

Volume 1 ▼ Issue 6

July 15 - August 14, 1994

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Out▼Smart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

AN INTERVIEW
WITH
**MELISSA
ETHERIDGE**

**LIFE AS A
GAY MAN**
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THREE-PART SERIES

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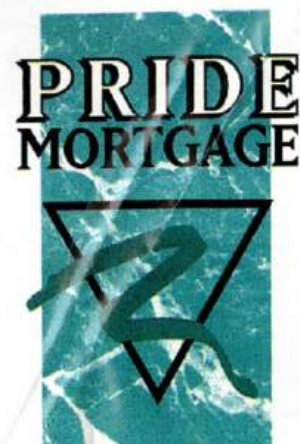
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OutSmart

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

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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Randee St. Nicholas

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- C. Montrose Mini Mansion! 4-3-2+Qtrs. 2 1/2 stories, Brick. Huge home with great courtyard. \$239,000
- D. Shepherd Forest, 3-1-1, Hardwoods, Centrals, Sparkling Pool and Covered Deck. Great House! \$74,900
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LETTERS

GAY PRIDE WEEK

We, the Executive Committee of Lesbian/Gay Pride Week 1994, wish to express our gratitude to the community for its support in making this year's HoustonStonewall 25 celebration such a success.

We thank all of you who aligned with us in giving to our community a well-rounded lineup of activities and events. As a result, the community responded with many events enjoying sold-out or "standing room only" crowds. Out of your participation, many nonprofit organizations, including our own, were able to raise funds to continue with their projects.

To the many volunteers who assisted us with the mailouts, fund-raising events and the various activities during Pride Week, we sincerely appreciate your time, energy and enthusiasm. We feel we have made many friends and invite you to continue to join us as we begin planning for Gay/Lesbian Pride Week 1995.

Our general meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray. We look forward to seeing you there.

—Ray Ramirez and Julie Siska
Co-Chairs LIG Pride Week 1994

RADIO GAYS

The volunteer programmers of Lesbian & Gay Voices want to express our thanks to Steven Foster and the folks at OutSmart for the article on the show that appeared in the June/July issue. The article captured the essence of the program, which "Brings the Lesbian and Gay Community as close as your radio." Your continuing support of the program means a lot to us.

There are just a few corrections to make: Our producer's name is Donna Garnier (not Gonier). A lot of the credit for the quality of the program is due to her efforts. The show that preceded Lesbian & Gay Voices, that was co-hosted by Jack Valinski and myself, was Wilde 'n' Stein (as in Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein).

We also want to make sure proper credit is given to Mary Helen Merzbacher. Mary Helen, a former General Manager of the station, does a regular musical segment on the program where gay & lesbian artists such as the Flirtations, Romanosky and Phillips, Holly Near, Libby Roderick, Ann Reed, Jamie Anderson, Phranc and many more are featured. These are very talented musicians who get little (to no) airplay elsewhere. She is an integral part of the program and her contribution to the show is very valuable and appreciated. She also can be heard on *Sounds of Texas* and *The World* on Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. She often includes the work of lesbian and gay performers on that program, as do several other programmers on KPFT.

We also need to express appreciation to the other volunteers on the program. Suzanne Anderson who was featured in the article is just one of the collective of people who help make the show possible. Also contributing are Melody Blake, Brian Bradley, Cindy Freedman, Graham Herrick, Judith Meyer, Juan Palomo, Estella Ruiz, Zachary Steele, Cynthia Thomas and Rebecca Thompson. Additionally we feel it is important to recognize the staff at KPFT for their assistance. We also want to acknowledge our listeners who support the program with the payment of their pledges. As listener-sponsored, we are dependent on the financial support of the community; their commitment keeps us on the air. We are commercial free but hold on-the-air fund drives three times a year. The generous contributions of our listeners have given Lesbian & Gay Voices one of the best pledge-to-payment records at the station.

Lastly, we want to extend an invitation to everyone who would like to become a volunteer with the program to contact us. Free training provided by the station will take place in late July or August. The time commitment can be as little as a few hours a week. Folks are needed on air and/or behind the scenes. We can be reached through our voice mail number at 289-2700.

—Deborah Bell
Lesbian & Gay Voices

Editor's note: It's also been brought to our attention that Ray Hill, far from leaving the station "on the brink of failure," was instrumental in the financial stability of KPFT long after his departure. Watch for Steven Foster's continuing examination of Gays and Lesbian in the Media series, including coverage of the contributions of Hill, Mary Helen Merzbacher, Juan Paloma and others, in next month's OutSmart.

EL PASO TIMES DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT

I'm writing you to ask a special favor on behalf of the gay and lesbian community of El Paso. The Texas Human Rights Foundation recently received an urgent request from Lambda Services of El Paso.

On June 26, 1994, the *El Paso Times* (a Gannett Group daily newspaper for El Paso) for the first time ran a wedding announcement on behalf of a gay El Paso couple: Rob Knight and Alex Herrera were married on April 22, 1994. The *Times* cited their policy of recognizing individual liberties and equality in making the decision to begin running such announcements. Dionicio Flores, the editor and publisher of the newspaper, stated: "The *El Paso Times*' editorial policy is built on the principle that we are all equal, and we should all enjoy the same privileges."

The newspaper's decision has been met with hostility from the radical right, and the newspaper is being inundated with calls in opposition to the practice.

We need supporters from across Texas to counterbalance the hostile calls the *Times* has been receiving! Help us get the word out to all Texans who believe in equal rights: Please contact the *El Paso Times* today, express your support for their policy of publishing same-sex union announcements, and have a friend do the same!

You can express your support in any one of three ways:

- **Call in and dictate a letter of support:**—Call Dionicio Flores, Publisher and Editor, at 1-800-351-6007, ext. 6420.
- **Write a letter to the editor:**—Letters to the Editor, *El Paso Times*, P. O. Box 20, El Paso, TX 79999
- **Fax a letter to the editor:**—Fax to 915-546-6415.
- You can also express your support to Rob Knight and Alex Herrera, and to Lambda Services of El Paso, by calling (915) 562-GAYS or 563-4297.

Time is of the essence, so please contact the *El Paso Times* today!

—Michael H. Garbino
Acting Executive Director
Texas Human Rights Foundation

More Letters continued on page 6

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RE: CLINTON'S MILITARY DISASTER: ONE YEAR LATER

The blatant Republican Party line followed by Dale Carpenter is what is chilling if we use the analogy in the film *Broadcast News*. The charge that Bill Clinton has perpetrated some fraud is sheer nonsense! Congress with the leadership of Senator Nunn formulated that policy and the President was forced to accept it. What the President originally proposed was completely changed.

Mr. Carpenter may be a competent attorney and a persuasive writer for Republican causes but he misses the political, historical and legal ramifications of the whole issue of gays in the military.

The statement that the old policy had a "comprehensible simplicity" is a telling statement indeed. These are the words of a man who has obviously never read Randy Shilts' *Conduct Unbecoming*; I have read it and it turns my stomach. It has been the policy of the U.S. government for decades to systematically root out gays and lesbians and harass and humiliate them in any manner possible. Most of those "manners" were reprehensible and disgusting. To even imply that the old policy is better, which is Mr. Carpenter's implication, is a most disturbing statement!

None deny that the new policy is a tangled web of imbecilities and irrationality. Indeed that is the most compelling part about it. It provides cannon fodder indeed to those who have reason to file lawsuits against the military.

Did anyone think that the election in 1994 made Bill Clinton the dictator of the U.S.? Policy works in Les Aspin's office released the text of the new policy in their unsecured computers. The press and Congress got a hold of it and the rest is history. I find it indeed strange that Mr. Carpenter is repulsed by Bill Clinton and has bad words for Al Gore but not a single word of recrimination for Senator Nunn who orchestrated the whole response to the premature release of Clinton policy.

There is no assurance that, had the policy not been prematurely released, it would have fared any better. The sad truth is that we in the gay and lesbian community simply do not have the power in congress to force them to deal with our issues in a fair and sensible manner.

Mr. Carpenter quotes the *New York Times* as saying that gay service men and women are worse off now that they were under the old ban! I do not know who made the *New York Times* an expert on the affairs of gay men or lesbians or what sort of data they used to make that statement but I suspect that it is nothing more than anecdotal opinion that does not impress me in the light of all the years of previous oppression. Am I to understand that Mr. Carpenter actually believes that the military will love us now or in some near future? He seems to be blaming Clinton because of the gay backlash! Such a homophobic reaction ill represents our community. There will be backlashes as long as there are hate mongers in positions of power and that may be a very long time, so get prepared!

Mr. Carpenter alleges that Clinton should have massed a public response to Senator Nunn's attacks. Elected with less than 50% of the vote after a bitter election, you tell me what political capital

Clinton had? He was then and is now under constant attack by the likes of Republicans like Mr. Carpenter who either do not know or ignore the political realities and in fact blatantly disregard the facts.

Public debate over our issues as well as all other civil rights issues do not necessarily foster only love and understanding. Often the bitterness is more intense as the change is taking place. Look at the position of women. As more and more women take their places and exercise their rights they are maligned even more viciously. Young, Anglo males, born to expect privilege and respect in our society, only to find themselves gay and thus treated as pariahs, have a hard time understanding the dynamics of political and social reality in this country. They often don't understand being treated as the misfits of society. They lash out in frustration. Other minorities such as women and people of color know we "ain't gonna get the whole cake the first time around." We know we have to keep working on it and we know that bashing Bill Clinton is not the way to "keep working on it!"

Clinton appointed an open lesbian to a high political office and stood behind that appointment because that was an issue he could win. That is where stands are made in politics. Going down in flames may look good in the movies but it does not advance our cause one iota to lose the most sympathetic president we have ever had. Roberta Achtenburg's appointment was an important milestone. What do you want to bet that Mr. Carpenter would, in his rush to bash Bill Clinton, rather that we forget that?

The truth remains that the administration of Bill Clinton is much better than either that of Reagan or Bush. Increased AIDS research funding, an open lesbian appointed to high office, plans for a comprehensive health care bill, as well as women's health issues that were totally ignored in previous years are now on the front burner. The years of neglect by the previous Republican administrations are tough to overcome in one year! We have several years of hard work ahead and my hope is that Mr. Carpenter will put his shoulder to the wheel and help the rest of us get it done rather than sit in his ivory tower and pontificate about the lack of perfection in Democratic presidents when his Republican presidents did not even try to accomplish as much.

I submit to *OutSmart* that Mr. Carpenter's brief at the bottom of the article should read, "The opinions in this article are the opinions of a Repub-

lican Party fellow traveler." To let him masquerade as an unbiased writer who happens to be a board member of HGLPC is a travesty, and his blatant use of both these positions to espouse the Republican Party line is behavior which I too could describe by saying, "Tom Grunick, we hardly knew ye."

—Pat Gandy

Pat Gandy is a former vice-president and Chair of the Board of the Houston Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus, former member and Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, former member of the Equity League, former Co-Chair of the Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas and is now Precinct Chair in Precinct 53 for the Democratic Party, member of the Steering Committee of the Harris County Democratic Party and is a recent and newly elected member of the State Democratic Executive Committee representing Senate District 6.

DALE CARPENTER REPLIES:

Her polemic against Republicans aside, Ms. Gandy has two substantive points: 1) that the compromise on gay military service is not Clinton's fault, and 2) that, in any case, Clinton has done some good things for gays so we should stop whining. First, it's true there is plenty of blame to go around for the compromise. Some of it goes to Sam Nunn, of whom I was critical in the June article. But the buck stops with the President, who is responsible for the implementation of his policies and promises. If he had mounted a competent and vigorous campaign to end the gay ban, and been thwarted by a recalcitrant Congress, we'd have a different story to tell. Moreover, we could have expected an unprincipled stand from the many sources who opposed ending the ban. We could have expected half-hearted support from some of our other "friends" in government. We just expected more from Clinton, given his full-throated campaigning on the issue. Second, Clinton may have done some good things for gays (though even on the issues Ms. Gandy lists, as well as others, his record is pock-marked), but the gays-in-the-military issue was a centerpiece of his appeal to gays. Thus, we are entitled to make it a centerpiece of our evaluation of him. Besides, saying he's done some good on other issues won't whitewash the harm done on this one. A general evaluation of his presidency awaits another article.

I doubt the vast majority of Republicans would see my criticism of Clinton as towing any recognizable "Republican line." Maintaining a critical distance from a Democratic president doesn't make one ipso facto a Republican lackey, as any member of Act-Up will tell you.

Finally, although I may be a "fellow traveler," to use Ms. Gandy's colorful McCarthy-era phrase, I am not now, and have never been a card-carrying member of the Republican Party. If subpoenaed, I will not name names.

—Dale Carpenter

SPEAKOUT

Here's your chance to voice your opinion. Right or wrong, weak or strong—we want to know what you're thinking. Fax your response, with or without your comments, your name and/or contact information, to 713/522-3275, or mail to *OutSmart Magazine/SpeakOut*, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston TX 77006.

July marks the one-year anniversary of the Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue policy adopted by the Clinton Administration regarding the ban on gays and lesbians in military service. Are you satisfied with President Clinton's outreach to the gay and lesbians in the military, and the community at large, since this time?

- ___ Very satisfied. You go, Bill! Love to Hillary!
- ___ Satisfied. He's done more for us than any other President.
- ___ Undecided. What's his deal with Barbra Streisand?
- ___ Mildly dissatisfied. Watch yourself, Bill. Decision '96 is only 700 or so Happy Meals away.
- ___ Very dissatisfied.



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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

JULY

16 RICE UNIV. GAY & LESBIAN ALUMNI ASSOC. (Houston chapter), will have a dinner social, 7:30 pm, Spaghetti Warehouse, 901 Commerce at Travis. Please RSVP to Don Baker at 523-0170.

17 HOT TROPICAL AFTERNOON, a fundraiser to benefit Omega House and Loving Arms, will feature entertainment and silent and live auctions, 4-8 pm, Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 2222 West Loop South. Tickets are \$30. Tropical attire encouraged.

19 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.

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON, general meeting, 7 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 529-6979.

20 WHY ARE FAGS STILL FUCKING WITHOUT CONDOMS?, a no-holds-barred discussion sponsored by the Men's Network for gay and bisexual men, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037.

LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, "Tank Top Night," 8-10 pm, Dairy Ashford Roller Rink, 1820 S. Dairy Ashford at I-10. Admission is \$5. 933-5818.

21 MONTROSE ICE PICKS for lesbian/gay ice skaters, 8-10 pm, Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer, admission is \$5 plus \$2 for skates, wear purple clothing or your favorite gay/lesbian T-shirt.

FREE PRESENTATION ON HIV/AIDS for anyone who wants factually based information on



Servant Dromio (Jacob Robertson) and Luce (Nikki Lewis) have a wonderful time with their jobs in *Comedy of Errors*. Friday & Saturday Night July 1-August 6 at The Skyline Theater.

HIV infection, transmission and prevention (30 minute video will be included), 6:30-7:30 pm, Greater Houston Area Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway at Kirby, 526-8300.

22 LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, outdoor skate, 6 pm, Memorial Park Picnic Loop, look for the Lambda Rollerskating Club banner. 933-5818.

FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY, fun and games with fellow Christians, begins at 7 pm, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

22-24 AIDS MASTERY WORKSHOP, a weekend workshop exploring the emotional, psychological and spiritual issues surrounding HIV for those infected and affected by AIDS. Fri. 6:00 pm, Sat. & Sun. all day. Sponsored by Northern Lights Alternatives. Call 523-8711 to register.

23 A GIANT RUG SALE, proceeds benefit People With AIDS Coalition of Houston, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, The Clubhouse at Cherryhurst Park (the corner of Windsor and Missouri, one block north of Lobo).

23-24 MIDNIGHT COMICS presents a book-signing by Houston-area comic book art-

ists and writers, Sat.: 2 pm-midnight, Sun.: noon-8 pm, 13155 Westheimer at Synott, 293-0226.

24 MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE vs. Houston Firefighters, 12 noon-5 pm, Memorial Park Diamond #1, \$2 donation requested to benefit Pride Week, 529-6979.

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

FOOD FOR HEALTH: NUTRITION AND HIV. Richard Elbein, RD, will focus on the issues of basic nutrition as well as the important nutritional needs facing persons living with HIV disease. 7-9 pm at Montrose Library (upstairs), 4100 Montrose. Sponsored by AFH, 623-6796.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS of Houston general meeting, call 681-2607 for meeting time and place.

26 AIDS EQUITY 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.

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

RELATIONSHIPS WORKSHOP for people with HIV disease, 6-8 pm, Medical Center Clinic, 1115 S. Braeswood, Suite 210. Sponsored by the Early Intervention Program, 796-8123.

28 HIV AND ORAL SEX: GETTING THE FACTS! A panel of scientists will discuss the evidence regarding oral sex risks, 7-9:30 pm, Doubletree Hotel—Allen Center, 400 Dallas (corner of Dallas and Bagby), sponsored by Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN), 520-2015. FREE.

NANCY FORD, Queen of the Lesbians, musical comedy at Ms. B's (at the Ranch), 9200 Buffalo Speedway. Also Open Mic—sing a song, recite poetry, tell a joke, spill a secret. 8:30-midnight. 666-3464.

SAFER SEX FOR LESBIANS SEMINAR presented by Nancy Ford and AIDS Foundation Houston. Ms. B's (at the Ranch), 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 9:30 pm, 666-3464.

29-30 SEX IS... A bold, penetrating film about the role of sex and sexuality in the lives of 15 gay men. Winner of the Best Gay Film award at the 1993 Berlin International Film Festival, 7:30 pm & 9:15 pm, Rice University Media Center, University Blvd. at Stockton (Entrance 8), \$4.25.

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

GARDEN PARTY, 3 pm, Richs, 2401 San Jacinto.

LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, outdoor skate and picnic (bring a covered pot-luck dish), 4 pm, Memorial Park Picnic Loop, look for the Lambda Rollerskating Club banner. 933-5818.

AUGUST

1 LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, 8-10 pm, Dairy Ashford Roller Rink, 1820 S. Dairy Ashford at I-10. Admission is \$5. 933-5818.

2 PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON, executive committee meeting, 7 pm, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, 529-6979.

3 WHY ARE FAGS STILL FUCKING WITHOUT CONDOMS, no holds barred discussion sponsored by the Men's Network for gay and bisexual men, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037.

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

4 NANCY FORD, Queen of the Lesbians, musical comedy at Ms. B's (at the Ranch), 9200 Buffalo Speedway. Also Open Mic—sing a song, recite poetry, tell a joke, spill a secret. 8:30-midnight. 666-3464.

5 LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, outdoor skate, 6 pm, Memorial Park Picnic Loop, look for the Lambda Rollerskating Club banner. 933-5818.

6 WATCH OUT... HURRICANE predicted to hit this night. Bayou City Boys Club

presents Hurricane '94—a warehouse party benefiting Body Positive and AIDS Mastery Workshop. 10 pm til high tide at European Tavern & Garden, 3926 Feagan. Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door; available at Lobo, Crossroads Market and Basic Brothers.

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

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

TOWN MEETING II FUNDRAISER, 5-7 pm, Museum Restaurant. Anyone interested in knowing what Town Meeting II is all about is urged to come and meet the people who are organizing the event planned for June 18, 1995.

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

STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP for people with HIV disease, 6-8 pm, Medical Center Clinic, 1115 S. Braeswood, Suite 210. Sponsored by the Early Intervention Program, 796-8123.

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

14 NANCY FORD BIRTHDAY PARTY includes a raffle, silent auction and entertainment, \$10 donation benefits AIDS Foundation Houston, 6 pm, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway at Murworth, 520-7237.

15 LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, 8-10 pm, Dairy Ashford Roller Rink, 1820 S. Dairy Ashford at I-10. Admission is \$5. 933-5818.

NEW GROUP FORMING

THE MOVIE CLUB is now offering a new group for those who would like to play card and board games (such as UNO, poker, Yahtzee, Trivial Pursuit, etc.). The group meets every Friday at 7:30 pm. Call Jimmy at 952-4048 for more information.

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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

Birthday Bash, Bourbon Street & Benefit for AFH Set for August 14

August 14 is the date of a major event benefiting AIDS Foundation—Houston. Scheduled at Plaza 9200, in conjunction with comedian Nancy Ford's 40th birthday bash, the evening includes a raffle, silent auction and entertainment by Houston's most talented and charitable performers.

The \$10 donation benefits AIDS Foundation—Houston, specifically to purchase and distribute safer-sex supplies for lesbians. Women and lesbians comprise the fastest growing segment of the population currently being newly diagnosed with HIV, making the availability of preventative information and supplies all the more vital.

"It seems that the lesbian community is in denial about its need to adopt safer sex practices," Ford says. "Twelve, thirteen years ago, when AIDS first hit the gay men's community, men were sitting ducks, because the information to save their lives wasn't readily available. That's not the case today with the women's community. Now the ball is our court to decide what to do with this information." For the last several months Ford has sponsored safer sex seminars for lesbians in tandem with her long-running bi-weekly musical comedy show, *Comedy • Music • Politics • Sex • Religion* at Plaza 9200. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with the most predominant questions concerning the availability of dental dams, latex, etc.

The fun starts at 6 p.m. with continuous entertainment, hosted by Ford and provided by Clay Howell, Juliana Wathen, Keith Caldwell, Marsha Carlton, award-winning illusionist Catia, Tim Williams and many more surprise guests. The event, scheduled in tandem with Ford's fortieth birthday, is also sponsored by Plaza 9200, *OutSmart* Magazine, JAG Residential Mortgage, Alice Tomasello, Gayle Hux, Jane C. Foltyn—Country Realtor, Gary Stokes and Mail Boxes Etc.—Galleria.

Area merchants have been overwhelmingly supportive by donating various prizes and services to be raffled throughout the evening. The Grand Prize of two-nights' stay at the romantic Bourbon Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, including airfare, for two, has been generously donated by Advance-Damron Vacations. Additional donations to be raffled include "forty-something" themed prizes from Pueblo to People, Basic Brothers, Lobo, Inklings, Fiesta, The Ranch, Dr. Bruce Smith, Tracy Gilmore, Robin Hoods, Joseph Molina, Cafe Maison, Home Sweet Home, Museum Restaurant, Celebrations To Go, Mail Boxes Etc., Singing Cavalier Balloons, Super Psychic Sharron Mattison, The Lovett Inn, EuroTan, Toupees Coffe Company, Man Maid Cleaning Service, Pepper Defense, Eleventh Street Cafe, Tony Carroll Seminars and a host of others.

The event will be held at Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway (at Murworth), 666-3464. Plaza 9200 is the largest gay and lesbian entertainment complex in the world, with four separate clubs under one roof (The Ranch, Ms. B's Cabaret, XTC and The Patio) and lighted, security-patrolled parking for 300+ cars. During the event owner Betsy Worden will also announce plans for exciting changes and renovations that will occur at Plaza 9200 in coming months.

For further information contact Nancy Ford at 520-7237.

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

THE HOMELESS PET PLACEMENT

LEAGUE is a non-profit 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: due to the overwhelming response from the community, now meets **EVERY SATURDAY** night to view a recently released film and dine at a nearby restaurant prior to the movie. Call 952-4048 for more information and meeting time and place.

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.

