-3 vote—but only after the phrase "sexual orientation" was replaced with the vaguer "or any other reason" in the list of protected classes. Far right anti-gay fundamentalists had objected to including sexual orientation in the legislation.

Pepsi: You Got The Gay One, Baby

HOBART, Tasmania (GayNet) — A company executive from the Pepsi Cola bottling company has sent a congratulatory note to gay Tasmanian activists on the decision handed down recently by the UN declaring Tasmania's male sodomy laws a contravention of international human rights agreements. Pepsi's Tasmanian

manager, Warren Landt, sent the Tasmanian Gay & Lesbian Rights Group 5 cartons of the popular cola with a handwritten statement that read: "Congratulations on the favourable ruling you received from the United Nations from all at Pepsi Cola."

AIDS 'Manhattan Project' Bill Being Readied

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — The AIDS Cure Act, which would authorize a "Manhattan Project" for AIDS research in the U.S., is finally being introduced in Congress. "It's time to put a stop to the business-as-usual attitude toward finding a cure for AIDS," said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, who is backing the measure. "The goal of the AIDS Cure Project is to recreate" the Manhattan Project, in which scientists collaborated in an intensive effort during World War II to develop the atom bomb. As a campaign promise, President Clinton vowed to authorize such a program. "My bill is an effort to remind him of that promise," Nadler said, "and to keep him to his word." The legislation would authorize an agency independent of the National Institutes of Health, which currently coordinates most of the federal government's AIDS research.

Widespread Anti-Gay Bias in Medical Care Reported

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — According to a survey of lesbian, gay and bisexual doctors and medical students in this country, there is significant and wide-spread anti-gay bias in the health-care profession that impacts both patients and homosexuals in the medical professions. According to the survey released by the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights, the national gay medical organization based in San Francisco, the extent of anti-gay bias in the health-care field is "nothing less than shocking." AAPHR surveyed 711 lesbian, gay and bisexual physicians and medical students nationwide and found the following: Two thirds - some 67 percent - of the respondents said they knew of gay, lesbian or bisexual patients who had gotten substandard health care or had actually been refused medical care because of their sexual orientation; over half (52 percent) said they had personally observed colleagues giving reduced care or refusing medical treatment because of a patient's sexual orientation; an overwhelming majority (88 percent) said they had personally heard colleagues make disparaging or homophobic comments about lesbian, gay or bisexual patients in their care; a sixth of the respondents (17 percent) said they had been themselves been refused medical privileges, fired or refused employment, educational opportunities or a promotion due to their sexual orientation. "The degree of discrimination directed at gay and lesbian physicians and patients alike is nothing less than shocking," said Benjamin Schatz, AAPHR's executive director.

India to Start HIV Tests of Traditional Herbal Remedies

NEW DELHI (GayNet) — The government-sponsored Indian Council of Medical Research, India's top medical agency, says it will begin AIDS-related clinical trials involving traditional Indian herbal remedies said to stop the spread of HIV. A task force has selected 10 herbal drugs for clinical experiments with patients who have tested positive for the virus. The council will investigate whether there is any clinical evidence that the drugs do in fact curb the spread of HIV in the human body. The drugs were selected from the ancient Indian school of Ayurvedic medicine, which uses herbal and root extracts for treatment of chronic diseases.

AIDS Lawsuit Against University Begins

BUIES CREEK, N.C. (GayNet) — The federal lawsuit against the Baptist-run Campbell University in an effort to make the school rehire a physical education coach with AIDS is underway. The "John Doe" suit was filed after the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission investigated the man's complaint last year and concluded he had been wrongfully dismissed because of his HIV status, a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Officials at the university deny any wrongdoing.

Deceased PWA's Will Challenged in Court

DALLAS (GayNet) — The family of Randy Brown, a Dallas activist who died of AIDS, are challenging his will in court because it leaves part of his \$146,000 estate to an AIDS group employee. Brown, who died in January, requested that proceeds from the sale of his home and some of his belongings go to the Foundation for Understanding in Dallas. Robert and Joan Brown, the man's parents, claim their son did not have the mental capacity to draw up the will and that undue influence was placed on him in his final days. Their objections center on Marilyn Gordon, executor and a beneficiary of Brown's will, who cared for Brown in his final months. The family is not opposed to their son's bequest to the AIDS foundation itself, where he sat on the board of directors.

Video Chain Donates to AIDS Fight with 'Band' Rentals

LOS ANGELES (GayNet) — Wherehouse Entertainment, one of the largest retail chains in the western U.S., says its stores will donate \$1 to AIDS charities from each rental of the film "And The Band Played On," which has just been released on video. The film, featuring Matthew Modine, Alan Alda, Phil Collins, Lily Tomlin, Richard Gere, Steve Martin, and Angelica Houston, is a dramatization of the early history of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. by reporter Randy Shilts. Because of its social relevance, Wherehouse decided to donate profits from the video to AIDS research, education, and patient care, the retail outlet announced. "The Wherehouse is committed to building the awareness of this tragic disease, and it is our hope and intention that as many people as possible have the opportunity to watch this dramatic movie," said Scott Young, the company's president and chief executive officer.

VELMA'S WORLD

by Matthew Remington



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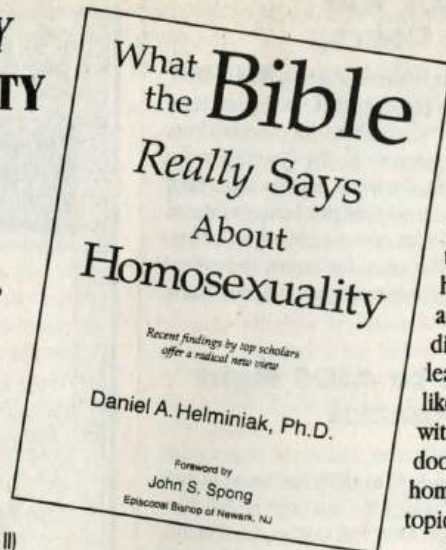
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WHAT THE BIBLE REALLY SAYS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY

Review by George M. Wetzel

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality,
by Daniel A. Helminiak, Ph. D.,
Alamo Square Press, 1994, 122 pp. \$9.95]

You've got to be taught before it's too late,
Before you are six, or seven or eight
To hate all the people your relatives hate.
You've got to be carefully taught.
—"Carefully Taught" from South Pacific
(music by Richard Rogers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II)



God who created us all in the Divine Image.

In the very first chapter, Helminiak tackles the fundamentalist interpretation that the Bible, in black and white, condemns homosexuality. He takes the reader through a brilliant and simple explanation of how the different approaches to interpreting the Bible lead to very different conclusions. For those like myself, not too comfortable or familiar with current biblical criticism, he opens new doors of understanding about the debates on homosexuality in the Bible and other biblical topics.

Fundamentalists and those who insist on a literal reading of the Bible "need to understand how others, in good faith, can insist the Bible does not condemn homosexuality." Drawing from the most current information available, he spares us the task of plowing through scholarly tomes "to help diffuse the power of unthinking religion and prejudice and to foster a world that is more compassionate, loving and just."

Helminiak cites his sources as he proceeds through his text and invites further reading at the book's end. He has obviously sweated and prayed over his conclusions and the way in which he worked carefully and cautiously (as a scholar should) to proceed to his conclusions.

Careful textual analysis and historical, cultural, religious and linguistic details are brought to bear, in manageable, clearly-written and simply stated prose to explain and clarify the texts in question and to answer the question: If they are not writing about homosexuality, then just what are they writing about?

For those with less than current reading knowledge of scriptural journals or secondary sources, this should put a lot of pieces of the puzzle together. For those who are not directly concerned but who wish to be current on the thinking of Biblical scholars, this is an easy short cut.

For those with closed minds this book will either be met with abuse or disbelief. Some will find that Helminiak's interpretation and assessments undercut and disprove their early-taught and often-reinforced prejudices against lesbians and gays. Some will say he is "wrong" because they are "right."

As a point of gay and lesbian pride, this book should be read and discussed, so that more light and less hate, prejudice and fear mark discussions on this topic. If we fail to make that effort we will have failed to make this planet a safer, more honest, loving and compassionate place for future generations.

And so, we were taught to hate and fear as children. If we, as a culture, do not learn how to rise above the generalizations and over-simplifications about groups of people, we have learned nothing from education, from religion or from the process we call civilization. Dan Helminiak's book is one candle in the darkness of misinformation, prejudice and hatred being spread in the name of the Bible by those who call themselves Christians against the last minority it is still acceptable to hate.

Dan Helminiak has done his homework and has made it easier to listen to and to respond to homophobic Christians who use the Bible as moral justification for their prejudice. The least we can do is to be willing to listen, reason and discuss the topic in a calm, relaxed manner with those who treat us similarly.

Community News

Feel Like A Couple of Hours of Heavy Petting?

The Pet Patrol is hosting its fifth annual fund-raiser at the Black Labrador Pub, 4100 Montrose Boulevard, on Wednesday, June 22, 1994, from 5 to 8 p.m. This event includes complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, live music and an incredible silent auction featuring hundreds of items from celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor, athlete Matt Biondi, actor Woody Harrelson, Barbara Bush, Bridgette Bardot and many others. Additional auction items feature hotel packages, dinner packages, artwork, jewelry, and other gift and service items.

Admission to the event is a pet food/product donation. The event will be hosted by Christina Applegate from *Married with Children* and Bob Boudreaux from KTRK Channel 13. Organization representatives will be on hand to answer questions and recruit new volunteers.

The Pet Patrol is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization which cares for the pets of our friends fighting AIDS. Donations help defray the cost of vaccinations, veterinary care, and pet food and supplies. The organization sponsors low-cost "Shot Days" and "Dip Days" for area pets, and volunteers assist with foster care and adoption.

People With AIDS Coalition-Houston Seeks Sponsors

The People With AIDS Coalition-Houston, founded and run by people infected/affected with HIV, has a small warehouse program aimed at matching displaced people with AIDS with donated household items. Presently, the program's demand is greater than its supply. For example, some people with AIDS have waited six months to get a bed.

Help by sponsoring items needed by a person living with AIDS. To become a sponsor, you can contact Lynn Pannill, Executive Director, at 522-5428, or stop by their office at 1475 West Gray, #163.

Milam House Aims to Build Its Volunteer Foundation

Milam House, a residential center with a home-like atmosphere for HIV+ persons, is planning the expansion of its volunteer program. Volunteer coordinator Diane Williams is currently working to gain 50 new volunteers by January 1995. Volunteers staff care-shifts at Milam House every day and offer emotional and social support, as well as provide transportation needs, prepare food and see to other household needs as they arise. The Milam House volunteers usually staff 2 four- or five-hour shifts a month. For more information, contact the administrative office at (713) 520-9248.

Alley Theatre's 1994-95 Season to Include *Angels in America*

Both parts of Tony Kushner's Tony Award-winning epic, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, will have a Southwestern premiere at the Alley Theatre during its 1994-95 season. The stunning drama, about life in this age of AIDS, is divided into two parts. Part I: *Millennium Approaches* won four Tony Awards, as well as the Pulitzer Prize, in 1993; Part II: *Perestroika* won six Tony Awards in 1994. Part I will run March 23 through May 14, 1995 and Part II will run April 13 through May 14, 1995. Alley Associate Director Michael Wilson will direct. Also during the Alley's 48th season will be productions of Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning drama *Three Tall Women* (February 10-March 11, 1995), Arthur Miller's enduring classic *The Crucible* (October 14-November 19, 1994), and the all-new version of the musical thriller *Jekyll & Hyde* (January 20-February 19).

Publisher Offers Libraries Free Copy of New Gay Teen Book

Alyson Publications, through a special offer, is making one of their popular books concerning issues vitally important to gay teenagers available to libraries at no cost.

Two Teenagers in Twenty is a new edition of *One Teenager in Ten*, a book

originally issued in 1983 by Alyson. The collection of essays by gay and lesbian youth was praised by reviewers, and editor Ann Heron expanded the new edition with 19 new essays that reflect the realities of being young and gay in the 1990s.

Heron says that unfortunately the 90s are no easier for gay and lesbian youth than the 80s. "The sense of isolation and despair in the stories I received in 1993 was even stronger than a decade ago." Tragically, in fact, one contributor committed suicide before the book went to press.

Because of tragedies like this, publisher Sasha Alyson started a free pen-pal service for gay and lesbian teenagers and announced it in the back of the first edition of the book. "Thousands of kids have benefited," says Alyson. "Some have written, years later, to say that this service saved their lives."

"With this new book, we wanted to do still more," continues Alyson. "So here's our offer: We'll send a free copy of *Two Teenagers in Twenty* to any public or school library that requests it."

The offer is good through July 30, 1994. Requests must be made on library letterhead and are limited to one book per library.

DIFFA Launches New "Safer Sex is Hot Sex" Campaign

After the first campaign was besieged with controversy four years ago, Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA), along with the funding of the Red Hot Organization, has released a second campaign that strives to be just as provocative.

"This is a campaign for public awareness. We want an emotional response, a positive statement coupled with lifesaving advice," says Rosemary Kuropat, DIFFA's Executive Director. "We want people to stop and stare—that's what this is all about. You've got to get their attention before they'll listen to you."

The work of fashion photographer Steven Klein in this year's campaign is more subtle than the stark studio shots by Steven Meisel four years ago. Klein chose natural forest settings that frame the five couples in trees and shaded light, but the "Safer Sex is Hot Sex" message comes across loud and clear.

Posters retail for \$12.95 and can be ordered from A Different Light Bookstore by calling 1-800-343-4002. T-shirts are available through Don't Panic! for \$18 by calling 1-800-457-2642.

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Houston. Naturally, Houston's KPFT has tended to be the poor stepchild of the lot, the only station in a city that is, by comparison, admittedly more conservative. Though that conservatism had an impact on the programming (the atheist show is gone; *Breakthrough*, the immensely popular lesbian music program now silenced), there has been a consistent lesbian and gay presence on KPFT.

In its former life, *Voices* was criminal-cum-politico Ray Hill's gay agenda vehicle, Waldenstein. When Hill left as station manager, the station was on the brink of failure. Jean Palmquist came, changed things up a bit and stayed a practically record eight years, somewhat of a novel tenure for stations like KPFT. And while the new manager has shaken things up a bit by such sins as canceling *Breakthrough*, KPFT is on the air once more with renewed power, if not powerful financial backing. Their operating budget of about \$400,000 is what most FM stations spend on breakfast.

Then again, other stations don't have what KPFT has, either—over 100 volunteers that keep the broadcast machine, if not humming smoothly, at least running consistently. And make no mistake, the volunteers on *Lesbian & Gay Voices* are a dedicated, diverse and sometimes surprisingly talented lot.



Nancy Ford and Jack Valinski share a microphone and mutual respect.

"We had a transgender person let me know they did not like a comment that I had made," confesses Bell. "That led to a discussion, which led us to doing a panel with transgendered people, which led to them coming and helping us volunteer to do a fund drive."

Days before the live broadcast, Bell and Producer Donna Gonier enjoy dinner in an intimate corner of the Museum Café—one of the precious few times they will be able to slow down and relax before the next chaotic weeks of Pride. A severely allergic reaction to cigarette smoke will relegate her to KPFT's broadcast booth just two houses down from the Lovett Inn, but no matter of distance from the live remote will ever remotely take Bell far from the lively action. Pride Week organizer, NOW activist, mother of two, almost more dynamo than dyke, Bell was an integral part of the smoothly run March on Washington.

"I got to read names. And the person I went after was Ryan White's mother. It was all very moving," says Bell, speaking in her warm, real voice that provides the program with a wonderfully rich, convivial air. "Plus, I got to sit close to Liza."

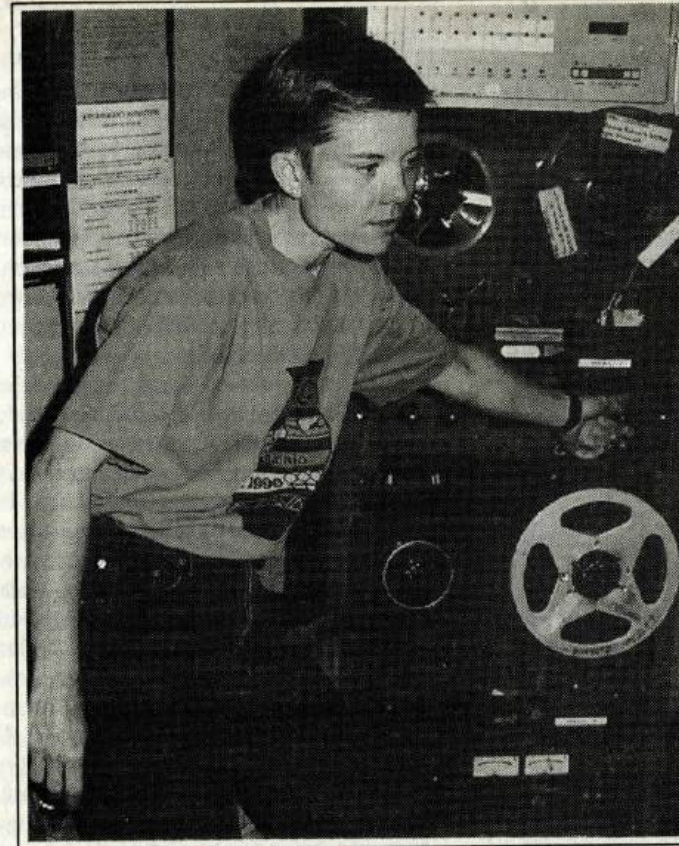
Strangely enough, it was during Bell's elbow-rubbing with national celebrity activists that *Voices* uttered its first word. She had worked previously with Valinski on *Waldenstein*, but this was to be their first venture together where they called the shots, where it was their voices heard, their thoughts and opinions broadcast, unfettered and uncensored. Bell and Valinski, together with Gonier as producer, would turn the former *Waldenstein* into the varied vocal forum *Voices* is today. And *Voices* has been the mouthpiece for many.

Randy Shilts spoke to *Voices* before he uttered a word to *60 Minutes*. They scooped *20/20* on the lesbians of attacked Camp Sister Spirit. Edward Albee has been a guest, as have gay music pioneers Romanovsky & Phillips, singer Pinque, comedienne Kate Clinton and the Five Lesbian Brothers, and Montrose Clinic founder Bill Scott. Openly gay *Post* columnist Juan Palomo is a regular contributor.

