

Volume 2 ▼ Issue 6 July 15 - August 14, 1995 Complimentary Copy

Out▼Smart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE



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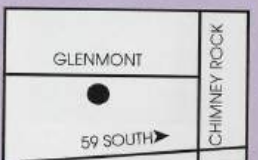
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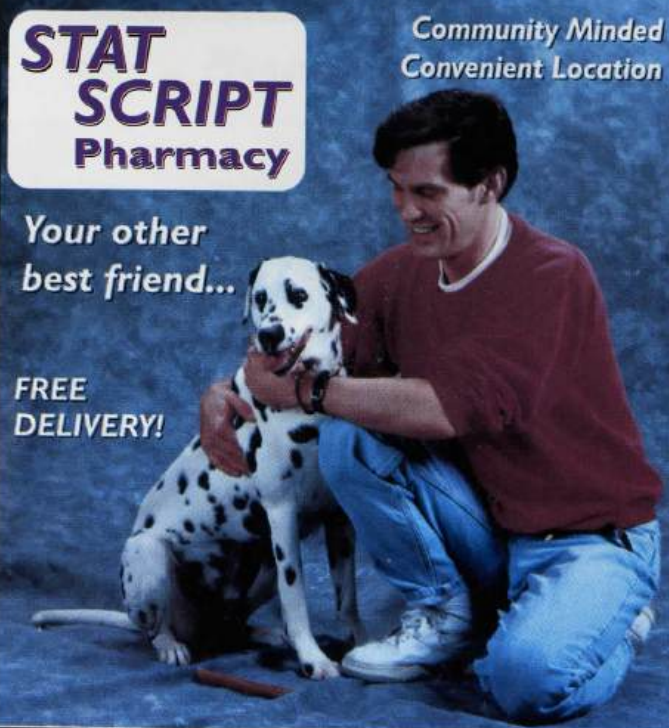
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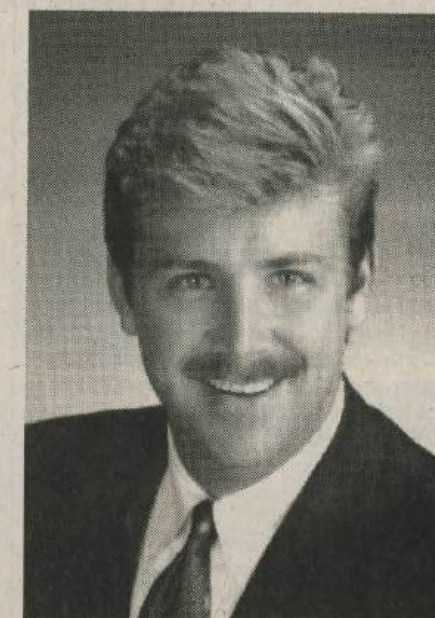
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OutSmart provides positive information to gay men, lesbians, and their associates to enhance and improve the quality of our lives. Our goal is to build a bridge of communication and understanding between cultural and social communities that are separated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

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OutSmart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Volume 2, Issue 6 July 15-August 14, 1995

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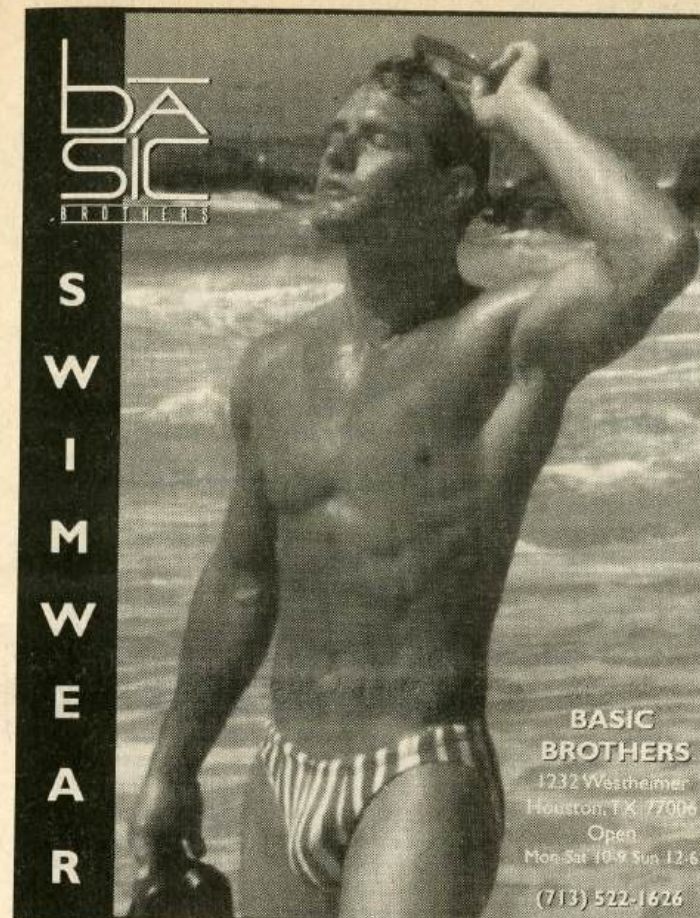
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Grace Jones, photo by Greg Gorman (1986).



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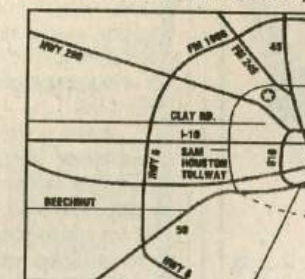
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MORE UMBRELLAS AND BOATS...

I am a gay male who strongly supports the rejection of transgendered people into the gay and lesbian movement! Ask the transgendered if they are homosexual, and of course you will get a "no" for an answer. So why are they trying to squeeze under our umbrella? Because they need emotional and financial support, as well as the little political clout the gay and lesbian community has left. After they've had the sex change, they then want to leave our umbrella and fit under the heterosexual umbrella, and deny us.

Gay and lesbian resources are strained to the max. All the lifeboats are full, so the transgendered must sink or swim on their own. Since Stonewall, we have fought many battles by ourselves, and many lifeboats have sunk without any help from the transgendered. They need to get their own little boat and paddle it themselves, and stop trying to take the easy way by claiming they have space in our boat. Dale Carpenter is right!

—Daryl Hyatt
Houston, TX

As a transsexual reader of your magazine, I have been following with much more than a passing interest the recent discussion concerning the inclusion of transgendered issues in the general gay/lesbian struggle for civil and political rights. The outpouring of support from my fellow readers has brought a tear of joy to my eyes, and to all of them I offer a very special thank you. You understand compassion as only an embattled group can. I don't care to rebut Mr. Carpenter's views in



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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particular, but I would like to address the views of the advocates of political expediency, the dangers of pursuing such a policy, and the responsibilities on the part of all of us, not only as groups, but most importantly as individuals.

When struggling for the basic human rights of individuals, to compromise is to perish. Mortgaging long-term goals in hopes of quick advances means not only the value of those long-term goals but our morality as well. To sacrifice a point or two in exchange for broader support, explaining that the concessions made will be regained by an increase in power—this is the litany of the foolhardy. We know there is an incredible diversity in our community; there are artists, construction workers, business owners, convenience store clerks, executives—the list goes on to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transvestite, with infinite delightful variations of all of the above! However, society at large doesn't see things quite the same way. All of us, regardless of our individuality, are regarded simply as "queer," "fags," "dykes," or at best "gay and lesbian interests" by the mainstream media, and by extension the mainstream consciousness and consequent political attitudes.

It is said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Given the current disarray within the liberal political community of this country, our own disunity would be disastrous, resulting in a setback of unimaginable proportions. I don't think we can afford this.

At this point in history, the most valuable contribution we can make to not only our own interests but to the greater good of all is to present a united, coherent, and enfranchised front. As such we are greater than the sum of our parts; we are a force to be reckoned with by all those who would aspire to power in this country. To remain fragmented, to shut down members of our community in the interests of "working within the system" is self-defeating. To do so is to play by the opposition's rules. The deck is stacked—we cannot win if we pursue divisive policies. United we are

strong, strong enough to make a difference, strong enough to accomplish something. To equivocate in our demands for equality will ultimately result in equality for none of us, a defeat I am sure no one wants to consider. If we find ourselves unable or unwilling to unite, we are ushering in a time of return to the closets from which we have only recently been freed.

Those of us in the transgendered community have a responsibility to the general gay and lesbian community as well, one that I am afraid a few of us might have been remiss in addressing, myself included. The challenge that confronts the transgendered community today demands that we develop one coherent voice—a visible and viable organizational unit that represents our unique interests within the existing framework of political, social, and artistic aspects of the greater gay and lesbian community that we are, in fact, a part of.

I am new to the transgendered community here in Houston, and I have noticed a distinct submergence of the community regarding self-help groups and medical and psychological resources. I am aware of the GCTC and TATS, of Phyllis Frye's efforts on our behalf, and the efforts of many others who would give solace to the transgendered and education to society, but how many other transgendered people know of them? In a city with a population this large—a gay and lesbian population that ranks as one of the largest in the country—there is not one listing in the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages offering services to the transgendered. We can blame no one for this but ourselves. In order for us to be taken seriously by our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, we must first take ourselves seriously.

In the face of the current prevailing political winds, rather than grabbing at straws I suggest we try grabbing onto each other. The basic right of being allowed to define one's self—and to be allowed to participate in society in the wake of that definition—must be recognized in an affirmative way by the gay and lesbian community. To do less is hypocrisy of the worst sort.

—Wendy Thurman
Houston, TX

I've been following the recent ping-pong game between Houston's transgender community and Dale Carpenter, and I feel it's time to lend my support to Mr. Carpenter. All of the well-written articles you published were thought-provoking and actually made it very difficult for me to make my own decision about transgender inclusion. But I did make a decision.

I wholeheartedly support transgenders and their issues, but I do not think that we have enough issues in common to warrant us intimately joining forces. For instance, gender reclassification—an important issue for transgenders—has nothing to do with gays and lesbians. Vice versa, legalization of marriage for same-sex couples has little to do with transgenders. Sure, there are issues that connect us (employment discrimination is one), and I think that we should work together on these issues, but for gay and lesbian groups to alter their bylaws and change the titles of their groups is

ridiculous. (I often wonder why groups like Gulf Coast Transgender Community and Transgender Nation don't have gay and lesbian in their titles.)

It seems to me that there is a lot of bitterness and hostility from the transgenders toward the gay and lesbian community, and often they use guilt to try to change our minds. Let me tell you, folks, hostility and guilt will not make you any friends and certainly will never help me change my mind. Finally, I think that it would greatly behoove the transgender community to use the time and energy they're using to fight to be included in the gay and lesbian community toward their own issues and legal battles.

Ron Ladrice
Houston, TX

After weeks of reading and hearing differing opinions concerning the inclusion or exclusion of the transgender community in the wording of hate crime legislation, I am compelled to throw my two cents into the ring.

The answer to the problem seems simple enough to me. Instead of continuing the divisive cycle of labeling people into groups, why can't the legislation be written in a way that gets around the need to list such groups. In my mind hate is hate, no matter who it is directed toward. If anyone commits a violent act toward someone based strictly on who they are, they are guilty of a hate crime. Why do we feel a need to divide the population into groups? I'm sure that a group of people who are better versed in political terminology could do a better job, but I'm willing to take a crack at it. Let's see, ummmm....

"Anyone who is tried and proven guilty of a violent act that results in physical harm or destruction of that person's property for any one or more of the following reasons will be punished under the guidelines of the Hate Crimes Act.

- 1) Who the person is.
- 2) What the person looks like."

Why do we feel it is necessary to go any further than that? Don't these two conditions cover everyone? Why waste time arguing over the inclusion of one particular group when it's morally obvious that every human being is deserving of the same rights? Under the grouping of sexual orientation one would have to show proof that the perpetrator knew that the victim was seen leaving a gay bar or was wearing a gay symbol or had a gay flag on his automobile that made it obvious that the victim was gay. All three of these items of evidence could be used to make the same argument to prove that it was because of who the person was or what the person looked like. Why do we feel we have to include the words "sexual orientation" in order to achieve our goals? This same method could be applied to other legal rights issues as well. One of the things that puts off mainstream society when it comes to equal rights and equal protection for gays is that we single ourselves out with a label. By doing this we open up the door for the "special rights" argument.

As I said before, I am not a very politically oriented person, and it may very well be that I am being naive to feel this way, but it still seems to me that legislation can be written to include us without listing us. The mistake of listing was made by the authors of previous legislation, and it has only helped to polarize our society. Perhaps we should

learn from their mistakes instead of following their examples.

—David N. Morales
Houston, TX

Gertrude Stein may have said it best: "Everybody gets so much information all day long that they lose their common sense." Thank you for writing.—Ed.

An Open Letter to the Houston Community

I would be remiss not to tell you of events that relate to the Spectrum "Concert of the Stars" produced by Town Meeting, Inc. at the Astorarena on June 18, 1995.

I was engaged as a headline act by Alan Bourgeois in March, 1995, and was paid by check following my performance. My paycheck, and that of Romanovsky and Phillips, bounced. My follow-up phone calls to Bourgeois, who had personally assured me that the checks were good, have never been returned. This financial loss alone is devastating to "out" performers in Pride month, but the story gets worse.

Further phone calls to local people have made me aware of the fact that fraudulent dealings were a well-known pattern in Bourgeois' background, and that choices were made to conceal this from us. (One man wasn't ashamed to tell me that he knew we were being screwed, but had been "threatened with harm" if he warned us. Maybe I can give him butch lessons on my next trip to Houston.)

Suffice it to say that we are pursuing criminal charges against those responsible. Meanwhile, it continues to amaze me that not one word of acknowledgment, apology, explanation, and redress has come to me from anyone on the board of Town Meeting or connected with any part of the event. Maybe it would be a good thing to remember, next time you wonder why closeted performers choose not to publicly affiliate with gay events, what Pogo said in the comics: "I have seen the enemy, and he is us."

—Lynn Lavner
New York

Alan Bourgeois Responds

Town Meeting, Inc. has been working hard to re-finance the many debts that we accrued during Spectrum '95. Ms. Lavner's debt is but one of a few left to be worked on.

By the time this letter is printed, Ms. Lavner should have received her letter via mail or fax from Spectrum '95 explaining several options on how Town Meeting, Inc. intends on correcting the situation.

Ms. Lavner received [more than one-half of the total amount owed to her] in cash from us on the day of her performance, and she fully understood that if the check was not good, that she would work with us on a payment plan.

Spectrum's payback payment plan includes a ten percent interest fee, plus any return check fees that our debtors incurred due to any checks being returned to them. This is something that we did not have to do, but chose to do, to show our good faith and commitment to the business or person.

As of this letter, \$35,000 of our debt has been re-negotiated so that we can pay them off as quickly and fairly as possible and at the same time create a very profitable Spectrum '96, which is scheduled for next summer.

As for the "mysterious person" that Ms. Lavner refers to, I would encourage that person to stop hiding and come out with their accusations for all to hear; as it stands now, he or she is a very sick voice in the community, that is not only trying to hurt myself and others, but the community as a whole. Rumors are made by people who don't have the balls to deal with reality.

Town Meeting, Inc. is recovering from their debts in a much healthier frame of mind, as will be demonstrated at the general meeting to be held on July 31 to elect its new board members. Already new blood is coming on board to guarantee its success and the success of Spectrum '96.

If any person has a problem with me or Spectrum '95, please come directly to me and so state it. I welcome any positive comments as well.

—Alan B. Bourgeois, Spectrum Director
Houston, TX



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FROM THE PUBLISHER



As if political and social visibility weren't already good enough reasons for coming out of the closet, a recent UCLA study shows that the process of coming out also has great impact on creating better health and wellness.

In the July/August issue of *Natural Health*, reporter Henry Dreher writes that a recent study showed that HIV-positive gay men who were "out of the closet" were significantly less likely to rapidly develop AIDS and die from the disease.

Among 80 HIV-positive men who were otherwise healthy, those who described themselves as "half or more in the closet" suffered a critical loss of T-cells, developed an AIDS-defining illness, or died up to two years earlier than did those who were "mostly" or "completely out." These dramatic findings were reported by Steve W. Cole, Ph.D., and presented at a meeting of the American Psychosomatic Society.

According to the report, Dr. Cole says his findings are consistent with a theory held by many experts in psychosomatic medicine: Inhibiting the expression of thoughts, feelings, and social behaviors can be harmful to health.

"In the past decade, mind/body researchers have produced evidence that expressing thoughts and emotions [rather than inhibiting them] can strengthen the immune system. The result may be greater resistance to almost any disease that is associated with immune dysfunction," writes Dreher.

Dr. Cole is not ready to recommend that all HIV-positive gay men and lesbians reveal their identity in order to stay healthy. A more thorough understanding of the physiology and psychology of inhibition is still needed. However, he affirms one clear implication of his study. "Regardless of the mechanism underlying these results, these data do suggest that psychosocial factors may be related to the progression of HIV infection."

Abandoning the security of the closet and having the courage to come out has long been considered a matter of life or death for gay men and lesbians—from a social perspective. But now there may be physical proof.

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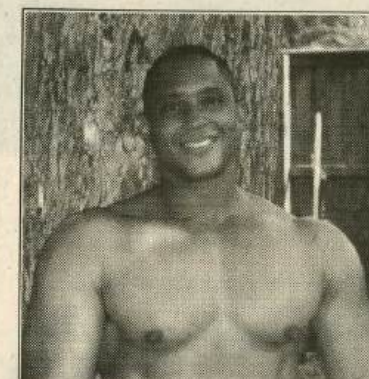
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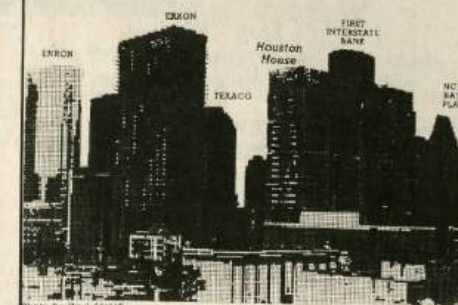


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OutSmart Calendar

If you are part of a group or have a function that you would like listed in our calendar, please send an 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

15 RHINESTONES AND STUDS II, pre-pageant party sponsored by the Miss Camp America Foundation, silent auction, entertainment, 7-11 pm, Texas Medical Conference Center, 2151 W. Holcombe.

UNCOMMON CALLINGS, group discussion on gays and spirituality with Chris Glaser, 10 am, Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom, 713/862-7533.

COMING OUT TO GOD, group discussion on gays and spirituality with Chris Glaser, 3 pm, Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom, 713/862-7533.

16 COMING HOME—RECLAIMING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY, group discussion on gays and spirituality with Chris Glaser, 2 pm, Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom, 713/862-7533.

17 AUGUST RATATOUILLE, tasting event with Rainbow Lodge's chef Jimmy Mitchell, \$5, 6-8 pm, Boulevard Bistro, 4319 Montrose, 713/524-6922.

18 DATING & MATING: Erotic Choices in Safer Sex Workshop explores the options of safer sex and sensuality through discussion and games, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

19 OUTVOTE, voter registration group, general meeting, 7 pm, 2700 Albany #304, 713/522-9837.

KEEPING IT TOGETHER (In a World Falling Apart), workshop focusing on coping with stress and loss issues for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

MEN'S NETWORK for gay and bisexual men, 7:15-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, 8:30-10:30 pm, Dairy Ashford Skating Rink, 1820 S. Dairy Ashford at I-10. Admission is \$5. 713/942-7406.



Lady Bunny, reigning diva of Wigstock, strikes a pose in *Wigstock: The Movie*. Eleven years ago this Labor Day, Lady Bunny founded Wigstock, an annual drag extravaganza, held in New York City, where she also has her own club nights at The Palladium and The Tunnel. She was recently seen in a *Harper's Bazaar* photo layout with waif model Kate Moss. She will be performing in Houston at Wig-Out, a benefit for the Human Rights Campaign Fund, on August 11 at Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto.

21 LESBIANS IN BUSINESS, with speaker Nancy Ford on "The Art of Visibility," 6 pm, Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza, 713/529-0077.

22 POWERWORKSHOP, comprehensive approach to preventing/reversing HIV disease wasting with nutrition, weight training, and anabolic steroids, \$15, 10 am-5 pm, Harvey Hotel, Southwest Freeway. Registration required—713/862-1243.

23 SUNDAY BRUNCH with Clay Howell and Marsha Carlton, 12 noon-3 pm, KAD's, 1512 W. Alabama, 713/529-3870.

24 LESBIAN LADIES OF LAUGHTER, national comedy tour with Nancy Norton, Laurie Davies, and Houston's own Nancy Ford, 8

pm, \$15 (\$12 in advance), The Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray, 713/524-2333.

THE AGORA, monthly meeting, 7:30 pm, AIDS Foundation Houston, 3202 Wesleyan, 713/729-4267.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS of Houston general meeting, 6:30 pm, Sierra Grill, 4704 Montrose, 713/529-9100.

25 AIDS EQUITY LEAGUE, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 713/871-0092.

DATING & MATING: Erotic Choices in Safer Sex Workshop explores the options of safer sex and sensuality through discussion and games, 7-9

pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

26 ZEN AND THE KHARMIC QUEST: Following Your Spiritual Journey, group-discussion of different perspectives in the search for a meaningful life, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

WOMEN'S NETWORK for lesbian and bisexual women, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

27 TIME OF MY LIFE, a play by Alan Ayckbourn, benefiting Milam House, 8 pm, July 27-29, Aug. 3-5 and 10-11, Houston House Skyline Theatre, 1617 Fannin, 713/759-0701.

FOOD FOR LIFE, concentrates on good nutritional habits for people living with HIV/AIDS, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

SAFER SEX FOR LESBIANS, seminar sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston and presented by Nancy Ford, 9:30 pm, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 713/666-3464.

28 YOUR RIGHTS, YOUR MONEY, YOUR CHOICE, free seminar exploring new options for your financial and legal well-being, with Connie Moore, Debra Hunt, and Julie LaRue, 7-9 pm, The Acacia Financial Center, 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 3000, 713/888-3500.

30 GARDEN PARTY, 20th Anniversary, 3-7 pm, Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto. Benefiting The Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund, Stone Soup, and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston.

SUNDAY BRUNCH with Mood Indigo, 12 noon-3 pm, KAD's, 1512 W. Alabama, 713/529-3870.

DOG DIP, sponsored by Pet Patrol, \$5 per dog, 10 am-1 pm, Basic Brothers, 1232 Westheimer.

August

2 AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHT WINES, a tasting and discussion of eight wines from eight countries, \$65, 7 pm, Rainbow Lodge, 1 Birdsall, 713/861-8666.

LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, 8:30-10:30 pm, Dairy Ashford Skating Rink, 1820 S. Dairy Ashford at I-10. Admission is \$5. 713/942-7406.

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN POLITICAL CAUCUS, 7:30 pm, 2700 Albany, 3rd floor, 713/521-1000.

MEN'S NETWORK for gay and bisexual men, 7:15-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

3 NANCY FORD'S PRE-BIRTHDAY PARTY, wear a funny hat, 8:30 pm, Ms. B's at Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 713/666-3464.

4 HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS Pool Party. For info, call 713/980-7995.

6 P-FLAG general meeting, 2 pm, St. Francis Episcopal Church, 345 Piney Point Road. P-FLAG Houston Helpline: 713/867-9020.

8 FINANCIAL PLANNING WORKSHOP for people with HIV/AIDS, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS Support Group meets in the library at MCCR, 1919

Decatur from 7-8:30 pm, 713/980-7995.

AIDS EQUITY LEAGUE, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 713/871-0092.

9 HEALING AND HAPPINESS THROUGH WELLNESS, explores wellness for improving and maintaining health and happiness, 7 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

WOMEN'S NETWORK for lesbian and bisexual women, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

10 MONTROSE ICE PICKS for lesbian/gay ice skaters, 8-10 pm, Galleria Ice Rink, admission is \$4.75 plus \$2 for skates, 713/629-1432.

NANCY FORD'S POST-BIRTHDAY PARTY, you can take off that funny hat, 8:30 pm, Ms. B's at Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 713/666-3464.

UNDERSTANDING HIV/AIDS TREATMENTS AND LAB RESULTS, panel discussion on basics of HIV medical approaches and related lab tests, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/623-6796.

11 WIG-OUT, a benefit for HRCF starring Wigstock founder Miss Lady Bunny, \$5, 9 pm-2 am, Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto.

ASTRO RAINBOW ALLIANCE FOR THE DEAF, general meeting, 7:30 pm, Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, call 713/869-2287 via Texas Relay 1-800-735-2988 for more information.

13 GRACE JONES, fundraiser to benefit the Human Rights Campaign Fund, with special guest Candace Gingrich, 11 pm, Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto



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Ongoing

20 SOMETHING, a social group for adults, ages 20 to 29, addresses issues concerning bisexual, lesbian, and gay individuals. For more information, contact Jeff or Cindy at 713/315-6786.

AIDS ALLIANCE OF THE BAY AREA, support group for those infected and affected, Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, 17511 El Camino Real, #159, 713/488-4492.

AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON, free creative writing workshop for anyone affected by AIDS, with freelance writer Gregg Rodriguez. Mondays, 3-6 pm. Call 713/623-6796 or 713/868-0008 for more information.

AIDS MASSAGE PROJECT, sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston's Wellness Program, call Jeffery at 713/768-4267 for an appointment.

THE ART LEAGUE OF HOUSTON is offering free art classes for people with HIV. The ongoing course meets every Thursday and Friday from 1-4 pm. Among other media, the course offers lessons in painting, printmaking, and ceramics on a rotating basis. For information, call Patrick Palmer at 713/523-8817.

BINET (Bisexual Network of Houston), Wed., 7 pm, MCCR Church, 1919 Decatur, 713/861-9149.

CAFE ARTISTE Open mic and songwriters night every Thursday, 8 pm (sign-up begins at 7:45 pm). All instruments welcome. Hosted by Cafe Artiste and Tony Asch. Open mic poetry every Wednesday, 8:30 pm. Hosted by Cafe Artiste and Zachary Fox. 1601 W. Main at Mandell near Menil Collection, 713/528-3704.