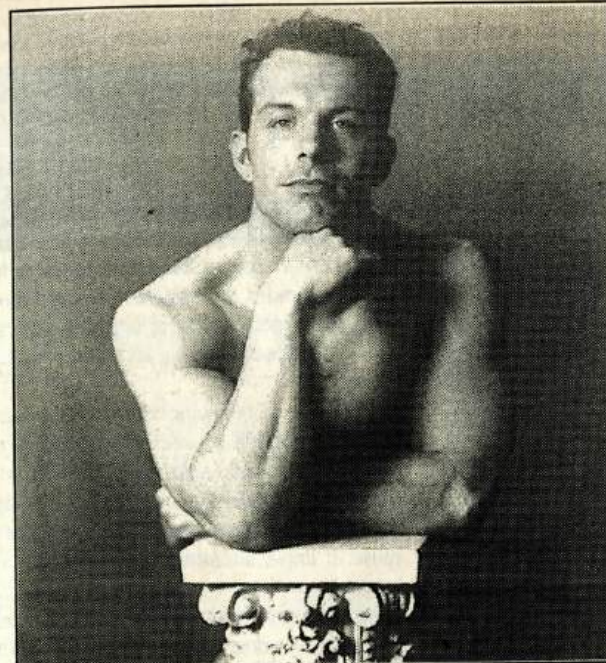
PROTECT (People Respecting Ourselves Through Establishing Community & Trust) is an HIV-negative support group providing a safe place to share experiences, strengths and hopes in an effort to remain HIV negative. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, Bering Church Office, 1440 Harold. For more information, call Marty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



Eric George in *SEX IS...* Photo by Daniel Nicoletta

Look out Houston, here it comes! *SEX IS...* a film by Marc Huestis and Lawrence Helman has finally made its way to a theater in the Houston area. The movie, placed among the five top grossing documentaries of the year, explores the meaning of sex and sexuality in the lives of gay men. The movie opened in February of 1993 at the Berlin International Film Festival, where it won the Audience Award for the Best Gay Film. Since then, it has broken box office records in New York, Los Angeles, Dallas and other major US cities. The openly candid documentary has been selected for a number of festivals in cities around the world, including Montreal, Rome, St. Petersburg (Russia) and Ghent. Recently it opened commercially in Germany and England.

SEX IS... is a penetrating look at the meaning of sex and sexuality in the lives of 15 gay men. From church pastor to porn star, the cast offers deeply touching interviews and provocative personal stories—combined with rare archival footage and hot flashes of male erotica. The film provides a panoramic view of gay sexuality from the repressive '50s through the hedonistic '70s to the cautionary '90s and the age of AIDS. This film is a boldly riveting presentation of gay life in America, including all of the joys and sadnesses that are so intricately woven into the colorful tapestry we call the gay lifestyle. Huestis and the 14 other characters presented in the documentary completely blow the door off their personal closets and tell all! A must see.

The film will be shown on July 29 & 30 at the Rice University Media Center, 2030 University Blvd., 7:30 pm and 9:15 pm. \$5.00. For information, call (713) 527-4882.

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.

GAY 90s: (TV) presented by Monticello Entertainment. This **NEW** cable show has a newsmagazine format offering a variety of topics from local news to restaurant reviews to some hu-

morous looks at ourselves. Showtimes are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels. For more information call Alan Bourgeois at 949-3119.

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. *The Wizard of Oz...*

ACTORS WORKSHOP 1009 Chartres. 236-1844. Through August 7: *Breaking Legs*.

A.D. PLAYERS, Grace Theater, 27110 West Alabama, 526-2721. Through July 23: *Gideon...* (St. Luke's United Methodist Church)

ALLEY THEATRE 615 Texas Ave. 228-8421. Through July 17: *And The There Were None* (Ten Little Indians). July 22-31: *Wait Until Dark*. August 5-14: *The Foreigner*.

COMPANY ONSTAGE 536 Westbury Square. 726-1219. Through July 30: *Sherlock's Last Case*.

COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Town and Country Village, 12802 Queensbury. 467-

4497. Through August 6: *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

CURTAINS 3722 Washington Ave., 862-4548. Through August 5: *Fantasies, Fallacies, and Fish*. Fridays only, 8 pm.

EXPRESS THEATRE Children's Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz. 759-1314. July 30-31, August 6-7: *Children's Theatre Festival On the Hill*, Miller Outdoor Theatre.

HOUSTON SKYLINE THEATRE 1617 Fannin. 759-0701. 759-0701. Through August 6: *Comedy of Errors*. A "young and restless" multimedia version presented by The Gypsy Theatre Company.

INSIDE/OUT PRODUCTIONS Kuumba House, 3412 LaBranch at Holman, 864-5986. July 23-August 13: *Oh, Hell!*

MAINSTREET THEATRE 2540 Times Blvd. 524-6706. Through July 24: *The Crucifer of Blood*. Through July 31: *A Man for All Reasons: Playing for Keeps*.

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

THEATER LaB HOUSTON 1706 Alamo. 868-7516. Through July 23: *The Kathy and Mo Show*.

THEATRESOUTHWEST 3750 Gessner Dr. 661-9505. Through August 13: *Woman In Mind*.

THEATRE SUBURBIA 1410 W 43. 668-3525. July 22-August 27: *Caught In The Villains Web*.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park, 520-3290. July 13-23: *A Chorus Line*.

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ROCKETS' RED GLARE

FRESH FROM AN AIRPLANE AND THE EUPHORIA of Houston's first major sports championship, and excited to be in the Big Apple to witness the Gay Games and the Stonewall 25 march, my lover and I ventured into the city streets. We immediately happened upon an attractive young woman who, as she approached us, untied her halter top and exposed herself. Welcome to New York.

That first night, P.J. and I sat down at a table outside a restaurant on Christopher Street holding hands. A passerby, perhaps himself a refugee from the Dark Ages before Stonewall, smiled at us and said, "That's what liberation is all about." There are precious few streets in this country where a gay couple can openly, safely express affection for each other. Even Montrose is routinely invaded by drunken ruffians selling homophobic T-shirts at the pitiful remains of the Westheimer Arts Festival. It was not that long ago that a gay man in Houston, just walking down the street, was bludgeoned into the sidewalk by a group of suburban hooligans. I supposed we had escaped all that, sitting there in the heart of gay New York. But just then a young thug bicycled past our table. "Fags," he sneered at us.

The Gay Games are a triumph of gay perseverance. The quadrennial event, begun by the now-deceased Tom Waddell in 1982, brings together gay athletes from across the globe for competition in everything from track to football. The events permit women and men at different skill levels to compete, so that even beginners have a place at these games. They mock the stereotype of gay men, in particular, as limp-wristed pansies with no stomach for athletic rigor. So often shunned from athletics because of who we are, here at last we openly celebrated who we are.

The most memorable event for me was men's figure skating, which featured competitors at five different skill levels, from beginner to Olympic-quality. Before each performance, the announcer read a dedication written by the skater. One novice said that he had loved skating when he was a boy, but had given it up because he feared people would think he was gay if he continued. He dedicated his routine to everyone who had ever given up anything because they were gay. When he fell on the ice after his first jump, it was heartbreaking. All those lost childhood dreams, those could have beens, should have beens, came flushing through the mind, tumbling onto the ice with him. You could see once more the child tearfully throwing his small skates into a trunk so he'd never have to hear that word "queer" again. But this time he got up, brushed himself off, and kept going. It was



BY DALE CARPENTER

beautiful. He finished to a standing ovation, never again looking back.

The Closing Ceremonies for Gay Games IV were held at Yankee Stadium before a throng of 55,000. Glitzy and star-studded, the ceremony featured two separate fireworks shows. As I sat there watching the jubilant procession of some 10,000 gay athletes, I thought about how many gay jokes must have been told over the baseball summers past in the very seat I occupied. Hey Charlie, how many queers can sit on a bar stool? The national anthem interrupted my reverie. We stood and slowly began singing in unison the words to a song we all knew for a country we loved and only wanted to make better. Rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air. Ours had died in those wars. Those words were for us, too. When we reached the climactic phrase, "Land of the free," a deafening roar of hope and determination erupted from the crowd. Those words, too.

The Games were punctuated by the Stonewall 25 march and rally in Central Park. The march was almost as diverse as gay America. Every imaginable faction had a contingent in the parade, from the drag queens to a Puerto Rico Libre group. Even the Log Cabin Republicans of New York marched, all six poor lonely souls of them. The religious bigots were there, too, in small numbers. "The devil has you bound," one sign read. Funny, I thought, the devil's tethers feel a lot like your laws. Act Up, being Act Up, had a separate, "unauthorized" march down Fifth Avenue to draw attention

to the scourge that has ravaged us more than half the years since Stonewall. No one was arrested, which I'm sure disappointed some on the far left. The two parades, split halves of a single movement, converged on Central Park for a large rally with lots of speech-making and some entertainment.

There has been some criticism of the Games and the Stonewall 25 march for spending too much money that could have gone to good causes. That criticism ignores the fact that organizing a visible gay presence is itself a worthy cause. It draws attention to our diversity, our humanity, and the woeful state of our human rights. That has an important educative function. It also steels our courage to know that we are connected around the world with people fighting for the simple right to love as they please. Besides, those who say we should never party when there is so much work to be done are about as tiresome as those who think that's all we should do.

Lost in the games, the parties, the street festivals, and even the marches, was an appreciation for the event that ostensibly brought it all together: the Stonewall riot. Stonewall has taken on magical proportions in the gay imagination. It is David vs. Goliath. It is the Boston Tea Party of the Gay Revolution. 1969 is Year One, at least for our Robespierres. So much has changed for us since then, so much has been achieved, and so many friends have been lost, that our connection to the heady Stonewall era grows more tenuous by the day, even as we—perhaps artificially—magnify its importance.

On our last night in New York, P.J. and I stood on the deck of the U.S.S. *Intrepid*, docked in the Hudson River. Around us were thousands of gay men and women dancing together on a warship that must have seen more than its allotment of homo-bashings in its commissioned days. But here we were, dancing as if we owned the place, which after all, as citizens, we do. Looking back toward the city skyline we saw the Empire State Building, shining for just this night in the glow of lavender floodlights. And high above the river, toward the south, a glimmering spray of rockets and streamers heralded another year of gay pride. ▼

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.

OUT In Our WORLD

Drinking Gay Beer to Fight AIDS

DENVER (GayNet) — Denver attorney Mike Beery, with the help of Iowa's Dubuque Brewing Co., recently created Pink Triangle Beer, a microbrew marketed to the gay community. For each case of Pink Triangle sold, between \$1 and \$1.50 is contributed to AIDS charities. So far, \$5,000 has been donated, according to Dubuque's marketing director Keith Johnsen. Although distribution is currently restricted to a few selected markets, wider distribution is in the works for the near future the brewer says.

Gebbie Resigns as AIDS Czar

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — Kristine Gebbie, the Clinton administration's AIDS coordinator, has resigned effective Aug. 2. The White House reportedly had begun drawing up a "short list" of possible replacements earlier as Gebbie came under increasing criticism from AIDS activists and politicians who have been increasingly dissatisfied with what they considered her ineptitude, staff choices and unfocused approach to her post. The most often named possible replacement for Gebbie has been Gov. Barbara Roberts of Oregon. But there has also been talk of abandoning the post Gebbie has held in favor of creating a special staff post in the Department of Health and Human Services.

NAMBLA Expelled from ILGA

NEW YORK (GayNet) — The members of the International Lesbian & Gay Association have voted by 214-30 to expel NAMBLA (the North American Man/Boy Love Assn.). An 80% majority is required by ILGA's charter to expel a member organization from the international rights group; the vote represents an 88% majority in favor of expelling the controversial NAMBLA group. Two other groups that deal with man/boy love — the Dutch organization Vereniging Martijn and the US-based Project Truth — were also expelled from ILGA at the same time. Debate over the position of NAMBLA in the lesbian/gay movement has raged on and off for the past few years. But its membership in ILGA became an urgent political issue during the past year when U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms proposed — and Congress approved — an appropriations bill amendment that would require the United States to cut off some \$118 million in UN contributions unless the government certifies "that no United Nations agency ... grants any official status, accreditation, or recognition to any organization which promotes, condones, or seeks the legalization of pedophilia, or which includes as a subsidiary or member any such organization." ILGA last year was granted consultative status with the UN's Economic & Social Council — the first lesbian/gay organization to gain such status. In a press release, NAMBLA condemned the expulsion vote as "a capitulation to U.S. blackmail" and accused the ILGA secretariat of distorting NAMBLA's position and purpose. "The panic around the issues of childhood and adolescent sexuality ... has so demonized this issue that a fair airing of our place within this organization has become impossible," said NAMBLA delegate Bill Andriette in a speech to ILGA on June 30.

146 Members of Congress Cosponsor Federal Employment Bill

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — According to the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would bar bias in the workplace based on sexual orientation, has gotten the

backing of 30 sponsors in the U.S. Senate and 116 in the House of Representatives — 136 Democrats, 9 Republicans and 1 Independent — since the measure was introduced June 23.

Auto Rental Firm OKs Partners as Drivers

MINNEAPOLIS (GayNet) — The Minneapolis-based National Car Rental, the 3rd largest auto rental firm in the U.S., has redefined its list of "additional authorized drivers" who can legally drive rental cars to include unmarried "common law" spouses and the domestic partners of same-sex couples. National is believed to be the first major U.S. auto rental company to recognize gay and lesbian couples in its official policies. The redefined policy means that the partner of the primary renter of a National car can drive the rental without added fees or insurance coverage as legal spouses of renters have been able to do in the past.

Gay Minister Begins 7-Day Fast Over Attack on Gay Rights

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (GayNet) — The Rev. Mel White, the Dallas gay minister who was once a ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, has begun a 7-day "fast for understanding" outside the offices of Focus on the Family to draw attention to attacks by the religious right against gays and lesbians in this country. "In the last six months, Focus on the Family has quietly assumed leadership of an unprecedented attempt by extremist Christians to exert political and moral control over the nation," Dr. White said in a press statement. "Attacks against gay and lesbian people have become a pivot point in their movement." Focus on the Family backed Amendment 2, approved by Colorado voters and now being challenged in the courts. The organization now has chapters in all 50 states and, until recently a little-known organization, is one of the richest groups to emerge in the religious right recently.

Teachers Join Fla. Orange Juice Boycott Over Limbaugh

NEW ORLEANS (GayNet) — The National Education Assn. has voted to join a growing national boycott of orange juice if officials from the Florida citrus commission renew a contract with talk show host Rush Limbaugh. The National Organization for Women, the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People have also called for a boycott initially launched by gays and lesbians around the country.

NY State to Order M.D.s to Give AIDS Counseling

ALBANY, N.Y. (GayNet) — New York state lawmakers have reached an accord on a proposed measure that would make the state the first to require physicians to give AIDS counseling to pregnant women and new mothers in their care. Under the compromise bill, health-care workers are required to inform pregnant women and new mothers about the benefits of HIV testing, and to offer such testing. The bill effectively scuttles an alternative bill offered by Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn, which would have required doctors to notify parents of the results of anonymous HIV tests conducted on all newborn

Continued on page 14

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OUT in our World

continued from page 13

babies for the purpose of monitoring the spread of the virus. Mayersohn's proposal was greeted with criticism from AIDS activists, health workers who provide counseling, and others who said her legislation would frighten women away from vital prenatal care and compromise the confidentiality and privacy of the parents. Mayersohn however called the compromise a "death sentence" for newborns. The new legislation has been sent to the desk of Gov. Mario Cuomo, who is expected to sign it into law.

HUD Ruling Awards Estate & Domestic Partner of Dead Man

SAN FRANCISCO (GayNet) — In an important ruling, a federal housing agency judge has awarded \$83,000 in damages to the estate and the partner of a man who died of AIDS in a case stemming from the couple's eviction from their Walnut Creek, Calif., apartment in 1992. The decision, which was made public only recently, is one of the few that has awarded a portion of the damages to a surviving partner in a same-sex relationship. Administrative Law Judge William Cregar of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ruled that the Caprice Apartments discriminated against Carlos Guevara, who died in March 1993, and his partner, Warren Sanford, when the two were evicted in 1992. Sanford, who with Guevara filed a complaint with HUD soon after the eviction, won his award based on the argument that he was discriminated against because of his domestic partnership with Guevara. "I credit Mr. Sanford's testimony that their emotional dependency could indeed be likened to a successful marriage," Cregar wrote in a footnote to the decision. According to the decision, Guevara's estate will receive \$50,000 in damages for emotional distress. Sanford will also receive \$33,000 for emotional distress and out-of-pocket expenses.

Social Security Will Review Claims of 3,000 People with HIV

PHILADELPHIA (GayNet) — Nearly 3,000 HIV patients who were refused federal disability benefits will have their claims reviewed under a legal settlement filed in U.S. District Court. Community Legal Services Inc., a Philadelphia-based legal aid group, had filed a class-action suit against the Social Security Administration charging that the agency used improper criteria that excluded intravenous drug users, low-income people, racial minorities, women, and children from qualifying for benefits. The settlement will allow people in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and the U.S. Virgin Islands who were refused benefits for HIV or AIDS-related disabilities between March 1991 and July 1993 to obtain a re-evaluation of their claims.

Uproar Over Fla. HIV Couple's Adoption

PETERSBURG, Fla. (GayNet) — Florida's state welfare department is in an uproar after revelations that a 2-year-old's newly adopted parents are both HIV-positive. State caseworkers and the St. Petersburg couple's lawyer were aware of the infections, but said nothing to Circuit Judge Horace Andrews, who granted the adoption in March. Welfare caseworkers were forced to struggle with clashing laws - one assuring the confidentiality of people with AIDS, and another requiring them to conduct their duties with the child's best interests in mind. Judge Andrews said that if he had known of the parents' HIV infection, he would have taken their health and life expectancy into consideration before granting the adoption. Florida officials are now drawing up a policy to ensure that judges receive all pertinent information, including HIV status.

Louganis Tells Olympic Committee to Move Out of Cobb County

ST. LOUIS (GayNet) — Olympic diver Greg Louganis told members of the U.S. Olympic Committee that the 1996 volleyball competition should be removed from Cobb County, Ga., because of a resolution adopted by commissioners there last year condemning the "gay lifestyle." Louganis, who acknowledged being gay at Gay Games IV in New York in June, made his remarks at an awards ceremony after receiving the USOC's prestigious Robert J. Kane Award recognizing Olympic athletes who continue making contributions to their sport. According to a *New York Times* report, the USOC is trying to find a way to move the volleyball competition out of Cobb County without appearing to have caved in to pressure from gay rights activists. In speaking to the audience, Louganis identified himself as an "openly gay athlete." He told the awards audience, "They [the Cobb County Commission] have made it clear some of the athletes won't be welcomed. An openly gay athlete should be able to compete without barriers."

Court Rules Against Boy Scouts

SAN DIEGO (GayNet) — California Superior Court Judge Anthony Joseph has awarded \$5,000 to Chuck Merino, an El Cajon Police officer who sued the Boy Scouts for drumming him out of the youth group as an Explorer Scout leader after he acknowledged he is gay. Judge Joseph ruled that the Scouts are in fact a business as defined under state law and are therefore prohibited from discriminating on a variety of factors, including sexual orientation. The judge ruled that acknowledging being homosexual "does not translate into 'teaching' that homosexuality is proper or improper." The state Supreme Court has already agreed to hear two cases involving the Boy Scouts' policies concern-

ing gays and atheists which hinge on the same question of whether or not the youth group qualifies as a business under California law.

Lesbian Officer Wins Reinstatement Appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (GayNet) — The federal government has lost its appeal to block Col. Margaret Cammermeyer's immediate reinstatement while the case of her dismissal is being appealed. The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals turned down the government's appeal of a lower court that ordered Cammermeyer reinstated in the Washington State National Guard while her discharge is being appealed. It was not immediately clear whether the government would appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court or not.

'Tasteful' Condoms Introduced in India

BOMBAY (GayNet) — As the incidence of AIDS rises alarmingly in the Indian subcontinent, safer sex is being made more palatable for India's consumers with the introduction of flavored condoms. J.K. Chemicals, fearing negative reaction over the mint, banana, strawberry and lemon flavors in which the new condoms are being marketed, avoids any suggestion of oral sex by calling the prophylactics "scented" instead of "flavored" however.

Texas Daily Publishes Same-Sex Unions

EL PASO, Texas (GayNet) — The *El Paso Times* has become the first daily newspaper in Texas—and one of only a handful in the U.S.—to accept same-sex couples announcements on an equal footing with opposite-sex wedding notices. The *Everett* (Washington) *Herald* near Seattle is believed to be the first daily paper in the U.S. to begin publishing same-sex partners notices, which it began doing in November 1990. Ironically, many dailies in larger cities in the U.S. completely abandoned publishing any kind of wedding or engagement announcements before the gay and lesbian domestic partners boom got into full swing in this country.

Fla. Democrats Sign Anti-Bias Pledge

ORLANDO, Fla. (GayNet) — Scores of Orange County, Fla., Democratic Party candidates signed nondiscrimination pledges during the county convention after the Rainbow Democratic Club of Orlando lobbied the hopefuls. County Democrats from school board hopefuls to gubernatorial candidates signed the pledge, which simply states: "The sexual orientation of an individual shall not be a consideration in the hiring, promoting or terminating of an employee in my elected office, and shall be so stated in my personnel policies and procedures."

4th HIV Drug OK'd by FDA

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has given its OK to a 4th drug to fight HIV. The Bristol-Myers Squibb medicine Stavudine is designed to treat patients with severe HIV infections who cannot take other AIDS medications or who are no longer benefiting from them. David Kessler, FDA commissioner, called the Stavudine approval a "sign of our commitment to act quickly on treatment for life-threatening diseases."

Group Links Georgia Anti-Gay Commissioner with Far Right Extremists

ATLANTA (GayNet) — The Atlanta-based anti-bias group Neighbors Network has released a report, "Hidden Agenda: The Influence of Religious Extremism on the Politics of Cobb County, Georgia," which links anti-gay County Commissioner Gordon Wysong with a little-known far-right religious movement that advocates the death penalty for homosexuals and replacing democracy in the U.S. with a theocracy. According to Walter Reeves of Neighbors Network, "The Christian Reconstructionist Movement has operated in Cobb County in the manner common to hate groups." Reeves said, "Their advocacy of the death penalty for gays and lesbians makes clear that their ultimate goal is the suppression of civil rights of gays and lesbians as a class of citizens. This is the operating definition of a hate group." A resolution by Wysong—and approved by a majority of the county commission—condemned the "gay lifestyle."

Benetton's Reagan Ad Raises Eyebrows

ROME (GayNet) — *Colors*, the house magazine of the clothing manufacturer Benetton, raised eyebrows around the world—again—in late June with a retouched photo of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, depicting him with kaposi sarcoma lesions. According to a Benetton spokesperson, the retouched photo was the clothing manufacturer's way of pointing the finger of blame at the one-time actor and former president for not acting to battle the AIDS epidemic.

Conn. Mayor Turns Down AIDS Grant

MERIDEN, Conn. (GayNet) — Joseph Marinaro, the mayor of Meriden, Conn., has refused a \$109,574 federal AIDS grant, arguing that increasing social services ends up costing cities more in the long run because low-income people gravitate to cities with such services. The federal grant would have been used for AIDS testing, prevention, counseling services, and case management by the city health department.

continued on page 21

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A Letter From Armistead Maupin

June, 1994

DEAR FRIEND,

Once again, the honest portrayal of gay people on television is under attack by the Religious Right.

I can speak from experience.

In January, my six-hour mini-series, *Tales of the City*, was broadcast nationally on PBS. For me, it fulfilled a 20-year dream of creating a mainstream drama in which gay and straight characters alike are shown to harbor the hopes and fears and romantic yearnings that make us all human.

The public response to *Tales* was gratifying, to say the least. Attracting more than 14 million viewers nationwide, it drew both critical praise and the highest Nielsen ratings ever recorded for a PBS drama series.

Then, the usual cast of Neanderthals stormed in.

