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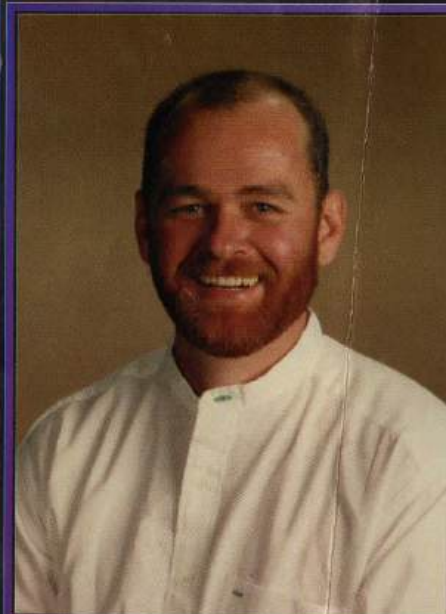
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OutSmart provides positive information to gay men, lesbians, and their associates to enhance and improve the quality of our lives. Our goal is to build a bridge of communication and understanding between cultural and social communities that are separated 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 9 OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 14, 1995

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ON THE COVER:

Lola Castillo, Jackie Doval,
Laura Villagran, and Linda Morales.
Cover Photo by Theresa DiMenno

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Autumn Dole-drums

In regards to Mr. Dale Carpenter's article [OutSmart, September 15, '95] entitled "Dole to Gays: Drop Dead" (a title which may prove to be more prophesy than put-down), I cannot help but feel that he, as well as many of the Log Cabin Republicans, are still looking at the Republicans through rose-colored glasses.

To say that Senator [Bob] Dole's "behavior is more honorable than Clinton's" is a prime example of this pink-tinted perspective.

If the good Senator were truly an honorable candidate, then he would have: a) never solicited donations from the LCR in the first place, and b) returned the donation before it was revealed in a Detroit newspaper. Instead of honorable, Senator Dole's actions are those of someone caught with his hand (up to the elbow) in the cookie jar of hypocrisy.

I would readily agree that President [Bill] Clinton is a traitor to the groups and causes that helped make his election possible. However, I cannot agree that this betrayal is the result of dishonor or outright lying but more due to a lack of, shall we say... testicles.

Call me an idealistic fool, but I do believe for good or ill, that President Clinton's motives and intentions were true. It was his own lack of conviction and naivete that proved to be his and, ultimately, our undoing.

But to give of Slick Willie his due: He was the only presidential candidate who took our side publicly. No mean feat considering the forces of darkness (read: radical right) aligned against him.

Let's face it. President Clinton and Senator Dole are both equally guilty, as you so aptly described it, of political nincompoopery.

—Chas Boline
Hockley, Texas

Can Dale Carpenter write an article on any topic and not include some slam to the Democratic party? His column on Bob Dole did not even merit a mention of any Democrats, but there he is, bashing Bill again. Frankly, I'm



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Got something to say? Send your comments, suggestions, lucky lotto numbers to: OutSmart 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, Texas 77006-4412 or fax to 713/522-3275.

tired of hearing over and over and over again about how Slick Willie betrayed the community. Politics requires compromise. Mr. Carpenter knows this, and we all know that if his preferred party were in the White House, he would justify the hell out of everything they did. Can this magazine give a nod to journalistic fairness and at the very least hire someone with an opposing view to give some balance to what is presented in its pages?

—Russell Simmons
Houston, Texas

Mr. Carpenter supplies his monthly column, "OutRight," to OutSmart gratis, as do most of our contributors. OutSmart continues to encourage submissions representing all political viewpoints of the community, as will testify guest columnists Annise Parker, Pat Gandy, Sarah DePalma, Lujack Tyler, and others. Thank you for writing.

Grand Slam Revisited

Regarding Cheryl Price's letter printed in the September-October [1995] issue—while I agree with the argument that gay-owned

businesses should not take advantage of gay clientele (my particular issue is with competitive prices), her point with regard to Charlie's Coffee Shop may have been lost. Boycotting Charlie's due to their poor quality and service may be worthwhile, but not on the premise that it will drive a point home with the supposed gay owner. Ms. Price's imitation and intended course of action is grounded in the assumption that Charlie's is indeed gay-owned. This assumption is surely based upon the observed predominance of gay employees and customers who have comfortably frequented the diner for years. (What is it they say about the word *assumer*?) Ms. Price needs to do a bit of investigating with regard to Charlie's true ownership before telling "as many people as possible" about her issue concerning gay business ethics. Such an investigation may set the record straight, so to speak. If Ms. Price truly wants a "gay-owned diner [she] can be proud to take [her] friends to and be able to show it as a good example of how gay businesses can be of quality and are successful," she may need to look further down the road, or start flipping pancakes herself.

—G. Vernon
Houston, Texas

Miss Camp America

On behalf of the patrons of the Miss Camp America Foundation and The Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the Houston community for their outstanding support in our 1995 fundraising endeavors.

On September 16 at the 27th annual Miss Camp America Pageant, \$60,000 in grants were awarded to our four selected charities of 1995: The PWA Coalition of Houston, the Bering Dental Clinic, the Houston Names Project, and the Colt 45 Trouble Fund.

Dream makers and dream fulfillers, we promise you endless curtain calls and standing ovations in 1996, for our goal is to continue to serve those in need. Together, we can all make a difference.

—Perrie Dolph
Vice President/Community Affairs
Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc.
Houston, Texas

Good News From the Front!!!

Dear Colleagues: I spent this morning at the Supreme Court (and last night in front of it) witnessing the oral arguments in the Colorado Amendment 2 case, *Evans v. Romer*.

On the basis of the oral arguments and the questions asked by the Justices, I expect the Court to strike down Amendment 2. The questions that remain are the margin by which it is struck down and the grounds on which it is struck down.

I expect that Rehnquist, Scalia, and Thomas will vote to sustain Amendment 2, but this is not firm. Rehnquist asked only one question, noting Virginia's preference for statewide as opposed to local enactment of some sorts of legislation, and Thomas did not ask a single question. On several occasions, Scalia jumped in to ask questions that made an argument more clearly than Colorado's rather inept Solicitor General, Tim Tymkovich. Even Scalia, however, was troubled by the scope

of the Amendment. Tymkovich was unable to answer Scalia's questions about the difference between homosexual/bisexual behavior and homosexual/bisexual orientation. I think Scalia has no trouble with laws forbidding sodomy or with discrimination against people who violate those laws. However, he does seem to have trouble with discriminating against people who limit their lust to their hearts and minds and who do not act on their orientation. I doubt that he would strike it down, but he might vote with the majority, should the Amendment be struck down for vagueness. This concern of Scalia's may turn out to be very important in the "Don't Ask/Don't Tell" cases, as well.

I would not be surprised if the Court went the void for vagueness route as a way to avoid the contentious political issues raised by the case. While some of the other observers at the oral thought the worst case outcome would be a remand to the Colorado Supreme Court for a more definitive interpretation, I think that the inability of anyone to come up with a clearer interpretation of the Amendment—neither of the lead attorneys nor the Colorado Supreme Court—makes a *prima facie* case for void for vagueness.

Anyway, on to the more encouraging news.

Three of the Justices—Ginsburg, Souter, and Breyer—were unrelentingly hostile in their questioning of the Colorado Solicitor General. Ginsburg brought up the fact that never before in American history has there been two sets of rules for the political process. She asked whether Tymkovich would use the same rationale had, prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, some state had passed a similar amendment targeting women. Ginsburg noted that the history of the suffrage movement was that, in some states, women were extended the right to vote by localities prior to the extension by states.

Kennedy was concerned about the scope of the amendment. He pointedly asked what the rational basis of the amendment was—why exclude lesbians, gays, and bisexuals rather than ending all anti-discrimination laws? What was the state's interest in repealing gay rights legislation in Boulder, Denver, Aspen, etc? How was the state harmed by such legislation?

Souter wanted to know why the state would want to take an issue off of the table rather than leave it to the political process. He wanted to know how the state could set differential barriers for citizen participation, uniquely disabling one group. He suggested that if Tymkovich could solve his equal protection problem, he would be faced with a due process problem.

Breyer seemed horrified by the scope of the law. He wanted assurances—as did O'Connor—that judges could continue to rule in cases raising gay rights issues. He wanted to know if Amendment 2 would permit Colorado to ration scarce medical treatments—such as dialysis—by denying it to lesbians and gay men. He wanted to know if police could continue to have nondiscrimination policies. Indeed, he wanted to know what "policy" meant in terms of the amendment.

O'Connor wanted to know if the amendment would enable public libraries to refuse to serve people on the basis of their sexual orientation.

O'Connor, like Breyer, was very worried about the scope of the Amendment. Interestingly, she never raised the question of federalism, one of her favorite issue areas.

We weren't allowed to make notes in the Supreme Court, so all of this is on the basis of my memory and subsequent reconstructions. There may be factual inaccuracies in the above description, but I am quite confident about the tenor of the session.

My guess? Six or seven votes to strike it down. I'm not sure that the Court will be able to agree on grounds beyond vagueness for striking it down. As Jean Dubofsky, lead lawyer for the forces of good, said at the subsequent ACLU press conference, "Amendment 2 defeats itself when you read it."

—Ken Sherrill
Washington, D.C.

La Mexicana Signs Pledge

At its September general meeting, the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) unanimously endorsed an "eat elsewhere" campaign against La Mexicana Restaurant and Bar. For those of you who've been shadow watching in Plato's Cave, a lesbian couple was approached by restaurant owner Eduardo Trevino when the couple engaged in an open display of affection while in the restaurant. Mr. Trevino informed the women that what they did was their business, but he didn't allow such behavior in his restaurant. Board member Chis Hughes spoke with Mr. Trevino and was told that it was "different" when a straight couple engaged in the same behavior. The caucus sent Mr. Trevino a letter requesting a meeting, to which Mr. Trevino did not respond.

A groundswell of support for the "eat elsewhere" campaign arose in the community, and Mr. Trevino realized the error of his ways. On September 18, Terri Richardson (caucus president) and Dale Carpenter (board member) met with Mr. Trevino and prevailed upon him to sign a pledge in which he promised not to discriminate against customers, employees, or suppliers on the basis of sexual orientation. Mr. Trevino repeatedly stated throughout the meeting with Richardson and Carpenter that he "doesn't discriminate against lesbians and gays."

In lieu of an "eat elsewhere" campaign and picket, the caucus held a press conference on Sunday, September 24, at La Mexicana to announce its designation of Montrose as a discrimination-free zone and to applaud Trevino for being the first neighborhood business owner to sign the pledge.

—Keith Stewart
Vice President
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus
Houston, Texas

Keith Stewart, protest organizer and caucus vice president, promises that the Committee for a Discrimination-Free Zone will investigate all reports of discrimination in the Montrose area and will take whatever action is appropriate in each situation. If you're interested in participating in this project, contact Stewart at the caucus, (713) 521-1000.▼

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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

October

15 HYDE PARK GALLERY, exhibition from First Annual Juried Art Show, through November 3, 711 Hyde Park, 713/526-2744.

16 WITNESS TO VIOLENCE, collaborative public artwork demanding an end to violence against women, 12 noon to 1 pm, on the steps of City Hall, 901 Bagby, 713/528-6798.

17 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, 713/524-2374.

18 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/.

MEN'S NETWORK for gay and bisexual men. Topic: "Bon Voyage the Gay Way... Traveling Gay" by Sojourns Travel, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

20 LESBIANS IN BUSINESS, speaker: Ann Northrop on "The Making of a Lesbian Activist," 6 pm, Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza, 713/529-0077. Next meeting: Suzanne Anderson on "Marketing Your Business, Your Organization, and Yourself," Nov. 17.

21 HALLOWEEN MAGIC presents Montrose Boulevard, 7 pm, Texas Medical Center Conference Center, 2151 Holcombe, 713/524-2374.

IN YOUR EAR AND OFF THE WALL, an evening of art, fashion, and entertainment with celebrity earrings up for auction, benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston, Westin Galleria, 713/627-6796.

DARCIE DEAVILLE, live concert with mandolin, guitar, and fiddle player, \$8, 8 pm, Kaldi Cafe, 250 West 19th, 713/864-9770.

HOUSTON GAY AND LESBIAN PARENTS sponsor A Day in the Park, 4 pm, 713/980-7995.



Diana Ross, whose remarkable career has spanned over 30 years, will perform live in concert at the intimate, in-the-round Arena Theatre on Friday, October 27 at 8 pm. The special guest host for the evening will be Raquel Welch, and the event will benefit AmFAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research).

DESIGNATING HOUSTON'S HISTORIC LANDMARKS, free, all-day workshop on historic preservation, 8:30 am, Lambert Hall, 1704 Heights Boulevard, 713/216-5000.

22 GREY PARTY 13, benefiting the Assistance Fund, Stone Soup, and the PWA Christmas Fund, 4-10 pm, Texas Longhorn Saloon (Loop 610 at Highway 290).

23 LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS of Houston general meeting, 7 pm, Sierra Grill, 4704 Montrose, 713/529-9100.

24 REMEMBRANCE OF POET JAMES MERRILL, poet Richard Howard will recall his friendship with the late gay poet James Merrill, 7 pm, Brazos Bookstore, 2421 Bissonnet, 713/523-0701.

HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MIXER, open forum for sharing information, 7-9 pm, 2700 Albany, Suite 205, 713/527-8219.

NAMES PROJECT VOLUNTEER MEETING, volunteers are needed all year long, 7 pm, The NAMES Project Houston, 2410 Woodhead, 713/52-NAMES.

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

LOVE, LUST, & INTIMACY, explores the options of safer sex and sensuality through discussion and games, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/524-2374.

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

26 IMAGINE AN END TO AIDS, community forum featuring top researchers and clinicians in the field of HIV basic science, prevention, and clinical care, 6:30 pm, Doubletree Hotel, 400 Dallas, 713/520-2000.

TOWN MEETING, INC., press conference releasing the information obtained from Spectrum '95 surveys, 6 pm, Montrose Library.

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.

27 DIANA ROSS, in concert with special host Raquel Welch benefiting AmFAR, 8 pm, Arena Theatre, 713/988-1020.

MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE, 1985 film starring Daniel Day-Lewis in a gay love story, 7:30 pm, Rice Media Center, University Blvd. (Entrance #8), 713/527-4853.

27-28 LISA KRON IN 101 HUMILIATING STORIES, charter member of The Five Lesbian Brothers, Kron presents a solo piece, 8-10 pm, DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346.

28 OUTRAGE '95—THE HALLOWEEN PARTY, benefiting PWA Coalition and Loving Arms Foundation, costume contest at 10 pm, \$15, 7-11 pm, 2401 San Jacinto, 713/868-9133.

HOUSTON WOMEN'S FESTIVAL, featuring live music, art exhibits, and food, 12 noon-12 midnight, The Hanger, 3301 Polk near downtown, advance tickets \$12 at Inklings or Crossroads, \$15 at the door, 713/973-1131.

30 GAY AND LESBIAN READERS GROUP will discuss the book *Pagan Babies* by Greg Johnson, 7 pm, Barnes & Noble, 3003 West Holcombe, 349-0050.

31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

November

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

MEN'S NETWORK for gay and bisexual men. Topic: "Understanding Grief" by Michael Wilson, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

2 PARIS IS BURNING, the documentary tribute to New York City drag balls, 7:30 pm, Rice Media Center, University Blvd. (Entrance #8), 713/527-4853.

4 HOUSTON BLACK TIE DINNER, with former Governor Barbara Roberts of Oregon and comedian Rob Nash, Grand Ballroom at the Westin Galleria, 713/523-9611.

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

8 THE MIND/BODY CONNECTION explores wellness and the many alternatives to Western medicine, 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.

9 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.

BACK TO BASICS, panel discussion explains the basic understanding of HIV medical approaches, lab tests, and treatment information, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/524-2374.

9-12 HOLISTIC AIDS CONFERENCE, exploring both Western medicine and complementary therapies, Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 1-800-875-8770.

10 DR. PATTI WETZEL, Ft. Worth family physician infected with HIV through an accidental needle stick in 1991, 12 noon, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, 713/798-4712.

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.

10-12 HOUTEX XV, local tennis tournament sponsored by The Houston Tennis Club, 8 am-6 pm, 713/868-5039.

14 HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS Support Group meets in the library at MCCR, 1919 Decatur from 7-8:30 pm, 713/980-7995.

THE NUTRITION DIFFERENCE, workshop focusing on the impact of exercise and good nutritional habits for people with HIV/AIDS, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/524-2374.

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

A TUNA BENEFIT, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams of Greater Tuna and A Tuna Christmas will perform an evening of improvisation benefiting The NAMES Project, \$20, 11 pm, Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, 713/526-2637.

Saturday, November 18

The first annual Alpha to Omega 5K run, skate, walk, wheelchair, benefiting Omega House, Houston's only residential AIDS hospice. For an entry form, call 713/524-6662.



heater

THE ACTORS WORKSHOP, 1009 Chartres, 713/236-1844. Oct. 13-Nov. 11: *Angels Fall*.

A.D. PLAYERS, Grace Theater, 2710 W. Alabama, 713/526-2721. Through Oct. 22: *The Lilies of the Field*. Nov. 24-Dec. 30: *A Christmas Favorite*.

ALLEY THEATRE, 615 Texas Ave., 713/228-8421. Oct. 20-Nov. 18: *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

THE COMPANY ONSTAGE, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219. Through Nov. 18: *Jake's Women*.

CURTAINS THEATRE, 3722 Washington, 713/862-4548. Through Oct. 21: *Beyond Therapy*. Oct. 26-29: *A Ballad of the West*.

DIVERSEWORKS, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346. Oct. 27-28: *101 Humiliating Stories*.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE, 4212 Main, 713/520-0063. Through Oct. 29: *Speakin' to the Soul*. Nov. 23-Dec. 31: *Sing a Christmas Song*.

THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE, 2020 Postoffice, 409/765-1894. Oct. 19: *Sleeping Beauty*. Oct. 28: *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Oct. 29: *James Whitmore in Will Rogers' USA*. Nov. 5: *Frankenstein*. Nov. 8: *The National Theatre of the Deaf*. Nov. 11: *Vicki Carr*.

THE GROUP THEATRE WORKSHOP, Cafe Brasil, 2604 Dunlavy, 713/522-2204. Through Nov. 9: *Sex Is My Religion*.

HALLOWEEN MAGIC, Texas Medical Conference Center, 2151 Holcombe, 713/524-2374 or 713/529-6071. October 21: *Montrose Boulevard*.

HOUSTON BROADWAY SERIES, Jones Hall, 713/629-3700. Oct. 17-22: *Laughter of the 23rd Floor*. Nov. 14-19: *A Tuna Christmas*.

MAIN STREET THEATRE, 2540 Times Blvd., 713/524-6706. Oct. 26-Nov. 26: *The Solid Gold Cadillac*. Nov. 5-14: *John Henry!!!*

NEW HEIGHTS THEATRE, 339 West 19th, 713/869-8927. Nov. 1-25: *John Leguizamo's Spic-O-Rama*.

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RADIO MUSIC THEATRE, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722. Through Nov. 18: *Fertile and Friends!*

RIVER CAFE, 3615 Montrose, 713/529-0088. Through Nov. 11: *The Bohemian Murder Mystery*.

SKYLINE THEATER, 1617 Fannin, 713/759-0701. Through Oct. 21: *LUV*.

STAGES REPERTORY THEATRE, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/527-8243. Oct. 20-Nov. 12: *Trudy Blue*.

THEATER LAB HOUSTON, 1706 Alamo, 713/868-7516. Oct. 18-Nov. 25: *Dark Rapture*.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS, Music Hall, 713/622-TUTS. Nov. 30-Dec. 17: *Singin' in the Rain*.

Dance

HOUSTON BALLET, Wortham Center, Texas at Smith Streets, 713/227-ARTS or 1-800-828-ARTS. Nov. 24-Dec. 30: *The Nutcracker*.

SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, Wortham Center, Texas at Smith Streets, 713/227-1111. Nov. 9-12: *American Ballet Theater*.

AFTER HOURS: (Radio) Saturdays, midnight to 3 am.

Radio & TV

Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Caper. KPFT 90.1 FM.

LESBIAN & GAY VOICES: (Radio) Thursdays, 9-11 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 (PAC). Showtimes are listed in local television guides under PAC channels.

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

A NIGHT OF TUNA TO BENEFIT NAMES PROJECT



Joe Sears, as Aunt Pearl Burras and Inita Goodwin, and Jaston Williams, as Vera Carp and Helen Bed, present *A Night of Tuna* Wednesday, November 15 at Rich's Houston, 2401 San Jacinto. Benefiting The NAMES Project Houston's "On the Road to Washington '96" fund, the improvisational night of comedy will feature a costume contest (come as your favorite Tuna character) and a hot cowboy contest (Inita's in need of a hot cowboy!). Doors open at 9 pm; showtime is at 11 pm. Tickets are available at the door of \$20 or in advance by calling 713/526-2637.

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

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

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

ANTI-HOMOPHOBIA ALLIANCE, an organization dedicated to ending the irrational fear of gay and lesbian humans, uses advertising, education workshops, and effective activism based on non-violence, intelligence, and common sense to harness support from a cross-section of the population. For more information, call Dave at 713/650-6916.

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.

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 713/681-9082 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.

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 Richard Parent at 713/743-7690.

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 Hilcroft. 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.

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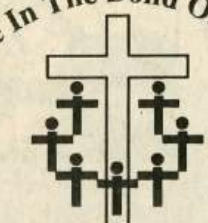
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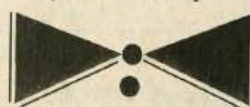
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Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. Contact Russell at 713/524-0218 or e-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

HOUSTON TENNIS CLUB, an affiliate member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, welcomes men and women of all ages and skill levels. They meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30-9 pm and Sundays from 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join, call Bobby Riggins at 713/868-5039.

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.

LIVING IN PROCESS GROUPS: Ongoing mixed group for men and women three Wednesday evenings per month. Ongoing gay men's group three Thursday evenings per month. Recovery, healing, and transformation are possible. Based on the work by Anne Wilson-Schaefer. Call Eric Mayo at Living in Process Southwest for more information—713/622-7250.

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.

MEDITATION AND CHANTING GROUP meets every Thursday at 7 pm. Call Alan at 713/942-0923 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.

OUTVOTE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to registering, educating, and motivating our community to vote, meets at 7 pm the third Wednesday of the month at the Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray. For more information, call 713/520-VOTE or 713/522-9837.

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.

RICE GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association) actively seeks gay and lesbian alumni of Rice University. Contact Neal Tannahill at 713/526-6718 for more 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.

TEAM HOUSTON FOR THE GAMES, INC. is a non-profit organization formed to educate and inform all people about gay and lesbian sports competitions and to encourage participation in the Gay Games and Cultural Festival. The next Gay Games will take place in Amsterdam, August 1-8, 1998. For more information, write to Team Houston, P.O. Box 66405, Houston, TX 77266-6405 or call 713/935-1060.

TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION is a non-profit 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.

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL VETERANS OF AMERICA, Houston Chapter. Location and times of meetings as announced. Write to GLBVA, P.O. Box 66706, Houston, TX 77266-6706. Phone/Fax: 713/951-9925.

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 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.

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Blaise DiStefano

Author Armistead Maupin (pictured here at MCCR/Houston's 10th anniversary in 1985) thinks it's the best way to get laid.

Armistead Maupin

(Entertainment Weekly, 12/11/92)

"Hollywood is a hypocritical town. They raise half a million at a gay-and-lesbian fund-raiser for AIDS, and they're all patting each other on the back. But really, wearing a red ribbon to an AIDS benefit is the best way to get laid whether you're gay or straight."