CARING STEPS is offered to parents, family, friends, and loved ones of someone who is HIV positive. Call Montrose Clinic at 713/520-2073 for scheduling.

CROSSROADS is a support group for gays and lesbians who are currently in full-time church work, have been in the past, or are pursuing their calling. It is not exclusively for pastors, but is open to chaplains, administrators, musicians or music-, youth- and educational-directors. Meets the third Saturday of each month for an informal brunch. Call 713/802-1056 for meeting date, time, and place.

DELTA LAMBDA PHI is a Social Fraternity at the University of Houston that does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Interested members of the University of Houston should contact 713/524-7966 for more information.

DIGNITY HOUSTON, dedicated to the welfare of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends, meets Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 5:30 pm, 1307 Yale, Suite H, 713/880-2872.

THE DIZINGER FOUNDATION offers free classes in art and photography to HIV-positive individuals. The foundation also gives grants to people for their completed works. Feel free to visit their gallery on Avondale to view the many works on display. 713/522-8660.

EMPOWERMENT FOR LIVING, a weekly HIV-positive and negative support program and potluck supper, Tuesdays, 6 pm, MCCR, 1919 Decatur. For more information, call 713/861-9149.

EN*LIGHT*EN UP, a gay men's spirituality group, Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Sunset Blvd. Call Howard at 713/528-6174 for more information.

GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP meets to discuss issues pertaining to today's gay families. If you have children or plan to have children, our support group can help with issues like coming out, ex-spouse problems, step relationships, etc. Meets at

MCCR, 1919 Decatur, the second Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30 pm, 713/980-7995.

GAY FATHERS of Houston is a support group of gay men who meet every Monday, 8-9:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, to discuss problems gay fathers share. For more information or directions, call 713/861-6181.

GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston) is a social, political, and support group for the university GLB population and its supporters. Everyone is welcome. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 4 pm in the University Center. For more information, call Ruben at 713/743-7539 or e-mail at ST586@JETSON.UH.EDU.

HIV SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUP for anyone whose life is touched by HIV. Meetings include a relaxing meditation, information about community resources, and occasional speakers. The group meets Wednesdays from 7 to 9 pm at Unity Church of Christianity, 2929 Unity Drive at Hillcroft. For further information, please call 713/782-4050.

THE HOMELESS PET PLACEMENT LEAGUE is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues and rehabilitates stray and abandoned cats and dogs. To inquire about volunteering, foster care, or adopting, call 713/862-PETS.

HOUSTON AREA TEEN COALITION OF HOMOSEXUALS (HATCH) is open to gays and lesbians, age 15-21, meets Fridays from 7:30-10 pm and Sundays from 6:30-9 pm, call 713/942-7002 for location and information.

HOUSTON OUTDOOR GROUP is a social group for gay men and lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. Activities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. Day trips, weekend trips (typically a two- to four-hour drive from Houston) and extended trips to places such as Wyoming, Canada, and the Cayman Islands. Call 713/KAMP-OUT or write to P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.

HOUSTON PRIDE BAND provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. They are seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. Contact Russell at 713/524-0218 or e-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

KAD'S has live music nightly including Lori Gage, Clay Howell, Staci, and Marsha Carlton. KAD's, 1512 W. Alabama. Call 713/529-3870 for specific show times and performers through August.

KOLBE PROJECT is an ecumenical outreach to gays, lesbians, and other sexual minorities modeled after the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi. Potluck and community-concern programs, first Thursdays, 7 pm; Healing Service, second Thursdays, 7 pm; Crossdressers Support Group, Tuesdays, 8 pm; Spiritual Direction by appointment; HIV/AIDS hospital chaplaincy. For information, call 713/522-8182.

LONE STAR NUDIST GROUP for gay or bisexual men who wish to share nude experiences together. We currently have 72 members in the Houston area. Singles and lovers welcome. Monthly meetings. Nude social events, massage group, and out-of-town gatherings. Call 713/866-8847 for more information.

THE MOVIE CLUB meets on Saturdays, 8-9 pm, in front of a chosen theater and attending a restaurant after the movie. Call 713/867-9454 for more information and meeting time and place.

NEXT STEP is a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Provided by Montrose Clinic. Call 713/520-2000 for schedule and to register.

PEOPLE IN MEDICINE & HPHR (Houston Physicians for Human Rights), an organization for all lesbian/gay health care professionals, meets monthly, providing socials, speakers, networking, and practitioner referral line. For information or a referral, call 713/523-4700.

PRIME TIMERS HOUSTON, promotes social activities for the older gay and bisexual male. Some of the activities they participate in are theater, dining out, movies, pot luck dinners, card games, and weekend daytrips. For more information, call 713/867-3903.

PROTECT (People Respecting Ourselves Through Establishing Community and Trust), an HIV-negative support group, provides a safe place to share experiences, strengths, and hopes in an effort to remain HIV negative. Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, Bering Church, 1440 Harold. For information, call Marty at 713/520-7870.

Q-PATROL, an organization dedicated to the prevention of hate crimes against gays and lesbians, patrols the bar areas in Montrose and are always looking for volunteers. If you have at least one Friday or Saturday night per month you can donate to the protection of gays and lesbians, please call 713/871-8519.

RAINBOW RANGLERS, a gay country and western dance club, promotes Texas-style couple dancing. They teach beginning level dance every Thursday at 8:30 pm and advanced level dance every Wednesday at 7 pm at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. Dance classes are free and open to the public. Call 713/880-0670 for information.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY HOUSTON promotes pride and unity while providing country and western dance lessons, exhibitions, and charity events to benefit service organizations in the Houston area. Free dance lessons are offered every Tuesday at The Ranch, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway. For more information, write to P.O. Box 1502, Houston, TX 77252-1502.

SELF-HYPNOSIS FOR IMPROVING HEALTH AND ATTITUDE, hypnotherapist T. C. LeNormand of Behavioral Dynamics teaches self-hypnosis techniques for stress reduction and desired behavioral changes for a healthier, happier life, two consecutive Thursdays. Call 713/789-0713 to register.

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION is a nonprofit organization, with chapters in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston, that promotes and stages an annual rodeo event as well as engaging in fundraising activities throughout the year. For more information on the Houston chapter, write to P.O. Box 130585, Houston, TX 77219 or call 713/777-1444.

TEXAS GAY VETERANS OF HOUSTON is committed to ending discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders in the military services. Meets for business on the first Thursday of the month, 6 pm, 2700 Albany, Suite 304. Write to P.O. Box 66135, Houston, TX 77266-6135 or call Patrick at 713/869-0982 or James at 713/649-8808.

TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, a statewide, not-for-profit legal agency, advocates on behalf of the lesbian, gay, and HIV community and publishes the booklet *AIDS and the Law: Know Your Rights*. If you feel you have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV status and need legal advice or attorney referral, call their toll-free number, 1-800-828-6417.

WOMEN'S ACTION COALITION (WAC) is an open alliance of women committed to direct action on issues affecting the rights of all women, Wednesdays, 7 pm at Toopees, P.O. Box 131148, Houston, TX 77219-1148, voice mail 713/867-9581.

RADIO & TELEVISION

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

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

GAY 90s: (TV) presented by Monticello Entertainment. Other times are listed in local television guides under Public Access Cable (PAC) channels. For more information, call 713/949-3119.

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.

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.

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 Boulevard, 713/529-6606. Through August 20: Neil Simon's *The Sunshine Boys*.

A.D. PLAYERS, Grace Theater, 2710 W. Alabama, 713/526-2721. Through August 13: *I Do! I Do!*

ALLEY THEATRE, 615 Texas Ave., 713/228-8421. Through August 6: *I Hate Hamlet*.

THE COMPANY ONSTAGE, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219. Through July 29: *The Fantasticks*.

THE COMPANY WE KEEP, New Heights Theater, 339 West 19th, 713/523-9000. Through July 31: *Me and Jezebel*.

THE ENSEMBLE THEATRE, 3535 Main, 713/520-0055. July 21-August 13: *Get Ready*.

GALVESTON ISLAND OUTDOOR MUSICALS, Amphitheatre at West Beach, 1-800-54-SHOWS. June 28-July 29: *The King and I*. August 2-12: *West Side Story*. At The Grand 1894 Opera House—through July 31: *Monky Business*. July 27-August 13: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

HOUSTON BROADWAY SERIES, Jones Hall, 713/629-3700. Through July 23: *Busker Alley*. July 16-September 2: *Miss Saigon*.

MAIN STREET THEATRE, 2540 Times Blvd., 713/524-6706. Through August 13: *The Real Inspector Hound*. August 17-September 9: *The Attitude Club*.

THEATRE SUBURBIA, 1410 W. 43rd, 713/682-3525. July 21-August 26: *Only an Orphan Girl*.

SKYLINE THEATRE, 1617 Fannin, 713/759-0701. July 27-August 12: *Time of My Life*.

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A Leading Man

(Broadcasting It, 1993, Keith Howes)

"When casting for the TV movie *That Certain Summer* in 1972, the producers approached a leading actor at a party and asked him to play the main role. He refused point-blank, saying that his fans would never accept him as homosexual. When asked if he would consider playing Hitler, he replied, 'Of course.'"

Alan Bates

(Mandate, 5/79, M. George Haddad)

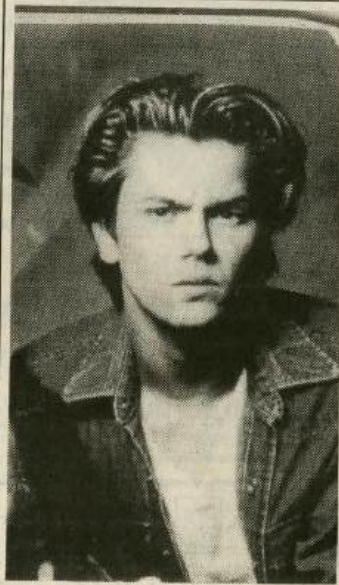
"Homosexual roles are more available in England than in the States, and there's less paranoia about them. But I wouldn't, obviously, take a role as a gay just to say, hey, I'm hip and I don't mind being suspected of being a queer.' He pauses thoughtfully. 'Perhaps that was a bad choice of word, *queer*. It might give the impression I'm uptight, which I'm not....'



Rosanne

(Saturday Night Live, 12/3/94)

"Everything in Hollywood is just a big fat lie, okay? Nobody is married because they're in love with each other—they're just married because it's too expensive to get a divorce. And all the guys who pretend to be these big family men—Heidi Fleiss knows them. And half you movie stars in Hollywood, stop pretending that you're faithful, and the other half, stop pretending that you're not gay."



Clockwise from top left: Alan Bates (as he appeared in 1987's *A Prayer for Dying*) suspected of being a queer in 1979?; Chris O'Donnell (cruising in this year's *Mad Love*) uncomfortable if a queer's hair was blown back by him in 1995?; Ellen Barkin (tired of being cooped up in 1983's *Tender Mercies*) would've liked a female/female love scene shoved down the throats of an audience in 1991?; Harry Hamlin (seen here, after chopping off Medusa's head, in *Clash of the Titans*, early 1981) in contention for an ax murderer role after his queer turn in *Making Love*, late 1981?; Patrick Stewart (camping it up here in the upcoming *Jeffrey*) wept over a queer script in 1995?; Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix (Reeves seen here in 1987's *River's Edge* and Phoenix in 1988's *Running on Empty*) hugged and stayed warm being together in *Idaho* in 1993?

Queer notes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Marga Gomez

(Latina lesbian comic)

(Deneuve, 10/94, Zélie Pollon)

"Look for her to become the woman on top in comedy, but don't expect her to show up in Hollywood any time soon unless she can be an out lesbian. 'I'd rather be serving time in a women's jail, where there's at least sex, than being in the closet in Hollywood.'"



Chris O'Donnell

(Details, 8/95, David A. Keeps)

Keeps: Do you think that macho is an outmoded concept?

O'Donnell: It's hard to generalize. Some women like really macho guys and guys that treat them like shit. There's all types of women, all types of men these days. Whatever blows your hair back, I always say.

Do you think there are guys whose hair is blown back by you?

I suppose some are. I'm not comfortable with a guy coming on to me, but different strokes for different folks, I guess.



Keanu Reeves & River Phoenix

(Out, Jul/Aug/95, Tim Allis)

"Well, River just was so amazing in [the campfire scene in *My Own Private Idaho* in which River Phoenix's character confesses his love for Reeves], says Reeves, adding that he himself has never been the recipient of such a confession. So what fueled the honesty of the scene? 'I think it was on two levels,' says the actor. 'We were playing characters, and then also the friendship, the work that River and I were doing together. My character says, 'Well, just come over here, man. I can't love you, and I won't do it that way, but just come over here, man, we can hug, stay warm, we'll be together.' But you were seeing great acting by River, and also connected into that was our personal relationship.'"

Ellen Barkin

(Entertainment Weekly, 5/3/91, Roger Friedman)

"Cut from *Switch* was an elaborate version of a love scene in which Steve [Ellen Barkin as a woman who plays a man], forgetting he's a woman, makes a play for Lorraine Bracco's character, who is gay. In test screenings, the audiences voiced extreme disapproval.



"There was a full love scene between me and Lorraine,' says Barkin. 'There was no nudity or anything, but it was a lot heavier than what's in the film now. Blake didn't want to cut it. And to me it really elevated the film. But the audiences weren't ready for that. I felt that [Blake and the studio] should have just shoved it down their throats. It would have been a great thing for gay women.'"

"There was a full love scene between me and Lorraine,' says Barkin. 'There was no nudity or anything, but it was a lot heavier than what's in the film now. Blake didn't want to cut it. And to me it really elevated the film. But the audiences weren't ready for that. I felt that [Blake and the studio] should have just shoved it down their throats. It would have been a great thing for gay women.'"



Patrick Stewart

(Entertainment Weekly, 5/26/95)

Patrick Stewart "read the script [of *Jeffrey*] while shooting *Star Trek: Generations* and began 'weeping all over my *Star Trek* uniform—it had to be repaired before I could go back in front of the camera.'"



Harry Hamlin

(Broadcasting It, 1993, Keith Howes)

"Hamlin had told the *Washington Post* in 1986: 'A guy can play an ax murderer and still be considered sexy and still get another role as a leading man. But if you play a homosexual, suddenly you're not in contention for the ax murderers.'"

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ONE GRANDMA AT A TIME

STRAIGHT BUT NOT NARROW

We tend to conceive the gay civil rights struggle as a series of proclamations. Either we win a battle over hate crimes legislation, or we don't. Either we elect a gay person to city council, or we don't. Either we defeat an anti-gay referendum at the polls, or we don't. Either a court declares the sodomy law an outrageous intrusion on privacy, or it doesn't. Either some troglodytic homophobe, like Republican Bob Dornan of California, apologizes for his insulting remarks, or he doesn't. It all happens very publicly, with everyone watching. The press is there to record every word, tally every vote, and finally proclaim a victory or a defeat for the cause of equality. There is then celebration either in the heart of Montrose, or at Second Baptist Church. The loser warns darkly of doom and gloom and fears for the safety of the Republic.

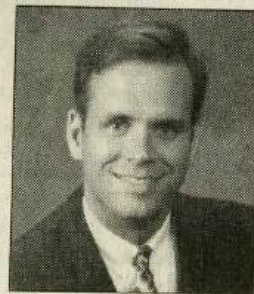
Does that chronicle tell the whole story of gays' battle for real freedom in free America? Certainly our wins and losses at the polls, in legislatures, and in the courts, are important. They mark milestones on the road to equality. They measure how far we've come. They give us confidence and energy for the rest of the fight. But the journey is not in looking at the monuments along the way. It is in getting to them. In that regard, we win victories for gay civil rights every day through the hearts we change by coming out.

Six months ago, I wrote on this page about my paternal grandfather's growling reaction to the news that I was gay. He told me that I was damned to spend

eternity in Hellfire and Damnation. I told him I didn't think God would make me gay just to send me to Hell.

In that column, I did not reveal how my paternal grandmother, his wife, reacted when I came out to her the same night. Grandma is 70 years old and lives near Woodsboro, a small farming town in South Texas of about 1,500 people. She is retired from several decades of service to an oil company, and is active with a women's social club. She has a history of political activism and currently serves as the Republican Party chairperson for her county. She is tough, smart, ambitious, and energetic. She had a career of her own and a strong sense of independence at a time when women were expected to stay home and knit.

When I told her I was gay, she was not cold and cruel like my grandfather. But all the same, she did not understand. I am sure I was the first person who ever revealed his homosexuality to her face. She speculated aloud that perhaps I didn't have a sufficiently



by Dale Carpenter

masculine role model while growing up. Or, she said, perhaps I was just gay temporarily because the "issue" was in the news a lot, on television, in the movies, etc. When all the hoopla blew over, she predicted, I'd be her normal straight grandson again. I told her about my companion, P.J., and asked if we were still welcome to visit for the family's annual Christmas get-together a week later. She said I could come alone, but that I couldn't bring him. I replied that I couldn't leave him behind. So for the first time in my memory, I missed going over to Grandma's house for Christmas.

I resolved not to give up on her. I sent her two books. The first was *Now That You Know*, a superb book written to explain homosexuality to novices who've just learned that a loved one is gay. The second was *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality*, an inexpensive, thin book written by a theologian for the lay person. This second book is an excellent refutation of the anti-gay bigot's version of the Bible, explaining relevant passages (including the story of Sodom and Gomorrah) one by one. I figured that with Grandpa in the house spouting invective about hell's fire, she'd need that book as an antidote. Besides, there was always the remote chance that he'd pick it up and actually learn something about the Bible he was invoking to damn me.

Next, I invited her to attend the conference in March sponsored by Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG). From the beginning, she was impressed by the speakers, the organization, and the people she met. Soon, she was speaking up at panel discussions and nodding her head at denunciations of homophobia. At the exhibitors' booths, she picked up information about gay Catholics, gay political organizations, and books about homosexuality. She bought the recent book about Greg Louganis, and picked up political buttons with slogans like "Straight But Not Narrow." By the end of the two-day conference, she had adorned herself with more pink triangles, rainbow flags, and other paraphernalia of the gay civil rights movement than an ACT UP clone sauntering down Castro Street. At the same time, she met P.J. and some of my gay friends. She stayed in our home and ate meals we prepared. For the first time in her

life, homosexuality had a face, a voice, a spirit.

Within days she had called her legislator to lobby for the hate crimes bill then pending before the Texas Legislature. Imagine the surprise of a state legislator from a rural area getting a call from a 70-year-old grandmother, constituent, and county chairperson telling him to vote for a law protecting homosexuals.

Now she has resolved to send a letter to all of her children telling them that P.J. and I will be welcome in her home for Christmas, that she will not monitor who her children and grandchildren love, and that if any of them is offended by that policy it is their decision whether to come. Her home will be a discrimination-free zone.

In May, she secured a commitment from the board of directors of her social club to devote one of the monthly meetings this year to a discussion of homosexuality and homophobia. She wants me to lead the discussion and is arranging for much of the family to be present.

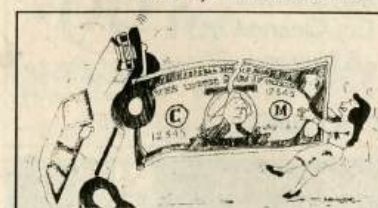
I expect that within a year, the Coastal Bend will have a fledgling P-FLAG chapter, with Grandma as its founder.

Grandma is now a militant activist for gay civil rights. There will be no proclamations about it. No parades, or breathless news reports. The Bible thumpers at Second Baptist will not miss a beat. But some part of the world has changed.

Woodsboro will never be the same. ▼

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

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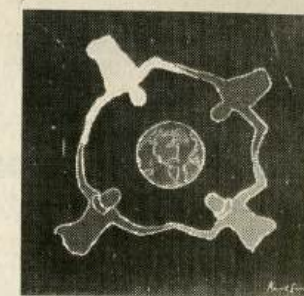
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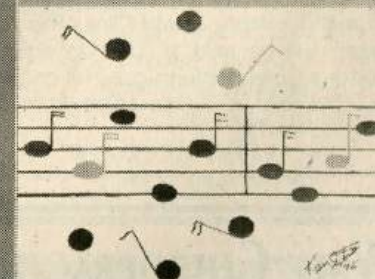
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Local Briefs

OutVote Targets the 40 Percent Unregistered Montrose Voters

OutVote, the new voter registration group, has been continuing to make dents in the 40 percent figure for unregistered Montrose voters by registering voters outside Kroger's and J.R.'s. They will also step up registration activities in the fall before the November 7 City Council elections.

The board of OutVote recently decided not to award the \$300 prize in the poster contest. Although some of the entries were beautiful and clever, the board felt that none of the entries could motivate large numbers of people to vote. OutVote meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at 2700 Albany, #304. For more information or to volunteer, call 713/522-9837.

Miss Camp America Gears Up For Its 27th Annual Pageant

The Miss Camp America Foundation is currently preparing for its annual spoof of the Miss America Pageant with the theme "Planet Hair, A Spray in Time." The designated charities for 1995 are The NAMES Project Houston, The PWA Coalition, The Colt 45s, and The Bering Dental Clinic. This year's pageant will be held at The University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall on Saturday, September 16. Tickets can be obtained by calling 227-ARTS.

Diana Foundation Elects New Officers

The Diana Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises money for charities and hosts the annual Diana Awards every spring, has elected new officers and a board of directors for the 1995-1996 season. Officers: Ben C. Crump, president; Earl E. Krieger, 1st vice president; Ogden Robertson, 2nd vice president; Kurth Brown, treasurer; and Parker Witt, secretary. Board of directors: Gary Evan, Tom Mays, Bill Poplin, and Royce Wall. The Foundation also set the date for Miss Angela's Country Dinner, an event that will feature a country western band and a dinner catered by Goode Company Bar-B-Q. The event is to be held Saturday, October 14, at the Houston Polo Club. For more information, please call 639-2000.

Montrose Clinic Dedicates HCRN Suite to AmFAR

On Thursday, June 29, American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) co-founder Mathilda Krim presided over the official dedication and ribbon cutting of the Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN) suite at the new Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer. HCRN is one of only 12 national sites participating in the AmFAR network of community-based clinical trials, and AmFAR contributed \$60,000 toward the construction and furnishing of Montrose Clinic's new building that houses HCRN.

Gay Games V in Amsterdam: Start Planning Now

Gay Games V, which will take place August 1-8, 1998, will move to the European continent for the first time and be held in one of the most liberal cities in the world—Amsterdam. The capital city of The Netherlands, Amsterdam, is both cosmopolitan and quaint, with its cobblestone streets, wide canals, and outdoor cafes, as well as the infamous red-light district. Team Houston recommends that anyone interested in participating in Gay Games V start planning now (they've already begun a special travel program to help reduce travel costs to Europe). For more information of Gay Games V in Amsterdam or the travel program, call the Team Houston Hotline at 935-1060.

Lesbian Ladies of Laughter in Houston for One Night Only

From the producers of the most successful nationally touring, all-gay, multi-act stand-up comedy show—"The Gay Comedy Jam: Freedom Tour," starring Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye—comes "The Lesbian Ladies of Laughter" starring Nancy Norton, Laurie Davies, and Houston's own Nancy Ford. These are not just lesbian comedians; more so, they are comedians who happen to be lesbians.

Nancy Norton, who resides in Denver when she's not on the road, has been seen on A&E's "An Evening at the Improv" and is a

veteran of many of the top-rated comedy clubs in the nation. Lorie Davies, who hails from Indianapolis, is a veteran of different sorts. She has proudly served our country as a member of the National Armed Forces and has since traded her weapon for a microphone. Houston's very own Nancy Ford, popular for her song parodies about gay and lesbian life, hosts her own comedy night at Ms. B's in Plaza 9200.

The Lesbian Ladies of Laughter comedy show will take place on Monday, July 24, at 8 pm at The Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray. Tickets, available by calling 524-2333, are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show.

Holistic AIDS Conference to Be Held in Houston in November

AIDS, Medicine & Miracles, the eighth annual conference, will be held in Houston at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel, November 9-12. Exploring what holds promise from both Western medicine and complementary therapies, this unique healing retreat will offer a mixture of presentations, workshops, and creative experiences for people living with HIV/AIDS, their loved ones, medical professionals, and caregivers. Two all-day pre-conference seminars will be offered on Thursday, November 9—the first of which is the Women's Institute, a day of nurturing information and support for women living with HIV/AIDS. There will also be a day-long holistic treatment seminar in Spanish. For more information on AIDS, Medicine & Miracles, call 1-800-875-8770.

Gay and Lesbian Readers Group at Barnes & Noble

A gay and lesbian readers group will begin meeting July 31 at 7 pm and will then continue to meet on the last

Monday of every month at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at 3003 West Holcombe. The first selection for reading and discussion will be *A Place at the Table: The Gay Individual in American Society* by Bruce Bawer. New selections will be made by the group each month. For more information on the gay and lesbian readers group, call (713) 349-0050.

Breast Cancer Prevention Day Deemed a Success

The Breast Cancer Prevention Day sponsored by Lesbians in Business, Lesbian Health Initiative, and Montrose Counseling Center, held June 3, was deemed a success by organizers of the event. Thirty-five women received breast exams from licensed medical staff and mammograms from Texas Mobile Health. This was the maximum number of women who could have received these services during the six-hour event. "We were overwhelmed by the response, and the organizations are talking about making this a regular event," said LiB President Madelyn McNeil.

All 31,000 Panels in AIDS Quilt to Be Archived

The NAMES Project Foundation recently announced plans to begin an archive of all 31,000 panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. Through photography and digital technology, the AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive Project will create a permanent visual record of the world's most recognizable symbol of the AIDS epidemic, and ultimately will make electronic images of the Quilt available to people around the world through on-line technology and in multimedia packages. The photography of the entire Quilt, which is already under way, will take two to three years to complete.