In Oklahoma, a state legislator called a press conference to express his disgust at the mini-series' depiction of "two men kissing" and "lying in bed caressing." A rider was hastily added to a public television appropriations bill forbidding any future programming that "casts a favorable light on homosexuality."

In Georgia, the State Senate passed a resolution directing the local public TV station to "cease airing [*Tales of the City*] and never air it again." In Chattanooga, Tennessee, a caller threatened to bomb the local PBS station and hunt down its employees if the show was aired. (It was yanked only an hour before its scheduled broadcast.)

Predictably, Rev. Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association in Tupelo, Mississippi blitzed members of Congress with a 12-minute bootleg videotape of *Tales*, denouncing it as a "pornographic, profane, homosexual TV series." And the right-wing Family Research Council appeared before a hearing of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to condemn the show as "a slick piece of gay propaganda."

This form of "tele-activism" is having a dangerous impact on us all. By censoring the existence of lesbians and gay men, television continues to promulgate the very stereotypes and lies that fan the fires of hatred. The Religious Right counts on that hatred—usually in dollars and cents—and guards the domain of



television against anyone who doesn't conform to its own narrow and cruel-minded definition of "family values."

Television, after all, is perhaps the most potent force in modern society. Far more than just a medium of entertainment, it has the power to illuminate and enlighten, to build bridges between people where none had previously existed.

That's why I'm writing to you about a project of Testing The Limits (an award-winning, nonprofit lesbian and gay production company) that is certain to break new ground: The first television documentary series on the lesbian and gay rights movement in America. Destined to be met with violent reaction from those who seek to silence us, this production comes at a time when our very freedom seems up for debate.

Consider, for instance, these recent political developments:

- Though a federal district judge has ruled unconstitutional Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2, similar initiatives were passed last year in Maine, New Hampshire and Ohio.

- A family court in Virginia took a two-year-old boy away from his lesbian parents maintaining that the child would be inflicted with "an intolerable burden" if he were to be raised by a same-sex couple. [Editors Note: See GayNet news in this issue for story on reversal of this decision.]

- To the outrage of many, President Clinton broke a major campaign promise to lift the ban on lesbians and gays in the military. His

worse-than-before alternative: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

And today, as hundreds of thousands prepare for the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, local or statewide anti-gay initiatives are being planned in over 40 states. Meanwhile, violence against lesbians and gays continues to rise at an alarming rate.

Stonewall 25 brings both reason to celebrate and cause for concern. Historically, it will be remembered as an era of hope and terror, a time when the holocaust of AIDS both ravages and mobilizes our community. And, as we move from stigma and invisibility to political power and recognition, our enemies, in turn, grow more determined and entrenched.

America is witnessing a growing national debate about homosexuality being staged by the mainstream media. While some efforts are well-intended, many journalists are still disturbingly prone to superficial and sensationalist reporting. People who should know better often embrace the Religious Right's own jargon in which equal rights are dismissed as "special rights" and a human life becomes a "lifestyle."

Is it any wonder that anti-gay initiatives continue to pass the way they do?

The Question of Equality seeks to remedy this disturbing situation with a series of four one-hour programs that examine the movement for lesbian and gay rights since Stonewall. The series shows how historical forces shape our contemporary struggle to live our lives openly and to enjoy basic equal-rights protections.

For the first time ever, a documentary series about lesbian and gay rights will have a national television broadcast.

The Question of Equality is now in production for public television by Testing the Limits. The project is supported largely by the Independent Television Service (ITVS), with funds provided by the corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), a private Corporation funded by the American people. An accompanying book will be published by Simon & Schuster, and widespread educational distribution is also planned.

The Question of Equality disrupts the jaded voice of the mainstream. The series presents a larger picture, digging beneath the headlines, moving past the stereotypes to

bring to life real stories of lesbians and gay men. It presents a rare opportunity for our self-representation, a chance to reclaim our history and behold its diversity.

Shot on location in places like Philadelphia, Hawaii, Oregon and New Mexico, *The Question of Equality* reflects the nationwide scope of lesbian and gay concerns. The series will raise the awareness of rational, fair-minded people—both straight and gay—through rarely seen footage, live-action sequences and hard-hitting interviews.

Testing the Limits combed archives across the country for material, dedicating months to develop story ideas and to lay out the series' four programs. Its producers are committed to the highest possible production values, so costs are very high.

Testing the Limits needs your help to produce this historic project. Because it is a nonprofit public service, private funding from people like you is absolutely vital to successful completion of the series.

The Question of Equality explores our heritage through our history and relates it to the present civil rights struggles, comparing today's anti-gay initiatives to campaigns such as the one led by Anita Bryant in Florida in 1977. It looks at the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" mandate in light of compelling first-hand accounts of military witch hunts in the 1970s.

The pioneering public-education efforts of the Hetrick-Martin Institute and Project 10 are shown to lay the groundwork for the new Massachusetts law prohibiting discrimination against lesbian and gay students in high school.

The Question of Equality features compelling, event-driven stories told by people who speak from real experience. Authentic images of community leaders, political figures, and everyday citizens are juxtaposed with devout church-goers who believe they are doing God's work when they oppose gay rights. Scenes from the frontlines of demonstrations and marches weave through TV news clips and exciting cinema—all of which is united with upbeat music and graphics.

If such a series seems irrelevant or unnecessary to you, consider finally a few recent TV-related events:

- A segment on ABC's *20/20* features the antics of Rev. Fred Phelps, a Baptist minister from Topeka, Kansas, who makes a practice of picketing the funerals of people who have died from AIDS. ("AIDS KILLS FAGS," one of his placards reads.) According to Phelps, the massive media coverage he receives only helps spread his message to millions of Americans who share his contempt for homosexuality. Television, more than anything else, makes him "legitimate."

- That recent episode of *Roseanne*, fea-

turing a kissing scene between Roseanne Arnold and Mariel Hemingway, was preceded by a "viewer discretion advisory" in every state except South Carolina, Wyoming and Idaho, where the show wasn't broadcast at all. An ABC executive was quoted as saying that "a lot of kids watch this show and might be led to believe that homosexual kissing is OK." The advisory was just his way of "protecting the children."

- After endless pressure from the Religious Right, PBS pulled the plug on a planned sequel to *Tales of the City*. Though the network cited insufficient funds as the reason for its decision, it has so far refused to guarantee a place for *More Tales of the City* in its lineup, even if the money is raised independently. What's more, when *Tales of the City* is rebroadcast nationally by satellite this July 7, PBS will take the unprecedented step of offering an "alternative" program (*Legacy*) to stations that find the themes of *Tales* objectionable.

If this sort of bowing to bigotry is ever to end, private citizens must make their wishes known loudly and clearly. Please take a moment to call CPB toll free at (800) 356-2626. Let your public servants know exactly what sort of programming you'd like to see.

You can't be silenced, if you don't want to be.

—With hope for a better tomorrow,
Armistead Maupin

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WHY YOU SHOULD

SEE SALMONBERRIES AGAIN

by Nancy Ford and Kelly McCann

Winner of the 1991 Montreal Film Festival, *Percy Adlon's Salmonberries* returns for a brief run in July to Houston's Landmark's Greenway 3. For those of you who missed it when it visited art houses the first time, *Salmonberries* is the chronicle "of an Alaskan pipeline worker (played by k.d. lang) who is assumed to be a man because of her androgynous appearance. Inarticulate, untamed and volatile, she reveals her true sex to a reclusive German émigré who fled East Berlin. Thus begins a relationship between the two women, as they uncover their pasts together."

Though not the best film in the world, in fact not even the best film k.d.'s done (and there aren't many), there are still plenty of reasons to enjoy this movie. For those who would argue either side of the case of the importance of supporting gay and lesbian cinema for the sake of supporting lesbian and gay cinema, consider the following as justifications for seeing *Salmonberries*, either again or for the very first time.

- If you're homosexual, male or female, it's the law.
- You have an opportunity to see k.d. lang naked again, in case you blinked the first time.
- The tundra makes Houston in July look good.
- It's evidence that Lorèna Bobbit was precognitively influenced by k.d.'s line "I'll cut your dick off."
- In Berlin even the straight women look gay.
- Watching k.d. pull a bobsled across the Alaskan plains helps you forget all about that nasty Exxon-Valdez incident.
- 94 consecutive minutes of anything uninterrupted by coverage of

k. d. lang and Rosel Zech in Percy Adlon's *Salmonberries*.

the O.J. Simpson trial is a rare treat.

- The Greenway 3 is a hip place to take a date who isn't tunnel-shy.
- It's the equivalent of simultaneously watching *The Crying Game*, *White Fang* and three episodes of *Northern Exposure* without investing so much time—very efficient.
- Amusing to realize that little Mark Cain, Chuck (*The Rifleman*) Connors' son had an abandoned sibling who would grow up to be a big ol' dyke with lead poisoning. Ain't life funny sometimes?

Percy Adlon's *Salmonberries* plays July 15-21 at Landmark's Greenway, 5 Greenway Plaza. 626-0402.

Books

From porn to print: A legend of the sex screen turns to AIDS activism

Locke Out

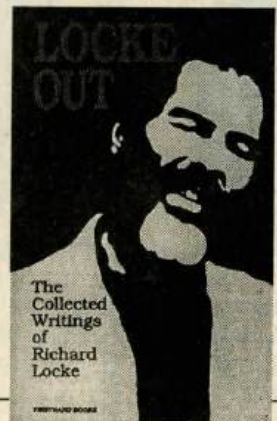
By Richard Locke.

First Hand Books. 193 pages. \$16.95.

Review by Andy Fabo & Michael Balser XTRA, Toronto, GayNet News Service

Richard Locke has survived the '60s: the Vietnam resistance, drugs; the '70s: the Castro, the Saint, Fire Island, the gay porn industry; the '80s: AIDS, support groups, activism, HIV drugs,

the deaths of his lovers. Now, in the '90s: he's writing all about it. You may remember Richard Locke, the voiceless one in those dusty, desert scenes in porn movies—the horny loner cruising the highway. Unlike the characters he's played, he says, "I am not a man of few words." Locke is, in fact, a gregarious storyteller who speaks about his lovers, porn stars, AIDS activists and legendary drag queens. In the summer of 1982, Richard divided his time between his geodesic dome in Palm Springs and freelance writing for gay community papers in San Francisco. One particular story that he and his editor followed at the time involved



the US Centers for Disease Control and a medical condition known as GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency). Locke was convinced that ignorance was spreading this disease and information was not getting to the local gay community. So Locke went to New York, where the gay media kept the community up to date about the disease—soon to be known as AIDS.

"In New York," Locke reflects, "I read Larry Kramer's article in the *New York Native*—1,230 and Counting. People were becoming numbers, the [same] way we

referred to tricks as numbers. While doing interviews at the AIDS Resource Center, I met two young men with AIDS who had fallen in love in a support group. They were not numbers; they were real, living, loving people." At that time, Locke's life revolved around his New York research and his ailing lover, Allan Noseworthy III. There he met many of the people who would become central figures in the AIDS epidemic. He continued to write articles and volunteered for the early support group, the AIDS Resource Center.

But Locke's return to San Francisco was difficult: "I wanted to share what I had learned in New York, but I wasn't accepted because of my association with porno. I was seen as an inappropriate spokesperson for safe sex. I had to find my own niche as a safe-sex activist. So I did seminars in sex clubs and bathhouses." Most literature about AIDS fits into recognizable genres: journalism, memoirs, fiction, poetry and theory. Locke's books, *In the Heat of Passion* and *Locke Out*, are more like experimental films: "I want my books to read like films, my first love. In the '60s I ran a little cinema in San Francisco. I wanted to be behind the camera, but I ended up on the other side, so to speak." All too often, safe-sex information is a collage of journalistic dramatizations and fictional episodes imposed on personal recollections; "When I began writing erotic safe-sex stories, they were a reaction to the clinical literature that was available; [my] stories were often based on real encounters." Reflecting the kaleidoscopic reality that is all too familiar to many community members dealing with AIDS, and unlike the slightly detached voice of Randy Shilts's journalism, Locke's writing has the focused urgency of a PWA caught in the maelstrom of HIV. His sane and confident voice relays valuable information and insightful anecdotes. In 1986 Locke stopped making public appearances in order to write full time. "Without the support of an organization," says Locke, "I couldn't continue the safe-sex work. But if I helped save one life, it was all worthwhile." Recently, Locke was in Toronto to promote and autograph his latest published work, *Locke Out*. Those who were fortunate enough to speak with him were impressed by this humble man who has been a role model for millions of gay men around the world. And when all is said and done, Richard Locke still has a sense of humor. "They used to say [I] was a cheap fuck. But now that I spend \$50 at the pharmacy on condoms, lubricant, cleansers and antibacterial soap, I'm no cheap fuck!" Today Richard Locke is living with AIDS in the Russian River Valley area near San Francisco, close to the farming community where he spent his youth. He leads a modest existence and has beaten many infections and depressions, always creating new goals and writing projects to feed his spirit. Currently he is attempting to publish his novella-play, *Living*, a love story.

Breaking the Silence: Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation.

\$6. Amnesty International. 440 Bloor W, Toronto M5S 1X5. (416) 929-9477.

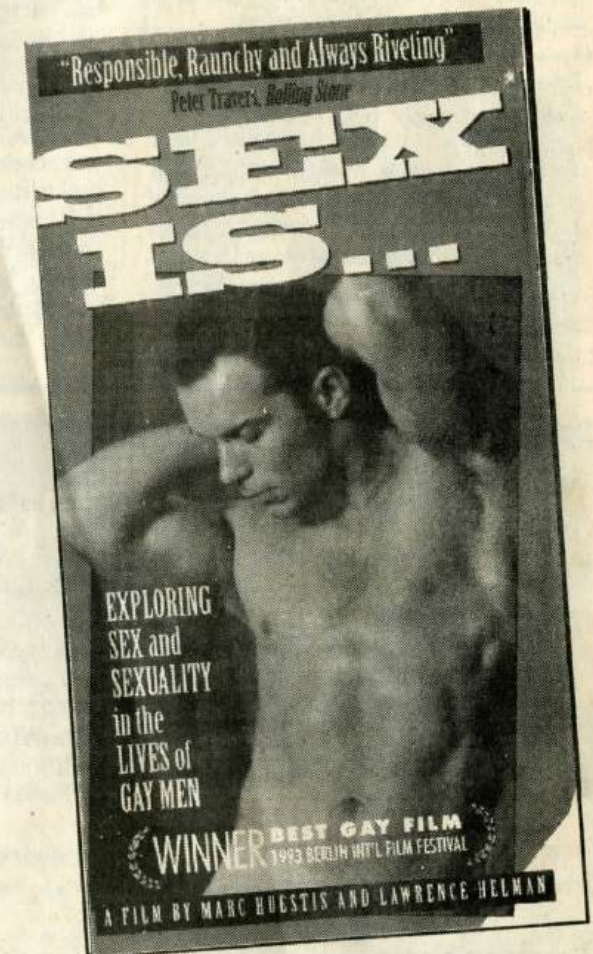
Governments throughout the world are harassing, detaining and in some cases executing people because of their sexual orientation, according to Amnesty International.

In *Breaking The Silence*, the human rights organization's first report dealing exclusively with human rights violations against lesbians and gay men, Amnesty states there is ample evidence that governments in all regions of the world direct abuse specifically at homosexuals.

In countries such as Iran, Mauritania and the Republic of Yemen, homosexuality is punished by death. Other countries regularly detain people for their real or perceived homosexuality, despite little or no evidence of their having engaged in sexual acts. Such arrests show the

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function of these laws to be regulators of gay identity, Amnesty says.

The report cites the case of a Romanian couple, Mirel Ciprian Cucu and Milorad Mutascu, arrested in January 1993 and jailed. The two men were living together at the time of their arrest. They were charged under Article 200 of the Romanian Penal Code, which carries a prison sentence of up to five years for "having sexual relations with a person of the same sex."

After spending six months in jail, the two were convicted and received suspended sentences of one and two years' imprisonment respectively.

Amnesty is working on the cases of three other Romanian men convicted under Article 200. They are serving up to two and a half years. The organization considers the men to be prisoners of conscience and is calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

Other countries singled out by Amnesty for their treatment of lesbians and gay men include:

- Turkey, where 28 foreign and three Turkish gay activists were detained in July 1993, prior to that country's first Congress of Homosexual Solidarity. The foreign delegates were told that they would have to undergo HIV tests and strip searches; they were then deported

- Mexico, where two gay activists known

Amnesty International's work on behalf of lesbians and gay men is recent.

...AI finally expanded its mandate to consider anyone imprisoned for homosexual acts.

for their AIDS education work among male prostitutes were detained and beaten by Mexico City police in June 1992. They were detained for more than one year — for reasons Amnesty believes are related solely to their advocacy of rights for Mexico's gay community

- China, where a Cantonese man was sentenced in February 1993 to eight years for having homosexual relations. A lesbian couple was detained for 15 days on charges of "unruly behavior" in April 1992. China also uses electric shocks and psychotropic drugs on detainees to change their sexual orientation.

Interlocking prejudices and discrimination often underlie execution, torture and detention, according to Amnesty. "For example, a woman in prison may be raped not only because she is a female, but because she is a

lesbian," the report states, "and the action is specifically targeted at breaking down her sexual identity."

A section of the report is devoted to burgeoning international lesbian and gay movements and their victories. An Asian Lesbian Network, for example, which includes groups from Bangladesh, India, Singapore and Thailand, held its first formal meeting in 1990. And in Nigeria, the first gay conference was held in 1991, despite a law that makes homosexual acts punishable by up to 14 years in jail.

Amnesty International's work on behalf of lesbians and gay men is recent. In 1979 the organization affirmed that those imprisoned for advocating gay rights would be considered prisoners of conscience. In 1982, Amnesty condemned the forced "medical" treatment carried out on people in detention to alter their sexual orientation. In 1991, AI finally expanded its mandate to consider adopting anyone imprisoned for homosexual acts.

Its fundraising merchandise now includes buttons and T-shirts with the message "Love Is a Basic Human Right" over a large pink triangle.

The report states that the ultimate goal is to ensure that human rights violations against lesbians and gay men be placed squarely onto the agenda of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies.

OUT in our World

continued from page 15

FBI's 1993 Federal Hate Crimes Report

BERLIN (GayNet) — FBI Director Louis Freeh, in Germany for an anti-right wing conference, released details of the U.S. government's 1993 hate crimes statistics. Of the 7,684 crimes reported, the report indicates, 806 - or 10.5% - were motivated by the victim's sexual orientation. The crimes reported ranged from minor property vandalism to assaults, rapes and murders. The motivation in the majority of the reported hate crimes continued to be race (4,168), followed by religion (1,189). Sexual orientation - which almost exclusively means anti-gay attacks - followed next, and national or ethnic origin was last with 583 reported crimes.

American Airlines Produces Gay-Positive Employee Video

ATLANTA (GayNet) — American Airlines, which ran into troubled skies when a flight crew carrying passengers back from the National March on Washington last year replaced all the pillows and blankets midway through the flight because gays and lesbians had used them, has put out a gay-positive employee videotape for its 70,000 workers "to help prevent the unfortunate incidents in the past" and "to make it clear that its policies of nondiscrimination and fairness are taken to heart."

Federal Commission Sues Union Health Fund Over AIDS

PHILADELPHIA (GayNet) — The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a lawsuit against the Laborers District Council of the Building & Construction Health & Welfare Fund, charging the union fund with insurance discrimination against workers with HIV or AIDS. The suit charges that the fund has a lifetime limit of \$100,000 on insurance payments for catastrophic illnesses - but a \$10,000 lifetime cap on payments for treatment related to HIV or AIDS.

Gay Store Charged with Obscenity for Renting Pasolini Film

CINCINNATI (GayNet) — Cincinnati officials have charged the Pink Pyramid, a gay and lesbian book and gift shop with pandering obscene materials for renting the 1975 classic Paolo Pasolini film, "Salo: 120 Days of Sodom." "Salo," a controversial and often-graphic anti-fascist film, periodically shows around the country in art theaters. But after Cincinnati undercover police officers rented it, they charged the store and its employees with

pandering obscenity. Cathy Adams, Pink Pyramid's attorney, said, "It's a very disturbing film, but it has great artistic value and has received a lot of artistic acclaim." The late Pasolini also directed "The Canterbury Tales," "Gospel According to St. Matthew," and "Oedipus Rex." His "Salo" is an adaptation of a novel by the Marquis de Sade, updated to Italy during World War II.

Italian Medical Ethics Group Doesn't Want Pregnant Lesbians

ROME (GayNet) — The National Committee for Bio-ethics in Italy has issued new guidelines urging that artificial insemination be restricted to heterosexuals of child-bearing age — and not be extended to lesbians. The guidelines come after news reports that a lesbian mother recently gave birth to a child she intends to rear with her female partner and statements by the artificial insemination clinic in Northern Italy that impregnated the woman that it would continue to offer its services to lesbians. The Vatican's principal morality theologian, Father Gino Concetti, said the church welcomes the new guidelines. In an editorial in the Catholic paper, *L'Osservatore Romano* recently, Concetti wrote that artificial insemination for lesbians "represents a challenge to reason and nature and by extension a challenge to God, the creator of man and woman, of nature and the rules that govern the life of the universe."

Caribbean Clinic Shut Down as AIDS 'Hoax'

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Island (GayNet) — According to the Reuters news service, government health officials on the Cayman Islands closed down an AIDS treatment clinic because it says the procedure offered at the facility - at a cost of \$15,000 per patient - is "a hoax." Officials said the firms operating the clinic - Anti-Viral of America and International Laboratories Ltd. — touted a treatment of vitamin C and the anti-gout drug colchicine in a saline solution. The treatment, Cayman Islands officials said, had been advertised in the U.S. as a "clinical trial" although neither the U.S. nor Britain have sanctioned any trials for such a combination treatment.

HIV Transmission Risks Among Bisexual Men

SAN FRANCISCO (GayNet) — A study on the prevalence and patterns of sexual behavior among male bisexuals has concluded that San Francisco men identifying themselves as bisexual are not likely to transmit HIV to their female partners. The finding by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco contradicts a general misconception that bisexual men provide a "bridge" carrying HIV from the gay subculture to the larger heterosexual community, according to UCSF lead researcher Dr. Maria Ekstrand. The study, which involved 140 unmarried men whose HIV status was known to the researchers, found that

continued on page 35

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Life As A Gay Man

Part I- Before 35

(A Guide to the Developmental Tasks of Young Gay Men)

by Bill Scott, CSW-ACP

The stereotype of youth tends to be one of beauty and a carefree life. This message is far from the truth; youth is not an easy time. In the scheme of life, it the most challenging and difficult time of our growth process, especially for people who are oppressed and discriminated against by society.

Most insecurities, impending fear and depressions occur between the ages of 20-35. Our idiosyncrasies are exposed and usually judged by our peers and most importantly by ourselves—private burden of self consciousness that is often overwhelming.

The purpose of this series is to offer gay men the tools to deal with life's mandated developmental milestones and to give permission for any array of feelings, so they can develop their full potential and develop their own road map to life.

In knowing what is at the root of this "washing machine" of young-adult feelings, it is possible to survive gay young adulthood with minimal pain. Knowledge is power.

Our first twenty years, our most formative years, are full of society's heterosexist oppression. The psychology of this oppression denies us necessary tasks we should experience, i.e., exploring healthy intimacy and dating. These are typical adolescent tasks which are denied to most lesbian and gay youth. If we do not explore in adolescence, we are usually shamed, punished, judged, labeled and rejected.