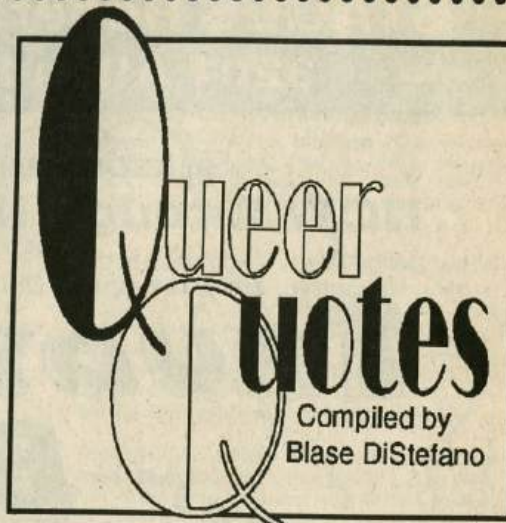
Paul Monette

(novelist & AIDS activist)

(The Advocate, 5/4/93, John Weir)

"My life is a red ribbon," he says ironically, emphasizing the contrast between evening-gown activism and his own continual battle against AIDS. "In fact," he continues, "sometimes I feel like a big red ribbon with a little Paul Monette pinned to the lapel."

(Paul Monette died earlier this year.)



Kathy Mattea

(country singer)

(The Advocate, 12/15/92, Larry Flick)

"... [A]t the CMA awards last September, Mattea walked onstage wearing not one but three red ribbons during the nationally televised ceremony—and before handing out an award, she explained the relevance of red ribbons, noting that of personal friends who had made a speech or get on a it would be appropriate to wearing red ribbons at these about it for a while."

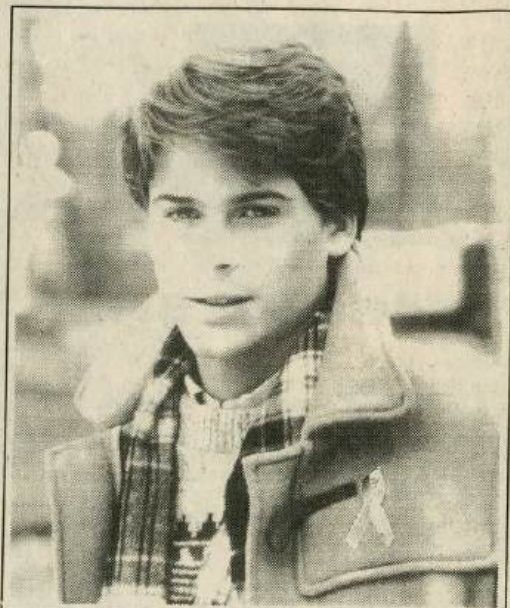
"Mattea's resolve to speak after the CMA awards, pany executive ap- 'He said, "Next year, fourth ribbon—for and cried for a long " 'Getting involved feels so right to me,' she adds. 'It takes away the narcissism that is so prevalent in this business. How can you be worrying about your hair and your nails when there are people dying out there?'"

Rob Lowe

(The Advocate, 5/4/93, John Weir)

"...Many may simply feel pressured to incorporate the ribbon into their ensemble because—as singer, actor, and videophile Rob Lowe noted at a film premiere last year [1992]—'I guess it's getting to the point where it's bad if you're not wearing one of those things.'"

Actor Rob Lowe (pictured here in 1983's *Class*) feels that it's bad to not wear "one of those things."



Jim Zenk

Stephen Baldwin

(Art & Understanding, Jun/Jul/95, Nick Steele)

"When we hit upon the subject of the endless parade of red ribbons and political statements saved for award shows, Baldwin kicks into high gear. 'I don't care what an actor says when the camera is on, I wanna know what they say to the little kid who they meet once the camera is off,' says Baldwin in a visibly agitated voice. 'I don't wear a red ribbon because I wear it in my heart and if it's there, I don't have to wear it on my sleeve.'"



Linda R. Chen

Actor Stephen Baldwin (seen here in the recent film, *The Usual Suspects*) wears it in his heart.

Wilson Cruz

(gay actor)

(Art & Understanding, Jun/Jul/95, Glenn Gaylord)

Gaylord: ... How do you feel about what I call the red ribbon brigade? These are a group of people who sometimes use their celebrity to further their career by wearing a red ribbon at an event ...

Cruz: ... As far as the red ribbons are concerned, I wear it because I wore it when my uncle died and I wear it because I am doing something. If you're not doing anything, if it's a hypocritical statement that you're making ... don't put it on. When I see it, I want to believe that person is doing something. To me, if they're wearing it and are not doing something, it's false advertising. Be a part of the fight, don't belong to it just because it helps you. See it as an opportunity to help somebody else.

John Weir

(writer)

(The Advocate, 5/4/93, John Weir)

"[The red ribbon] made its first major public appearance at the 1991 Tony awards show before moving west to conquer the Emmys, the Grammys, the Oscars, the Golden Globes, the American Music Awards, the Soap Opera Digest Awards, and, indeed, awards shows that even inveterate awards stalkers like actress Sally Kirkland haven't heard of."

"... Even my mother had a red ribbon hanging from the tree when I visited her in New Jersey last Christmas. It was suspended in a glass ball. She had traveled all the way to Greenwich Village to find it, sifting through sex toys at the Pleasure Chest. Any charitable gesture that places me at risk of encountering my mother in a sex shop is one that we as a community ought to reconsider."

OUT-HERE

First Houston Women's Festival Set for Saturday, October 28, 1995

The Houston Women's Festival, an all-day, multi-media experience of women's music, art, and commerce, is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, at 12 noon at The Hanger at 3301 Polk, approximately 12 blocks east of the George R. Brown Convention Center. Comedian Nancy Ford will emcee the all-day outdoor stage entertainment, beginning at 1 pm. Also performing are The FREDSI, Girls with Guitars, Edna Garcia, Denise Chambliss' Planet Earth Performers, Diana Jones, Velvet Hammer, The New Gretchen Phillips Experience, and comedienne Vickie Shaw. For more information, call (713) 973-1131.

Religious Right Inspires "Road to Tolerance" Alliance

The Road to Victory '95, the Christian Coalition's annual convention, sparked formation of a new, broad-based alliance of groups to wage war against the Coalition's "divisive" agenda. The Road to Tolerance Action Coalition formed in August to organize a lively pro-gay presence at the Christians' gathering and is quickly broadening its focus. RTAC now targets rightists' "hostility and intolerance" to involve progressive groups and people seeking to expose the Christian Coalition's "politics of division and dishonesty," used to achieve its own "narrow, political agenda." For more information, call (202) 986-6397 or (202) 457-1286.

Houston Black Tie Dinner Set for Saturday, November 4, 1995

With its theme "Equal Rights for All—The Time is Now," the 1995 Houston Black Tie Dinner will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Westin Galleria Hotel, Saturday, November 4, 1995.

The annual event, jointly sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign and Black Tie Dinner, Inc., raises funds for distribution to ten local charities and the HRC. The Human Rights Campaign of Washington, D.C., is the nation's largest lesbian and gay political action and educational organization.

Governor Barbara Roberts, former governor of Oregon and a prominent national spokesperson for equal rights, will be the keynote speaker, with Elizabeth Birch, executive director of HRC, as special guest. Comedian Rob Nash entertains, with Ezra Charles and the Works providing music for dancing. A silent auction during the cocktail hour precedes the dinner.

For more information and reservations, call (713) 523-9611.

Texas Lesbians Choose Dallas as Site of '96 Conference

The Texas Lesbian Conference, entering its ninth year, will be held in Dallas on May 3, 4, and 5, 1996. Now referred to as TLC, Inc. (having recently been granted 501(c)(3) status), the conference will be navigated from Houston by Torrie Justus and Susan Turell, board facilitator

and treasurer and board meeting implementer, respectively. There are currently six at-large positions open for representatives from other areas of the state, three of which must be filled by women of color.

In addition, the board is sponsoring a TLC, Inc. logo contest, open to women only. For contest rules and more conference information, write to TLC 96, P.O. Box 191069, Dallas, TX 75219.

John Steven Kellet Foundation Announces 1995 Grants

The John Steven Kellet Foundation has announced its 1995 grants to the following organizations: DiverseWorks Artspace, for bringing gay and lesbian programming to the Houston community; Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN), for developing GLSTN chapters in major Texas cities; Montrose Counseling Center, for counseling services for low income or indigent gay, lesbian, or bisexual clients; Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)—Houston, for local efforts in support of P-FLAG's national Project Open Mind, a positive-image multi-media campaign with Houston as one of three major target cities; and Texas Human Rights Foundation, for development of an educational brochure on the aspects of gay/lesbian partnerships and families in Texas.

"Lesbian Brother" Lisa Kron Brings 101 Humiliating Stories to DiverseWorks

A 1994-95 Drama Desk Award nominee, Lisa Kron's *101 Humiliating Stories* comes to Houston's DiverseWorks, October 27-28. Part stand-up comic, part confessional character actress, and part performance artist, Kron spins the story of the results of what happens when "a big lesbian" receives a phone call inviting her to perform at her high school reunion. Kron last impressed Houston audiences during Pride Week '94 with her chillingly hysterical performance in *The Secretaries*, accompanied by the comedic theatrical ensemble Five Lesbian Brothers. For reservations, call (713) 223-8346.

Paz Passes Publishing Torch

Local lesbian author Jazz Paz has chronicled the history of Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride, in preparation for a book to be published as a factual account of Houston's contemporary pride movement. These documents include researched articles, pictures, letters, and interviews through the 1991 celebration. Though Paz has obtained a committed publisher and pending contract, she has chosen to donate these materials to a sincere individual writer or

group of writers who will pursue this project to publication. Interested parties should contact her at P.O. Box 66776, Houston, TX 77266 or call (713) 868-5153.

Montrose Ice Picks Skate Into "Miracle on Main Street"

A new, downtown outdoor ice-skating rink, dubbed "Miracle on Main Street," is expected to be the centerpiece of an elaborate, 40-day holiday festival extending from November 23 through January 1. The Montrose Ice Picks, Houston's gay and lesbian ice-skating organization, invites you to twirl amid the twinkling lights with friends and family each Saturday and Sunday, noon to five, at 1000 Main. For more information, call Angel Lincoln at 629-1432.

Montrose Clinic Begins Low-Cost Women's Health Clinic

The Montrose Clinic now offers a new women's health specialty clinic, available by appointment each Wednesday. The clinic includes a complete OB/GYN screening, diagnosis, lab work, medication, and referrals. A \$40 fee is requested, but no one will be turned away. To schedule an appointment, call 520-2000.

Dale Carpenter Elected Log Cabin State President

The Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, a gay civil rights organization working to change the Republican Party's hostility toward homosexuals, has elected Dale Carpenter as its new state president. Carpenter, a lawyer in Houston who writes the monthly "OutRight" column for *OutSmart* magazine, announced his intentions to increase Log Cabin membership statewide and to expand the number of Log Cabin chapters in Texas. "If we need any further evidence of the necessity of gay and lesbian involvement in the Republican party, the 1994 election gave it to us," said Carpenter. "We

must take the fight for gay civil rights to the center of the battle, and that is in the GOP."

Former Houstonian Runs for Louisiana State Legislature

Gay activist and civil rights leader Larry Bagnieris is making a bid for the Louisiana State Legislature. Past president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and former chair of the Houston Gay Pride Parade, Bagnieris will be a breath of fresh air to the state often known as the political home of ex-KKK state representative David Duke. Campaign contributions may be sent to the Larry Bagnieris Campaign, 1529 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130.

OutSmart Writer Contributes to AIDS-Therapy Newsletter

Nelson Vergel, a frequent contributor to *OutSmart* magazine, has been named contributing editor of *Medibolics*, an AIDS-therapy evaluation newsletter, newly published in West Hollywood, California. The quarterly newsletter focuses on the most effective AIDS-steroids therapy protocol, including experimental and non-traditional therapies. Vergel is founder of Houston's nonprofit agency, Program for Wellness Restoration, a comprehensive workshop program covering nutrition, supplementation, resistance training, anabolic steroids, and motivational techniques. The program has been researched from medical literature and designed from his own experience as a 10 years+ AIDS survivor. For more information on *Medibolics*, call Michael Mooney at (310) 657-0327.

Uptown Express Magazine Founder Remembered With Memorial Scholarship

Southpark Funeral Home, a division of Crespo Funeral Homes, has established two annual \$500 memorial scholarships in memory of em-

ployees Michael L. Bunch and Joey D. Cundiff. "We felt the scholarships would be a fitting tribute to two special people," said John Clayton, executive vice president for the Houston region. "Both men made significant contributions to the community of Pearland." Cundiff, former manager of Southpark Funeral Home, was one of the founders of *Uptown Express* magazine, *OutSmart* magazine's sister publication. Cundiff died from HIV/AIDS-related complications on September 9, 1992.

OutSmart Columnist Recognized by "Other" Publication

Lesbi-centric comedian and *OutSmart* co-founder Nancy Ford has been voted "Best Local Comic" by the *Houston Press* annual "Best of Houston" Readers' Poll. Citing the adage that "There's no accounting for taste; that's why God gave us MSG," she has been recognized with this honor for two consecutive years. Ford's column "What a World, What a World..." appears in *OutSmart*, as well as in several other gay and lesbian magazines throughout the United States.

Houston Area Women's Center Responds to O.J. Verdict

Responding to the acquittal of O.J. Simpson for the murders of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman, executive director of the Houston Area Women's Center, Ellen Cohen, stated: "This is not a verdict on domestic violence. This acquittal does not change the tragic facts that domestic violence is a killer epidemic in this country and that this epidemic takes the lives of women and children every day. More than anything, I want women and children in these situations to know that there is hope for them, there is help for them, and that they deserve a life of dignity and safety." Help is available by calling the HAWC hotline at (713) 528-2121. ▼

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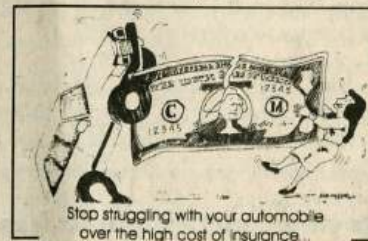
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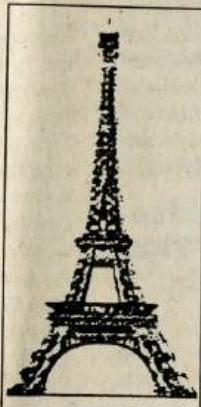
HONOLULU — A special commission set up to evaluate the impact of excluding gays and lesbians from legally marrying in Hawaii has been recently considering the economic impact of the issue. Among some 100 benefits and rights opposite-sex couples currently enjoy under the state's marriage laws that same-sex couples are denied are tax deductions, accidental death payments, inheritance and burial rights, and business and land transfer benefits. In considering the issue, Dan Foley, the lawyer who is representing the three same-sex couples suing the state for legal marriages, told the commission that gays and lesbians have the right to these benefits just as heterosexual couples do. "The rights and benefits that are contingent on marital status must be given to same-sex couples via marriage license, unless the state can demonstrate compelling state interest that it be withdrawn," Foley told the commission. But Steven Michaels, the state's deputy attorney general, said most situations that involve denying benefits to same-sex couples can be resolved under existing laws. "In very many instances, but not all instances, the differences in treatment are quite small and could be resolved, for example, through the law of contracts, probate, and through other kinds of arrangements that are authorized under existing law," Michaels insisted. The commission is expected to have recommendations on the contentious issue for the state legislature by the end of this year.

Supreme Court Poised to Hear Amendment 2 Appeal

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court begins its new session in early October, and on its docket this term will be the appeal by the

'Vive L'Amour' French Town Goes for Domestic Partnerships

SAINT-NAZAIRE, France — France entered the domestic partnership campaign when Saint-Nazaire, a town in the southern tip of Brittany at the mouth of the Loire River, decided to begin certifying gay and lesbian couples. Deputy Mayor Maxime Batard said at a press conference that "all we have sought to do is give homosexuals the same rights as other citizens." Batard acknowledged that the domestic partnership certificates had little legal effect since the French national government controls most benefits enjoyed by spouses. "Ours is a symbolic gesture," Batard said. "If it can get things moving on a national level, that would be pretty good." The town of some 70,000 people is believed to be the first in France to offer partnership certificates to gays and lesbians.



Paris District Mayors Endorse Partner Certificates

PARIS — In a joint press communique, the six district mayors of Paris said they wanted "to contribute to equality between citizens, whatever their personal situation." Gays and lesbians in Paris have worked hard to get recognition for their relationships, and they suffer discrimination in a number of areas as couples without some legal recognition of their partnerships. The "common life" certificates that the district mayors endorsed would have no legal authority, but rights activists said it would be a significant beginning to achieving full equal rights for gays and lesbians.

state of Colorado to reinstate the anti-gay Amendment 2, which was narrowly approved by voters only to be later declared unconstitutional by the Colorado Supreme Court. The case is of intense interest to rights activists, because how the court rules could well determine the fate of similar measures around the country to exclude lesbians and gays from civil rights protections along with other minority groups. Some observers believe the increas-

ingly conservative high court is likely to sustain Amendment 2, in whole or in part.

Austin to Consider Gay Youth Policies

AUSTIN, Texas — The Austin City Council said it will take under consideration a set of recommendations from the city's human rights commission aimed at reducing anti-gay discrimination in public schools and other city-run institutions. Among the 10-point recommendations the human rights commissioners have sent to the council for action: implementing policies to prevent harassment of gay, lesbian, and bisexual students in public schools; offer school staff training about anti-gay discrimination; develop social and health-related services to meet the specific needs of gay and lesbian students; make more information about sexual orientation available through the city's public libraries. The HRC recommendations grew out of public hearings it held last year on anti-gay harassment and bias in the school system. James Hill, head of the city HRC, said of the commission's recommendations, "We have to remember the voice of young people."

Canadian Parliament Nixes Marriage Bill

OTTAWA — Canada's House of Commons came back from its summer recess and launched its new legislative session by voting against recognizing same-sex marriages. The Commons voted 124-52 against a bill put forward by openly gay MP Real Menard that would have extended legal recognition to gay and lesbian marriages. In a related development, the Canadian Union of Public Employees said it would appeal an Ontario court ruling that the union cannot extend pension and other taxable benefits to the unmarried, same-sex partners of union members. The Canadian

Supreme Court had earlier ruled that anti-gay discrimination is illegal, but that the government has the right to withhold tax benefits from same-sex couples if it chooses to. The union says denying it the right to extend the benefits is a private matter that the government should not have any business restricting.

'Celluloid Closet' Wins Award at Toronto Festival

TORONTO — *Celluloid Closet*, the just-released documentary film that examines the Hollywood motion picture industry's depictions of lesbians and gay men, was awarded a second-place award at the Toronto International Film Festival. *Celluloid Closet* was made by Oscar-winning filmmakers Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman.

Man Files Bias Suit Against Computer Firm

SAN FRANCISCO — An openly gay man has filed a discrimination lawsuit against Adobe Systems, the Mountain View, California-based high-tech computer firm. Dale Short worked as an administrative assistant at the company for two years where he was given excellent performance reviews and bonuses before being suddenly fired earlier this year after a new supervisor started in his division. The company denies any wrongdoing in Short's dismissal.

Michigan Campus Nixes Partner Benefits

MOUNT PLEASANT, Mich. — Central Michigan University has decided not to extend domestic partner benefits to its lesbian and gay employees. "We're extremely disappointed with this decision," said Michael Stemmeler, director of CMU's gay & lesbian programs and an associate professor of religion. "Offering domestic partnership benefits is a matter of equity—offering equal pay and benefits for equal work. It is also a way to help make the campus climate more comfortable for gay and lesbian faculty, staff, and students." CMU administration officials said they made their decision because few universities in the state offered such benefits and because employees at the institution had not asked for the benefits. Stemmeler, however, said that "employees have asked for them," adding that "more gay and lesbian employees would be likely to ask for domestic partnership benefits if the campus atmosphere was one in which [they] felt safe and accepted." CMU has an enrollment of 16,435 students and employs about 2,000 faculty and staff members.

Students Protest Teacher's Firing

NEW IPSWICH, N.H. — Dozens of students walked out of classes at Mascenic High School to protest the firing of teacher Penny Culliton by the Mascenic school board for using books with gay and lesbian characters in her English classes, including the E.M. Forster classic novel *Maurice*. Culliton is fighting her firing, with the support of the National Education Assn. One of the students organizing the campus protest was Lori Malboeuf, whose father is the local police chief.

Protest Over Verona Council's Anti-Gay Decision

VERONA, Italy — Thousands of gays and lesbians took to the streets of Verona, the setting for Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, to protest a city council action earlier this year rejecting a European Union resolution supporting equal rights of same-sex couples. In rejecting the EU resolution, some councilmembers had instead called for castrating homosexu-

als. An estimated 5,000 people turned out for the protest, one of the largest in the city's recent history.

NY High Court to Consider Anti-Gay Prejudice in Appeals

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest judicial body, will now consider the "sexual preference and behavior" of anyone condemned to death in the state to determine if their convictions were influenced by anti-gay biases. The decision by the court, which will also weigh race, ethnicity, citizenship, education, and other factors in evaluating possible prejudice in convictions in lower courts, is a result of the state's reinstating the death penalty. The court will also consider similar information about murder victims in appeals it evaluates.

Activist Donna Redwing Ailing

PORTLAND, Ore. — Rights activist Donna Redwing collapsed during a gay rights workshop she was conducting in Indianapolis on September 30. She has been diagnosed with operable brain tumors. Redwing, who was a leading organizer who helped work against passage of an anti-gay ballot initiative in Oregon in 1992 and other civil rights programs, said "the initial episode was very frightening" but added that her doctors "are confident of a quick recovery" following brain surgery. Redwing currently handles fieldwork for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

High Court Justice Leaves Visitation Intact

WASHINGTON — U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens has reviewed and left unchanged a Wisconsin Supreme Court temporary order that allows a lesbian to continue visiting the biological son of her former partner. Justice Stevens' decision will allow Sandra Lynn Holtzman to continue to visit the 6-year-old son of her ex-partner, Elsbeth Knott, while Holtzman appeals a court ruling that would block her from having any visitation rights with the boy.

Spokane Coroner in Trouble Over 'Gay Rape' Remarks

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington Gov. Mike Lowry has called on a state medical board to consider disciplinary action against Dr. Dexter Amend, the Spokane coroner who stunned locals by saying that homosexuals were responsible for the murder-rape of a 9-year-old girl because she had been sodomized. Gov. Lowry told the state's medical board to take "any and all appropriate action necessary" in examining Amend's case. The commission has the authority to take a variety of actions, up to and including revoking the coroner's medical license. Although the uncle of the girl had already confessed to the murder-rape of the girl and authorities said the 9-year-old's parents had been under investigation on possible child molestation charges, as well, before her death earlier this year, Amend told reporters that homosexuals were really responsible for the crime, although the girl's uncle is heterosexual. "She's been sodomized over and over, and sodomy is a homosexual act—it is," Amend said in a published interview after his autopsy of the child. "To have everybody think homosexuality is okay is a bunch of baloney. I don't care what the political ramifications are on this. It's a horrible, unbelievable thing that this child went through, and they [homosexuals] destroyed her life."

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Out In Our World

Continued from previous page

European Commission Rules for Transsexual Dad

STRASBOURG, France — The European Human Rights Commission has ruled by a 13-5 vote that the refusal of British officials to register the female-to-male transsexual father of his wife's child, which was conceived by artificial insemination, is a violation of the European Human Rights Convention. British authorities had refused to register the unnamed transsexual as the child's father, arguing that only biological males could be considered the father of children in birth registries. The case will go to the European Human Rights Court, which will make a final ruling on whether the refusal to register the transsexual as the child's father breached the European convention and what possible remedies must be taken.