Continued on page 64

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OUT In Our WORLD

News Briefs from GayNet Wire Service

NGLTF Endorses Federal Anti-Bias Measures

WASHINGTON—The following is a press release from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in a statement by Melinda Paras, NGLTF's executive director, about the re-introduction of proposed legislation barring discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation, followed by a list of the sponsors of the bill in Congress: "On behalf of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, I am pleased to endorse the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) of 1995. The bill would ban employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Such a measure would permit all Americans to work without regard to sexual orientation. "This long overdue legislation would make illegal the discrimination present in the lives of Americans every day.

"The right to work is the cornerstone of the American dream, yet far too many hardworking people are refused work, fired, or harassed because of their perceived sexual orientation. Sexual orientation does not affect a person's ability to contribute in the workplace, yet gay, lesbian, and bisexual people continue to be isolated, stigmatized, and persecuted in and out of the workplace. Without this measure, the threat of legal discrimination paralyzes us in our jobs and prevents us from living as full and equal citizens.

"At the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, we often work with activists lobbying their local and state governments to pass anti-discrimination legislation. While many states and municipalities have banned discrimination based on sexual orientation, some opponents have pointed to the lack of federal legislation when justifying their own inaction or opposition to such measures. We seek federal action through passage of ENDA that would send a message across the country that discrimination is unacceptable and illegal.

"Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation violates the American values of equality and fairness. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 1995 recognizes discrimination and would alleviate the fear of many Americans in the workplace. It is an important step toward full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people."

Britain's Channel 4 Premieres 'Dyke TV' Amid Criticism

LONDON—The chief executive of Britain's Channel 4 TV, Michael Grade, has defended the station's increasingly controversial lineup of programming after it premiered the latest in a string of programs dealing with sexual issues that culminated in mid-June with the debut of *Dyke TV*, a 15-hour-long late-night show specifically aimed at the country's lesbian community. Grade denied charges that the independent network was promoting pornography or appealing to prurient interests in launching the programs and said it was all part of the station's responsibility to "reflect society." "People are fascinated by sex," Grade said. "It's a question of whether you take a healthy interest and explore that in a serious-minded way or whether you do it in an unhealthy way, which is to exploit people."

Coors Brewery Adds Domestic Partners Benefits

BOULDER, CO—The University of Colorado newspaper, the *Colorado Daily*, has reported that the Coors Brewing Company of Golden, Colorado, once the object of an intense national boycott by gays and lesbians, has voted unanimously to extend employee benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of its workers. Since the widespread boycott of the 1970s and 1980s, the company has added non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation to its employment guidelines, and the brewery also has a company-sanctioned gay and lesbian employee group. "There are still a lot of unanswered questions about the relationship between the Coors family, the [Coors] Foundation, and the company," Sue Anderson of Equality Colorado told the paper. "But if we're just talking about the corporation, this is a great move forward." Members of the Coors family and its private Coors Foundation have backed a wide variety of arch-conservative and anti-gay groups and politicians for decades, which led initially to the boycott. The Coors Brewing Company, however, has since gone out of its way to distinguish itself from the financial giving of the family and the foundation.

Amnesty International Cites Police Abuses

LONDON—The London-based human rights watchdog group, Amnesty International, has publicly called on the government of Albania to live up to its obligations and agreements under international law and put a halt to abuses of its citizens, including political prisoners, Greeks living in the country, and homosexuals. "In certain cases, the ill treatment has been so severe that it has amounted to torture," a statement from AI said. "In at least five cases the victim died, apparently as a result of the injuries they suffered." The organization also called on the government to set up methods of responding to citizen complaints of police abuse and brutality to deal with the problem.

Guinness to Do Gay Ads: 'Stand By Your Stout'

LONDON—The *Financial Times* of London has reported that Guinness, the famed British brewery best known for its stout ales, plans to begin using a gay male couple in some of its future TV ad campaigns in the United Kingdom to promote its popular alcoholic beverages. Although the firm did not give details of the TV advertising, it did indicate that the TV spots would make it clear that the two men in them were gay men. The firm also said it would use the popular country-western tune "Stand By Your Man" in the ads.

ILGA World Conference in Rio Ends

RIO DE JANEIRO—The 17th world conference of the International Lesbian & Gay Association ended in Brazil on Sunday, June 25, with a gay pride parade along Rio's Copacabana beach. During the week-long conference of more than 300 delegates representing countries from around the globe, ILGA took the following actions:

- Denounced anti-gay violence in Latin America, including Brazil itself, and condemned the execution of gays and lesbians in some Islamic countries;
- Praised decriminalization of homosexual sodomy in the Australian state of Tasmania;

- Announced plans to launch campaigns to draw attention to the continued criminalizing of gay and lesbian sex in Chile, Ecuador, and Nicaragua;

- Said the organization had ratified all the international treaties and conventions of the United Nations to help assure its recognition as a consulting Non Governmental Organization (NGO) with the UN.

Clinton Chief of Staff Meets San Francisco Leaders

SAN FRANCISCO—In San Francisco for the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Leon Panetta, President Clinton's chief of staff, met with gay and lesbian leaders in a fence-mending get-together following an embarrassing incident at the White House earlier in June. During that visit by approximately 40 gay and lesbian elected officials, White House security guards donned blue rubber gloves to admit the leaders after learning it was a gay delegation. Attending the meeting were supervisors Susan Leal, Carole Migden, and Tom Ammiano; philanthropist Jim Hornell; Gwen Craig, a former city police commissioner; and Debra Chasnoff, the Oscar-winning filmmaker. Leal said of the meeting with Panetta: "He realized that there have been disappointments, but he expressed very strongly that this administration is still committed to equal rights." She added that the meeting with local leaders here had been arranged at the request of the White House. Migden said the glove incident wasn't all that significant. "We consider the matter closed, except that we asked Mr. Panetta to apprise us of what training program will be approved for White House personnel," she said. But Ammiano said the administration still had a long way to go before many in the gay community would feel comfortable supporting Clinton's re-election bid. "We're inching forward," Ammiano said. "I have a wait-and-see attitude. I know we need something really substantive, so gay and lesbian voters and their supporters don't stay home."

John D'Emilio Takes Over at NGLTF Policy Institute

WASHINGTON—The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force has announced that noted historian and author Dr. John D'Emilio has joined the civil rights organization as director of NGLTF's Policy Institute. D'Emilio, a history professor with the University of North Carolina, has the task of transforming the Policy Institute into a full-fledged research organization by recruiting gay rights theorists, academicians, researchers, activists and others to the research "think tank." In a press statement, D'Emilio said: "I am committed to building the NGLTF Policy Institute into an indispensable source of reliable, useful, and necessary information on gay/lesbian/bisexual public policy issues. We want to use the wealth of expertise in our community to build a reservoir of materials for activists in the field."

LesbiGay Prom: High School Was Never Like This Before

HAYWARD, CA—This unlikely community, just east of San Francisco, was the spot on Friday evening, June 30, of the first gay and lesbian prom in Northern California. "Pride: A Deeper Love" took place at the Centennial Hall here, replete with an espresso and soft drinks bar, potted palms, an indoor fountain, and a miniature replica of the Eiffel Tower to recreate the ambiance of a Paris sidewalk cafe. The youth prom was sponsored by the Lambda Youth Group and drew several hundred lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths, mostly high school students, from throughout the San Francisco bay area.

Supreme Court Rains on Boston's Parade

WASHINGTON—In a setback for gay and lesbian rights activists, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, ruled that organizers of private parades are allowed under the Constitution's free speech guarantees of the First Amendment to keep any group they want from participating in a parade. The case the court ruled on started in 1992 when the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Group of Boston was refused permission to march in the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Supreme Court's June 19 ruling overturned the lower court decisions, saying that the veterans have the right to select parade contingents and to determine whether each unit's message is in agreement with the overall theme and aims of the parade. The court's decision said that gays and lesbians have a right to march in parades as individuals, but it also ruled that no one can force parade sponsors to alter their message by including the views of another group.

Gender Technicality Allows Two British Women to Wed

LONDON—The London tabloid *The People* has reported on what it called the country's first same-sex marriage, scheduled for June 28. The paper reported that the marriage between Tracie Anne Scott and Tina Louise Dixon was possible because Scott, a former merchant seaman and the father of three children, is still technically male under British regulations, even though he has had a sex-change operation.

New Executive Director at Victory Fund Announced

WASHINGTON—David Clarenbach, a former Wisconsin state representative who held a seat in the state legislature for nine terms, has been named to replace William Waybourn as executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. In a press statement, Clarenbach said, "One of my goals is to bring an outside-the-Beltway wake-up call to the nation's capital. The rest of the country is way ahead of Washington in recognizing the contributions of gay and lesbian

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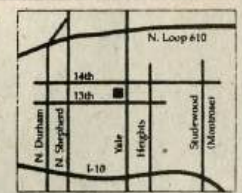
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Out In Our World

Continued from previous page

citizens." In a related matter, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced that Waybourn had joined the media watchdog group as its new managing director.

Achtenberg Launches Mayoral Bid

SAN FRANCISCO—Roberta Achtenberg, who left a post as undersecretary for civil rights in the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Clinton Administration earlier this year, officially launched her campaign to become the first openly gay mayor of San Francisco. Achtenberg, a lesbian rights attorney and former county supervisor, faces an uphill battle in a crowded field that includes incumbent Mayor Frank Jordan and former California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, perhaps the state's most influential Democrat. "She will be the first lesbian big-city mayor in the country," said Christine Kehoe, a San Diego city councilwoman who helped kick off the campaign drive here. "And that's why we're here this morning. Roberta shows what we can achieve when we participate fully in the life of our community."

Aussie Leader Stuns Continent With Pro-Gay Recommendations

SYDNEY—Governor-General Sir Bill Hayden, Queen Elizabeth's appointed Crown Officer in Australia, drew wildly mixed reactions for a recent speech in which he endorsed the idea of same-sex marriages, adoptions by gay and lesbian couples, and legally allowing euthanasia for terminally ill patients who want it. Some church leaders and politicians in the country denounced Hayden's suggestions, which are considered the most progressive made by any major government official anywhere in the world to date. A government spokesperson said Hayden's speech reflected his own views, and not those of either the Australian government or Queen Elizabeth. Hayden's recommendation that gay men be routinely tested for HIV, however, drew harsh criticism from AIDS groups in the country as unnecessary for proper health-care safety.

Town Nixes "Gay Pride Month"

ALAMEDA, CA—A normally "routine" proclamation designating June as Gay Pride Month has been rejected in this community on the east side of the San Francisco Bay after anti-gay conservatives turned out in the hundreds to pack a city council meeting. The resolution, usually an uncontroversial matter, failed even to receive a second at the council meeting. The council hearing on the proposed proclamation lasted nearly four hours. Religious conservatives claimed the rejected proclamation was victory for "traditional family values."

Canadian Province May Permit Couples to Adopt Jointly

VICTORIA, BC—Canadian news sources report that the provincial government in British Columbia has introduced legislation that would permit same-sex couples to adopt children, with no more restrictions than heterosexual couples. The proposed change in the province's adoption regulations would let both partners legally adopt a child, giving them joint parental rights and responsibilities. Quebec and Saskatchewan provinces both permit gay and lesbian couples to adopt children already, and an Ontario provincial court has declared that province's restrictions against same-sex couples adopting children to be unconstitutional.

Rights Measure Introduced in New Hampshire

CONCORD, NH—A measure has been introduced in the New Hampshire Legislature that would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in the state. A similar measure failed when introduced in the legislature two years ago after strong objection from church leaders. Hearings are not expected to begin on the proposed legislation until the end of this year.



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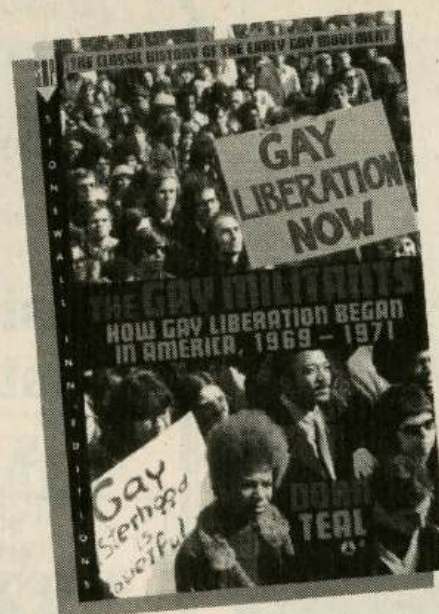
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O U T ▼ S M A R T B O O K S



The Gay Militants:
Letting History Speak for Itself
by Donn Teal

Reviewed by Lester Strong

Visit a gay bookstore, join your local Metropolitan Community Church or gay synagogue, attend a national conference for lesbian and gay writers, see gay filmmakers receive Oscars for their work, watch comic Kate Clinton on TV.... These are a few of the many activities lesbians and gay men take for granted these days that were all but unthinkable 25 years ago. They are thinkable and doable today because, several decades ago, a small group of gay militants acted to change the face of life for gay people around the world.

Those actions were documented and celebrated in *The Gay Militants*, a classic history of the early gay liberation movement by New York writer Donn Teal, published in 1971. Twenty-four years later, almost to the month, the book has been reissued by St. Martin's Press as part of its Stonewall Inn Editions, with a new introduction by historian Jonathan Ned Katz, a guide to organizational acronyms of the era, and the addition of two articles on gay culture issues by Teal that appeared in *The New York Times* in 1969.

The book covers the period June 1969 (date of the Stonewall riots in New York's Greenwich Village) to January 1971, with a backward glance at the earlier "homophile" movement of the 1950s and 1960s, whose activities set the stage for the explosion of gay activism that followed Stonewall. Some

of the events, names, and terms encountered while reading it have achieved an almost legendary status within the lesbian and gay community; others are all but forgotten. But in chapter after chapter of lively writing, *The Gay Militants* traces out the origins of the gay world we all know today.

Contacted about the book, Teal comments: "I didn't try to reach any conclusions in its pages, or make any predictions. I stayed mostly outside the book. I meant it to be purely a documentary history of what the new gay rights movement itself was saying and doing. I let the animated organizational meetings I taped, the leaflets and posters, the marches and vigils, the protests and arrests, speak for themselves and tell the story."

And the documents in Teal's book speak volumes: from media accounts of the Stonewall riots to the start-up of groups like the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) and Radicalesbians; from sit-ins and "zaps" across the country aimed at educating politicians and the general public about gay oppression to the founding of the Metropolitan Community Churches by the Reverend Troy Perry; from Kate Millet's coming out as bisexual to the first gay pride marches in cities around the nation. The book even describes the short-lived "gay nationalist" plan to take over Alpine County, California, in 1970.

Ironically, for all the activism Teal's book celebrates, *The Gay Militants* had its origins in feelings of helplessness. "In the winter of 1969, I came down with the flu," Teal recounts. "For several days I lay helpless in bed, floating in and out of sleep. It was one of those times when ideas pop into your head—ideas you want to communicate to the world. I kept seeing homosexuals as helpless too, and wanted to shout out their complaints against the Establishment." Teal made notes, then after he was well again, he researched his ideas and typed them up into an article published by *The New York Times* on February 23, 1969, under the title "Why Can't 'We' Live Happily Ever After, Too?" A few months later the *Times* asked him to review the A&M Records LP album of Matt Crowley's *The Boys in the Band*, and that piece appeared on June 1, 1969, under the title "Why Record Homosexual Anguish?"

Both articles examined the then-deplorable images of lesbians and gay men universal in the media and the unhappy

endings obligatory in literary or dramatic portrayals of gay lives. Both articles were widely read. Later that year, after Stonewall, Teal, an editor, was asked by a publishing acquaintance to join a gay group just then starting up, and so became one of the founding members of New York's GAA.

Nearly a year of activism followed. "It was exhilarating," Teal notes. "I felt more alive; I saw others come more alive. We became more self-aware and proud of who we were." During the summer of 1970, he was approached by an editor at Stein & Day publishers about writing a history of the post-Stonewall gay movement. And so was born *The Gay Militants*.



A FEW TRICKS ALONG THE WAY
Daily Reflections for Gay Men, Queer Boys, Magnificent Queens & the People Who Love Them
by Gary J. Stern

Reviewed by Jeffrey C. Phillips

OK, I admit it: I saw the title of this book and had homophobic judgmental thoughts—"Some queen has written a book with witty flamboyant sayings that will be useless to me." I was wrong about this book; it is quite wonderful and takes aim at homophobia, both internal and external. A daily dose of feel good about being gay into today's world—what a refreshing outlook!

Written for gay men at all stages of the coming out process, the book handles being gay in an honest, upfront, poignant, and funny manner, giving voice to unspoken feelings seldom openly discussed. It is organized by calendar day with each day

The original edition, long out of print, has had a curious underground history: For two-and-a-half decades, gay activists have researched it as a how-to manual in planning gay rights and other political campaigns around the country. Members of ACT UP even used it in the 1980s as a resource in planning their disruptions.

Meanwhile, after 1971, Teal turned to other writing pursuits: articles for the gay press, a non-gay travel piece on Morocco, much writing for classical music magazines. In 1978 the *Village Voice* published his story, "Straight Father, Gay Son," later anthologized in the 1992 Harper Collins book, *Sons on Fathers*. And he recently finished a screenplay about a young man

having a quote and a small discussion about a particular topic. Topics range from parents, authenticity, gay heroes, sex, showing love, and speaking up, among many others. The topics are cross-referenced in the back so you can go directly to topics of interest, or you can just open the book to any page and get some gem to help you.

One of my favorite days is April 28. On the topic of gratitude, Charles Pounders is quoted as saying: *If we let it, gratitude will leaven the whole of our life and, like a magnet, attract infinite blessings. It's a blessing.*

Being gay may seem a mixed blessing. There is, after all, a fair amount to put up with, and, as human beings, we are endowed above all God's creatures with a singular capacity to complain. So getting to the point of the saying—no strings attached—"I am grateful to be gay" may be tough.

Here are some gratitude list-starters:

1. There are no sex role stereotypes to overcome in relationships.
2. Gay bars have the best dance music.
3. There's nothing like being kissed by a man.
4. There's nothing like kissing a man—everywhere we want to.
5. We can share clothes and after shave.
6. We hear lots of fascinating coming out stories.
7. Liberation isn't just a concept in history books.
8. We know what it is like to be brave.
9. We get to wear all kinds of things made out of leather.
10. Being queer is really fun because the rules are up to us.

It's amazing what happens to us and

who comes to terms with his homosexuality in pre-Stonewall's 1960s' Paris.

Perhaps one day we'll see Teal's Paris story on the big screen. But in any case, it is good to have *The Gay Militants* available again. The book is excellent history, it makes for exciting reading, and the generation of militants it describes remain as sterling examples of how to achieve vast results from modest beginnings.

Available in bookstores: Donn Teal's *The Gay Militants: How Gay Liberation Began in America, 1969-1971* (St. Martin's Press, 1995); paperback; length: 345 pp.; price: \$13.95.

around us when we truly come from a place of gratitude. Mixed blessings show up every day.

As a gay man in recovery, I often thirst for guideposts that will help me in my journey. This book is packed full of positive inspiration, and I will keep it so that when I am prone to homophobic and judgmental thoughts, I will have some good help. I recommend you do the same.

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The Queer World

Victor/Victoria

Julie Andrews in drag, in the 1982 film *Victor/Victoria*, is one of the quintessential gay images of the 1980s. Now, 13 years later, she's back in a stage version of the story which had its world premiere in Minneapolis on June 18 on its way to a Broadway opening in October. What's old is suddenly new again—and decidedly more queer. The musical is much more gay positive than the film.

In the familiar story, Andrews plays Victoria Grant, an unemployed operasinger in 1935 Paris. Under the tutelage of a gay cabaret performer, Toddy (Tony Roberts), she begins pretending to be a man in order to create a sensation as a female impersonator. She falls in love with a Chicago gang-

ster, King Marchan (Michael Nouri), who is in Paris with his moll, Norma (Rachel York), and bodyguard, Squash (Gregory Jbara).

Minneapolis was chosen as the site for the world premiere because, as producer Tony Adams explains, "It was imperative that we have a sophisticated theater audience used to seeing major productions. We need sophisticated feedback." The Twin Cities has more theaters, per capita, than any city in the country.

The decision was also based on Minneapolis' geographic distance from New

York. It offered the opportunity for developing the show away from the glare of the New York critics.

The show is still very much a work-in-progress. In its four-week Minneapolis run, they never performed the same show twice. Changes in dialogue, staging, and musical numbers were installed daily as the cast worked from noon to midnight. Over the run, the show was cut by more than half an hour.

Aficionados of the film will recognize much of the play's dialogue, but there is also a much more frank discussion of homosexuality. This becomes clear right from the start as Toddy cruises his way through his opening number.

by William Randall Beard

More significant is the relationship of Victor and King. In the film, King hides in Victor's bathroom and spies on him/her. When he kisses her, he already knows that she's a woman. In the play, he's unable to make that discovery, and in his big song, *King's Dilemma*, he struggles with the possibility of loving a man, musing on taking his "boyfriend" back to Chicago. When he ultimately kisses Victor, he chooses on the basis of love rather than gender.

The relationship between Toddy and Squash was only hinted at in 1982. They now have several scenes, including a celebration of Squash's coming out. At one point, Toddy blows him a kiss which Squash reaches out to catch in a gesture that is a sweet and tender affirmation of their love. It's sad that they have no song together—that was an early casualty of the overlong second act.

Even Victor's ballad, *Crazy World*, takes on an added resonance in the stage version. In the film, it's simply a song that Victor sings on stage at the nightclub. In the play, it's her reaction to catching sight of herself in a mirror, for the first time in a tuxedo. The song becomes a more immediate, and poignant, reflection on her gender escapades.

Adams pointed out that much of this gay content would have been impossible in 1982. "But thank God we're all comfortable making those decisions today!" he exclaimed.

The show has been incredibly popular in Minnesota, earning more than \$3 million in ticket sales during its brief run. It clearly appeals to a broad section of the theater-going public, not only gay men, but also lesbians and older audiences who come to see Andrews.

Julie Andrews has been a lesbian icon for decades. "So many women realized that they were dykes after *The Sound of Music*," one audience member explained. Women came to *Victor/Victoria*, sometimes in groups of 20, to indulge their crushes.

And they were not disappointed. In another scene not in the film, Norma asks King to dance, but he declines, encouraging Victor to oblige. What follows is a tango between Andrews and York that is sensuously erotic. It is also screamingly funny, as Victor continually forgets that he/she's supposed to lead.



Left to right: Julie Andrews (*Victor/Victoria*), Tony Adams (producer), and Blake Edwards (producer-writer-director) on the set of the film, *Victor/Victoria*, in 1982. All reprise their roles in the upcoming "more queer" stage version. Opposite page: Julie Andrews as a woman playing a man impersonating a woman in the 1982 film.

Victor/Victorious

This show is going to be a hit. Let's get that out of the way right now. It has a number of problems yet to be worked out, but it is full of all the old-fashioned razzle-dazzle that audiences crave. There are sets that get applause, stars whose entrances inspire ovations, eye-popping chorus boys, and glittering production numbers.

It all cost \$8.5 million, and you can see it on the stage. Particularly spectacular is the set of two adjoining hotel suites—broad doors opening onto sitting rooms with brass staircases



Tony Roberts (left), pictured here in Woody Allen's 1987 comedy, *Radio Days*, is taking over Robert Preston's role as Toddy, a gay cabaret performer, while Michael Nouri, seen here in 1983's *Flashdance*, replaces James Garner as King Marchan, the Chicago gangster who falls for Victor/Victoria.

Roberts photo by Brian Hamill

spiraling up to bedrooms above, all done in lush Art Deco.

Blake Edwards, making his Broadway debut at 72, is famous for directing such films as *The Pink Panther* and *10*. He displays the same brilliance with physical comedy and sparkling word play here.

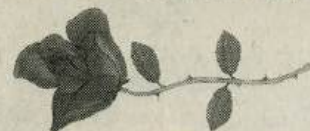
Unfortunately, right now, the music is the weak link. The new "show" numbers have plenty of pizzazz, but the ballads, the emotional center of the score, lack warmth and heart. Composer Henry Mancini died two weeks after completing the score, but he left a wealth of unused material. There will undoubtedly be new songs before Broadway.

Andrews, at 59, has to make no concession to age. She looks fabulous, but what's really remarkable is the way she sings and the way she moves. She can still belt out a song and hoof with the best of them. She is clearly a class act.

But *Victor/Victoria* is more than a star vehicle. Andrews can command the spotlight, but is more than willing to allow each character their turn. Rachel York, as Norma, uses hers to almost walk off with the show. Her seduction number, *Paris Makes Me... (Horny)*, is a great burlesque of comic sexuality. And she energizes the proceedings whenever she's on stage, especially in her production number, *Chicago, Illinois*.

Initially, it was hard to get Robert Preston out of my mind, but Tony Roberts eventually won me over as Toddy. And as his performance ripened over the run, he seemed to be having an

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Queer World

Continued from previous page

With her grueling schedule, Andrews has not been available to the public, but her reputation for sweetness has been well-earned. At an early performance, the malfunctioning of a hydraulic lift caused a 15-minute delay in a scene change. She came out in front of the show curtain and entertained the audience during the interim. That kind of largesse proved typical.

The irony that this quintessentially gay musical was created by a bunch of straight men is not lost on producer Adams. He claimed that those involved felt a greater responsibility, being straight, to be authentic to the gay experience. And they've created a show that maintains a nice balance, allowing gay people to feel honored by it, while inviting in heterosexual people as well.

Typical of the men in the production is Jbara, who will also be appearing in the new film, *Jeffrey*, as a preoperative transsexual. Though straight, he has dealt with these issues in his family. He has two siblings, a brother and a sister, who are both gay. "It's not really my mission," he said, "but I feel no compunction about doing these roles because of the way I grew up."

This production of *Victor/Victoria* is modeling a world where gay and straight artists alike can comfortably create work without regard to orientation. That would be a queer world indeed! ▼

Victor/Victorious

Continued from previous page

increasingly gay old time.

Michael Nouri is a little heavy as King. He doesn't have the twinkle that James Garner brought to the part. But he has a great voice that is unfortunately underused at this point.