Though you can listen to almost any *Voices* broadcast and hear everyone is definitely having fun on the radio—missing cues, dissing each other's mistakes, simply having the enviable freedom to shoot off their mouths—they, like so many activists and volunteers, have a deep compassion and seemingly undying dedication to care for that same community of which they are members. No matter how much they talk, they are always very much aware of who they are addressing.

"This woman called and won tickets one night during giveaway," says Bell. "She asked if I would mail them to her, which is not the normal procedure. You usually have to come by and pick them up, but she lived in *Vidor*! And she said she goes in *her car* to listen. I have had people say it's been somewhat of a lifeline."

Gonier concurs. "I think it's important people listen to the show for a couple reasons. One being there are so many queers out there that think they're not discriminated against...that the political state doesn't touch



Producer Donna Gonier cues queer news.

them. Maybe they'll hear something [on *Voices*] that touches them personally that makes them relate and then maybe they'll realize.

"I feel that the people who aren't out are dying inside. That's what it was like for me. That was no way to live life. Maybe if there was a radio show, I wouldn't have had to wait [to come out] until I was 29."

Lush music filters through the Museum, past rich art, over delicious food and expertly choreographed servers. Nearby, two women kiss. Two men hold hands at a nearby table. Allow your mind to drift, and you could forget this is one of few safe, homo-friendly havens, that this is not a scene that could be played out in the middle of Houston's or the Black-eyed Pea.

"I do it to make a difference to people who aren't out," proclaims Gonier softly. "Because I struggled with it so much."

"We don't have a promotions budget," explains Valinski. "We put some flyers out and they go in the bars and, nothing against the bars, but that's not necessarily the crowd we need to attract. We need to attract the people who don't have an opportunity to pick up a gay newspaper."

Who, perhaps? Someone in *Vidor*? Someone smothered in decades of guilt over the allegedly devious nature of their sexuality? Someone crying for a role model, someone, anyone, who would tell them they weren't a disgusting abomination? It's not an uncommon feeling in the homosexual community. But feelings can be repressed. Hidden. Forgotten. And far too many gays and lesbians seem to have forgotten Life Before Acceptance and that with enlightenment comes responsibility.

"Sometimes I get angry," admits Valinski. "I can understand not everybody wants to get up in front of a mike or in front of a crowd, but let's not say, 'My lover and I just want to go out in the suburbs and live

our life.' If [you're] into that and having that lawn and stuff like that, talk to your neighbors, be honest with your boss. That's the only way we're going to be able to change things."

"We grow up thinking we're terrible people because society has told we're the worst type of people. We suffer the worst type of emotional child abuse, in a sense, because we have nowhere to go. The church is against us, the government is against us, the media, for the most part, is against us. Everything we know and see. It makes me angry."

Small, with quiet strength, Q-Patrol's Nancy Michon finishes her on-air interview, and she drifts back to the party.

"I think it's good to have ourselves reflected back," she says. "Things that heterosexuals take for granted. They see themselves on TV; they hear themselves on the radio. If we have a show like this, we can tune in and relate to something for a change." She seems pensive, thoughtful, purposeful, a bit hushed after leaving the microphone.

It's something that happens to practically every guest.

Donna Gonier eyes the control board over volunteer Zachary Steele's shoulder. Through the glass is Deborah Bell, sitting at a table before the mike and the phone. Suddenly, all break into laughter, sharing some hidden joke relayed through headphones and control lights. Steele's hands busily hit dials.

"Jack says, 'We're back'," laughs Bell. "No, you're not, Jack."

Gonier smiles, explaining, "He's just talking away over the music. He doesn't know he's not on."

But he'll figure it out and his co-host Bell knows it. "He'll call," she says confidently.

The phone rings.

"Yes, Jack," Bell answers.

Valinski claims the women did not tell him they were going to go to music before coming back to him. The scene has that guilty-pleasure feel of seeing Carol Burnett and Harvey Korman screw up so badly they can't keep the sketch due to uncontrollable laughter. Indeed, to hear him and Bell together, they seem a hysterically dysfunctional, gay version of Eunice and Ed.

"I love Jack," says Bell. "He says he's told his mother that he's finally met the right woman. The only problem is she's a lesbian."

Columnist Juan Palomo believes the show serves a vital purpose in the community. "It would be nice to have this on a full-time basis, either this show or something like it, but the money's not there. Where else would you hear what you hear on *Lesbian & Gay Voices*?"

"What would be the optimum," suggests Anderson, "Is that we don't have to have *Lesbian & Gay Voices*. We don't have to have all these goddamn queer shows, because we're just another one of the group. God knows when it will ever get to that point, but wouldn't it be wonderful?"

It would. But then we wouldn't have nearly as much fun hearing the vocal locals on KPFT's *Voices*, either.

A contributing writer to *OutSmart*, Steven Foster is currently working on destroying every *Flinstones* promotional item and seeing that *Ace of Base* CDs are no longer allowed in this country.

The month of June is marked for celebration as the development of an oppressed population and culture continues to unfold. Gay Games IV, Stonewall 25 and countless lesbian and gay activities nationwide indicate the maturation of a fledgling "subgroup" into a formidable cultural, social and political people. This collective maturation process is possible because of the willingness of each individual to heal from the wounds of oppression.

Like the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement, the dream of equality for gays and lesbians was passively awaiting a spark to ignite the flame. That spark, Stonewall, is ever so similar to the one Rosa Parks ignited, beginning the Civil Rights movement of the sixties. Although unlikely aware at the time, individuals involved in the Stonewall riots were taking stands both personal and political against their own oppression. Similarly, this celebratory month offers an opportunity for all lesbians and gays to individually continue their personal healing while collectively contributing to the development of the culture. *There is no separation, the personal is the political!*

When children are born, they are at least momentarily free from the binds of oppression. From the moment of birth, however, the individual begins to learn the limits of his or her inherent freedom. If "fortunate" enough to be born into the dominant culture, these restrictions may be limited. However, for many, there are restrictions such as sex, race, religion, as well as other socioeconomic factors. These restrictions are what I call learned oppression. Sexual orientation to the young gay or lesbian is additional oppression that is being learned even though they are yet unaware of their inclusion in this oppressed category. Children learn from every major institution overtly and covertly that homosexuality is wrong, sick, abhorrent, immoral and often illegal. Unknowingly, young gay and lesbian children are introjecting these "truths" into their psyche, only to become these "horrible" descriptors once their sexual identity is realized. In an attempt to resist these traits, individuals will attempt to suppress and deny their sexual feelings.

Children raised in most oppressive situations learn adaptive skills to help them survive in the system. In general, they are supported by family, peers and, most importantly, by others in their group. Gay and lesbian children are not privy to these types of supports and end up, at least temporarily, isolated in their struggle to survive later in life.



STONEWALL, GAY GAMES and GAY PRIDE:

UNSEEN
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PERSONAL
AND COMMUNITY
GROWTH

by Patrick Vachon

As with other types of oppression, lesbian and gay children internalize a sense of inferiority and shame, which follows them past their self-awareness phase and into adulthood. The healing components which follow must include self-actualization and self-empowerment. As this occurs within each individual, the actualization and empowerment of the culture results.

As you might now be able to predict, activities such as the Gay Games and Cultural Events, Stonewall Twenty five, and Gay Pride celebrations everywhere provide an excellent avenue for self-empowerment and -actualization. These events allow each individual the opportunity to cast away the shame imposed by our culture and join with thousands of others in their healing endeavor. Psychologically, this allows for the restructuring of a belief and value system that is consistent with the individual and collective well-being.

Increased positive visibility and role models from athletics, cultural events, lobbying, and demonstrations allows for the replacement of self-hatred and shame by pride and self-love.

In my practice, countless numbers of individuals have returned from gay and lesbian events, such as Gay Pride celebrations, The Names Project, Marches on Austin and Washington and gay athletic events, stating a sense of overwhelming pride. Many return also with a sense of loss, stating that the high was short lived only to be replaced by an oppressive reality. If utilized, all of these experiences can provide individual motivation for change. Once experiencing the joy of these events, most people will be less content with accepting the status quo. Self-actualization will potentially occur as the person continues to make new choices in the direction of personal growth. Again, as ever increasing numbers are empowered, we will continue to approach "critical mass," that point at which permanent social change occurs. This can only occur if the collective consciousness is changed, one mind at a time.

Since we now have a general idea as to how the process works on an individual and collective level, it seems appropriate to break the process down to its practical application.

The easiest aspect of this process to integrate into our consciousness is the feeling that results from a shared mission. The collective energy exuded by hundreds or thousands of people joined to-

gether for any one purpose is an energy of oneness. There is a sense of strength and power that energizes even the most resistant individuals. It is through this sameness that we connect. Like other relationships, however, it is through our differences that we truly reach our growth potential.

These differences, which contribute to our separateness, are apparent in two very distinct areas. First, as with any group, there are differences within and between both individuals and subgroups of the lesbian/gay community. Secondly there are differences, and thus separation, between the gay/lesbian and non-gay population.

It is quite interesting that, as a community, the lesbian and gay population strives for equality and justice for the group, while criticizing and judging the diversity of its very membership. This is a major factor which divides us and reinforces oppression. With this in mind, I would invite everyone to remain conscious during the upcoming events. As you look around, enjoy the energy that sameness evokes, but pay special attention to the energy that evokes judgment, criticism or condemnation of your lesbian/gay brothers and sisters. Pay special attention to thoughts of attack and judgment that condemn someone else. Generally this will appear as a difference from how you see yourself. You might find yourself being critical of someone in drag, leather, or over- or under-dressed. They might appear to be too heavy, too thin, too young or too old. They might even appear to be too masculine or too feminine. (This seems to be the most insidious condemnation). Allow your criticism to surface; don't pretend it's not there. But once acknowledged, you might ask yourself what it is about you that doesn't allow for the extension of unconditional love to a brother or sister. The answer often lies in one's own insecurity with your own masculinity, femininity, weight, height or other physical or personality trait. In addition, outside attack is often an attempt to make someone feel more powerful, which indirectly implies an inferior self-concept. Keeping in mind the common goal of community, we must remember that all judgment is self-judgment, all criticism is self-criticism and all hatred is self-hatred. The healing of the individual is again necessary for the collective healing of the community. As we begin to know and understand our differences, we will maximize our potential to grow together. Again, it is through our sameness as gay and lesbian people that we connect but *it is through our differences that we truly grow.*

If we were able to master the above concept as individuals and as a community, the second way in which we sabotage our progress

would follow much more easily. We would then extend this concept outward to include non-gay individuals who may perceive differently than ourselves. Ultimately, the process would allow all humankind to accept each

"Increased positive visibility and role models from athletics, cultural events, lobbying, and demonstrations allows for the replacement of self-hatred and shame by pride and self-love."

other's differences and value how each contributes to the common good. One way that we can move in this direction is to truly try and understand why there is resistance against lesbian and gay people. As we do this, we would likely conclude that most of our separation is due to a lack of understanding and thus fear of the unknown. Extension of our understanding and willingness to connect might manifest through continued education and compassion. This process would gradually dispel fear and create an environment for equality for all people to materialize.

Although this idea may seem unreachable, we as individuals can implement the process on its most basic levels. As individuals, we can attempt to educate first those closest and most directly related to us. We might attempt to include people such as family, col-

leagues and neighbors into our everyday gay/lesbian lives. We will likely need to be more vulnerable as we allow people to see parts of our lives of which they are yet unaware. It will be through our *defenselessness* that we will allow people to get close and ultimately accept us. We as individuals can have our minds changed, which will allow for the transformation of our "Community Mind" to one of tolerance, equality and justice.

Then and only then, when we exude the combined consciousness of equality, can we realistically expect reciprocity. It is not really within our power to change the minds of others; it is, however, within us to create a safe, loving environment and to let others see and experience this love. Then they can choose to change their own minds.

As we as individuals celebrate our pride, let us keep in mind that there is a long way to go in reaching our optimum goal of equality. We can begin this most effectively by starting with ourselves. Stay conscious, be aware of your own judgement and criticism, and remember that "The individual is the political".

Patrick J. Vachon LMSW-ACP is a Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist in private practice at New Counseling Center in Houston and can be reached at (713) 529-1913.

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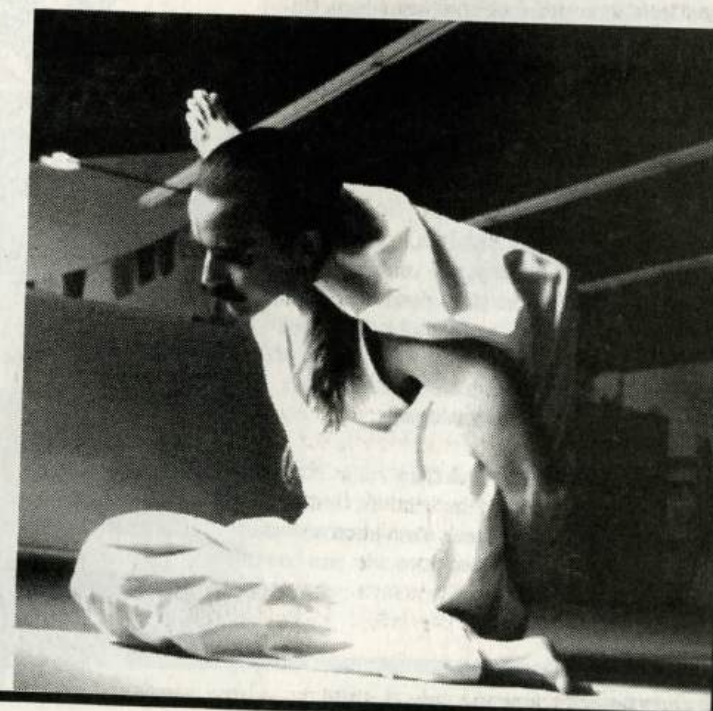
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EARLY IN THE MORNING OF JUNE 28, 1969, a routine police raid on the Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street in New York City turned into history's first gay riot when the patrons put up an unexpected resistance. Police ordered customers to leave the bar, then began arresting employees, as well as several drag queens. Patrons reacted, throwing pennies, followed by beer bottles, bricks, and even a parking meter, at police. When reinforcements arrived, the crowd, estimated from 200 to 400, dispersed; however, they returned for the next several evenings as the riots continued.

The Stonewall Rebellion, as we all know, is now seen as marking the beginning of the lesbian/gay movement. We celebrate its anniversary every year, and this year we are commemorating the 25th anniversary. However, we should all remember that prior to those brutal summer nights in June of 1969, many people, groups and events contributed to the gay rights movement.

BEFORE STONEWALL...

BEFORE STONEWALL... Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, a German who used the term *urnings* to describe gays of his era, was the first known person in modern times to publicly speak out for gay rights. On August 29, 1867 in Munich, Ulrichs delivered a speech to the Congress of Jurists demanding that they revise the German penal legislation regarding homosexual acts. Unfortunately, Ulrichs' goals were unfulfilled. Five years after his speech, Germany unified with Prussia and adopted the Prussian legal code, which included Paragraph 175, a law that made male homosexuality illegal throughout the entire German nation.



Karl Ulrichs used the term *urnings* to describe homosexuals in mid-nineteenth century Germany.

BEFORE STONEWALL... George Cecil Ives formed in 1894 one of the earliest-known gay organizations in England. The Order of Chaeronea took its name from the Greek battle of 338 B.C.E. at which the Sacred Band of Thebes, a military unit made up of male couples, was annihilated by the Macedonians.

BEFORE STONEWALL... Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, along with several associates, formed the Scientific Humanitarian Committee in 1897 in Germany. The committee's main purpose was to decriminalize homosexuality by lobbying to remove the anti-homosexual Paragraph 175 from Germany's penal code.

BY ERIC L. ROLAND

Although unsuccessful at overturning Paragraph 175, the committee completed a great deal of important work for homosexual rights until the Nazis forced it to disband in 1933.

BEFORE STONEWALL... Henry Gerber, who had lived in Germany and had been influenced by the gay movement there, incorporated the Society for Human Rights as a nonprofit organization in Illinois in 1924. Believed to be the first homosexual organization in the U.S., it published two issues of the country's first gay liberation magazine, *Friendship and Freedom*. The group dissolved after a few months when the wife of one member turned over some of the group's literature to the police. Gerber was arrested, but the charges were later dismissed.

BEFORE STONEWALL... Harry Hay, who four months earlier had written a prospectus calling for the "androgynous minority" to unite, formed what soon became known as the Mattachine Society on November 11, 1950. Combining the politics and strategies of the Communist Party with elaborate initiation rites and secrecy, it was the first gay organization to grow and give rise to other organizations. Gay historians agree that it represents the start of today's organized gay movement. [Note: The name *Mattachine* comes from

medieval French history when it referred to jesters who always wore masks in public.)

BEFORE STONEWALL... The Black Cat, one of San Francisco's most famous gay bars, was permitted the right to remain open in 1951 after the California Supreme Court unanimously rejected an effort to close it. It was the first time the gay community had legally won the right to gather openly and publicly as homosexuals.

BEFORE STONEWALL... Also in 1951, the Knights of the Clock, this country's first interracial gay social group, was formed in Los Angeles.

BEFORE STONEWALL... In 1952 the Mattachine Society, in a shift from discussion group to activism, rallied behind Dale Jennings, a Los Angeles man accused of solicitation, who acknowledged being gay but denied having solicited for sex. The charges were dismissed, and the Mattachine Society received media coverage, consequently causing a surge in membership and morale.

BEFORE STONEWALL... ONE, Inc., an early gay organization, held its first meeting on October 15, 1952. Three months later they began publishing the country's first openly gay magazine to achieve wide circulation. The U.S. Post Office attempted censorship of the magazine, claiming that articles about homosexuality were inherently obscene, through January 1958 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in ONE's favor.

BEFORE STONEWALL... The Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian organization in the U.S., formed in San Francisco in 1955. Originally a social club, the group grew into a national organization with educational and political as well as social goals. The following year they began publishing *The Ladder*, a lesbian magazine.

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A Mattachine Society advertisement from the early 1960s reflects the sentiments of the day.

BEFORE STONEWALL... The Church of ONE Brotherhood, the first documented gay church, was founded in Los Angeles in 1956.