Survey Examines Lesbians' Health Issues

STANFORD, Calif. — Dr. Katherine O'Hanlan, a gynecological oncologist at Stanford University, reports in the current issue of *Current Problems in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Fertility* that lesbians are at greater risk for a number of health problems—largely because of ignorance, neglect, or outright hostility among physicians who treat them. O'Hanlan's study reviewed virtually all data from all lesbian health studies ever done and included information that covered a total of more than 13,000 lesbians in seven different surveys. "Given their demographic profile, lesbians appear to be at higher risk of breast, ovarian, and endometrial carcinoma [cancer], as well as heart disease," O'Hanlan reported. The Stanford associate professor also concluded that one possible contributing factor to the health problems faced by lesbians arises at least in part because they feel alienated by the medical establishment, causing them to visit their physicians less often than other women. "There is ample evidence that lesbians have been alienated from medical practice, either by accidental offense by a well-meaning doctor or by prejudice," she said. "It's essential that we welcome them back into the medical fold in order to provide appropriate screening and testing for these illnesses." O'Hanlan said physicians can make even fairly minor changes in their office routines that would make lesbians feel more welcome, from forms that recognize relationships like domestic partners, to involving the patient's partner in major medical decisions the same as a married spouse would be.

Clinton Aide Comes Out—as Straight Person

WASHINGTON — *Roll Call*, the congressional news publication, reports that during a mid-September meeting of the Lesbian and Gay Congressional Staff Assn. with Marsha Scott, President Clinton's recently appointed liaison to the gay and lesbian community, Scott "admitted" (tongue firmly in cheek) that she is indeed a heterosexual. According to the news magazine, Robert Raben, an aide to openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), told Scott: "We admire your courage in coming out as a straight person." To which Scott replied (even more jokingly), "I'm so ashamed."

Openly Gay Supreme Court Justice in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The most recent example of the surge of civil rights progress in South Africa is the recent appointment of an openly gay man to South Africa's Supreme Court, the first such openly gay high court justice in the world. Edwin Cameron, a law professor at the University of Witwatersrand and a longtime gay rights advocate within the country's anti-apartheid movement, has been named to a seat on the South Africa Supreme Court. He had been under consideration earlier this year for a seat on the country's Constitutional Court. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Cameron also headed the much-praised Cameron Commission, a national panel that investigated the country's clandestine arms deals with several other governments under international arms embargoes, including Iraq. During the transition from

apartheid to full reconstruction in South Africa, the country has adopted an interim Constitution that includes provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the first country in the world to do so.

22 San Francisco Officers Face Police Disciplinary Hearings

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Police Chief Tony Ribera has announced that 6 city police officers may be suspended or fired and another 16 face other disciplinary actions for their part in a raid on a New Year's day AIDS fundraising party. Party-goers at the charity event charged officers conducting the raid with various violations, including use of excessive force, false arrest, use of homophobic language, illegal search and seizure, and falsifying official reports. Eleven people were arrested at the crowded event. But Chief Ribera said the raid itself was legal because officials believed the event was serving alcohol without a permit. He also said the raid showed no signs of having been prepared because of anti-gay bias, even though some of the officers facing disciplinary action have been accused of making overtly homophobic comments during the raid. ▼

JOSEPH MOLINA

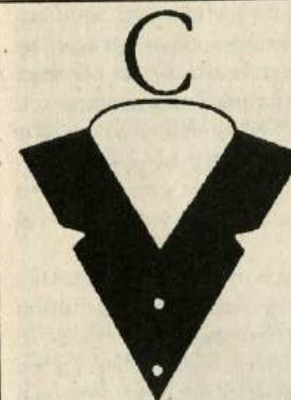


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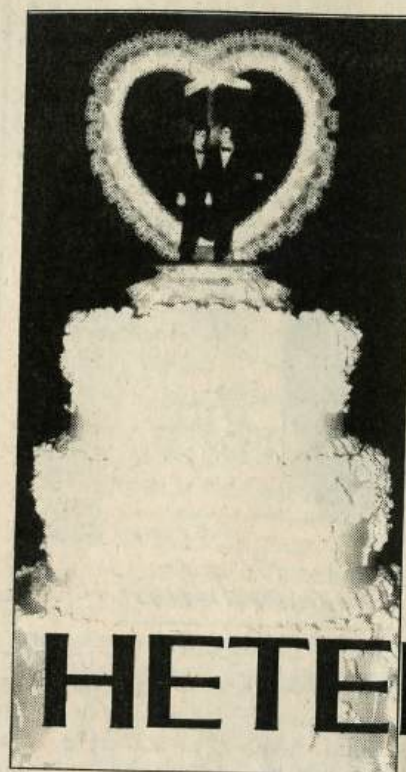
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The Coming Demise of HETEROSEXUALITY



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Radio has become the national depository of ideological vomitus. Its talk-format programs, which dominate the AM band, are rife with charlatans, kooks, and ignoramuses peddling conspiracies about UN takeovers of Idaho and opining that our children should be taught that the dinosaurs became extinct because they were too big for Noah's Ark. Nothing will give you second thoughts about the First Amendment like an hour of talk radio. Not long ago, I had the delirious joy of taking the airwaves for a debate on the merits of gay marriage. The show had a telephone call-in format, so we were occasionally interrupted by devotees of the Christian Coalition, which I'm told endorsed the theory of a flat earth at its recent national confabulation. We got the stock caller to all radio programs dealing with a gay topic—the one who says homosexuality is unnatural, depraved, immoral, dirty, and so forth. When he had finally hyperventilated his entire arsenal of God-fearing adjectives, he skulked off to a book burning, knuckles dragging as he went.

My main antagonist, who lives in Hawaii, has made a career of anti-gay crusades. He heads a group called "Stop Promoting Homosexuality America!," which is a sister to the venerable "Stop Endorsing Toenails America!" He immediately launched into the standard diatribe concocted by the anti-gay industry, beginning with the old favorite that gays are mentally ill. When I made the rather modest point that the American Psychiatric Association took homosexuality off the list of mental disorders over two decades ago, he scoffed that that decision was "political." He had evidently not bothered to consider that the decision to put homosexuality on such a list was itself "political," a consequence of prejudice not science. And so it went for awhile.

Then he hit me with it. We must forbid gay marriage, he offered at last, because, otherwise, heterosexual marriage will lose its luster. Heterosexual mar-

riage is the foundation of the family, he continued. And the family—dad, mom, kids—is the bedrock of social order. There it was: If people of the same sex are allowed to marry, civilization as we know it will crumble, the barbarians will be at the gates, there will be no more moist towelettes, and there will not be a single tax-exempt church on this good flat earth of ours.

Note two things about this argument, which you will assuredly hear again, particularly as the debate over gay marriage heats up in the aftermath of a coming decision from the Hawaii Supreme Court on the subject. First, every time social custom adapts to changes in our understanding of human nature and need, someone is there to exclaim that the falling apple presages a falling heaven. When we freed the slaves, the plantation owners said Southern agriculture would collapse and white women would never again be safe. When we gave women the vote, the stalwarts of male privilege said our politics would become too sentimental or women would abandon their families. When we let blacks marry whites, the racists said marriage would—listen carefully to this—lose its sanctity. At every moment of social change, the bigot's response is to grab his crotch and spit. We should not be surprised that he will do so in response to gay marriage.



by Dale Carpenter

But far more fascinating is the premise behind the argument: Gay marriage will undermine the institution of marriage by making it less attractive to heterosexuals. Husbands will leave their wives; wives will abandon their husbands, in the words of Cole Porter, to become tennis pros; parents will forsake their children; young men and women will be given over to lustful passions for members of their own sex; marriage itself will be as useful as a straw in a cesspool.

It's as if heterosexual love and commitment depend on the repression of gay love and commitment for survival. That is an astonishing admission for an avowed

heterosexual to make. It paints a picture of straight love as so pathetic, so tenuous, so anemic, that it is everywhere on the verge of extinction. Heterosexuality itself will be in danger, a victim perhaps of the irresistible attractiveness of homosexuality. All because one percent of the population (that's what the anti-gay industry says we constitute, after all) will have their love officially recognized by the state.

Now a brief review of the history of heterosexuality is in order.

It has existed in all times and in all societies. It made appearances in popular culture at least as early as the ancient Greeks, judging from the shards of pottery we have unearthed. Estimates of its prevalence range from 90 percent to 99 percent of the population. Although its precise causes are unknown, most authorities point to a genetic source. A minority cling to the view that it is determined by some social influence at a very early age. Some hypothesize that a combination of nature and nurture are at work in the making of a heterosexual. Almost all agree that it is an innate condition, unchosen and unalterable. Efforts to convert heterosexuals have been unsuccessful. Of late, heterosexuals have been more open about their sexual orientation, wearing commitment rings, talking about their spouses and children, even putting pictures of their loved ones on their desks at work. And, of course, we have always let them marry.

Does anyone really believe that letting gays marry will lead

Not long ago, I had the delirious joy of taking the airwaves for a debate on the merits of gay marriage.

Nothing will give you second thoughts about the First Amendment like an hour of talk radio.

heterosexuals to surrender their lives and loves? I sure don't. I have more faith in them than that. My maternal grandparents, married now for 52 years, partners through war, recession, illness, birth, and death, are hardly going to give all that up because two people of the same sex have been allowed the dignity of public recognition of their love. Love is not a zero-sum game. The addition of it in some corner of the world where it has never been permitted does not require its subtraction from another corner. We do not have to be miserable at the thought that someone, somewhere is happy. I expect that heterosexuality will survive, even flourish, in places where gays are allowed to add to the general stock of happiness, stability, and commitment.

But those who claim to be the most zealous defenders of heterosexuality do not agree, and perhaps they know better. Maybe I just have more faith in marriage than they do. To them, marriage leans upon the thin reed of gay exclusion. Without it, they say, the whole precarious thing will fall apart. I know they think this because I heard it on the radio, where silly talk passes for serious argument.

Dale Carpenter, a lawyer in Houston, is the state president of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas and serves on the board of directors of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. The opinions expressed in this column are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Log Cabin, the HGLPC, or OutSmart magazine.

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Reviews by Eric L. Roland

Great Gay and Lesbian
Places to Live

by Lanie Dills and Lynn West

From rural areas to suburban communities and from small towns to urban jungles, gays and lesbians live all over the United States. However, the places where you find the most dense population of gays and lesbians and the businesses and organizations dedicated to serving them are in larger metropolitan areas. The book, *Great Gay and Lesbian Places to Live*, is an informative reference guide that lists many of these metropolitan areas where gays and lesbians are more likely to settle down.

Listing at least one city from every state (133 U.S. cities in all), the comprehensive guide may not be able to tell you what the best city to live in is, but it does present enough information for you to make a choice about which cities better serve gays and lesbians. Under each city's listing is a brief statement on any gay civil rights legislation the city may have, followed by a sometimes lengthy statement on "What the Locals Say...." The descriptions in this section range in topics, but often include a discussion of neighborhoods where lesbians and gays predominantly live, politics in the city, special organizations and clubs, and religious organizations.

Also listed under each city is a rundown of the number of gay/lesbian businesses, bars and restaurants, organizations, religious groups, bookstores, and publications, as well as an information number to call for more information. These listings are followed by a brief paragraph on "Things to Do," and another list of information on population figures, housing costs, per capita income, climate, job statistics, cost of living, and

educational institutions.

Different from a gay travel guide, this book is written and marketed for gays and lesbians who are looking for a new city in which to settle. However, the information is certainly valuable to any gay/lesbian activist, especially the index, which includes information on sodomy laws, as well as a list of businesses, municipalities, universities, and nonprofit organizations that offer domestic partnership benefits. And, for all of you gay computer surfers out there, the index lists national and international bulletin boards.

.....
Lanie Dills and Lynn West, the authors of *Great Gay and Lesbian Places to Live*, will be signing copies of their books on November 5 at LOBO bookstore, 1424-C Westheimer.

The Hadra
by Diana Rivers

The third novel in Diana Rivers' Hadra series, *The Hadra* continues the story of the Khal Hadra Lossien, a proud tribe of woman-loving women who exist and thrive away from the company of men. If you have been a faithful reader of the series, you should know that this volume fills in the gaps left open by the first two novels—*Journey to Zelindar* and *Daughters of the Great Star*. Focusing on three women—a peasant woman, a highborn woman who becomes a wanderer, and a young woman who is chosen Counselor for the Hadra—the novel is typical of Rivers' romantic, adventurous fantasy.

Rivers, who came out at the age of 40 and designed and built a communal house in rural Elkins, Arkansas, writes in a heavily descrip-

tive style, giving the reader the feeling of living in Zelindar where the women reside in caves warmed by hot springs. Ultimately, the novel is a unique way to escape our complicated world and be taken to a new space to explore the politics, customs, and love lives of a society of women, empowering and inspiring readers along the way.

Young, Gay, and Proud!
Edited by Don Romesburg

For gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens struggling with their own identity usually in the face of much adversity, it is vitally important to provide them with information that may help them deal with the personal crises that will inevitably arise. *Young, Gay, and Proud!* provides just such information. Now in its fourth edition, this book should be on the shelves of every high school library in the United States, unfortunately considering its subject matter and its frank presentation, many people will try to stop it from getting there.

Originally developed from a 1979 pamphlet by Gay Teachers and Students of Melbourne (Australia), this book helps young adults answer questions like: Am I really gay? What would my friends think if I told them? Should I tell my parents? Does anybody else feel the way I do? While some of the chapters, such as *Bisexuality: Not Just a Phase* and *A Lesbian in Class!*, are first-person accounts written by teenagers, most of the chapters are presented in a factual, easy-to-read manner. Particularly important sections are on health, including a list of STDs and safer sex tips for gay men and lesbians; finding and befriending other gay and lesbian youth; telling your parents; and frank discussions of lesbian sex and gay male sex.

Young, Gay, and Proud! is an important document for all people who care about teenagers and should be required reading for all teachers, clergy, social workers, counselors, or anyone dealing with the youth of this country. Furthermore, all gays and lesbians should advocate for its use by these professionals and request that it be added to library collections.



by Don Romesburg

VIDAL
&
WILLIAMS

Gore Vidal's memoirs, *Palimpsest*, is out and so is Vidal—at last. He even mentions the man with whom he has shared his life for the last 45 years.

And also just released, Lyle Veverich's first volume of his "authorized" biography of Tennessee Williams—Tom! *The Unknown Tennessee*. It's the definitive portrait, even if some of Williams' old friends were less than cooperative.

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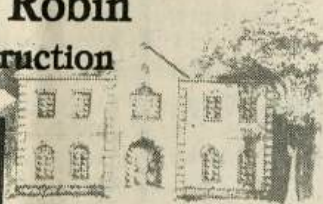


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by Eric Roland

The Queen of Halloween

“... his form appeared to swell in size, to darken, the wings to rise once more like smoke curling toward the ceiling and the din of voices to begin and fast grow deafening, and the light suddenly rose behind him. I saw the hairy goat legs move toward me. ... I stared right into his immense face, the face of the granite statue, only fully animate and magnificently expressive, the horrific noise of chant and song and howl swelling and drowning out my words.”

Anne Rice, *Memnoch the Devil*

Drowning out the words of Anne Rice is truly something only the Devil would be capable of doing. But just temporarily, for Anne Rice is unstoppable. For 20 years now she has been telling tales that share secrets of life and death, of sex and soul, of monsters and humans. Her words, whether spoken or written, are often shrouded in con-

troversy, yet, and possibly because of this, she has developed a unique, cult-like following.

Memnoch the Devil, her most recent novel and the fifth volume of *The Vampire Chronicles*, continues the tale of her vampire Lestat de Lioncourt as he comes face to face with his most feared supernatural counterpart—the Devil. Lestat is entrusted with the Devil's dreadful, fascinating secret: It is God who has made human history so murderous, and it is God from whom the world must be saved. Lestat, then, is involved in a personal confrontation between both God and the Devil and is, at last, offered the chance to be redeemed.

Rice has once again stepped knee-deep into controversy—this time becoming entrenched in the subject of religion, something few writers are willing to battle.

(The book even contains a rather inflammatory scene in which Lestat meets Jesus Christ on the road to his crucifixion.) Essentially a parable about the confrontation between God and the Devil, *Memnoch* tells a tale as old as Scripture's legends and as modern as today's religious strife. What makes this even more ironic is that in *Interview with the Vampire*, the first volume of *The Vampire Chronicles*, Rice's vampires come to understand that there is no God. Now in the fifth and perhaps final volume, the central tenet revolves around God. But for Rice it all makes sense—vampires are her way of talking about contemporary society and the world around us.

“I find that they are the perfect vehicle for talking about life for all of us,” says Rice. “To me the vampire has always been the perfect metaphor for the isolated in all of us, the predator in all of us, the guilt-ridden, and the lusty. Vampires want beauty. They want to drink that up as much as they want blood.”

Born on October 4, 1941 in New Orleans, Rice was given the unusual name Howard Allen Frances O'Brien, incorporating her father's first name and her mother's maiden name. When she entered first grade in Redemptorist Catholic School, she promptly announced that she would be known as Anne. As a child, hearing her father tell ghost stories as they took twilight walks through the cemeteries, she was intrigued by the mystery of New Orleans, which obviously made strong impressions on her.

As a young adult, while living with her husband, poet and artist Stan Rice, in the heart of San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district during the revolution of the 60s, Rice was a perpetual student and aspiring writer. It was tragedy, though, that inspired Rice to write her first published novel—1976's *Interview with the Vampire*. For two years, she had watched helplessly as her only daughter, Michele, battled leukemia, dying before her sixth birthday in 1972. Her subsequent grief led to marathon binges at the typewriter, and the novel—which features a six-year-old vampire—emerged as a sort of catharsis.

After publishing several more books, some under her pseudonyms Anne Rampling and A. N. Roquelaure, she returned to the topic of vampires in the sequel to *Interview*, *The Vampire Lestat*. This was followed by volumes three and four of *The Vampire Chronicles*—*The Queen of the Damned* and *The Tale of the Body Thief*. In 1988 amidst all of this writing, Rice, her husband, and their son moved back to New Orleans and took up residence in a large Greek revival mansion in the Garden District, which she used as the haunted central setting

in *The Witching Hour*, *Lasher*, and *Taltos*.

The popularity of her vampire books is certainly multi-layered, but readers have often pointed out that they easily identify with the vampires as the ultimate outsiders. In our modern society, where people are marginalized for their race, age, class, status, etc., the vampire has become a symbolic figure for teens, the working class, and lonely urban apartment dwellers.

“One of the most radical things to me, and I don't fully understand it, is that I have a very large readership of people who have AIDS,” states Rice. “Apparently, they find the books very comforting, even in the last stages of the illness.”

Gays and lesbians, too, have always supported Rice's books, even from the beginning. This is due, in part, because Rice, who sees vampires as transcending gender and having a polymorphous sexuality, has always been frank about her respect and support for the gay and lesbian community.

“I've always felt that gay people were, in a way, very much better than other people because they are very loving and gentle by nature,” she says. “I think persecution of gays is an abomination. What matters in this world is to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the poor—not who touches who in a car or who touches who in their own home. I can't understand why at this time in the 20th century we're still haggling over sexual mores.”

“I've romanticized gay people, but to me when I'm writing, there is no gender. Someone can fall in love with a person of the same sex or the opposite sex or anything,” she continues.

“I think that's why the gay following has developed, and I'm very proud of it. I think the gay following kept my books alive during kind of lean years when the public wasn't too responsive to me. Some of the most intelligent reviews I've ever read—the most thoughtful and thought-provoking—are in gay publications.”

While the gay and lesbian community will presumably continue to support Rice and vice versa, her fans will now await her next novel, *Servant of the Bones*, a ghost story that features a new character, a ghost named Azriel. The book is tentatively scheduled to be published in the fall of 1996. Meanwhile, fans can attend her elaborate Halloween Ball on October 28 at the St. Elizabeth's Orphanage building that she owns in New Orleans. Tickets are \$15 each and can be acquired through Anne Rice's Vampire Lestat Fan Club, P. O. Box 58277, New Orleans, LA 70158-8277. ▼

“I've always felt that gay people were, in a way, very much better than other people because they are very loving and gentle by nature.”



Anne Rice surrounded by her publicity agents on either side and, in the background, by Joe Ramunni of Houston's Crossroads Market and Bookstore.

TZABACO:

Contemporary Clothing for the Queer 90s

by Eric Roland



Over 200,000 gay mailboxes have recently been stuffed with a new catalog that features rugged flannel shirts, cozy sleepwear, sleek accessories, and even products for your pet. Since the catalog doesn't contain the standard club clothes, political T-shirts, and rainbow accessories, you may not realize it's targeting gays and lesbians—that is, until you see two men in a passionate embrace or two women lovingly holding hands. Named after the chief of a Native American tribe who inhabited northern California, the Tzabaco (za bah' koh) catalog may just be the hottest thing on the queer fall fashion scene.

"We have selected to target this merchandise to the gay and lesbian market with very honest direct visual images and copy," explains David Dow, founder of Tzabaco clothing. "We're not using slight inferences or ambiguous advertisements. We are very specifically targeting the gay and lesbian market and using images of our merchandise that reflect how it's used within a normal gay and lesbian lifestyle."

The 24-page, full-color catalog also features an interesting new twist to mail-order merchandising. Essentially, the catalog is an illustrated storybook that tells the story of Mike and Alex, two thirtysomething gay men who escape the city, along with their dog, Bob, for their weekend home in the country.

"There's a dialogue that leads you through their weekend where they meet up with their sister and have their friends come over for dinner," says Dow. "It weaves the story together, and these same characters will be something that continues in our spring catalog."

"There seems to be a move toward sensuality without having

to have people naked," Dow continues. "That's definitely the focus of what we do in the catalog. To me, two men kissing in flannel shirts and khaki pants is pretty sexy, because we don't see it."

Securing the models who play these catalog characters was not an easy process, according to Dow, who admits that "homophobia is alive and well in the modeling industry." After several straight models walked off the set when they found out they would have to embrace another man, Dow fortunately found two gay male lovers who were more than willing to play Mike and Alex. The other characters in the catalog, including a lesbian couple, were customers of the Tzabaco store, located in Healdsburg, California in the heart of Sonoma County wine country.



catalog is more simple clothing, more practical durable items—things that are taken from a functional basis and made fashionable."

If you haven't yet received a Tzabaco catalog and are interested in being added to their mailing list, call their toll-free number, 1-800-856-1667.

With an average retail price of \$60, the catalog's 86 items range from apparel and accessories to gifts, home furnishings, tabletop items, and even specialty food items. The merchandise, which is primarily targeted to people in their 30s and beyond, is culled from manufacturers all around the country, as well as some in Europe and Japan.

"The oversized shirts are all washed and heavily textured in cool colors, so they're very comfortable and easy," says Dow. "It's not a real urban, hard-edged approach to things. The store that we established and the merchandising philosophy for the

Almost a decade has passed since a non-discrimination ordinance was discussed in Houston. This time, we're looking for more than talk...

A DISCRIMINATING TASTE

by Nancy Ford

Photo by Gabriel T.

Address to Houston City Council
by David N. Morales
October 3, 1995

"We are your neighbors, doctors, attorneys, policemen, teachers, and psychologists. We are your children and your grandchildren. We do not discriminate when we donate to social support networks, yet we are denied many services these agencies provide. We pay taxes into a system that still treats us as second-class citizens."

Distinguished members of the Council, I am here to request that a serious dialogue be established regarding the passage of a non-discrimination ordinance that will protect all citizens of Houston from discrimination in employment and housing.

Twenty years ago on October 1, 1975, Hugh Crell made this request, and Houston still doesn't have an ordinance. Austin unanimously passed its non-discrimination ordinance in August of 1975, and Dallas has since adopted an ordinance of its own, effective January, 1995. These ordinances specifically mention sexual orientation in their wording. Currently, nine states have passed comprehensive equal rights legislation, and an additional 64 cities and counties have also done the same.

Many minority groups still suffer from various forms of under-the-table discrimination, and they have legislation to protect them from the discrimination they experience. What we are asking for is not special rights, but rather a form of legislation that will protect the rights that are already ours. Everyone deserves the right to protect themselves from the ugly realities of discrimination. Giving us legislation that will protect us from discrimination will not promote more homosexuality. Nothing can change a

LS



Morales
in front of
Houston's
City Hall

A Discriminating Taste

Continued from previous page

person's sexuality.