And I must mention Gregory Jbara as Squash. His part seems to be growing with each revision. Early on, he is primarily in the background, but his quiet presence builds throughout the show into one of the most endearing characters.

The musical will, happily, reawaken interest in the film. And whether this *Victor/Victoria* is experienced in New York or just on CD, it's destined to become one of the gay icons of the 1990s.—WRB ▼

Understanding Grief Helping Yourself & Others Heal Two Free Seminars - Wednesday, August 16

Sometime during our lives, we will all experience a personal loss...we lose jobs...our loved ones die...we go through painful divorces. The sad fact, however is that many bereaved persons fail to find a positive resolution to their grief.

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Dr. Wolfelt is a noted author, teacher and practicing clinical thanatologist who is known internationally for his outstanding educational contributions to both adult and childhood grief. He is a recipient of the Association of Death Education and Counseling's 1994 Death Educator Award and serves as director of The Center for Loss and Life Transition in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Two free seminars will be held at the Ramada Hotel Astrodome/Medical Center in Houston. The first, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. will be for professional caregivers who wish to continue to enhance their skills in bereavement care.



Among those specifically encouraged to attend are hospice personnel, social workers, counselors, clergy, psychologists, nurses, mental health professionals, lay ministers in church settings and physicians.

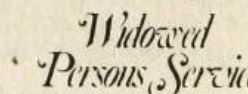
The second seminar, scheduled from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.,

is entitled *Understanding The Twelve Freedoms of Healing in Grief*. This community seminar, open to the public, is designed for bereaved persons and their families.

If you are a caregiver in your community, or someone trying to cope with a personal loss in your life, come join us for this day of healing.

For additional information, please contact Madeleine Crespo at 713-485-2711.

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The New Queer Cinema

by Lis Mendes



Top right: Loretta (Nancy Allison Wolfe, left) hopes she's found Ms. Right when she meets Rachael (Liza D'Agostino) in the romantic comedy, *Bar Girls*.

Above: Jeff (Russell Crowe, left) and his dad Harry (Jack Thompson) are both searching for true love in *The Sum of Us*.



Yael Swerdlow

Check any movie listing and there they are—*Jeffrey*, *The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love*, *The Sum of Us*, *Wigstock*, *Bar Girls*. Gay and lesbian films being shown on big screens. Not just tiny, obscure films being shown during Gay Pride Week, these releases have big budgets and huge advertising campaigns, and aim to draw crossover audiences.

While most gay and lesbian fans are thrilled at the growth of what's being called The New Queer Cinema, some insiders are warning of a coming backlash.

Locally, gay audiences long ago found friends at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Rice Media Center, and Landmark theaters, where gay films are regularly shown.

Mindy Posey, city manager of Landmark theaters (the Greenway 3, the River Oaks, and the now-defunct Saks Landmark) says gay films have "always been a part of what we do. Landmark for a long time has been open to showing gay films, and there has been an increase lately. Recently, at the Greenway, I think all three screens were gay films."

Posey doubts that the current popularity of gay films is just a passing fad. "It's certainly not from our standpoint. It's that there's more available for us to book. While our company has a commitment [to gay cinema], it's also that there's more [gay film] out there, and it's doing more business. Our audience has always included the gay community, and we play what our audience will come see."

The Museum of Fine Arts has been showing gay and lesbian films for more than a decade. Marion Luntz, curator of

film and video at the Museum, says, "Our commitment to gay and lesbian film pre-dates the current trendy interest in it."

"The Museum has always strived to showcase the best film and video and to show films that would not be seen on the big screen," she continues. "The gay and lesbian community has come to know that Rice Media Center and the Museum show gay films; they look for our schedules and come out to support those films."

But both Rice Media Center and the Museum have missions which stress community education inclusive of various minority groups. And Landmark has built its reputation on showing offbeat, alternative movies. The latest Hollywood releases are courting crossover audiences, and the dollar-driven film industry isn't usually interested in community education.

Desi del Valle, director of distribution for Frameline, a non-profit San Francisco-based media arts organization, says gay and lesbian films are just a fleeting trend for Hollywood. "They're grabbing on to what's the latest fad, and they don't really care about powerful stories. They're like, 'We got the audience's attention—let's go, let's make some dollars.' But it's like fashion—people wear it, and you see it a lot. Then it goes out of style, and something else comes along."

"They're just using gay film as the new money-making vehicle," she says. "And, yes, we are just the new hot item." She calls those who say gay films will enjoy their current popularity for much longer "uninformed."

Hollywood, according to del Valle, is

motivated by money and makes its decisions accordingly.

Luntz agrees, "The studios are going to make films that they think will make money. They have decided that there is money to be made by doing gay-themed projects."

Posey adds, "There's a market. These films are performing well, and when you come down to it, if they make money, they're gonna make those kind of films."

"I'm a little concerned with this mainstream acceptance," says del Valle. "It's really great that it reaches people in isolated communities and educates people who would otherwise not be exposed to this stuff. But again, I think the bottom line is money. I'm concerned about my images as a gay person being controlled by someone of that mentality."

Luntz and del Valle both point to independent films as the origins and future of New Queer Cinema. del Valle says, "There's a general consensus among [Frameline] staff that certain trends taking place now will not exist in the next five years. And we want to be around to fill the

void, long after Hollywood has decided this is not moneymaking or interesting anymore."

"People see these films in the malls," she says, "and they're happy, and they think they have nothing to worry about. But that rug can be pulled out from under you at any time, and we have no control over it. It's really nice to see these films out there in the mainstream, but there's this whole underground, independent activity going on that not many people are aware of, that is in jeopardy. And the reason that this is important—just as important as this mainstream activity—is that this underground, alternative movement made it possible for the current mainstream acceptance."

"*Jeffrey*, *The Incredibly True Adventure*, even *Long Time Companion*—all those films would not be possible without the hundreds of Super 8 films that people are making in the obscurity of their garage."

Luntz says the current political climate in Washington may affect the future growth of the New Queer Cinema genre. "It's a very dark future for independent

filmmakers right now. And for studios, too, it's an interesting time because of the increasing power of the Right. Washington cannot censure Hollywood, and Hollywood has generally been to the left of center. It will be interesting to see if the New Queer Cinema can continue and get stronger and if studios will be willing to take on gay characters that are not homicidal maniacs or psycho killers."

"What's happening in alternative cinema right now," del Valle says, "is that everybody's fighting for a piece of the pie, and the pie's getting smaller and smaller."

But del Valle sees more than just a dim future; she sees an active movement of backlash aimed at gay and lesbian filmmakers, of both large and small projects. "There is a backlash! Absolutely! We've been attacked by people who want to abolish the NEW, by Pat Buchanan, Jesse Helms, and you name it," she says. "There's definitely a backlash. I think people—because they see these mainstream films out there—get fooled into thinking that everything is OK."

So, filmmakers and fans alike wait to

Desi del Valle is director of distribution at Frameline, a non-profit, San Francisco-based media arts organization.



Kristine L. Rodriguez

Mindy Posey is city manager of Houston's Landmark theaters (the Greenway 3 and the River Oaks).



Lis Mendes

Marion Luntz is curator of film and video at Museum of Fine Arts, where gay and lesbian films have been shown for over a decade.



Lis Mendes

Upcoming gay and lesbian films coming to a theater near you!

GAY

Jeffrey—Paul Rudnick's popular comedy stars Steven Weber, Patrick Stewart, and Sigourney Weaver. (Opens August 18 at Greenway Theatre.)

An Awfully Big Adventure—Hugh Grant plays a mean, manipulative queen who is the director of a theatrical company.

Frisk—this screen adaptation of Dennis Cooper's violent and sexual novel is directed by Todd Verow and produced by Marcus Hu.

Postcards from America—this film is based on the life and work of artist/poet/activist David Wojnarowicz.

Falsettos—William Finn's Tony Award-winning musical is being produced by Disney Studios.

Angels in America—Robert Altman plans to make a film adaptation of Tony Kushner's Tony Award-winning play.

Ray Cohn/Jack Smith—directed by Jill Godmillow, this film's text was written by Gary Indiana and Jack Smith.

LESBIAN

Murder at the Nightwood Bar—this screen adaptation of lesbian mystery writer Katherine V. Forrest's novel will star Mary-Louise Parker as L.A. police detective Kate Delafield.

QUEER

Love and Human Remains—this dark comedy about people searching for love and family in the '90s features a lesbian schoolteacher. (Opens July 21 at Greenway Theatre.)

The Celluloid Closet—this documentary based on Vito Russo's groundbreaking book on homosexuality in the movies is being made by Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman, and Arnold Glassman.

DRAG

To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar—directed by Beeban Kidron, this comedy stars Patrick

Swayze, Wesley Snipes, and John Leguizamo as drag queens on the road, a la *The Adventures of Priscilla*.

La Cage aux Folles—the American remake of the popular French film will star Robin Williams and Nathan Lane.

Somebody to Love—featuring a sweet, energetic, red-headed, well-adjusted transvestite, this movie stars Harvey Keitel and Rosie Perez.

HIV/AIDS

Safe—this drama about a mysterious infectious disease was directed by Todd Haynes and stars Julianne Moore. (Opens August 11 at Greenway Theatre.)

Intimate Relations—directed by *Batman Forever*'s Joel Schumacher.

Marvin's Room—Robert DeNiro is producing this film version of Scott McPherson's off-Broadway play.

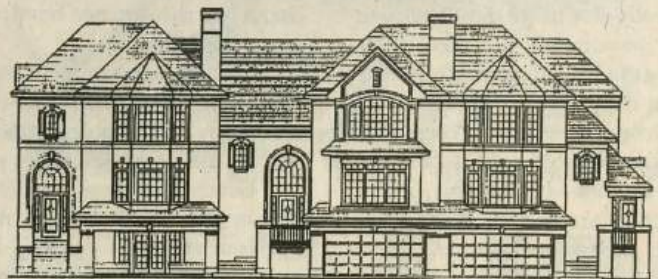
The Normal Heart—Barbra Streisand will produce and star in the film version of Larry Kramer's stage play.

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Queer Cinema

Continued from previous page

see if the other show will fall on The New Queer Cinema and end the current popularity of mainstream films with gay and lesbian themes.

"Just wait," del Valle says. "Time will tell."

• For more information about Frameline's Lesbian & Gay Cinema Collection, the first gay and lesbian home video line, call 1-800-439-1433.

• For information about the 20th Annual San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, presented by Frameline in June, 1996, call 415-703-8650. Over 250 lesbian and gay films and videos will be shown.

• For a Museum of Fine Arts film schedule or to inquire about volunteer opportunities in the film and video division, call 639-7300.

• For a Rice Media Center film schedule, call 527-4853.

• For a current listing of films being shown at the Greenway 3 and the River Oaks, call 626-0402.

Lis Mendes is a member of Writers Group/Houston and frequently writes about entertainment and media. Her work often appears in The Texas Triangle and The Dallas Voice.

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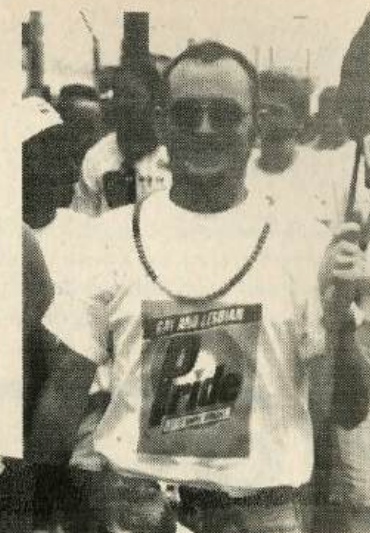


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DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH BY REV. JANET PARKER



One of the basic needs of humanity is the need for acceptance. Acceptance is defined by Webster's Dictionary as approval or belief in. We all want to receive approval and have someone believe in us. It is important for us to receive this from those in our family, our peers, our co-workers, and our significant other. Unfortunately we live in a society where we will be disappointed on many occasions. We may find ourselves feeling rejected, ridiculed, mocked, judged and criticized. Where do we go to gain a platform or foundation of acceptance from which to live and love in this world?

In Genesis 6 we read about a person named Noah who found himself in a world of extreme wickedness. I'm sure that it was not much different from today's world. What set Noah apart from the rest of the people was that he looked beyond the world for approval. He was a worshiper of Yahweh, God Almighty. God saw Noah's heart and that he was genuine in his faith. Verse 8 holds the key for us: "But Noah found favor in the eyes of Yahweh." God approved of Noah's heart. Noah was not sinless, nor was he perfect. He was genuine and honest before God. What a wonderful blessing for Noah to find favor and acceptance from God without having to be perfect to get it. God used Noah's sincerity to save the world by building an ark.

I believe God demonstrated to us in this story that we are loved and accepted by God in our weaknesses and imperfections. God is always someone I can turn to for acceptance and love no matter how badly I feel, or how inappropriately I have behaved. God knows my heart better than anyone. God knows when I am sincerely wrong and sorry for it. What a gift to have a relationship with someone who loves me this way. God can give me this platform or foundation of acceptance so that I can love others and receive love without fear of rejection or criticism. As long as I know that YOU, God, will never leave or forsake me, I can handle what the world throws my way! I may not build an ark in my lifetime, but maybe God will use me to help another person be set free!

Maria Maggenti

The • Incredibly True • Adventure of • One • Girl in • Love With • Her • Work

● by Nancy Ford
Photographs by Alyson Levy/Fine Line

I got fucking fired in six months. For insubordination. I'm constantly getting fired for that. Thank God I figured out some way not to have a real boss. I got involved in doing documentaries, very guerrilla-oriented documentaries, like "How to Shut Down the Mayor's Office in Your Town if He's a Homophobe" kind of stuff. I never got paid, always had shitty jobs, but was very committed. Then I got very involved politically in ACT UP in 1987, right when it started. It was like a second college career, in a way. We were very young and very angry and very excited and very smart and very underemployed.

I was very active until 1990 when two things happened that changed my life. The first is I fell in love with a woman who was not politically active (in that way). The second thing was that I lost a lot of friends very quickly. Within five weeks I lost an extraordinary amount of friends to AIDS. And I said to myself, "What am I doing with my life? What am I going to do with all of this stuff that I have lived through?"

Maria Maggenti, that enthusiastic, hot new independent lesbian filmmaker talks very fast. Maybe that's because she has a lot to say. With her recently released *The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love* exposing the absolute adorability of two girls (gasp!) being in love while it simultaneously ignites family values throughout mid-American movie theater malls, Maggenti is one of the most positive, in-

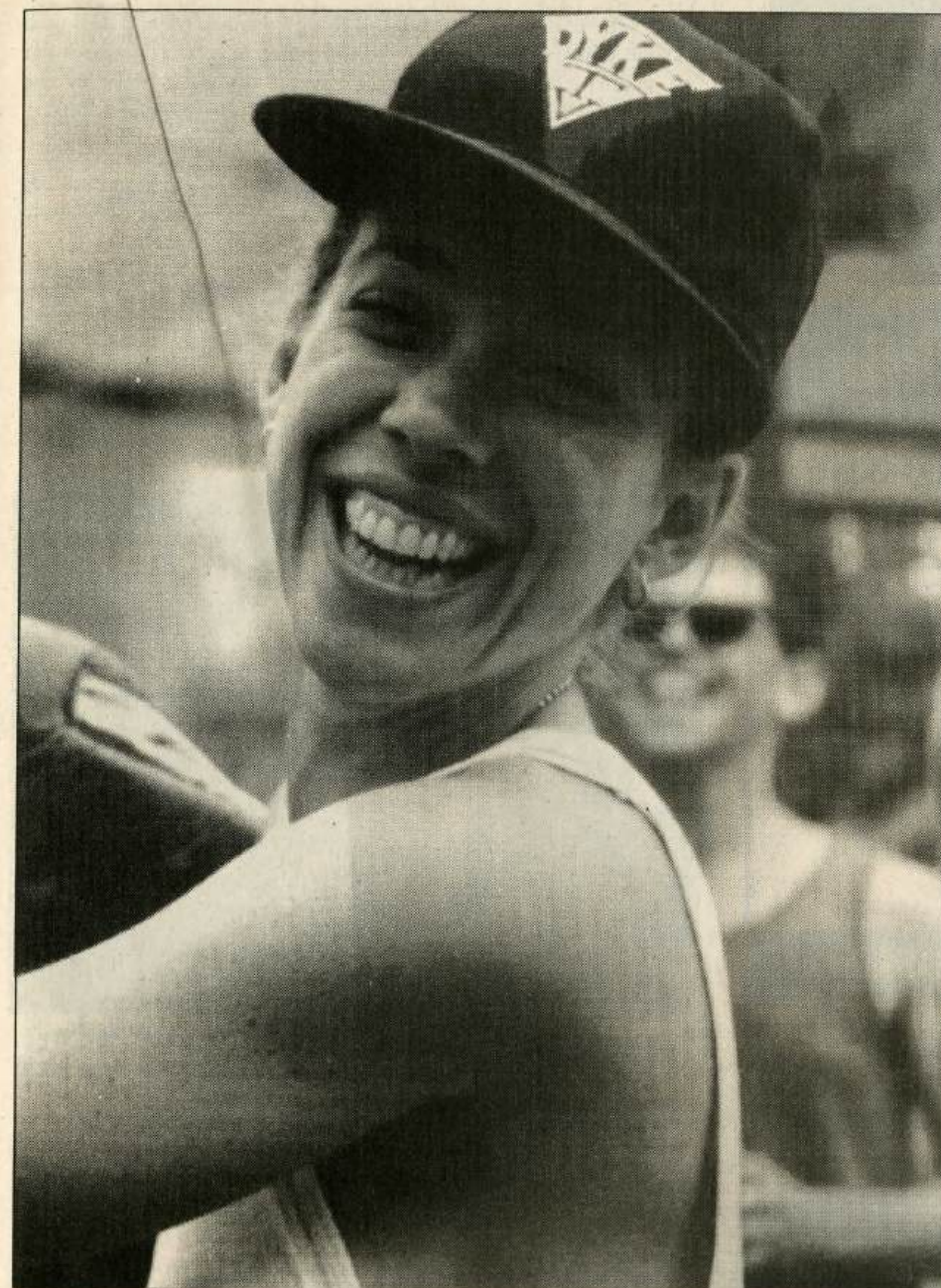
your-face, hey-ain't-this-fun interviews this lesbo journalist has ever experienced.

She was just so... *familiar*. Conversing with Maria was like having a coffee conversation with a buddy, talking about chicks and first loves and all your friends dying unexpectedly and how that affects your life and, well, you'll see. Read on—

MARIA MAGGENTI: I applied to film school not because I love the movies, but because I hated them. I applied and de-

cided I wanted to learn about movies because I hated the way the movies were done. I hated that they were all white people, I hated that everyone was straight, I hated that women were stupid in the movies.

NANCY FORD: The whole attitude of *The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love* is especially joyful for me because I just celebrated the eighteenth anniversary of the first time "I Kissed a Girl." Oh my God, that's fantastic! That is great!



Director Maria Maggenti on the set of *The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love*.

Yes, girl. And your film brought me right back to that feeling—
—that's powerful!

Tell me! Powerful enough for you to close the film with a personal dedication to your first lover. There's just no other feeling like that "first time" feeling. And you did such a good job of capturing that.
Oh, I'm so glad. Thank you. At the final shot I leave them at the threshold of adulthood, of their relationship, of themselves

as women, of their new relationship now to family. Then we cut and go right to that dedication. I guess you could say that is the only time I break that fourth wall, and I say to the audience "This is true."

—even though it says that it's a true story right in the title.
Exactly. Yes, my [first] lover and I are still friends. This is now, what, 14 years later, I guess? She saw it at the NY premiere and promptly got very drunk.

One of the most impactful aspects in the film is when your 2 Girls wonder if they'll still know each other when they're 30.

I am so glad you noticed that. Those lines were very powerful to me, because at the age of 17, nothing could be farther away than 30. *Nothing* could be farther away. Now, being over 30, it's the greatest thing that ever happened to me. It's like "Yes! Finally, life is making sense!" I wanted to try and get to a place where I was saying that I knew something being farther away and now looking back on it, as opposed to "I'm 17 and I'm right in the middle of it." I also know throughout that I was creating a picture of being young, of never having gotten over what it felt like to say "I love you" for the first time and believe it was the last time I would ever say it.

It's something magic!

Yeah, and because you're such a believer when you're that age.

"No one has ever felt this way before...."

Exactly. It's a very bittersweet thing. Of course, they want to know each other when they're 30. They're afraid, because it's so far away, of what could happen in life. They have all these extraordinary obstacles of race and class and opportunities that could make that very impossible, and yet they want to say yes to each other. "Yes, I hope we know each other."

And this film is your testament that they will, then.
Exactly.

Well, I just talked to my first love yesterday, in fact. We still have weekly contact. But very different lives. I'm a lesbian comedy writer and she's a wife and mother of a beautiful daughter in the suburbs.

Amazing. That's a beautiful thing, man. I want to fold that kind of stuff into the next script. In the next script, everyone's over thirty. It's a very urban, only-in-Manhattan kind of story. It's an urban sex comedy, kind of in the tradition of *Annie Hall*. I'm trying to deal with a couple of issues: first is the whole issue around what is sexual identity? How do you know, absolutely, positively always know who you are in terms of

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Maria Maggenti

Continued from previous page

your sexual identity? The second thing I want to try and deal with is how do you know when you're a grownup, if you're living outside of mainstream culture? If you haven't gotten a piece of the Capitalist Pie, for instance, how do you assess being an adult?

Have you started production on this yet?

No, no! I'm taking the month of July off to finish writing.

How do you get ready to write?

Usually everything starts with an image. For instance, the [2 Girls] script started with an image of a young butch girl on a skateboard in the middle of the street. She was a big, fat, baby dyke—

—I love her already—

—and she was totally lovable. I knew that in her pockets she had folded-up love notes. And that 's all I knew when I started



Laurel Holloman, though straight, worked for free because, among other reasons, she knew she was going to get a credit on a feature film.

TITAO2GIL, was who the hell was that girl and what the hell were those love notes doing in her pockets?

Very visual.

That's where the story came from. And as I began to build outward from there, this girl—Randall Dean was her name—I realized, "Of course!" that I was writing about my first girlfriend. But I didn't say to myself, "I'm going to write this thing about my first girlfriend." That's not how it started. It started with the image of that girl.

She came to you.

She came to me. Exactly.

It was a story that needed to be told.
Exactly, exactly.

That's the most serendipitous way to approach it. Tell me about the production process. Did you anticipate that your two girls would actually be two Straight girls?

I really was afraid of casting two straight girls in these parts because I didn't want them to start to get freaked out about the material. I didn't want them to dis their characters later. I didn't want them running around with a big badge of heterosexuality, because they were obviously going to be confronted [about portraying lesbians]. And so I had these long talks with them before I cast them. I had this whole speech prepared about responsibility, political responsibility, about what it means to do a lesbian film, about what it means to kiss another girl and have sex with another girl and not dis your characters and not dis gay people and be able to deal with lesbians.

Very attentive.

Oh yeah, totally. Extremely involved. I went through this whole process. So they finally said to me "Look, yes, I can deal with all that. The question is, "Do I have the part?" and I said, "Oh yeah, you have the part. But I just need to know if you can handle these things." Then we burst into tears because we knew that this was going to be a very powerful experience. And it was.



Nicole Parker, who also worked for free and who is also straight, wanted the part of Evie Roy because she believed in the script.

I hate to beat the word to death, but it sounds like the whole thing just folded together so serendipitously.

It really did. It was a love shoot. It was a real love project and everyone who worked on this worked for free. And they did it because they believed in the project. They did it because they were going to get a credit on a feature film that they might not be able to get otherwise, as women in the industry. They did it as dykes because they believed in the script.

That counts. I had a similar conversation last summer at this time with Rose Troche and Guin Turner [of Go Fish fame]. That's pretty much the standard formula, isn't it—Lesbian Films equal Labors of Love?

Independent films are a labor of love. Corporate filmmaking had nothing to do with any of that. Hollywood has nothing to do with any of that. But independent films are about a director's vision. They're about believing in something beyond faith. By their very nature, they attract people who want to commit to something bigger than themselves but they know they're a part of. Of course,

for all of us, as lesbians, that's especially true, because we know what we're up against.

We have a lot to say.

Nancy, I really hope that the troops show up at the damn theater for us. Because the only way that we will have the full range of our voices in this community through the medium of film is to have films like this do well at the box office. It's the only thing that the powers-that-be understand, the bottom line.

The Incredibly True Adventure of 2 Girls in Love plays at River Oaks Theatre, 2009 W. Gray at Shepherd, 524-2175. If possible, see it with your first love. Or your next one. ▼

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

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GRACE

YOUR X SELF

by Eric Roland

Grace Jones may be categorized by many as the unusual disco queen of the 1970s, which is not to say she isn't unusual—her striking and mysterious beauty is uncomparable. But this sultry black singer-actress is more than just different. The woman once dubbed the "Dietrich of the new decade," is more so a hard-working, accomplished career woman who has continued her dedication to the gay community, as well as AIDS fundraising, throughout her 20 years in show business.

In a 1985 interview in *The Advocate*, interviewer Richard Laermer asked her agent Bob Caviano who brought Jones to stardom. Caviano responded: "Gays, period. They were her only fans." Grace Jones has never forgotten this, and she has been repaying her debt ever since her appearances at some of the first AIDS benefits in this country. Recently, she appeared at Dance on Los Angeles, an AmFAR benefit, on June 24 and will now be appearing here in Houston at a benefit for the Human Rights Campaign Fund on August 13.

"I think that the whole entertainment industry in a certain way has been kept alive by gays because of the way they use their money," Jones told Laermer in the 1985 *Advocate* interview. "It's a very money-oriented society. And entertainment is a money business. Gays don't basically have large families to support, and a lot of people use them for their business."

Few performers can match Jones' bold visual impact and strident sexual charisma, though many have followed in her footsteps. Jones paved the way for the androgynous and gender-bending music-video imagery that served as the springboard for performers such as Boy George, Annie Lennox, Madonna, and RuPaul.