As gay men in our 20s and early 30s, we must make up for lost time (i.e., lost adolescence). This is a primary task facing gay young adults for physical and psychological survival. This make-up period turns into a sort of "crashing out" period, wherein the tasks of adolescence and adulthood are being tested concurrently within active exploration of the various social environments and networks through which gay people meet. Sexual activity may frequently predomi-

nate during this stage. Hormones are cooking strong! It is a search for a sense of community and a peer group. Many of us enter this state with an attitude of eager anticipation, with mixed feelings of hope and fear or with a desperate sense of "What do I have to lose?"

The primary task of crashing out is making up for lost time. A concept that has proven very helpful to many of my clients is that this represents a developmental lag due to the loss of chronological adolescence. Individuals with gay feelings typically go into a kind of developmental deep freeze of their private selves around the time of puberty and don't start actively exploring who they are and where they can find others like themselves until late adolescence or early middle adulthood. This discrepancy between chronological age and developmental age is often puzzling and frightening to gay men, who may other-



wise be well on their way to intellectual, vocational and financial maturity. This inability to meet other young gays and to develop and maintain gay relationships may confirm their lingering suspicions that their sexuality is "bad." Relief can come by thinking, "Yes, I may be 19 or 25 or 30 years old in terms of actual age. However, in terms of social skills and knowledge of intimacy with other gays, my development-age is closer to 14 or 15."

Don't judge this as bad. It could be your best asset and lots of fun! If you accept this explanation, you can embark on an affirmative adventure to recapture and enjoy your lost adolescence and stop shaming yourself for social mistakes and failures. It's a little like being "born again."

The social networks where gay men meet are large and diverse—the YMCA, parks, universities, organizations, bars, gay and HIV-related political groups, personal ads, through friends and friends of friends and so forth. You need to be clear about what type of intimacy you're seeking to fulfill your needs and how likely it is that these needs will be met in a particular environment.

Problems will arise, for example, if the individual is looking for a friend or companion in a setting that is primarily oriented towards sexual contacts, or

conversely, if he goes looking for a sexual partner in a situation where intellectual or spiritual intimacy is predominate. It might work, but the possibilities are small. Your probabilities increase with deliberate selections of social environment and effective development of individual assertiveness skills to help you get what you want.

Young gay men are very self-conscious and, in most instances, will focus our attention on our own body experiences or on our private mental experiences. Being around other young gay men means doubling this effort, when most of those situations should be effortless. Many of these self-conscious gay men yield to the strain and retreat into lonely isolation. When they are alone, they may remain locked in self-awareness, but the effect of divided attention is reduced.

Most self-conscious people develop the habit, not from vanity, but from anxieties and uncertainty. Anxieties are oversensitive alarm signals that sound inside the self when encountering fairly tame circumstances. Alarms are imperative; they demand attention. Any attention devoted to alarm response is attention relegated inside the self-awareness from simple external reality. Insecurity alarm is an overconcern with succeeding in a social situation like a gay bar or on a date!

Self-consciousness constitutes wasteful distraction and often leads to contrived performance when with other people...you appear phony and wooden. The big challenge for self-conscious gay males is to find the outside. That may not happen by trying to direct one's attention there. Trying to direct attention draws attention to directing, which is an inner experience. The self-conscious person only stops experiencing his familiar discomfort when he forgets himself. This is not a moral issue—it is a practical matter.

Given that anxieties and insecurity can be eliminated, curiosity can be the self-conscious gay male's salvation. He needs only an appetite to investigate what goes on with other people or to simply practice empathy for others without judgment.

The stress of crashing-out can lead to other problems, such as chemical abuse (33% of us become substance abusers during our coming out), lack of

If the young gay man lacks a clear understanding of his intimacy needs or is unable to assert those needs successfully, he may unknowingly displace all of these onto sex.

good sexual hygiene, sexual dysfunction, and promiscuity in an addictive quest for pleasure.

If the young gay man lacks a clear understanding of his intimacy needs or is unable to assert those needs successfully, he may unknowingly displace all of these onto sex. Men biologically tend to sexual needs first and emotional needs second (the reverse is usually true for lesbians and heterosexual women). For those whose sex drive is dominating the crashing-out stage, it can become a never-ending cycle of sexual addiction. This can result in more frequent risk in contracting HIV, loneliness, to complex or unrealistic expectations about sexual contact. It can result in a compulsive cycle of sexually acting-out, followed by an emotional letdown or a hang-over effect when needs aren't fulfilled and then the use of more sex to ease emotional pain.

Crashing-out, like adolescence, can be a chaotic period of emotional highs and lows. Young gay adults may be astonished to discover that there are literally thousands of others like themselves. Many of these gay men are attracted to each other, yet at the same time terrified by an initial sense of social ineptitude and an awkwardness in expressing what they want from this new peer group.

Entry into the gay community may be quick and easy or long and difficult, depending upon many variables. Hopefully the gay male will finally discover some environment where he can feel relatively safe and open about who he is and can begin to make up for the lost time stolen from him in his developmental years (primarily adolescence.)

After the task of crashing-out, we face forming our first relationship. Since the sciences of psychology and sociology tell us at least three relationships or affairs are needed in adolescence in order to gain experience and knowledge to be able to choose a "best life mate," we are already at a disadvantage. Gay men often couple, set up house and buy the china several times before they are certain this is the right relationship for life. In adolescence, the relationship would resolve in 3 to 6 months, as young gay men we tend to invest 1 to 6 years in each relationship. Quite different from our heterosexual peers.

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style of love is different from your partner's. In their insightful work on human relationships, *Styles of Loving*, Lasswell and Lobsenz state that:

"In most relationships, however, partners remain unaware that their ways of demonstrating and accepting love are incompatible. The emotional script is obvious and self-defeating: 'I, like every man and woman, want to be loved. But, like every man and woman, I have my own idea, grounded in my personality and temperament and experience of what loving and being loved means. Moreover, locked in the prison of my own ways of thinking and feeling, I assume that my definition of love is the only correct one. As a result, I want and expect to be loved in the same way that I love others, with the same responses that I interpret as the evidence of loving.

But I am not loved that way. Instead (and quite logical, if one could be logical about this), I am loved the way my partner thinks and feels about love, the way he or she understands and expresses it. In my own distress, I do not recognize that my partner is experiencing the same incongruity in reverse. Puzzled, hurt, unable to communicate our confusion to each other, we both unreasonably feel unloved."

Another reason we may feel unloved is contained in Richard Green's

book the *Sissy Boy Syndrome*. He believes that 80% of gay men take on the style of love that their mothers displayed towards their fathers and to themselves. Conversely, we will attract a style that was returned to mother by father or other significant male models.

Yes, most gay men are their mothers and are looking for "Daddy." This is natural, because, from the ages of 4 to 11 our brains are like computers programmed to test out in later life what we observe during those years. Heterosexual couples often say at 40 years of age, "I am just like my parents, making the same mistakes as well as displaying the same strengths." Know your style of love. If it does not produce healthy relationships, you know that you have a few dragons to slay. Life is full of challenges to grow and develop new behavior.

Affirmative desire for greater intimacy and a sense of belonging with another, growing fears of permanent loneliness, or a combination of these factors, may motivate many gays to seek out a primary relationship. Ironically, the search for closeness, if successful, may result in a new isolation for gay people. There are many reasons for this isolation. Like any new couple, you want to spend a great deal of time getting to know each other. Doing laundry can become wonderfully romantic when

done together!

Another source of increasing isolation may come from the loss of environments and/or relationships now considered off limits by one or both partners. The sexual freedom of crashing-out (adolescence) that partners may have enjoyed in the gay community now poses a potential threat to the relationship. Questions of monogamy and safe people with whom to socialize and places to go need to be worked out together. Lack of visible and positive role models and lack of constructive advice from other gay couples can complicate an already stressful process. Using a heterosexual couple as a model in first relationships can be devastating. Additionally, there is the symbolic importance of the relationship itself, exemplified by a couple feeling that "We've proved that we can have a primary relationship, now we have to maintain it all costs!" This symbolic element can add an urgency that often leads to enormous and unrealistic expectations about what constitutes a "happy" gay couple.

As the relationship evolves, the changing emphasis from sex and emotional passion to a more easy-going and broader sense of comfort and affection can panic a new couple who may have unconsciously defined emotion and commitment in terms of number and

quality of orgasms that have been experienced during a given period. Renewal of personal interests and time spent away from each other that can actually enrich the relationship may also be misunderstood as rejection or indifference. Remember a general rule of thumb: Freedom makes love grow! This freedom can make your lover your best friend.

Gay men at different stages of development, who begin a relationship, will face a special difficulty. One man who has not crashed-out sufficiently to really understand his own intimacy needs will feel stifled and resentful with a partner who is ready for and expects monogamy. One partner may begin a pattern of secret outside sex, which leads to guilt, anger, shame and conflict over irrelevant issues. Lies can drive people crazy! Ben Franklin once said, "If you never lied, you would never have to remember anything."

We, as gay men who have extensive histories of hiding our sexual orientation (like not being out to parents or at work) or keeping our anger and frustration a secret in order to survive, need to learn how to fight openly and fairly and to experience healthy anger as an important source of intimacy and caring. Finally, the new couple may try to import heterosexual rules and roles

from their families or from past non-gay relationships that just don't work.

In short, the probability for failure of the first relationship is quite high—and so is the second!

However, it gets better! If this is not recognized by the couple, either before, during or after the termination of the relationship, they may turn their grief about an eventual relationship failure into depression and cynicism about the gay community and its lifestyle in general. They can decide that crashing-out is the end of the line. When gay men end relationships, they often regress to adolescent crashing-out (at any age.)

More and more gay men are becoming more informative about the types of relationships that exist within the gay community. A good resource for this information is contained in Betty Brozon's *Permanent Partners*. The central issues that faces a young gay couple is whether an early relationship failure is cause for total despair or whether it is important albeit very painful learning experience that can improve future chances for a successful primary relationship.

The last task for young gay men is open-ended self-definition and reintegration that involves looking at every facet of an individual's life and making decisions about how public one wishes to be with the private self. Arrival at this

level indicates that the individual can make these decisions thoughtfully and deliberately, based on health and self-interest, personal pride and self-respect. The older, mature gay man really does not care what others think, as long as he does not hurt himself or others.

Since life is a process of change, new situations will provide a continuing challenge to carefully assess the risk and benefits of sharing one's real feelings about being a gay man. Remember, new feelings will continue to emerge; new labels and concepts will be discussed and better understood. New social networks will be defined and explained, and new relationships and intimacies will be enjoyed.

Part II of *Life As A Gay Man* will focus on the years after age 35. These tend to be much more enjoyable, relaxing times and come with a sense than inner peace is within your grasp.

These writings are dedicated to the memory of Jim Beecher, student, social worker and caring human being whose contributions and collaboration cannot be measured.

Bill Scott, LCSW-ACP is a psychotherapist with New Counseling Center. For information regarding this article call 529-1913.



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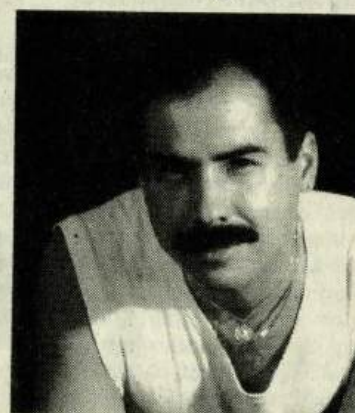
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In 1986 Joseph Perez was diagnosed with HIV. Eight years later, he won a gold medal at New York City's Gay Games IV. This is his story.

Positively A Champion

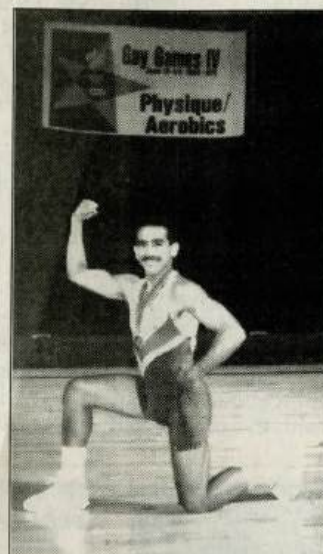
My life really began in 1986 when I was diagnosed HIV+. That day, everything became very cloudy, especially since I was not prepared for what I had to face. Throughout that day and those that followed, I experienced many difficult moments where I had to put on a happy face or wear a smile, even when I was sad and very unhappy. From that day forward, I had to make a lot of my own decisions and, in doing this, I felt alone and lost in sorrow.

1987 was my year to pick myself up from off the ground, hold my head up high and start something new. I began to try and understand just what it was that I really wanted out of life and what I needed to do to achieve this. In a sad time with great amounts of courage, I made choices which led me to many victories. Through these choices and victories, I began to understand and realize that I would be the only person that would change my life. I knew then that I could make it happen for better or for worse. I started making decisions and choices that would enable me to regain my independence, my dignity and, most of all, enable me to love myself.

In 1988, I met the most important person in my life, the very person that would assist me with my positive changes. To this day, he supports me in everything that I do, including my finances, travel, career, hobbies, social life and my independence. He especially supports me in my quest for dignity and even more so in the love that we share together. For many reasons, too numerous to list, he is responsible for my still being alive. Before I met him and before I was diagnosed with HIV, I weighed 200 pounds. Because of my meeting him, I began to exercise and lose weight. At first, my only reason was to trim down. But as time went on, I began to feel the need to keep exercising for health reasons as well. As a result of the trimming down and exercise program, I began teaching aerobics in 1987. During this period I taught for Bally's President and First Lady and The Waist Basket. Several times I had been asked to compete in aerobic competitions but I never really took this seriously.

Years later, I was to hear about the Gay Games, and again I was to be asked to participate in an aerobic competition. I knew nothing of the Gay Games and thought it odd that I had been gay for so long and had never heard of the games. It was only when a team member approached me and asked if I was famil-

iar with the Gay Games that I learned of the aerobic competition in New York City known as Unity 94 Gay Games. My answer to him was, "Of course not."



At the time I was approached about competing in the Gay Games, I was very busy with another project. A friend tried very hard to encourage me to postpone the project, compete in New York, then resume the project afterwards. It was at this time that Alan Bourgeois contacted me and asked if I would consider being part of a video he was putting together. When I asked about the video, Alan explained that it would deal primarily with HIV and health and fitness. I was very surprised and felt honored that he would ask me. Happily I told him that I would be in the video and that I had planned to do a similar video project after my return from the games. At this point, I asked Alan if he knew that I was HIV+ and had been for nine years, to which he replied that he "had no clue."

I began to train for the games and to prepare for the competition ahead. I hired a personal trainer, Johnny West from the Fitness Exchange, and choreographer Ernest Perez from Bally's President and First Lady. To coordinate and edit my music, I secured the artistic services of Chuck Proski. All of this was financed by way of my mom's famous hot tamales. My mother made and sold hot tamales in order to raise funds for my training and to cover my New York expenses. She worked many hours in the kitchen preparing the tamales.

She was very proud, and without her support and contribution, I would not have made it to New York. (I love you Mom). In fact, while speaking to a crowd in New York, I made the comment, "Yes, we sold a lot of hot tamales!" The crowd loved it.

Being in NYC for the first time was an experience in itself. I was very fortunate and thankful to be a welcomed guest of Cesar Galindo and his friends. They made me feel very comfortable in their city. The entire scene in NYC was magical. The energy that we all felt, as though one large family, made a world of difference. I had heard stories about the San Francisco and Vancouver Gay Games and, although they, too, were wonderful by all accounts, I am glad that I did not



miss this one in NYC. I am glad I was part of it.

I competed in the Men's Novice category against 12 other contenders from all over the world. Before my competition, I was so nervous and fearful about getting up to compete and just losing it. My fears ranged from suddenly not being able to move, forgetting to smile, correct arm placements to my transitions being off beat. During this time of doubt and fear, encouragement came from my lover, D.J., Ernest Perez, Linda Anderson, Jackie Doval and all of Team Houston cheering me on.

As I rose up to perform, I tuned everything out except the music. I kept talking to myself and correcting myself, as I stood tall, jumped into the air and executed my landing. In my "talking", I was monitoring and questioning my performance. The next thing I knew, I could hear my name being shouted out loud over the blaring music, followed with cheers of joy. At this point, I knew that I was doing just fine and to continue doing just as I was. I knew that God had given me these wonderful gifts and ability to do so well. I could feel the love in that room, the many warm hearts and the strong hands clapping for a job well done.

Afterwards, as I stood and told my "HIV+ Success Story," I felt that the people all around me understood and perhaps for the first time—and so many at one time. I was right. As I stepped off the stage, people were coming to me crying, holding me with tears of joy, happy hugs and a lot of love. I was told by many people that day of the inspiration I had given them. People would tell me of their health status and of how they felt as they listened to me. Suddenly they no longer felt alone.

This overwhelming surprise of joy, laughter and success, and the winning of the Gold Medal, I dedicate to my beloved mother. My mother, the person who always believed in me, the very one who took her days and nights to support me. Through all of my pains and sorrows, she has been there, and so it is fitting that she is here in the laughter and joy.

—Love, Your Son, Joe A. Perez, Jr.

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THE GIFTS OF HIV/AIDS

By Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW-ACP

It has now been over fourteen years since those infamous first cases of HIV/AIDS began appearing in New York and San Francisco. During this period the devastation to the world, and most especially the gay community, has been well documented. We are constantly reminded of the human, social, financial and personal losses. Rarely, however, does anyone focus on the brighter side of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the aspects that may be contributing to the betterment of individuals, relationships, communities and society as a whole.

My experience has been that people who attempt to focus, even for a moment, on the positive aspects of this epidemic are chastised for minimizing or are accused of working against the advancement of a cure. At the risk of offending some individuals, I would like to take an opportunity to share some of my professional observations on this issue.

Because a large percentage of my practice is gay men, I have the opportunity and pleasure of working with people living with HIV/AIDS. Countless numbers of men have initially called my office because they seroconverted or have encountered some event that has forced them to deal with their HIV status. Initially, and logically so, there is a phase of trauma which includes a grieving process. In general, however, I have found that the most emotionally intense part of this process is short lived followed by other options. In general these options include some form of "fight, flight or submission."

The option of "flight" might include a choice either short- or long-term to run from rather than face the issues. The unhealthy forms of "flight" might include the more obvious such as escape through the use of drugs and/or alcohol, or other less obvious forms including excessive work, travel, sex or even social and political activism. I would like to note here that some of the "less obvious"

indicated above may be very adaptive in moderation however become maladaptive in excess or if utilized for unhealthy reasons or escape.

The submission posture generally results in an individual giving up on the various aspects of living, including work, family, friends and health. The future of this choice is obvious, as this generally facilitates deterioration of the emotional, mental and spiritual bodies resulting in physical illness and ultimately death.

Finally the "fight" option might take the form of direct confrontation or "taking the bull by the horns," as well as a healthy involvement

The only thing necessary is a true willingness to accept the gifts that are before their eyes, the gifts are ever present shrouded only by a resistance to vision.

with their personal, financial, social, and political future. Other forms of "fight" may include a refusal to let a virus control and ruin their life and an insistence on maximizing the life experience. In this mode, there is a healthy balance of taking care of business, remaining well informed and living responsibly. In general, this

direction tends to remove a person from a victim mode and allows for a more proactive stance overall.

The gifts that an individual might receive will likely correlate to the "fight," "flight" or "submission" positions indicated above. It is very difficult to see a gift, let alone be willing to accept and enjoy it, if one is more focused on dying than living or if in a "flight" mode.

Many clients have arrived in my office in what might be identified as an unhealthy response mode. If a desire to live is present, most are able to shift into a more productive direction. Some, however, lack the desire and, by nature of the process, become disillusioned and terminate therapy. Living takes work and dedication. However, the growth which can occur from this dedication can provide immeasurable benefits, happiness and peace.

Of those that become or remain dedicated to life, almost all have eventually responded in a very interesting way. Most clients have stated that they are glad they are HIV positive, citing that the changes that they have made in their lives would not likely have occurred had it not been for HIV. This is certainly not to imply that they would prefer to remain HIV positive if given a choice. What, then, are the gifts that have been received by these individuals, their partners, friends, family, the Gay/Lesbian community and ultimately the entire society?

People have repeatedly cited that had it not been for HIV/AIDS they would not have been as likely to come out to their family and friends. Improvement in relationships between family and friends are often cited as a result of HIV/AIDS. Most indicate that there has been a shift in what they identify as valuable in life itself. Material things often become

less valuable being replaced by a more intensified value on friends, family and intimate love relationships. Because of physical need, many people make shifts in the way they care for their bodies. There is often a change in diet, exercise, rest and a reduction or removal of recreational drugs and alcohol. A shift also might

occur in what is perceived as problematic in their lives. There is often a need and/or desire to let go of the little problems in life, a "don't sweat the small stuff" attitude often prevails. Common shifts often include returning to school, taking up a hobby, a reinvestment in spirituality or pursuing something they have always dreamed of. Overall there tends to be a major shift in the value system, belief system, spiritual awareness and ultimately a clarification of the meaning of life itself. Again those individuals who experience this shift identify HIV/AIDS as the major corresponding factor.

The gifts of HIV/AIDS are certainly not limited to those who happen to be carriers of the virus. It seems that those most closely connected in some way to the virus are offered the next wave of gifts. If they should choose to accept them, gifts are also available to family, friends, lover, and care givers. The only thing necessary is a true willingness to accept the gifts that are before their eyes. The gifts are ever present shrouded only by a resistance to vision. Unfortunately, many individuals are not willing or for some reason believe they are unable to remain present long enough to accept these gifts. Many friends, family members physically abandon a situation or find themselves escaping in many of the

same ways as the HIV-infected person. This might include physical distancing, drugs, alcohol, avoidance or denial of the issue. Those who have allowed themselves to remain present and confront their fears also identify shifts in their own value systems. Virtually all of the

Material things often become less valuable being replaced by a more intensified value on friends, family and intimate love relationships.

parents, friends and partners with whom I have worked identify an extreme growth curve from sharing in the journey.

Other gifts as a result of the HIV ripple effect can be identified in how the lesbian/gay community has come together and mobilized. Where once lesbian and gays remained socially and often politically separate there has been a surge of unification. Lesbians have joined gays in the battle on all fronts, from political action to fund raising and care taking. This gift of unity certainly deserves recognition and embracing by the community as a whole and might well serve as a universal model of love and mutual

support. This unification may never have occurred or would certainly have been delayed if not for HIV/AIDS.

This theme is also extended outward to non gay/lesbian individuals. Many non esbian/gay physicians, nurses, artists, family members, actors, clergy, and certainly friends have opened their hearts to embrace and support not only a cause but also an oppressed people.

Certainly many might suggest that this is not enough, and certainly it is not. We must all continue to confront our own fears, embrace the love and live by this example. This, by nature of the process, will allow for the ripple effect of HIV and corresponding change to occur systemwide.

This overall elevation of consciousness continues to extend outward to effect those who are as yet unaware of the potential gifts. These people, currently blinded, may someday open their eyes and allow for the flow of love to overcome their fear.