We, as a minority group, have demonstrated our positive influences on the City of Houston. Our revitalization of the Heights area and the Montrose District, which in 1966 was a district of dilapidated houses, has increased that district's tax base ten-fold since 1966. These accomplishments have shown our ability to rebuild abandoned neighborhoods. Our leadership as the early crusaders in the battle against AIDS, and the safety net that we created to support people from all walks of life who are afflicted with this disease, has demonstrated our social consciousness. What more can we do to illustrate the fact that we are productive, caring, and loving people, deserving of protection from discrimination?

We ask this with sincerity, because we truly want to know what else we can do in order for the City of Houston to adopt a non-discrimination ordinance. What else can we do to get us all past this divisive issue?"

With this less-than-three-minute plea for equality, director of Houston's Anti-Homophobia Alliance (AHA!), David Morales, stood

before the Houston City Council and hoped to change history.

It was probably like any other day in council chamber. A number of plaintiffs approached the microphone before Morales, all of whom were there with a point regarding affirmative action and equal opportunity—firefighters interested in promotion, and the like—appropriately set-

It was downright eerie as the words "sexual orientation" were uttered once again in City Hall.

ting the stage for Morales' statement. But none of these individuals were fighting for equal protection from being evicted from their homes or losing their jobs because of sexual orientation.

Perhaps it was because it's October, a spooky month by design, but it was downright eerie as the words "sexual orientation" were uttered once again in City Hall. You could almost feel the chill of the Straight Slate, that right-wing, heavy-het political machine that haunted Harris County a decade ago with its exclusive claim to privilege. You could almost hear former mayor/mayoral candidate and chief

Houston homophobe Louie Welch checking his ammunition clip, preparing to do some "AIDS research."

Morally supported by members of P-FLAG who cheered and applauded him at the close of his statement, Morales made his argument succinctly and articulately. He pointed to valid reasons why it is time for Houston to adopt an official non-discrimination ordinance, and cited the non-discrimination personnel policies recently implemented by mega-law firms Vinson & Elkins and Baker Botts. He heartily and sincerely requested a list of requirements that the gay/lesbian community might need to fulfill in order to be granted not special rights, but protection of exist-

ing rights.

Councilmembers Judson Robinson and John Peavey were eager to engage in dialogue regarding the inclusiveness of a non-discrimination ordinance, particularly how and if it might protect the handicapped or other-abled citizens of Houston. To initiate more dialogue, Mayor Bob Lanier and other councilmembers were sent letters asking for their help in making all of Houston a hate-free zone.

Almost a decade has passed since a non-discrimination ordinance was discussed in Houston. This time, we're looking for more than talk.

Equal Rights Legislation

BY STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY

STATES WITH COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS

Comprehensive means that the state bans anti-gay discrimination in all areas.

California • Connecticut • Massachusetts • Minnesota • Missouri • New Jersey • Rhode Island • Vermont • Wisconsin

STATES WITH LIMITED CIVIL RIGHTS

Limited civil rights means that these states ban discrimination in some but not all areas. The common bans in these states are in public employment.

Hawaii • Louisiana • Maryland • Michigan • New Mexico • New York • Ohio • Pennsylvania

CITIES AND COUNTIES WITH COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

CALIFORNIA: Berkeley, Davis, Hayward, Laguna Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Monica, West Hollywood

CONNECTICUT: Hartford, New Haven, Stamford

FLORIDA: Key West, Miami Beach, Alachua County

ILLINOIS: Champaign, Chicago, Urbana, Cook County

IOWA: Ames, Iowa City

LOUISIANA: New Orleans

MARYLAND: Baltimore, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Howard County, Montgomery County

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst, Boston, Cambridge, Malden, Worcester

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor, Detroit, East Lansing, Flint

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Marshall

MISSOURI: St. Louis

NEW YORK: Albany, Alfred, Ithaca, New York, Syracuse, Watertown, Tompkins County

OHIO: Cincinnati, Columbus, Yellow Springs

OREGON: Portland

PENNSYLVANIA: Harrisburg, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, York

TEXAS: Austin, Dallas

VIRGINIA: Alexandria

WASHINGTON: Seattle

WISCONSIN: Madison

WYOMING

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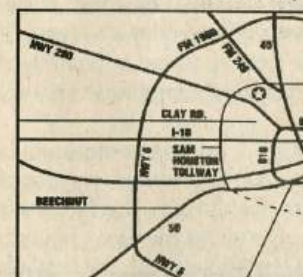
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DACHAU FOR QUEERS

by David N. Morales

In the summer of 1975, a 15-year-old gay male from Houston visited a now-defunct psychiatric ward located on Fannin. He wasn't there for a short visit to see a relative; instead, his father had taken him there and committed him in an attempt to cure him of his homosexual tendencies. As shocking as this may sound, it was a common practice among many families with gay or lesbian children across this country. Even here in Houston, many elite families bear the scars of this haunting period in the history of psychiatry. Once committed, these young adults were put through various forms of aversion therapy designed to redirect their sexual orientation.

During the 1950s and continuing until the mid-1970s, many homosexuals in the United States were sent to state prison hospitals and state medical facilities under the charge of deviant sexual behavior. Many were sent to these institutions without a judicial hearing, and, since they were considered mentally ill, their right to proper jurisprudence was handled negligently and, in most cases, totally ignored. Some of these victims were picked up off the streets and taken directly to one of these institutions without even being charged with a crime.

The various forms of aversion therapy to which these victims were involuntarily subjected were all based on the theory of behavioral conditioning known as negative reinforcement. The most popular form of aversion therapy during this time was electro-

"These men have no rights. If we can learn something by using them [for medical and surgical experiments], then that is a small compensation for the trouble they have caused society."

aversive therapy. In this therapy, the male victim would be strapped into a chair and seated in front of a large projector screen. Electrodes were then attached to his penis and/or his testicles, and he would be shown a series of homoerotic, pornographic slides. When the victim became aroused and an erection resulted, he would be hit with a strong jolt of electricity. This process, commonly called errorless extinction of penile responses, would continue until the victim

showed no further signs of arousal. The doctors claimed early victory with this technique because success rates were calculated by the number of patients who stopped having erections after extended therapy. However, it was later discovered that the victims stopped having erections because the muscles and tissues of the groin were damaged to the point that an erection was physically impossible.

Another form of aversion therapy used on victims was the more traditional electroconvulsive shock therapy, in which electrodes were placed near the victim's temples. After being given an injection of a drug that would relax the muscles to the point of paralysis, the conscious victim, already strapped to a gurney, would endure a violent jolt of electricity that would send the victim into a series of violent convulsions. The success rates of this form of therapy are unclear—basically it depends on what you consider a success. If you consider turning many patients into vegetables, then the therapy was very successful.

One victim, who was committed to the Atascadero State Hospital just north of Santa Barbara, California, described this treatment in a letter to the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "They hit you with the first jolt and you experience pain that you would never believe possible. At the same moment you see what could best be described as a flash of lightning. You cannot breathe, and they apply oxygen. During all this, you are in convulsions. This lasts only a few

moments, but it seems like a lifetime. A few seconds after that, the pain is so severe that you pass out. About three months before I left the hospital, they made us (by threatening us with more shock treatments) sign a paper saying that we have agreed to let them test drugs on us."

Experimental drugs were also used as a form of aversion therapy on homosexuals. Early on, the most popular drug used was anectine, a muscle relaxant, but it was so controversial that it was barred from use. The doctors conveniently found a replacement drug called prolixin. During this drug therapy, the victim, strapped to a gurney and hooked up to a respirator, was injected with the drug which caused instant paralysis of all muscles, including those needed for breathing. The patient, still conscious and convinced that he was going to die, was literally taken to the brink of death.

Describing this treatment, Dr. Walter Nugent, former chief psychiatrist at Vacaville Medical Facility (the old state prison for gays in California) stated: "The sensation is one of suffocation and drowning. The patient feels as if he has a heavy weight on his chest and can't get any air into his lungs." Attending doctors would then attempt to brainwash the patient, telling him that they had an anecdote to give him, but would do so only if the patient was willing to refrain from homosexual behavior. There were a few patients that didn't survive this form of therapy, and those who did survive often suffered permanent brain damage. Other surviving patients have reported having severe panic attacks, claustrophobia, and a basic mistrust of other human beings.

Gay activist and writer John Lastala, a former patient of the Atascadero State Hospital, returned to the hospital shortly after his release to interview a patient about his experience with the drug prolixin for a four-part feature story that appeared in *The Advocate* in 1973. The patient was quoted as saying:

"It seems like it [prolixin] is destroying your mind. You can't concentrate. If you're thinking three things at the same time, all those thoughts explode. If you're

thinking about spaghetti, for example, the spaghetti is blown up in your mind to the size of large tubes, snaking around every which way. Your thinking is slowed down. It seems like your breathing is stopped. Your eyeballs move funny. . . you feel like you're dying, and without the antidote you die. You can't move anything. You're like a vegetable. You sweat. They tell you if you are ever caught having sex in here again, you won't get the antidote and you will die."

Another inmate said that the drug caused him severe physical pain for three weeks after the treatment: "I became very nervous. I couldn't sit still, lay down, or walk with any steadiness. I would try to

write a letter but couldn't keep my thoughts straight and my concentration was completely lost. Sleep was impossible and I was constantly tired and very confused. I lost all interest in life and I couldn't hold a conversation. . . . This drug was given to me as punishment and not for any medical purpose."

Other medical atrocities took place at Atascadero during this time. Late in 1971, Dr. Walter

Freeman, often called the father of lobotomy, stated in a press conference that he had severed the frontal lobes of a number of homosexual inmates at Atascadero. Dr. Paul E. Braumwell, research chief at Atascadero at the time, summarized the Department of Medical Hygiene's view of the legality of these treatments: "These men have no rights. If we can learn something by using them [for medical and surgical experiments], then that is a small compensation for the trouble they have caused society."

Others disagreed. Dr. Grant Morris, professor of law at Wayne State University, visited Atascadero and witnessed the experiments being performed. After his visit, Morris stated: "The experiments were conducted in apparent violation of the Nuremberg Code, the Declaration of Helsinki, and the AMA's 1966 ethical guidelines for clinical investigation."

In June of 1971, Professor William B. Chambliss, of the University of California at Santa Barbara, took one of his classes to

Continued on page 71

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The Homophobia Equation:

HETEROSEXISM Equals
REPRESSIVE SOCIALIZATION
Equals **H**OMOPHOBIA

All children are born whole and in touch with their full aliveness. As they begin their perilous journey through life, they receive messages from the environment which cause a shutdown of their humanness. Lesbian and gay children are no exception, and in fact, have all of the same wounding as other children, *plus* the extra challenge of adapting in a heterosexist culture which inhibits part of their very life force. I will address here some of the overt and covert messages that gay and lesbian children likely receive, as well as adaptations and defenses to them.

When we were born (assuming no birth or pre-birth trauma) we had full access to all of the parts of ourselves. There are, in general, four parts to the self which we identify (see diagram). The *feeling* or emotional part relates to expression of happiness, sadness, anger, and fear. Newborns have an ability to express these emotions, as well as others, from the time of birth. The *acting* part of us expresses ourselves through movement, voice, and other forms of communication. Children readily express their emotions through laughter, play, crying, yelling, or sulking. Infants are also in full access to the *sensing* part of themselves. They can feel sensations, hear, see, smell, and taste. Finally, although not as well developed, is the *thinking* self. All children have a minimal capacity to think and reason. If items are put

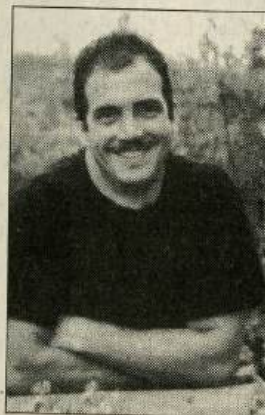
must be to survive in their particular settings. The child then adapts by pushing the undesirable traits away and they become Lost Parts. To not do so would be dangerous and, for some children, life threatening.

Growing up in a heterosexist and sexist society lends itself to additional repression for lesbian and gay children. Ongoing messages of gender role expectations are overtly and covertly relayed to children. Messages such as "sit like a lady," "act like a man," "don't be a sissy," and "let the men do that" provide understandable do's and don'ts to children. Children quickly learn that certain behaviors are unacceptable. Other messages discourage male emotional connection. Young girls, for example, are allowed to physically touch each other without judgment, even into adulthood, while young boys are encouraged to stop this connection in childhood. Two five-year-old boys holding hands may be acceptable, but two ten-year-old boys is not. Young boys are encouraged to be confrontational and competitive, and young girls are taught to be relational and avoid conflict. Any and all "feminine" energy in young boys is generally discouraged while "masculine" energy is discouraged in girls. Girls who may be inclined to play "men's" sports are labeled dykes. Boys who would rather dance than play baseball or who cry are called sissies. Judgments, double

What's the solution to effective social change for gays and lesbians?

in a crib and then removed, an infant is able to reason that something has changed or is missing. These four parts—thinking, feeling, acting, and sensing—are aspects of our original wholeness and humanness.

In ideal situations, with perfect parents and socialization, children grow up with complete access to all of their parts. These messages would include messages, both overt and covert, which give permission to express all emotions, behaviors, and thoughts and to enjoy and embrace the senses. Messages such as it's okay to cry, it's okay to be angry, it's okay to have fun, to express your opinion, to touch yourself where it feels good, to move, to be loud, and to let your energy flow. This, as you might imagine, is rarely the case. Even the best of parents make mistakes, possibly ascribing to parenting styles of the times which may later prove harmful to their children. In addition, even the best parents must send their children out into the world where they receive messages from school, church and peers. Repressive messages, which most of us received to one degree or another, might have included: don't be angry, don't cry, don't be scared, don't be loud, don't touch there, don't share your ideas. Messages such as "cover your body," "keep your mouth shut," "children should be seen and not heard," and "don't be silly" are all messages of repressive socialization. Given these types of messages, young children must decide what parts of themselves are safe to express. They must access their environment and determine what type of person they



by Patrick J. Vachon

standards, and labeling serve to confuse developing children. Boys are expected to be loud and boisterous; girls quiet and gentle. Boys are encouraged to develop their intellect, while girls are often taught to submit to the thoughts and ideas of boys. Girls are allowed to cry, but boys who cry are labeled as weak. Girls are allowed to be gentle and sensitive, but boys who have the same qualities are negatively labeled. Boys are allowed some degree of anger and are labeled assertive. Girls who exert the same energy are labeled pushy or called bitches. Boys are socialized to be sexual, and sex is often viewed as a transition into adulthood. Girls are taught to deny their sexual feelings, and if they express them are labeled sluts.

The absence of positive same-sex couples in movies, television, advertising, and other forms of media also relay messages to children. Only recently have lesbian and gay individuals been portrayed in the media with a positive light. Generally only stereotypical examples are used or they are sensationalized. Television commercials never, to my knowledge, show same-sex couples engaged in acts of love and life. This absence of models forbids developing lesbian and gay children the opportunity for healthy role identification.

With all of these messages bombarding children, it is not surprising that identity problems exist, especially when part of the identity is gay or lesbian. Because we live in a heterosexist culture that denies healthy inclusion of a homosexual identity, children must adapt to the over-

whelming and confusing internal and external messages. In short, children identify with heterosexual messages and introject them. Later on as sexuality begins to unfold, they realize that they possess some of those undesirable traits. The previously disowned messages then become a part of their identity, creating a level of self hatred. The equation looks something like this:

Boys who like boys are bad.

Boys who like boys are gay.

I like boys + I am gay = I am bad.

The message then departs from a behavior or feeling and becomes wounding to the core identity of the young person. Adolescent lesbian and gay people must then begin the struggle of reconciling the irreconcilable. Trying to change something that can't be changed or rejecting a part that ought to be embraced.

Once identified as being related to sexual orientation, the undesired traits become connected to sexuality. The hatred of the traits then becomes the hatred of homosexuality—what we often call homophobia. This internalized self-hatred then manifests and is dealt with in many ways.

Children can be very creative in their struggle to adapt and survive in a hostile world. There is a survival center in the brain which the IMAGO model calls the "Old Brain." The Old Brain directive is first and foremost to keep us safe and alive. If danger is perceived by this part of the brain, corrective action must be taken to secure the survival of the being. This takes form in many variations of fight, flight, freeze, or submission. When (and only when) it is safe, the secondary directive of the brain is to allow for expressions of more positive experiences such as play, creating, loving, sex, and work.

Given the constant barrage of threatening messages, it is likely that the brain will perceive an ongoing threat and react with an ongoing defense. To this degree a child or adult might have to be guarded in everything they say, feel, do, think, or in any way outwardly express. Young adults must not only push away budding sexual desires, but may find it necessary to repress any part of themselves that may possibly identify them as gay or lesbian, thus "bad."

Since young children are powerless to change the environment, they do the next best thing, "change" themselves. Since changing their sexual and affectional orientation is not possible, children and young adults begin to repress those "undesirable" traits. Gay and lesbian adolescents must decide at some level to express themselves and suffer the consequences or keep their lost parts tucked away. They may find it necessary to repress their sensitivity, creativity, emotions, thoughts, athleticism, opinions, and certainly behaviors that may identify them as lesbian or gay. Essentially, children must adapt creatively to

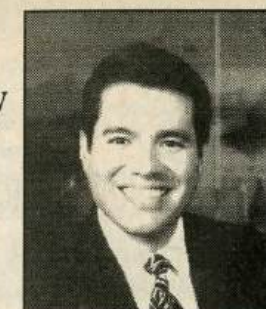
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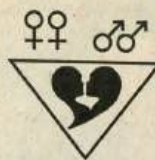
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The Homophobia Equation

Continued from previous page

living in a hostile environment that will not allow them to be fully alive. They must, in some way, deal with the conflict which results from falling outside the culturally defined, heterosexual norm. Those Lost Parts, although possibly tucked deeply away, are not gone. The self-hatred or internalized homophobia persists, sometimes for a lifetime.

This culturally imposed hatred, which is introjected becomes self-hatred. Unable to reconcile this self-hatred, young adults often feel alone, helpless, hopeless, and desperate. Statistics support that many gay and lesbian teens resort to suicide, unable to find hope nor help through this difficult time. Others live a double life, in constant denial or fear that someone will uncover their secret. This constant guardedness consumes a great deal of energy that could be used elsewhere if a safe environment were present.

Assuming that most children and adolescents survive the battlegrounds of youth, they must then attend to another issue. What to do with those Lost Parts that are longing to be expressed. With their independence from family secured, many, if not most, lesbian and gay adults find relative safety by moving away from home. This form of "flight" is a very effective way to secure the necessary environment to express themselves or "come out." Others may remain submissive and conform to the directives of the heterosexual norm, possibly never experiencing affectional or sexual aliveness. Still others might take various "fight" stances from mild assertiveness to radical activism.

No matter what the reactive stance taken, there are always some Lost Parts that are pushed deeply away. These parts, longing to emerge, do so in creative but not always healthy ways. Alcohol and drugs often allow for temporary expression of some of those lost parts. Some people can only let their "masculine" or "feminine" energy come out with the help of alcohol. Others may not be able to be sexual without the use of drugs or alcohol. For others, physical affection and loving emotions remain concealed or restricted unless under the influence. Men, having been taught to be sexual, yet forbidden to be loving with other men, may find anonymous sex a creative expression of sexual energy. Many people remain hidden in a heterosexual marriage finding moments of aliveness in the form of same-sex affairs or sexual encounters. In these cases there will likely be some degree of internal conflict, resulting in shame, guilt, or depression. As humans beings striving for full aliveness and wholeness, we often will do whatever necessary to find those lost parts. I encourage clients to not judge their previously chosen directives to express aliveness. Each and every one of us has a desire to live. A better solution is to evaluate the reason for behaviors and address the underlying core messages that don't allow for the healthy expression of self.

The ultimate solution, however, is not to treat the symptoms but rather the cause. If homophobia is the effect, then heterosexism is the cause. As long as hatred of homosexuality is present, the introjected hate messages will continue. As long as these messages are tolerated in any form, the proliferation of hate will continue. The obvious solution is societal movement in a direction of tolerance and acceptance. Like other effective social change, this will happen slowly. Many years after the beginning of the civil rights and women's movements we still live in a sexist and racist country. It will take many generations for the hate to work its way out of the system. Education, visibility, and expressions of our love will pave the way for legal, political and social change. ▼

Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW-ACP, is a Certified Imago Relationship Therapist in private practice. He offers "Getting the Love You Want: A Workshop for Lesbian and Gay Couples." The next weekend workshop will be held in Houston the weekend of November 10-12, 1995. Mr. Vachon is available for lectures, seminars, and individual/couples therapy. If you would like to arrange a speaking engagement, desire information on workshops, or discuss individual/couples therapy, you may contact him at (713) 529-1913, voice mail #4.

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DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH BY REV. JANET PARKER



On a very recent special occasion I had someone ask me, "Are you really the person that you appear to be?" At first I thought it was a strange question, but then I realized that this person was serious. They honestly wanted to know if I was authentic. It was a blessing to be able to say that "what you see is what you get." This question led me to reflect on why I am who I am and who led me to this place of being "me."

From a Biblical perspective I attribute who I am to who I know and spend time with on a daily basis. I am a person of "prayer, study and action." Since I first met Christ and began a personal relationship (1967), I have been abiding in the Vine. Jesus is described as being the Vine and we are the branches. He is our life-giving source. By abiding in the Vine we have the opportunity to produce fruit in our lives. In the book of Galatians 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit (that which is produced while abiding in the Vine), is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

As we grow in our relationship with Christ and with the Body of Christ (the church) we have opportunity to mature in that relationship. A by-product of that spiritual maturity is the production of this fruit. Many times we are held back from using our gifts until we mature enough to exercise these gifts in love, with patience and kindness, etc. As a minister of the gospel, it is important that whatever I do as a pastor for the people of God, that I do it with the fruit present in my life. Without the fruit I may come across as harsh, hard, critical, judgmental and impatient. This is the fruit that is produced by living in the world and being abused by the world.

Another thing I realized about my life as it is attached to the Vine is that I become a "letter from Christ" (I Corinthians 3:3). There is a responsibility attached to Christianity to walk in integrity. As a well known Bible teacher Joyce Meyers says, "to walk the walk, even when nobody notices, and not just talk the talk, when someone you think is important is listening."

There are benefits to being authentic and full of integrity. A person will have learned discipline and self-control. This will enable a person to walk in love which is the prerequisite for walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful question to have someone ask you—are you really who you appear to be? Can you say "yes" to this question?

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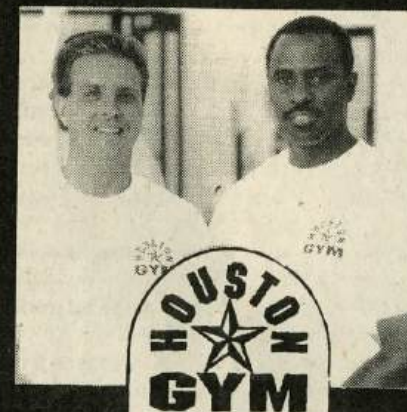
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THE TRAVEL PARTNERSHIP

Latina Lesbian Leaders



Celebrating Hispanic History Month and Gay and Lesbian History Month

by Lis Mendes

Photographs by Theresa DiMenno

Este mes se celebra la Historia de Homosexuales y Lesbianas al mismo tiempo que se celebra la Historia de los Hispanos. ¡Qué maravilloso que tengamos en primera plana las historias personales de cuatro lesbianas latinas! Aunque sabemos que hay muchos líderes hispanos en la comunidad homosexual de Houston, esperamos que nuestra selección de estas mujeres notables lleve reconocimiento a todos.

This month we celebrate not only Gay and Lesbian History Month, but Hispanic History Month as well. How wonderful that we have profiles of four Latina lesbians as our cover story! We know that there are many Hispanic leaders in the Houston gay community, and we hope that our choice of these four outstanding women brings deserved recognition to all.



Lola Castillo: "We didn't want to get arrested too quickly, before we made our point."