BEFORE STONEWALL... Jose Sarria received 5600 votes when he ran for city supervisor in San Francisco in 1961. He is believed to be the first openly gay person to run for public office in the U.S.

BEFORE STONEWALL... New York activist Randy Wicker organized in 1963 what is believed to have been the first gay rights picket, protesting unfair treatment of gays by the military, at a Draft Induction Center.

BEFORE STONEWALL... 500 lesbians and gay men crossed a picket line of police officers to attend San Francisco's first drag ball in early 1965. The police officers photographed everybody who went in and out of the floodlit entrance. Subsequent publicity led to the appointment of a police liaison to the gay community.

BEFORE STONEWALL... Later in 1965 the Daughters of Bilitis, the Mattachine Society and other gay organizations picketed the State Department protesting its security policies. There were also public demonstrations at the Civil Service Commission, the Pentagon, the White House, and at Independence Hall calling for homosexual rights.

BEFORE STONEWALL... The Metropolitan Community Church met for the first time on October 6, 1968 in Los Angeles. Founded by the Rev. Troy Perry as a non-denominational church for the gay community, it has spawned branch churches in almost every city in the country.

This article was researched and compiled using *Alyson Almanac: A Treasury of Information for the Gay and Lesbian Community*, Boston: Alyson Publications, 1989.

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11TH STREET CAFE:

Down Home Cookin'

Near Downtown

by Tom Fricke

Where is the 11th Street Cafe? On 11th Street, of course. Actually, it sits on the corner of 11th and Studewood, which is North Montrose Boulevard, for those of you who don't venture out even that far. Housed in a 1940s-style orange brick building, it is the type of small commercial structure you have probably passed a hundred times without paying it much notice.

I chatted with proprietress Pat Nunn beneath the illuminated chili peppers and framed poster prints, amid decor reminiscent of the cafe's bygone days as a barbecue establishment. It was a Saturday morning, and tables were full with diners pouring syrup on stacks of pancakes, mopping clean their plates with bits of biscuit or toast, holding a newspaper with one hand and a cup of coffee in the other—the usual activities in a popular, busy breakfast spot. The cafe has a pretty steady business, said Pat, but weekend mornings tend to be their peak periods.

Born in Houston, Pat traveled the countryside with her career-military husband, until they finally settled back in Houston. Fifteen years ago, they purchased the 11th Street Barbecue from two brothers who owned a couple of barbecue restaurants in the Heights. Early



on, the barbecue pit caught fire—evidently there was more to the secret sauce than we were told—and the name changed to 11th Street Cafe.

Most of the Cafe's staff have been with Pat for years. Lena, the cook, had worked for the "Barbecue Brothers" and quit. She only returned when she heard that nuns had bought the place. To her surprise, the Nunns were no nuns at all! Greg started washing dishes at 15. Now he is the pizza maker. The waitresses have all been around since Mel's Diner went into reruns. This is what makes the restaurant so homey and enjoyable.

Pat says her customers are very loyal. She recalls the time when 11th Street Cafe was not mentioned in the "Best Burgers of Houston" contest in one of those *other* publications. One of her customers was so incensed that he wrote a letter of complaint, and the letter was published.

11th Street's success has been due in part to the growth of the Heights. Over the past ten years, there has been an increasing interest in this near-downtown community. Many of the contractors that come to the Heights to work stop at the 11th Street. A large bulletin board greets you at the door, filled with names and numbers and a variety of resources, ranging from plumbers to piano tuners. If you're in the market to have your house remodeled, stop by and check out the board.

The 11th Street Cafe is one of those places that I had always intended to try but never had. It was a surprising circumstance that brought me there. I had scheduled a review for one of those trendy Montrose restaurants that seem to be popping up all over when I received word that the management had said, "We have too much

business already." Wow! I had very nearly made the fatal blunder of writing yet another favorable review, which would have generated more business and added to the already burdensome load of profit-making. Recognizing the error of my ways, I began the search for a restaurant that our readers would want to know about—one that serves the community, one that is fun and reasonably priced. And there it was—buried in my list of *Places I've Been Meaning To Try*. If the 11th Street Cafe isn't on your list of places you're meaning to try, put it there—and at the top!

I'm sure the reasonable prices contribute to the popularity of the 11th Street breakfast. Egg dishes start at \$2.80 for two eggs and are served with delicious homemade hash browns or grits and toast or biscuits. I especially like to sop up the cream gravy

with Lena's biscuits (\$1.95 a la carte), which is definitely not for the cholesterol-shy. Three-egg omelettes start at \$3.95 for a Cheese Omelette (American or Swiss). Pancakes and French Toast are also available from \$1.95. During the week, there is a variety of daily specials. There's no rhyme or reason to the menu schedule, however I am told that Thursday is usually pork-roast day. Other specials typically served (all \$5-\$6) include chicken and dumplings, stuffed peppers and meat loaf. There is also a large variety of sandwiches and entrees, from \$2.35 for a grilled cheese to \$6.75 for chicken-fried steak or pork chops. After 5 p.m. pizzas are made from scratch. Pat insists they are tossed in the air, just like the old days, but I wasn't permitted back to the kitchen to check on them. The Cafe Combo (starting at \$7.35 for a small) is an Italian-style pepperoni, Italian sausage, onions, olives, bell peppers and mushrooms. For the less carnivore of us, the cafe serves a Vegetable Delight (\$6.75 small) consisting of mushrooms, onions, tomatoes, bell peppers and black and green olives.

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The 11th Street Cafe, in the Heights at 11th and Studewood. ▼

Tom Fricke is the proprietor of The Lovett Inn, a distinctive Montrose bed-and-breakfast inn.

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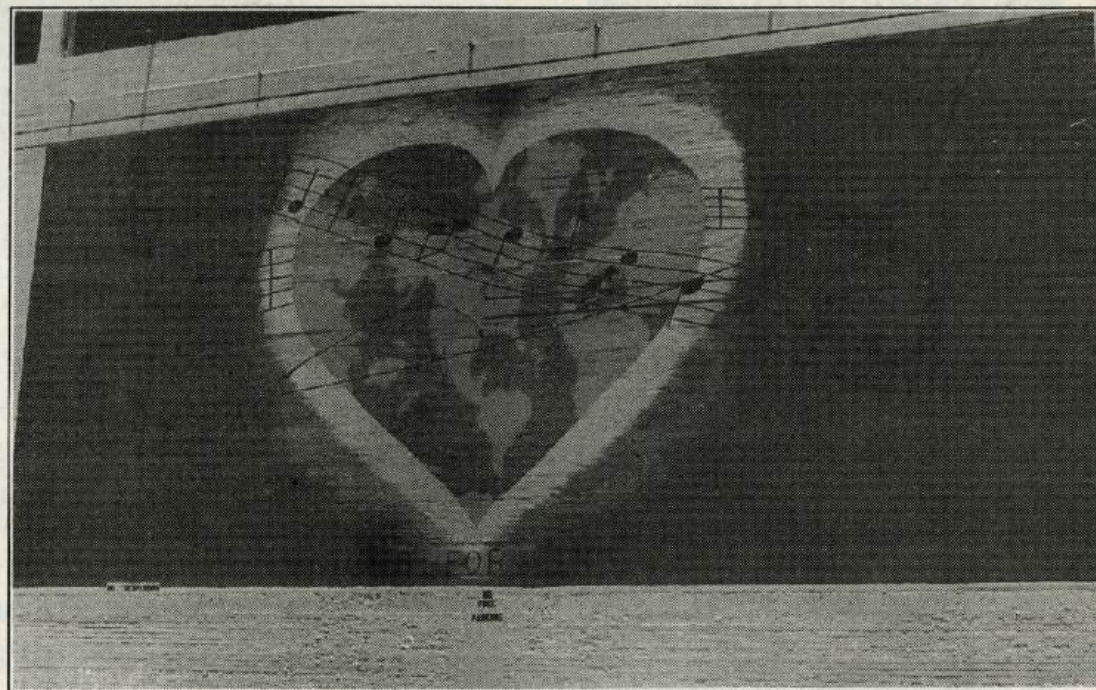
1 large can blueberry, cherry, or apple pie filling or the fruit of your choice
1 box butter pecan cake mix (dry)
1 stick melted butter or margarine
vanilla ice cream

Spread pie filling in 9" x 11" glass baking dish 'til bottom is covered. Sprinkle dry cake mix over fruit, and drizzle butter or margarine over cake mix. Bake in 375° oven for forty-five minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Serve crust down with a scoop of ice cream while stand around blazing trash can.

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Bringing Music to The Eyes: Kermit Eisenhut's Voices for Life Mural Embraces Downtown Houston

DAILY COMMUTERS AND OCCASIONAL VISITORS TO DOWNTOWN Houston will be looking up, inadvertently cracking smiles, and maybe even feeling elated as they pass the Rice Rittenhouse parking garage at the intersection of Milam and Texas. What they'll be looking at is a heart-shaped world bursting forth from its brilliant crimson universe and embraced by a string of musical notes representing our voices for life.

BY
ERIC L.
ROLAND

Designed by Houston artist, Kermit Eisenhut, the 50-by-20-foot mural is the logo for Voices for Life, a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 and dedicated to improving the quality of life for people living with AIDS. In late 1992, the organization produced a double CD/cassette containing a 30-track compilation of performances by a diverse group of Houston musical artists. The album, which is still being sold through various local gift shops and record stores, benefits local direct-service AIDS organizations. Eisenhut's original design graced the cover of the 1992 CD and cassette and now, a year and a half later, is emblazoned on the side of a building in downtown Houston.

"This mural is in memory of everyone who has died of AIDS and in honor of everyone who currently suffers from the disease," Eisenhut says. "The casualty list from the war with AIDS grows longer with each passing day. Increasing awareness through projects such as Voices for Life is the

only way we are ever going to win this horrible battle with AIDS."

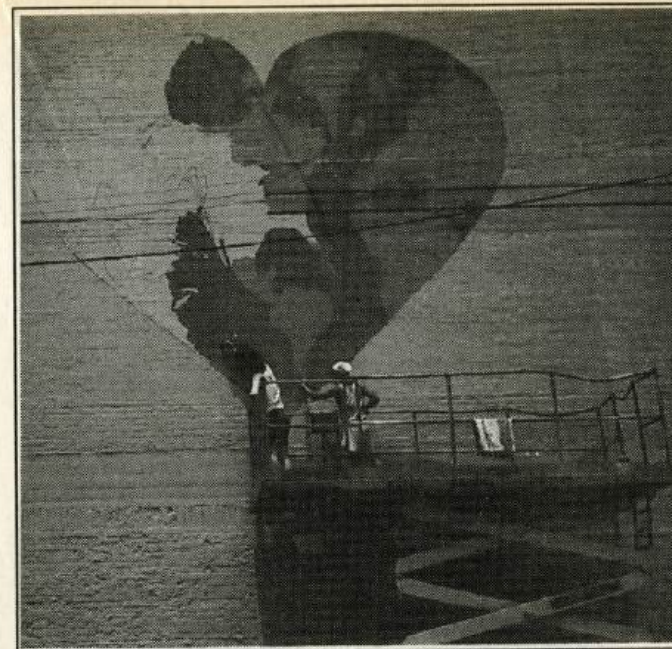
Eisenhut says the mural will be dedicated to Bob Howery at a ribbon-cutting ceremony tentatively scheduled for later this summer. Howery, who designed and constructed large backdrops for the Houston Grand Opera before he died, helped Eisenhut coordinate the unusually large dimensions, transforming the small design into the enormous mural.

With the help of Howery's design specifications and a no-rain forecast, Eisenhut and five volunteers—Houston Community College's Fine Arts Director Serge Kovalchuk and local artists Wade Schmitz, Juan McKinney, Roberto Ramos and Julie Willan—worked throughout the Memorial Day weekend to complete the mural.

"There were four different times that I tried to get the wall done," recalls the 40-year-old Eisenhut. "I had all the artists lined up and all the scaffolding lined up, then I'd get to the weekend and there would be a 40 to 50 percent chance of rain. I couldn't have all that equipment delivered to the spot and then have it rain—I couldn't take that chance."

"But this past Memorial Day weekend, I said, 'I'm going for it no matter what.' We went full blast with no rain!" Eisenhut exclaims. "And we finished right when I said at 5 o'clock on Memorial Day."

The process, Eisenhut says, began on Saturday morning when the group of artists grafted the image onto the wall, working in three-foot-square increments set with chalk lines. While the artists took turns directing from a distance, the artists who weren't directing painted the green continents and blue waters of the heart-shaped globe using rollers



and a variety of brushes. Upon completion of the globe, they painted the surrounding red "universe" and finished with the tedious process of painting the swirling musical notes.

Although the actual painting took only a weekend to complete, the mural has been in the planning stages for over a year. The idea was conceived during the production of the Voices for Life album, and Eisenhut even had practice rendering the logo on a large scale when a video for the opening song, "Shades of Gray," contained a backdrop of the enlarged logo.

"The idea for the wall happened when I was picking up Scott, my other half, at the Lancaster Hotel where he works," recalls Eisenhut. "I saw them painting out an old logo on the parking garage next to the hotel and



I thought, 'Ooooh, what a perfect place for the logo.'"

After approving the idea through Prime Assets Management, the owners of the garage, Eisenhut sought the approval of the Houston City Council. Councilwoman Eleanor Tinsley approved the idea but, unfortunately, with no mention of advertising the sale of the Voices for Life album.

Without any advertising, people looking at the mural would take it at face value—a colorful piece of art—but would not connect it with buying the album, which would then not benefit people living with AIDS. Therefore, Patrick Media is donating 250 Houston billboards to advertise the album. Although the billboards are being donated, the board members of Voices for Life are seeking \$25 sponsors for each billboard.

"People will be able to read the billboards and connect the logo downtown with the album and the organization," Eisenhut says. "Right now we're having a problem getting money for the billboards, so at the party following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, we'll have a donation table for people to sponsor a billboard."



Above: Artists (l to r) Roberto Ramos, Julie Willan and Kermit Eisenhut paint a portion of the heart-shaped world high up on scaffolding. At left (above and below): The mural in progress during Memorial Day weekend.

With the completion of the mural, which Eisenhut estimates will last at least five years, and the impending success of the billboards, the Voices for Life organization will soon have to come up with another project. But Eisenhut says he will be satisfied when this project is completely finished.

"I enjoy doing what I do for the community, and I want this to be successful for Houston," he says. "It's something Houston's all doing together as a community effort—gay, lesbian, straight."

"I've lost too many friends to the dreaded disease, and I have several friends who have AIDS," Eisenhut says. "I don't know what I can do but do what I do. I can't give money, but I can give art that raises more money than I could give anyway." ▼

Eric L. Roland is an editor for and frequent contributor to OutSmart. He and his husband, Jerial, are happy homo-makers living in Montrose.

KERMIT EISENHUT:

Gay Artist with a Soft Heart

Kermit Eisenhut, whose playful style and palate-knife renderings of abstract, realistic and surrealist subjects make him popular in the Houston art world, is probably best known for donating his craft to various charities, including the Human Rights Campaign, March of Dimes, Bering Community Service Foundation and the Special Olympics. As he says, "I can't give money, but I can give art that raises more money than I could give anyway."

Eisenhut, who is originally from a Cleveland, Ohio suburb called Rocky River, has called Houston home for the past 13 years. He usually creates art on canvas, although, when the mood strikes him, he'll design greeting cards or paint a piece of furniture, a hatbox, a plate or pottery. This summer, however, he's tackled the petite and the enormous.

With the recent "Pumped Up on Art" show, Eisenhut created a piece of art from a Chanel shoe autographed and donated by Houston First Lady



Elyse Lanier. Since Mrs. Lanier is known for her rose gardens, he opted to use the shoe as if it were a crystal vase and fill it with dried, red, sweetheart roses.

As for the enormous endeavor, Eisenhut spent Memorial Day weekend transforming the Voices for Life logo into a 50-by-20 foot mural on the side of the Rice Rittenhouse parking garage adjacent to the Lancaster Hotel and across from Jones Hall. The radiant mural is now a semi-permanent (Eisenhut was told he could "keep it up until the paint fades"), visual addition to downtown Houston's theater district.

Eisenhut dedicated himself to his artwork, successfully selling at galleries, four years ago after a back injury put him on disability and forced him to quit his nine-year job with Computer Output Printing. Shifting from artistry as a hobby to artistry as a career had always been a dream—a dream that he worked diligently to make real.

His flare for creating unusual pieces of art out of everyday objects benefited him in 1993, when he created a chair for the "Take A Seat" benefit hosted by DIFFA (Design Industry Foundation Fights AIDS), and again in March of this year when his denim jacket brought the second highest bid during DIFFA's annual live auction. Also, for the second consecutive year, Eisenhut designed the t-shirt and poster for *Vivo y Postivo*, a fund-raiser benefiting several local charities that was held at Pico's Restaurant in May.

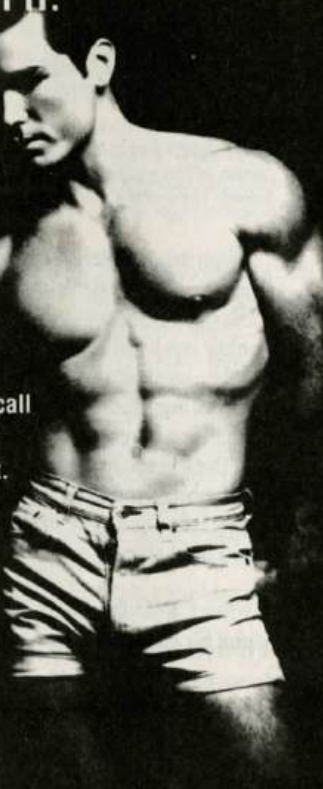
His current goals for the future include not only selling more art and continuing to help the community by donating art to charitable benefits, but also to open a gallery of his own as well as helping other artists by starting an artists' networking service.

Kermit Eisenhut's art is currently on display through July at Pico's Restaurant, Kirby and U.S. 59. An ongoing display of his paintings, as well as extensive murals, is at the Museum Restaurant and Bar, 1512 West Alabama; and Baich's Bar & Grille, 2016 Main at West Gray. Retail outlets for his work include the Changing Look, John Ludlam Fine Stationery, Unique Boutique, On the Brink, Etienne's Hair Salon, Lenache Nail Salon Extraordinaire and Elizabeth Swift Catering.