Open your eyes, accept the gifts! ▼

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

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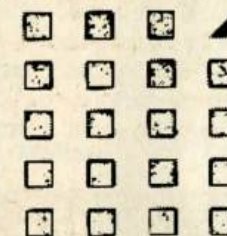
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A FEW FACTS ABOUT GAY GAMES IV

ATHLETES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

2,073

ATHLETES FROM CANADIAN PROVINCES

612

ATHLETES FROM U.S. STATES & TERRITORIES

6,716

TOTAL ATHLETES = 9,401

SPORTS FEATURED AT GAY GAMES

Aerobics	Physique
Aquatics	Power-lifting
Badminton	Racquetball
Basketball	Soccer
Billiards	Softball
Bowling	Sport Climbing
Cycling	Squash
Flag Football	Table Tennis
Golf	Track & Field
Figure Skating	Triathlon
Ice Hockey	Volleyball
Marathon	Wrestling
Martial Arts/Judo	

Sporting Events	31	Volunteers	7,000
Athletic Venues	30	Announcers	52
Countries represented	40	Drinking cups	5,200
Continents	6	Tennis balls	6,000
Languages	20	Shower towels	75,000

ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS ON CALL

FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

7

FUNDS COMMITTED BY THE NETHERLANDS FOR GAY GAMES V IN 1998

\$27 MILLION

FUNDS COMMITTED BY THE U.S. FOR GAY GAMES IV

\$0

CONDOMS FROM MAYER LABS FOR DISTRIBUTION ON SITE

250,000

BOTTLES OF PAIN KILLERS FOR DISTRIBUTION

3,000

MAYOR'S ESTIMATE OF TOURIST REVENUE BROUGHT TO

NYC BY GAY GAMES IV

\$111 MILLION

MAYOR'S ESTIMATE OF TOURIST REVENUE BROUGHT TO NYC BY THE

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

\$25 MILLION

WINNERS' MEDALS MANUFACTURED

6,557

* Compiled from data published in Gay Games IV and Cultural Festival Collector's Edition Official Program

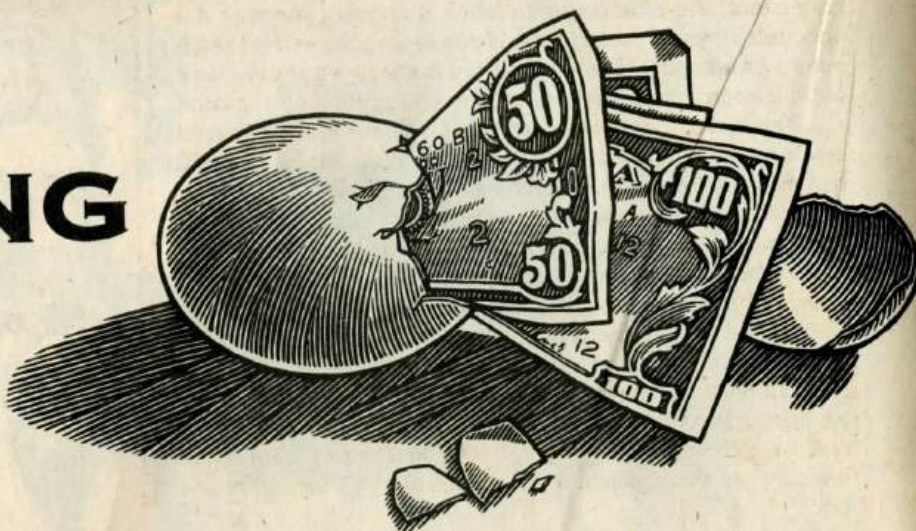


Stonewall...Unity '94

ESTATE PLANNING

ACCUMULATING AN ESTATE AND PASSING IT ON

by Julie LaRue, LUTCF



If you play Monopoly you might have noted how quickly you can accumulate property and cash and conversely how quickly a Chance card can deplete those assets. The problem with Monopoly—it doesn't offer you a chance to plan your estate.

Do you own a home, contribute to a 401K or other retirement plan, own any investment or savings accounts or have someone you care for? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you have an estate worthy of a plan. Many people see the words "estate planning" and think, "I don't have an estate so why should I be concerned?"

As you begin to understand the importance of taking control and planning for your life, you may take the first step in your estate plan—seeking out legal counsel to help you with your Last Will and Testament, Powers of Attorney, trusts, Living Together Agreement and other documents. This is an extremely important step and ideally should be taken in early adulthood. These documents can be amended and updated as you age. But they are especially important because you will be outlining how you want your assets to pass to your beneficiaries—your loved ones.

The next step is beginning to acquire assets. For many people these may include

- investment accounts
- retirement plans
- life insurance
- a home.

With retirement plans and life insurance you are able to name beneficiaries. This means that immediately upon your death, specific assets will pass to whomever you have named as the beneficiary, and you are generally able to avoid the probate process.

However, many financial institutions do not allow you to designate a beneficiary on investment accounts. This will force you to transfer those assets to your loved one(s) through your will. If your will is contested in any way, your wishes may not be followed, and you could be leaving your partner in financial

chaos. As discussed last month, you need to be aware of the alternatives. Most fall under the part of estate planning called Titling of Assets. This includes the way you have your home titled, such as "joint tenants with rights of survivorship"—a crucial part of your plan if you own your home with a partner and you want the other to inherit the home upon your death. An alternative for your investment accounts are what's known as Multiple-party Accounts. "Multiple-party Account" means a joint account, a convenience account, a Payable on Death account, or a trust account. MPAs are governed by Part 1 of Chapter XI of the Texas Probate Code.

Payable on Death accounts may be used as a way to pass investment accounts to whomever you wish upon your death, thereby avoiding the probate process. The asset passes outside the probate process unless the sums in the account are needed to pay debts, taxes and expenses of administration.

Other advantages to Multiple-party Accounts are:

- lower expenses. The Cost of probate may be affected by the value of the property being administered. There are no administrative costs with MPAs that pass outside of probate, e.g., joint accounts with rights of survivorship, trust accounts and Payable on Death accounts.

- avoidance of delays. Probate can be time-consuming, especially if someone is contesting your will. A contested will causes delays and may prevent your assets from reaching the person you intended. In the case of your partner, she or he could be severely inconvenienced.

- flexibility and affordability. There are usually no fees associated with opening a Payable on Death account. Not all financial institutions may be willing to open this type of account. However, you should continue to search until you do find one that accepts this type of titling.

Another type of Multiple-party Account is a convenience account. The advantages of this type of account is that both the party and the cosigner have the right to withdraw any and all of the funds in the account. It may be used by a party to establish a method for the cosigner to pay the party's bills under a variety of situations, e.g., the party has difficulty writing

due to age, accident or physical challenge, or the party is out of the country for a prolonged period of time.

One danger of MPAs is that individuals may not fully understand the differences between the types, the way the accounts operate during their lifetimes and the effects upon death. As with any legal or financial matter, you should seek out the appropriate advisers to help you protect your estate.

The last part of estate planning involves reducing federal estate taxes. Although you may pass your assets through beneficiary designations, their value is still included in your estate for federal estate tax purposes. If you have \$600,000 or more in assets, you're looking at a hefty payment to the IRS. Remember, assets can accumulate faster than you think. Check again—your 401K plan, your home, life insurance death benefits, inheritances you might receive and the additional investments you have may be pushing you over the \$600,000 limit. Their current value may not be \$600,000, but it's very possible that their future value could be. This area is one in which you should seek professional help to learn about the different strategies to try to reduce or avoid federal estate tax.

In Monopoly you didn't have a chance to plan your estate. Your life is not a game—don't leave your estate plan to a Chance card. Estate planning can be simple and easy to accomplish. But most importantly, your loved ones will suffer less stress and turmoil if you've done proper planning.

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 Colvert Securities Corporation, a registered broker-dealer and investment advisor and member of The Acacia Group. Information is general in nature. Be sure to consult an attorney for specific legal advice. For more information regarding this article contact Ms. LaRue at 713/888-3500.

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RELATIONSHIP CONTRACTS:

WHO NEEDS THEM?

by Connie Moore

Even if you are going to live together 'til death do you part, it is still a good idea to make an agreement as to your rights and responsibilities to each other and put it in writing. Texas law provides little protection otherwise.

HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES HAVE THE "BENEFIT" OF STATE LAWS which define the terms of their married relationship. For example, they acquire the mutual duty of support and also a fiduciary duty to act with the other's best interest at heart. When heterosexuals marry, they automatically enter into a "contract" with each other and with the state which is binding on them until they die or divorce. The state has defined what the terms of the contract will be. Heterosexuals can change the terms of their marriage contract by entering into a "pre-nuptial" or "post-nuptial" agreement.

Homosexuals are not permitted to marry under Texas law. Right now, the only way that homosexuals can get the same protections and

benefits that heterosexuals have is by making contracts that define the terms of their relationships. We call these agreements relationship contracts, or cohabitation agreements.

A cohabitation agreement is a written document that contains the terms and conditions of a relationship. It is similar to the partnership agreement that we use in the business world, but it is usually much more personal.

The main ingredient in any good relationship contract is communication. It is absolutely necessary that partners sit down and talk out the options that make up their agreement before reducing it to writing.

Couples who are in therapy may want to discuss their agreement in the therapy setting. Those who are not in therapy need not go into it in order to get an agreement together. Some will need to consult with CPAs or financial planners before finalizing their agreement. Regardless of the amount of time that it takes to talk things out, the time spent in good communication is never wasted.

Each cohabitation agreement is tailored to the individual couple that it concerns. Some of the more popular provisions that we have seen couples use include the following:

- a statement of what the living arrangements will be
- a schedule of assets owned by each partner
- a statement of each partner's current employment and income
- a list of property which is considered "community"
- a list of property which is considered "separate"
- a statement of how income and expenses are shared
- the terms of support if only one partner is working
- the method by which real property is owned
- a designation of the partner who is to "keep the books"
- a definition of "separation"
- the terms of separation
- an agreement to mediate and arbitrate disagreements outside the court setting.

The only provision that must not be in a relationship contract is an agreement that the contract or any part of it is conditioned on the exchange of sexual favors. Any such provision will make the contract invalid. Although it seems unfair, couples must not refer to themselves as "lovers" in their relationship contracts. Beyond this limitation, the contracts can be as personal as each couple wants.

It is especially important to have a written agreement when the parties own real estate, either jointly or separately. Agreements about real estate must be in writing to be enforceable. By far, more conflicts arise between our lesbian and gay clients from relationship dissolutions when real estate is involved and a written contract is not. Rarely do we get called upon to help interpret the terms of the agreement.

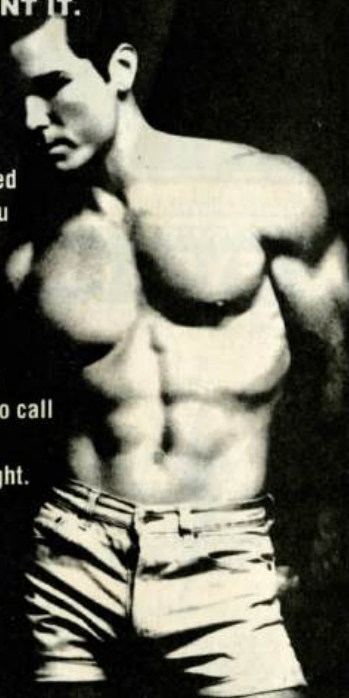
Couples do not have to have a lot of money or many assets before entering into an agreement. Any committed couple who is interested in laying out some ground rules in order to secure and protect the relationship is encouraged to draft an agreement.

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 a 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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OUT in our World

continued from page 21

most of the sexual risk-taking took place when the bisexual men had sex with other males—not when engaged in sex with women. Only 7 percent of the bisexual males actually reported having sex with women, and among this group, a mere 2 percent reported having unprotected vaginal intercourse, the study reports. The findings also indicate that the men in the study significantly cut back on sexual risk-taking behaviors in general and particularly during male-male sex, during the five-year term of the study. Although unprotected vaginal intercourse remains common among men who have sex with women, this behavior was reported almost exclusively by the HIV-negative men involved in the research.

Lesbigay Couples Sue Austin Over Loss of Partner Benefits

AUSTIN, Texas (GayNet) — Three Austin lesbian and gay couples have filed suit in a Texas district court against the city of Austin because of the loss of domestic partner benefits when city voters in May overwhelmingly repealed a city ordinance that extended the benefits to city employees. The ACLU says it will probably also file a similar suit in behalf of 98 other city workers - both gay and straight - whose partners lost the benefits following the May 7 election repeal. The suit charges the city with breach of contract and unfair insurance practices because voters yanked the benefits program that had been in place since September when it was initially approved by the city council. The couples in the just-filed suit are: Janice Bailey and Renee Villeneuve; Michael Moon and Tom R. Cox; and Kathryn Janes and Wendy Foxworth, who is co-pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Austin. "At a time when the nation is trying to ensure greater access to preventive health care, the city has taken away health care from our families," Foxworth said. "Our families deserve the same protection as other city employee families."

Virginia Court Orders Son Returned to Sharon Bottoms

RICHMOND, Va. (GayNet) — The Virginia Court of Appeals has overturned a lower court child custody ruling that ordered the 2-year-old son of Sharon Bottoms removed from her home because she acknowledged she is a lesbian. "A parent's private sexual conduct, even if illegal, does not create a presumption of unfitness," wrote Judge Sam Coleman for the 3-member panel. The unanimous appeals court ruling overturned a lower court ruling that gave custody of the boy to Bottoms' 43-year-old mother, Kay Bottoms, who had brought the

custody dispute against her daughter. The grandmother was unavailable for comments following the decision, but her attorney, Richard Ryder, said his client would appeal the case to the state Supreme Court. "It's another example, in my opinion, of the breakdown in morality in this country," he told the *Washington Post*. "The lesbians and homosexuals are going to take over one of these days, the way things are going."

Virginia Low-Income Housing Loans to Include Gay/Lesbian Families

RICHMOND, Va. (GayNet) — The Virginia Housing Development Authority has approved a proposed regulatory change that would allow offering low-income loans to non-traditional households, including gay and lesbian couples. The proposal alters current regulations, which restrict such loans to families that are related by "blood, marriage or adoption," to include low-income joint house purchasers defined as "two or more individuals living together on the premises as a single, nonprofit housekeeping unit." Several area gay and lesbian homeowners and prospective buyers spoke in support of the proposed change as did representatives of Richmond's and Virginia's mortgage bankers association and the Richmond Assn. of Realtors. But Margaret Braddy of Concerned Women of America called the proposal a move toward "illegal and immoral behavior." "Virginia will not be improved by disregarding the importance ... of the family unit," Braddy said. But the VHDA board disagreed and approved the regulation change with only one vote cast against it.

Gay Athlete May Be Deported Over HIV Status

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Shaun Mellors, a 28-year-old swimmer from South Africa, said he lied about his HIV-positive status as a protest of the "stupidity" of a 1987 U.S. policy prohibiting people with HIV or AIDS from entering the country. Mellors said that because the ban is not based on public health policy and discriminates against homosexuals and AIDS patients, and because he feared harassment by U.S. Immigration officials, he did not apply for the special Immigration and Naturalization Service waiver for infected athletes attending Gay Games IV in New York City. Mellors now faces deportation, however, because he acquired his visa fraudulently, according to a spokesperson for INS.

Glove Ad Gets Canadian Brewery in Hot Water

TORONTO (GayNet) — Flooded with dozens of complaints that it appears to be promoting sex and condoms, Canada's Molson Brewer-

continued on page 47

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COMING OUT IN PUBLIC

by Marti Baillie

I am a forty-something-year-old woman who, just recently, came out, and it was as much a surprise to me as anyone.

Believe me, I have spent many years looking for "Prince Charming." I have gone through five legal ones and a few of the more "casual" variety. When it came to emotional and social needs, I learned long ago to turn to my women friends, but I always knew I needed a man for sex, right? I have been a feminist for many years and always said, "The best man for the job is a woman." I just didn't take it far enough.

One gloomy, dark night last winter, I decided to go to a lesbian bar with my gay daughter and a friend. The thought that I might meet someone was not on my agenda. In fact, I hadn't even thought about it. I simply wanted a night out amongst the company of women.

When we arrived at the bar, it was pretty deserted. It was still too early for the crowd. I fast-danced with my daughter and my friend

*One gloomy, dark night last winter,
I decided to go to a lesbian bar
with my gay daughter and a friend.
The thought that I might meet
someone was not on my agenda.*

and was having the time of my life, when, to my surprise, this foxy little woman in coveralls appeared and asked me to dance. I hesitated for a moment, then thought, "Why not? It's just a dance."

I felt sort of tingly and funny when she would stare at me with her penetrating green eyes; I'd have to look away. We danced for a series of fast songs, then it was back to the table. She thanked me, and that was that, but I felt a let-down feeling as she walked away. "Oh well," I thought, "that was different." And I went back to having fun with my friends.

Before the night ended, the mystery woman showed up again at my table, asking me to dance. Of course I said yes. After we danced, I got ready to leave, and my new friend asked if I would be back the following week. I told her I might. I certainly wanted to see her again.

I thought of nothing else but her for the entire next week. I couldn't wait for Wednesday to get back to that bar. Wednesday arrived, and the weather couldn't have been worse—rain, sleet—but just like the Pony Express, nothing could have kept me away!

I went home and put on my tightest jeans with a white T-shirt, leather jacket and boots. I guess I looked like some sort of fluffy biker by the time I was done, tucking my money, and of course, my lipstick, in my jacket pocket. I was off—to what, I wasn't quite sure—but I had never felt so excited in my life.

Of course she was there, and the rest is history. We sat together with our other friends and got to know each other. I bought her a rose from The Rose Man at the bar, just to let her know I was interested. And just in case she didn't get the message, I took the cherry out of my drink and placed it next to hers in an almost-empty glass. "Do you think you can handle all that?" I innocently queried. Her answer was "You bet!"

We exchanged phone numbers on napkins and made a date for the following Saturday night.

Again, all I could think of the rest of the week was HER. I worried about how I was going to let her know I was straight. Maybe she had guessed, but then I found out that both my

daughter and friend had already warned her to "be gentle" with me, as it was my first time. Quite frankly, at my age, after five husbands, it was a delight to know there were any "firsts" left!

Saturday came. We had a date for that night, to go to a dance. By that time we had already gotten together for breakfast, a movie, dinner. We couldn't wait 'til the dance started to meet, and we loved every minute of our day together. Nothing had ever felt so right to me as being with this woman.

My first bad moment came at the movie. We were watching *The Piano*, but my mind was on her thigh. Half-way through the movie, I went to the bathroom to psyche myself up to that it was okay to "reach out and touch." I wanted to so bad, but I just couldn't seem to get up the nerve. I went back into the darkened theater

and tentatively reached out and placed my hand where it longed to be. At that moment we both knew I was saying YES!

We recently celebrated our fifth month of being together. Unlike that tired old joke (*What does a lesbian bring on the second date: a U-Haul and everything she owns*), we still have separate homes, but see each other everyday. We plan to move in together in November into a new and different space than the ones we occupy now.

I told her the first time we made love that I felt I had "come home." I still feel that way. I had no lustful designs on women before I met my woman. But now that I have her, I know that I am and choose to always be first and foremost a woman, and secondly, a lesbian. I finally feel that I have found my niche, and I am grateful.

I "came out" in public. In fact, my car sports an *OutSmart* bumper sticker. It just seemed like a natural progression in my life. My friends and family have accepted the change, and no one seemed at all surprised, probably due to my lack of success (if that's the word I'm looking for) with intimate relationships with men. My middle daughter is gay, so of course, she accepted it immediately. My younger daughter who is twenty didn't even blink twice, although I do think it surprised her that it wasn't a fleeting thing—that I did fall in love. My oldest daughter disappointed me by being totally judgmental and letting me know I would not be welcome to drop by with my friend. At first I was hurt, then I became angry. At this point I just accept it. This world is just too full of unaccepted people to be ostracized by one's own blood, and it does make me feel bad that she's acting this way. It's the *Where did I go wrong?* syndrome, but in reverse. Usually it's the mother wringing her hands and saying this to her gay child.

I am happier than ever with my woman lover and plan to stay with her in a committed relationship. In answer to my own question of what can two women possibly do together: "ANYTHING THEY WANT, HONEY!" ▼

Marti Baillie is an Office Manager for a Houston engineering firm. Originally from Scotland, she enjoys free-lance writing and building her new life with her new partner.

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? Send us your "coming out" story to be published in an upcoming issue of *OutSmart*. Mail to *OutTales* c/o *OutSmart Magazine* 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006-4412. Or Fax it to 713/522-3275. Questions? Call 713/520-7237.

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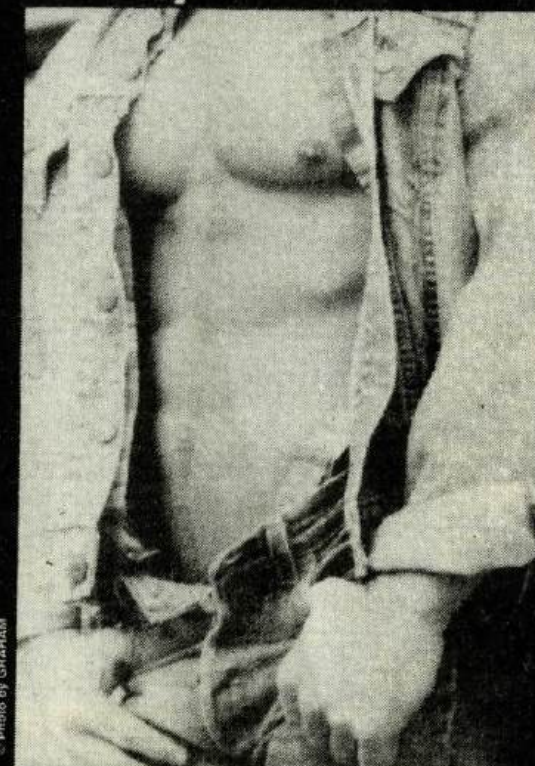
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Liz Zambrano's

Sensual Female Beauty on Canvas

By Eric Roland

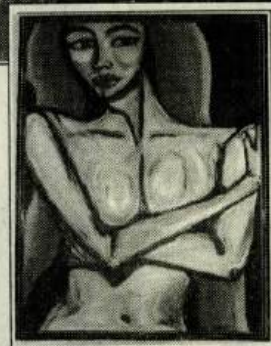
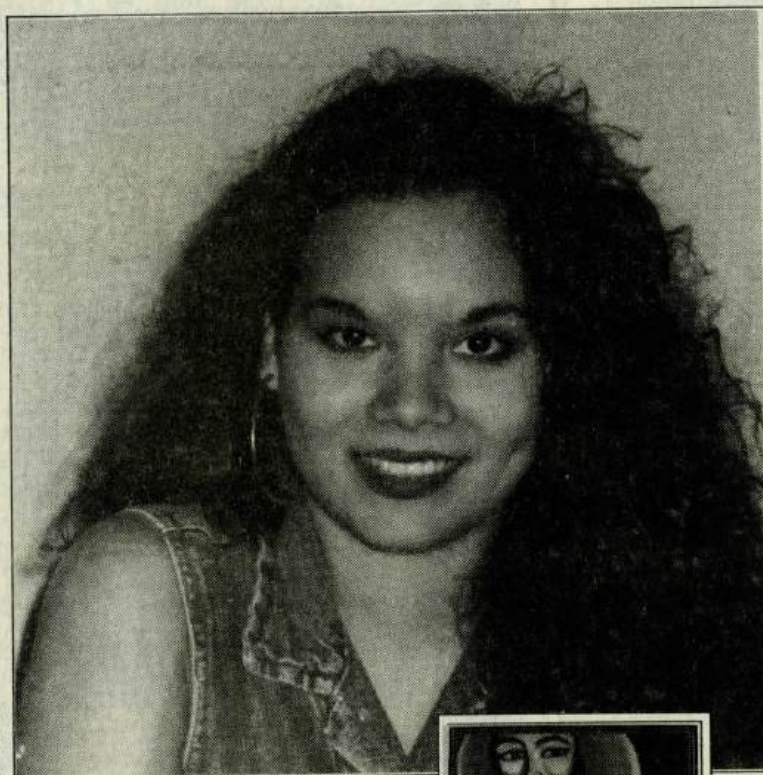
The unique triangular-shaped windows fill the intimate space with light from the hot summer sun, casting warm glows onto finished canvases. The wall above the kitchen sink is plastered with prints by Frida Kahlo, and the dining room is adorned with Gustav Klimt posters. The calming blue waters of a large aquarium are heavy contrast to the busy living room, which doubles as a bedroom (via a convertible futon), as well as an art studio.