Lola Castillo was a teenager when she started what was to be a 20-year career as a social activist. The Federal Courts had just handed down a new pairing plan aimed at integrating Houston public schools, and various Chicano organizations were protesting the plan because it was unfair. Chicanos were being classified as white and then bussed to black schools, while whites were being left in their home schools. Various groups were boycotting HISD in protest.

I was in the ninth grade at Jackson Jr. High, and I was the first student to walk out. It was 9:30 in the morning and the whole school was locked up with chains on the doors, and the only open door was being blocked by a couple of teachers and the principal.

I managed to get to the door, and they tried to stop me and threaten me, saying I could never come back to HISD. I walked out anyway. By lunchtime, a couple of hundred other students walked out, too. And that was the beginning of my activism.

I became a student leader and joined MAYO (the Mexican-American Youth Organization) and went around to different schools encouraging young Chicano students to boycott HISD in protest of the pairing plan. Huelga schools were put together so that students could continue their education during the boycott.

Finally, we were victorious in our lawsuit against the Federal Courts, and we overturned the pairing plan. Chicanos were finally recognized as a separate minority group, with their own language and their own culture.

Lola continued her work with MAYO after the HISD boycott ended and worked for farm-worker rights and other race-oriented issues.

One year, Melchor Ortega was going around the country talking about how Cesar Chavez was really a front man for the Communist party. Of course, we were all pissed off because that was not true. We decided that we wanted to crash his speech, but we didn't want to get arrested too quickly before we made our point, so we went to buy tickets to the rally. That way they couldn't throw us out right away.

Because Lola was fair skinned with light brown hair and green eyes, she was elected by MAYO to go to the American Opinion bookstore to try to buy the tickets. Once there she conned the clerk into giving her a fistful of free tickets for her friends who couldn't afford them.

I told him, "Oh, I have so many friends that would love to come to this event." He said, "Really? Well how many tickets do you need?" And I said, "Let's see, there's Jennifer and Billy and Buffy



Jackie Doval: "Hopefully, my nephew will know that he has a dyke aunt who's a jock."

and... I just started making up all these white-people names when really it was Tencha and Poncho and Chuey. And he said, "I'll give you these tickets, but only if you promise to bring all your friends. I want to see you there." I told him, "I promise you'll see me there." Of course, he didn't know he was gonna see me there protesting and disrupting the speech.

So we went, with our tickets, and when Melchor Ortega got up to speak and started telling his lies, we stood up, booing him and saying he was wrong and he was a front for the conservatives.

It turned into a major disruption and they called the police. The police came with paddy wagons and pulled us all out of the meeting. But then when we told them what Melchor Ortega was saying, they said, "Hey, we like Cesar Chavez, too." And they let us go. It was amazing, 'cause they were white officers, but they knew what was going on with farm workers.

After Lola came out as a lesbian in the early '80s, she left the Chicano movement.

It was really scary for me in the beginning. I was afraid of a backlash. I was afraid the people I had worked with in MAYO would, in fact, not understand and would shun me. Later, I finally came to terms with that and decided that people would have to accept me for what I am. But it took a long time to get comfortable being out.

Lola now works with the Family Violence Program of the Houston Area Women's Center where lesbian services will soon be offered.

One of the most exciting things we have coming up is a new program for the lesbian community that addresses lesbian battering. We've had many clients coming into our shelter pretending to be straight and then disclosing to their counselor that they are lesbian and are being battered by their lover.

After seeing the Chicano movement fail, for the most part, to address gay and lesbian concerns, Lola works to make sure the gay and lesbian community doesn't ignore race issues.

I think there's room in our society for lots of discussion. It's real healthy when people from different perspectives come together and talk about those differences. It fosters an environment where we can all get along.

Separation comes from ignorance. When people accept stereotypes about other groups, they fear any kind of interaction with other people, other groups. I think we can all contribute. There are always going to be conservative elements in the country that are going to talk shit about us, and try to minimize the contributions gays and lesbians



Laura Villagrán: "As a Latina, it's important for me to break any stereotypes there might be."

are making, try to discredit us. We can't let them.

Remember the riots in Moody Park after Joe Campos Torres was murdered by Houston Police officers? Lesbians were there. Lesbians were in the march for Ida Delany. We're everywhere. We're more visible, we're more vocal. And we're not going away.

Now in the fifth year of production, the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages has a circulation of 85,000, 350 points of distribution, and almost 400 pages of business listings.

Laura Villagrán started the Yellow Pages after she left a similar publication.

I was working for the Spanish Yellow Pages and one day I had no job. With all that experience, especially in sales, I decided to give it a shot. Kathy Hubbard bought the first ad, and it was go from there.

The first book, in 1991, was only 48 pages, but the response was amazing. The community used it, and the advertisers saw an immediate response. The next edition doubled in size, and we've doubled each year since then.

The success of the Houston GLYP was overwhelming. And it was clear to me that the key to continued economic, social, and political growth lies in uniting our gay dollars.

Now cities all over the country are coming out with their own gay Yellow Pages. Phoenix, Baltimore, and Washington all have their first edition this year. We have the third Denver edition coming up. We started that in response to Amendment 2 in Colorado, and it's growing. We'll have a staff of three there this year, so I won't have to go back and forth as much.

Lots of the other publications are called Community Resource Guides or some other non-gay name. No one actually comes out and says Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages, except for us in Houston and Denver. That's the next step. It would be very powerful for them to come out of the closet completely.

But as successful as GLYP has been, it has come at some personal cost to Laura.

For the first couple of years, I was completely ostracized. Being a woman in this business and playing with the big boys in this community has been very hard. But as a Latina, it's important for me to break any stereotypes there might be—the image of the Latina butch, disel dyke. I hope that we can help change the image of Latinas in the business world and in the gay community.

I want people to know about my commitment to the economic growth of our community. That leads to incredible freedom for us.



Linda Morales: "They killed him, and I always had it in the back of my mind that that could happen to me."

Not only with things like AIDS research or social development, but as individuals. Uniting the gay dollar can lead to amazing power.

But as much as I work on economic growth for our community, I'm most proud of my work with the Assistance Fund and of my reprioritizing everything in my life, taking the focus away from money. Money isn't the only thing in the world. Now my number-one priority is helping other people instead of chasing the big bucks. That came about as a result of my mother's cancer. I realized what was important, and money didn't have anything to do with it.

Still, I have lots of plans for GLYP. We want to franchise and be in 20 markets, maybe go public. And I see TV as a part of our future. I've seen the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages become a vital component of gay economic growth, increasing the visibility of gay and lesbian businesses and gay-friendly businesses. There are so many markets that don't have this publication or one like it, and it's crucial to the gay community that they do.

Linda Morales came to Houston after graduating from college. Originally from Uvalde, Texas, Linda thought Houston would be where she would start her career in TV programming. Instead, she became a nationally known gay and lesbian activist.

As the lead plaintiff in Morales vs. The State of Texas, a suit filed in an effort to overturn 21.06—a state law banning sodomy that was often used to prosecute gays—Linda became a prime target for conservatives and anti-gays.

Aware of the expense and exposure suing the state would entail, Linda eagerly took on the challenge.

It was too important an issue for me to sit by idle and not challenge it. I couldn't understand why people were opposed to allowing lesbians and gays having, in essence, equality. It was too important an issue for me not to take a stand on it. Attempts to change the law in the legislature had failed, and the only way left to challenge 21.06 was in the court system. So I did.

Linda told her mother about her plans.

It was a pretty morning back in Uvalde, Texas, and I said, "I know you know about my lifestyle, but I have to tell you that I'm gonna file a lawsuit against the state of Texas. It's something that I really believe needs to be done, and I want to let you know in case someone tries to do something to the family. This is a small town, with a small-town mentality, and you never know what's gonna happen."

Latina Lesbian Leaders

Continued from previous page

My mother said, "Why do you have to tell the whole world you're gay?" And I told her, "Not the whole world, just the state of Texas." All she could say was, "Ay, Linda."

My big fear was about my family, our safety. I remembered that as a small child, people would talk about this one joto who lived in Uvalde, who was a flaming queen and the rumor was that they killed him. So I always had that in the back of my mind, that that could happen to me.

One thing Linda wasn't prepared for was the apathy in the gay community.

A lot of people didn't even know that there's a law on the books that makes us (gays and lesbians) illegal, that doesn't allow us to love someone of the same sex. That was a real big obstacle. In order to challenge a law like 21.06, it's gonna take a lot of financial resources. The lack of community support we got was real sad for me. People can go to the bars and spend their money, and then here was this important issue that didn't get the same kind of energy or attention from the community.

Linda's efforts to overturn 21.06 earned her a spot in the recent book, *Uncommon Heroes*, a chronicle of gay and lesbian leaders across the country.

I got a call from New York, and they said that they were doing a book on people that they felt needed to be recognized. There were two people from Houston, myself and Juan Palomo.

Linda and Juan's inclusion in the book was met with a pronounced lack of interest by the larger gay community in Houston.

That was disappointing for me. I say that, not because of me, but because of Juan. I really admire him because he was in mainstream media, and he got blasted when he came out. After all the struggles he had with the Houston Post and my carrying the lawsuit for everyone—not just Hispanics, but for everyone—and we didn't even get a hint of recognition. That's sad.

I was reading something about gay history the other day and it was all Anglos. Nothing against the Anglos or blacks that deserve to be recognized, but where the hell were we? Didn't the writer know any Hispanic names? There are plenty of Hispanics that have impacted the gay community. Like Juan Palomo or Joe Perez, who founded LLEGO. Where were they?

I guess it's up to us to toot our own horn, because if we don't, our history doesn't get written up. We as gay and lesbian Hispanics have made a big, big contribution to the community, but we don't get the recognition we deserve.

I think the larger gay community needs to understand that gay and lesbian Hispanics want to be included. We want to be at the table making decisions and want to be a recognized part of the community.

We don't have a different agenda just because we're Hispanic. We're part of the gay community. But we have a different culture and we're holding on to it. It's too important for us to let go.

Jackie Doval, born in Puerto Rico, divides her energies between her growing chiropractic clinic, the Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI), Houston Black Tie, Team Houston, People in Medicine, and the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

With a master's degree in exercise physiology, Jackie entered a Doctoral program at Texas A&M, but left before completing her dissertation. From there she went to the Texas Chiropractic College. She joined a clinic after graduating, but was fired when the administration found out about her sexuality.

They caught me with my pants down. I had no savings, no

backup. I had been paying off my student loans and didn't see this coming.

When I got fired, I thought, "I don't want to go to work for someone else again." So I borrowed some money from my lover, Robin Robinett, and opened my own clinic. Kathy Hubbard gave me space in her offices. I started off with an examination room and an office. That was it.

Now I have a suite of offices in the Twelve Oaks Tower and we're still growing.

Jackie is currently putting together the first ever Lesbian Health Fair, called LESBIANS '96: TO YOUR HEALTH/LESBIANAS '96: A TUSALUD to be held January 27, 1996 at the Multi-Service Center on West Gray. The all-day event will include health screenings, workshops, and entertainment.

The Health Fair is being held in response to last year's lesbian health survey collected by the Lesbian Health Initiative.

Although the survey had a limited number of Hispanic and African-American respondents, Jackie is hoping the Health Fair will attract lesbians from all races and backgrounds.

When I go out, I'm just amazed at seeing all these beautiful women from different cultural backgrounds. They pack the bars, but where are they now? Where did they come from? I'm hoping that they will actually come out to the Fair and participate. We're reaching out to people all across the community.

Lesbian health is a big focus for me. Through LHI, I've developed great friendships, in particular with Virginia Miller, who really works hard with me in the Lesbian Health Initiative, along with Pat Gandy. Both of them are survivors of breast cancer. That touches me. AIDS touches me deeply. It seems like every year I lose another friend to AIDS.

Along with the Lesbian Health Initiative, Jackie developed the Kessler Program in her clinic, a vehicle for providing free chiropractic services to low-income clients or people with AIDS. Jackie started the program after losing a client to AIDS.

He was the first client I lost to AIDS, and I saw how committed he was to chiropractic care and knew that chiropractic care can play a major role in the treatment of a person with AIDS, so I started the Kessler Program. Right now, I'm trying to get it funded so that I can expand it and serve more people.

Along with providing quality health, Jackie acknowledges she has other responsibilities to the gay and lesbian community.

I have a responsibility to be out. To do the most that I can, to help out within the community. To make things go forward. Strength comes in numbers. You can't just have the handful of people that are gonna be out and do all the work. We need more people out. Maybe by seeing us be out and proud, they will find the security and safety to come out.

I was scared about coming out, like most people are. My greatest fear was losing my family when I came out; actually, they outed me. And it was a tough nine-year battle, but they finally came around. It was a rough nine years, but it was worth it. Now they're moving to Houston to be with me.

My only sister still has some difficulty with my being lesbian. She has a son, my nephew that I love dearly, but has kept him away from me for almost a year now. But I know it takes time. I waited for my parents to come around, and I'm willing to keep fighting and waiting for my sister to do the same thing. Hopefully, my nephew will know that he has a dyke aunt who's a jock.

The jock aspect Jackie refers to is, in part, a childhood dream. There were things I wanted to do as a child, and being an athlete was one of them. My mother discouraged that; she said I would get muscles like a man. But now I'm able to enjoy being athletic. I went to the Gay Games for the first time in '94 and competed as a cyclist. My next goal is to compete in body building in Amsterdam in '98.



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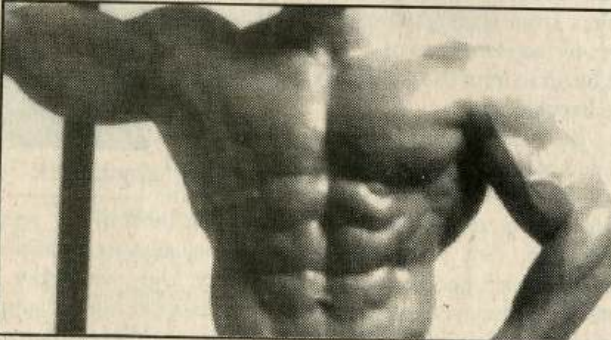


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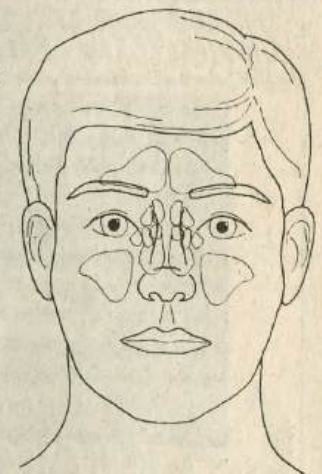
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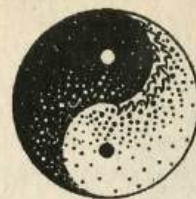
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OUTSMART POINT OF VIEW

Makes Me Wanna HOLLER!

A great and wise leader once said, "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with that first step." For the last year-and-a-half of my life, as a political activist, I have been forced to come to the strong conclusion that the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community of this city simply refuses to make that first step. And it makes me wanna holler.

River Deep, Mountain High

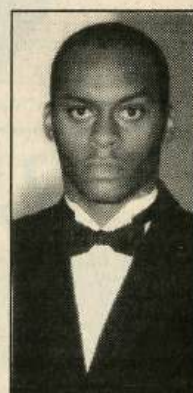
River deep, the gay community of this city is often complaining and wasting their lives depressed over being enslaved in a society that has chosen to enslave us because of who we are. Thus, in turn, we as gay people enslave ourselves through our own ignorant racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. Divisions that are langoliers eating up all of our energy make us weak and allow us to blame our prejudices, when we only have ourselves to blame.

Internalized homophobia affects the way that most of us operate in our day-to-day lives. True enough, if society is to blame for our sufferings, we must learn to take responsibility for our lives and the problems that exist largely in them. Most of us live by the standards of what we want straight America to see and accept from us as gay people. By living our lives to the standards of a "straight society," we begin to limit the value of who we are and the lives we live.

Just recently, a group of self-appointed leaders of our community chose to find little to do with their lives but contribute and produce to the self-hate and homophobic fires that burn in our people's souls every day. I'm speaking of the inclusion or exclusion of transgendered people in our community. Ugly, vindictive, and hateful words have been written in the press opposing and supporting transgendered inclusion. In Houston, for three months, the transgendered issue developed into a situation in which these same self-appointed community leaders started this sick infighting, thus causing an even greater wedge within our community.

Meanwhile, in Dallas, three gay city council representatives were fundraising for their re-election campaign. The same with city council representatives in Galveston and Austin. All across the state of Texas, gay people are working day and night as brothers and sisters to achieve the justice, freedom, and equality we are demanding.

But in this city of Houston, fourth largest in the country, we choose who sits where on the bus and what their individual fares will be. This type of homophobic thinking take us nowhere. If gay people in this city don't stop the senseless infighting and power-playing tactics in our community, homosexual Houstonians can



by LuJack Tyler

just give it up.

Racism and sexism are international madnesses that should not exist in the gay community. The news flash is that it does. Logic would suggest that if you are an oppressed community, then you don't oppress others in your community. I was never referred to as a nigger until, at age 17, I encountered an angry, drunk, caucasian, gay man.

By supporting gay-based racism and sexism, we are also supporting particular gay establishments that encourage racist and sexist attitudes in their places of business. Political and civic organizations, restaurants, and some nightclubs are at the forefront of this type of discrimination.

Only until the gay community of this city refuses to tolerate public forms of racism and sexism will we be able to take the first step, mountain high into our promised land of justice. Recently, I

Logic would suggest that if you are an oppressed community, then you don't oppress others in your community.

was told of an idea to form a discrimination free zone in Montrose. I think that an idea like this should be celebrated and created for the empowerment of our future as a community... a promised land of equality. Equality, not meaning equal to the standards of a "straight community," but the equality to work without fear of being fired. Equality to raise our children and develop the dormant courage to do something for ourselves.

Solutions to our problems do exist. Courage and self-love are the two ingredients that start to bring an end to our infighting and injustices toward each other. Supporting gay nationalism as a

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Recently, members of the transgendered community met in Washington to discuss their issues with the Human Rights Campaign and government leaders. The following is an overview of what occurred, what didn't occur, and why the transgendered community believe Texas is such an unfriendly place to reside.

Transgenders Make National Gains

By Sarah DePalma

In a meeting that can easily be described as historic in its significance, the national leadership of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and leaders from the largest transgender rights organizations met in Washington, D.C., on September 17, 1995. The meeting was arranged by Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the HRC, following a nationwide protest sponsored by It's Time, America!, Transsexual Menace, and Transgender Nation. The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy also played a significant role in supplying legal expertise to the three organizations.

Transgenders viewed the HRC as the organization primarily responsible for their exclusion from the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and retaliated by picketing selected HRC fundraising events in major cities across the country.

The meeting, which lasted four-and-a-half-hours, was punctuated with charges and counter-charges. However, when the smoke cleared and cooler heads prevailed, the HRC committed to actively support a transgender inclusive amendment to ENDA. Sharon Stuart from the Transgender Law Conference and Jessica Xavier of It's Time, America! were selected to work with HRC on crafting the language of the amendment.

Additionally, the HRC and transgendered leaders agreed to work together on gaining gender and transgender inclusion into the Federal Hate Crimes Reporting Statistics Act and other federal hate crimes legislation. It was further agreed the organizations would work together in reaching out to people of color, feminist groups, and others as a part of a larger coalition-building process. The HRC also agreed that, if asked, they would provide training for transgender activists new to lobbying on Capitol Hill and limited logistical support.

The ENDA portion of the agreement applies only to the legislation as it currently exists. Assuming the bill does not pass in the near future, it will need to be reintroduced in 1997. Unfortunately, the HRC would not commit to transgender inclusion into the new version (if needed), and further discussion on the issue will be necessary. Transgendered leaders felt the HRC was sincere in its desire to build a relationship, and all future protests of the HRC have been canceled.

Phyllis Frye, Tere Fredrickson, and I were active in the meeting, and Texas can be proud that it supplied three of the nine representatives to be involved in such a major event.

On October 2, nearly 100 transgendered activists from around the nation gathered on the steps of the Capitol, faced news cameras from the major networks, and announced for the first time in history they were going to openly lobby their members of congress on behalf of transgenders across the nation. Every major transgendered organi-



zation sent representatives to the event. The Tri-Ess Sorority (an organization for heterosexual cross dressers and their families) sent representatives who proudly stood next to members of Transsexual Menace (a group similar in nature to ACT UP!). It was without a doubt the largest show of solidarity ever presented from all portions of the transgendered spectrum and a moment I will never forget. Never before had so many transgendered men and transgenders of color openly participated in our movement, which has often, but incorrectly, been perceived to be overwhelmingly female and white.

Once again, Texas took the lead in supplying two national leaders (Phyllis Frye on behalf of the Transgender Law Conference and myself on behalf of It's Time, America!) plus five other representatives, three of whom were from Houston.

Over the next few days, transgender representatives from 35 states managed to visit the offices of more than 500 legislators. The overwhelming majority of the representatives were extremely well-received. I was particularly pleased that we were able to meet with key staff members of both Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison. To no real surprise, they were not particularly supportive of our views. However, they did agree to continue a dialogue with us, and that's a start. In addition, we met with staff members of nearly every key leader in the House of Representatives, except for Dick Armey, who is every bit as transphobic as he is homophobic.

Our visits to the offices of Sheila Jackson Lee, Gene Green, and Lloyd Doggett were especially memorable for their honesty and respectful treatment of our requests for their support of ENDA.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN TEXAS . . .

Unfortunately, I returned home to find that Texas, in the form of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL), is still in the stone age.

The LGRL is sending out a questionnaire entitled "Understanding Transgender Issues," which asks such questions as, "Who do you consider transgender people to be?" and "Do you know how other gay/lesbian political groups have handled the issue of inclusion of transgender people? What have been the repercussions of those decisions?" Apparently, the LGRL leadership doesn't read very much or they would know the answers to those questions.

I am genuinely struck by the different leadership styles of Elizabeth Birch of the HRC and Dianne Hardy Garcia of the LGRL.

Even as the meeting in Washington, D.C. began, Elizabeth Birch made a point of telling her staff members, "I want us to open our hearts and listen." When the rhetoric from either side got too far off track, it

was she who brought the subject back into focus. A little more than two hours into the meeting, she asked for time out to caucus. Thirty minutes later, she and her staff returned to announce their agreement to work with us, and the entire focus of the meeting shifted to the various ways in which we could make that happen.

Dianne, on the other hand, does not speak to the transgendered leadership at all. Back in April, we were told that perhaps in July the LGRL was going to form a committee to look into the idea of transgender inclusion. Tere Fredrickson, a transgendered person and noted scholar on the subject of transgenders, volunteered to help in formulating the issues. She was never contacted. In fact, not one single person in any transgender organization in the entire state was contacted about the questionnaire which is now being circulated. We consider many of the questions to be stupid beyond belief and, in some cases, downright insulting.

I fully understand that Dianne has a board she must contend with, but so does Elizabeth. One person chose to lead and, so far, one has chosen not to do so. We expect better, and the gay/lesbian population of this state should do the same.

Let me make this just as clear as I can. The last two years have brought stunning successes to transgenders across the country. With only a few exceptions, those successes have not occurred in Texas. Transgenders are not going to tolerate the arrogant, heavy-handed approach we have received from some of the gay/lesbian political leaders in this state any longer. We are on the verge of open political warfare in this state, which could easily see transgender-sponsored and gay/lesbian bills dueling with each other for legislative support. Of course, this means a drain of political and financial capital of both sides. It will confuse our friends and help our enemies, and in the end it is likely no one will get what they want. Let there be no mistake: These gay/lesbian political leaders need to start talking with us. Our patience has worn out, and we will not be silenced again.

THE TRANSGENDER POLITICAL AGENDA

Employment Discrimination

The suicides resulting from employment discrimination are to the transgendered community what AIDS has been to the gay/lesbian community.