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SPEAKOUT



BY LACEY LEWIS

The response to the first article in a two-part series called "Sexual Freedom: Diverse or Perverse?", which was published in the May issue, has been interesting and intriguing. It is perhaps reflective of our often ambiguous and sometimes contradicting attitudes about our sexuality. The predominant feedback has been favorable. Several readers reported they felt more educated and less judgmental about a segment of our community that has often been shrouded in secrecy and misinformation. However, even this positive response was usually followed by a question about my motivation to write about this topic. Just as the line between preference and politically correct sexuality is blurred, so is the line between what is perceived as diverse or perverse. For those of you who didn't read the first article, it examined the issues around the emergence of a women-only S & M, bondage, discipline and leather club called F.I.S.T. My answer is paradoxical, in that it is both as simple and as complex as having respect for diversity within the lesbian, gay and bi community.

The seeds for the article were first planted as the result of researching the events of Stonewall, which I believe to be some of the most significant moments in our community's history. On that hot summer night of June 27, 1969, it was not 'Mainstream-Middle Class-Gay/Lesbian America' that filled the grubby bar in Manhattan that was known to its patrons as the Stonewall Inn. The Stonewall Rebellion was fought by what has often been considered the fringe element: drag queens, hustlers, bikers, street people, dykes, prostitutes, cruisers and leathermen. Yet the events that occurred over the next three days became the

cornerstone of the gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Some would prefer to rewrite that moment in history, to romanticize it, or make it about more glamorous and less obscure role models. And there are those who believe that a group of faggots, bull dykes and queer men in dresses, shocked and rocked our gay nation out of secrecy and oppression and created a movement that seeks to fight back against discrimination and homophobia.

The second motivator for the series was the outcome of some wonderful debates among both the gay and straight media to define the typical gay person, as if such a being existed. Since the national March on Washington, publications from *Newsweek* to *The Advocate* have been exploring the identity issues of gay men and women. While gay appears to be in and chic, there is no cookie-cutter version whereby the representative gay person can be stamped out or categorized. We are as diverse as the rest of the world. We come in all shapes and sizes, and we carry a multitude of varied belief systems.

The third and most significant motivation were the women themselves. It appeared to me that this segment of our community is so severely judged on the issues of political and sexual correctness that I felt they needed a safe forum to begin to open the lines of communication without condemnation. It is my desire that they can be granted a higher level of understanding and tolerance from a community that at times is too quick to criticize parts of our own family. The more I struggled to find a simple answer to the question of my initial motivation to write the series, the more complex and global the answer seemed to become. Perhaps the Pride Committee of Houston's mission statement is better able to define my own motivation when it states that their "purpose is to coordinate and promote events which celebrate the diversity, unity, and history of the Lesbian/Gay Community. . . We are here to commemorate, educate, and celebrate our pride and to create a path toward a positive future for all humanity not to exclude any segments of who we are as a people." I hope that, through these articles, I have been able to achieve at least a small part of such a noble cause.

Note: The second-part of the two-piece series will be run in the July 15 issue of OutSmart.

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A Fish By Any Other Name...

"I have certain beliefs about making films, and I believe I should deal with a subject I have a relationship with, and be able to make my art without taking a political vacation."

So says *Go Fish* producer/writer/director Rose Troche. If the statement seems early Spike Lee in tone, no surprise. So is the movie itself. With its shot-in-black-and-white-on-a-bake-sale-budget-art-film feel, *Go Fish* is the *She's Got To Have Her* that 90s lesbians have been clamoring for. Or, better, the *Raging Bulldyke* of our video dreams. The film was shot over the course of two years, starting at a time when the White House was Republican and Jesse Helms had deemed himself an art expert. The *Go Fish* logo, soon to be seen on bumper stickers and biceps alike, is a tracing of the ancient Christian piscatorian symbol, but bearing a big grin. Go figure.

Go Fish, scheduled for release by Samuel Goldwyn Studios in early July, is being heralded by critics, lesbians of power and even soothsayers at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival as "groundbreaking." A film about life and love, it offers a candid slice of urban lesbian life in the 90s. This romantic comedy follows a closely knit group of friends as they go on dates, endure fashion crises, oversleep, wish for and encounter love.

Sounds a lot like real life, doesn't it?

This latest addition to lesbian/gay cinema finally addresses the dearth of lesbian films—quality ones—that has been ashamedly apparent since the mid-80s release of *Desert Hearts*. Since that time, lesbian film buffs were thrown a bone with last season's highly disappointing *Claire of the Moon*, but overall, films by and

about lesbians are rarer than a separatist at a Rush Limbaugh book-signing.

It was hot, the day we all met. There we were, poolside at Houston's posh Omni Hotel, sweating. One interviewer after another, avant to mainstream, strolled cassette in hand to the umbrella'd cabana table, grilling *Go Fish*'s Troche and producer/writer/star/titles designer Guinevere Turner.

Rose seems relieved to learn she and Guin are about to be interviewed by *family*. "It's just so much more fun," she confesses.

She's right. It is fun. Fun to meet a couple of creative lesbians who are recognized and financially promoted by the studio "Big Boys." Fun to play Hollywood. Fun to watch the startled expressions of nearby tanned, blonde poolside loungers not expecting to share the sun and chlorine with the multi-pierced, serpentine-tattooed Troche.



The Fish Patrol (l-r): Rose Troche, V.S. Brodie (Evy) and Guinevere Turner.

NANCY FORD: Your production notes call *Go Fish* "a groundbreaking new film about life and love."

ROSE TROCHE: That's what Goldwyn calls it. It's an urban dyke tale that offers a new view. There hasn't been an urban dyke film yet.

It's *very* real. I was especially thrilled to see a movie with actual lesbians portraying the lesbian characters. *Desert Hearts* served its purpose for the 80s, but it was still straight women pretending to be us.

GUINEVERE TURNER: There are a lot of lesbians who would be happy to be in the movies.

ROSE: Yeah, so put them in the movies. The thing that's really kind of nifty about *Go Fish* is that everybody you see on screen is queer. And



Max (Guinevere Turner, left) and Ely (V.S. Brodie, right) have their own kind of foreplay in *Go Fish*, presented by The Samuel Goldwyn Company.

almost everybody behind the scenes is. *Swoon* is kind of like that, too. And *Poison*. They use a lot of the people around them—a lot of queers make them. There's a tradition of really, really queer filmmaking, and not just queer stories.

Is this your queer story?

ROSE: Yeah.

There's a passage in the film where you talk about the responsibility of a lesbian filmmaker—

ROSE: It's a lot of responsibility. And the responsibility shouldn't have to be there—it's a condition of there not being enough queer films out there. It becomes so pivotal for yours to represent everybody and everything.

GUINEVERE: It's a big task to represent the entire community because it's such a big community, and there's so many different kinds of people. We really set out to make a "happy movie"—not a crisis movie and not a movie that said "Oooh, am I—? Aren't I—?", or a movie that showed lesbians who were shaky about their identities or that lesbians might always be after straight people.

ROSE: It gets really tired because most of us who have lived our lives for so long, no longer asking those questions, but asking "Am I in the right relationship?" or "Who is going to be my next girlfriend, darn it already!?"

GUINEVERE (laughing): And we're *way* too smart to go after some straight woman.

Were you hoping to send some messages to the straight community?

ROSE: We didn't think the straight community was going to see this film.

Do you think they will now?

ROSE: I think they kinda will. Yeah.

GUINEVERE: Some of them will, anyway. And the ones who have so far, for the most part, have really liked it. They're saying "Hey, you're just like us!"

ROSE: I love the women who say "I saw your movie, and I really loved it. It's so crazy how it just stuck with me." (Rose raises her multi-ringed eyebrow). Mmmm-hmmm.... Part

of the problem is, there are not enough [dyke] movies. All we can all hope for is that *Go Fish* does really well, so we can see a whole other flood.

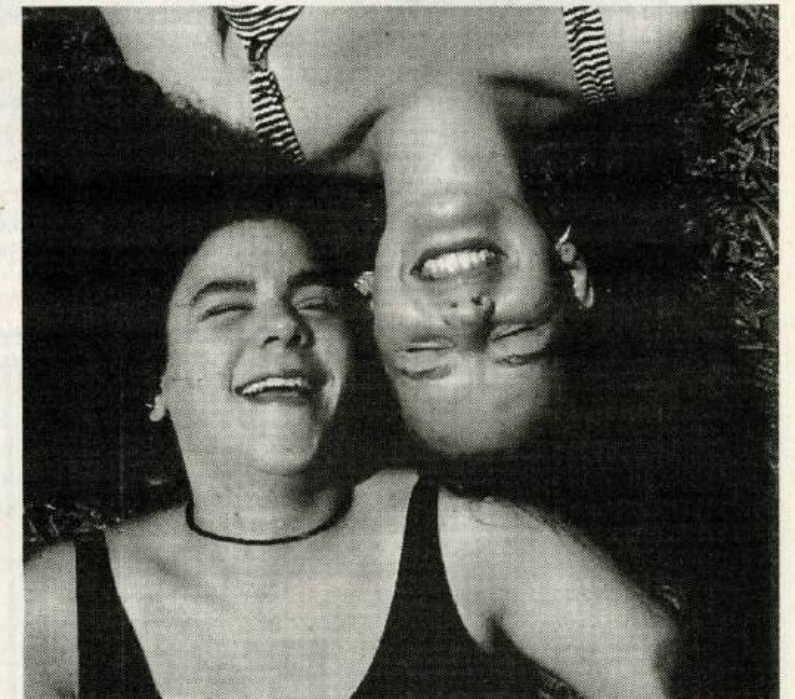
Go Fish II: The School? The production notes quotes Rose as saying, "These are real lesbians that no one's ever seen before." How did you find them?

ROSE: They're real lesbians. They're women who look like real women. They're dykes who look like real dykes. Because they are.

GUINEVERE: [There was] no screen test, no reading of the script. Anastasia, for example, [who portrays Daria, the many-loved Baby Butch] was a waitress in this restaurant we hung out at. We just said "We're making this movie. Do you want to play one of the characters?" She said "Hell, yeah. I'm a waitress. What else am I doing? I'll do it!"

The segment in which Evy comes out—

ROSE: —when she's outed by her ex-husband. That's how I would imagine it would be for me to come out to my mom.



Turner and Troche, on the grass at Houston's Omni Hotel. (Photo by Nancy Ford)

Hold on. Hold up. You're not out to your mom?

ROSE: I have not talked to my mom, really, essentially since I was 22. I came out three months after I moved away from my mom.

Wow.

ROSE: I don't talk to either of my parents.

Do you think either of them is likely to see a film by Rose Troche?
GUINEVERE: At this point it's highly possible that they might read about it.

ROSE: My mom works at a beauty shop, and we're in *Vogue* in July. With a picture spread. We'll also be in *Glamour* in August. Those are magazines I know she'll have at the shop. That might be a real indicator!

GUINEVERE: [My mother is] very excited at the fame aspect of it. When we were in Sundance [Film Festival] there was an article in the *New York Times*. To my mom, the *New York Times* is the equivalent to national television. When she saw [the article] she said "I got so excited and I was on the train and I was reading and I got to my office. I didn't know who to tell, so I ran to my gay friend Ed and I told him." I said, "Isn't that funny, Mom, how you're completely in the closet and I'm not." She still has never said, "So, you're a lesbian." But I think it's relatively obvious at this point.

You said so much in *Go Fish* about what a lesbian is, in terms of a lesbian is not necessarily someone who never has sex with a man. I thought that was very impactful and actually very controversial. Is there anything you didn't say in the film that you wanted to?

ROSE: I think *Go Fish* says a lot. It says a lesbian is not just white, it says a lesbian is not just rich, or a lesbian does not just look like this, beautiful or not beautiful, grungy

or not grungy. And there's a lot of things it doesn't say. We don't represent older women in the film. I used to think of that as more of a problem. But then, the thing you can't do, is think you can take on every single thing. All you're going to do is end up with a laundry list and not a movie that's enjoyable. There

lesbians we don't represent? Are the characters represented in *Go Fish* going to become the standard and anything outside of that is too much?

ROSE: Like, we go only this far in terms of acceptance and then when we see someone who really pushes it—

GUINEVERE: —those are dirty queers!

Go Fish is a welcome addition to the gay/lesbian film catalogue. A very entertaining, thoughtful, credulous chronicle of the lesbian

experience (well, *some* lesbian experiences), it's also refreshing to see lesbians portraying lesbians, unafraid to reveal the stories of their lives. But do you know any lesbian who *doesn't* think the story of her life would make a great movie?

Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and frequent contributor to the gay/lesbian press.

GO fish

Go Fish is the She's Got To Have Her that 90s lesbians have been clamoring for. Or, better, the Raging Bulldyke of our video dreams.

were things that we feel strongly about that we had to leave aside. We have older lesbian friends, and when they see [the film], I always feel a little bit bad because [older women] are cool. It's not that I don't want to put them in the movie...

GUINEVERE: There's no way we could encompass all lesbians. There's no way you can encompass all people. There's too much going on in the world. The scary thing to me is... everyone who sees it goes, "Oh, lesbians are nice! It looks just like my life!" Maybe everyone can accept all these women in the film. But can they accept the leather community? Can they accept any number of

O U T ▼ L A W

A QUESTION OF LIFE OR DEATH

by Connie Moore

In 1982, a young woman named Nancy Cruzan suffered a severe trauma in an automobile accident. At the time she was 25 years old. The accident left her in a permanent vegetative state, with little hope of recovery. Eight years later, she died.

What transpired between the time of the accident and the time of Nancy's death was a tragedy of another kind: a fight between her family members, who wanted permission to terminate her life support, and the Missouri state officials who blocked the way. This was a fight which went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. It was a fight which set the first right-to-die precedent in this country. But it was a fight which would not have happened if Nancy had executed a Directive to Physicians.

A Directive to Physicians (or Living Will) is a written statement which outlines a person's desires as to the use or continuation of artificial life support. It tells the person's attending physician to either avoid using or to terminate the use of life support if the patient is near death. It only takes effect when the physician certifies in writing that the person is suffering from an incurable or irreversible condition that would produce death without the application of life support and that the use of life support only serves to prolong the moment of death. The physician must either honor the Directive or make reasonable efforts to transfer the patient to another doctor who will honor it.

In Texas, the Directive is a standard form which has been around for over 15 years. The Natural Death Act, which authorizes the Directive, was updated in 1989 and again in 1991 for clarification, but the statute's overall import remained the same. Any competent adult may execute a written Directive, which should then be given to his or her physician. Likewise, a parent, spouse or guardian can execute a Directive on behalf of a person under age 18.

A written Directive must be signed in the presence of two witnesses, and the two witnesses must sign. Witnesses cannot be related to the person, be health-care providers, or be potential heirs or claimants to the person's estate. These restrictions can make it difficult for someone to execute a Directive once he or she is hospitalized. Consequently, executing a

Directive before something happens is advisable.

Besides providing for a written Directive, the statute also allows a person to verbally give a Directive, as long as the proper witnesses and the attending physician are present. The physician will then make a note in the person's medical records, and the witnesses must sign the entry. However, the ability to give a verbal Directive is dependent on that person's ability to communicate, so it won't help the person who is unconscious or comatose.

Nancy Cruzan lived in one of the states that does not have a law authorizing family members to consent to removal of life support systems. This is why her family ended up in a court battle. When the case finally reached the Supreme Court, the Court ruled that all states have the right to require clear and convincing evidence that a person would want life support terminated, and absent such evidence, life support will not be removed.

Unlike the Cruzan family situation, family members and health-care agents in Texas are given specific authority to make a decision about withholding or terminating life support and are unlikely to have to fight about it in court. Nevertheless, if a person has not executed a Directive, the law requires family members to make a decision about life support based on their personal knowledge of the person's wishes. This can be a traumatic experience for grieving family members and one that can be avoided by executing a Directive in advance.

Connie Moore is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian/feminist law firm based in Houston. Since graduating from the University of Houston Law Center, Connie has pursued the area of human-rights law with an emphasis on lesbian and gay rights. Under Connie's guidance, Moore & Hunt is part of the cooperating attorney network of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. In addition to feminist, lesbian and gay issues, the firm concentrates in family law, contract negotiations and disputes, corporation and small business formations, wills, estate planning and probate matters.

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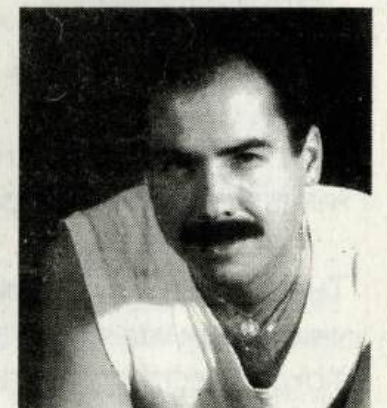


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SOME OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS IN HOUSTON

by Lacey Lewis

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THAT A BOYFRIEND IS LIKE A "PET THAT CAN FEED AND WALK ITSELF?"

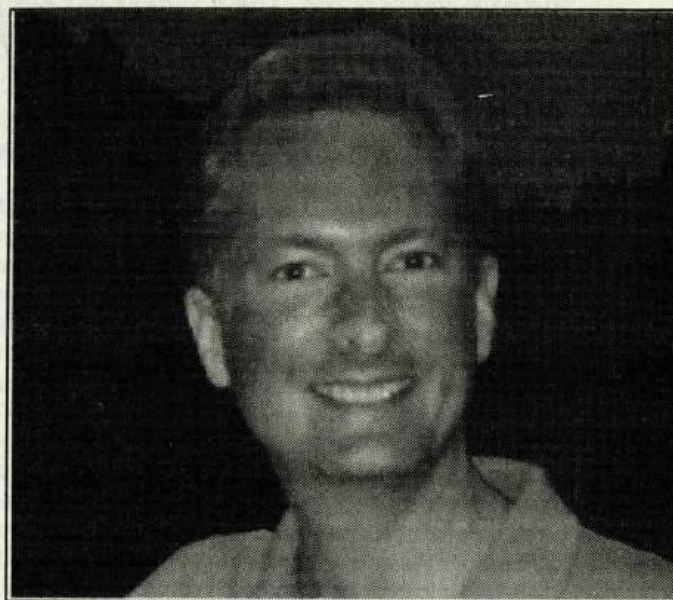
THAT THERE IS A PRIEST IN TOWN WHO THINKS THAT ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER IS SATAN, THAT LERNER & LOEWE ARE GOD AND THAT TOMMY TUNE SHOULD BE POPE?