The denizen of this small Montrose apartment is Liz Zambrano, a 23-year-old Hispanic lesbian artist. Her passion for being creative is borne out in this crowded, yet comfortable, space, and her art, in itself, defines her as a success. However, while there is an overabundance of inspirational material in her studio apartment, Zambrano says her primary source of inspiration is everyday life.

"Most of my work is real sensual and I think a lot of it comes out of relationships and love and feelings like that," says Zambrano. "I usually paint best when I'm sad, so I like to be by myself, left alone to paint."

The melancholic music of The Smiths, Cocteau Twins, Sade and Morrissey helps Zambrano become more introverted and puts her in the mood to paint. She says that sometimes it's best to forget about everyday life and society and instead to concentrate on your inner soul.

"Seeing with the inner eye is more important than looking at the world outside," she says. "Painting is a private world where I find great freedom."



Her freedom results in expressionistic works of art with titles such as "Mesmerized," "Esperanza," (which means "hope" in Spanish) and "La Femme." Primarily using acrylic paint on large canvases, she has become known for working with one particular subject matter: female nudes.

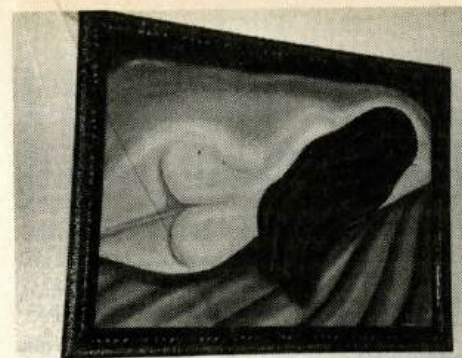
"I've always been interested in nudes even before I came out," she says. "The female nude represents beauty

in its purest form." However, Zambrano dislikes painting male nudes saying she doesn't find their bodies as attractive and that she is striving for a softer, more feminine look. For this reason, she admires the work of Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo and Gustav Klimt, who all worked with images that have been interpreted as feminine, albeit not always nude.

Now working toward going back to school to attend the Glassell School of Art, Zambrano studied graphic design at the Art Institute of Houston after graduating from high school. After realizing that her passion was for fine art, she dropped out of the Art Institute to pursue painting.

Originally from Northern California but raised here in Houston, Zambrano, soon after her decision to paint full time, set her sights on returning to California to attend an art school in San Francisco. Before leaving, though, she planned on selling all of the works she had already completed.

"I then met Patti Oriot, who was having a lesbian art show at Unique Boutique, so I exhibited my paintings there," says Zambrano. The show at the Montrose gift shop and gallery proved to be a success for the young artist, and she made what every young artist often finds more important



than money—connections.

Her exhibition there led to a successful show at Dreamland Gallery on lower

Westheimer. Since then, she has had shows at Westheimer Art Bar and most recently at the Post Oak Pavilion with the Houston Artist Society.

During this year's Gay Pride Week Dreamland Gallery hosted a "Salute to Gay and Lesbian Artists of Houston," to which Zambrano displayed most of her yet unsold paintings. Before the show, through which she sold several pieces, Zambrano realized that she works best under pressure.

"I had six months to come up with 15 paintings for that exhibit," she says. "I already had seven paintings but put off doing the other eight until the last two months. I painted night and day to get them finished."

Liz Zambrano is now painting at a more leisurely pace. After her July 14 showing at The Pavilion on Post Oak, she's preparing to show her work at the Museum Restaurant and Bar in November.

"I want to exhibit more in Houston...have more exposure," she says about her current goals. However, her future goals lie elsewhere. "I want to go back to California—I miss the mountains—and my dream goal is to own my own gallery in California."

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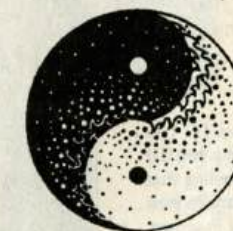
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New York in June or Anytime...

by Sandra B. Wilkins

Picture this: Kim, Nancy & I "snugged" up at the chic and very politically correct Paramount Hotel in New York City, about to have dinner. Minutes before we had each shaken the hand of Sir Ian McKellen, as he stood outside the Lyceum Theatre, where his one-man show, "A Knight Out," was the most inspiring, unifying, encompassing, and creative piece about homosexuals throughout history that has ever been thought of, much less produced.

And, we were there.

New York June 22-27, 1994.

Unforgettable, and a rare treat. Remember issue No. 2 of *OutSmart*, where I interviewed my old buddy, Dan Baker, about the upcoming Gay Games IV? Well, last month in New York a lot of us got to witness the extraordinary results of all the work that went into making that a genuine "week that was" for gays

and lesbians, worldwide. I'll never forget 50,000 gays and lesbians filling Yankee Stadium for the Closing Ceremonies of the Gay Games, nor witnessing thousands of brothers and sisters marching to celebrate Stonewall 25, the mile-long rainbow flag

weaving its way up 1st Avenue for all the world to see.

Walking to the ladies room at the Paramount, I ran into an old friend from Washington D. C., Jason Heffner. We smiled and embraced, and I started effusing about the past 36 hours when he stopped me and said, "Sandra, isn't it wonderful when the actual events exceed our expectations?"

Stop me cold. A rare event in itself, but it started me thinking about the idea that actual

The point here is that New York City is one of the most affordable and exciting and enriching travel experiences you can ever have. You can do the queer thing 'til you're blue in the face, or you can simply do New York, or best of all, do both!

events can exceed our expectations, and I rejoice once more in being gay, and out, and in some small way lending my voice and actions toward the greater good of acceptance and respect that we all desire and deserve. New York/

Gay Games IV/Stonewall 25...all this added up to a remarkable endorsement of gay is good, and judging by the positive responses we received from the media as well as people on the street, it seems we are beginning to make real progress in the world at large. This is good.

Do you know what else is good? New York City! I've known NYC for a long time now, having worked as a Sales Exec for King Hussein of Jordan's airline, "Alia," and spending many weeks in the mid 80s at their offices in New York. I went up to New York twice a month for a couple of years and during that time got over all my hangups and preconceived notions about that remarkable city.

What's very interesting is that, since returning last week, I've had four, count them, four calls from gay clients wanting to go to New York. It's a fabulous

destination, friendlier than you'd ever guess, easy to navigate if you at least know north/south, east/west, and cheaper than most of you ever imagined.

My pal Steve called last week, and he and

John had decided a wonderful Christmas present for the family would be a weekend in New York during the Christmas season. Leave Friday morning, arrive before dinner time, nice restaurant Friday evening, up early on Saturday for sightseeing and shopping, Broadway show Saturday night, brunch at the Plaza on Sunday, horse-drawn carriage through Central Park after brunch, taxi back to La Guardia airport for the 5:30 p.m. return flight to Houston.

I loved planning this trip for Steve and John, and let me share, for travel education's sake, the cost of this endeavor: Roundtrip airfare, per person, \$301.00, taxi 13.00 per person, roundtrip airport/hotel/airport.

Accommodations secured at the fantastic new Flatotel International: Two-bedroom, two-bath suite, with queen pull-down bed in living room, sleeps six comfortably, full kitchen, jacuzzi tubs in the marble bathrooms, and roughly 2,100 square feet total space, IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN, AT WEST 52ND AND 7TH AVENUE!!!

Cost per person, \$121.66 for the weekend stay. Theatre tickets for *Angels in America, Part II*, \$77.50 each, and *Phantom of the Opera*, \$72.50 each. Brunch at the Plaza Hotel is \$45.00 per person, but an equally wonderful Sunday treat is breakfast at the Midtown Diner for \$4.50. I've never, ever had a bad meal in New York, be it pissy

brunch or get-down breakfast.

The point here is that New York City is one of the most affordable, exciting and enriching travel experiences you can ever have. You can do the queer thing 'til you're blue in the face, or you can simply do New York, or best of all, do both!

There's a great new group of gay/lesbian folks in New York that have started a thriving new operation called the Gay and Lesbian Visitors

THERE'S A GREAT NEW GROUP OF GAY/LESBIAN FOLKS IN NEW YORK THAT HAVE STARTED A THRIVING NEW OPERATION CALLED THE GAY AND LESBIAN VISITORS CENTER.

Center. They provide, free of charge, more information than you are likely to act on about what's doing for us in that city. Good idea to stop in and visit them, collect their treasure trove of valuable information, and plan your days accordingly.

One of my favorite hand-outs for clients going to New York is a piece published by the Visitors and Convention Bureau, titled *20 Free Things to Do in New York*. To mention just a few: Rockefeller Center—at Christmas there's the enor-

mous lighted tree, with ice skaters on the rink; The New York Stock Exchange—free tours, including a visitors gallery overlooking the traders floor; TV Shows—get on The Late Show With Dave, free tickets offered on a day-to-day basis; The Zoos—Bronx Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo in Brooklyn, and Central Park Zoo in Manhattan are free!; the exotic neighborhoods of Chinatown, SoHo, Little Italy, Brooklyn Heights, South Street Seaport, and, of course, Greenwich Village are yours for the looking, and free at that.

Museums: Oh, my! Too many for any one visit. If you have a week, you can do most of them. If you have a couple of days, be selective. Like London's British Museum and the Louvre in Paris, you can get lost in them (dreadful time killers if your not careful), so do some homework before leaving home. What interests you? Like

architecture and interior design? Then, of course you'd do the Guggenheim and Cooper-Hewitt only. Modern art buffs will high tail it to the "MOMA" (you will always and forever call the Museum of Modern Art the "MO-MA," as do all who are in the know). At some point you should do the incredible Metropolitan Museum of Art, one of the world's most prestigious collections with more than 3 million art objects. It's huge, overwhelming and deserves the time you must

Cruising Damron Style

by Donnie Angelle

Feeling left out because you didn't make it to New York for Gay Games IV? You didn't travel to Washington for the March last year either? Or maybe you did join the millions of civil rights continental commuters, but you're feeling that old wanderlust tugging at your American Tourister, and you don't care to wait until Gay Games '98 to go to Amsterdam, for the next big Gayfest? Fear not. Even though this decade's big visibility events in gay and lesbian American history are exactly that—history—much fun still is available within weeks to the gay traveler.

First in line this summer is the HOTLANTA RIVER EXPO WATER COLOURS event in Atlanta, Georgia, August 11-15, featuring men, the river and unparalleled fun. Your extended weekend includes the wet and wild Hotlanta River Expo and raft race, the sizzling Mr. Hotlanta International Finals, not to mention pulsing parties galore. Make sure to bring your binoculars, because you won't find a more delicious spot for admiring "the wonders of nature" than this.

Hotlanta weekend hotel prices start at \$69, with headquarter rooms at the Sheraton Colony Square going for \$85 per night. Tickets to the event can be purchased separately, or get yourself a great deal by purchasing a weekend package for \$175 per person.

In October, turn up the heat and thaw out your fall with a Halloween Windjammer cruise in the Caribbean. Your stress will simply float away with the spectacular emerald tide as you soak up the sun, camp it up for the Halloween party and feast your eyes on the sun-soaked men against the lush

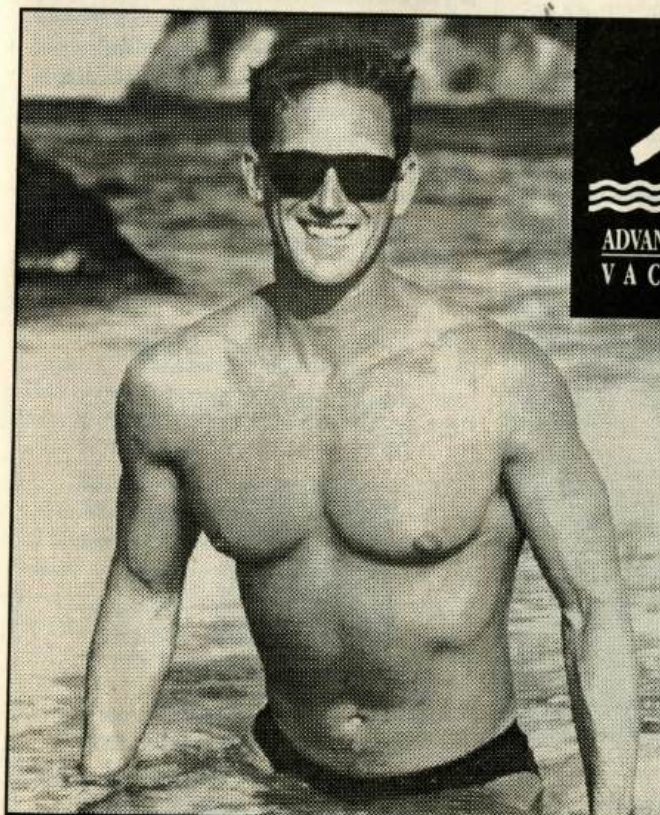


backdrop of the glorious Caribbean scenery.

Mark your calendar for October 23-29, 1994. Choice cabin space is becoming extremely tight and will sell out soon, so make plans now. The S/V Polynesia sets sail from St. Maarten and visits a variety of nearby islands. Casual is the key here. No set itinerary, no set schedule—just a yachtsman's paradise of little-known islands lapped by the alluring, turquoise sea.

On this Windjammer sailing excursion, expect to fill your days with swimming, snorkeling, beach-combing and bargain hunting in quaint villages. But once the sun sets, be prepared for total fun. Toga parties, holiday celebrations, limbo dances and more. But nothing beats the legendary talent shows featuring you and your shipmates. And this year, a surprise guest will surely make this your most memorable vacation of them all... Can we talk!!!!

Donnie Angelle is an agent with Advance Damron Vacations, a local travel agency and tour company. Designated "The Official Travel Agency" for Hotlanta River Expo, the Southeast Gay Rodeo Association and the gay and lesbian Tennis Association, Advance Damron is "constantly searching for new ways to support the gay and lesbian community and provide viable travel alternatives for them." Call 682-2002 or 1-800-695-0880 for more information.



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Broadway shows, off Broadway, off off Broadway, and concerts? Here's a secret...walk to Times Square any day of the week theatre is running and check out the half-price ticket booth at 47th and Broadway...you'll be simply amazed at your good luck every time you do this!

Well, what if you just don't want to do any of those touristy kinds of things? Don't.

So much time and effort has been poured into making New York the stage for all that is representative of gay and lesbian culture that you can focus entirely on "our stuff" if you so desire. Many exhibits, plays, concerts and street scenes are running continuously throughout 1994...just check the Gay/Lesbian Visitors Center on arrival, and you'll be pointed in the right directions.

New York City is big, comprised of five boroughs: Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island. These are like our Montrose, West U., Bellaire, the Heights, etc. Getting around New York is a snap on the efficient subway system. For a mere \$1.25 you can get anywhere in the city. I was amazed at how clean the stations and trains were and, unlike the movies, not scary at all. (I did, however, have to put aside all thoughts of the movie *Speed* with the first train I took.) Taxis are plentiful and cheap, too, unless you get caught in dreadful Manhattan traffic jams, when you simply get out and walk.

There are some great bargain packages for a summer visit to the Big Apple—a great opportunity for a first-time visit or a return visit to "the city that doesn't sleep." It's a great stop, too, leaving for or returning from Europe. Call us for details about any of these options. We have a great information kit, and can customize your trip to be just what you want it to be. Until next time, take a bite out of the Big Apple, and keep marching!

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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LAI LAI DUMPLING HOUSE



by Tom Fricke

Just when you thought you couldn't afford Asian food anymore, there's the Lai Lai Dumpling House. This is Chinese food that is flavorful and affordable and is this gay gourmet's pick for this month's dining diamond in the rough. Lai Lai is at the top of the list in our continuing trek to find the best value for your gay dining dollar.

Lai Lai Dumpling House, owned and operated by Susan Lin and her husband James Pan, have been serving patrons in this Sharpstown location for about 12 years. But don't let the area bilingual signs fool you. The fact that they are in Chinese and English may be a result of the area's continually increasing Asian population, but it is not necessarily reflective of the clientele at Lai Lai. Realizing their guests may be alien to the dumpling "concept" the owners have taken time (on the menu) to explain "How to eat a Chinese Dumpling." Sort of a "Dumpling 101." They also explain about the various condiments that are used to complement the dishes.

The affordable prices are definitely "eye openers" (10 pork dumplings \$2.95 and Green Onion Pie \$1.50), but what keeps you coming back is the excellent quality and heaping portions.

But I don't want to merely stress that Lai Lai is JUST a bargain in price! We have been to all too many of those buffet-style restaurants "ad nauseam!" Restaurants where they all seem to have purchased their entrees from the same frozen-food vendor. Where everything is steam tabled to death and ends up being dry and/or cold. Let's face it...a restaurant is no bargain if the food is inedible! That is where Lai Lai proves to be an exception. The food is (I know I'm going to hate myself) FABULOUS!

What is fabulous food? All of the dishes are prepared to order, so steamed and fried dumplings do take a little time. Be prepared to wait a



little bit (this is not fast food). The owners experimented with another location in the Medical Center a couple of years ago. It, too, had one of those "buffet-style-all-u-can-eat" type menus; they found it to be unsuccessful. This type of food simply does not fare well in a steam table for hours on end. They end up like little "lead balls," and who wants to eat them?

When I dine at Lai Lai, I find it best to order for the whole group and share. This way everyone at the table gets to sample the various dishes. If you were reared that this is not proper etiquette for public dining, you may not want to join me. On my most recent excursion to Lai Lai, I ordered the Hot & Sour Soup for 4 (serves 8, \$3.50), Green Onion Pie (\$1.50), Fried Pork Dumplings (8 for \$3.95), Steamed Pork Buns (\$10 for \$3.95) and General Tso's Chicken (\$4.95). With all the tea we could drink (included) our before-tip total for 5 people was \$19.32. No need for your calculators; that is less than \$4.00 per person for a meal where we had to literally crawl from the table we were so full.

The menu rustles up the usual suspects you would find on a Chinese Restaurants menu, but dumplings and noodles are their strong suit as well as their namesake.

If esthetics is what you're looking for, you may not want this to be your "first date" venue, as Lai Lai does not score high in the interior design category. However, more importantly, the staff is always friendly and mindful of why people go out to eat—and that is mainly to be served.

As with most good things, there is a catch. Yes, you are going to have to leave the loop again for this fine eatery. It is located at 9262

Bellaire Boulevard between Ranchester and Beltway 8, in the DiHo Market Center. They are open from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:30 a.m. 10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Keep your plastic and checks at home. They only take cash!

By the way, according to the menu, Lai Lai means welcome and come again. I think you will agree Lai Lai Dumpling House achieves this goal.

For more information call the Lai Lai Dumpling House at (713) 271-0080.

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

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MELISSA ETHERIDGE,

THE WHOLE BIG DREAM AND ME

by Nancy Ford

There are a few things that I've been waiting my entire life to bear. One is, "Congratulations Ms. Ford. You have won the Texas Lottery. Here's your check for \$25 million." Another is, "No, this size ten is too loose in the hips, Nancy. You need something a bit smaller." Yes, I lead a rich, rich fantasy life.

But on this searing Saturday afternoon in July, another utterance, one of a similar "fondest-dream" calibre was now awaiting me, pulsating musically on my hold button in an even, throbbing rhythm.

MELISSA ETHERIDGE: HELLO. NANCY FORD, PLEASE.

NF: This is Nancy Ford.

HI, IT'S MELISSA ETHERIDGE.

That's 12 string-riding, stereotype-and-closet door-shattering, Grammy-winning, Letterman-charming, fantasy-fulfilling 90s rock queen Melissa Etheridge.

Somebody bring me some water.

How the heck are ya?

I'm exhausted.

I bet you are. Welcome to Houston. Weren't you just in San Antonio last night?

The night before. I'm not exhausted from playing, I'm exhausted from watching Martina play.

Picture it. Melissa Etheridge, bouncing around a Houston hotel suite, remote control in one hand, telephone in the other, watching her friend and fellow lesbian Martina Navratilova fight the final battle of Wimbledon.

I'll bet she's barefoot, sitting cross-legged on the bed. Good God.

I'm torn. I remind myself of the importance of responsible journalism. I want to ask her stimulating, relevant questions. I want to hash politics and philosophy. I strain to think what questions every heartsick lesbian with a CD player in Houston might ask if she, instead of I, was the fortunate one to be sharing optic fiber with Melissa.

I want to ask what she's wearing. Refocus. *You were what—12, 13—when the Eagles were first bot? Did you listen to them?*

Absolutely. I was a big fan. Especially their *Greatest Hits* album. I knew every song on that album.

Somehow that comes as no surprise. It's not hard to envision a pre-pubescent Melissette prophetically singing about "seven women on her mind" into a hairbrush. *When you were a kid singing along in your bedroom did you ever have any idea that one day you'd be opening for them?*

Absolutely! It was part of the whole big dream.

So far "the whole big dream" has intertwined the two quite successfully. Etheridge met Don Henley while she was recording *Brave & Crazy*, where Henley was recording *End of the Innocence*. ME fanatics should add that album to their collection—she sang impromptu back-up on his popular 1989 recording.

Five years later she would play her part in a historic musical event that, swore those who know such things, would never occur: the

reunion of the most incompatible of 70s bandmates, aptly titled *The Eagles' Hell Freezes Over Tour*. With this coup Etheridge has added one more knot to her "Yes I Can" belt of impossible goals: successfully invading and conquering the no-woman's land of rock-and-roll; having been named the best female rock and roll artist when Grammy no longer even recognizes that such a species exists. And don't forget, she accomplished all this without compromising her sexuality.

Way back in '88 when Etheridge first signed with Island Records, there was already one hot dyke singer making waves. Wasn't that enough? Obviously not. Though both lesbians and musical goddesses, k.d. lang's and Etheridge's individual and distinctive artistry underscores the fact that women's music has come a long way since Olivia formed its stable. At long last, the well-of-loneliness, pass-the-tofu mold has been broken. Let's rock!

One of k.d.'s stronger influences has made its way into Etheridge's psyche. She recently joined the Order of Practicing Lesbian Vegetarians, Reformed, under Sister k.d.'s sponsorship. Guess who made a two-week Hollywood Hills house call herself to instruct Ms. E and her film director-lover of 5 years Julie (*Teresa's Tattoo*) Cypher in the preparation of some of her favorite no-meat recipes?

k.d.'s quite a cook. She does this pasta, noodle dish thing that's really very tasty. She can turn vegetables into magic.

Speech leaves me, my eyes glazing as I conjure the image of k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge romping around the kitchen, the scent of Pam All-Natural No-Stick Cooking Spray hanging thick in the air like a culinary aphrodisiac, the two of them tossing a zucchini back and forth. *Constant Craving* meets *Precious Pain*. Mama Mia, give me strength.

When she's not cookin' with k.d., our little Melissa is a busy beaver, make no mistake. In the preceding ten days, she had headlined two shows in L.A., opened for the Eagles in San Antonio, performed at a benefit for Walden Woods in Nashville, and was lauded at the VH-1 Honors Awards. There her ovaries-to-the-wall performance of *Honky Tonk Woman*, with venerable rocker Sammy Haggard, pulled a standing ovation.

Though the cable music channel award ceremony spotlighted her involvement with



LifeBeat in the fight against AIDS, her altruism isn't restricted to this cause. Etheridge responds self-effacingly when a roll call of her lengthy charitable involvements is read: the Special Education Center, President Clinton's Presidential Election Campaign and Inaugural, the 1993 March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bi-Equal Rights, Artists for a Hate-Free America, and on and on. She explains her activism almost nonchalantly.