In a recent meeting in Galveston, I asked 60 transgendered people if they or anyone they knew had attempted suicide due to employment discrimination and the resulting economic hardship. Everyone in the room raised their hand. I asked the same question of the assembled gathering in Washington, D.C., and again everyone raised their hand. I personally have attempted suicide twice and I've seen the scars on the wrists of Phyllis Frye. If you wonder why transgenders feel so passionately about ENDA, now you have the answer.

Violence and Hate Crimes

A recent survey by the American Boyz Network, a national association of female to male transsexuals, found that 70 percent of their members had experienced an act of physical violence related to their being transsexual. Based on the phone calls and personal anecdotes I receive from transgendered females in Houston, I would say the figure is close to 50 percent. Dee McKellar, a board member of the Transgender Law Conference, was recently attacked at knife point outside her own apartment. Comments made about being "a man in a dress" made it clear why the attack took place. Thankfully, she was not seriously injured.

We are working with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) on gaining gender and transgender inclusion into the Hate Crimes Reporting Statistics Act. Additionally, we have started networking with several feminist organizations to discuss the approach they would like to make happen in this matter. It is our desire to work with the LGRL on building a transgender inclusive hate crimes bill. Should that not occur, however, we have already started the process of introducing our own legislation.

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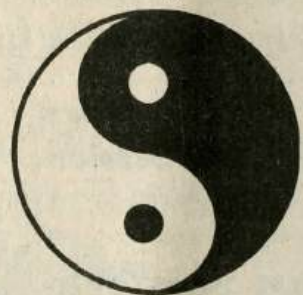
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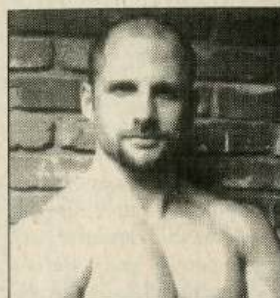
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The Art of Getting Fit

If you're planning to look
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by Jerry Morris



GETTING STARTED

Since the early eighties, fitness has been a major topic. Go to any bookstore and you'll find a hundred books written on the subject. You'll also find numerous health and fitness magazines that include articles written on different exercises, proper form, proper nutrition, how to use the equipment, how to get started. The list goes on and on.

It really is great that there is so much information available on staying fit. However, the sheer volume of all the books and articles makes the information more overwhelming than informative. For example, you might read an article that will tell you to work out five times a week and isolate one body part per workout to gain muscle mass. Then you turn around and read another article that will tell you to train all body parts twice a week on a three-days on, one-day off cycle. Or your goal may be to lose weight. One book will tell you a high-aerobic, low-weight/high-rep workout along with a low-calorie diet is what you need to abide by. And then a friend gives you literature on a strict diet that consists of nothing but water and grapefruit.

Are you confused so much that you wish that there was a simple guide on how to start working out? Probably.

In my years of physical fitness training, whether for a client or for myself, I have found that there are five critical, yet simple and basic, elements to getting started.

1) ESTABLISH A REALISTIC OBJECTIVE — Define a goal and purpose for your endeavor and make it achievable not impossible. What this means is don't expect within a matter of a month to look like one of those muscle monsters you see in an exercise magazine. And remember, when setting your objective, that losing weight (excess fat) is much easier and faster to do than it is to gain quality mass (muscle).

2) SET A REASONABLE TIME FRAME — Meaning, don't set it in a millennium and then on the other hand, don't set it in a month's time either. Often people use upcoming holidays, family events, or personal events such as an upcoming vacation as the time frame. This is perfectly okay as long as it passes the "reasonableness" test; greater

than two months and less than or equal to six months. For example, in four months I plan to lose five pounds and be more firm. Or, in six months I plan to gain five quality (muscle) pounds. Depending on what your goal may be. It is important to note that elements 1 and 2 are highly related. It is often difficult to think of one without thinking about the other.

3) CREATE A PLAN TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE — A proper fitness plan should include the appropriate exercise program and appropriate diet. This is probably the most important element of the five and the one where a lot of people need the most help.

A) EXERCISE PROGRAM — This involves defining the frequency of your workouts (i.e., how many days per week) and the mixture of weight training and aerobic training. As for weight training, this means determining body-parts separation (e.g., full-body workout vs. body-part isolation), specific exercises and routines (for example bench press, incline flies, squats, etc.), and number of sets, repetitions (reps) per set, and the intensity.

If your goal is to lose weight—do a 3 to 4 days a week, full-body workout, with high reps and medium to low weights, along with medium to high intensity cardiovascular.

If your goal is to gain muscle mass—do a 4 to 5 days a week split routine—targeting one or two specific body parts per workout, with medium to low reps and high weights, along with medium-to-low intensity cardiovascular.

B) DIET PROGRAM — This involves determining the appropriate daily caloric intake and its breakdown in terms of number of meals and snacks and in terms of the source; simple and complex carbohydrates, protein, and fat.

4) MEASURE AND RECORD PROGRESS — Having an objective and a time frame are not enough. We have to be able to monitor how your progress is going. Don't try to monitor too much, as some measures such as weight may fluctuate daily. If you see something you don't like, chances are you could get very discouraged and you don't want that to happen. Try to monitor monthly (for weight loss, biweekly measurements are appropriate). Yeah, you're going to be eager to see results. But have a little patience, as it does and will take time. We want to make an optimal time frame for all of the different variables (weight training, proper nutrition, and adequate rest) to take effect so that we can actually see results everytime we measure.

5) MAKE IT SIMPLE — When looking at all of these magazines and books, somehow they make the simplest workout routine look and sound so complex, and in my experience this is probably the biggest problem that prevents a lot of these programs from succeeding. Again, it is very important to start with a simple program. As you make progress and become more comfortable and more experienced, it will be time to make your program more advanced.

Now, as you get started always remember the following thoughts:

1) Always use the proper form. Very little gain, if any, when using the wrong form. If it's too heavy, chances are your form is going to be wrong. On the other hand, don't make it too light or you won't get anything out of it.

2) Once you've achieved your objective, it is time to set a new objective and a new plan to achieve it. You should not view it as a one time event.

3) A lot of the ads you see in magazines make claims about products and exercises that will turn Pee Wee Herman into Arnold Schwarzenegger overnight. If they sound too good to be true, they probably are.

So if you are planning to look your best this holiday season, it's time to get to work. ▼

Jerry Morris, the proprietor of The Art of Fitness, is a Houston-based health-and-fitness consultant with over 12 years experience in developing personalized fitness programs. For more information regarding this article, call (713) 938-2639.

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HIV/AIDS WATCH

from Gaynet Wire Service

Red Cross Softens AIDS Materials at Urging of Elizabeth Dole

NEW YORK — The New York Times has reported that the American Red Cross is trying to shift its AIDS prevention programs away from explicit materials at the urging of Elizabeth Dole, its national president and the wife of Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, a Republican presidential contender who has recently been wooing conservatives. The Times reported that its investigation found no documented evidence that the move was part of a political agenda, but the papers quoted HIV/AIDS activists who clearly believe the Red Cross policy shift is rooted in the U.S. presidential campaign. Shana Ross, who heads the Houston Red Cross' HIV/AIDS program, told the Times, "It is unconscionable. I have to take into account that this is because of who our president is, who her husband is and the fact that he's involved in a campaign now for the presidency, and he is seemingly losing ground to opponents who are more conservative than he is." A spokesperson for the Dole campaign denied any connection between his wife's "personal views" and the Kansas Republican's presidential bid. The paper reported that Red Cross officials had developed an expanded AIDS prevention program earlier this year, but that the agency board, at the prompting of Mrs. Dole, had made substantial changes in the recommended program, including extensive changes in print and video materials that were considered too explicit and graphic. AIDS activists, however, said that more explicit prevention materials are exactly what is needed to fight the spread of HIV in the U.S.

Inexpensive, Fast HIV Test Developed by Indian Scientists

NEW DELHI — The Press Trust of India reports that biochemists with Delhi University have developed an HIV test that takes only a drop of blood and just a few seconds to detect virus antibodies. The Indian news agency reports that the new test was found to be accurate in 99 out of 100 random samples tested. The Delhi University researchers said, however, that they want to evaluate the reliability of the simple new test on thousands of samples before making it widely available. According to the agency report, the test also has the advantage of requiring no more than a drop of a chemical reagent added to a drop of the blood to be tested. The two are mixed together on a glass slide and in 5 or 10 seconds the blood will "clot" in globules if HIV is present, but will remain unchanged if it is not. Researchers say that the test, if it proves to be reliable, would be a boon in poor countries where high-technology tests are often prohibitive and in areas where electricity is absent.

Important Study of Effectiveness of AZT & Other AIDS Drugs

WASHINGTON — The widely used AIDS-fighting drug AZT appears to be less effective than either ddI, ddI with AZT, or ddC with AZT. Nearly 2,500 AIDS patients were given one or the other of the drugs or drug combinations in a study conducted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for almost a three-year period. Patients who received ddI, ddI with AZT, or ddC with AZT were sick less often than those who received AZT by itself. There have long been doubts about how much good AZT really does people with AIDS, and numerous studies have shown its effectiveness wears off over time. But researchers say it is too early to abandon AZT. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID, said, "It is quite conceivable that AZT will have a role as one of a group of drugs used in combination." Most of the patients in the study were in the middle stage of the disease—relatively healthy when the study began—evidence,

IMAGINE AN END TO AIDS

by Chris Jimmerson

On Thursday, October 26 at 6:30 pm, the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), Research Initiative/Treatment Action! (RITA!), and Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN) division of Montrose Clinic will present a joint Science of AIDS Seminar and Community Forum. The topic of the forum, to be held at the Double Tree Hotel downtown, will be "Imagine an End to AIDS." Speakers include Ronald J. Grossman, M.D., Dr. Tom Coates, and Dr. Janet S. Butel.

Dr. Grossman is a practicing physician and researcher in New York City who was among the first to diagnose an immune deficiency in gay men in the early 1980s. He has maintained a large HIV practice since that time. Dr. Coates of the University of California San Francisco works with the San Francisco Men's Cohort, which has been collecting information regarding HIV disease since the beginning of the epidemic. Dr. Butel of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston conducts basic HIV research funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Each of these presenters has been asked to apply their expertise and experience with HIV to address the topic of an end to AIDS. Whether from a scientific, clinical, preventive, epidemiological, or political perspective, the speakers have been asked to

researchers say, that treatment at that stage does make a difference. The study is also important because it is the first to show that a drug or combination of drugs can actually increase survival or delay disease progression among people who have not yet developed full-blown AIDS symptoms.

UCLA Scientists Say They've Found Crucial Gene in HIV

LOS ANGELES — Researchers at the AIDS Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) report in the *Journal of Virology* that they have identified a gene in HIV that arrests CD4 T-lymphocyte reproduction. The researchers report that the Vpr gene contains the plan for a protein that blocks CD4 cells, keeping them from reproducing. The discovery could aid in the development of new AIDS drugs that inhibit the

gene's growth in the body and permit immune cells to continue multiplying and fending off the virus. Some scientists, however, warned that the UCLA work is still preliminary. "It's a big leap to go from this observation in the laboratory to a statement that Vpr is what's responsible for the depletion of the immune system in infected patients," said Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

When it was first recognized that something was damaging the immune systems (primarily gay men in this country) and allowing diseases such as pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) to develop, HIV had not been identified as the culprit. Thus, the term AIDS eventually came to be used to describe a set of infections and symptoms people were getting because something had destroyed their immune systems, rendering them incapable of fighting off these infections. Later, when HIV was discovered, many speculated effective treatments and vaccines would end the disease within a few years.

A decade and a half later, the disease rages on. We still use the rather arbitrary term "AIDS" to describe a list of conditions that can result from HIV infection. As more and more people are lost and the disease continues well beyond when many had thought it would have been eliminated, we face the danger of losing hope for an end to it. Even within the language used by care providers, researchers, clinicians, and the communities affected most by HIV, one often hears terminology focusing on quality of life. We speak of providing comfort, services, and care. We talk of caring for the ill and dying. These things are very important and must remain a vital factor in our battle against HIV until it is defeated. However, we must remember survival is the ultimate goal. Ending HIV disease must be the preeminent objective toward which we strive.

Imagining an end to AIDS is the necessary component in focusing our energies toward that goal and reminding ourselves of the possibility. Talking about what remains to be learned and discovered, what remains to be done to end the disease, provides us with a mental "map" of the course we must take. Because AIDS describes a syndrome, not the underlying pathogens, AIDS itself cannot be cured, prevented, treated, or eliminated. HIV and the opportunistic infections it invites can be. To imagine an end to AIDS, we must refocus on the true etiology of the disease—HIV. Envisioning we will one day find a way to stop HIV from causing disease and talking about how we might get to that point provides the hope we need to continue and to also provide care and comfort until we get there.

For more information on Science of AIDS/Community Forum "Imagining an End to AIDS," contact Steve Nettles at (713) 520-2000. No reservations are needed, and entrance to the seminar is free.

gene's growth in the body and permit immune cells to continue multiplying and fending off the virus. Some scientists, however, warned that the UCLA work is still preliminary. "It's a big leap to go from this observation in the laboratory to a statement that Vpr is what's responsible for the depletion of the immune system in infected patients," said Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

Researchers Say Combined Drug 'Cocktail' Significantly Reduces Death Rate

LONDON — Researchers in a joint European-Australian study have announced that they have found a "cocktail" of two approved drugs that significantly extend the life of people with AIDS, cutting death rates

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AIDS Briefs

Continued from previous page

among patients who took the combination by more than one-third. Dr. Brian Gazzard, the principal investigator for the trial in Britain, said, "It shows clear survival advantages for combination versus single agent therapy." Gazzard said researchers were so impressed by their findings that they had stopped the years-long study early in order to publicly announce it because of the important implications of their results for people with the disease. "I think it will be used very rapidly clinically because these drugs are used on their own at the moment," Gazzard said. The study compared survival rates between people who were treated with zidovudine (AZT) and those treated with AZT plus didanosine or zalcitabine. Although 17 percent of patients who took AZT died during the trial, only 10 percent treated with didanosine and 12 percent with zalcitabine did not survive. Overall, the reduction in death rate was 38 percent for patients who took the two drugs compared with those treated with AZT alone. The study involved some 3,000 patients.

House OKs Ryan White Act

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives has voted to extend the federal Ryan

White CARE Act until the year 2000. The legislation provides funds to states, cities, and health facilities to help treat people with AIDS. The government will provide \$633 million in federal grants during fiscal year 1995. The measure, approved on a voice vote, also requires that states receiving the funds must require HIV counseling and testing for pregnant women and would support state programs requiring mandatory testing of newborn infants. The Senate has already approved a slightly different version of the measure, and differences will have to be worked out between the two legislative bodies.

AIDS Vaccine Trials OK'd for Thailand

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The Immune Response Corp. in San Diego has finalized an agreement with the Trinity Medical Group Co. of Thailand that will let IRC test its therapeutic AIDS vaccine with thousands of Thai volunteers in what is believed will be the largest ever test of such a vaccine so far in the epidemic. The Thai public health ministry has approved a one-year clinically controlled trial of the potential vaccine on some 300 Thais who are already infected with HIV. IRC says it hopes the Thai trial will run concurrently with a similar, larger clinical trial in the U.S. that will

involve some 3,000 infected individuals, although the Food & Drug Administration has yet to approve the U.S. trial. The vaccine, which was developed by the late Jonas Salk, has already gone through preliminary safety trials. IRC hopes the proposed U.S.-Thai trials will demonstrate the effectiveness of the vaccine in boosting the immune system response among people who are already infected with HIV.

Study Shows Medical Bias in HIV Treatment

BALTIMORE — Johns Hopkins University researchers have reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that women and minorities who are infected with HIV develop full-blown AIDS faster than white males because the healthcare delivery system gives them unequal treatment. The study found that problems encountered by women and minorities in getting good healthcare outweigh other demographic issues in how fast they progress to AIDS and how long they survive following infection.

Ukrainian Expert Connects Rising AIDS Cases to Chernobyl

KIEV, Ukraine — Dr. Valery Ivasyuk, the head of the national Ukrainian organization fighting the AIDS epidemic, warned of a sharp, dramatic increase in the numbers of Ukrainians with AIDS in the country during the past year and suggested the dramatic rise may be linked to the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986. Ivasyuk said the number of cases of AIDS and HIV infection in the country had doubled to some 7,000 cases, a figure which is 10 times more than the government officially estimates in the country. Ivasyuk also told reporters, "We see a direct link between enhanced radiation caused by the Chernobyl disaster and the spread of the HIV virus. Increased background radiation hinders the body's immune systems and the body becomes more susceptible to HIV."

Brazil's 'Talking Penis' to Be Renamed

BRASILIA — A Brazilian government AIDS awareness campaign upset hundreds of men in the country because the "talking penis" in the promotional spots had been given the common name "Braulio" which they shared with the appendage. Brazil's Health Minister Adib Jatene said he thought the use of the common name for the talkative penis had "made many people uncomfortable" in announcing that the male member would be renamed. Jatene said several possible names were under consideration for the radio and television character when "it" finally debuts. Among the possibilities for the talking thingie mentioned are the Portuguese equivalents for the English words: "partner," "buddy," "ditto," and "brother." ▼

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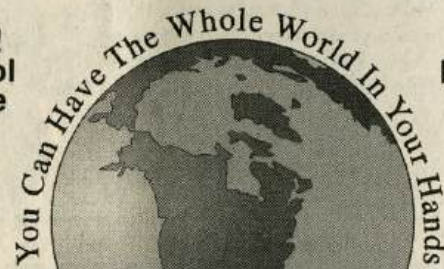


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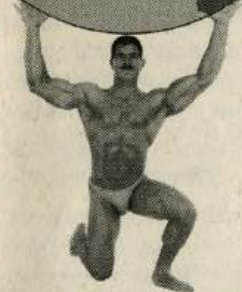
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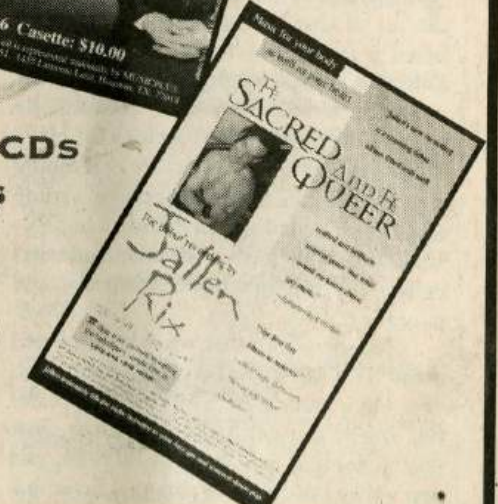
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Boxwood Herbal Extract Shows Promise as an HIV Antiviral

OutSmart first reported on SPV-30, an herbal extract, in March of 1995. Since then, promising studies are well under way, and the preliminary data is exciting, to say the least.

In addition to the following update from the national study, please see "Interview with Dr. Patricia Salvato" for a local perspective.

by Daniel Impastato and Greg Jeu

"For the first time, I get this real hope that we're finally making the progress that we need to turn this from a terminal illness into a chronic manageable disease. If the SPV-30 proves to be as effective, if not more effective, than let's say 3TC, then we can take away one of the chemicals and replace it with an herb that has no negative side effects."



Michel Ferry

—DR. ARLETTE PHARO

I tested positive for HIV in 1993, but my suspicion is that I'm a long-term survivor of this and probably became infected as far back as '82 or '84," says John Tillison, a local photographer and bartender at a Houston-area gay bar. In April, he began exploring antiviral options for HIV. Tillison opted not for the more commonly prescribed antivirals but to be part of a study of a French herbal antiviral known as SPV-30. Claims of the herbal extract include rises in immune function, increased energy, and virtually no side effects.

Tillison admits that, when he first heard about SPV-30, he was extremely skeptical. "I'm not a miracle-ist. You have to be careful, watch out for fads and know what you're doing. I was leery of SPV-30, and that's why I did a lot of personal investiga-

tion before I decided to take it. I think everyone should do that."

Manufactured in France by Arkopharma Laboratory, SPV-30 is made from the European Boxwood Evergreen, *Buxus sempervirens*. Boxwood was investigated as a treatment for tuberculosis and in 1954 patented by Merck Pharmaceutical Company.

For the past four years, the herbal extract has been used in France and is the only herbal antiviral listed in ARCAT 1995, the official HIV drug trials directory of the French government. Currently, SPV-30 studies are being conducted at 15 sites throughout France.

Interest in SPV-30 began when Dr. Jacques Durand, MD, head of the Infectious Disease Department of Hospital de

l'Archet in Nice, France, became aware of it through an HIV-positive woman who had been using it for several years since the late 1980s. Despite a bout with pneumonia, she sustained high CD4 cell counts over a period of time. (Low CD4 cell counts are surrogate markers of immunodeficiency. As CD4 cell counts decline, the risk of developing opportunistic infections increase.) This elevation is remarkable considering her episodic intravenous drug use and that, at that time in AIDS history, the average estimated life expectancy after this opportunistic infection was 18 months. By a process of elimination, Dr. Durand determined that a specific herb she was taking was related to this maintenance of CD4 count.

At one point, she stopped using the herb and had a significant drop in her CD4 count which, after going back on the herb, rose back into the 700s. Her count was around 460 in late 1994. She used AZT for about a month, which is the only antiviral medication she has used.

As a result of this favorable response, numerous studies began. In France, the phase II clinical trial of SPV-30 enrolling 180 patients is being conducted under the supervision of Dr. Luc Montagnier, the French researcher who shares credit for the discovery of the HIV virus.

In the spring of 1995, Boston treatment activist David Stokes, working with Dr. Beth Mestman, began recruiting participants across the nation for a six-month study of SPV-30. John Tillison enrolled in the study, which provided free SPV-30 in exchange for laboratory blood evaluations taken periodically during a six-month period.

Before entering the study, Tillison had his doctor perform a viral load test to check the level of HIV in his blood. Viral load tests measure the amount of free-floating HIV viral particles in blood. According to researchers, individuals with test results below 10,000 have more stable CD4 cell counts and a lowered risk for AIDS progression or decline of CD4 cell counts. Persons with counts between 10,000 and 100,000 have approximately double the risk of AIDS progression than those with the lower counts, and persons with results above 100,000 have 11 or 12 times the risk for progression.

Tillison's first viral load test indicated a viral burden of 156,000 and a CD4 count of 290. After being on SPV-30 for two months, a second viral load test was performed. His viral load had decreased substantially to a level of 2,100. However, his CD4 count remained relatively unchanged.

Tillison recently finished his four-month round of tests and, although no viral load test was performed at this time, his CD4s were up to 336 and his CD8 had moved into a more normal range.

"I am encouraged by the data," says Dr. Arlette Pharo, Tillison's physician. "For the first time, I get this real hope that we're finally making the progress that we need to turn this from a terminal illness into a chronic manageable disease. If the SPV-30 proves to be as effective, if not more effective, than, let's say, 3TC, then we can take away one of the chemicals and replace it with an herb that has no negative side effects. So I'm feeling really encouraged that we're finally getting somewhere with this."

Dr. Pharo, the first physician in Houston to express interest in participating in the national study, has seen similar results with her other patients on SPV-30, while admittedly not as dramatic as Tillison's report.

"A lot of my patients who enrolled in the SPV-30 study with me are also in the AZT/3TC drug combination studies. 3TC is also supposed to lower viral loads and increase T cells and I'm finding that this is true. But we haven't had the huge drop in the viral load with the 3TC like we're having with the SPV-30."

"One of the things that I think is so great about SPV-30 that everyone seems to be talking about," Pharo says, "is the increase in energy and the increase in appetite that people get when they start taking it. So in addition to the immune response that we are seeing from the Boxwood extract, how it seems to manifest clinically is with an

increase in appetite and in energy. I've even had a couple of patients test it. They would take SPV-30 for a couple of weeks and then go off it, and they would notice the difference immediately with a drop in energy and a drop in appetite."

Stokes and Mestman continue to receive incoming lab results from study participants across the nation. While reports are still coming in, Stokes says, "the most impressive results up until now are in the viral load data."