THAT WHEN A YOUNG GAY DANCER DIES HE ENTERS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AS A BROADWAY CHORUS BOY CAST IN CATS FOR ALL OF ETERNITY?

THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A MOTHER TO BE PROUD OF HER PRE-OPERATIVE TRANSSEXUAL LESBIAN SON?

THAT THERE IS A GAY INTERIOR DESIGNER IN TOWN WHOSE ULTIMATE DREAM DATE WOULD BE WITH YOKO ONO, ONLY "TO SEE THE APARTMENT?"

THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY POSSIBLE TO LAUGH AND "CAPTURE THE INSANITY OF THE AIDS ERA, AND THE VALOR OF THOSE WHO MANAGE TO FIND LOVE AND DOUBLE-PLY CASHMERE BETWEEN, AND EVEN DURING, HOSPITAL VISITS, MARCHES AND EULOGIES?"



Paul Hope

Or that there is a handsome young local actor who is leaving Houston for the bright and shiny lights of The Big Apple. Yes, all of this is true and more. My God, I feel like I have just had a Hedda Hopper attack. Inquiring minds not only want to know, but deserve to know the answer to each and every question.

If you knew the answers to the above-mentioned questions then you must have already seen *Jeffrey*, a wonderful, warm and hilarious play written by Paul Rudnick, author of *Sister Act*, *The Addams Family*, and *The Addams Family Values*. If you have already seen it, but couldn't answer all the questions, not to worry. Many of us lost some lines through the near-constant laughter created by the hilarious one-liners, quips and wise words of wisdoms couched in sarcastic and sometimes caustic witticisms. Well, for those of you who haven't seen it, and for the rest of Houston's lesbian/gay/bi-/transgender/and gay-friendly community (now, that should be "Politically Correct" enough for everyone), I have some good news, and I have some bad news.

The good news is that Stages has extended Houston's premiere of *Jeffrey*, Rudnick's 1993 off-Broadway smash hit to run through June 19th. I know that doesn't give you much time to see it, but see it you must! There seems to be much too little laughter in our lives these days. You owe to yourself to dare to be happy, even for just an evening. We owe it to the author, Houston's director Michael Scheman, and the entire cast of *Jeffrey* for helping us celebrate our courage, diversity and dignity that has allowed us to survive the Holocaust of AIDS with our "wisecracks and wardrobes in tact." There are too few really good plays about our community, and fewer yet that ever make it to Houston, to allow this one

to leave without sold-out and enthusiastic audiences bidding them farewell.

When *Jeffrey* first opened, it played to sellout crowds, waiting lists, and to people who were willing to sit in the aisles. The response was so positive that Stages decided to extend it from May 4th to June 19th. While the initial run received excellent coverage and wonderful reviews, somehow Houston didn't receive the news of the extension. I was so disappointed when I had thought that I had missed the Houston premiere by being out of town. It was only through a chance meeting with one of the actors that I learned that the play had been extended, and I immediately made arrangements to see it the very next Saturday. So that's the good news. You still have time to see this incredible cast and say goodbye in a way that shows our gratitude for their support of our community.

Now for the bad news—bad that is for Houston—but wonderful for Paul Hope who plays the role of Sterling in *Jeffrey*. The talent of the entire cast is so remarkable that their enthusiasm and ingenuity glows brightly long after the lights go down. Joe Kirkendall, Jeff Balwin, Adrian Walter, Adrian Cardell Porter, Kent Johnson, Connie Cooper, and Michael Grey are names you will remember long after their performances. In singling out one cast member for an interview, it is not my intent to diminish the incredible talents of the others. Having said that, one cannot help but be captivated by the abundantly effervescent style of Paul Hope. Theater critic Michael King writes "It's a particular pleasure to see perennial TUTS stalwart Paul Hope get a role he can shine in." William Albright, *Houston Post* theatre critic says, "Equity actor Paul Hope handily stole the show... blithely tossing off prissily arch witticisms like a gay George Sanders." Jeff Mackey, from the *Texas Triangle* states "Hope makes the most of the best lines in the show with his dead-on delivery (imagine Boris Karloff as Auntie Mame), but rises above stereotype more convincingly than Edward Hibbert in the New York production." Well, Houston's loss is New York's gain. Paul is movin' on up to the big time and to the Big Apple, and it is our pleasure to get a chance to interview him before he leaves.

LACEY LEWIS: You have quite a local following here in Houston that is going to be very happy for you, and sad for itself, when you leave for New York. You have had the opportunity to work with some very well-known actors and played in some wonderful shows during your acting career in our area. Can you give our readers some of your background in theater?

PAUL HOPE: I really have been fortunate

to have been in so many fantastic productions. I have appeared in 31 productions for Theatre Under The Stars. Some of my most favorite roles were as the Herald in *Cinderella* with Ruth Buzzi and Alan Sues, as Sir Dinadan in *Camelot* with Robert Goulet, as Raymond Janney in *Paint Your Wagon* with Roy Clark, and as Beauregard in *Mame* with Juliet Prowse.

You have also worked with other theatre groups besides TUTS, haven't you?

I have also been a member of the Alley's Resident Company, appearing in *Cloud Nine*, *Kind Lady* and as Sister Boom Boom in *Execution of Justice*. Outside of Houston, I performed in the national tour of *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*, and in *Grand Hotel* with Cyd Charisse at Casa Manana in Fort Worth, and North Shore Music Theatre in Beverly, Massachusetts. In my spare time I created a cabaret act and a revue of Maltby & Shire songs.

Okay, let me put on my Rona Barrett hat and go for the grit. I know that you have just highlighted your acting career over the last 16 years, and you have accomplished so much more. With all your talent, what kept you from moving to New York sooner?

You know how we actors are. We may appear secure in our roles, but underneath it all usually some uncertainty exists. I wanted to wait until I felt really secure in my acting. There was also a series of events that occurred in my acting career that help motivate that decision.

Now that sounds like the kind of stuff that Rona wants to hear. Is this more like a Barbara Walters kind of question? Either way, what was it that finally motivated you to make the decision to move to New York?

I was performing with TUTS in *The Most Happy Fella* when I was presented with the opportunity to act in *Jeffrey*. I really wanted the role and was excited because I had been recommended for the role by some people in New York. Since I am an Equity actor, I called the union to find out the appropriate procedure to give notice. I was told to give a written two-week notice, which I did. I thought after 16 years and 31 performances that everyone at TUTS would be supportive of this great opportunity, and most everyone was. The morning after I turned in my notice the founder of TUTS, Frank Young, called me. He asked me, "Are these rumors I hear about you leaving the show, true?" I told him that they were, and that's when he really shocked me. Instead of congratulating me or wishing me well, he said "That's fine. As soon as you walk out these doors, you will never work here again. Have a good life." Then he hung up. I couldn't believe this was happening to me.

You must have felt pretty betrayed after such a long association with them.

I really did, because the principal leading and supporting actors could and did resign, and no one seemed to penalize them. Frank Young's response was really just the final straw in a number of issues that were building up and bringing me closer to the idea of moving to New York.

What were those other issues?

I believe very strongly that in the beginning TUTS was originally a community theatre that was built on the back of the local talent. As it grew to become more successful, they began offering the principal leading roles to New York talent. It seems to me that the end result of these casting practices is that the local talent is left with a lack of opportunities, which in turn forces them to be highly competitive in a very tight job market.

Was there a specific event that solidified your decision to move to New York?

I guess the final turning point came when the production of *Beauty and the Beast* came to Houston for the Christmas season. Equity requires that Houston have a local call, and the local actors were even solicited to come in and try out. I was told later that all the offers had

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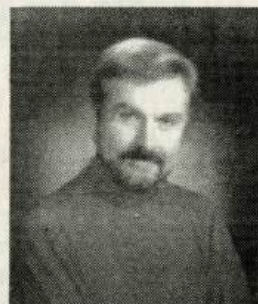
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already gone out even before the local tryouts were held. There was not one single Houston actor in *Beauty and the Beast*. The entire Houston production was cast with Los Angeles and New York actors, which essentially threw the Houston talent out of performing work and into pushing perfume at Foley's at Christmas time.

If they always bring in big-name actors for the principal roles to sell tickets, is there any way for the local talent to succeed?

I think so. First of all, if the local talent is good enough to stand toe to toe with the L.A. and New York actors, then they are good enough to be developed into the principal and supporting roles. I don't think we should be punished for the unpardonable crime of living here. There is a flip side in that a subtle message gets sent to local actors each time they watch role after role go to out-of-town talent. The message gets internalized as "you are not good enough." I think I had absorbed that message for so long that I had come to believe it, but I don't anymore. Life can teach you lessons, and when you are ready to learn, you do. In a funny way, my initial disappointment with TOTS was the catalyst that motivated me to take a leap of faith and just believe in myself enough to know that I am

ready for New York.

And I don't have any question that New York is also ready for him. I can't wait to be able to say, "I knew Paul Hope way back when, even before he won that Tony award."

Treat yourself and make plans to see *Jeffrey*. We can all benefit from a hilarious gay romantic comedy and the pleasure of watching Paul Hope and the entire local cast act their hearts out. I think the director, Michael Scheman, sums up the best reason to see this play. "As much as I love this play, I eagerly await the day it becomes a period piece. AIDS continues to decimate our world, growing increasingly unbearable every year. But where, except in the theatre, can we find a voice that sizes up this scourge of modern civilization and proceeds to laugh at it squarely in the face?" I encourage you to accept the same challenge and dare you to laugh at this disease, even if it's just a few hours.

Psychotherapist Lacey Lewis is a Houston freelance writer and frequent contributor to OutSmart. She has just completed a book on eating disorders and sexual abuse, a comedy stage play and a mystery novel.

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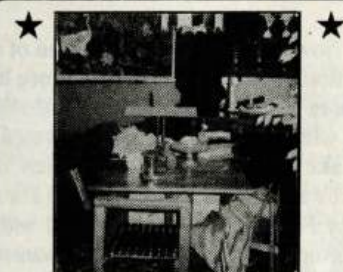
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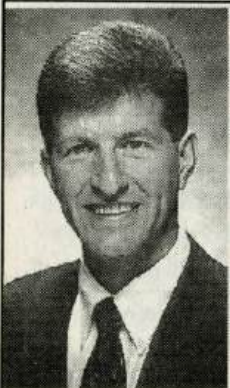
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COMING O-U-T

by Steven R. Bricken

Girls in high school usually ignored me, which was something of a relief. Somehow they sensed I was actually a wanna-be competitor rather than fair game. Of course the joke was on me, because there was no competition.

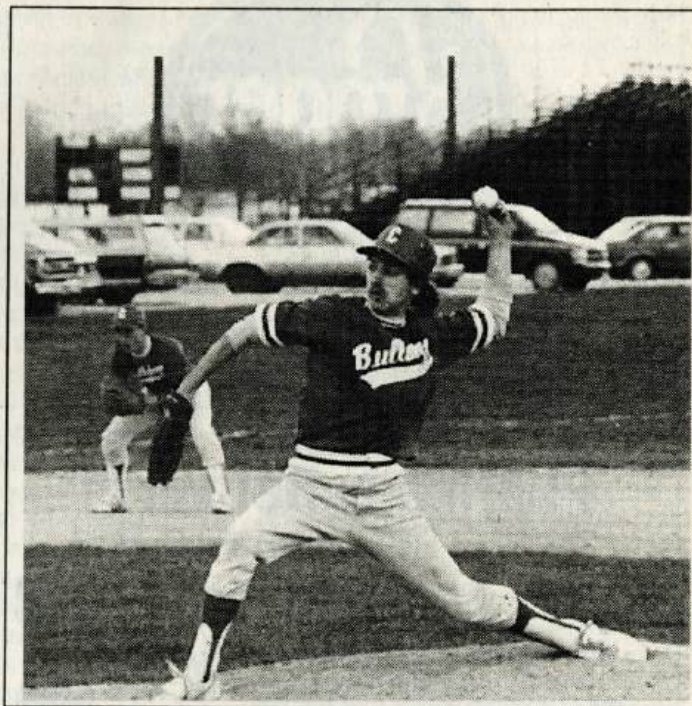
I needed to have sex with a guy—preferably a baseball player. Unfortunately, on the rare occasions when I could admit this to myself, I was unable to find a willing baseball player.

Worse still, I began feeling more and more like an oddball. Everyone around me seemed to be developing important social skills which would advance them into the worldly wonders of adulthood, and, finally, responsible parenting. Heck, divorce court was just around the corner. Meanwhile, not quite secure with the inner knowledge of being a faggot butt pirate, as the guys in my class referred to gays, I failed to explore my sexuality beyond the realm of animalistic lust fantasies.

A year and a half later I moved to Houston. I am 19, and I have been in town for one month. It's Friday night, and I sit in front of the TV depressed over my sexless life. I am still frustrated and very lonely. Tonight I've made up my mind to check out a gay apartment complex that my mother used to manage. It seems a less scary environment to inspect than the bar scene. Of course, at this point in my life I think all gay bars resemble dark, sweaty prisons where men in leather snap whips at each other. I had thought about my mom's former place of employment many times, and so I have decided to take a little drive and see what's cooking.

My plan is to pretend that I've just arrived in town and am searching for a friend of my father's. Therefore, if I encounter a homosexual, my presence will seem accidental because I will supposedly be ignorant of my environment. I am not ready to be thought of as gay; in fact, I have never said it out loud to myself.

When I arrive, the complex is dark and quiet, which is both a relief and a disappointment. I toy with the idea of returning home. Maybe I am not ready for this. However, the thought of squinting into pixels and deciphering tiny images of man flesh hardens my decision to stay. The homo queer will continue.



Laughter suddenly echoes out of a recreation room from across a courtyard. I gather what courage I have, run through a quick rehearsal of my fib, and march over to the room.

Inside are two guys shooting a game of billiards. They look up and smile. The taller guy is cute. Meow!

I tell my lie and hope they fall for it. From their expressions it looks like they will need convincing.

The shorter guy answers in the negative—they don't know my father's friend (naturally). He suggests I ask the manager upstairs. I notice the two men exchange a sly glance. He adds that I am welcome to shoot a game with them if I can't find my "friend."

My hopes rise—although I am not sure what I am hoping for.

I go to see the manager (when I act, it is all or nothing), who is annoyed with my meaningless inquiry, but what the hell, he will get over it.

The guys flash bright smiles when I return, and I grin sheepishly. While playing pool they test my "situation" by asking me vague questions about girls. My responses are as vague as their questions.

Personally speaking, the climax of the game occurs when Robert, the taller guy, pinches my butt while I shoot. Nervous and excited, I try to appear nonchalant. Lots of guys pinch each other's butts, I reason. It could be a male bonding gesture. Common sense, plus the knot in my stomach, tell me it's not.

They ask if I want to take a drive down Westheimer. Being new to town, I might want to know where Houston's night life is.

Sure. Why not? Aside from being maimed, murdered or robbed, what other risks could there be? Forced sex?

Once inside the car I ponder the unfolding situation. My intuition tells me everything is cool. Rather than worrying about personal safety

issues, I try to imagine what these guys are thinking about. Are they positive I'm gay or only suspicious? Is Robert attracted to me? Who would think a guy like him could be gay? Why didn't my teachers ever hold up photos of him?

After a while the conversation dies and everyone looks bored. As intriguing as this night has been, with the innuendoes and loaded pats on the back, I am unable to apply the G-word to myself. Perhaps my coy routine is wearing thin. When I notice that we are getting close to the complex, frustration and depression well up inside of me. I have lost my chance.

Robert has sat in front of me all night, navigating, while the other guy, Jack, drives. My arm is propped against the back of Robert's head rest.

Suddenly, he stretches his long arms overhead, yawns and casually glances out the window. Before I can say boo to a goose, he lowers his arm and grabs my hand. Don't think this hasn't snapped my elastic! Despite my shock, I feel like I'm in heaven. I am being overtly touched by a hot guy! He's gay! A hot homosexual is overtly touching me! Wow!

I consider retracting my arm, which I decide will happen when hell freezes over. No more self deceptions, thank you very much!

Even as my mind reels, I take time to compare past experiences. News flash: girls do not do a thing for me.

Look ma, no cringing!

I catch Robert's penetrating stare in the rear view mirror. I can tell he is smiling.

Eight years later, I can still rekindle the sense of acceptance, self assurance and overall relief which I felt that night. I had finally discovered that there was, after all, a place in this world where I belonged. ▼

Steven R. Bricken is a freelance writer living in Houston.

How would you best describe your "coming out" experience? Poignant? Hysterical? Inspiring? Fellini-esque? You haven't come out yet but are looking for the perfect urban publication to facilitate your announcement? FAX us your "coming out" story for publication in an upcoming issue of OutSmart (522-3275) or mail to OutTales c/o OutSmart, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. Include a photo if you'd like.

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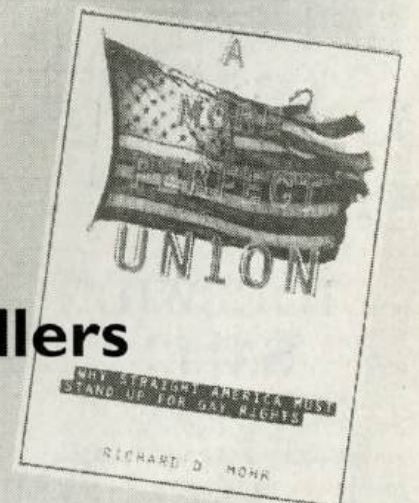
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Jsusnxdse Htuxensye skd Jalsuenenbb: Elements of Investing

by Julie LaRue, LUTCF

Fdsajklfnb jayet3uq dnaysuwe—What a bunch of gobbledygook. This is the way investment information looks to some. It can be time-consuming, intimidating, and downright confusing. Hopefully, this article will help clarify some of the gobbledygook.

INVESTING AND INVESTMENTS ARE COVERED a lot in the press. Headlines like "Dow Tumbles," "Market Falls," "Stocks Soar" can make anyone reactive, especially when friends and colleagues are bragging and moaning at every twist and turn. *How To* and *How Not To* books can complicate the issue even further.