It's real wild. Once you get your feet wet in that sort of thing, you get submerged in it. There's a lot of personal gratification that comes from it. I am mostly inspired by organizations and people that are so dedicated that I easily can say, "Absolutely, I'll do this. I'll be there for you, because you are out there working every day."

But like most members of the gay and lesbian community, Etheridge's involvement with the battle against AIDS is also a personal one.

It's touched me very much. It's very much in my life. I sang [*Talking to my Angel*] at two of my friends' funerals, who died of AIDS. It starts affecting you so deeply and so much [when] you start losing people and friends and associates. It's just... it's frightening. You want to scream. So you start

doing what you can. You do what you can, because that's the only way you keep your sanity.

LifeBeat was again the most recent recipient of Etheridge's cathartic do-what-you-can efforts. That performance took place at the historic Beacon Theater during last month's Gay Games and Cultural Festival in New York City. On the same stage, the same night, one right after the next were Rikki Lake and Veronica Webb, Sarah McLachlan and Etheridge, followed by k.d. lang in her jammies. There were other performers, but who noticed? Adding to the estrogen lode of fem-talent in the audience were Liza Minnelli, Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell. Hyperventilating yet?

Tell me about LifeBeat.

That was so much fun. That was a blast! It was New York! It was like a bunch of friends getting together and playing.

You know of course, that that concert lineup is every lesbian's Dream Team.

She chuckles, teasing, taunting me. Yeah, k.d. and I know that. And we just milk it for everything, you know...

It must be so hard, I whine to her.

Amused by my pain and yearning, Melissa dissolves into all out laughter. That's right, Melissa. Laugh! Laugh that unmistakable, husky, raw laugh, like way way you do.... Toss that golden hair and gaze up to the heavens and flash that grin that melts every dyke in the free world, and laugh! Laugh for me! Laugh like you've never laughed before! Yes! YES!

We continued our *pas de phone*, Melissa Etheridge and I, exchanging a few more vague bits of information—she keeps her Grammy on the third shelf of her book case, you know—and then our time together was over. I thanked her, wished her "good show" and slowly, slowly hung up the phone. Hours later my pulse rate returned to normal.

And I, I will never be-e-e the sa-ame.

Now, about that lottery....

Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and frequent contributor to the gay and lesbian press. Though normally unaffected by such things, she plans to have her receiver bronzed as a direct result of this interview.



The Pros and Cons of Entering a Clinical Trial

by James Harrison

You're sick; you go to your doctor. You describe your symptoms and presto! The doctor prescribes a drug designed to help your ailment. It sounds simple, but have you ever stopped to think how a drug gets developed and approved, especially now when so many in our community who are HIV positive are taking multiple drugs on a daily basis?

Drugs don't just appear out of thin air. Almost all the drugs being used to treat HIV/AIDS related conditions or to guard against getting opportunistic infections were developed as a direct result of clinical research trials. Without these trials and the volunteers who participate in them, scientists would not be able to assess the effects of new drugs on the human body and on HIV itself.

Remember, these research trials will one day lead to the discovery of a drug or a combination of drugs that will end this disease. That is the most critical consideration.

How Are Drugs Developed?

Generally, drugs are developed in a laboratory setting. A scientist will find a promising chemical or a group of chemicals, expose HIV to them and watch the effects on the virus. If HIV is destroyed or its replication

slowed, animal testing will follow. After some time, the data collected is presented to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA is a federal agency that assesses the potential risks and benefits of these chemicals. Before a new drug can be tested on humans it must be approved for clinical testing by the FDA. Once this approval has been granted, controlled clinical trials are developed. After an extended period of testing in clinical trials, the FDA will review the data from the study and approve or not approve the drug for general use.

What is the Benefit of Volunteering for a Clinical Trial?

The benefits depend on the particular clinical trial. A potential benefit, of course, is that the experimental drug may work better than the approved drug.

Many persons living with HIV/AIDS are unable to tolerate the side effects of some of the currently approved therapies or treatments. Participation in a clinical trial may offer an alternative drug that does not have the harmful side effects. In some trials, participants are able to have laboratory blood tests, frequent physician follow-ups, nursing follow-ups and other procedures performed at no cost. These benefits will vary from trial to trial.

Most trials require that a health care professional monitor participants closely to insure safety. The participant's progress on the clinical trial is reported to the primary care physician periodically, allowing the doctor to participate actively in the patient's total health care.

Can My Participation in a Trial be Dangerous?

Some drugs used in research trials have never been tested on humans. There may be some unexpected side effects. Other drugs have been tested in humans either for other diseases or in different combinations and doses. These will have known side effects that will be closely monitored.

Remember, persons often respond differently to the same medication. Some people may do well on a drug like AZT and others do poorly. Given this fact, health care providers working in research assess each volunteer individually to determine the drug's effectiveness. Finally, there is a possibility the research drug may not work or may cause some harm. Again, this is why participants are monitored closely in clinical trials.

How Do I Decide Whether to Participate in a Clinical Trial?

It depends on the trial. Some trials require a participant to finish a trial then wait a month or more before entering the new one. Other trials will allow the participant to co-enroll in a second drug trial. Again, it will depend on the design of the clinical trial.

How Can I Find Out About More Clinical Trials in Houston?

You can call Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN) at (713) 520-2011 and ask for information concerning clinical trials. HCRN also publishes a newsletter which has detailed information about HCRN trials and other HIV/AIDS research. You can request to be added to the mailing list by calling (713) 520-2013. All HCRN publications are free. Finally, you may also request an appointment to come in and talk to one of the research staff at HCRN. Someone is always available to answer questions.

James Harrison is a Research Nurse and Clinical Director of the Houston Clinical Research Network.

OUT in our World

continued

les withdrew an ad featuring a packaged condom and the message that after buying Carling Ice discount beer there will be enough money left to buy a "glove" - a slang for condoms. A Molson spokesperson explained that the brewery was only trying to reflect "the priority that young people give today to safe and responsible sexual relations," and that the ad was pulled because of the strong nature of the complaints. Some callers were offended by the picture of the condom; others said the ad suggested that drinking beer would lead to sex, and still others said the ad encouraged sexual behavior.

AIDS Trials to Begin in Australia

SYDNEY (GayNet) — Australian AIDS researchers have announced that a new drug that is believed to boost the immune system rather than attack the HIV virus itself, is to be tested for the first time in the country. Scientists hope that the drug, Interleukin-2 (IL-2), will increase the life expectancy and quality of life for people infected with HIV. Preliminary studies using IL-2 have shown that some HIV positive people have experienced a fourfold increase in T-cell counts. One hundred twenty volunteers in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth with relatively healthy immune systems are being sought to participate. The drug is supposed to boost the immune system so the virus has less chance of reproducing. In a trial in the U.S. two years ago, 90 percent of the participants, with an average T-cell count of 400, showed marked increases in their counts for about a year. A stronger immune system also makes people less susceptible to secondary infections.

Vatican Condemns Lesbian Moms

ROME (GayNet) — The Vatican has condemned Italian gynecologist Giuseppe Ambrassa because he said he has agreed to accept lesbians at his artificial insemination clinic like any other women who are psychologically fit as prospective moms. Ambrassa told reporters a few days ago that "homosexuals have as much love to give to children as heterosexuals" after making the announcement about accepting lesbians at his clinic. But within days of the announcement, the Vatican published an editorial entitled "The Aberrant Case of Two Homosexual Women Determined to Satisfy Their Desires for Maternity," claiming that the children of lesbian moms would suffer because of their mothers' sexual orientation. Written by Father Gino Concetti, the Vatican newspaper editorial said, "The condition of homosexuality cannot be considered 'normal' in a person. One must make every effort to eliminate or correct it. Every child has the right to be born into a regular family made up of a man and a woman. The child has the right to be conceived by the union of two human beings who love each other and make up a nuclear family."

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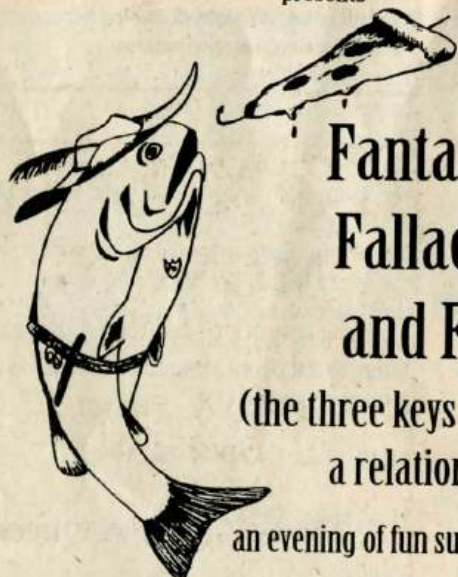
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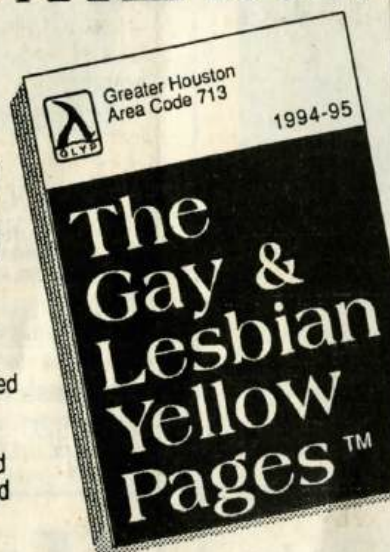
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Den-Tell

with
Dr. Bruce Smith

Dear Dr. Bruce,

It seems as though every time I anticipate a major event, like an important presentation at work, or meeting my lover's family, a gigantic fever blister springs up on my lip. I'm not overly vain, but I don't want my upper lip to have this much control over my life. I thought cold sores came from catching a cold. What's the deal?

—Signed, All Puckered Out

Dear Puck,

Cold sores are caused by the virus Herpes Simplex. They usually show up on the upper or lower lip at the junction of the lip and facial skin. Herpes Simplex virus (HSV) is usually acquired in childhood when you come into contact with other groups of children, frequently in kindergarten. Symptoms of the initial infection are fever, malaise and sore throat. The inside of the mouth may have multiple blisters, but a cold sore is not usually present during the initial infection.

HSV then takes up residence in the nerves of the head and neck area and may lie dormant for many years. Events that lower the body's resistance, such as exposure to sunlight, cold or flu and stress can reactivate the virus. It works its way down the nerve tracts to the lip area, causing an itching or burning sensation at the location where a fluid-filled blister will form. Over several days (usually 7 to 10 days), the blister will dry up and crust over, eventually healing without a scar.

The fluid from these blisters is teeming with viruses, and the person with an early cold sore is very contagious. You can give HSV to others and can spread the virus to other parts of your own body. Take care to avoid intimate contact with others until the sore is dried up and do not touch the sore and then touch other parts of your own body before washing your hands. HSV is very damaging to the eyes and can cause blindness. HSV can also infect the genital area.

Many kinds of treatment have been tried over the years, and research shows that over-the-counter products will not shorten the severity or frequency of cold sores. Some people report that taking the amino acid supplement Lysine decreases frequency. Salves and ointments are useful mainly for keeping the sore moist. Acyclovir (Zovirax) has been shown effective when used in the early itching/burning stage before a blister forms. Acyclovir is available by prescription only and is best used in a combination of the capsule and ointment form.

Remember that you can benefit from grandma's advice: observe good nutrition, get plenty of sleep, minimize alcohol and tobacco use, stay out of the sun, use a sunblocking lip balm and try to minimize stress. If you feel a cold sore coming on despite these preventive measures, see your dentist or physician quickly and ask about Acyclovir which, if started early, can prevent the cold sore or shorten its duration.

Do you have a question for Dr. Bruce Smith? Address your letters to the good doctor at 1006 Missouri Street, Houston TX 77006 or call him at 529-4364.

Oral Sex: Is It Safe?

by Eric L. Roland

The subject of safer sex has become a fact of life for the gay and lesbian community. But do we really know all of the facts? Sure, we can all agree that certain sexual activities, i.e., anal/vaginal intercourse, are unsafe unless a condom is used. And we can definitely agree that activities such as kissing, massage and mutual masturbation are safe. But what about that gray area—oral sex? Is it safe?

Each of us has our own opinions about the safety of oral sex. Some of us think that it's only dangerous if ejaculate or vaginal fluid enters our mouth. Many wouldn't participate in any oral activity without a condom or dental dam. Others believe it is the only sexual activity left where you don't have to use latex.

And whatever your personal belief, there is a scientific study to back you up. Scientists who say HIV is difficult to get orally, cite monkey experiments in which live virus was rubbed into monkeys' gums with no resulting infection. Skeptics ask how it could be safe to expose the mucous membranes of the mouth to HIV-infected fluids, but not the mucous membranes of the vagina or anus.

Those who believe oral sex is safe sex have their own justifications: saliva kills the virus, HIV cannot penetrate the mucous membranes of the mouth, there's no HIV in pre-seminal fluid (pre-come) or not enough to cause infection, stomach acid dissolves the virus, it's OK as long as you don't have a cut or sore in your mouth and, perhaps most telling of all, if sucking weren't safe, we'd all be dead.

In our highly informed, AIDS-conscious community, there are still a lot of mixed messages about the subject of the safety of oral sex. And while the rumors continue, the number of newly infected people, as well as the number of deaths from AIDS, continues to increase.

"It is clear that there are many factors which make this a difficult area to study scientifically," says L. Joel Martinez of the Houston Clinical Research Network. "People generally do not know how or when they were infected; they engage in many types of sexual behaviors that include oral sex, so it is difficult to say which behavior led to infection; and often, too, people are not honest about their behaviors when reporting to scientists, their doctors, etc."

Oral sex by definition for scientific studies is divided into two categories: receptive and insertive. Insertive oral sex refers to having a partner orally come into contact with your genitals; receptive oral intercourse means you coming into contact

with your partner's genitals. In both instances there has to be an exchange of semen or preseminal fluid (pre-come) if it's a man, or cervical or vaginal fluids or blood if it's a woman. In neither instance does it refer to merely kissing or licking the sides of a man's genitals while avoiding the tip of his penis or licking a woman's genital area without coming into contact with her labia.

During sex, the rate of HIV infection is greatly increased when semen, vaginal/cervical fluid and blood come into contact with mucous membranes. "The lining of the vagina and oral cavity have many more protective layers than the rectum," Martinez says. "This may account for why the rectum appears to be more susceptible to infection by HIV."

Martinez also points out that it is important to distinguish between the presence of the virus and the infectivity of the virus. "Simply because the virus is present does not mean it is capable of infecting," he says. "Still, it is important to remember that there are cases of HIV transmission that involved only oral sex."

To determine just how risky oral sex is, many scientists have conducted large-scale studies. In the June 1994 issue of OUT magazine, author

Gabriel Rotello discusses a study by Dr. Michael Samuel, a member of the Division of Epidemiology at the New Mexico Department of Health. Dr. Samuel combined the results of three San Francisco surveys that followed 1,393 initially HIV-negative gay men for five years. Samuel's results were startlingly different from previous studies: 17 percent of those who became infected reported that receptive oral sex was their only risk factor during the study period; 7.2 percent said they had never engaged in other risky behaviors. Among those who did engage in other risky activities, those who performed receptive oral sex had higher rates of infection than those who did not. Surprisingly, researchers failed to find an additional increase in risk if ejaculation was reported in oral sex.

"And what about the risk of women and, in particular, women who have oral sex only with other women," asks Martinez? "Little is known about the risk in this group. It is clear more studies are warranted."

Whatever your practices are, whomever your partners are and whether or not you practice safer sex, you need to become more aware. "It is clear that this is a subject that has not been fully explored and requires much more frank and factual discussion," urges Martinez.

Houston Clinical Research Network, in conjunction with AIDS Foundation Houston, Montrose Clinic, Body Positive and AVES, will sponsor a forum to address the issue of oral sex and possible HIV transmission. A panel of scientists, including Dr. Michael Samuel, Division of Epidemiology at New Mexico Department of Health, and Dr. Dorothy Lewis, Baylor College of Medicine, will analyze the data and studies and report to the community on the subject. This community forum will be held July 28 at the Doubletree Hotel at Allen Center (400 Dallas Street) at 7:00 pm. It is free and open to the public. For information call Steve Nettles at 713/520-2015.

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FUTURE OUTLOOK

by Joseph Molina

ARIES

This is a time of great power and strength for Aries. Your strongest defense against pain could be in your becoming the center in a social whirlwind. For sometime now you have been stuck in a very oppressive situation. Your attitude of yourself has been a little muddled due to your feeling closed in and an inability to shine, all of which has left you with a sense of confusion and bewilderment. First key here is to remember that Aries is strong; the ram is certainly no wimp. Secondly, look at yourself and let the queen shine, this will improve your attitude and the outcome. If this situation revolves around love, the bad will pass and things will improve. You may be surprised, as the outcome will differ from the past. A relationship may end. If you are single, it may appear that it is impossible to find the perfect companion, especially since you seem to know everyone. It could be that you have been looking at the wrong parts of your life. Find your true purpose then worry about love. This could be a rough time for you, as things appear to move slowly and improvements are hidden. Fear not, the wheel keeps turning, and life will likewise keep moving. Using the scent of vetiver while affirming, "The Universe abundantly provides for all my needs," will help you during this period.

TAURUS

Moving into a new life can be difficult, as Taurus is still imprisoned in the Tower of the Self. Your inability to accept the reality of a certain situation could cause the bull to repress a great deal of unneeded pain. You may find yourself daydreaming about the way you want your life to be, and this in itself could cause you to become tense and cynical. If you choose to make a true change, you will do it all at once and quickly. A relationship could finally end! A secret infatuation could finally come out into the open. Regardless, you are now moving forward, and as you do, remember to allow time for earlier actions to take effect. If you are single, take good care of yourself, for you are presently the whole of a relationship. A one-sided affair does not make for an affair at all. If you are falling in love, you may just find yourself a little lonely as your hormones may be operating in overtime! Now is not the best time to pursue this goal, as love may be best left untouched by your hooves. For Taurus in general, now is a good time to inhale the scent of black pepper while affirming, "I liberate myself from the ignorance and limitations of old habits and structures whenever I outgrow their need." This could be of great aid to you.

GEMINI

You may become filled with sorrow as you observe a once happy and joyous situation crumble before you. Through this sorrow could come a realization of a new path in life and thus create acceptance within. For sometime now, you may have been staring at the magnitude of problems that you face in life. Staring at this mound of problems has blinded you to the opportunities held within your hands. In order to bring about positive changes, you must first have faith in yourself and be optimistic. Look at all the present opportunities you have for creating things. Keep this faith, and it will aid you now. For a short period, you will be relieved of all worries. Act now and you may be able to permanently rid yourself of some of these same worries. Although money is present in your life and will be available for you, now is not a good time to be giving it away. It is yours! Relationships started during this period may not last, so be careful in opening up to others. Try using the scent of lime while affirming, "My inner being shines like a star, guiding my actions, renewing and cleansing me." This may help keep you strong and in alignment during this time.

CANCER

For Cancers looking for or thinking about a new job, now is the best time. Now is the time when Cancers get grounded. Moving out of an emotional realm and into a material one, you will begin to realize your own worth. If not looking for a new job then a promotion might be in the works, or you may discover renewed interest as you focus on career. An emotional situation is able to be reborn, and after a period of problems and sorrows, the view will become very bright. Although Cancer begins to look upward and positive, you could still experience a mood swing. Now that you are beginning to get what you want, you may experience some anxiety and fear as to how long it will last. As a crab, your hard exterior is your glyph, but remember that your inner child is ready to shine. At first it can be difficult for you to open up and become expressive. Becoming involved in your environment could also be difficult at first, but this will not last long. Using the oil of Patchouli with the affirmation, "I hold my power in my own hands, my security lies within," could be useful in holding onto that stability.

LEO

Right now, looking at life through the lion's eyes could be a painful sight. All odds seem to be against you, and no matter which way you turn and direct yourself, twigs keep falling in your path, tripping you. Fear not, the gift of the sword is bestowed upon you. This gift enables you to think rationally, make fair judgments and arrive at responsible decisions. Use this gift now, and it will help you get out of the rut, and do so feeling stronger, more free and with lots of power. There could be some separation, as you may move, break up in a relationship or simply release some great emotional weight that you have been carrying around for some time. At first, it may be difficult to put yourself back into full control of your life. Remember that, with determination and perseverance, you can achieve wonders! Regarding relationships, I don't think so, at least not right now. Focus on yourself and not others. Repeat to yourself, "I create my own future by envisioning it clearly." Burn a little myrrh and refresh your being as you clear your Earth.

VIRGO

With an attitude of steel and a breath of fresh air, you once again become very optimistic about life. This might be a good time to get away on a trip to someplace open and free. For sometime now, you have been taking your career for granted and therefore not seeing the offer of excitement presented before you. Because work had seemed boring or unavailable to you, you have become a little inert or frozen in your life. Now with your mind clear and your eyes opened, you rush forward once again attacking your life. This clearly is a tool for creation. Someone that you love could put you through a test of devotion, and this could cause some problems but will not last for long. If single, finding love now can be accomplished by going forward and having the courage to believe in yourself. For you, none shall come easy, but let the games begin! To assist with the release of stagnation in your life, affirm, "I transform and renew myself by letting go of those things no longer necessary to my growth." Do this while using the scent of cypress oil. Strength and courage are not far behind.

LIBRA

Little happens and little changes, as things continue to worsen or improve at the same steady rate. Without will or self-confidence present, your life has started to drag. This slowing has caused you to become lazy and has possibly generated a feeling of hopelessness. Though you may not see or feel them, outside forces are operating in your life. In order to seize opportunities, you must first shatter certain patterns which you have formed in your life at this time. Become determined and focused, knowing that even a little movement is a lot! Now is not the time to pursue any legal matters, especially if they are avoidable. If single, love is just not in the air. If married, your lover could have a major attitude swing and become very benevolent and compassionate. This swing could revive a dying relationship and make it live again. This time, one of you will try and do things differently, no longer simply following the ruts. This will work for only so long, as the real key to success lies in facing the issues. To aid in this process of self change, make yourself a tea of ginger

while affirming, "I have the power and discipline to achieve my highest ambitions." Through this, strength will fill your soul and happiness will rest just around the corner.

SCORPIO

For scorpions, finding meaning in life can sometimes be a difficult thing. With life filled with joy and promises of happiness, you are often left in awe, searching for a missing link. Sometimes, just experiencing life and the simple pleasures that it offers can be the best thing for us. Time out or a needed rest is definitely called for now. If married, all in all this time will be a peaceful one. If single, keep looking, as something is right around the corner. Exercise care and caution for one who could cause some serious obstacles and disagreements in your life. Petty squabbling, arguments and rivalry may be signified here. Although this unpleasantness may come about, do not fear, you will have the upper hand. This is an excellent time to travel, and excellent time to simply enjoy your life. Make a tea of chamomile with a little bit of honey while affirming, "I rejoice in the completion of each stage of my journey and give thanks for the fruits thereof."

SAGITTARIUS

At this time, your ability to trust in yourself with a particular situation could be waning. With your arms crossed and a strong emotional wall surrounding you, you could go through a period of insecurity. There is an inability to get free of social pressure indicated here. Rather than listen to your inner self, you have a tendency to do what others expect or demand of you. Because of this behavior and attitude, you could miss out on some great opportunity, especially in the areas of career and emotions. The Universe might offer you a dream come true, one that could help you to break away from this period of insecurity. Take your time. Do not act too fast as in this case, haste will surely result in waste (things won't work out!). If single, the opportunity for a wild and crazy love is presented. This love could be the one to assist you in getting over and releasing an old love. Just remember to take heed in how reckless you allow yourself to become. If married, then be married to each other and no one else! Burn Clary Sage in its oil form while affirming, "From darkness and chaos I create opportunities to transcend limitations."