In *The Advocate* interview, Laermer asked Jones if androgyny had helped her in her career. Jones responded: "It's probably broken down a lot of barriers about female roles and male roles. I talk about it a lot as well as use it in my visuals.... I think we all have androgyny within us; we have both sides. It's just a matter of realizing that and liking both roles. They both have



Greg Gorman

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In 1986, the
ever-exotic
Grace Jones
appeared
in the
supernatural
Vamp.

Greg Gorman

problems and advantages, and both are quite different from each other."

Born in Jamaica to an influential seven-sibling family that moved to Syracuse, New York, when she was 12, Jones was partly raised in Jamaica by her grandfather whose brother was a bishop there. While in New York she studied acting, making her film-debut in 1973's *Gordon's War*, and started modeling in Manhattan. However, in the early 1970s, the New York fashion world was still too stiff for Jones, whose razored head and habit of riding to gigs on a heavy motorcycle put her far beyond the pale. Along with her twin brother, she then headed for Paris where her high cheekbones and striking, stark look landed her on the covers of *Vogue* and *Elle*.

She was on the verge of a sudden rise to stardom, and suddenly it did happen. Legend has it that one raucous night in Paris, she jumped up on a table to belt out

a French song and immediately won over the bistro crowd. She was soon signed to a management team and, on a French recording label, released a song that was shipped to America that instantly became a hit on the dance floors.

When she returned to New York, Grace Jones had the distinction of being the first singer to appear in a live show at Manhattan's infamous disco Studio 54. She quickly established a following—particularly among the gay denizens of the burgeoning discos—with cover versions of *Send in the Clowns*, *Tomorrow*, and her discofied reinvention of Parisian chanteuse Edith Piaf's *La Vie en Rose*. She was also voted *Billboard's* Most Promising New Disco Artist of 1977. Under the Island Records label, Jones' early records—*Portfolio* (1977), *Fame* (1978), and *Muse* (1979)—solidified her take on sexual ambiguity with original songs such as *Do or Die* and *I*

Need a Man.

While Grace Jones may be shy about her age (unconfirmed sources say she's 43), that's where her shyness abruptly ends. In the mid-1980s, long before Madonna's four-letter-word tour-de-force, she flustered a still brash David Letterman a number of times on his *Late Show*. Her assertiveness was also well demonstrated by her appearance on the Russell Harty chat show for British TV, where she swatted him on the head with a rolled-up paper for telling her to sit there and be quiet.

Jones' taste for outrageous grew with her work: She toured the world in the early 1980s clad in eye-popping costumes ranging from metal breastplates to a gorilla outfit—which she premiered when she first appeared in Houston at Numbers. Her aptly titled "One Man Show" brought her even higher visibility, and Jones pushed the limits, further blurring the lines of overt sexual expression while mythologizing her own mystique.

Gay fans tapped into the provocative; cryptic messages of her songs when Jones would sing she was "feeling like a woman, looking like a man," as she did in her 1985 club hit *Walking in the Rain*. And the upfront audacity of her racy, hump-and-grind single, *Pull Up to the Bumper*, titillated listeners and brought Jones cross-over success on the R&B charts.

In the 1985 *Advocate* interview, Jones aptly puts herself in a group of other female performers who have been pushed to the point of superstardom not without the help of the gay community. "I think gays have been behind many big, stylish, quality persons in show business. Always. Diana Ross, Judy Garland, Liza Minnelli, even Dietrich, Garbo." When Laermer asks her what the common denominator is among all these women, Jones replies: "Glamour! It's just that they are one step further, they like to dress up, have fun. Oh, they're mysterious, they stay young forever! Style. A certain *savoir faire*. An image."

Fusing her disco-diva roots with elements of rock, reggae, and new wave, Jones' music evolved further in the 1980s with *Living My Life* (1982) and her 1985 autobiographical album, *Slave to the Rhythm*. The title track was a monster club anthem, and young clubgoers took to the message of self-acceptance and perseverance. Jones pushed her way further into the spotlight when she broke the

ice with MTV, and the cable channel began airing her *Slave to the Rhythm* music video, which featured Jones climbing a ladder and being fitted into an enormous skirt that served as a canvas for the late gay artist Keith Haring's graffiti-like figures.

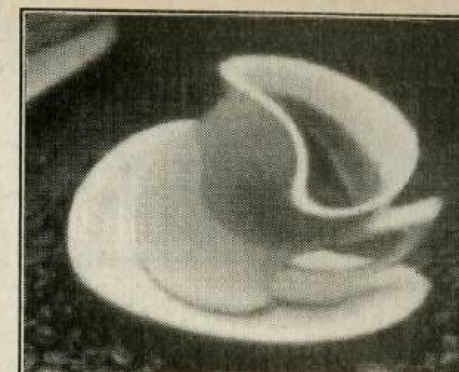
With her success in the music industry firmly rooted, Jones also branched out into film in the mid 1980s. Movie studios obviously wanted to exploit her masculine side on celluloid with Universal City Studios casting her opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger in the 1984 film *Conan the Destroyer* and MGM/United Artists casting her as May Day, the villainous bodyguard in the James Bond adventure *A View to a Kill*, also from 1984. Unfortunately, her title role as Katrina in the 1986 vampire flick, *Vamp*, did not help the film succeed at the box office. She also made an appearance in the recent Eddie Murphy film, *Boomerang*.

While she remained quiet about her personal life for most of her career, especially about her son Paulo, Jones surprised the media and her fans when she took her romance with actor Dolph Lundgren public in a 1984 *Playboy* magazine nude pictorial.

In 1986, Jones scored another club hit as well as some success on the airwaves with *I'm Not Perfect (But I'm Perfect for You)* from her album, *Inside Story*, on the Manhattan Records label. This album was followed by her 1989 album on Capitol Records titled *Bulletproof Heart*. In her most recent recordings, she returned to her old stomping ground with the steamy, techno-tinged hit *Sex Drive*.

Grace Jones certainly has had a diverse career, traversing many countries where she learned to speak several languages and managed to work in the modeling, music, and film industries. Moreover, Jones has intentionally used her androgyny—exploiting both her masculine and feminine sides—to not only further her career but to open minds along the way.

Grace Jones will perform at a fundraiser to benefit the Human Rights Campaign Fund at Rich's on August 13 at 11 pm. Candace Gingrich, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's openly lesbian sister, will be the special guest speaker. Tickets are \$20 and available at the door.

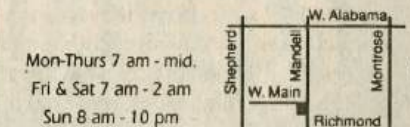


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ME AND JEZEBEL

Reviewed by Lis Mendes

Me and Jezebel, a comedy by Elizabeth Fuller, is based on Fuller's real-life encounter with the legendary Bette Davis.

During a 1985 hotel strike, Davis spent 32 days camped out in Fuller's guest room—much to Fuller's delight, her husband's discomfort, and her four-year-old son's education.

Anne Quackenbush appears as an older Bette Davis, already weakened by three strokes and devastated by her daughter's scandalous book (B.D. Hyman's *My Mother's Keeper*, in which Davis is accused of abuse and neglect).

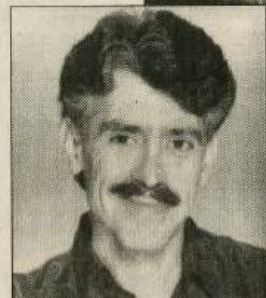
Deborah Hope is Elizabeth Fuller, a young novelist and ardent Davis fan. A mousey suburban housewife, Liz is no match for Bette Davis' overwhelming chic and elegance. At least not at first. The pair start off politely enough—house guest and host—but quickly move into more tender, even raw, emotional territory.

Jezebel follows the two as they hold court at the local MacDonald's, pick berries, and watch Davis' daughter on a religious TV talk show, praying for Davis' eternal soul. Her daughter sends Davis a copy of the book for Mother's Day, with an inscription that reads she hopes Davis will find religion. Davis retorts, "As if I don't have enough trouble already."

Davis' pronouncements on life amaze Liz, who says Davis "can squeeze more out of two words than Shakespeare can in five acts!" But pronouncements, Liz finds out, don't make up for the loss of a daughter's love, and Shakespeare never co-starred with Joan Crawford.

"Life isn't for sissies!" Davis announces. And in *Me and Jezebel*, there are no sissies.

Quackenbush is excellent as Bette Davis. The timing, style, accent, and glares are all there, intact and



Elizabeth Fuller (Deborah Hope, right) has a real-life encounter with the one-and-only Bette Davis (Anne Quackenbush) in this scene from *Me and Jezebel*, directed by Ron Jones (inset).

perfect...along with the endless cigarettes and catty Crawford jokes. The danger of playing Bette Davis is getting too, well, Bette Davis-ish, of being a characterization rather than a character. Director Ron Jones keeps Quackenbush real, even as she plays a larger-than-life figure.

Deborah Hope, last seen as the ultra-sexy Maggie in Jones' production of *The Glass Menagerie*, carries most of the action as Liz. She narrates between scenes and acts out the parts of the husband and son. Once a stand-up comic, Hope could have easily thrown away her character as a lump of one-liners, but she keeps Liz fresh and funny instead.

First a book, *Me and Jezebel* enjoyed a successful run at The Actor's Playhouse in New York. New Heights Theater and The Company We Keep, a production company headed by Lee Harrington, give *Jezebel* its Southwest premiere.

The Company Onstage presents *Me and Jezebel* at the New Heights Theater, 339 West 19th, through July 31. For reservations, call 523-9000.

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TAKE A BITE OUT OF

As much as we would like to deny that domestic violence exists in lesbian and gay relationships, we see evidence of it all around us. Fortunately, we are able to rely on several Texas laws to offer protection for our community. Beginning September 1, 1995, that protection is "new and improved" as a result of the last legislative session.

The Texas Family Code allows a court to issue a protective order in which the court

owned or leased by that party. This exclusion order will only be granted on a showing that the person requesting the order has resided in the premises during the preceding 30 days, the person to be excluded has committed family violence during the same

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

may prohibit a person from committing family violence, threatening an act of violence, or even communicating with a member of the household. Family violence is defined as an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault. (The inclusion of sexual assault came in the recent update of the law.) Household means a unit of persons living together in the same dwelling, whether or not they are related to each other, and includes persons who previously lived in a household.

A protective order can forbid a batterer from going near the home or place of employment of the victim. A copy of this order is provided to the local police agency or sheriff and is enforceable by the arrest of the party who violates the terms of the order. A court can also order a batterer to attend and complete a batterer's treatment program. Further, the court can grant exclusive possession of a residence to a party if the residence is solely or jointly

30-day period, and there is a clear and present danger that the person to be excluded is likely to commit family violence against a member of the household.

As of September 1, 1995, a protective order can also enjoin actions commonly referred to as stalking. In a protective order the court can prohibit a person from engaging in conduct directed specifically toward a person who is a member of the family or household that is reasonably likely to harass, annoy, alarm, abuse, torment, or embarrass that person. Such conduct includes following the person or conducting telephone harassment.

A Family Code protective order is available exclusively to members of a family or household, meaning persons related to each other or those persons liv-



by Connie Moore

ing together or who previously lived together in the same dwelling. Persons who are not related to or do not share a household with the perpetrator have to look to the Texas Penal Code for protection. There is improved protection for a persons being harassed or stalked by someone who does not meet the family or household requirement of the Family Code. The provisions of the Penal Code covering harassment and stalking were amended, effective immediately, to remove the requirement that complaints of the bad conduct had to be reported to a law enforcement agency on at least one other prior occasion before charges could be filed by the district attorney. Now the law enforcement agencies can immediately take action against a person for harassment or stalking without issuing a warning, minimizing the potential for adding fuel to the fire and making matters worse.

A significant addition to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure provides that, at a defendant's appearance before a magistrate after arrest for an offense involving family violence or stalking, a magistrate may issue an order for emergency protection of the victim at the request of the victim, a peace officer, or the attorney representing the state. This magistrate's order, similar to a protective order, may prohibit a person from committing family violence, threatening or communicating with the protected person, and barring the defendant from going near the home or place of employment of the victim. Although very similar to a protective order under the Family Code, the magistrate's order is not limited to household or family members.

The first violation of a protective order or a magistrate's order is a Class A misdemeanor. Repeat violations can be a felony, punishable by a fine of as much as \$10,000.00 or by confinement in prison for as long as 10 years, or both.

The application for a protective order can be filed by a private attorney, the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, or the prosecuting attorney who represents the state. In Harris County that would be the district attorney's office. Beginning September 1, 1995, there will be no filing fees or service costs charged to the applicant. All court costs, as well as attorney's fees, can be assessed against the batterer.

We have heard many complaints that the police or district attorney's office will not become involved in disputes because they are "domestic" problems. We hope and believe that those attitudes are changing. These agencies now have better tools to use to assist in the protection of victims.

If you are a victim of family violence, take steps to gain the protection you need to escape a dangerous situation. Call the police immediately upon an act of violence. The number for the HPD Family Violence Unit is 713-535-7900. Do not wait, thinking the problem will resolve itself. Delay may cause law enforcement agencies to think you have other motives for making the complaint. Your actions should convey that problem is serious and will not go away without legal intervention. ▼

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, gay, and transgender issues, the firm concentrates in family law, contract negotiations and disputes, corporation and small business formations, wills, estate planning and probate matters. For more information regarding this article, call 522-4282.

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photo by Steven David

Hate Crimes * HIV Testing * Discrimination

The **74th** Texas Legislature:

What Have We Learned?

The end of the 74th Legislature gives us a valuable opportunity to assess the political clout of gays and lesbians in Texas. From legislation on hate crimes and health care to lawmaking on discrimination and education, the gay community has made considerable strides in its legislative priorities. But it also signals the need for the gay community to continue redeveloping strategies to achieve empowerment and gain increased access to the policy-making process.

HATE Crimes Bill

The most significant legislative defeat for gay and lesbian Texans was the failure of the hate crimes bill introduced by Rep. Scott Hochberg (D-Houston) and Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston). After passage in the Senate, the House voted 70-68 to table formal consideration of the bill. The bill would have tightened the 1993 law through language that was upheld as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. The language, taken from a Wisconsin law, lists groups mostly targeted by hate crimes.

The two-vote margin that killed the bill represents how legislators were likely to vote had the bill actually been considered. The narrow defeat is a sign of progress but also marks a new challenge to the gay community. In a vote to repeal the state's sodomy law during the 73rd Legislature, the measure garnered only 48 votes while the hate crimes bill received 68. The increase marks a significant gain in clout due in considerable part to the direction and strategy of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby.

The challenge to gays and lesbians is to begin holding accountable the elected officials in their respective communities and to maintain a visible presence in non-election cycles. The Harris County delegation was largely divided on partisan lines. The most disappointing break was the decision of Rep. Ron Wilson (D-Houston) to vote with the Conservative Coalition to kill the hate crimes bill. Wilson, a black attorney, argued that the bill would "end up hurting [his] folks." Statistics for 1994 published by the Texas Department of Public Safety indicate that 41.3% of hate

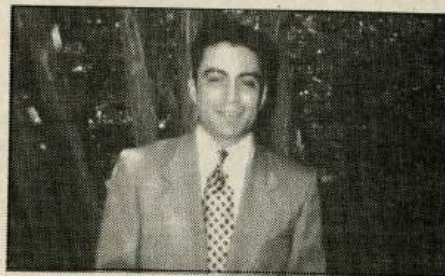
crimes are anti-black and that over 75% are racial or ethnic in nature. Wilson was the only black member to vote against changing the language of the hate crimes statute so that it would meet constitutional muster.

Wilson has given various other reasons for declining to support the bill, but it is evident to most Capitol observers that his personal animosity toward the bill's Senate sponsor was the primary reason. It is incidents like these—and letters to constituents that read, "If God continues to bless me I'll never need your vote"—that characterize this former Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus endorsee as likely to put petty personal politics over judicious review of public policy matters. Rep. Al Edwards (D-Houston) was not present for the vote. Rep. Kevin Brady (R-The Woodlands) ought to be commended for going against the rightist rhetoric and voting on the side of hate crimes victims.

HIV Testing

Legislation addressing HIV/AIDS was limited to less than 20 bills, and only a handful were of concern to advocates. The primary threat to privacy was H.B. 1345, by Rep. Peggy Hamric (R-Houston), that mandated prenatal HIV testing for women. As originally filed, the bill would have potentially opened the door for insurance companies to discriminate against women and posed a significant threat to a woman's privacy.

The bill's merit is based largely on the rising occurrence of HIV in females and its often fatal impact on Texas children. As passed, the bill will alert mothers, who may be at risk of HIV infection, to testing and treatment alternatives and to the existence of a treatment ap-



Reported by Francisco Sanchez Jr.

proved by the Federal Drug Administration that reduces the chances of maternal-infant HIV transmission by two-thirds. Rep. Diana Davila (D-Houston) and Rep. Jessica Farrar (D-Houston) were instrumental in attaching language that increases the availability of this important information to illiterate and non-English-speaking Texans, protects the mother's privacy, adequately explains the difference between anonymous and confidential testing, and significantly diminishes the potential for discrimination by insurance companies.

SEX

Discrimination

For the first time in the Texas legislature, a senior member of the House introduced a bill to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. H.B. 1626, by Rep. Irma Rangel (D-Kingsville), who is the former chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and was recently appointed to chair the House Committee on Higher Education.

State law currently prohibits job discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, sex, national origin, and age. Discrimination based on sexual orientation, however, is not prohibited. The bill would amend the state's Labor Code to achieve this policy. Passage of such a bill would join Texas with nine states, the District of Columbia, approximately 130 local units of government, and a growing number of Fortune 1000 companies that include sexual orientation in their laws or guidelines governing job discrimination.

The chairwoman did not pursue the bill at the request of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby. Rather, it was used as a leverage tool in negotiating the hate crimes bill through the legislative process. Again, H.B. 1216 marks the growing political presence of gay and lesbian issues in Texas that appeal to basic rights rather than the perception of creating a special class.

Additionally, a bill was filed that would disallow discrimination based on sexual orientation at public educational institutions. Due to the great work and political atmosphere surrounding the reform of the Texas public education system, the bill was granted a hearing by the House Committee on Public Education but was not passed out of committee in any form. The overriding principle surrounding educational is-

ssues across the board was to give local control to the districts and limit the state's role in guiding public education policy. A viable option for this bill may be to find a member of the committee on Public Education to sponsor the bill next session or encourage Chair Rangel to do so.

Despite unrealistic notions that linger from last year's Republican congressional sweep, there is no evidence to indicate that there is a public mandate to target gays and lesbians. Rather, it is only the most vocal leadership of the radical right voting bloc that use homosexuals as an appeal for funding and to maximize the utility of their grassroots organizations. As effective as it has proven to be, it has failed miserably in producing any impressive legislative accomplishments.

At the state level, the Conservative Coalition, led by Rep. Warren Chisum (D-Pampa), was too busy fighting the hate crimes bill and proposals for increased AIDS funding to conduct an actively aggressive legislative gay-bashing campaign. Among other things, the increasing number of hate crimes in Texas should not be unexpected. Similar to the civil rights movement of the 1960s, anti-black violence escalated dramatically as the black community began to make a notable impact. Though not a pleasant parallel, it is one of several indicators demonstrating the success gays and lesbians have had in learning the ropes of the political arena. The gay community must exercise its leverage in accordance with its increasing political clout. The gay and lesbian interest was fruitful this session because it was active in defining the agenda surrounding its issues, setting the terms of debate, and maintain-

ing a focus on specific priorities.

The 75th Legislature looks promising, but the task will be many times easier if local gay and lesbian groups become evidently more conditional in lending their support and become willing to finance the rising cost of organizations like the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, OutVote, and the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby. But more than anything they must remember that they can't take their friends for granted and recognize that they must hold the Ron Wilsons of their respective communities and the elected officials of moderate-Republican districts as equally accountable for their actions rather than affording members of the Conservative Coalition wasted time and energies with unsuccessful and unnecessary right-wing bashing.

Francisco Sanchez Jr. is a member of Harris County's Democratic Executive Committee and is the legislative aide for a local state representative.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Rep. Warren Chisum (D-Pampa) publicly announced on June 26 that he has become a member of the Republican Party.



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I thought was
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angel.

Coming Out Positively!

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For months I had been wanting to tell him the truth about me. In his eyes I was a high achiever, one of the best engineers in his group of 80 people. I could sense a deep concern in his frowning eyes for what he thought would be a resignation notice. We both sat down as though we were grounding for what

was yet to come. My heart was pounding and my hands were cold as ice. The words boiled in my brain. "I will not be working for you for too long," I said.

"What do you mean? Are you going to work for someone else?" he questioned.

"No, I won't be working for anyone else. I'm HIV positive and I'm going on disability soon," I responded.

His eyes opened up like two big flashlights in a dark, dark night. He got quiet. He stared at me while searching for the right thing to say. "This damned thing takes the best people!"



by Nelson Vergel

I knew then that I was safe—I knew he would support me. I felt like this huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders, and he was picking it up and tossing it out for me.

"What can I do for you?" he asked. "Are you sick? Why didn't you tell me before? How long have you known? Why don't you work part-time for me instead of leaving like this? No one has to know if you want it that way."

Questions, helping offers, and concerned comments came out like gunfire from his mouth. The man who I thought was a homophobe was becoming my guardian angel. He then asked me how I wanted to handle the situation in the office.

"Tell everyone," I replied. "I want everyone to know that HIV is all around them. I want to destroy the stereotypes and misconceptions about AIDS. Do what you need to do to let everyone know."

I explained to him that I had already spoken to Human Resources, who told me that, under the Americans with Disability Act, it was optional for me to tell my employer or coworkers. I opted to tell him and the entire Shell Oil Company because I am not ashamed of my life experience as an HIV-positive man. I also told him that I was becoming a writer and public speaker

to spread all the knowledge I have gathered during my struggle to coexist with this virus.

"Do what you have to do to find yourself; I'll always support you," he comforted. "You will always be my employee. Your picture is not coming down from the board."

This was one of the most emotionally charged moments of my adult life. I cried, and the more I cried, the more I realized that letting go of my 13-year career was not going to be easy, especially knowing now how compassionate the man I had been working for really was.

In an impromptu meeting after I had left, he disclosed my news to a large group of my coworkers. He later told me that my decision was one of the most accelerating learning experiences he had to go through as a person and as a manager. One of my coworkers, of whose homosexuality I had no knowledge, came out to our boss after learning of my experience. Other people in the group, after realizing that he was a truly compassionate man, started approaching him to discuss personal matters that were affecting their job performance.

Many of my coworkers, who I had labeled as close-minded just for being Republican, sent me well wishes and contri-

butions for my new endeavor as an author/treatment activist. Coming out at work and previously to my family have resulted in the same lesson for me: Never underestimate the love and acceptance from those around you. Your worst fears could turn out to be mere illusions.

I have opened an agency in Houston called Program for Wellness Restoration (PoWeR), which is intended to empower HIV-positive people to improve their quality of life. I have been able to help 257 people in the past eight months. I cannot say that I do not miss my corporate years; however, my new life as an HIV-positive Latino gay male (who is completely "out" to everyone) has motivated me to continue with my new life purpose. Unlike some others who have gone through negative coming-out experiences, I am very fortunate to have a supportive family, a partner who shares my experience, a good group of friends, and an ex-boss and employer who care. Dealing with issues of disclosure, letting go, transformation, and self-acceptance has been as important as medicines for my well-being.

If you need more information, please call Nelson Vergel at PoWeR (Program for Wellness Restoration), 713-862-1243.

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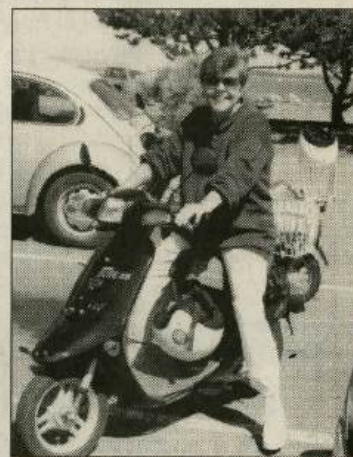
Captivating Costa Rica

a country that defines
"ecotourism and soft-adventure"

by Sandra Wilkins

Right: Sandra Wilkins gears up for Moped Day in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Left: One of the many species of rain forest birds that might be seen is the Keel-billed toucan.



It seems like yesterday when gay and lesbian travelers, sitting down to plan their vacations, were limited to a handful of destination choices. Mykonos in Greece, Amsterdam in Europe, Provincetown, Key West, and San Francisco on our own shores...these were our best shots for visiting environments that were safe, accommodating to our lifestyles, and actually offered something special for gay men and women visitors. Like so many other blinding changes, coming so fast to our emerging throngs of prideful wanderers, travel choices are more bountiful these days than are our pocketbooks or calendars.

To my mind, the most exciting gay-friendly destination in the world is Costa Rica, a tiny country in Central America, sitting in that thin curve that separates North and South America. Cozily tucked between Nicaragua and Panama, Costa Rica has no army, the longest and most democratic government in Central America, the highest literacy rate in all of Latin America, and the sweetest, most congenial people I've encountered almost anywhere. Nicknamed "Ticos," the Costa Rican people welcome all visitors with the same warmth and friendliness, proud of their country, its heritage, and its bountiful natural beauty.

The wise citizens of Costa Rica have voted to set aside more square miles of

protected habitats than any other country in the world. The result is a plethora of National Parks, encompassing rain forests, jungles, river valleys, and a host of spectacular bird and animal species, all available up close and personal, to the gay and lesbian traveler.

A few years ago I packed up my warm-weather vacation suitcase, and set out with four other lesbian friends for a nine-day trip to Costa Rica, having no idea what to expect, but concerned from the start about our group comprising the odd number of five travelers...but that's another story. What greeted us then, and what welcomes visitors now, is a wonderful surprise of a country and favorite destination.