It may be more fun to discuss the merits of this stock or that bond, or argue whether the market will go up or down, or wonder what the Federal Reserve will do. It's fun, challenging and enticing to try to predict what will happen tomorrow, but frankly no one knows what the

future holds. Because people get embroiled in finding answers to these questions, their investment choices and behavior become reactionary. The most important elements of investing are often buried in an article, thrown in as a side note at the end of an interview or ignored altogether. Those elements include:

- your goals and objectives
- your time horizon
- your risk tolerance
- and, for gay women and men, proper titling of investment assets.

Goals and objectives are one of the most crucial pieces of initiating an investment plan.

Each person and each couple is unique. Your goals are yours alone. Yours may be to accumulate enough money for additional retirement funds, buy a first or second home, send your kids to college, or care for a loved one in their later years. They may fluctuate, vary or change dramatically within your lifetime. Different types of investments are used for different investor's goals. By defining these goals, you and your financial advisor are able to determine the construction and management of your portfolio.

Time horizon is simply the point in the future when you will need the money. This is a crucial part of your plan. For example, savings that are held to meet emergencies, such as appliance replacement, deductibles on insurance policies, etc., should not be invested in assets whose return and safety of principal are uncertain. A goal for additional retirement funds for a younger investor means a longer time horizon, so the individual can seek to acquire long-term assets that may offer a higher yield.

Risk tolerance is your ability to deal with the various types of risk associated with different investments. Risk is the possibility of loss—the uncertainty of future returns. There are many sources of risk. Some of these are market risk, interest-rate risk and inflation risk. Even relatively less volatile investments involve some risk; there is no completely safe investment. Your financial advisor can help you learn what your risk tolerance is so that you choose the appropriate investments to reach your goals. It is also important to realize that these three areas should be considered together. Defining one area without the others may result in your plan or portfolio being improperly structured. One example of a strategy that helps to reduce risk and take advantage of longer time horizons is known as *dollar-cost averaging*. This strategy allows individuals to make equal, periodic investments. With such a strategy, the investor acquires a few shares when prices rise and more shares when prices fall. A key advantage is that, in the long run, it generally has the effect of making your average share cost less than the average share price.

Titling of assets—Multiple-Party Accounts (MPA's) are governed by Part 1 of Chapter IX of the Texas Probate Code. One example is a "Payable on Death" Account. This type of account may be used to pass assets from a deceased owner to a surviving beneficiary. The main advantage for gay people, if structured properly, is the capability of avoiding the probate process. This will help you pass your assets to the beneficiary of your choice. Not all

financial institutions allow this type of titling of assets. Therefore, you may be comparing two like investments—same risk, same return—one allows MPA's, the other doesn't. If you're trying to avoid probate, the institution offering the MPA's may be a better choice. Before making any investment decisions based on titling of property, you should consult with the proper advisors.

Investing and saving to meet your goals can be fun and rewarding. However, you should be aware of the common pitfalls.

• **All or nothing bets.** Dumping all your investments is the most common mistakes made by investors trying to be defensive. Moderation

is the key to lightening up a portfolio's exposure to weak assets.

• **Failing to diversify and stay diversified.** Investing in a single area of the market is extremely risky. Investors can reduce risk by diversifying their holdings among the major asset classes.

• **The "bonds-are-safe" blunder.** Fleeing from stocks into bonds is not a prudent way to avoid risk. Remember, the bond market is also subject to volatility, especially in a climate of rising interest rates.

• **Venerating bear-market wizards.** Consider long-term performance as an important factor when evaluating an investment.

Throwing all your money into investments with good bear-market records, but poor overall performance, is not a good long-term strategy.

• **Do not scare too easily.** Mutual fund investors are not market timers. The most basic mutual-fund strategy is to buy, hold and ride out the lower points in the market. If you have a well-thought-out, diversified investment plan, you should consider staying the course.

Finding an advisor who exercises a needs-based philosophy of matching your objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance will help you determine the investment vehicles that are appropriate for you. That advisor will also be able to explain and illustrate the qpriskmdks wlsi nausymey to your satisfaction.

Speaking of Gobbledygook...

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Inky tinky pobblebockle abblesquabs? Floskyl Beeul trimble floskyl—Okul scratchabibblebongibo, viddle squibble tog-a-tog, ferry moyasity amsky famsky ramsky damske cacklefeather squiggs.

Flinkywisty pomm,

Slushypipp

A Letter to Evelyn Baring from Edward Lear, 1862 quoted in H. W. Fowler, *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage*, Second Edition, Revised and Edited by Sir Ernest Gowers.

Julie LaRue, LUTCF has authored several articles and conducted seminars on financial issues facing the gay community. A native Texan, she graduated in 1981 from the University of Texas at Arlington where she competed on its nationally ranked volleyball team. She is a Registered Representative and Investment Advisory Associate with Calvert Securities Corporation, a registered broker-dealer and investment advisor and member of The Acacia Group.

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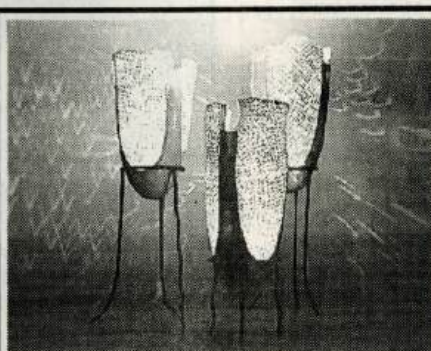
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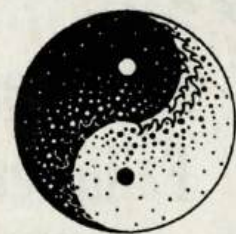
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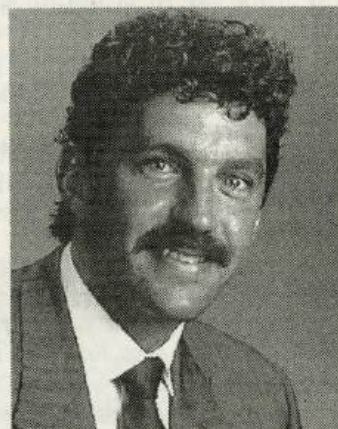
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O U T ▼ L I V E

THE RETURN OF TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is back with a vengeance. Last year in the Houston metropolitan area, 758 cases of active tuberculosis were diagnosed. That's up more than 50% since 1989. Tens of thousands of individuals in the Houston area are infected with the organism that causes tuberculosis. Similar numbers are being reported in communities across the United States.



by Dr. Pat McNamara

Tuberculosis is a disease caused by a bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. An estimated 1.7 billion people are infected with this organism. Infection with the organism doesn't necessarily mean that one will develop the disease tuberculosis.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis is transmitted from one person to another by the inhalation of infected droplets produced by coughing. Generally, the number of bacteria that are expelled by an infected person are small, and prolonged exposure is necessary for transmission. This is why tuberculosis occurs with such high frequency in jails and in crowded living conditions. The continuous exposure increases the likelihood of infection. In individuals with compromised immune function, the likelihood of becoming infected increases, as well as the likelihood of the infection progressing into the disease tuberculosis.

Inhalation of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* into the lungs results in infection, and in most individuals this infection is completely shut down. The mycobacteria stop multiplying and lay dormant in lymph nodes. Nine times out of ten, the individual's immune system keeps the organism from multiplying. Although they have been infected with the organism *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, they will never get tuberculosis (T.B.). However, with time, 10 percent of infected individuals fail to suppress the organism and develop tuberculosis.

In patients with HIV infection, it is a totally different story. Because of a compromised immune system, patients with HIV fail to suppress *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* at a rate of almost

10 percent per year. In five years, an individual infected with HIV and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* has a 50-50 chance of developing the disease tuberculosis.

How does one know whether an individual has been infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*? Within two to eight weeks after infection, the body produces lymphocytes that are sensitized to the infecting organism. This sensitization can be detected by injecting a small amount of *Mycobacterium* proteins (PPD) into the skin. In individuals who have been infected, a small red lump appears. This is quite reliable in individuals with intact immune systems. In patients with HIV infections, skin testing is less reliable. As T-cell (CD4) counts decline, so does the likelihood of a positive skin reaction in an infected individual. It is extremely important that all individuals with HIV be skin tested for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection, both at the initial diagnosis of their HIV infection and periodically thereafter.

A positive PPD skin test, by itself, does not mean that the individual is contagious. It means that the individual has been infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Examination by one's physician can rule out the possibility of the disease tuberculosis.

The disease tuberculosis is usually characterized by a persistent cough, fever and weight loss. The phlegm which is produced is frequently blood-streaked. Tuberculosis causes pneumonia, which can be detected by a chest x-ray. The bacteria are usually readily detected in the individual's phlegm by use of a special

stain. Tuberculosis can also affect other organs including the heart, lymph nodes, bones and spinal fluid. Patients with HIV infection frequently develop tuberculosis outside the lung.

If one does have a positive PPD skin test, what next? After an examination by a physician to rule out active tuberculosis, an antibiotic can be given to eradicate the organisms that are residing in the lymph nodes. This antibiotic, called Isoniazid, or INH, is generally given for nine to 12 months. This drug can be toxic to the liver and may not be appropriate for older individuals or those with liver disease.

If one is diagnosed with the disease tuberculosis, initial treatment consists of four drugs. Four drugs are used because drug

resistance is becoming increasingly common. Strict adherence to the medical treatment prescribed is essential. Failure to complete the prescribed course of antibiotics can lead to a reoccurrence of tuberculosis with resistant organisms. Not only does this place the individual at increased risk of complications and death, it also poses a threat to the community. This is one of the major reasons for the resurgence of tuberculosis in the United States.

Once treatment has been instituted, three samples of coughed secretions are tested to make sure the organism is being eradicated. A face mask designed to prevent the transmission of the mycobacteria should be worn until the organisms are no longer detectable. This generally takes one to two weeks. For most individuals, the course of treatment is contin-

ued for six to nine months.

So what can one do to prevent the spread of tuberculosis? Get skin-tested with a PPD. This is particularly important if one has recently been exposed to tuberculosis, is a health-care worker, social worker or has any contact with the jail system. If one has a persistent cough, fever or weight loss, see your doctor. Lastly, if you have been diagnosed with tuberculosis, **take all your medication.** You owe it to yourself, as well as the rest of the community. ▼

Dr. Patrick McNamara is board certified in Internal Medicine. He is a clinical instructor with Baylor College of Medicine and has a general internal medicine practice with Southampton Medical Group in Houston.

DEN-TELL



Q&A
WITH
DR. BRUCE SMITH

Q I recently found myself in the predicament of unexpectedly waking in a location other than my own home, without benefit of my toothbrush. It was suggested to me that I use my hostess' toothbrush, just this once. Having been raised to always be polite, I accepted the offer. But once the bathroom door was closed, I just applied a little toothpaste to my finger and then rinsed and spit. Was I being overcautious by not sharing her toothbrush, considering all that we'd shared the night before?

A Did you know that your toothbrush can be a source of disease? Germs like hepatitis and herpes can spread from one person to another from sharing a toothbrush. You can even re-infect your own mouth with gum disease or thrush by using a dirty toothbrush. I recommend disinfecting your toothbrush on a daily basis.

Some sources are recommending that healthy people change toothbrushes every two weeks, with more frequent changes if you are ill. This is fine if you're wealthy, but most people have better things to do with their money. There are alternatives that are more practical and less expensive. There are ultraviolet machines that will disinfect your brush, but I recommend the simpler, less-expensive methods. One is to make a dilute solution of bleach and water (use 2-3 drops of bleach in a cup of water). Soak your brush overnight and rinse before using. You can also soak in 3% hydrogen peroxide (over the counter) or any alcohol-based mouthwash. Always be sure to change the solution daily. For those of you who want to go that extra mile, you can always sterilize your toothbrush by boiling it for 20 minutes after each use. (NOT!)

Even the best-quality toothbrushes wear out after about 2-4 months and therefore need to be replaced. Good features when buying a

toothbrush include soft, polished bristles, and an angled handle with a tapered head so you can reach further back in the mouth. Remember that your toothbrush can be a source of germs. Daily disinfecting with ultraviolet, dilute bleach solution, hydrogen peroxide or an alcohol-based mouthwash will reduce the chances of infecting someone else or re-infecting yourself. ▼

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SUMMER GAY TRAVEL

by Sandra B. Wilkins



What's hot (besides Houston!) for travel the next six months? *ALL-INCLUSIVE VACATIONS!* What exactly does that mean? It means you will know up front most every cost you'll have for your holiday. I think all inclusions are a very smart way to manage your travel budget, and they represent excellent value for your travel dollar.

The first inclusive is for the gals...so, ADVENTUROUS WOMEN TAKE NOTE: Our good friends at Olivia Cruises and Resorts have a few reservations available for their round-the-corner July 3-10, one-week cruise from New York to Montreal. We can make two cabins available on a first-come, first-served basis.

This is a knockout cruise itinerary, sailing from New York City July 3, then on to Provincetown for a 4th of July celebration, up the coast to Portland, Maine, continuing to Halifax, up the St. Lawrence Seaway to Quebec City, and finally to Montreal, the second largest French-speaking city in the world. Cruise rates include cabin accommodations, all meals and all shipboard entertainment and activities, which are wonderful. Not

included is airfare, port and airport taxes, bar bills, shore excursions or transfers.

Next up, get ready for the excitement and fun of the remaining RSVP Gay Vacations.

September 4-11, 1994, RSVP charts a brand new course with its Spanish Riviera Cruise, featuring its first-ever sailing to ports along the Costa Dorada and North Africa—calling at the North African city of Tunis, then on to Ibiza, one of the world's most popular gay resorts. Continuing up the coast to Barcelona, then to Sitges, where gays flock to enjoy sandy beaches, friendly bars and cafes, huge discotheques and first-class restaurants. Cruise prices start at \$1695 for this itinerary, and remember, you'll have accommodations, all meals and shipboard entertainment and activities included in the price.

Want something a bit closer to home? What about RSVP's brand new product, CLUB RSVP, where prices start at an incredible \$595 per person!! Spend 7 fantastic days at an all-gay resort in fabulous Puerto Vallarta,

Wierzbowski Gallery. Festive and lively, it warmed our hearts to see over 300 gay and lesbian friends having so much fun learning about the exciting world of gay travel.

The success of our travel event was made possible by the incredible support and participation of our gay and lesbian travel companies. To all of those who literally jumped into action and sent their materials, we say a most sincere thank you. And on the subject of thanks, Houston's local businesses made the evening complete by donating time, talent and wonderful door prizes. I think the "hats off, take a bow" award must surely go to Frances Marsh, owner of Fits and Cravings Catering, and to the fine management and staff at our new neighborhood Fiesta on Dunlavy. The combined efforts

of these two provided fabulous food in abundant amounts. Thanks also to Kirby Glen Floral and Wademan's Flowers for the beautiful fresh-flower arrangements that set the tone for our good time.

Our ongoing objective, and I believe our responsibility, is to educate the gay and lesbian community about the fantastic range of travel opportunities designed especially for our vacation pleasure. At the party we distributed attractive information catalogues, detailing 20 gay/lesbian tour products, and I hope this will continue the process of raising the level of awareness about the wonderful world of gay/lesbian travel. If you missed our party and would like this reference guide, come by our office. We still have a few copies left.

Mexico. CLUB RSVP includes ALL MEALS, ACCOMMODATIONS AND BAR-BRAND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR A SINGLE, UP FRONT PRICE, RANGING FROM \$595 FOR A STANDARD HOTEL ROOM, TO \$1295 FOR A TWO-BEDROOM SUITE! Men and women are encouraged to book quickly for the November 5-12, 1994 Club RSVP week.

If you want a fantastic vacation during Christmas and New Year's, book RSVP's own ship, the SeaSpirit, sailing round trip from San Juan to San Juan on two back-to-back weeks: Dec 19-Dec 26, '94, and Dec. 26 '94-Jan 2 '95.

In 1995, RSVP offers Women's Weeks on three SeaSpirit cruise itineraries: Grand Caribbean, Feb 4-11, 1995; Costa Rican Adventure, Apr 30-May 6, 1995; Alaskan Adventure, July 8-15, 1995. Call Pat or Sandra for details on any of these wonderful adventures for gay men and lesbians.

Our friend Tom Kennedy, director of ATLANTIS EVENTS, is serving up two more titillating all-inclusive vacation weeks for men and women during the 1994 season.

September 17-24, ATLANTIS has chartered Club Med 1, "the first cruise ship with the soul of a yacht." The western Mediterranean beckons, as the world's largest sailing ship, a beauty with her seven pure white sails and Burmese teak decks, glides through ports of call at Cannes and St Tropez, France, and Barcelona and Ibiza, Spain.

At each azure harbor, the stern of the ship opens up and a huge door folds down, creating our own private marina. You're invited to water ski, scuba dive, sail, windsurf and snorkel with equipment and expert instruction provided. *ALL FREE OF CHARGE, OF COURSE.* Per person prices for this priceless experience start at \$1895.

You landlubbers can rejoice in the November 5-12 '94 ATLANTIS week at Punta Cana, the easternmost point of the Dominican Republic. This exotic resort features a swimming pool, open-air bar and lounge, theater, restaurant and dance floor. Three-story lodgings face the turquoise Caribbean or beautiful gardens. This all-inclusive vacation provides accommodations, three meals a day with unlimited beer and wine included, all sports activities and equipment and expert instruction, nightly entertainment, disco, and all tips and gratuities. *One price for all of this: \$895.*

We hope you'll pull out those calendars and treat yourself to one of these special weeks, enjoying an all-inclusive vacation. Next month we'll look more closely at some of our other fine tour operators. Until then, au revoir and bon voyage!

Sandra B. Wilkins, M.A. is Vice President of Sales with Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel Inc., 3311 Richmond, Suite 230, Houston, TX 77098. Get your American Tourister off the shelf and call her at (713) 942-0664.

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When I look into the future, it's so bright it burns my eyes.

—Oprah Winfrey

The success of Houston's 1994 Gay Pride Week is encouraging and heartwarming beyond description. At every event and gathering I've attended, I have rejoiced in the company of happy and hopeful men and women. It's the pride thing, and it is gathering strength and momentum daily as we move closer to Stonewall 25 and the March on the United Nations on June 26 in New York City.