CAPRICORN

Like puppet on strings, the Universe guides your life. For the moment there is a standstill, as your higher self awaits you to make a decision. You have reached a point in your life where you feel the need to strive for something more. This something has to do with Spirit and God (you may call it by another name). As a trumpet sounds, does it hum in your ears? On the physical realm, a friend in need becomes a major issue for you. With unforeseen perils falling in their path, you will wish that you could run to their rescue but can't. Withheld ambitions and an unfocused drive will assist you in giving aid from a distance. If single, watch out! No one is worth putting yourself on the line for love. If you are going to have it, you will have it without being used. If married, times may not be hot, but with a little patience, balance will again enter your relationship. Play in the scent of rosemary while affirming, "I courageously persevere in the loving reconciliation of my lower and higher selves." This will aid in bringing balance back into your life.

AQUARIUS

Because you are trying to do far too much at once, you are becoming confused and exhausted, especially with commitments. There is an inherent danger here of becoming inefficient as you might be spreading your resources a bit too thin. It is crucial that you decide what is most important and concentrate on this alone. You will benefit by deleting other activities which are less important or by allowing others to share the responsibilities involved, especially in the areas of work and relationships. Having seen life a little harsh in the past, lately your attitude has been lacking. You are now faced with a decision, and the choice that you make could alter the course of your life. On an emotional level, there is someone who has been pulling on all of your needs. You need to make a decision as to whether to move on or stay where you are in this matter. Remember, your choice might cost you a friendship. Truly the light for love is a radiant green, so is searching, just look a little harder. To help you make choices based on the present, use the oil of lavender while affirming, "I choose to be free from inhibitions, guilt and bondage in all of my relationships."

PISCES

The best bet for you now is solitude combined with contemplation. You have enjoyed a situation or relationship that has been filled with stability, peace and security; however, this has not been enough. It is time to move on to new things, as you now realize that something has been missing from your life. Because that present situation or relationship has gone on and on and never quite seemed to end or alter, this new move or change will be even more difficult to initiate. A breakdown of a relationship may happen here, but as this happens, dead weight will be released, thus causing the oppression to subside. A new career opportunity could be on the horizon, but the fish's fear of leaping off into a void could cause you to hesitate and miss the opportunity entirely. New relationships are able to grow now, while old ones can fizzle away. This is a period when single people will begin to play! For clarity in your thoughts and in speaking your intentions, wear the oil of sage while affirming, "I patiently follow the guidance of my higher self on the path of enlightenment." The main thing here is to not break the flow of energy operating in life now. If you make a decision, act on it! Do not wait for something more.

THE WORLD

Now could be a great time for major world movement and change. Many people will notice themselves becoming restless and filled with a want to travel! Some people could get antsy staying at home and even a visit to friends houses could help. The world is urging mankind to go outside, take a walk and once again become one with nature. This offers a great opportunity to help heal yourself and the Earth at the same time. For a long time we have defaced and abused the place that we call home, ravaging the land without thought of the consequences. Acting alone, the healing process will take too long. Only by uniting and working together can we win. Be it newly discovered or simply finally revealed, a new virus could become a major topic. A present virus will change and begin to wane of its power. Spiritual leaders will fall into the headlines once again, and the mystical philosophies will be placed in the limelight. We are on the verge of an uphill swing. Plant roses and affirm in the magic of the Earth to heal herself.

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.



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OUTSMART RESOURCE GUIDE

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett	522-5224
Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	520-0206
Desert Hearts Cowgirl Club (Bandera)		210-796-7446
The Ruby Slipper B&B (Taos, NM)		505-758-0613

ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Julia A. Siska CPA	8911 Opelika	460-1885
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APARTMENTS/RENTALS

Memorial Club	904 Westcott	864-7312
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ATTORNEYS

Cordell & Haley, L.L.P.	2014 Commonwealth	522-2488
Moore & Hunt	3608 Audubon Place	522-4282
Nancy Revelette		802-1355
Robert M. Rosenberg	1001 Texas Ave., Ste. 940	222-7114

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Houston Triangle Divers	P.O. Box 721752	942-7521
Houston Outdoor Group	P.O. Box 980893	K-A-M-P-O-U-T

COMMUNITY SERVICES

AIDS Equity League	P.O. Box 980307	871-0092
AIDS Foundation Houston	3202 Wesleyan Annex	623-6796
AIDS Mastery Workshop	3404 W Lamar	523-8711
AVES (Amigos AIDS Volunteers)	2510 Broad St. #200	640-2837
Bering Community Service 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
Omega House, Inc.	602 Branard	523-7110
PWA Coalition	1475 W. Gray Suite 163	522-5428
KOLBE Project	1509 Fairview	522-8182

ENTERTAINMENT

Curtains Theatre	3722 Washington Ave.	862-4548
Gentry	2303 Richmond	520-1861
Ms. B's	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464
Museum Bar & Restaurant	1512 W. Alabama	524-7676
Nancy Ford Musical Comedy	2990 Richmond Suite 316	520-7237
Singing Cavalier Telegrams	2990 Richmond Suite 316	520-7171
The Hill aka AK's Berryhill II	15346 Kuykendahl	587-8810
The Patio	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464
The Ranch	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464
Theatre LaB Houston	1706 Alamo	868-7516
UTC	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464/666-3356

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Acacia Financial Center	9 Greenway Plaza Suite 3000	888-3500
JAG Residential Mortgages, Inc.	6261 Richmond	831-6875
Pride Mortgage	4200 Montrose, Ste. 300	529-4488

FITNESS CENTERS

Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin	522-2379
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FITNESS/HEALTH CLUBS/PERSONAL TRAINING

Fitness Exchange	3930 Kirby #300	524-9932
Muscle Mechanics		869-0356

HAIR STYLISTS / FASHION

All Decked Out - Tracy Gilmore	3502 S. Shepherd	522-0507
Robin Hoods	315 W. Alabama	942-8888

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Chiropractic		
Dr. Jerry Martin, P.C.	5252 Westchester	660-7722
Dentists		
Bruce W. Smith, D.D.S.	1006 Missouri	529-4364
Physicians		
Steve D. Martinez, M.D.	3400 Montrose Blvd. Ste. 200	521-9444
Physical Therapists		
Proflex—Delma Cardona	5300 Memorial Dr. #540	880-5635
Southampton Medical Group	4101 Greenbriar Ste. 200	520-5537

Patricia D. Salvato, M.D.	7800 Fannin #300	791-7520
Optometrists		
Eyes Are Precious/Dr. Sue Moss	3701 W. Alabama Ste. 310	961-9705

HYPNOTHERAPY

Josh Syna		869-MIND (869-6463)
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MASSAGE THERAPIST

Essential Touch/Alan Davidson	3100 Richmond	942-0923
Linda Mullinix		262-2529
David Rangel	2507 Montrose, Ste. 54	287-9529
Norman Sanford	2503-B S. Shepherd	935-2122

METAPHYSICIANS

Keepers of the Light	3400 Montrose # 535	528-5685
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PSYCHIC COUNSELORS

Sharon Mattison		681-1747
Joseph Molina		527-8135
Sandra Nicholas		522-0990
Joe Paxton	1919 Elmen	523-1627

PSYCHOTHERAPY/COUNSELING

Tony Carroll, MSW	1937 Lexington	522-3045
Seely M. Gerraughty, LMSW-ACP, LMFT	2715 Bissonnet, Ste., 201	526-4487
Kreller & Associates, Inc.	1801 Hudy St. Suite 15	529-8017
Montrose Counseling Center	701 Richmond Ave	529-0037
Bill Scott, C.S.W.-A.C.P.	New Counseling Center	529-1913
Diana Thomas, M.A., L.P.C.	4100 Westheimer, Ste. 235	264-1671
Patrick Vachon, L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.	New Counseling Center	529-1913

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Suzanne Anderson Properties	315 W. Alabama Suite 101	529-8484
Ron Duster (Swiley-Hudson)		520-8888
Jane Foltyn (MarLand & Associates Real Estate)		467-6477
Richard Hill (Swiley-Hudson)	1501 Heights	869-0456
Lee Hudman (Acker-Blum)	1939 W. Gray	529-6660
Tips In Real Estate	1311 Sherwood Forest	722-5200

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Ancient Catholic-Episcopal Church		529-5363
En-Lighten Up	3404 W. Lamar	520-6996
Jewish Congregation		748-7079
MCC Maranatha Fellowship	811 Westheimer, Ste. 110A	528-6756
MCCR Houston	1919 Decatur	861-9149

RESTAURANTS & COFFEE BARS

Cafe Maison	2089 Westheimer	528-6750
Museum Restaurant & Bar	1512 W. Alabama	524-7676
Toopees Coffee Co.	1830 W. Alabama	52-AROMA

RETAIL

Antiques		
River Oaks Antiques Center	2119 Westheimer	520-8238
Art		
October Studios Gallery-Heights Pavilion	244 W. 19th	861-3411
Books, Cards, Periodicals, Etc.		
Inklings	1846 Richmond Ave.	521-3369
Lobo	1424-C Westheimer	522-5156
Catering		
Fits and Cravings Catering		863-8899
Clothing & Accessories		
Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	522-1626
Pueblo To People	4809 Montrose	526-6591
River Oaks Clothier	3502 S. Shepherd	522-0507
Gifts, Supplies, Materials		
Crystal Castle	228 Westheimer	526-6165

Crystal Dolphin	3404 W Lamar	520-6996
Lucia's Garden	2942 Virginia St.	523-6494
Floral		
A Bunch of Posies	3819 Mangum	957-0551
Furniture		
Alabama Furniture	5339 W. Alabama	526-5171
Gifts		
Celebrations To Go Gift Baskets	3406 Audubon	520-1674
Singing Cavalier Singing Telegrams	3406 Audubon	520-7171
Groceries, Supplies & Liquor		
Fiesta Market	3803 Dunlavy	529-7352
Kroger	3300 Montrose	526-7865
Pagers and Supplies		
Premier Paging	12220 Murphy Rd.	575-8500
Personal Protection		
Personal Protection Pepper Defense		661-5536

SERVICES

Business Services		
Personal Assistant/Kathy Braesicke		840-8957
Cleaning		
Holden's Home and Office Cleaning Services		956-2364
Man Maid Cleaning Service		993-0116
Home Health Care		
Lifeline Health Care Inc.	1210 N. Post Oak #150	682-8150
Movers		
Box Boy Moving Company		530-7822
Printing and Graphics		
House of Coleman	901 W. Alabama	523-2521
Misc.		
Mail Boxes Etc.	5090 Richmond Ave.	626-2920
Photography		
Allure Studios		(Voice Mail) 949-9649
Tanning Salons		
Eurotan	3701 Montrose	529-5100
Voice Messaging		
VOX Voice Messaging		440-9884

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Advance-Damron Vacations	800-695-0880	682-2002
Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel, Inc.	3311 Richmond Suite 230	942-0664
Travel in Style	2425 W. Loop South #500	621-0247

YOGA

Satya Shepherd	Spectrum Center	902-7913
Yoga Center of Houston	2438 South Blvd.	524-4572

OutSmart Resource Directory is a courtesy service offered to Display Advertisers. For informations regarding advertising or Resource Directory call 713-520-7237.

OUT in our World *Continued from page 47*

Estate of Man with AIDS Awarded \$512,000 in Bias Lawsuit

FREMONT, Ohio (GayNet)—A federal jury has awarded \$512,000 to the estate of Fred Charon, an AIDS patient who was denied admittance to a Fremont, Ohio, hospital for emergency treatment of a non-AIDS related drug reaction. Although the case was tagged as the first to test the applicability of the Americans with Disabilities Act specifically to AIDS cases, the jury actually based its verdict on another law - one that prohibits discrimination by institutions funded by federal funds.

Justice Dept. Appeals Cammermeyer Ruling

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — To almost no one's surprise, the U.S. Justice Department says it will appeal a recent decision by a U.S. district judge in Washington state to reinstate highly decorated National

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catherine Haggerty Lenahan



Catherine Haggerty Lenahan, 49, died June 25, 1994 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Preceded in death by her father Lawrence G. Haggerty. Survivors: life companion Carolyn Collins; children Thomas Luke Lenahan, Julia Ellen Lenahan, Margaret Maureen Browning and husband James and their father James L. Lenahan; mother Mary Ellen Haggerty; sisters Eileen Mundy, Peggy Haggerty, Sheila Mahoney, Maureen Warmuth

and Monica Haggerty; brothers Mike Haggerty, Pat Haggerty and Tim Haggerty. Memorials may be directed to: Dominican Sisters, 6501 Almeda, Houston TX 77021.

Milton Ray "Reah" Brown October 8, 1969-June 19, 1994

On a warm summer Sunday morning, a brilliant light passed from this world into another. Reah was well known in the Houston community. As a talented photographer, artist and businessman he won the respect of many and as a friend, he won their hearts. Reah saw and found beauty in everyone and everything. He loved life and all that it offered, especially dancing, music, partying and being with his friends. Reah's death was sudden, unexpected and still misunderstood. He is missed and his space here will never be filled.



"He laughed while here on Earth and now he twinkles in the heavens at night" -FCR

Guard nurse Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who declared to military officials she is a lesbian. Earlier in June, a U.S. District Court in a summary judgment in favor of Cammermeyer concluded that the government discriminated against the nurse without a "rational" basis for doing so and that the action was "grounded solely on prejudice."

Is That a Secret Decoder Ring or Are You Glad to See Me...

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Pierce Brosnan, who will debut in 1995 as the latest incarnation of James Bond on the big screen, says in Newsweek that this thoroughly modern Agent 007 "will probably wear condoms that glow in the dark." No word yet on whether the good-looking Brosnan will play the glowing role himself or have a stand-in stunt man.

OUTSMART CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATIONS

DESERT HEARTS COWGIRL CLUB. Beautiful hill country women's weekend getaway. Private, secluded hiking, horses, hand-holding, home-cooked meals. Tubing, antiques nearby. (Lower, less fuss weekday deals.) Call (210) 796-7446.

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MONTROSE 3/1 APT + GIANT PATIO & POOL. All appliances, CA/H, ceiling fans, mini-blinds, laundry, covered parking. 306 Stratford at Taft. \$595.00 + HL&P, FREE GAS HEAT; \$450.00 deposit. Dog or cat OK with pet deposit. 523-6109.

BUSINESS SERVICES

Julia A. Siska, CPA. Taxes, Accounting and Business Consulting. Free initial consultation. Call (713) 460-1885.

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.

EMPLOYMENT

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

HAIRSTYLIST/IMAGE

All Decked Out. "Friendly, Flexible, Affordable, Professional." Call Tracy Gilmore today and make your

appointment. 3502 S. Shepherd (between Richmond & Alabama). (713) 522-0507.

HEALTH/Wellness

Alternative Health and Wellness Center. Jacqueline A. Doval-Graziani, M.S., D.C., specializing in Chiropractic Care and Exercise Physiology. We also offer 24-hour emergency care. Call for appointment, (713) 522-WELL (9355).

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Smoking, Weight or Stress Problems? Try Hypnotherapy. Free Brochure (24 hours). 869-MIND (869-6463).

INSURANCE

FARMERS INSURANCE - Laura Feldman Agent, 552-9436. Auto, Home, Life, Annuities, Commercial; for all your insurance needs. One West Loop South, #100, 77027.

MISCELLANEOUS

SURVIVE AIDS! SURVIVE CANCER! Find out how people are surviving these illnesses and some are recovering completely. If you are at risk and want to become healthy again, write to: D.S.E. (O), P.O. Box 21206, Albuquerque, NM 87154. Include name, address, phone, illness.

Nancy Ford, Queen of the Texas Lesbians. Musical Comedy for private parties, fundraisers, special events. Call for holiday reservations. 520-7237 or 627-0301.

Lesbian & Gay Voices, a radio program that is produced by community activists, is seeking others

who would like to become volunteer programmers. The program airs on Fridays, 6-8pm on KPFT, 90.1 FM. Free training provided. Call 289-2700.

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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REAL ESTATE SERVICES

BUYING OR SELLING—SUZANNE ANDERSON PROPERTIES. Houston's ONLY Real Estate Company focusing on the Lesbian and Gay community. (713) 529-8484. (See our display ad in this issue.)

Richard Hill Realtor—Proudly Serving the Community in Real Estate for 8 years. For any and all your real estate needs call 768-3095 or 869-0456.

RETAIL

Basic Brothers. Men's fashion active wear. 1232 Westheimer. Open Mon.-Sat. 10-8 and Sun. 12-6. (713) 522-1626.



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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

LARA KEALY SMITH, Massage Therapist. Proudly serving the lesbian & gay community. Swedish Massage, Trigger Point Therapy, Aromatherapy, Energy Work, HIV+ Touch Therapy. 802-0106.

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.

WORKSHOPS

CELEBRATING THE BODY EROTIC. Many men long for a deeper connection with their bodies. Most of our education has taken us out of our bodies, away from the simple pleasures of touching and being touched, breathing deeply and feeling joyously alive. Celebrating the Body Erotic teaches men how to feel at home in their erotic bodies. Through SACRED sex rituals and conscious breathwork, we guide men into feeling states that awaken their deepest centers of pleasure. Erotic initiation rituals based on Taoist, Tantric and Sufi traditions, allow men to experience their erotic energy as playful, sacred, energizing and transformative. Sept. 24-25, 9 am-6 pm. Tuition: \$275. Reservations/Information: Tom Crow (713) 528-6588.

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 3/8" 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.



Sandra Nicholas

Guiding you on your journey of self-transformation through:

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We Honor Most Competitors Advertised Prices

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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 fizzles. 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

REGULAR GUY TYPE

Handsome, in-shape GWM, 6', 175# seeks similar straight-acting/looking WM, 30-something as buddy or maybe more. I'm 39 look 29. Must be disease free. Interests include rock, beaches, Caribbean, eating out and sane partying. Blue-collar welcome. Please write. OutSmart Intro Box 70151

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), fanático 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

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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.

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

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 body-builder/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

BRAINY BEAR WANTED

Fun-loving Gay Asian Male, 34, 5'9", 150 lbs., NS, out, shy, intelligent, attractive, sincere, fit and healthy. Seeking kind, attractive, hirsute and handsome (beards and 'staches a plus), fit and trim, well-adjusted guy (30-45) to spend time with. Enjoy working out, cooking, gardening, metaphysics, late-night prowling, occasionally drinking to excess, dining out at cheap eats, helping people, time with friends as well as time alone, and my work. Recently widowed and still mending, so my heart's not ready for romantic com-

mitment right now, but my friends are friends for life. Call or write me.

OutSmart Intro Box 70058

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

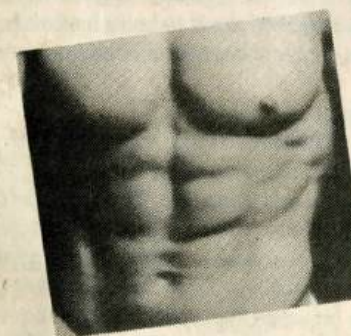
TOTALLY OUT AND LOOKING

GWF Seeking New Friendships with hopes of lasting relationship. Professional who is stable, honest, totally out, comfortable with sexuality. Soft butch enjoys variety of activities, non-drinker, no drugs—seeking feminine woman in relationship situation. If you enjoy romance and respect, write or call and let's discuss the possibilities.

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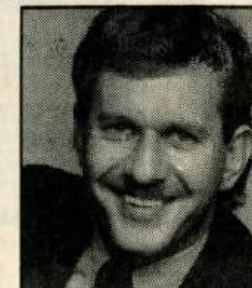
79.3% of gays and lesbians make purchases based on gay media advertising.

—Overlooked Opinions, Chicago Illinois

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WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD...

BY NANCY FORD



There I was, in my own home, minding my own business, when the phone rang. On the other end of the line was one of *those people*—one of those *telephone solicitors*.
AAAUUUGHHH!

Let's pause for a moment. Make no mistake, I believe that there is dignity in all honest work. I understand that sometimes people find themselves in an unenviable position of having to do things which are extremely distasteful, sometimes even morally reprehensible, for the sake of economics. Don't take my word for it; just ask the new Mrs. Limbaugh.

But this was no ordinary, run-of-the-mill, hey-lady-aluminum-siding-will-change-your-life kind of telephone solicitor. This particular telephone solicitor was a representative of a high-tech matchmaking service. I can't say which one exactly—that might be misconstrued as a commercial endorsement. Let's just call the organization *Date Expectations*.

The gentleman introduced himself and said that he had a special invitation for me. Seems like the Yentes over at *DE* were throwing a big soiree that weekend which would give me the opportunity to... well, it would give me an opportunity to do whatever it is people do at gatherings of this nature.

"You *are* single, aren't you, Ms. Ford?"

"Well, yes, as a matter of fact I am—"

Generally this would have been the moment I would have said, "I'm not interested in your service, but thank you for calling," and hung up. But *Seinfeld* was a rerun, and something kept me on the line—perhaps the intrigue of it all.

"—but let me save us both some time. I am single, but I'm a single lesbian."

"Excuse me."

"I said I'm a lesbian. I'm a gay woman."

"What does that mean—that you're happy all the time?"

I'm serious; this is truly how he responded. Seems to me that the

Personnel Department at *Date Expectations* needs to pay more attention to the social-awareness level of the people they hire to perform the function of professional dance card filler-uppers. "No, that means I form my romantic relationships with people of the same sex. So unless your company has a division that links up members of the gay and lesbian community, I would have no need for your services."

"Wait a minute. You mean that you don't date?"

"Yes, I date, but when I do, I date women. That's what a lesbian does."

"Well, if you've never dated a man, how do you know you're, you're..." He couldn't say the word. "Okay. That's your choice—"

I did not bother addressing the nature vs. nurture question. After all, Letterman would be on in an hour or so. He continued relentlessly.

"—but haven't you ever thought about getting married? We're not just a dating service, you know. People get married for a lot of different reasons..."

Had it become my karmic assignment to try to make this guy realize the misconceptions he was operating under? As much as it annoyed me, it nevertheless comforted me to remember that I was talking with an individual. I reminded myself that I was not interacting with Quintessential Straight Man any more than he was speaking to the Queen of the Lesbians.

I further tried to explain that yes, indeed, someday I hoped to marry. And when that happened, it would be because I was in love with a woman I wanted to monogamously spend the rest of my life with. What an outrageous concept! I told him about the legislative breakthroughs in Hawaii, where same-gender marriage was closer to being legalized than ever before. He was stunned, yet undaunted in his quest to sign me up for that party.

But what about my biological clock, he queried.

Onward through the fog. I patiently briefed him on the myriad reproductive alternatives in artificial insemination, sperm-donation, adoption and even turkey baster therapy; that it was no longer necessary for a woman to be linked, legally or otherwise, to a man if she chose to raise a family. We got into the bit about different kinds of families, how it requires much, much more than two members of the opposite sex to properly raise and nurture a child. We even broached the subject of how the term "lesbian" wasn't synonymous with "man hater"; that, in fact, I had once been married to a man.

"Oh, that explains it. Your marriage didn't work, so now you're taking the easy way out."

That's when I hung up.

Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and frequent contributor to the gay press. Ms. B's at the Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway is the site of her improvisational musical comedy review, Thursdays, July 21, August 4 and 18, 8:30-midnight. Call 666-3464 for reservations.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursdays, July 14 & 28, 8:30 p.m.-midnight:
Music, Comedy and Open Mic with Nancy Ford

Thursday, July 28, 9:30 p.m.:
AIDS Foundation Houston's Safer Sex Seminar for Lesbians

Friday, August 5:
Live Country-Western Music in The Ranch with Sugar Creek

Thursday, August 11, 8:30 p.m.-midnight:
Music, Comedy and Open Mic with Nancy Ford

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