"In most cases," Stokes continues, "when you look specifically at the people

that had decreases—I think generally what we can say is by the four-month mark, we're seeing roughly 70-75 percent decreases in viral load for everyone—that's just the median. There's some people who have a full 99.9 percent drop in viral load. We had one guy go from 117,000 down to 612, and then at his fourth month the viral load was up just slightly at over 1,000. Clearly, that's a big drop."

"Out of the people that had increases, the average median increase was only 3,000. In other words, the people having increases,



AN INTERVIEW WITH Dr. Patricia D. Salvato



—DR. PATRICIA D. SALVATO

"A lot of my patients tell me their energy level is better. We haven't done any formal concentration studies, but they report that their memory and concentration and just their overall sense of well-being improves. They just feel better on it."

In addition to her private practice, which specializes in treatment of HIV and chronic fatigue syndrome, well-known Houston physician Patricia Salvato is a volunteer physician with the Montrose Clinic. OutSmart recently interviewed Dr. Salvato about her personal involvement with the national SPV-30 studies.

You've been using SPV-30 with your patients for roughly 7-8 months. What kind of results are you seeing with it?

Actually, we're seeing quite good results in terms of decreases in the viral load. It usually tends to take maybe two months before we start seeing a drop. The CD8 suppressor cells will go up next. Then, usually several months after that—maybe four months into it—the CD4 counts come up. So it looks pretty good in these terms, and that's regardless if my patients are on that by itself or if they've been stable on other antivirals and add SPV-30. It doesn't seem to have any effect in terms of counteracting other antivirals. A lot of my patients have been telling me their energy level is better. Some of them say they think better. We haven't done any formal concentration studies, but

they report that their memory and concentration and just their overall sense of well-being improves. They just feel better on it.

One patient said their skin rash improved. Some had diarrhea that improved. A couple of them had diarrhea when they began taking SPV-30, which improved, but this is a rare thing that I haven't seen a lot of.

Have you had any patients that have not had any results with it?

Some patients are just recently starting on it, and some, after a month or after two months, haven't made any changes. But I want to see what happens after three or four months since some of our other patients took up to four months to see a difference in their CD4 counts. We haven't seen results in all patients at the two-month mark.

What type of ranges are you seeing in terms of numbers?

Well, in viral load we've had a few counts decrease dramatically from the 300,000 to less than 10,000. Now, it's not the majority that



Dr. Salvato*Continued from previous page*

decrease this dramatically—but we're seeing decreases anywhere from a range of 30,000 to 50,000.

That's quite substantial.

Yes, but like I said, the CD4 counts do not match that exactly. They take a while to come up, which makes sense, because after the viral load goes down it takes awhile, like in any study, for the CD4s to respond. What I see more of is that the CD8 counts will come up pretty quickly after that viral load goes down, and that's taken only maybe two months.

You're involved with an antiviral study of a new pharmaceutical antiviral 3TC. How does SPV-30 seem to compare with that specific antiviral?

Actually, we give SPV-30 to a lot of our people on 3TC, because 3TC has given us some very good rises in T-cells, also. So I would say I can't distinguish between just having 3TC and just SPV-30. I would say most of our patients have had SPV-30 added to their program.

What do you think about SPV-30 and viral resistance?

Some of the initial phase II and III studies in France show that SPV-30 does work on the reverse transcriptase inhibitors, so the possibility that the

virus can get around that is going to be there. SPV-30 may be something nontoxic and something very useful in combination—whether it holds out on its own, it's hard to tell. But I think for somebody who hasn't been on any antivirals and just starts SPV-30 without any other antivirals that the virus could have become resistant to—it may do very well for a while, but it remains to be seen. I prefer to add it in with a stable, low-dose antiviral scheme.

Are there any other doctors in Houston that you know of, besides Dr. Pharo, who are using SPV-30?

I don't know. Patients are able to get SPV-30 through buyers clubs, so many may be doing it on their own. I don't know of other doctors using it. You know there have been so many herbal things over the years, but this one is very promising; it is being studied around the country and in France, and the data seems to be consistent.

Are there any patients that you wouldn't consider as candidates for using SPV-30?

There was some data that SPV-30 could be immunosuppressive, especially in patients with low, low T-cells. But actually we've used it on our people under 50 and we've not seen that to be the case. I have not seen it to be immunosuppressive. Most of my patients with under 50 T-cells, I have to say, are also on 3TC. Some are on AZT and 3TC, so hopefully that's helping decrease the

viral load, too. It's kind of like when they did that Interleukin study in which they had such dramatic increases in T-cells, but it actually was worse for people with lower T-cells. They didn't respond when their T-cells were under 200. So we worried a little bit, but a lot of my patients have low T-cells and I haven't found that their counts are adversely effected.

Is there anything else that people are reporting about SPV-30?

Some of my female patients actually have reported they've gotten better in terms of hair loss and skin changes. They say they have improvement in skin conditions in terms of not as many rashes and improvements in that itchy, dry skin syndrome that people with HIV get. They also report memory improvement. That's why I'm anxious to use it also in a chronic fatigue syndrome study we're starting here soon.

When do you think you'll have data on that?

We're going to be starting on that in about three weeks. We're going to be doing 60 patients on that, and we're going to be evaluating at one, three and six months. So it will be interesting to see if we see some of the same, at least subjective, factors in these patients as we've seen in those with HIV.

For more information regarding this article, contact Dr. Patricia Salvato at (713) 960-7900.

SPV-30 Herbal Antiviral*Continued from previous page*

despite taking the product, don't appear to be increasing a whole lot," says Stokes. "Perhaps if there is a lot of viral activity going on, it might be slowing it down, at least.

"Interestingly, individuals with higher viral loads at the beginning of the study appear to have larger viral load decreases than the overall group. In other words, even individuals at more advanced stages of AIDS appear to be benefitting as well if not better."

Thus far, the virus has not shown any signs of resistance to SPV-30. Stokes reports that "people who showed a drop at the two-month mark seem to be holding it at the four-month marker." According to Stokes, some participants in the original 1992 studies in France are still on the product and still doing well. For now this is the only evidence that points to lack of resistance.

"Ideally, I hope that this will allow people who find out that they are positive, who have 500 T-cells and don't know whether to start drug therapy, to have an

option. A natural herbal sort of antiviral, which by itself doesn't seem to be producing huge jumps in T-cells... could keep the viral load down for these people," Stokes concludes. "Maybe then their T-cells won't drop in the first place."

Clearly, SPV-30 is emerging as a promising antiviral without the devastating side effects which prevent many HIV-positive people from taking such drugs as AZT, 3TC, D4T, ddI, or ddC. With ongoing studies in France and here in the U.S., we anxiously await more data which may show the long-term benefits and effectiveness of this natural extract. For now, SPV-30 is at the very least a viable, inexpensive treatment option for those who cannot or choose not to take any of the presently available pharmaceutical antiviral drugs.

SPV-30 is available as an over-the-counter dietary supplement through selected AIDS-specific buyer's clubs and pharmacies. In Houston, SPV-30 is available at the Prince Street Buyers Club by calling (713) 880-2338. For other locations, call the Health Connection at 1-800-783-5050.

Dr. Arlette Pharo is an osteopathic physician practicing functional medicine with and for chronically ill patients. Her practice specializes in blending the use of nutrition, herbs, homeopathy and traditional medicine. Dr. Pharo can be reached at (713) 626-0505.

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Gay Marriage



What would happen if...

It seems lately that whenever I speak to a group of people regarding gay and lesbian legal issues, regardless of the topic, the subject of gay marriage comes up. Indeed, I have found it easy to fall into the pattern of saying, "It would be different if we could marry." In preparing for this article, I took some time to consider whether marriage is really an option that we should insist on having for our community, or whether we should think twice about the effort. As a result I came up with some pros and cons about gay

marriage that I believe merit further discussion.

Regardless of which side we are on, two things remain constant: one, that marriage is a legal contract whose terms are defined by the state in which a married couple lives; and two, that marriage is a socio-economic status that offers financial and social opportunities which are not afforded to singles. Philosophically and politically speaking, marriage results in a dichotomy where the married folks are the "haves" and the singles are the "have nots." Practically speaking, the institution of marriage has been around since time began and is not on its way out anytime soon. Not surprisingly, the argument against gay marriage is philosophically based, and the argument for gay marriage is a practical one.

Speaking for gay marriage

Why push to change the laws so that gays and lesbians can marry? One of the overwhelming reasons is because we want to have the right to do so. Given the choice, many gays and lesbians may still choose not to marry. But they still want to make the choice. When the choice is not available, then status discrimination exists. As long as gays and lesbians are excluded from the marriage institution, our relationships are seen as second-class and not legitimate. Arguably, gay marriage could be the beginning of social acceptance of gays and lesbians in all walks of life.

Given the ability to legally marry, gays and lesbians would enjoy legal rights and privileges such as these which are currently reserved for married people:

- The right to enter into pre-marital agreements enforceable by law;
- The rights of a parent for children conceived or adopted during the relationship (including the right to be appointed guardian of child following death of parent);
- The right to be included as a dependent on employment benefits such as health insurance and retirement benefits;
- The right to a marital real property exemption from attachment or execution;



by Connie Moore

- Increased homestead rights;
- Income tax deductions, credits, rates, exemptions, and estimates;
- The right to spousal public assistance;
- The right to spousal Social Security benefits;
- The right to make health-care decisions for a spouse;
- The right to be given notice in the event of a guardianship action is undertaken against a spouse;
- The right to share a room in a nursing home or long-term care facility;
- The right to funeral leave and to determine burial arrangements for a spouse;
- The right to inherit from the spouse and to be appointed a guardian of a spouse;
- The right to collect life insurance payable only to a spouse of the deceased; and
- The right to file a wrongful death claim regarding a deceased spouse.

Speaking against gay marriage

Those that disagree with our community investing its time, energy, and resources to fight for marriage would rather see us work to get rid of the institution altogether. The institution of marriage creates a natural division that rewards those who choose it over those who do not. Buying into the marriage dichotomy perpetuates an institution that discriminates based on status—something that we have fought against for years.

Why should we continue to define meaningful, committed relationships in terms of marital status? Why should government and businesses be allowed to continue to discriminate on this basis? Our gay and lesbian culture is a rich one that is based on the idea that the legitimacy of loving relationships should not be limited to what society sanctions at any given time in history. People should be free to enter into relationships as they choose, and the choice should not result in privileges for some and constraints for others. Gay marriage would defeat the struggle for an all-inclusive, non-discriminatory social definition of "relationship."

Marriage for gays and lesbians would not mean automatic acceptance for gays and lesbians. Likewise, if gay marriage were allowed, then states which make sexual behavior outside the marriage relationship a crime would still apply to gays and lesbians who choose not to marry, creating a whole new social segment of the "haves" and "have nots."

There are probably fewer practical reasons not to marry than there are philosophical. However, there are some which could make any single person, gay or straight, think twice about marriage:

- The presumption in community property states that all property acquired during the marriage is owned equally unless proven otherwise;
- The obligation and responsibility in many instances to pay the debts of the spouse;
- The prohibition against married couples declaring two residential homestead exemptions;
- The privilege of one spouse to avoid testifying against the other in court;
- Rules against nepotism (forbidding married folks from working for the same employer);

- Some potential adverse estate tax treatment; and
- The requirement of divorce to terminate the relationship, along with all the corresponding property rights, alimony (though very limited in Texas), custody, and child support issues that go along with it.

Marriage results in a dichotomy where the married folks are the "haves" and the singles are the "have nots," yet the institution of marriage has been around since time began and is not on its way out anytime soon.

Each side of the gay marriage debate has its merits. The short-term, practical view favors gay marriage so that gays and lesbians can join the ranks of the socially privileged. The long-term, philosophical view insists that marriage will do more harm than good for our community, and we should not be wasting our time and energy

with it. Since there is already a well-publicized legal fight being waged in support of gay marriage, we would be wise to carefully consider what would happen if. . .

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, Moore has pursued the area of human rights law with an emphasis on lesbian and gay rights. Under Moore's guidance, Moore & Hunt is a part of the cooperating attorney network of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. In addition to feminist, lesbian, and gay issues, the firm concentrates in family law, contract negotiations and disputes, corporation and small business formations, wills, estate planning, and probate matters. For more information regarding this article, call 713/522-4282.

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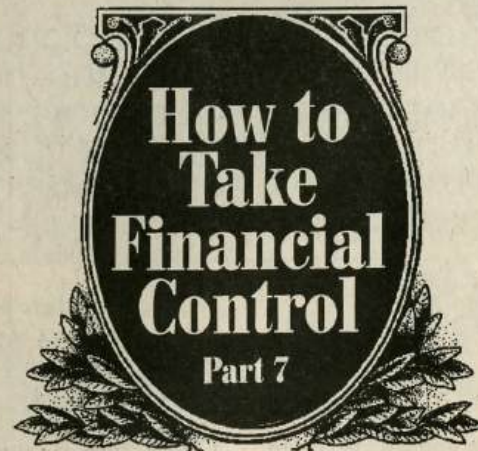
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Living With a Life-Threatening Illness:



Over the past several months, articles have been filled with discussions about medical, disability and life insurance, government entitlement programs, credit insurance, and credit lines. This month, I'll finish up the series with a discussion on investments, taxes, career and estate planning, and post-mortem planning for those living with a life-threatening illness.

Investments. People love to talk about how this or that stock is doing, how they wish they had bought whatever whenever, or what the market is going to do whenever forever. However, investing with a life-threatening illness may involve planning with very different objectives in mind. Each investment plan can be specialized to meet your needs, depending on your situation and goals. For some, a higher cash reserve fund may be recommended because of anticipated higher out-of-pocket medical expenses. For others, long-term investment goals may not be reachable due to a shortened life span. These goals may need to be re-evaluated and the risks or volatility of investments reduced or eliminated. For example, if you have investments with longer maturities, such as long-term bond funds, you may want to consider shortening those maturities to funds with limited or shorter terms. All investments and investment changes should be reviewed carefully. Some investments may provide federal tax free income, such as municipal securities, which may sound great. Unfortunately, tax-free income generally gets calculated into your modified adjusted-gross income which could then cause your Social Security disability income benefits to be taxable. Ugh!

Another part of investment planning takes into consideration your heirs and their needs. If your portfolio is large enough, you may consider dividing your investments with a portion being invested in growth-oriented investments and the rest into short-term investments to generate cash for you. This may help satisfy the long-term needs of loved ones and still be earning income for you today.

Income tax planning is another area to closely review. There are many different tax planning strategies. These involve transfers of income and deductions, capital losses and gains, like-kind exchanges, planned giving, and excise tax planning on retirement plans. Everyone's tax planning opportunities and situations are different. As someone living with a life-threatening illness, you may have additional deductions and/or credits that can be maximized. For

example, increased out-of-pocket medical expenses, or some part of those expenses, may be deductible, if they exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. IRS booklet 205 has a checklist of deductible medical expenses. Similarly, you may also be able to qualify for an elderly or disabled credit.

One situation to highlight for those contributing to a retirement plan is the 10% penalty for early withdrawals. This penalty applies if you withdraw any amount from your retirement plan before age 59 1/2. Many times, I recommend that people, while still working, contribute as much as possible toward their qualified retirement plans. There are two advantages to this strategy. First, your contributions have been made on a before-tax basis which reduces your taxable income. Second, once on disability, you'll be able to take withdrawals without the 10% early withdrawal penalty. That's right—the early withdrawal penalty is waived for individuals who take early distributions and are permanently and totally disabled.

Many people want to know about the taxability of Social Security Disability income benefits. Generally speaking, these benefits are taxable income once that income exceeds \$8,100 annually.

Important note: Under current tax laws, viatical settlements and accelerated benefits on life insurance policies are taxable income.

Please consult the appropriate tax advisors to help you maximize your deductions and credits.

Career planning for someone with a life-threatening illness usually revolves around the timing of going on disability and changing jobs/careers in order to secure benefits such as medical, disability, and life insurance. With timing, it is very important to understand the significance of leaving a job too soon when going on disability. An example is going on disability but only having a two-year benefit. What happens if you then outlive your benefit period? An alternative is that you may be able to work on a part-time basis and still receive a percentage of your disability benefit. Another scenario: If your partner or spouse is transferred, what happens to you and your benefits? Or what if the job you're in now has no benefits, but you find out you have a life-threatening illness—can you afford not to have medical insurance? Maybe priorities have changed and a lower



by Julie LaRue, LUTCF

paying, less glamorous job with benefits starts looking a lot better. These career timing issues take very careful planning and possibly several months to accomplish a smooth transition if possible.

Estate planning for someone with a life-threatening illness is generally no different than for anyone else. There are two general areas to consider in estate planning. One is from the legal side and includes legal documents such as wills, trusts, powers-of-attorney, guardianships, conservatorships, and buy-sell agreements for business owners. An attorney knowledgeable in this area should be consulted.

The second area to consider is the value of your assets. Assets can include homes, cars, retirement plans, vacation properties, rental homes, savings and investments, art, and collectibles. Generally speaking, upon your death, the IRS places a value on all of these assets, deducts expenses, and calculates the federal estate tax. Federal estate tax is a tax imposed on the transfer of your assets to your heirs. A simplified explanation of this tax is that every individual is allowed to pass \$600,000 of assets to anyone without paying taxes. Beyond this, taxes are calculated, and your executor is required to pay the IRS within nine months of your death, in cash. Sorry, no credit cards accepted! The amount valued over \$600,000 is taxed on a stair-step basis starting at 37% and topping out at 55%. In other words, without proper planning with knowledgeable advisors, the IRS becomes one of your beneficiaries. Nice, huh?!

Post-mortem planning involves planning and paying for your funeral, memorial, or last service prior to your death. If you know specifically what you want done after your death, this may be an option for you. If you're unable to consider this type of planning, then having the cash readily available for your partner, spouse, or executor will help him/her with this planning. Many funeral homes offer complete prepaid packages at reasonable prices.

In conclusion, all of these areas of planning take consideration and professional expertise from financial, tax, and legal advisors. Although dealing with such circumstances is not easy, please seek professional help as soon as you learn that you have cancer, HIV, kidney disease, or any other life-threatening illness. Don't give up. The sooner you begin to plan, the more

you'll be able to maximize your benefits, options, and provide for you and your loved ones in the best manner possible.

Author's note: This series of articles has covered a lot of information over the past seven months. Although most of this information has been general in nature, as it must be, I only hope that it has helped you understand the many options, benefits, strategies, and choices you may have in your life when living with a life-threatening illness. Good Luck. Until next month. . .

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 Register 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.

Without proper planning with knowledgeable advisors, the IRS can become one of your beneficiaries!

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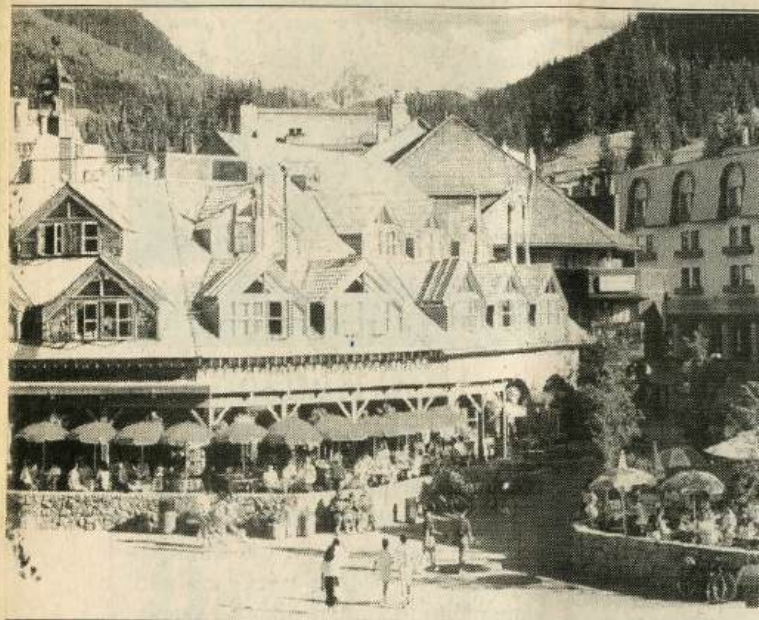
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CATHARSIS: Relief, cleanse, emotional release... CANADA: Cathartic experience.

To enter the massive gardens at Stanley Park, Vancouver, for the first time is to encounter a sight that becomes etched on your retina for life. Entering the largest natural park in North America on a road stretching beside the Royal Yacht Club leaves you quite unprepared for the beautiful shock to come. . . masses and masses of brilliantly colored, perfectly designed, flower gardens. One can spend hours soaking up this intoxicating combination of form, color, and scent, and several rolls of film as well. This natural beauty and concomitant tranquility are present everywhere you go in British Columbia, Canada.

I returned two weeks ago from my third visit to western Canada. It is one of the four places on earth I return to again and again. Maybe it's escaping the oppressive heat and humidity; maybe it's a longing for snow-capped mountains, rushing streams, and mighty forests; maybe it's the warmth and friendliness of the people; maybe it's the rare treat of being outside most of the day, day after day on vacation; probably it's all of the above.

My first trip to Canada with sister Jamie took us to Calgary, on up to Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper. Next time it was Vancouver, Victoria, and Whistler. This time, it was back to Vancouver and Whistler, where, for 10 days, Kim [Sandra's partner],



by Sandra Wilkins

L.A. and Carol [friends], and I scooted around in our Mitsubishi mini-van, opening our bags in suites at the Four Seasons and Pan Pacific in Vancouver, cramped Hampton Inns, and a condo in Whistler.

The gay community in Vancouver is large, proud, and active. One area, centered around Davie and Denman Streets, reminded me of Montrose, with galleries, shops, and restaurants displaying the rainbow flag outside their doors. To quote Rick Hurlbut, a Vancouver travel agent, "Anyone who gets bored with Vancouver definitely has the wrong perspective on life. There are few places in this world with more to offer than this Pacific Northwest city. . . . Vancouver was recently named the second-best city in the world in terms of quality of life. The California 'rest coast' mentality has migrated north to give Vancouver a decidedly laid-back attitude. . . . We blame neighboring Seattle for our favorite addiction: coffee. Beans from around the world are imported into North America through Seattle. Having the pick of the crop has resulted in a regional fascination with the brew. Coffee bars, complete with biscotti and flavored syrups, are all the rage, and have become the gay community's afternoon alternative to the bars."

Vancouver is one large city—cosmopolitan, prosperous, multiracial, and active—and is called the "gem of the Pacific." Discovered in 1778 by Captain James Cook, the British Admiralty sent Captain George Vancouver to survey and lay claim to the territory in 1790. Almost 100 years later, Vancouver and western Canada were linked

by over 5,000 miles of difficult terrain to the rest of Canada by the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Rail travel in Canada represents a delightful experience and is a wonderful way to explore a little or a lot of this wondrous country. The transcontinental journey from Montreal to Vancouver is a favorite for those with more than a week to spare. Perhaps the most spectacular part of the journey can be accomplished in two days, with the stretch between Vancouver and Jasper commanding breathtaking scenery all along the way. It's so much fun to do the glass-domed railcars, with upper level seating providing an unrestricted view of the



Kim and Sandra at Stanley Park, Vancouver, Canada.

passing beauty. The two-day, one-night package, including four meals, costs \$299 per person. Canada also offers a super value rail pass, similar to the Eurail Pass. This 12-days-out-of-30 pass, for unlimited rail travel throughout Canada, is priced at \$273, low season.

In fact, everything is reasonably priced in Canada, due in large part to the favorable exchange rate of U.S. dollars to Canadian dollars. We enjoyed a one-bedroom suite at the Four Seasons in Vancouver for

\$144 per night. Eating out in this region is a fish lover's paradise, and you can enjoy a sumptuous six-course meal at the finest restaurant with wine for under \$50 per person. On a less extravagant note, Eggs Benedict with smoked salmon were \$6.75, and a healthy Caesar salad with fresh shrimp can be chomped up for under \$5. All of this in one of the world's most sophisticated cities!