We were pleased and proud to have co-sponsored the Gay and Lesbian Travel Event at

FUTURE OUTLOOK

By Joseph Molina

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)

Breaking away from some oppressive situation can sometimes be a difficult thing. You may fight or struggle to feel free, but after a long period of being suffocated, now is a time to open your eyes. See your life for what you have created. You need to do this to the point where you realize that you are the creator of your own success, whether it be in love or career. You need to be careful about getting into arguments with other people, especially your lover, if you have one. When you need time alone to yourself, it can often seem impossible to find. Let those around you know how you feel and it could ease the stress. They may feel rejected at first but then each shall understand. Toward the end of this period, you shall have a boost of energy as you return to the world, like the sleeping beauty after she was kissed by the prince. For those looking for love, watch out! Proposals may be rejected, or those that accept may become leeches. The best thing to do is to hang with friends or just by yourself. Love will come—just not right now.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

After a period of great emotional upheaval, this could be a welcome time. A sense of wholeness and healing fills you, giving you a feeling of optimism and freedom. Yet this may not last long. With Taurus' need for stability and contentment mixed with commitment, it could cause you to fall deeper and deeper into a disheartening and lethargic situation. In the midst of all this, an outside influence is presented. An opportunity for something fresh and something new presents itself in the way of love. What to do...what to do? Can Taurus truly hurt the one they love? No! With the signs pointing forward and your bull feet planted firmly in the ground, you begin to rework your present relationship and try to make a go of it. Good luck! If single, all queens go!! Love can be found. Look at all things with a sense of excitement and determination. If the first one is not right, then try and try again as the ball is in your court; do with it as you will. For Taurus in general, this could be a very emotional time. Being pushed into a corner and forced to make some specific decisions about your life could cause you to become confused and thwarted. This won't last long, just take a few deep breaths, relax, and then CHARGE!

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

With life still in an uproar, the Gemini attitude can become very muddled. On the surface you may be pretending to be in a great mood, but underneath you are actually feeling very low. The twins must realize two very important things at this time. First, is that the events happening to you now come from situations and decisions that occurred in your past. They are what YOU have created. Second, life is beginning to balance out. You have succeeded in conquering all of your difficulties and shall now become the victor, working through all of your

obstacles. For those in love, the bumpy road begins to become smooth with Gemini coming to a new understanding. This smooth paving comes as you begin to resolve some complicated emotional problem, and the arrows of love are able to fly through the air again. The game of life becomes second nature to you now. Projects begin to take form, and the future becomes very bright. By the end of this period good luck shall abound.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

Confused, very emotional and pulsing with insecurity, Cancer becomes filled with a sense of mistrust. Involved in an emotional relationship that has the potential to grow, the crab must leave behind the familiar and trust in self. Being forced to face-up to your problems, an existing relationship could get stopped in its tracks. You, acting wild and crazy with your vision clouded, could easily ruin this relationship. You need to stop, slow down and take a more calm and careful approach. If you are not involved, the potential for love is all around, yet it would be wise to not rush into things or create something that is not true. You may also notice that your sexual energy begins to skyrocket, causing you to have strong urges to go out and play. Again there is a warning of getting attached. Know what is real and know what is not. Toward the end of this period you will be offered the seeds to the formation of getting what you want. Keeping your mind firm and your heart strong, you will have these gifts at your feet. Be cautious. If you allow your emotions to fly, then the potential could be lost.



LEO (JULY 23-AUGUST 22)

With a heart born to create, Leo begins to feel lost. Surrounded with potential to benefit every part of your life, the lion has not found its way to realizing this. Hence, Leos can be left feeling out of place and distraught. Realize the magic that you offer the world and all good things shall abound. You need to exercise care now, as someone presently around you is not working in your best interest. A friend or lover may betray your trust, thinking only of him/herself and blind to the pain they inflict upon you. Remember, sometimes people act and do without thinking! Taking fun getaway trips could be a very positive experience for you right now. A trip or excursion may help you to rebuild the interest you have lost in your present career. Trusting and believing in yourself is the key. If single, lately you might have been feeling unsuccessful in love, as you keep hitting brick walls. Well not anymore! CHARGE!! Filled with that Leo spark of romance, the possibilities will abound. If married, times may have been shaky; feeling as though you have lost your touch. Not anymore. It is time for moon-lit serenades and long walks. All in all, the lion shall become strong as you push forward on your path to success.

VIRGO (AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)

Learning not to spend can be a difficult thing, but not for Virgo. For a time it would be wise to hold onto your pennies. You will move out of this thriftiness,

but not now. Here begins a cycle of breakdown—a breakdown of everything you have used in the past to shield yourself against pain, emotions and change. Right after June 20, you will begin to move away from these blocks. They will subside at least for a time. In relationships, you may become paranoid or nervous. This may come from fears and thoughts of the presence an enemy or one who could erect many blocks in your life. The smart thing to do is to hold tightly onto your reins, as this could be a bumpy road. I think (but I am not sure) that this could be unavoidable. Many difficulties could abound, so be prepared. It could leave you with feelings of anxiety and insecurity. If you are single, looking for love is the wisest thing to do right now. Sex? Probable, but be careful!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22)

For some time now you have been struggling to fight off some impending financial disasters. In the past you kept strong and were successful, but now the courage to face up to these problems fails, and you could feel overwhelmed and pessimistic. Being unsure of what to do signifies a torment from within. You want to break away from the structured days in which you have been living in order to jump off into a void of excitement. You have a choice to stay where you are and hope that you move out of the financial difficulties or do something about it. If you choose the latter, you may get a part-time job or find a new one altogether. To avoid a sense of dissatisfaction with your job, you try and work harder to drown your feelings. This works, yet only for a time; as you need to face the issues, for this is the only way out. As a second warning, watch your money! Sorry, no wisdom on the topic of love.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21)

Coming to the end of a painful or difficult situation could fill you with sorrow. To heal, you need to focus on forward movement, away from these difficulties. Look toward your future and what you have to will to achieve. This will help you break away from the sorrow and pain and become your own knight in shining armor. One who has a tendency to gossip could cause some tension in your love life. At first, this could drive you away and/or push you or your loved one in a different direction. Take some time out, re-evaluate the situation and find what you feel is true. Later, the gossip will lose its validity and dissipate. After this clearing, you or your lover will walk back into the relationship with all issues resolved and lost time to catch up on. If single and on the prowl, be sure not to believe what everyone tells you. Someone else's judgments may not be yours. An oppressive situation subsides, but for only a short time. Act now if you want things to remain permanent.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22-DEC. 21)

Working in a career in which you have spent some time mastering, you feel bewildered by your lack of success. Unwilling to wait for work to flourish, this strong sense of impatience could drive you to abandon your present efforts, causing you to once again start from the bottom. If you keep strong and patient, then you will be carried into free and open air, filled with relief as you move forward. For those married or in love, you can no longer hide your sense of unhappiness in the relationship. If you desire it, patience will win, moving you into a time of celebration and happiness. If not, then now could be an ideal time to expose a lot of buried issues. If single, "Whoa the Horses" as you have been feeling less about yourself than you should. Hiding behind a strong wall, you question your appeal to others. With loneliness clouding you, you could find that you act a little hastily, not giving yourself enough credit. Remember this message, as it could help you when you're out and about. See yourself as kind and compassionate, and your aura will change. As a last note, peace with an employer or a person that you respect could come to pass, but not before he or she falls off the pedestal.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22-JAN. 19)

The power of spirit fills you now. At first, it could leave you feeling a little reckless and irresponsible. After a time, your soul will illuminate and people all around you will comment on your beauty. This will help pick you up and out of a deeply emotional period. You will then have an awareness of the things that remain important and permanent in the face of sorrow. Someone will leave from your space, and this exit will help you feel that life will now move on. The things that have blocked you are no longer relevant and therefore possess no more power in your life. If married, your lover could be a very important aid to you right now as you move through some very difficult times with your career. Nevertheless, you realize the power they hold in your life. If single, now is the time to date. Serious love can now chance its way into your life.



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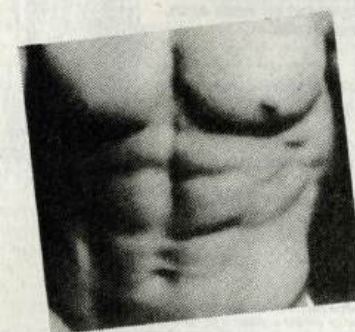
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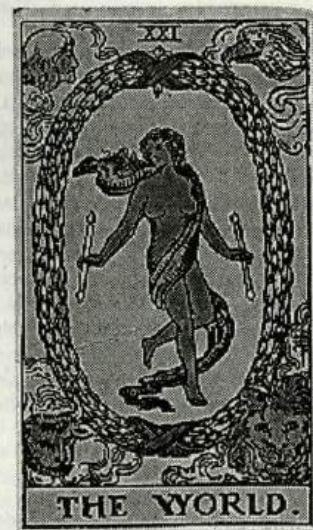
Remember, the first that bites may not always be the right biter. So my suggestion is to try again! Parties and friendly get-togethers are all around you now. Learn to dance to the rhythm of life. Spirit will dance with you.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18)

In your life lies the potential for all good things: love, health, prosperity and unity. But remember that, with all of these good things, others may become filled with envy and grow jealous of you, especially as you move away from any heartache or troubles. Keeping your mind strong and firm and filled with an attitude of laughter will extinguish their negative influence. There is a warning here against getting caught up in the concerns of self and thus becoming absorbed in physical matters. With this need for positive love, you could go a little overboard. Watch out! Still, money poses a problem. It seems that no matter how hard you try, you just never seem to get ahead and this leaves you bewildered and scattered. Once again, search through yourself. How can you use your hobbies and pastimes productively? How? Put this to work! Use it! Only then will you be content. If looking for love, watch out! It is there, but I think it is unsafe, as their tentacles are reaching out for more than just your love. If married, beautiful! The only thing I warn is that one of you is not following your heart. You are too preoccupied with thoughts of another. Get over it! Aquarius is the inventor, not the follower.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 20)

With the power of fire burning bright, Pisces becomes strong again after a period of aimlessness and indecisiveness. The fish begins to swim strongly now. What this means is that now you are able to handle a difficult situation with tact and efficiency. By utilizing a cautious and balanced approach, you will find the best course of action to take. Through these actions, all will be well. Remember that, as with all things, the first shock of change is always the hardest one. A word of warning: Another around you may try and deceive you. Because of their pain, they know of no other route. Release them gently and they will move on. In this, know that their love for you is very strong, and with all broken hearts there comes a time to heal. Difficult changes now come slower and are easier to stomach. If single (Sorry Pisces; with all of this added strength, you would think there would be more love...), the focus here is on breaking away from destructive patterns and not just putting them off or avoiding them until a later time. Understand you are coming to the end of a cycle. The cloudy water will come to an end and the fish will soon swim strongly again.



THE WORLD

For years now the world has cried in pain. For the first time, she is beginning to cry for joy. A new race of man is being born. Eyes and minds are being opened. For the world, all good things are soon to abound. Yet with many people stuck in a closed awareness of growth, the air is filled with tension. Work generally seems hard and more suffocating, taking time away from a needed rest. The world may watch as a prominent family or famous couple (The Royal Family or world leaders) begins to fall apart and split. Three now becomes a crowd! Here is also a time that mankind begins to understand what it means to have achieved success. Seeing others around us in places and

positions that we want now causes us to dream and wish for those things for ourselves. Or, if in a position of power, outside activities begin to look more exciting. Learn to watch your temper, as temper is our focus here. How well can you express unconditional love? With an air of tension, this time will definitely be a test.

Joseph Molina has lived and studied the sacred sciences for over 14 years and is a practicing psychic in Houston. He specializes in Tarot, combined with clairvoyant insights for personal growth. Joseph also teaches and guides students in their development and is available for private consultations. For more information, call (713) 527-8135.

OUTSMART RESOURCE GUIDE

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AVES (Amigos AIDS Volunteers)	2510 Broad St. #200	640-2837
Bering Care Foundation	1440 Harold	529-6071
Body Positive	1475 W. Gray #176-177	524-2374
Dizinger Foundation	3701 Montrose	522-8660
Montrose Clinic	1200 Richmond	520-2000
NAMES Project Houston	2410 Woodhead	52-NAMES
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Joe Paxton	1919 Elmen	523-1627
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Kreller & Associates, Inc.	1801 Huldy St. Suite 15	529-8017
Montrose Counseling Center	701 Richmond Ave	529-0037
Seely M. Gerraughy, LMSW-ACP, LMFT	2715 Bissonnet, Ste., 201	526-4487
Patrick Vachon, LMSW-A.C.P.	New Counseling Center	529-1913
Tony Carroll, MSW	1937 Lexington	522-3045

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Suzanne Anderson Properties	315 W. Alabama Suite 101	529-8484
Tips In Real Estate	1311 Sherwood Forest	722-5200
JAG Residential Mortgages, Inc.	3730 Kirby Suite 1200	831-6875
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MCCR Houston	1919 Decatur	861-9149

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October Studios Gallery-Heights Pavilion	244 W. 19th	861-3411
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Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	522-1626
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Crystal Dolphin	3404 W Lamar	520-6996
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A Bunch of Posies	3819 Mangum	957-0551
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Celebrations To Go Gift Baskets	3406 Audubon	520-1674
Singing Cavalier Singing Telegrams	3406 Audubon	520-7171
Unique Boutique	4317 Montrose	526-5266
Groceries, Supplies & Liquor		
Fiesta Market	3803 Dunlavy	529-7352
Kroger	3300 Montrose	526-7865
Uptown Liquor	414 W. Gray	524-4388
Pagers and Supplies		
Premier Paging	12220 Murphy Rd.	575-8500

SERVICES

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Holden's Home and Office Cleaning Services		956-2364
Movers		
Box Boy Moving		530-7822
Printing and Graphics		
House of Coleman (Printing & Graphics)	901 W. Alabama	523-2521
Misc.		
Mail Boxes Etc.	5090 Richmond Ave.	626-2920

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Advance-Damron Vacation	800-695-0880	682-2002
Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel, Inc.	3311 Richmond Suite 230942-0664	
Uniglobe Travel	2236 W. Holcombe	872-8354

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OUTSMART CLASSIFIEDS

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GOAT SONG, a theatre group, seeks to audition and interview prospective company members—performers, writers, technical support and directors. Contact Mike Hanks at 439-1825.

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Insurance & Investment Planning. If your business is a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, it may be at serious risk without sound business planning. I offer solutions and plans to protect your professional investment. Call **Julie LaRue** at **Acacia Financial Center of Houston** (713) 879-1311.

REPRINT! The only printshop in Houston to win the Golden Ink Knife Award. Copies 3 1/2 cents. MAC rental \$4.95/hr. Business Cards \$12.99/500. Good people w/good prices. Reprint! 1624 Richmond Ave., 522-9299.

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OUTSTANDING SALES OPPORTUNITY! OutSmart Magazine now hiring commissionable sales team members. Call Greg at Up&Out Communications, (713) 520-7237.

MIDTOWNE SPA is currently accepting applications for motivated and energetic individuals who possess a positive attitude and want to work in a team environment. Apply in person Monday to Wednesday from 10 am-2 pm. No Phone Calls.

HAIRSTYLIST/IMAGE

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MISCELLANEOUS

LESBIAN EROTICA ANTHOLOGY. Alyson Publications seeks short fiction with erotic content. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and include a SASE. Deadline is Sept. 15. Women of color especially encouraged to respond. Stories or queries to: Lucy Jane Bledsoe, P.O. Box 10211, Berkeley, CA 94709-5211.

The National Institutes of Health is recruiting patients for a phase I/II trial to determine the safety/tolerance and efficacy of rhu TNFR:Fc (a TNF blocking agent) in HIV infection. Participants will receive rhu TNFR:Fc by subcutaneous administration twice weekly for 8 weeks. Participants must have a CD4+ count less than or equal to 200 cells/mm³ and/or CD4% less than or equal to 14. Contact Grace Kelly, RN at 1-800-772-5464 x399.

GAY PEN-PALS for gay and lesbian youth. For instructions on joining the Alyson Letter Exchange Program, write to Letter Exchange, c/o Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA 02118. Participants must be 21 or younger.

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RELIGION

The Catholic Episcopal Church teaches the Christian Mysteries, Christ within and freedom of conscience. Mass 11 a.m., 2nd and 4th Sundays, Vespers daily, Kipling at Mt. Vernon, Bishop Phillip Hickman, (713) 529-5363

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SALES

OUTSMART Yard Sale. Office furniture, books, clothes, kitchen wares and miscellaneous items. Plus **OutSmart Merchandise:** t-shirts, bumper stickers, key chains and hats. June 18 and 19, 9 am-3 pm, 3406 Audubon (between Hawthorne and Alabama) in the Montrose area. 520-7237.

SERVICES

Jerry's Pest Control—350-3952. A good old fashioned company providing personal service and modern, safe technology for those pesky pests. **New Customer Discounts.**

SINGLES

Gay Single Males. If you meet this description and would like the opportunity to meet other gay single

men in an environment that is professional, fun and safe, or would like to help host events such as this. Please write or fax your name and address to: Tom Fricke, c/o Gay Gourmet, 501 Lovett Blvd., Houston, Texas 77006, FAX (713) 528-6708. This event is sponsored in part by OutSmart Magazine and The Lovett Inn.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Are you stressed and need relaxation? **David Rangel**, massage therapist in the Montrose area. In and out calls, evenings and weekends. Call (713) 287-9529.

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Bring out the hot NEW you! Hard & lean just in time for summer! Our Certified Personal Fitness training in conjunction with personalized nutritional guidelines will help you obtain the body that's yours and the results you deserve. Programs come in a variety of affordable packages so call now for your free consultation. After all, it is your body—Do it right! **MUSCLE MECHANICS (713) 869-0356.**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Basic Classifieds are \$13 for 30 words or less and 25¢ for each word thereafter. Add additional 25¢ per each bold word. Discounts available for 3 or 6 months if ads are prepaid. Sorry, we do not bill for classifieds. Three insertions base rate of \$10 per month; six insertions base rate of \$8 per month.

Boxed Ads are \$23 per vertical column inch (2 3/6" x 1"). Reversed Ads are \$28 per column inch. 10% discount granted to advertisers who prepay for three or more consecutive months.