Living in Houston, many of us have encountered the beauty of the turquoise waters bathing Cancun, Cozumel, and Akumal. Don't go to Costa Rica for the same kind of holiday. The water is beauti-

ful, the beaches are white and sandy, but it's just not the same feel as the Mexico beach vacation, nor are the same kind of amenities available in Costa Rica. Interestingly, Costa Rica is bounded by two bodies of water—the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Caribbean to the east. If you can allocate 10 days for vacationing in Costa Rica, you'll see both coasts, the incredible diversity of the center of the country with active volcanoes, cloud forests, rain forests, beautiful lakes and rivers, coffee plantations, and jungles. This 10-day trip will cost you less than half what you'd spend going to Hawaii, or even to Mexico. Your reward will be knowing a country that welcomes you, experiencing nature and wildlife in abundant amounts, and the smug feeling that you too are part of the "soft adventure/ecotourism" revolution.

As we began to be more fit, respect our environment, and revel in the outdoors

instead of smoky bars, tour operators were quick to design trips to satisfy the new gay and lesbian travelers. "Soft adventure" simply means we have no desire, nor ability, to climb Mt. Everest. However, it could mean that we would be willing to ride in a 4 x 4, walk 2 or 3 miles, help pitch the tent, and then watch those who do wish to make the climb. During our vacation time, we would like to participate, to the degree of our ability, in the getting from point A to point B. "Soft Adventure" trips are tailored to fit the level of experience and fitness of the individual. This is what makes Costa Rica a treasure trove of possibility. You can do a little, or do a lot.

By necessity, each trip begins and ends in the capital city, San Jose. This is because the arriving flights land late at night, and the return journey home begins in early morning. That's OK, because San Jose is perfectly suited to a two-day stay; no more, no less. Fortunately, a wonderful company, Colours Destinations International, has added another exclusive gay/lesbian (can we ever just all be gay?) guesthouse to its roster. Conveniently located on Boulevard Rohrmoser, 10 minutes to town by car or taxi, Colours Costa Rica has 12 pretty rooms to suit your taste and budget. Room rates range from \$59 to \$109 and include continental breakfast daily. The welcoming staff of Colours can meet you at the airport and then help you plan the balance of your exciting trip to Costa Rica.

What should you do here? Well, it depends a bit as always on what you like to do. For my money, I'll never regret the three days spent at Manuel Antonio National Park, staying at the Mariposa, where I stood under a shower head and looked at the most beautiful Pacific bay I'd ever seen, from my bathroom, which was totally screened-in, allowing a view of the blooming bougainvillea drifting into the panoramic beach scene. Manuel Antonio, three hours by car, 20 minutes by plane, from San Jose, is one of several beautiful national parks. It's also an idyllic resort area, punctuated not by the Mexican type mega-resort hotels, but instead by small lodges and hotels, tucked into corners few tourists visit. Reaching the beach after a soft-adventure-type walk straight down the hill from the hotel, then walking another mile to the edge of the protected jungle within the park, I encountered three-toed sloths, beautiful toucans, and small, happy howler monkeys, laughing at me as they

swung from tree to tree. Imagine in the same day also seeing iguanas, hummingbirds, and huge turtles; all of this and back in time for cocktails to boot! Who wouldn't love this place???

Have you ever been river rafting? This is another mainstay of the "soft adventure" vacation, and within my travel memories, floating down the river with friends and family has become a big favorite of mine.

Rain forests, jungles, river valleys, and a host of spectacular bird and animal species, all available up close and personal, to the gay and lesbian traveler.

First, it caters to the "Hilton Hotel Camper" in me. This means I love to be outside, don't mind a little work in assisting with the setup of camp, cooking and cleaning, but really prefer to have other folks do this for me. Rafting with a company of expert guides provides this wonderful sense of "sissy-camper." Like my lover Kim says of many of our travels, "All you have to do is show up." If you sign on for a river raft trip, you arrive at the appointed spot, show your paid receipt, get introduced to your fellow guides and rafters, then start pointing. Point to your waterproof bags o' belongings...then they point you to your raft. The nice thing about river rafting is that you don't have to be Meryl Streep in *River Wild*, because you don't even have to know how to swim. Just do wear the lifejackets, which along with helmets, are required for rafting any class of river. Rafting in Costa Rica takes place on the Reventazon and Pacuare Rivers. You can do one or both, and on a 10-day trip, I suggest combining both river trips with the camping overnight.

If bicycle adventures are your thing, then you are in for yet another treat in Costa Rica, because cycling on a mountain bike up to Arenal Volcano, between tropical dry forest and rain forest, is a memory worth making. Biking through the area around the volcano offers a diversity of wildlife, great birding, and encountering the hot springs at Tabacon and nearby Lake Arenal.

The good people at Way to Go Costa Rica are leading the way in gay and lesbian planned visits to Costa Rica and offer the security we seek in knowing we'll be taken care of while visiting a new destination. This tour operator has recently joined IGTA, the International Gay Lesbian Travel Association, and says manager Denise M. Tavers, "We have had an overwhelming response from agents for travel to Costa Rica." Tavers continues, "We are a gay-friendly agency with the added benefit of being experts in the one and only destination we sell, Costa Rica. Therefore, our clients get our guaranteed service in both the United States and Costa Rica."

Working with a company like Way to Go Costa Rica is a travel agent's dream, because with their expert assistance, the client can design every detail of a dream vacation, including only those activities and sights that are of personal interest to them.

So why not visit your favorite bookstore, find the travel section, and select one of the many fine guides to Costa Rica. Decide how long you can be gone, what you want to do, and bingo, you'll enjoy a dream come true!

Sandra Wilkins, a travel professional for 17 years, specializes in arranging travel for the gay and lesbian community. You may contact her by phone at 713/526-4471.

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Judgment And Criticism: Major Forces of Destruction in Individuals, Couples, and Communities



by Patrick J. Vachon

There is likely little doubt in anyone's mind that each and every one of us harbors some level of internal judgment. Everyone, to one degree or another, grew up in a family, and certainly in a culture, that was infiltrated with spoken and unspoken judgments. This definitely took the more obvious forms of racism, sexism, ageism, anti-Semitism. Jokes were often made about people who fell outside the parameters of the white, male, Protestant, heterosexual, middle-class population. Family rules were likely spoken as to what type of people one should associate with, what behaviors were acceptable, what feelings were tolerated, and what look was attractive. The seeds for judgment were planted very early in most individuals and were likely fertilized well throughout childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.

The critical and judgmental messages received from parents, siblings, teachers, clergy, and peers were interjected into the belief systems of all of us as children. Those that were more deeply and repeatedly reinforced became part of our individual and collective truth. As young children, we did not have the capability to challenge these ideas, and because they often came from authority figures, they were accepted as truth. The messages, as well as the tendency to become critical, become part of a child's reality to the

degree to which they were subjected and not counterbalanced.

Often, children develop internal critics which serve them well as protectors. If children are aware of what will be criticized by adults, they can self-regulate by criticizing themselves first, stopping a behavior, and reducing the risk of external criticism from others. In short, if children can be hard on themselves, they may be able to reduce the potential for criticism from others. If children are afraid of reprimand for making mistakes, their internal critic may direct them to be perfectionists in nature, thus reducing the probability of external criticism.

Those seeds of judgment planted early continued to grow and are routinely fertilized by a judgmental culture. As lesbian and gay children, messages were received as to what were acceptable attributes of inclusion into a heterosexual society. Behaviors were defined as too masculine or feminine. Beliefs about personal rights may have been denied so as not to stray from the norm. Feelings too may have been contained so as not to be an indicator of sexual orientation. Lesbian and gay children likely learned very early that to be accepted they must conform. With this also came a great deal of internalized judgment about themselves and aspects of their humanness, including sexuality.

Many, if not all, lesbian and gay children received messages suggesting that it was not acceptable to be too feminine or too masculine. Young boys are encouraged to be smart, strong, emotionally stable, physically competent, and independent. Young girls are taught to be sensitive, proper, submissive, emotional, relational, and dependent. If young boys or girls openly deviate from this socially defined gender norm, they take the risk of being labeled and judged as being (for boys) too feminine or (for girls) too masculine, thus being identified as lesbian or gay. In an attempt to remain safe in a hostile environment, children often make an unconscious decision to deny or push away certain aspects of themselves which do not conform to the prescribed gender roles. These aspects of themselves that they deny later become the things in other people that they will tend to criticize.

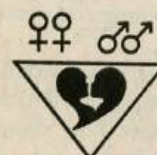
In addition, to enhance their security, children often make a conscious or unconscious decision to compensate for a perceived flaw. As children, this may lead a child to do whatever a parent wants (and become someone that a parent wants) versus the natural flowing aspects of her or his developing self. As adults, these same children might tend to secure professions with gender role congruence or may date or marry opposite sex partners to cover up their sexual identity. Many of my clients have reported marrying someone they didn't really love, and then remain married for many years to secure safety in a hostile family or culture. On many occasions, gay clients have acknowledged that they pursued careers such as accountants or doctors, or joined the military, to mask their homosexual orientation, only to find out later that they had chosen a career out of fear rather than love. Many have also become clergy where it is accepted, or expected of them, to remain unmarried, attempting to hide their sexuality from themselves or others. Lesbian clients have reported taking

jobs with less pay or less power rather than be assertive, which may cause suspicion of a lesbian identity. Others have not pursued careers which may have deviated from gender-acceptable positions for women for the same reasons. The above adaptations serve as testament to the power of judgment in limiting the full potential of lesbian and gay individuals.

This internal judgment, including racism, sexism, and ageism, certainly does not end with the individual pursuit of life. Within the gay and lesbian community, this internalized judgment manifest itself in a multitude of ways. Although changes are occurring, judgment provides for a great deal of separation within the lesbian and gay community, as well as between the men and women in them. Today, there are dress codes enforced which exclude people who are not wearing "masculine" clothing. Only a few years ago (and maybe still) people of color and women were asked for additional pieces of identification upon entering certain white, gay male-oriented clubs. In addition, men were often asked for the same upon entering lesbian clubs. Only a few short years ago, men wearing cologne were not allowed in some Montrose bars. Advertisements or signs at club entrances often included language such as "No Fats Or Fems Allowed" or "Under Thirty Only." This same language is still found in the personal advertisements in many magazines today. There certainly may be a need for country, drag, lesbian, dance, and leather clubs which provide a safe place to celebrate lesbian and gay diversity. On the other hand, the above-stated exclusion practices often tend to reinforce the very life-limiting messages which were directed at us as children. In short, we have become much like our oppressors and continue to manifest abuse, judgment, and criticism.

Criticism, which is a manifestation of internalized judgment,

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is pervasive within the lesbian and gay community. Statements like He or she is "too nelly," "too butch," "too old," "too little," and "too fat" are judgmental statements often based in the interjected messages from our past. Criticism is often used to make one insecure individual feel more powerful, and, in fact, *criticism is a form of exhibitionism*. When one person criticizes another, they are actually unconsciously and, possibly unknowingly, admitting their own self-perception of inadequacy. For instance, when people criticize others for their feminine traits, they are actually admitting their own issues around their own feminine side, or at least admitting their own inability to allow other people to be just as they are.

The parts of ourselves that we were taught to deny as children and learned to hate are mirrored to us in others. When we see them in others, there is a tendency to project our self-disgust outward. In fact, what we are most offended by in others is likely a split-off part of ourselves that we find unacceptable. Rather than reclaim that part, we project it onto others where we can conveniently externalize the hatred. We make it about "them" so that we can remain separate. Actually, those people who offend us the most have the potential to become our best teachers, as they hold the blueprint to our own self-hatred, wounds, and subsequent healing. External criticism is really the projection of our own unacceptable parts onto others, the parts in ourselves that we have denied and need to reclaim, take responsibility for, and heal.

In relationship therapy, the person who accuses or criticizes the other partner is generally the one who is most wounded around that particular issue. For example, if Robert is constantly accusing William of having an affair, it is often likely that William is having an affair, is thinking about having an affair, or is fearful because affairs have been a part of his own past. In this case, Robert has likely been wounded in this area and will be attracted to someone like himself, or will create someone like himself in his own mind in order to heal his own woundedness. *Criticism kills relationships* and must be eliminated. *Criticism is never justified or constructive*.

An aspect of criticism that is probably the most helpful to understand is that *criticism is a form of self-abuse*. When we criticize another person, we are actually identifying a part of ourselves that we have disowned or denied. In addition, we project

a level of abuse onto another person. When we criticize another person, we are seeing in another person a part of ourselves that we do not like; in criticizing them, we criticize ourselves, which is self-abusive. It is impossible to dislike a trait of another person while loving it in ourselves. So next time you begin to judge another person, stop for a moment and ask yourself, "How am I just like that person?" If you are honest with yourself, you will likely be able to find some similarity. For instance, if Jennifer criticizes her partner Susan for being dishonest, and if Jennifer has ever been dishonest (to herself or others), then Jennifer is also criticizing herself. In this context then, *all criticism is self-criticism*, all hatred is self-hatred, and all judgment is self-judgment.

To support this concept, we can call upon some basic brain functions. The part of the brain that reacts to judgment and criticism is atemporal (does not know the difference between yesterday or today) and is non-spacial (does not recognize the difference between similar behaviors in different people). A child who had critical parents will likely be sensitive to criticism as an adult and is also likely to be critical of themselves and others.

The unfortunate reality is that everyone in some way has interjected judgment into his or her life, and has likely projected it outward in the form of criticism. This criticism has hurt themselves, their partners, and society. The awareness of judgment and criticism, if utilized constructively, is an important part of the healing process. Awareness of a problem is a first step in the corrective process. Both criticism and judgment can be viewed as a symptom to a much deeper issue. If you find yourself offended by a particular aspect of another human being, instead of condemning them, ask yourself why you are so offended by them. Then identify how you might be just like them (this is likely to be something you will deny). You then will have information in which to use for your healing. Once you are accepting of the part of yourself that you don't like in others, you will no longer be affected by the other person.

On many occasions, male clients have shared their discomfort being around "effeminate" men. When explored, they often identify messages about what a man "should" be, how they "should" act, and how they "should" feel. They often have hidden fears that effeminate men will blow their cover. When these clients examine the underlying issues, challenge the belief systems, and embrace their own feminine side, the perceived threat dissipates. In short, people often feel threatened by others who seem to possess something that they have had to deny at some point in their lives and believe they no longer have. Once they embrace these lost and denied parts, the judgment and criticism seem to go away.

As a community, it would certainly be helpful to identify individual and collective internal judgments and criticisms. Once identified, action could be taken to reverse the tide of internal judgment and criticism and instead allow for correction of life-limiting messages to occur. *It is through our sameness that we connect but through our differences that we grow.* ▼

Patrick J. Vachon is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) in private practice at New Counseling Center in Houston. He is a Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist and Workshop Presenter in training. Mr. Vachon offers 20-hour intensive *Getting the Love You Want* workshops for lesbian and gay couples. His next Houston workshop is September 15-17. Patrick J. Vachon is available for lectures, seminars, and individual/couples therapy. For more information, call (713) 529-1913, voice mail #4.

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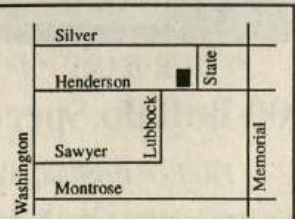
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HIV Health Watch

Briefs from Gaynet Wire Service

Researcher Urges New Focus on HIV Treatment

LONDON—Dr. Jay Levy, a scientist with the Cancer Research Institute at the University of California at San Francisco and one of the first researchers to identify HIV as the cause of AIDS, claims that the emphasis on developing medications to attack the virus is focusing the battle against the epidemic on the wrong target. In the current issue of the medical journal *Lancet*, Levy says the studies of possible treatments should be shifted toward ways to eliminate infected cells where HIV reproduces. He also urged that scientists should focus instead on treatments that would block the virus from reproducing and medications that would kill infected cells where the virus reproduces.

Federal Court Finds US Marshals Violated ACT UP Members' Rights

PORTLAND—A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that federal marshals violated the constitutional rights of ACT UP members during a 1989 protest in front of the offices of the Food & Drug Administration office in Portland by ordering the demonstrators to be strip-searched. The federal appeals court ordered the case back to a lower court to determine what claims the ACT UP members may have against the government for the action. The protesters had been arrested on February 17, 1989, for creating a disturbance in the building during a demonstration concerning what the activists said was slowness of the FDA to approve experimental AIDS/HIV drugs. But before the protesters—four women and six men—were booked, they were first forced to undergo what the plaintiffs described as an "invasive and humiliating" strip search. The appeals panel said the search violated the defendants' Fourth Amendment guarantees against unreasonable search and seizure.

Board Member Resignation Criticizes AIDS Action Council

SAN FRANCISCO—The executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Pat Christen, has resigned from her seat on the board of the AIDS Action Council because of "continuing, fundamental differences" about how the national agency operates, the *Washington Blade* has

reported. In an interview with the paper, Christen said she did "not believe the interests of people with HIV—particularly poor individuals, especially those in urban areas across the country where the vast majority of people with HIV live—are being well served" by the council. "They're more interested in looking good to Hill staffers than they are [in] how this epidemic affects poor people affected by HIV and AIDS in rural communities," Christen told the paper.

Teens Frightened of HIV Exposure from Health-Care Workers

CHICAGO—A study in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* says that many U.S. teenagers are concerned about becoming infected with HIV from their physicians and other health-care workers. Researchers interviewed some 6,800 Philadelphia ninth-grade students and found that infection control and hygiene constituted 4 of the 10 top concerns of the teens. The students also told researchers they believed between 100,000 and 1 million people in the U.S. had been infected with HIV by health-care workers, when in fact there have been no documented cases—although 6 infections were reported involving a Florida dentist.

N.Y. Measure Would Block HIV/AIDS Information in Home Sales

ALBANY, NY—The New York state legislature has approved and sent to Governor George Pataki a measure that would not require home sellers to disclose the HIV/AIDS condition of a former owner or occupant. Federal legislation already bars real estate agents from disclosing information concerning AIDS/HIV status, but the measure passed in New York would extend the same non-disclosure protections to home-owners selling property.

Congresswoman's Ex-Staffer Charges HIV Discrimination

WASHINGTON—Bruce Taylor has filed a complaint with the House of Representatives' Office of Fair Employment Practices, which handles personnel grievances for the legislative body. The complaint charges that Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins (D-Mich.) fired Taylor from her staff because she believed he had AIDS. Taylor's complaint continues that Collins' dismissal of him violated the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, and charges that Collins asked after Taylor had an operation for cancer of the colon in 1994 if he had AIDS or was infected with HIV on more than one occasion. Collins and her chief of staff have both told administrative hearings that Taylor was dismissed because of anticipated staffing cuts they

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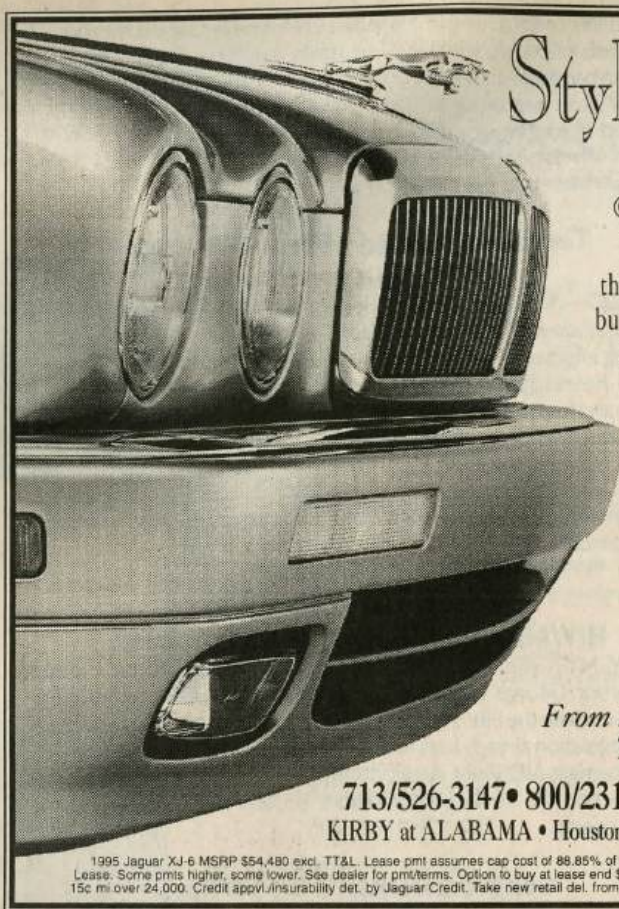
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HIV Health Watch

Continued from previous page

expected after the Republicans won control of the House of Representatives in last year's elections.

Massachusetts Panel Named to Broaden AIDS Drugs

BOSTON—The *Boston Globe* reports that Massachusetts health and insurance officials have announced the appointment of an advisory commission that will help identify medications that are already approved for other medical conditions that might be helpful in treating HIV infection and AIDS. After the drugs are identified by the commission, health insurers in the state will be required to cover them under existing medical policies when prescribed for people with HIV/AIDS.

House Hearings Begin on Federal AIDS Education

WASHINGTON—Federal HIV prevention efforts aimed at government employees came under attack as the House Government Reform & Oversight subcommittee started hearings on the health training program. Federal workers told the subcommittee that educators in the mandated training classes used language that was inappropriate during the program and that the classes were too sexually explicit. The program was launched in 1993, ordered by former "AIDS czar" Kristine Gebbie. But Gebbie's replacement, Patricia Fleming, told the House panel that Gebbie's order had been misinterpreted as an order to hold mandatory training. Fleming told the subcommittee that in fact each government agency should decide whether attending the training classes should be required or not. Ken Goodman, head of the Whitman-Walker Training Institute which provides AIDS workplace training for the government, testified, however, that there had been few complaints about the classes as conservatives have charged.

South Africa Government Increasing Battle Against HIV

CAPE TOWN—The South African Health Ministry has bought some 97 million men's condoms and 90,000 female condoms according to a statement in Parliament by Nkosazana Zuma, the country's health minister. Zuma said the rising HIV infection rates in South Africa could hamper the country's progress in health care, economic development, and education, if not brought under control. The government now estimates that 600,000 people of South Africa's total 39 million population are HIV-positive, and tests of newborn infants last year indicated a 7.6% infection rate, a dramatic jump over similar testing the year before which showed a 4.25% rate.

Promising Drug to be Distributed by Lottery

WASHINGTON—In an unusual agreement, Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. will allow some 2,280 people with AIDS in the U.S. to get scarce supplies of a drug known as saquinavir without charge through a government-sanctioned lottery. Hoffmann-La Roche's Invirase brand of the drug is still undergoing clinical trials, but the Food & Drug Administration says it considers the drug so promising that it agreed to the lottery distribution before final approval of saquinavir. The lottery will be open only to patients with AIDS who have not responded to other, approved medications, such as AZT or DDC.

New National AIDS Council Announced by White House

WASHINGTON—The White House has announced the formation of a new national council on AIDS, modeled after the National Commission on AIDS, following almost one and one-half years of interruptions. The original list of members was approved by former "AIDS Czar" Kristine Gebbie, who resigned last July. Several original nominees, including Elizabeth Glaser, co-founder of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, have since died. The names of the commission members will be announced later, but among those known to have posts on the new council are: Dr. R. Scott Hitt of the Pacific Oaks Medical Group; Steve Lew, who is executive director of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance Community HIV Project in San Francisco; Debra Fraser-Howze, president of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS; Bob Hattoy, openly gay White House liaison to the Interior Department; and Jeremy Landau of New Mexico, founder of the National Rural AIDS Network.

Nevada County Nixes AIDS Speakers, Hotline Listing

RENO, Nevada—The trustees of the Washoe County School Board in Nevada have rejected a plan that would have permitted people living with AIDS and HIV to address sixth grade classes in the school system. The school board also turned down another proposal that would have included the phone number of a local gay and lesbian youth hotline on school cards given to students each year. The trustees said they felt the two proposals were both "inappropriate" for the students' age group.

Researchers Find Some Protection Against HIV

BOSTON—Researchers at Harvard University's School of Public Health, working with scientists at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, report in the journal *Science* that they have found the first evidence in humans that infection with the second, less virulent strain of the virus—HIV-2—offers protection against the chances of becoming infected with the deadlier strain, HIV-1. The scientists say their research

may have important implications for developing a possible vaccine against AIDS. "Since HIV-2 can lead to AIDS and death, we are not suggesting using it as a live vaccine," said Dr. Phyllis Kanki, the lead investigator at Harvard. "These findings suggest a new avenue for research into fine-tuning the natural protection and delivering it in the form of a safe vaccine." In the nine-year study, 756 licensed female prostitutes in Dakar were tracked by the scientists who found that infection with HIV-2 reduced the women's chances of being infected by HIV-1 by nearly 70%. The dramatic reduction took place, the researchers report, even though there was a higher incidence of gonorrhea among the group during the same period,

meaning that the women had not reduced their chances of exposure to HIV-1 during the time. "This work shows it may be possible to induce immunity to protect against very different strains of HIV," said Dr. Kanki. "Clearly, HIV-2 is triggering a resistance response that in some way protects against HIV-1 infection. The next step will be to study the women in greater detail to learn precisely how this immunity is manifested."

Grace Yourself
on page 38



Dr. Jerry Martin

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HEALTH BRIEFS

ASSESSING INTIMACY IN RELATIONSHIPS

by Denise O'Doherty, PC, MSN, LCDC, LMFT, RN

Intimacy is a bonding between two people based on trust, respect, love, and the ability to share deeply. You can have intimate relationships with lovers, partners, friends, family members. Through these relationships, you experience the give and take of caring.

When a couple comes into my office for therapy, I usually ask, "What is it that keeps you together?" Answers range from convenience, sex, money, companionship to the most frequent response, "We love each other." The problem with this response is that love means different things to different people. Sometimes the expectations that one associates with love can add to the relationship's conflicts, i.e., "If you loved me you would do...or you would feel..."

The second question I ask is, "Do you trust each other?" Interestingly, it is right here that many people emphatically say "No. We love each other but we don't trust each other." Yet, trust and good communication are the two main ingredients necessary for intimacy and a healthy relationship. Therefore, love without trust may not be enough. Without trust we don't feel safe.

To get what you want from your partner, you need to make him/her feel safe. Many people have problems with trust. If handling things alone and taking care of yourself was what you had to do as a child, it may feel unfamiliar and scary to be in a close committed relationship. On the other hand, some people cling to those they love being overly jealous and unable to tolerate a healthy level of independence.

Intimacy isn't something you can do alone. By its very nature, it assumes a relationship, and a relationship means risk. The other half of any relationship is a person you can't control. But in a loving, working relationship you and your partner will be challenged to change if you are to create a meaningful relationship together. The rewards are great.

The following is an INTIMACY ASSESSMENT meant to be used as a guide to assess intimacy in your relationship. Think about a partner or a close friend and

ask yourself the following:

- Do I respect this person?
- Does this person respect me?
- Is this a person I can communicate with?
- Do we work through conflicts together well?
- Do we both compromise?
- Is there give and take?
- Can I be honest? Can I show my real feelings?
- Do we both take responsibility for the relationship's successes and problems?
- Could I talk to this person about the effect that childhood abuse is having on our relationship?
- Is there room for me to grow and change in this relationship?
- Am I able to reach my own goals within this relationship?
- Is this person supportive of the kind of changes I am trying to make?
- Is this person willing to help me?

These questions provide a guideline for taking a deeper look at the depth of intimacy within a relationship. Other helpful characteristics which help put closeness in a relationship are the following Intimacy Skills: direct expression, listening clearly without judgment, setting limits for yourself and honoring them, letting go of control over others, self-acceptance, articulating concerns, asking for what you need, negotiation and compromise, seeking support for personal growth and change, and, above all, willingness.

Good relationships don't come easy, but the rewards last a lifetime. It is said that it's not about finding the right person, but becoming the right person that matters. With good intimacy skills and willingness, I believe we achieve both. ▼

Denise O'Doherty is a psychotherapist who has had a private practice in Houston for twelve years. In addition to being a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, she teaches at Leisure Learning Unlimited, and recently has become certified as an Imago Relationship Counselor focusing on couples counseling. She can be reached at (713) 529-1913.

GRIEF WORKSHOP

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What is "grief"? Grief is the normal reaction to loss. It is a physical, mental, social, and spiritual process of adapting to a major life change. The loss of a loved one through death, divorce, or separation is part of the human experience and, unfortunately, an event each of us will have to deal with at some point in our lives.

Dealing with a loss can be one of the most devastating and exhausting experiences an individual can ever face. Grief is experienced by each person in very different ways through a wide range of emotions, from numbness to deep sorrow. The pangs of grief may manifest themselves in episodes of restlessness, anger, longing, and anxiety. You may burst out in tears for what appears to be no reason at all. You may continually ask yourself why this happened. You may develop physical pain where none existed before.

Behavioral scientists who study grief are finding many different kinds of feelings and many different intensities in bereavement. There are several factors that should be considered. The age of the person who died is important. You may feel "cheated" by the untimely death of a child, spouse, or lover, or a death before plans for retirement could be carried out. The kind of relationship you had with the deceased is also a factor, as is the manner of death. A sudden, shocking death, such as suicide, or the death of a child, murder, or illness diagnosed a short time before the death, will require a different kind of mourning, one that tends to be more physically and emotionally intense and of greater duration compared to a loss that was anticipated or expected.

There are no timetables in grief. It is a process of adjustment to a new identity and a new reality—who you were and who you will now become. Understanding the feelings and experiences that grief brings can offer a greater sense of control once you know what to expect.

On Wednesday, August 16, professional caregivers and those living with a loss of a loved one will be offered the opportunity to learn more about the grieving process. "Understanding Grief: Helping Yourself and Others Heal" will be an afternoon and evening of seminars featuring internationally acclaimed author, educator, and bereavement expert, Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt.

Crespo Funeral Homes and SouthPark Funeral Home & Cemetery, in cooperation with Memorial Mental Health Services, The Grief Center of Texas, and Widowed Persons Service, will sponsor two free seminars

to be held in Houston at the Ramada Hotel Astrodome/Medical Center. The goal of the event is to offer skills to those persons who are interested in helping themselves and others integrate the experience of loss into their lives.

The first session, from 1 to 4 pm, will be for professional caregivers who wish to enhance their skills in bereavement care. Continuing education credits will be offered.

The second seminar, open to the public, is scheduled from 7 to 9 pm, and is designed for bereaved persons and their families. ▼

For more information or to pre-register, contact Madeline Crespo at (713) 485-2711.

...AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING

by Dr. Jerry Martin

It may just be the medical profession's most widely publicized therapy for those nagging aches and pains: "Take two aspirin and call me in the morning." When you follow that advice, there's a good chance you will feel better the following day...but not because of the so-called "wonder drug." As a matter of fact, you would probably feel even better if you hadn't taken the aspirin. There are two very good reasons why you feel better in the morning. First, your body has the innate ability to heal itself and can correct most minor dysfunction in a time span of 12 to 24 hours. And second, getting a good night's sleep will help you replenish your energy levels and recharge your immune system, making you feel better without medication.

Sleep—few people think much about it. Books and magazines promoting the importance of diet and exercise clutter up the checkout line at the local supermarket, but you could literally "fall asleep" looking for information on sleep or sleep disorders. Yet researchers have concluded that people who consistently get a full night's sleep are rewarded with heightened productivity, creativity, and focus. Sleep deprivation, on the other hand, usually leads to loss of concentration and diminished performance.

Your body needs adequate sleep to "recharge your batteries" after a full day of activity. Sleep allows the muscles, ligaments, bones, and organs to relax and prepare for the next day's challenges. The mind and nervous system that is not functioning properly can contribute to insomnia, which in turn can create further physical and emotional pressures. The result can be lowered resistance to disease, muscle strain and spasms, moments

of depression, and subluxations of the spine.

It is ironic that spinal subluxations (misalignments of vertebrae that cause nerve interference) can in turn contribute to the subluxation complex. A chiropractor is the only health care provider trained and qualified to adjust misaligned areas of the spine to release vital nerve energy to all parts of the body. A spine free of obstructions to the flow of nerve energy will allow you to rest more easily and sleep more comfortably. ▼

If you have trouble sleeping, you should call Dr. Jerry Martin in the morning. A good night's sleep could be just a phone call away. 660-7722.

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Join in the fight with your food donation to HUNGER RELIEF FOR AIDS, Houston's largest food drive for HIV/AIDS food pantries. Six of our local non-profit organizations have joined together to fight and feed! July 9 through August 6, make your non-perishable food donations at any of the following locations:

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WHAT A DIFFERENCE SOME DRAG MAKES

An Interview with Lady Victoria Lust

by Daniel Impastato



Lady Victoria Lust with Channel 13's Alvin Van Black

Talk about your early shoppers! As the calendar pages turn to July, Mr. Marvin Davis' (aka Lady Victoria Lust) thoughts turn toward Christmas and his biggest summer fundraiser for PWAs in and around the Houston area: Christmas in July. No, this has no connection with the similarly titled Southern Lady arts and crafts event here in town; Marvin's event takes its name from its goal—raising money to make Christmas a brighter time for more than 2,000 clients of the Colt 45's AIDS TroubleFund (ATF) Program. This year's Christmas in July carnival and show will be held on Sunday, July 16, at the Brazos River Bottom from 2:00 P.M. on. *OutSmart* magazine interviewed Marvin—who, by the way, does have lots of Southern Lady charm—to find out more about the wonderful difference a little drag has been making for local PWAs.

OUTSMART: Marvin, what do you do here in Houston, in addition to your fundraising activities?

MARVIN: I work for the City of Houston; I'm really employed by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), and I do research work as well as HIV counseling and testing. I get to see a lot of people at the front end, when they've just found out that they're HIV+. Primarily, in a city clinic, I am dealing with minority heterosexuals, and it's [HIV] definitely spreading like wildfire through that section of our population. I deal a lot with young people, who don't see it as a problem for them; they just can't grasp it. Even young gay people don't see it as their problem. It's a problem for all of us. We got the blame for a disease which is not just ours—it never has been. In this country it was recognized first among the gay community, and so I try to educate people that this is not just a gay disease; it has to do with sex, and it has to do with sharing needles.

How have you come to focus on fundraising for PWAs through drag shows?

Oh, mercy! Back in the 60s, I was of the hippie generation, and I discovered I was gay. I used to carry my sign, "Gay Rights Supporter," at the University of Arkansas. I was the token gay! Then I moved to Chicago to continue my graduate work and found a gay community. Someone suggested, since I was in theater, I ought to do drag. "You mean, put on a dress," I said. So, I started putting on dresses for parties and things. My first time on stage was in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, on my birthday. This year, on my birthday, October 27, it will be my 26th year of doing drag on stage.

You've always had this same stage name?

Yes. I got the name from being called Vicki, after Queen Victoria, because I was so proper and Southern and everything, and I took the name Lust from a mentor, my "drag mother" so to speak, and her name was Peaches Lust. I added the Lady because those titles were big then.

Through the 70s then, you were on stage for fun?

No, during the 70s I made my living at it! I used to tour and travel. I worked with a lot of the greats; we were theatrical, we were drag queens, not the female impersonators of today. We were flamboyant, and we did comedy. As things went on, we wanted to get the gay community out to see us as a viable part of the community. We began fundraising through our shows. We raised money for Jerry Lewis and for Toys for Tots in the 70s. This goes way back! We worked for orphanages, children's hospitals; when the Marines wouldn't take our Toys for Tots because we were gay,

believe me we found groups to come down to our shows and accept them. We've always had that problem with the military!

When did your focus change to fundraising for PWAs?

There came a time, when if you were not a disco queen, you were not in demand, so I retired. I'd dress up for Halloween, or special occasions. Basically through '78 or '79 to the mid 80s, I was in retirement. Then AIDS came along. We had a personal crisis in our community. One of the first groups to galvanize and say, "Hey, we can make money to help these people," was drag queens. A friend talked me into entering the Miss Outlaw contest, and I won! I got a following, and with that title, I could go around and offer to perform at fundraising events, so I did. By 1987, I was a member of the Imperial Court organization, doing more shows, and I got the idea for PWA Christmas. I raised about \$400, and so, through Stone Soup kitchen, we distributed 40 envelopes, with \$10 apiece, to PWAs on Christmas Eve. The next year, I got to know Cal Moran and Walter Carter. They said they could provide me with 501 (c) (3) status, so I do my fundraising through their AIDS TroubleFund or other organizations who cross-reference with the Colt 45's. The people served through ATF and the Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund are the indigent; these people really need immediate help.

The fund works for people throughout the holidays?

Yes, we originally started with Christmas, and then Thanksgiving dinner, and a ham at Easter, again through Stone Soup kitchen. We even do Halloween for children and PWAs in the hospitals. About five years ago, a Houston candidate for Miss Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA), Mr. B.J. Sommers, asked me to do the Christmas in July benefit. I've kept the name in his memory. It's our biggest fundraiser of the summer, and what we raise helps us with other projects throughout the year. We do a picnic lunch for the PWA Coalition and other agencies' carnival in September at the West Gray Multi-Service Center. Next year, I am sponsoring a bus to go to Mardi Gras in Galveston. My biggest project, though, is the PWA Campout. I'm working with the Texas Conference of Clubs, the leather/levi organization. We'll have clubs from all over Texas sponsoring this event. They'll be providing transportation, food, and camping equipment to send people to a beautiful place, up in the woods, where you can look out at the stars and roast marshmallows. This will be the latter part of September.

It's easy to see why you need a success this Christmas in July!

Yes. The organizer, Chris Severson, recently passed away, so I have Mike Pardon, the BRB's manager, and Regina Dane, aka Richard Bang from TWT, and Don Gill, all on my committee, and we will continue this each year in Chris' memory. We've had two successful years of this event. I believe it's so important, because around holiday time many PWAs are isolated and deserted; even friends and family don't know how to deal with them. They need a little bit of joy, they need a little surprise, and some dignity. I've had letters from PWAs saying how they could afford to send Christmas cards or take their PWA buddy to lunch to say thanks because of money they received through the Holiday Fund.

With a committee like that, you're in really good shape!

Don Gill and I make a great team; I fell in love with his heart when I met him through Mr. Prime Choice [see April/May edition of *OutSmart*]. We support each other in fundraising whenever we can.

Will we see you perform at this benefit?

I don't know. I will probably be behind the scenes with the funds. I can't do what I used to do! If I feel good that day, I might just show up in drag and help! Our goal is to raise \$3,000.

We'll keep our fingers crossed!

Suppose, like some of us, you have absolutely no desire (nor the figure) to put on a dress, but you still want to help PWAs in your community. What can you do? Stop by these events when you hear about them, and bring your wallet. We all can do that. ▼

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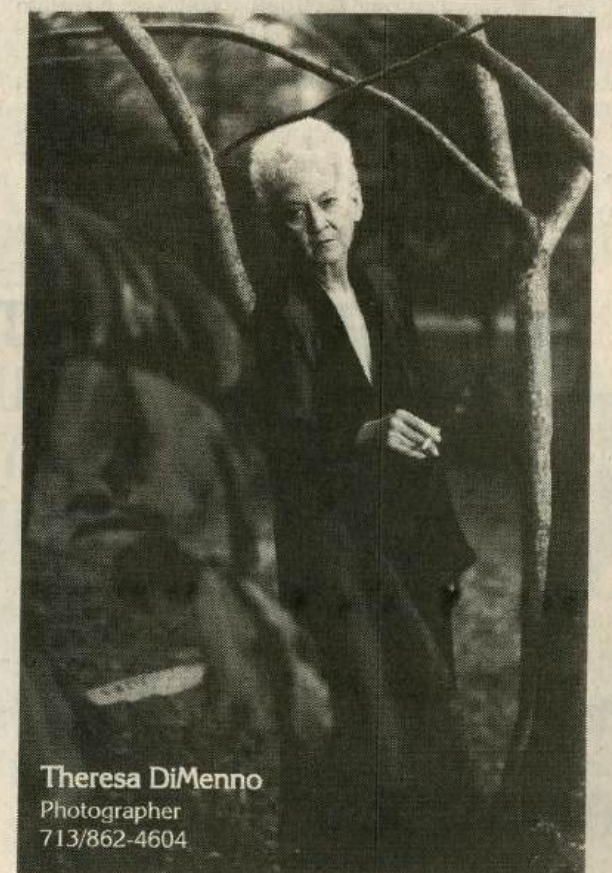
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State's Largest Law Firm Approves Non-Discrimination Policy

Houston-based Vinson & Elkins, one of the nation's largest law firms, has added sexual orientation to its written non-discrimination policy. The change was announced in a July 13 memorandum sent to all employees of the firm. The change was formally approved by the law firm's managing committee some time ago and has just now been made public.

The law firm's non-discrimination policy now mandates that "employees and applicants for employment shall receive fair and equal treatment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental handicap, veteran status or sexual orientation." The policy applies to all employees of the firm, including lawyers, secretaries, paralegals, and others. The new policy covers employment, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay and other forms of compensation, and selection for training, as well as other aspects of employment. Violation of the policy will subject the transgressor to possible disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

Reaction to the news from leaders in the gay community was ecstatic. "I'm delighted V & E has taken this important step toward removing the obstacles faced by gays and lesbians in the workplace," said Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus President Terri Richardson. "The policy change sends an important signal to would-be bigots both inside and outside V&E that anti-gay behavior on the job is intolerable," she added.

"This is just a tremendous step forward, a great victory for us all," said Log Cabin-Houston President Gary Van Ooteghem. Van Ooteghem, who was fired from his position with the Comptroller of Harris County in 1975 because he was openly gay, observed that "if we had had such a policy in the Comptroller's office, they would not have dared to fire me for being gay." He concluded, "I hope other employers in this city take note of the moral leadership offered by Vinson & Elkins on this issue."

Vinson & Elkins, with satellite offices in Dallas, Austin, Washington, D.C., and other cities, employs over 1,600 people worldwide. More than half that number are based in Houston. It ranks as the 15th largest law firm in the nation, and has more attorneys in Texas than any other firm.

Vinson & Elkins joins three other prominent Houston-based law firms in adding sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. Baker & Botts, Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, and Porter & Hedges have previously amended their employment policies to protect gays from discrimination. Nationally, more than two-thirds of the largest one hundred law firms have done so. Among the largest Houston-based law firms, only Fulbright & Jaworski has not yet added protection for gays to its formal policy. ▼

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Living With a Life-Threatening Illness: HOW TO TAKE FINANCIAL CONTROL

Part 4



The past few months we've been discussing the ten aspects of financial planning when living with a life-threatening illness. In this issue we'll discuss liability management which involves increasing, protecting, and securing your credit. This is important because the credit you obtain now may help you later with paying bills, making purchases, etc. Let's discuss a few key ways to manage liabilities with a life-threatening illness.

The first step centers on your credit report. It is not a secret document so get a copy of yours. The credit report describes your credit history. It is very important to maintain a good credit history, especially by paying bills on time. If bills are paid late, the credit companies report the late payment to the Credit Bureau and your credit history begins to deteriorate. It is also important to check if there are any problems or mistakes on your credit report. If there are, it's possible to work with the Credit Bureau to correct those problems and mistakes. If your credit is in good shape, obtaining more credit may be beneficial.

Secondly, you know all that credit card junk mail which seems to come in never-ending truck loads and you inevitably toss in the trash? Hang on to 'em! Start filling out those applications and try to get more credit cards with more credit limits. Once you've got the cards, put them away in a safe place and don't use them. You want to save that amount of credit for emergency use later on down the road.

Another option are lines of credit available through banks. These should be explored with your individual bank as to the terms and amounts available. A line of credit can be a great tool because if you don't use it, you don't owe anything but it is still available to you. In addition if you do need cash but are unable to get a line of credit, you may be able to qualify for a loan from the bank. Remember, however, if you get a loan, you have to start paying back the loan with interest immediately.

Many people have outstanding student loans. Student loans in your name are usually forgiven upon disability or death. Check the fine print on your loan to see if this applies.

Another part of managing your credit is with credit life and credit disability insurance which is sometimes available on credit cards, loans and lines of credit. Credit life is available through the lender and will liquidate your loans upon your death. To obtain credit life there is

usually no evidence of insurability needed on smaller amounts. The cost is based on the outstanding loan balance which, generally, involves a premium of about \$.35 to \$.55 per \$100 of outstanding debt. Many credit card applications only need to have a box checked to be able to acquire this benefit. Many times this provision can be added to existing cards with a call to the card company. Credit disability insurance waives the monthly payments due on outstanding balances for a specified period of time. This type of insurance, however, is more restrictive than credit life insurance.

The last key way to manage liability or credit is to consider your home and mortgage. Mortgage life insurance may be vital to paying off the mortgage balance at the time of your death. However if you have mortgage life insurance on one residence and are thinking about buying another residence, it is unlikely that you'll be able to get mortgage insurance on the new mortgage if you have a life-threatening illness. Therefore, you may want to keep and rent out the first residence, maintaining its mortgage insurance, and either rent or purchase a new house. At the time of death, then, the new home could be paid off with the proceeds from the sale of the first house whose mortgage was paid by the mortgage insurance.

Let me summarize these key points:

- This type of planning must take place while you are still employed.
- It can take years to get your credit straightened out, applied for, and/or increased so don't wait to maximize this planning.
- This planning is done best with the appropriate advisors.

Liability management is different for each person and depends upon an individual's personal beliefs about debt, the repayment of debt, and the managing of debt. Remember that this is just one of several areas available as a cash source when facing a life-threatening illness.

Next month we'll discuss other sources of cash. See you then..... ▼



by Julie LaRue, LUTCF

Julie LaRue, LUTCF is a financial advisor with The Acacia Group. Her practice includes financial planning for people facing a life-threatening illness. She is a Registered Representative and Investment Advisory Associate with The Advisors Group, Inc., the registered broker-dealer and investment advisor of The Acacia Group. Information is general in nature. Be sure to consult an attorney for specific legal advice. Julie can be reached at 713/888-3500.

THE WORLD

Be prepared for a very wet season as the Force Divine doth rain down upon mankind. There is great potential for floods and massive thunderstorms as the changes of the earth continue.

One very noted in the public eye who has wept over loved ones shall soon be released from his turmoil, clouding the world with deception. With his stance strong and experiencing only minor defeats, he places his past behind him as the whole world watches him flee.

ARIES (3/21-4/19)

Ending cycles and changing patterns is your focus at this time. You may notice that your perspective on life may not agree with that of others around you, especially those who deem themselves authorities. There is a great drive within you to break away from restrictive patterns and all the people who play a role within these patterns. To do this successfully may call for a change of attitude; you will have to call on faith, inner talent, and intuition. If you do this properly, you will find yourself placed on the road to success, or at least closer to starting your journey than you've been thus far. But please note that this will not be easy. Proving yourself against the world and placing your ego in check with all those around you can be a challenge. Maintaining your strong sense of independence, optimism, and outgoingness will propel you through these challenges and tests on a gentle breeze.

Unmarried Aries—those of you who are single yet perhaps actively involved in a relationship: I see no lasting marriages at this time. Keep focused on your goals. When it is time for love, love will come. Married Aries should expect a period of release which could come on any level for any length of time. Stay strong, high on your motivation, and successful you will be.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20)

Life never ceases to amaze us, with its changing cycles and changing events, the ups and downs, and the never-ending roller coaster of surprises. As you confidently climb your way up the ladder of life, you reach a point where you take pause. Pleasant memories shall re-emerge from the past, and old friends will pop up everywhere.

The need for newness and variety becomes stronger and stronger, perhaps taking the form of a change of scenery or a new admirer. The success you desire and the stability needed is only a hop, skip, and a jump away. But for now, celebrate life and enjoy what you have for today.

Good fortune rains down in all areas of your life, whether you can recognize it or not. There is potential for love and simple celebration. Honor and respect should come to you in your work.

Let the creative forces within you flow, as your imagination manifests the world around you.

FUTURE OUTLOOK



BY JOSEPH MOLINA

GEMINI (5/21-6/20)

Many Geminis may notice a pronounced sense of tension. Anxiety regarding money or your business is highly probable here, regardless of the strength and power which you have already established within yourself.

The cards show that there are many good things to come, especially in terms of career. But they urge you to exercise patience: Remember how long it took just learning to walk? For now, appreciate what you already have, like the beauty of nature and the little things in life.

Obviously, the forces of change are not at work in your life. Be prepared for a re-ordering of your routine. For some, this will be as breezy as birds gliding through the air. For others, hold on—it's going to be a bumpy ride.

If single, this shock could come in the manifestation of potential love. Demanding more time in your hectic life, this new relationship will definitely take you away from some of the things you enjoy. Invitations are what I see here. It's your choice whether or not to accept them.

Married Geminis, it may be time for you to re-arrange your house. This could be a positive outlet for all your pent-up energy.

One last note: Making major life choices and altering your life's plan is not recommended at this time. Patience is a virtue. So be patient.

CANCER (6/21-7/22)

Surrounded by the vibrations of the Magician, you could change the location of your home. Or, stay put and refocus your energies to where you currently reside. Expect a 180-degree turn as your life shifts and begins to move in a new direction. You may notice a refreshed feeling of vitality as your attitude is focused on success. With this, a new love interest could appear on the horizon, as you tend to be seen at casual, friendly get-togethers. It is apparent to your associates that emotional tension and stress has become lighter within you.

How all this comes about will be different for each one of you. But know that it will be unconventional, unique and should be the culmination of a cycle of learning that you have been experiencing for some time.

See yourself now as the Queen of Swords—wise, strong, and intuitive. She is able to look at all of life with inner strength, timeless knowing, and joyous confidence—the good times as well as the bad. This will assure you of the simple path to freedom.

Love, Joy, and Comfort. May you have many blessings on the path that you follow.

LEO (7/23-8/22)

Throughout life, we tread many paths which will lead in one direction or the other. Along these pathways, people come and people go. Each one has a gift for you, just as you have a gift for each of them.

The cards show an opportunity that will be presented to you via an outside source. A meeting—even if only a brief one—may lead you closer to your goals. Of course, use discretion; weigh everything with a grain of salt, especially as you quickly cross the path of one who will aid in leading you to victory. Here should be marked the beginning of a most powerful cycle, one that will be followed by many hours of work. This work may be interpreted as actual manual labor or as work on your inner self.

Be prepared—you may receive an upsetting message. Remember, the cycle of life is never-ending. We die many times within our cycles of growth.

You will have to work hard to stay true to your path. Agree to be the Leo that you are...be the hero who saves the world.

Peace and good luck.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22)

There is a "lightening up" occurring in your life. All the stagnation is about to move away. There will be a release of the ties that bind you as you move away from discord. You will have little control over this movement, but, regardless, expect to move away from the indecision and bad luck that may have been plaguing you.

There will be major issues that come up regarding transportation, particularly with your own vehicle. Be aware, however, that this may not be referring to a busted hose in your car. It may be pointing to problems with the shell you surround yourself with as you traverse life.

Now is the time to avoid excessive severity or allowing all the weight of life to slow you down. Many new friendships should appear, but if you're not careful you could miss them, being too wrapped up in the stress of the moment.

Break old habits and achieve more balance within yourself. This is the surest way to find stability and regain control of your life.

LIBRA (9/23-10/23)

Time out! Stop what you're doing and let us call for a progress report. Are you where you want yourself to be? Is life producing results as fast as you are? What more can you do to attain your goals?

This is definitely a period for reflection: a time to re-evaluate your life, to see what's been done right, and to make note of what's been done wrong.

Issues of money and a desire for more of everything begin ringing in your ears. Everything has been laid out on the table—it's now up to you to focus on the best way to obtain these desires.

It is not recommended that single Libras expect love at this time. Avoid trying to make something happen. But this could be a beautiful time for married Libras who are working through some heavy issues—expect great sensual satisfaction on the end. For others, your love will be tested through thick and thin.

For Libra in general, this is a time marked by the fulfillment of wishes. Be careful what you ask for—you just might receive it.