Deadline: The first of the month prior to publication. Order by phone and pay by VISA, American Express or MasterCard. Or FAX it to us—(713) 522-3275. Sorry we do not bill. Mail ad and payment to: OutSmart Classifieds, 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006.

Questions? Call OutSmart Magazine at 520-7237.

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This ongoing and well-attended class founded by Michael K. Wilson has been created for those who want a deeper understanding of **SELF-LOVE, SELF-WORTH** and **SELF-ACCEPTANCE** and those wanting to strengthen their own **SELF-HEALING** potential.

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• Love Offering Basis • Guest speakers • Guided imagery & Theta meditation
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June 22: Michael Butera, LMSW-ACP: Michael will talk about The Cycle of Subjective Captivity.

June 29: Dr. Kun Wu: Dr. Wu will demonstrate Pranic Healing: A Natural Way of Self-Healing.

For more information call Don 521-9605

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN INTRO-EXPRESS PERSONAL AD:

Scan the ads listed, perusing them somewhat as you would items in a catalogue, but not nearly so callously. Make your selection of the person(s) you would like to meet, and dial 1-900-370-8687. (A charge of \$1.95 per minute appear on your next phone bill. You must be at least 18 years old to use this service.) You will be instructed to record a response to your potential love mate's ad. Make your recording dazzling and descriptive, giving the box-holder plenty of incentive to return your call. If dazzling and descriptive is too much to ask, just shoot for audible.

If you're more of an old-fashioned guy or gal, write a response to your potential love interest. Put this letter in a STAMPED envelope addressed with nothing but the box number you're responding to. Put this envelope and \$2 in yet another envelope. Mail the whole thing to OutLookin' Personals c/o OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. We'll forward your letter to your new honey within 48 hours. After that the two of you are on your own. We claim no responsibility for fireworks or fizzes. Love's kinda funny that way....

WRITE YOUR OWN INTRO-EXPRESS PERSONAL

Mail us your 50-word-or-less personal ad by the first of each month for publication in the following issue. (Add 25¢ for each word over 50.) We will not publish a last name, address, or phone number. We do, however, require ALL that information for our files. After we receive your personal ad you will be assigned your own voice mail box and sent instructions on how to record your free voice personal introduction.

MEN SEEKING MEN

COURTSHIP WITH STYLE
GWM, 44 br/br/mstch, 5'9", 165 lbs., attractive and fit, Italian heritage, masculine acting/appearing, professional, financially secure, conservative lifestyle (politically liberal), traditional values...seeks same. Did you ever feel that you should have been born in the 19th century when courtship, romance, morals and commitment meant something? If so, please respond. Letters preferred.
OutSmart Intro Box 70135

FREE THINKER
Open-minded GAM, 23, graduate student, attractive (physically, mentally and socially) seeks GM, age 20-30, good-looking, same interests (art, science, literature, philosophy, old movies, theatre,

volleyball, swimming, biking and hiking) and really nice. Let's get together and see what happens. Letters and photos exchanged.
OutSmart Intro Box 70145

BUSCANDO AMIGOS
SGM, 29, sincero, atractivo (no superficial), fanatico de salsa/merengue, futbol, viajando, pachangueando, dando paseos, mucho mas. Busco amigos con gustos similares. Escribame. I'm sincere, attractive (not superficial), enjoy salsa/merengue, soccer, traveling, partying, walks and much more. Looking for friends (any race/sex) with similar interests. Please write.
OutSmart Intro Box 70143

VIDEO GAMES OK...NO MIND GAMES!
GWM, 24 yrs., 6', 230 lbs. Brown hair/eyes. Interests: Computers, video games, playing board/card games. Non-smoker. Into New Age philosophies, music. Prefer someone 18-30 yrs. old, seeking long-term relationship. Very inexperienced. Must be trustworthy, sincere and disease free. Please write.
OutSmart Intro Box 70137

OUTLOOKIN' PERSONALS MAKE IT SO EASY TO FALL IN LOVE...

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LINE...

Send us your FREE 50 word personal ad for publication in *Uptown Express* for the next three months.

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After we receive it we'll give you a number to record your own FREE voice greeting—at no charge! You'll be assigned a voice mailbox number which will appear in your ad. Record a free greeting about yourself to be heard by those responding to your printed ad.

YOU'LL GET THEIR EAR...

Respondents to your ad will hear your greeting. If they like what they hear, they can leave a message. They'll be charged \$1.95 per minute which will appear on their phone bill.

AND THEY'LL GET YOURS...

Use our toll-free number to call you mailbox and check how many messages you have waiting for you. Then call 1-900-370-8687 to listen to your responses! There will be a charge of \$1.95 per minute which will appear on your phone bill.

THEN GET TOGETHER...

Once you've listened to your messages, you'll decide whom to contact. Only then do you make your identity known. It's completely confidential!

Call 1-900-370-8687

\$1.95 per minute • You must be at least 18 years old to use this service.

STEP INTO THE LIMELIGHT
GWM, mid-30s, attractive, successful and fun! Outgoing personality with wit and charm. Seeking friend/companion who is down-to-earth and comfortable with himself and others. I enjoy travel (RSVP, ATLANTIS, Road trips), dining out, going to the gym, friends, movies, hanging out at the pool, projects and laughing. Prefer non-smoker and light drinker. I am healthy, stable and relationship-oriented. I enjoy attending various local events such as openings, fund raisers and shows. Very community oriented. Write me, it could be fun.
OutSmart Intro Box 70076

ATTENTION BODY-BUILDER/MODEL TYPE
Opportunity for a unique friendship, romance and possibly more. GWM mid-30s, handsome and full of charm. Seeking exceptionally attractive bodybuilder/model type. Especially one who might read this ad and laugh...but then finds himself just a bit curious! Discretion is assured. Healthy, non-smoker and outgoing. Some "baggage" OK. Most of all be FUN! I can promise you excitement and fun in your life. Letters

only and photo optional.
OutSmart Intro Box 70139

KING TAKES A KNIGHT
If this were a game of chess, the next move would be up to you. Attractive white male, 42, non-smoker, weight proportionate, D/DF and goal-oriented seeks companion of like qualities. Some interests include music, dancing, (C & W), theater and Teddy bears—alive and otherwise.
OutSmart Intro Box 70113

ATTENTION ALL DOCS
This 36-year-old, good-looking gay male is seeking a friend or companion for new adventures in romance. I am educated, witty and outgoing. Prefer MD or DVM (probably sounds odd but it has to do with interests, intelligence, priorities and maturity). Serious replies only and please, by mail. Let's enjoy the summer and have a much needed blast!
OutSmart Intro Box 70046

THE BEST FOR THE BEST
GBM, 25, 5'8" and 153 lbs. Handsome student, harmonious, humorous, articulate, kind and loving. Enjoys music, astrology, reading, Tina Turner, Kathleen Battle,

stimulating conversation and romantic evenings. Seeking stable, loving, handsome, slender, healthy, relationship-oriented GM, 25-35 with similar interests.
OutSmart Intro Box 70023

TAKE AN EDUCATED CHANCE

GWM, mid 30s, 6', 175#, brown hair/eyes, clean shaven, attractive, degreed professional. Interests include, but not limited to, music, movies, theater, dining out. Serious replies only; prefer letter with recent photo.
OutSmart Intro Box 70121

LET'S TAKE THE LONG ROAD TO FUN

South Texas beach bum seeks to meet Houston man who likes coffee, quality smokes, hearty meals and more for a casual, no strings, long-distance relationship. Me: white, long brown hair, HIV negative, 58", 165 lbs., H/WP, funny, laid back. I like big, friendly men. Race unimportant, age 25-45 or so. Photos exchanged.
OutSmart Intro Box 70125

RACHMANINOFF TO ROLLERBLADES

GWM would like to meet an unattached guy (A/H/W, 20-30s) with a focus in life and a zeal for the arts. I'm 32, 5' 6-1/2", 130 lbs., very healthy, blonde, considered cute. Into music (except C & W), substantial conversation, wine and cooking, dancing, exercise, art films. I'm capable of maintaining a long-lasting friendship, or, if things get intense, a steady relationship. Call or write.
OutSmart Intro Box 70127

FYI: A GWM'S ABC'S...RSVP
Attractive/average, BI/bl, College educated, Dancing (Heaven/Rich's) Eating out, Funny, GWM, Honest, Intelligent, Jaded, Kind, Liberal, Movies, NS/DDF, OUT!, Plays, Quiet evenings, Romantic, Seeks companion, Tall/thin, Under 30 (barely), Vanilla, Write me—don't call, Xpect no mind games, Youthful, Seeking Zimilar.
OutSmart Intro Box 70129

TAKE A WOK ON THE WILD SIDE

Gay Asian male, 34, 5'9", 150 lbs., out, attractive, fun-loving and sincere, fit and healthy. Seeking kind, hirsute and handsome, fit and trim, well-adjusted guy (30-45) for friendship. Enjoy working out, cooking and my work. Not ready for romantic commitment, but my friends are friends for life.
OutSmart Intro Box 70058

MUSCLE MAN SEEKS SAME
Seeking a straight-acting, handsome, healthy 35-45 y.o. GWM, masculine, muscular, fitness oriented, professional, D/DF, non-promiscuous, non-smoker, light drinker, emotionally stable, approx. 6', H/W P, not into bar scene. I am a GHM, 5'7", 32 y.o., HIV-, 168 lbs., masculine/muscular, athletic. Professional, clean shaven, hopeless romantic with old fashioned values, open minded, level headed and a great listener. Friends say I am very attractive. Written responses w/ photo if possible. It'll be worth it!
OutSmart Intro Box 70162

HELLO HOUSTON!
GWM, 48, 5'8", 160 lbs. healthy, fit and handsome Californian recently transplanted to Houston. Seeking non-smoking guy for friendship, romance and possibly more. I enjoy old fashioned courtship/romance, cooking, movies, social functions, bicycling, animals, volunteer work and lots of fun times. Comfortable in jeans to black-tie! Santa Cruz is too far, but Galveston is close! Looking for sincere professional man. Write me.
OutSmart Intro Box 70107

WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

LESBIAN LOVE STORY
Once upon a time, a Feminine GF responded to an ad placed by a gallant, 39-year-old, professional GBF. They became friends, enjoyed fun times, experienced mutual sensual fantasies and they lived happily ever after together. If you're ready to Live, Laugh and Love, please respond. Thanks.
OutSmart Intro Box 70141

SLEEPLESS IN HOUSTON
GF looking for GBF or GWF who likes picnics, going to the park, movies, dancing and TV. One who is strong, independent, sincere and affectionate.
OutSmart Intro Box 70119



WANNA FALL IN LOVE AGAIN?
GF: Emotionally available, feminine, athletic, charming, witty, intelligent, positive self-esteem, good listener and conversationalist. Enjoys rollerblading, biking, weight lifting, chess and the beach. Looking for an emotionally available, feminine lesbian who isn't afraid of falling in love or being loved. Prefer dark hair and blue or green eyes.
OutSmart Intro Box 70115

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE. LET'S EXPLORE IT
Are you an honest woman with family values? So am I! I'm a SGWF seeking genuine friendship with SGF, 32-44, that may lead to romance. I'm college educated, blue-collar, late 30's who enjoys movies, theater, museums, cafes and new adventures. Isn't it time we met?
OutSmart Intro Box 70117

Brian Tihansky, CPM
Direct: 722-5212 Fax: 722-5252
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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD...

BY NANCY FORD

Sunday, June 26, 1994, marks the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, said by many to have been the beginning of today's Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights movement in the U.S.

This day will be commemorated when close to a million gay men, lesbians, bi-sexuals, transgendered people and those who love and support them march on the United Nations in New York City. Their goal is to continue the plea for equal civil rights that was so eloquently begun in recent years' historic Marches on Washington.

This March, scheduled in tandem with the internationally anticipated Gay Games IV, winds through the streets of a city known to be simultaneously one of the most progressive yet most dangerous places for a gay man or lesbian to live. This illustrates perhaps even more vividly the need to remember that our striving for equal rights has been an ongoing process. Gays and lesbians haven't just now popped up all over the globe since it's become chic—many more of us are simply *choosing* to be visible. Many have gone before to set our history in place, regardless of whether or not that history is taught as a matter of course.

It is our challenge as gay men and lesbians who live in 1994 to remember where we've been—not just where we're going.

WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE

(new lyrics by Nancy Ford and Kelly McCann)

Queer, fairy, drag queen, butch and fem, the leather scene,
Gay boy, homo, Lipstick Lesbian,
Activists, closet cases, double lives, hidden faces,
Faggot, diesel dyke and back to queer again.

Socrates, Sappho, da Vinci, Michaelangelo,
Gertrude Stein and Alice B., *Torch Song Trilogy*,
Oscar Wilde, Quentin Crisp, girls with muscles, boys who lisp,
k. d. lang, Elton John, Martina wins at Wimbledon.

We didn't start the fire,
It was always burnin' since the world's been turning.
We didn't start the fire.
No, we didn't light it, but we tried to fight it.

Greece's Isle of Lesbos, East Village, Castro,
Amsterdam, Provincetown, Overt and Key West,
Victor/Victoria, Hanks in Philadelphia
Desert Hearts, Lianna, Personal Best.

Donahue has drag queens, Fem 2 Fem on TV screens,
Sandra Bernhard on *Roseanne*, holding hands in Disneyland,
Anita and her orange juice, every gay man's name is Bruce,
Martina tells the world she's gay, Judy runs to Rita Mae.

Here's to Freddy Mercury, Rock Hudson, Leonard B.,
Callan and Tchaikovsky, Haring, Liberace,
Milton Berle to RuPaul, disco and last call,
Donna Summers, lasers,
Children of the turkey basters.

Freedom rings and 501's, millions march on Washington,
Triangles, rainbow flags, Studs and Frank are Congress fags.
Jeff Stryker, Susie Bright, sex and the religious right,
Don't ask, don't tell—Jesse Helms can go to hell.

Lobotomy for sodomy, AZT for HIV,
Nature/nurture—wondering why, CDC & FBI,
KKK, NGLRA, APA says we're OK.
Stonewall, Gay Pride, the day that Harvey Milk died.
We're your daughters and your sons, we're your priests, we're your nuns,
Now there's Earring Magic Ken—it's hip to be a gay man!

Duct tape, Dynel falls, Press-on Nails, soft balls,
Same sex kissing on the lips, soon domestic partnerships,
Cover dykes on Newsweek, Roberta Achtenberg speaks,
Mapplethorpe and his art, Voice, TWT and OutSmart.

Gym teachers, Gay Games, true love, fake names,
Hitler and the Holocaust, the day your innocence was lost,
Gay bashings, homophobes, black lists, Senate probes.
Equal rights is what we're for—
We won't take it anymore.

We didn't start the fire,
It was always burnin' since the world's been turning.
We didn't start the fire,
But when we are gone will it still burn on and on and on and on...

This song is a parody of Billy Joel's *We Didn't Start the Fire*, and will be performed by Nancy Ford at New York City's Gay & Lesbian Cultural Festival prior to the March on the United Nations. Her pre-march kick-off show will be at Ms. B's on Thursday, June 16, 8:30-midnight. Call 666-3463 for reservations.

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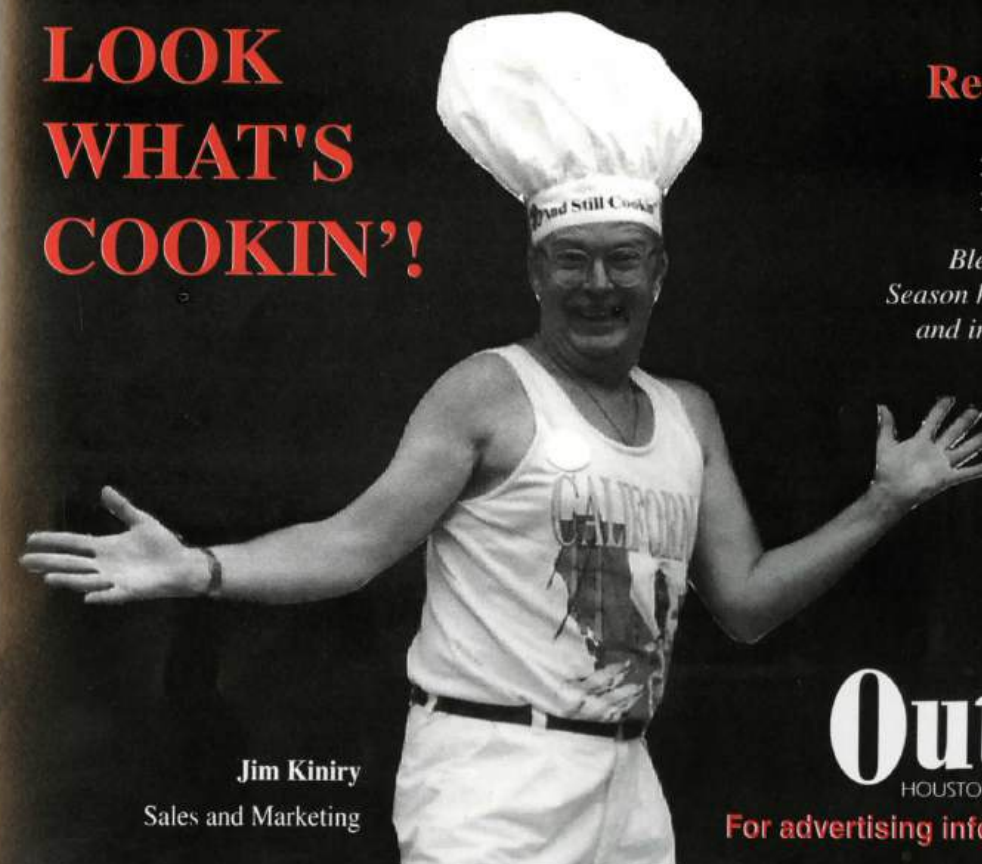
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HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

For advertising information call 713-520-7237

Jim Kiniry

Sales and Marketing

FEEL LIKE A COUPLE HOURS OF HEAVY PETTING?

Don't miss The Pet Patrol Fifth Annual Benefit

June 22, 1994 • 5-8p.m.

The Black Labrador Pub • 4100 Montrose Boulevard

Admission: dog/cat food or pet supplies



The Pet Patrol cares for the pets of our friends fighting AIDS.