SCORPIO (10/24-11/21)

Radiance, joy, and optimism are the descriptive keys of the times, as you reap the rewards of your labors. Life's fruitful bounty begins to grow. Smile at the sunrise. Breathe life's beautiful air, and find true friends everywhere.

Many Scorpions could find a great yearning to make love to the open air. Traveling could be in order. Actualize the life of your dreams as the seeds begin to visually bear flowers.

Single Scorpions out on the prowl: Great love opportunities abound. This is especially true when you are traveling. Or perhaps a special romance is on its way here to meet you.

Married Scorpions: Now's the time to grow intimately closer. Dance in the living room. Make love on the beach. Celebrate your union together.

As a word of warning, be careful of overemphasizing the small things at the expense of more important matters. It could lead you in a different direction.

As for the future, you'll have to wait.

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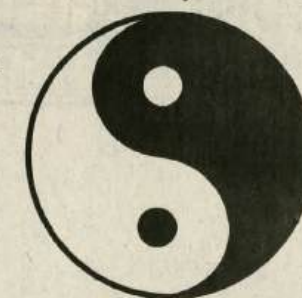
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Future Outlook

Continued from previous page

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)

At this time there is a need for more well-balanced emotions as you notice an interruption, or a pause, in all your affairs. Some may experience a truce in family quarrels, perhaps disputes over inheritances. Others could push their lovers away, expressing a miserly, ungenerous character.

Unlike the carefree Sag that you usually are, this period finds you searching for peace of mind. Let's pretend, if only for a minute, that none of this reality exists—just soft clouds, fragrant roses, and gentle winds. The prevailing winds of life won't be avoided, but their gusts can seem a lot lighter.

This is not particularly a good time if you're looking for love. This period's energy is more apt for shutting people out, or latching onto someone who will not compliment you as time goes by.

The air of this time is more centered on the self. Do things for you, and honor your own spirit. Give yourself that right.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19)

Often in life we come to times when we question the choices of yesterday and take hold of life with certainty.

For many this could be the start of many good things in life. The comfort of home, the security of wealth, and all the good luck that accompanies these things.

If independently employed, there's a lot of money to be made, and you might just be one of the fortunate who makes it. Stay determined and don't let anything slow you down.

Capricorns, take heed: this is not a good time for donations or loans of money. You just might never see it again. Also be cautious of making unprofitable investments. There will be risks you will be unable to justify.

Strap yourself in and get ready for a ride as you begin this new cycle. It can go up or it can go down. The choice for success lies with you.

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AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18)

Achieving all of life's goals and promises call for nothing more, at times, than for you to go with the flow. The cards show a need for easing up on your drive to attain your desires. Sometimes you can only kick back and relax, let life go by, until the light turns green and once again you speed ahead.

Single Aquarians, please be wary of any relationships formed at this time. At the very least, don't be gullible and get yourself into a messy situation.

Married Aquarians, the cards definitely show that some work needs to be done. Meeting your mate in the middle is the tone of the times.

Now is the best time to tame your lower urges. How disciplined are you? Surrounding influences could lead to great temptation and a testing of your metal. Learn to dodge the arrows of life and be the master of your path in order to experience the freedom inherent within you.

PISCES (2/19-3/20)

This period finds you, Pisces, realigning your attitude from an outward focus, experiencing the world, to an inward focus, contemplating the self. For a time, an urge will fill you to reject responsibility and the "gnawing away" of the world. You want to contemplate on the veranda and listen to opera. There is a feeling of needing more time to yourself. You have too many irons in the fire, and it's getting to you. But time doesn't lend itself to your personal cycles. Your body could call out for attention, creating rashes, heat flashes, or perhaps a summer cold. It is telling you to give it some rest.

This is not the best time to take on too many projects. Remember, you already have too many irons in the fire. Why add more? Stick with what you have, and it will grow. Conserve your strength for projects to come.

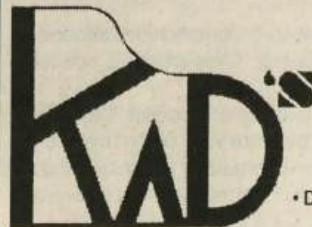
The keynote is communication; keeping emotions trapped inside only leads to despair. Open that special space and air out your tension. You will be transformed from feeling as though you weigh 10 tons to being light as a feather with nothing binding you to this earth.

Take care, Pisces, but don't work too hard for this peace. Let your body lead the way.

Joseph Molina is a practicing psychic and has studied the sacred sciences for over 14 years. Specializing in tarot, combined with clairvoyant insights for personal growth, Joseph also teaches and guides students in their development. He is available for private consultation. For information, call (713) 524-4411.

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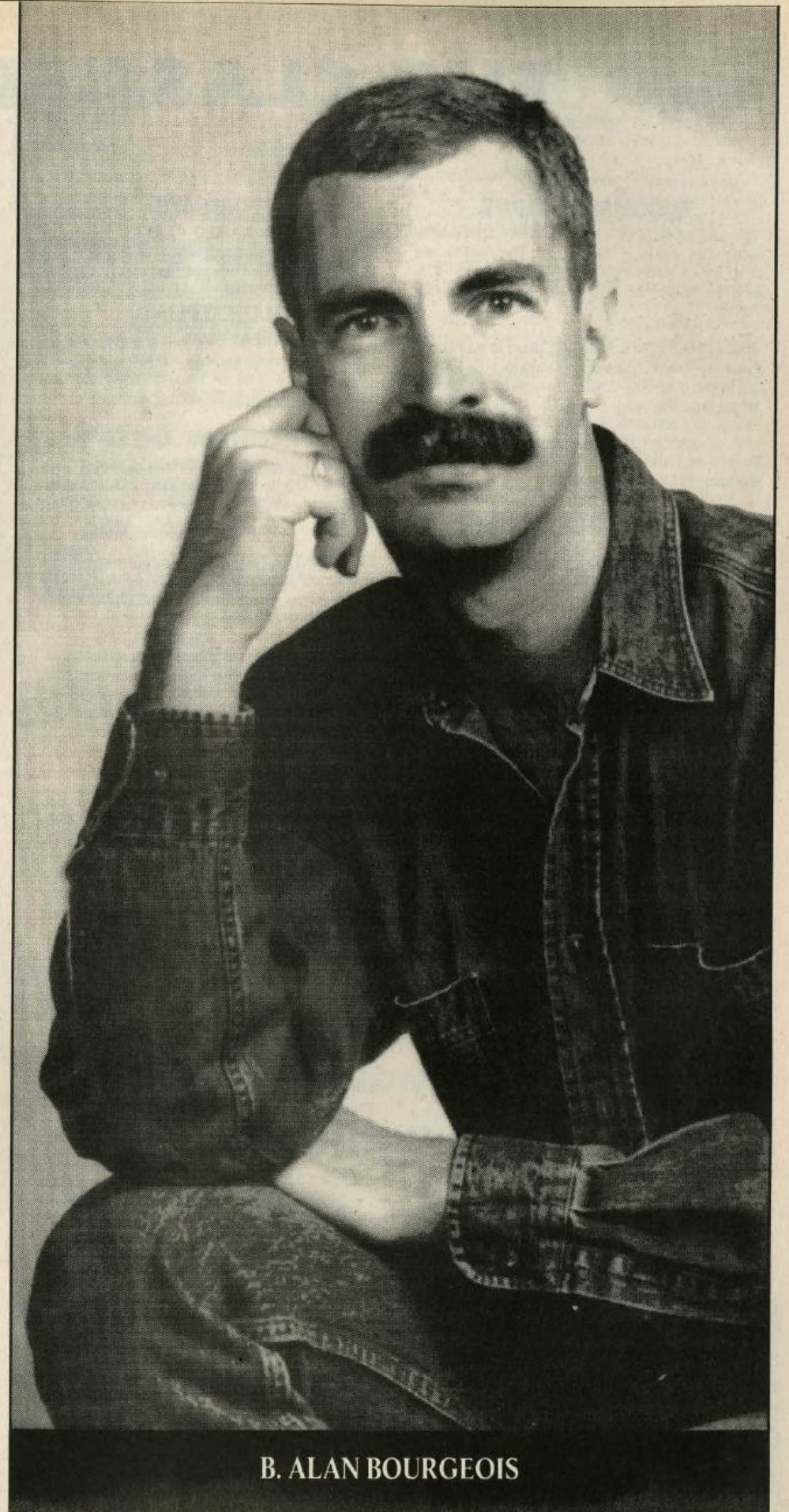
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Singing Cavalier Telegrams 8303 S.W. Frwy #230 520-7171
The Patio 9200 Buffalo Speedway 666-3464
The Ranch 9200 Buffalo Speedway 666-3464
Theatre LaB Houston 1706 Alamo 868-7516
XTC 9200 Buffalo Speedway 666-3464

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Acacia Financial Ctr...9 Greenway Plaza # 3000 ... 888-3500
Darryl Robinson/Union State Mortgage 781-8881
Mortgage Assoc. of Texas 524-1850

FITNESS/HEALTH CLUBS/PERSONAL TRAINING

The Art of Fitness 938-BODY
Body Balance 2425 Sunset 520-9916
Fitness Exchange 3930 Kirby #300 524-9932
Muscle Mechanics 523-5330

HAIR STYLISTS / FASHION

Debbie's Style Shop 2726 White Oak Dr. 869-8977
Robinhoods 315 W. Alabama 942-8888
Tracy's Retreat 2404 Montrose 529-5330

INSURANCE

Dale Englefield 3501 West Alabama #204 439-1700
Farmers Insurance Pippa Wiley 957-4297
Mansker Insurance 3400 Montrose #227 522-2792

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS CHIROPRACTIC

Jacqueline A. Doval, M.S., D.C. 4126 S.W. Freeway 627-9355
Dr. Jerry Martin, PC 5252 Westchester 660-7722
Yale Chiropractic Clinic 1445 Yale 802-0003

DENTISTS

Bruce W. Smith, DDS. 1006 Missouri 529-4364

HOSPITAL/IN-PATIENT CARE

Total Life Care 529-8922

HYPNOTHERAPY

Joyce Caldcleugh 2200 SW Freeway #400 524-1241

OPHTHALMOLOGIST

Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD St. Joseph Eye Center 757-0270

OPTOMETRISTS

Dr. Sue Moss 3701 W. Alabama #310 961-9705

PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES/PERSCRIPTIONS

Amex Pharmacy 3030 Canal St. 237-9301
STATSCRIPT 4101 Greenbriar #235 521-1700

PHYSICIANS

Patricia Salvato, MD 4120 SW Freeway #200 791-7520
People In Medicine and Houston Physicians for Human Rights Referral Line 523-4700

MASSAGE THERAPIST

Altruistic Touches/James Burke 523-9153
Essential Touch/Alan Davidson 3100 Richmond 942-0923
Norman Sanford 2503 B S. Shepherd 935-2122

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Joseph Molina 524-4411

Sandra Nicholas 522-0990
Joe Paxton 523-1627

PSYCHOTHERAPY/COUNSELING

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Arlene Gimble 666-00433
Miles Glaspy New Counseling Center 529-1913
Seely M. Gerraughty, LMSW-ACP LMFT 2715 Bissonnet 526-4487
Barry Gritz, MD Psychiatry 784-7807
Barbara Levinson, PhD Center for Healthy Sexuality 785-2600
Denise O'Doherty, LPC 3415 Graustark 529-1913
Montrose Counseling Ctr .. 701 Richmond Ave 529-0037
Patrick Vachon, LMSW-ACP...New Counseling Center 529-1913

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Acker-Blum Realtors 1939 W. Gray 529-6660
Suzanne Anderson Properties 315 West Alabama .. 529-8484
Ron Duster (Swilley-Hudson) 520-8888
The Garland Company/Bill England 926-6722

Richard Hill (Swilley-Hudson) 1505 Heights 869-0456
Spencer Pierce (Apartments Etc.) 974-9056
Lee Hudman (Acker-Blum) 1939 W. Gray 529-6660

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The Community of The Reconciling Servant 1505 Nevada 462-7154
Dignity Houston 1307 H Yale 880-2872
En-Lighten Up 528-6174
Houston Mission Church 1505 Nevada 529-8225
Jewish Congregation 748-7079
Kingdom Community Church ... 4404 Blossom 862-7533
MCC Maranatha .. 811 Westheimer, #110A... 528-6756
MCCR Houston 1919 Decatur 861-9149

RESTAURANTS & COFFEE BARS

Brothers Gourmet Coffee 4005 Montrose 526-1319
Cafe Anthony's 4315 Montrose 529-8000
Cafe Artiste 1601 W. Main 528-3704
Cafe Maison 2089 Westheimer 528-6750
Java Java Cafe 911 W. 11th St. 880-JAVA
Neo China 3910 Kirby #130 522-1331
Prince Street Market Coffee Delivery 880-2338
Shiva 2514 Times Blvd. 523-4753

RETAIL

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Dominion Jaguar 3101 Kirby 526-3147

ANTIQUES

River Oaks Antiques Center 2119 Westheimer 520-8238

ART

October Studios Gallery-Heights Pavilion 244 W. 19th 861-3411

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Crossroads Market 610 W. Alabama 942-0147
Dramatika 3804 S. Shepherd 528-5457
Inklings 1846 Richmond Ave. 521-3369
Lobo 1424-C Westheimer 522-5156

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Basic Brothers 1232 Westheimer 522-1626

Pueblo To People 4809 Montrose 526-6591

GIFTS, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS

Crystal Castle 228 Westheimer 526-6165

Ye Ole Magick Shoppe 1658 Westheimer 524-4411

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Heights Above Florist 911 W. 11th St. 862-2683

FURNITURE

Alabama Furniture 539 W. Alabama 526-5171

GIFTS

Celebrations To Go Gift Baskets 520-1674
Singing Cavalier Singing Telegrams 520-7171

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Kroger 3300 Montrose 526-7865
Nutrize International 775-9499

JEWELERS

Reiner's Jeweler's 2210 Westheimer 520-1212

SERVICES

CATERING

Fits & Cravings 863-8899

CLEANING

Lenny's Cleaning Co. 662-6446

Man Maid Cleaning Service/Tony Akin 993-9737

CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING

U.S. Construction 526-7679
Stewart Robin 805 W. 34 869-8073

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Deer Park Funeral Directors 476-4693
Earthman Funeral Directors 465-8900 659-3000
Miller Funeral Services 981-1184

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Preferred Graphics 528-7654

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Box Boy Moving Company 530-7822

PERSONAL COACH

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PIANO TUNING

James B. Kozak 863-8608

PLUMBERS

Bicknell Plumbing 649-6161

PRINTING AND GRAPHICS

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RUG CLEANING

Khan's Oriental Rugs 960-8200

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Mail Boxes Etc. 5090 Richmond Ave. 626-2920

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Heights Tanning 918 N. Durham, Ste. A 802-9373
Sunkissed 5757 Westheimer 785-4140

SIGNS/BANNERS

Signs of Success 2360 W. Alabama 942-7446

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Sandra Wilkins Travel 526-4471
Time Travel, Inc. 522-2794
Travel in Style 2425 W. Loop South #500 621-0247

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Satya Shepherd Spectrum Center 902-7913
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What a World, What a World

Another Gay/Lesbian Pride Week/Parade/Fest has come and gone—rental trailers once laden with rainbow helium balloons have been returned to Ryder, dehydrated revelers have re-hydrated, Fem 2 Fem has tucked its collective nipple back under its cutoff T-shirt in preparation for the next show. All in all, it was a grand celebration, made grander on a personal scale for the staff of *OutSmart* by having been awarded not one but two parade trophies: The Spirit of Montrose and the Judges' Trophy for best overall entry. *Thank you, it's an honor even to be nominated...*

Truly a product of think-tank teamwork, our float was entitled *OutSmart Headlines of the Future*. It's amazing how creative a group of overextended people can become once huddled over platters of pasta and a pitcher of Bellinis. The estimated record-breaking 20,000 of you who lined the parade route, prior to being overcome by heat exhaustion, will remember the mock magazine covers emblazoned with various hopeful portends of a happier gay/lesbian future for us all. These ha-ha headlines included—

- President Roberta Achtenberg Paints White House Pink
- Vidor Hosts Gay Games
- First Lesbian Miss America Crowned in Atlantic City: 90-MPH Fast Ball Clinches Title
- Catholic Church Anoints First Openly Gay Pope
- "Don't Ask, Just Kneel"—Military's New Policy on Gays
- Oliver North—The Susan Lucci of Politics—Loses Senate Race Again
- Mary's Celebrates 75th Anniversary
- Calvin Klein Introduces His Transgendered Line: *Metamorphosis*
- Anita Bryant Hospitalized: Chokes on Seed.

Funny stuff, no? Despite the frivolity of the spirit of the concept of the float, undoubtedly the most-cheered placard bore the prediction: "AIDS Eradicated: AFH Holds Going-Out-of-Business Sale." Oh happy day!

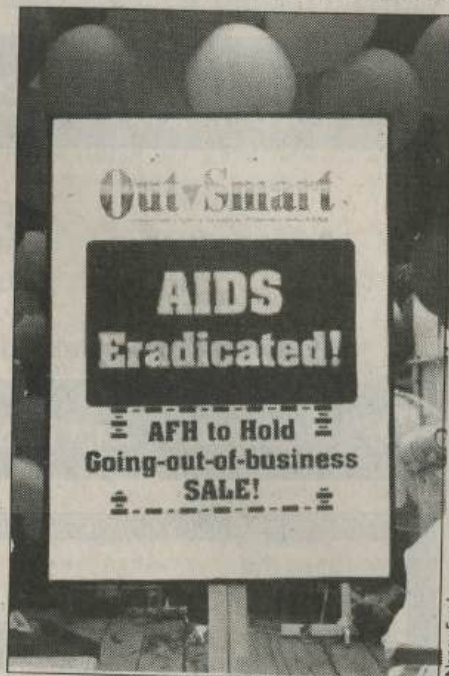
The preceding headlines are the ones



by Nancy Ford

that made the cut, you understand—those statements that a committee of Select-persons determined to be intelligent, entertaining, in good taste, and overall, most representative of the impression we wanted to make.

This editing process was without question the most difficult aspect of the production. For every acceptable



Nancy Ford

phrase "somewhat inappropriate and possibly offensive" are two principles that have made my career what it is today. So put your feet up, pour yourself a Bellini and read on—

- Hillary and Jennifer Flowers: "We Love Bill. He Brought Us Together."
- Newt Out, Candace In
- Chelsea Comes Out, Enlists in Military
- Local Political Group Renamed: Houston Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Transgendered/Left-Handed/Children of the Damned/All-Inclusive/Born-Again/Atheist/Conservative/Liberal/Log Cabin/Duplex/Bi-Coastal/Formerly Married/Of Color/Autistic/Albino/Pre-Menstrual/Post-Operative Political Caucus
- Elizabeth Taylor Weds for 15th Time: Janet Reno Lucky Groom
- *Bon Appetit* Praises Baba Yega's Re-opening
- FDA to Classify Poppers as Health Food
- Kindred Spirits Still Closed
- Michael Jackson Named President of NAMBLA
- *OutSmart* Moves Into Former Houston Post Building
- Camp David Sold: Becomes Camp Sister Spirit II
- 21.06 REPEALED—Bend Over and Celebrate!
- Colorado Passes First Gay Marriage Bill
- Rush Limbaugh Chokes on Pizza Crust: Claims He Never Swallows

Of course, as you may have guessed, there is yet another list of headlines, locked deep in the recesses of my desk, the likes of which push even the alternative envelope of this column. Maybe we'll save those for next year.

I love a parade. ▼

Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and frequent contributor to the gay/lesbian press. She performs each Thursday at 8:30 at Ms. B's at Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway. Call 666-3464 for info. Nancy also performs with the Lesbian Ladies of Laughter, Monday, July 24, 8 pm at the Laff Stop, 1952-A W. Gray. Call 524-2333 for reservations.

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HIV Issues/Grief
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at

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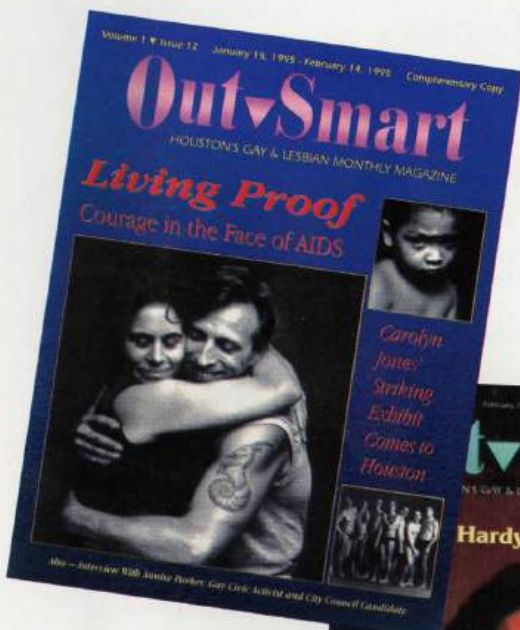
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Nelson Vergel, Founder of PoWeR

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Sue Huff, MBA, LMSW
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Jaymes Alexander, BS, Kinesiology
Nelson Vergel, MBA, BSCHE

Limited seats, Registration required. Call 713/862-1243 or send check to: PoWeR, P.O. Box 980741, Houston, Texas 77098

PoWeR is a project of The Larry Garrett Foundation, a 501 c3 Non-Profit Texas Corporation. Advertising courtesy of Basic Brothers and OutSmart magazine. The PoWeR Workshop is part of the AIDS Foundation of Houston's Wellness Program.

HOUSTON NOW HAS AN HIV BUYER'S CLUB!

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The Houston HIV Buyer's Club was formed to offer nutritional supplements at a cost everyone can afford.

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Amni Vitamin C	1,000 mg/100 Tab	\$6.95
Amni Selenium	200 mcg/100 Tab	\$3.75
Jarrow NAC Sustain	600 mg/100 Tab	\$8.95
Jarrow Co-Enzyme Q	30 mg/100 Caps	\$9.25
Jarrow Creatine Monohydrate	120 gms/120 gms	\$10.50
Chromium Picolinate	200 mcg/100 Caps	\$3.75
Next Nutrition Designer Protein	200 mcg/100 Caps	\$22.50
(Designer Protein prices could increase up to \$27.95 after July 18, 1995)		
Arkapharma SPV-30	90 caps	\$40.50

HELP US GET STARTED

We are able to offer these prices because they are sold 15% over our cost. Since we have to order by the case, it helps to expedite orders more quickly when you double your order.

APPROXIMATE DELIVERY TIME

TWO WEEKS after you pay for your order. We order when we have the money and when we have enough orders to fill a case. One case is our required minimum order (from the manufacturer) for most of these products.

HOW TO ORDER

PHONE ORDERS: Call 713/880-2338 and place your credit card order with Master Card, Visa, AMEX, Discover. *All credit card transactions require an additional 5% surcharge.

ORDER BY MAIL: Send your payment with your order to: Prince Street Market, P.O. Box 131594, Houston, Texas 77219. Make checks payable to Prince Street Market.

Payment Method: All orders must be pre-paid.

PICKUP/DELIVERY/SHIPPING

PICK-UP You can pick up your order at Body Positive, located in the Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, Suite 176 or 177 on Tuesdays and Fridays (after 2 pm).

DELIVERY: We can deliver your order to you on Fridays for a charge of \$1.50 (per address) if you live inside Loop 610.

KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP?

We have zero cash flow...that's why we have to wait until we have enough orders to fill a case before we can order from the manufacturer. If you know someone who can loan us cash flow (with no interest earned) indefinitely, let us know.

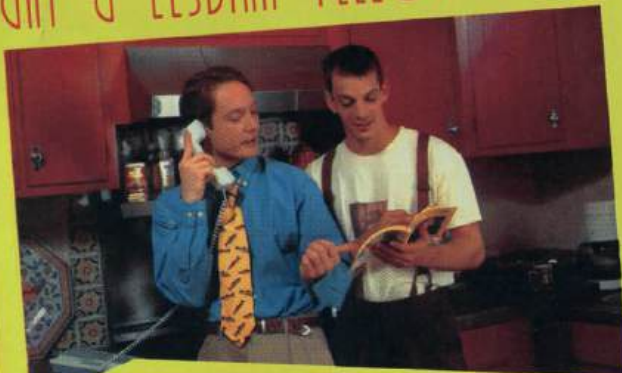
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CELEBRATING
OUR FOURTH
EDITION



① My business has doubled this past year. GLYP has generated more new business for me than any other advertising source.

*Peter Johnston, Owner
Johnston Interest Painters*

② This has been the single, most effective advertising I've ever done!

*Rob Schmerler
Insurance Agent*



③ Advertising in GLYP has resulted in an immediate return on my investment. We continue to reap results from the extended exposure of this publication and, therefore, recommend it to others.

Melissa Stephens, D.C., P.C.

④ Not only has GLYP brought a tremendous amount of customers to our agency, but it's also provided a reliable resource in keeping our business dollars in the community.

Coy Tow, Owner, Uniglobe First Choice Travel



⑤ Outstanding results! Four years running - my best advertisement value. I strongly recommend we all get involved and support one another.

*Richard Hill, Realtor®
Swilley-Hudson & Associates - Realtors*

⑥ Advertising in GLYP has become an integral and trusted part of my marketing plan.

*Joyce Gayles, Psychologist
JM Gayles & Associates*



⑦ Tremendous response! The quality of my callers has amazed me - they're very professional and upscale.

Gabriel Tran, Photographer

⑧ GLYP has become the foundation for my entire advertising program (for our community). All callers refer to GLYP when they are ready to buy my services.

Julie Siska, Accountant



⑨ My yellow pages ads have worked the best. But, hands down, GLYP is by far the most effective book for the Montrose area.

*Sam Richards, Owner
Club Pet of Houston, Inc.*

⑩ GLYP is just what our community needed to unite the gay money. I've seen great results since it began in 1991.

*Suzanne Anderson, Realtor®
Suzanne Anderson Properties*



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Lesbian
Yellow
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