Doing my favorite travel thing—combining urban pleasures with the countryside—after the Vancouver treat, up the road north we went to the Alpine-like ski village of Whistler. Two hours from Vancouver, and nestled in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia, the area around Whistler is known for its pristine beauty, tranquil forests, sparkling lakes, and mile-high peaks. I assure you: This place puts Vail and Aspen to shame for a fraction of the cost. If you are thinking of a ski vacation this year, think Whistler! In 1994, for the third year running, *Snow Country Magazine* named Whistler Resort the "Number One Ski Resort in North America" and also awarded Whistler with the "Best Overall Resort Design," noting that "Whistler is in a class by itself." Best of all, Whistler Gay Ski Week is set for February, 1996, a one-week ski and party event, giving the Aspen Gay Ski Week a run for its money. Besides, those Canadians don't have the onerous Colorado political positions against our family! Condos which have full kitchens, fireplaces, and sleep up to four adults start at \$113 per night during ski season. That, my friend, is roughly \$28 per person, per night for a world-class ski resort accommodation. Any potential winter wonderland visitors who book and deposit by December 1, 1995, can enjoy an additional 10% discount, so make those ski plans for Whistler now.

The clever Canadians are certainly at the forefront of the "soft adventure" vacation, and it's easy to see why. British Columbia and its neighbor province, Alberta, offer more outdoor activities than one can imagine. For those with a spirit of adventure, exciting trips can be organized for any level of activity and ability. How about visual adventures like whale watching or flightseeing, an opportunity to get close up to all that nature? If you're more inclined to roll up your sleeves, then let's put together a rafting, sea-kayaking, or canoeing trip. Over in Alberta, just outside of Banff, is the Icefield Parkway, where you can bicycle and camp throughout Banff National Park. Lovers of horseback riding can sign up for a three-day scenic trail ride through the Canadian Rockies, staying in rustic lodges,



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Travel—Canada

Continued from previous page

or camping out each night in tents. These three- to four-day tours cost between \$185 and \$300 per person, and include all meals.

I remember thinking on my first drive from Vancouver to Whistler four years ago, "Why bother going to Switzerland, when everything I love about their countryside is right here in western Canada, and is six hours from Houston!" This is one destination I recommend to all who love to encounter the surprise of new places. Vancouver, with its fine museums, great restaurants, beautiful harbor and park, and active gay community, is a wonderful alternative to New York or Boston. Then, to have all that scenic splendor within two hours from the city makes a trip to Canada all the more alluring. We enjoy up to six flights a day from Houston to Vancouver, and the cost of roundtrip airfare at this time is \$381, so pack your bags, and let's plan that vacation to this magical place.

Last month, I mentioned a new travel insurance product, which I'd like to elaborate on a bit this time. Several companies have now introduced trip insurance that waives the "pre-existing" condition clause. This is a vitally important event for the HIV+ traveler, because unlike trip insurance and trip cancellation insurances of the past, these new policies will cover and pay for any cancellation penalties incurred if the traveler must cancel a trip because of medical reasons. This means if you plan to go to Sydney, Australia, for Mardi Gras in March of '96, and fully pay for the trip by December, and your doctor advises against travel two weeks prior to the trip, the insured can recover the cancellation fees imposed by the airlines or tour operator. The most stringent condition of this new insurance is that it must be purchased for the full amount of the trip cost, and it must be purchased within 24 hours of making the initial deposit on the trip. However, careful coordination with your travel agent can bring enormous peace of mind about planning vacations in advance. If you'd like more information about this important subject, please give me a call.

Finally, I want to remind you about our fun, long weekend to Puerto Vallarta, coming up January 18-21, 1996. Join me and the OutSmart staff for a fun-filled four days, three nights, in this very gay-friendly resort town, where we enjoy exclusive use of two fabulous gay-owned and -operated villas, complete with staff. Each bedroom has a private bath, and the villas each have their private swimming pools, poolside bar, and tropical terraces overlooking Banderas Bay. A full breakfast is served poolside each morning, and we kick off our weekend with a private cocktail party poolside. We'll take 40 Smarties on this trip, and the villas are assigned on a first come/first serve basis, so please book early. If you're interested in being a part of this Houston Gay and Lesbian New Year kickoff, call me for complete details and registration form. Prices start at \$574 per person, and include roundtrip airfare, private villa accommodations, full breakfast daily, cocktail party and favors, all tax and service.

Sandra Wilkins is owner and president of The Travel Partnership, Inc., a travel company proud to serve the gay and lesbian traveler. Contact her at (713) 526-4471, or pager (713) 903-1247.

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THE WORLD

The worth of a tool, such as astrology or tarot, is only measured by its ability to enlighten and encourage change within the psyche of humankind. If one forecasts events with one of these tools, the accuracy of these predictions will only stay consistent if the present course is not deviated from. If a forecasted event shows a harsh outcome, then it is up to the individual to live by the laws of fatality or constructively change his/her future. The responsibility rests fully in our own hands.

Cosmically speaking, on November 11, the planet Pluto, ruler of the judgment card in tarot, finds a new place of expression in the sign of Sagittarius. With this comes a change in the collective consciousness of humankind, triggering the birth of many innate seeds to reorganize, re-order and check the validity of our world's current direction. Teaching techniques will be expanded and raised to a higher level. Today's computers will become obsolete, so that new, faster, and more efficient tools will be created. Our trade currency will be tested to find its true value. If it is not compatible with our higher virtues, new forms of currency will be found. The veil between the worlds grows thinner, revealing more psychic experiences than ever. If humankind, as a whole, allows this to happen, our world will grow better for it, and the children of the earth shall prosper. But if we deny this wave and bask in the material, the Earth will rapture and reflect this inner turmoil, causing earthquakes, tidal waves, torment within the heavens, volcanic activity—all to adjust to the changing influence of Pluto.

Here we stand, ready to take our first step. Shall we choose the path of salvation, or the way to rude awakenings? The answer lies hidden in the mists of time.

ARIES (3/21-4/19)

Surrounding influences strongly urge that you take extra caution in regard to all legal or governmental issues. If you're worried about money, don't be. This will only cause you much unneeded anxiety. However, avoid signing any contracts or moving forward with investments at this time.

You may feel an urge to seek out a new career path. Find something that you enjoy and feel its value. Now more than ever, you will see that the bread thrown upon the waters of life will always return threefold.

You are at a crossroad where life offers you a new direction. Make a choice. Some will choose to remain where they are, while others hum with freedom and dance with the rhythm of life.

TAURUS (4/10-5/20)

Many Taureans will notice a sense of restlessness, or a need for freedom to play and think. The little child within you is awakening, and your spirit is in a state of renewal. Your life begins to reflect this as you are feeling more stable than you've felt in a long time, although things may not be perfect. Partnerships should be experienced, and your home should feel lived in.

Traveling can be healthy now. Pamper yourself if you can. In general, you will gain a sense of strength. Keep your temperament steady so that you can feel as stable as possible.

FUTURE OUTLOOK



BY JOSEPH MOLINA

If married, two now become one. You learn the true meaning of union as the bonds of true love grow even stronger. If single, remember to allow friendships to develop as you become intimate. Learn to date.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20)

You will go through a time in which you will assess your life and its direction. You will check the validity of your future goals. Perhaps you will choose not to act, for fear of failure. It would be wise to re-structure the order of your life, as you may be experiencing internal conflict or lack of direction. Be honest, friendly, and passionate, letting the inner child guide you. You will most likely direct yourself toward a new career or evolve in the way in which you excel in your present one. All things may not move quickly or get off to the best of starts, but be comfortable in the truth of your choices. Let the little child flow free.

CANCER (6/21-7/22)

At this time in terms of career, things could seem static, non-progressive, or even downright dull. All propositions, alternate jobs, or transfers should be carefully considered. A sense of stagnation in your affairs becomes prominent. You could bask in the sensual, allowing yourself to become idle. You are susceptible to taking on more than you can handle or creating stress in your life that you don't really want. You are likely to seem domineering, testy, and unusually bitchy, prone to seeing things exclusively from your own perspective, allowing for no deviation. But don't worry—this subtle Mr./Ms. Nasty influence is nothing more than a passing phase. As the wheel of fate turns, it brings with it success and new, more even-tempered conditions.

LEO (7/23-8/22)

At this time, life offers Leo many things—romance, a productive career, and the gifts of the spirit—that cause the material cup to overflow. These things will lead to joy and contentment of a life well-lived. Do not allow yourself to become

discouraged if at first things do not proceed or move forward in the direction you've hoped. We are challenged by minor obstacles or blocks to teach us how to handle change.

If single, there is strong possibility for romance. The seed that could lead to much more in the future could be planted. If married, it's time to learn the lesson of charity. Occasionally being able to put one's own emotions aside for the other is a true test of love.

You are meeting now with individuals who will lead you to your chosen goals. Not all these people will be to your liking or easy for you to work with. Keep an open mind and a giving spirit, so that the path will stay well-lit for you.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22)

Over the course of the last few months, a foundation has been established. This could be a new career direction or an emotional relationship. You have ordered your life accordingly, adjusting to this new vibration, and you are finally starting to settle in. As you proceed on your present course, a bit of adjusting could be called for. Get used to sharing your time again or establishing yourself at work. The anxiety that has been blocking you, along with the accompanying turbulence of this present course, could take some getting used to. Be conscious of maintaining your control.

All Virgos should take note: Your moods are apt to fluctuate as wildly as the currents of the wind. Maintain an extra hold on emotions, approaching everything from a calm perspective. Keep this firmly in your mind, and move forward with the wind.

LIBRA (9/23-10/23)

You would be wise at this time to give your body a period of rest to rejuvenate your soul. Arrange your life accordingly, so as to be free of obligation. Let no obstacle distract you, for at this time you could be easily deterred. Avoid direct confrontations, as you are likely to seem a bit erratic. If this energy manifests itself in no other

way, you should at the very least expect bumps and scratches.

Then comes the time for you to take control. Clean up any mess in all aspects of your life—home, career, social, and spiritual. You will tap into hidden talents that you never knew you possess. Announced to the world, your ideas could start fads. You should, however, recognize that not everyone will oblige the new, trend-setting you. Just keep a balance on your temperament, and let the scales of Libra guide you.

SCORPIO (10/24-11/21)

Lately, your idea of life and life's idea for you have not been seeing eye-to-eye. You have been needing more excitement, such as someone to adore you. An emotion has been triggered by an event from the past; this could be from a previous relationship with a lover, family member, or friend. You are likely to seem a little heavy and not at peace. You could have a tidbit of psychic dirt, appearing more strict and domineering. You will speak your peace and settle your soul. Then you will conquer, achieving truth and victory.

If married, expect to have to work. It takes effort from both of you to remain partners and even good friends. If single, dating is probable, but marriage is not likely, as this moody vibration could cause you to be a bit aggressive.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)

Many Sag's could be experiencing a harsh emotional awakening. The mist floats past you, revealing the truth. This could be with a relationship, your career, or a friend. To compensate, you take a step forward, moving away from this pain. This movement can be translated either as truth or illusion, but it will determine whether you actually move away or remain in emotional bondage. New opportunities will present themselves, be it in the form of a romance or career venture. Whether you actually embrace this opportunity, or simply pretend, will depend on the peace you've found within yourself. Give yourself some solitude, time, and space to heal. A productive future is to present itself, so prepare yourself accordingly. You are susceptible to being a little testy, so be conscious of your actions. As you steer yourself to safety, let all things happen as time will allow.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19)

You should expect sudden, unexpected events that will test your ability to withstand change and to stay on the path that you've chosen. You will question the value of your work. As your strength is tested by the upsets and challenges of the external world, psychological forces within you could rise to the surface. This will show you how strong you truly are. Your actions at this time will determine your success in the future. This could be a simple test or a life-altering experience. Be conscious of your health and maintain a strong, untainted lifestyle. You are prone to experiencing the results of your actions more rapidly than usual. Don't do anything now that you might regret in the near future.

For those searching for love, the universe is preparing you to make a choice. It wants to see if you can become one with another. You should remain optimistic and active. Keep within the company of your friends.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18)

At this time, life will seem to be in a mode of continuance. As far as you're concerned, it's time for the seeds you've been planting all this time to manifest into a bounteous harvest, and you're becoming anxious in the waiting. Take heed not to let your emotions get the better of you, as external events may seem to challenge you. Be strong and efficient and totally true to yourself. This challenge of your metal will show you the place that you've come to. You will move in the future to something greater and more worthy of your charm.

If married, this is a time of cutting ties, either to the present or to the past, so that you can find yourself again. Go about this in whatever way you see fit. If single, take care to avoid confrontations, as love may not abound. Love is as dry as dust in the air at this time, so be conscious of whomever is blowing around.

DISCES (2/19-3/20)

This is a most empowering time to skip down the path that you travel. It is a time of truly living life and having passion for being alive. Here is the mark of wealth and the joy of love to come. A structuring of your inner psyche is taking place. It reverberates from your subconscious and changes your life in some way. At first, this could seem a bit uneasy, forcing you to readjust. Then the key opens the lock, and the readjusting ceases.

In terms of love in general, speak your words in truth. Be honest to everyone. If you find a time of solitude, use it as you will. All relationships will be tested to find the truth for you. The valid ones will stay with you, and the rest will be on their merry 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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Makes Me Wanna Holler

Continued from page 45

united front is another answer to curing our ills as a community. Gay nationalism simply means having the independent knowledge to support businesses in our community to enrich the economic strength in our community.

In conclusion, recently I've been introduced to a wonderful religious experience that promotes self-love, love of community, and love of each other as human beings. I honestly believe that only through this way of thinking can we ever really cure our ills of having homophobic, racist, and sexist hearts. When you plant a seed into the soil when seasons change, the seed begins to grow. Our seasons toward each other must change, so that our seeds for human rights may grow, a river deep and mountain high.

Let freedom ring! ▼

J. LuJack Tyler serves on the board of directors of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and the African-American Lesbian Gay Alliance. The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily endorsed by the HGLPC, AALGA, or OutSmart magazine.

Dachau for Queers

Continued from page 33

tour Atascadero. Chambliss was so shaken by what he witnessed that he immediately wrote an article, published in the 1971 July/August issue of *The Humanist*, in which he stated: "I don't know what the patients and staff are like when they are not in the institution, but judging from their behavior there, I would feel a great deal more secure about the world if the patients went home at night and the staff stayed locked up."

These types of treatments were not only used in the state hospitals and public psychiatric institutions. Many gay and lesbian teenagers experienced similar forms of torture at the hands of psychiatrists at many private hospitals across the United States. Here in Houston, the most well-known psychiatric ward using techniques similar to those mentioned above was on the top floor of a now defunct hospital located on Fannin. Many of Houston's elite families sent their teenaged children there to be cured of their perceived mental disorder. Electro convulsive therapy was the most popular form of aversion therapy used at this local psychiatric ward, although a similar form of drug therapy was used as well.

Instead of anectine or prolixin, the doctors here used insulin, which was injected into a patient to cause a series of convulsions ending in what is known as insulin shock. Slowly, the patient would then be brought out of shock. Also, patients who refused to participate in group therapy designed to help them change their sexual orientation were locked away in isolation and deprived of food as a form of punishment.

Now 35 years old, the 15-year-old gay male mentioned in the opening paragraph recently acquired the medical records kept on him while he was a patient at this local psychiatric ward. In the records he confirmed that he received nine series of electro convulsive therapy sessions and was also a victim of insulin shock therapy. He also recalls that when he refused to participate in a group therapy session, he was locked up in isolation on the top floor and deprived of food for two days as punishment for his lack of cooperation. Today, he has gotten his life together but still suffers from amplified flashbacks of the incidents that he experienced while a patient there.

In all consideration, he is lucky. One former patient, the member of a prominent Houston family, now roams the streets of Houston rambling on about the fact that he owns the Astros. Another patient, the

daughter of a well-known family in Houston, committed suicide by slitting herself open from the vagina to the neck with a razor blade shortly after being released from this ward.

Gay and lesbian people have a long-standing history of persecution in this country, including the Salem Witch Trials where homosexuals were burned at the stake. But this persecution did not just take place in the 1600s. Less than 20 years ago, during the mid-1970s, these different types of aversion therapies were used by psychiatric hospitals across this country in an attempt to change the sexual orientation of homosexuals. Hopefully one day society will look back on this persecution and wonder in awe about how human beings could actually be so cruel to other human beings.

Much of the information in this article was culled from other publications, including a four-part series of articles published in 1973 in *The Advocate*; a book titled *The Gay Liberation Book*, a collection of essays edited by Len Richmond and Gary Noguera, Ramparts Press, San Francisco, 1973; and a book titled *The Punishment Cure* by Stephen J. Sansweet, Mason Charter, New York, 1975. ▼

David N. Morales is the coordinator of AHA! (Anti-Homophobia Alliance), (713) 650-6916.

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The Transgender Political Agenda

Continued from page 47

Health-Care/Social Services

On Monday, August 22, Tyra Hunter, a transgendered female, was run down by a vehicle attempting to escape the police in Washington, D.C.. At least four witnesses said that a rescue worker stopped working on Tyra and began calling her names upon discovering she was a non-surgical transsexual. Treatment was stopped for three to five minutes while the rescue worker continued to make comments about "the bitch." Finally, people at the scene began yelling, "It doesn't make any difference, that's a human being," and a supervisor resumed treatment. The Washington, D.C. fire department acknowledges the event took place but say they "can't identify exactly which paramedic was involved." A coalition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered organizations held a candlelight vigil which attracted more than 2,000 people, and a cover-up is now being alleged.

Nothing so dramatic has happened in Texas, and hopefully it never will. However, it is our experience that doctors and hospital staffs are generally not acquainted with the special issues surrounding the treatment of transgendered individuals. We have found this also to be true of administrators of homeless shelters, battered women's shelters, substance abuse centers, rape crisis programs, and other providers of social services.

Additionally, with very few exceptions, none of the treatments and procedures required for transition are covered by insurance. Working in tandem with the employment discrimination issue, this often drives people to the brink of desperation by being denied the very treatment they need for their personal well-being.

Law Enforcement/Imprisonment

Thanks to Annise Parker and Ray Hill, the Houston Police Department has a very progressive approach to handling transgendered individuals. There is even a small amount of sensitivity training taking place in the police academy. This is of no value if one is stopped in the county or anywhere outside Houston. Transgenders thrown into the general jail population are often threatened or physically harmed, and this is an issue we to address.

Transgenders in prison settings are often denied their hormones or other therapy. Physical violence is common, and deaths have resulted. Being sent to jail, no matter what the charge, should not amount to cruel and unusual punishment or a death sentence.

Let me also note the concerns legislators of color have expressed to me about hate crimes legislation. A recent survey suggested one out of three black males is either in prison or on probation. Several legislators have told me they would not vote for enhanced punishment for any crime unless the inequities of the justice system are addressed. It's Time, Texas! recognizes this as a legitimate concern and is willing to help any way it can in correcting these matters.

Family Law

Issues involving divorce, child custody, visitation rights, adoption, and same-sex marriage are major concerns for transgenders. I know of several cases where transsexuals lost all rights to their children as a result of their transition from one gender to another. Although not directly a family law issue, we recognize the impact penal code 21.06 has on family matters, and we are eager to help bring about the repeal of this law.

These are just a few highlighted issues we plan to address in the next year. Despite the perception to the contrary, we really are not that different from anyone else. We are all demanding the right for individual freedom, while demanding the right to form safe communities. We want the right to meaningful employment and the right to control our own bodies. All of us want equal treatment under the law and the right to live our lives as we choose.

Let me also renew a standing offer. If you still don't understand transgenders, invite us to your meetings as speakers. We want you to understand—we'll stay until the last question gets answered. I can be reached at P.O. Box 74-1193, Houston, Texas 77074. My E-mail address is ita@phoenix.phoenix.net. I can also be heard the second weekend of each month from 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. on "After Hours," KPFT radio, 90.1 FM. Phone calls are welcome.

Sarah DePalma is a national director of It's Time, America!, chair of It's Time, Texas!, and a co-host of "After Hours," heard on KPFT radio in Houston.

WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD...

THE LAST O.J. JOKE

The hardest thing about writing a comedy column is getting started—determining a subject that is timely, entertaining, and of special interest to you, the reader. Funny doesn't hurt, either.

It's very personal, deciding what to write about. It ain't like cabaret, where, often, audience members drive the show, shouting requests for their favorite tunes. And automatically, the saloon singer clone-esquely complies with a cookie-cutter version of *Memory* or *The Music of the Night* (insert any of those gay-themed show tunes that inevitably receive a rousing standing ovation from the "I'm-never-going-back-to-New-York—too-many-tourists" crowd).

It's unusual for a comedy writer to receive "a request."

This month was an exception. The day O.J. was acquitted, the metaphorical lid of my journalistic piano was piled high with requests scrawled on cocktail napkins and \$1 bills, begging for commentary.

I don't know. What are we looking for here? Are most of us so disturbed by the verdict of "not guilty" that we seek healing through laughter? For almost a year-and-a-half, we've been inundated with O.J. jokes—the one comparing him to Christopher Reeve; the one about the first thing Nicole heard in heaven; the one about the Aggie juror.

Somehow, all these O.J. jokes aren't all that funny anymore.

We all watched the unending newscasts revealing what the media referred to as the racial chasm suddenly dividing America—splitscreen images of whites cringing as the verdict was announced, while, simultaneously, blacks cheered. We all, regardless of skin hue, watched in horror as Ron Goldman's father decayed from a presumably gentle, reasonable man into a bitter, pitiable shell of grief and rage. We all watched the triumph of the Simpson family as their son, brother, father, imprisoned and vilified all these months, was released into their waiting arms.

And we all had an opinion. "Of course he did it. Look at the blood evidence." "He didn't have time to do it. Furrman planted the evidence." "His son Jason did it. O.J. was taking the fall for him." "It was a contract hit on Nicole. Goldman was just in the wrong place at the wrong time." And on and on and on...

Point is, unless someone confesses, or an eyewitness comes forward with a Rodney King-like video, we'll never know for sure who committed these crimes. To date, there are only three people who do, and two of them aren't saying much. Perhaps that is what is most disturbing, preventing us from changing the channel, away

from this mediocre made-for-TV-movie that happens to be real life—that we'll never know for sure.

It's kind of like the assassination of JFK. Was it one gunman? The Mafia-Cuban connection? The CIA? LBJ? All of the above? We'll never know for sure.

And what about the death of Pope John Paul I? Was it really the Lord who took him, or da Lord's Boys—those opposed to the Pope's tendency toward reform? We'll never know for sure.

And what is the true origin of HIV? The multi-continental promiscuity of Patient Zero? A government-sponsored biological warfare experiment gone awry? Punishment from a wrathful God, dispensed to a community of perverse African green monkeys? We'll never know for sure.

What we do know for sure is that two more children have joined the millions of innocents worldwide who are separated from their families as a result of violence and brutality. Citizens of every country—not just ours—continue to suspect their governments of the most heinous, secretive behaviors. The Vatican stands firm in its decision to uphold medieval values. HIV is alive and well, regardless of where or how it got started. For sure.

Soon O.J. will return to court to battle "wrongful death" civil suits brought against him by the families of the murdered victims. Rumor has it that this time he may not be as pleased with the verdict. Rumor continues that this trial will follow a multi-million-dollar, trans-global, pay-per-view broadcast. Now, *that's* comedy.

Oh—but you all requested a joke, some kind of comic relief to alleviate all this tension, didn't you? "After all, Nancy, this is supposed to be a comedy column. Make us laugh. Right now."

Okay, here goes: What do you get when you cross a former football hero, his battered ex-wife, an actor/waiter, an inept housekeeper, two tables-full of flamboyant attorneys, 120-something witnesses, 12 fidgety jurors, a loyal actress/model/fiancee-in-waiting, a racist police force, \$4 million or more of California's state revenue to prosecute the case, a judge who loves his wife very much, ill-fitting leather gloves, a barking dog, a white Ford Bronco, and lots of blood?

Answer: A new career for Kato Kaelin and the entire globe scoffing at the American justice system.

Hahahaha. Very funny.

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

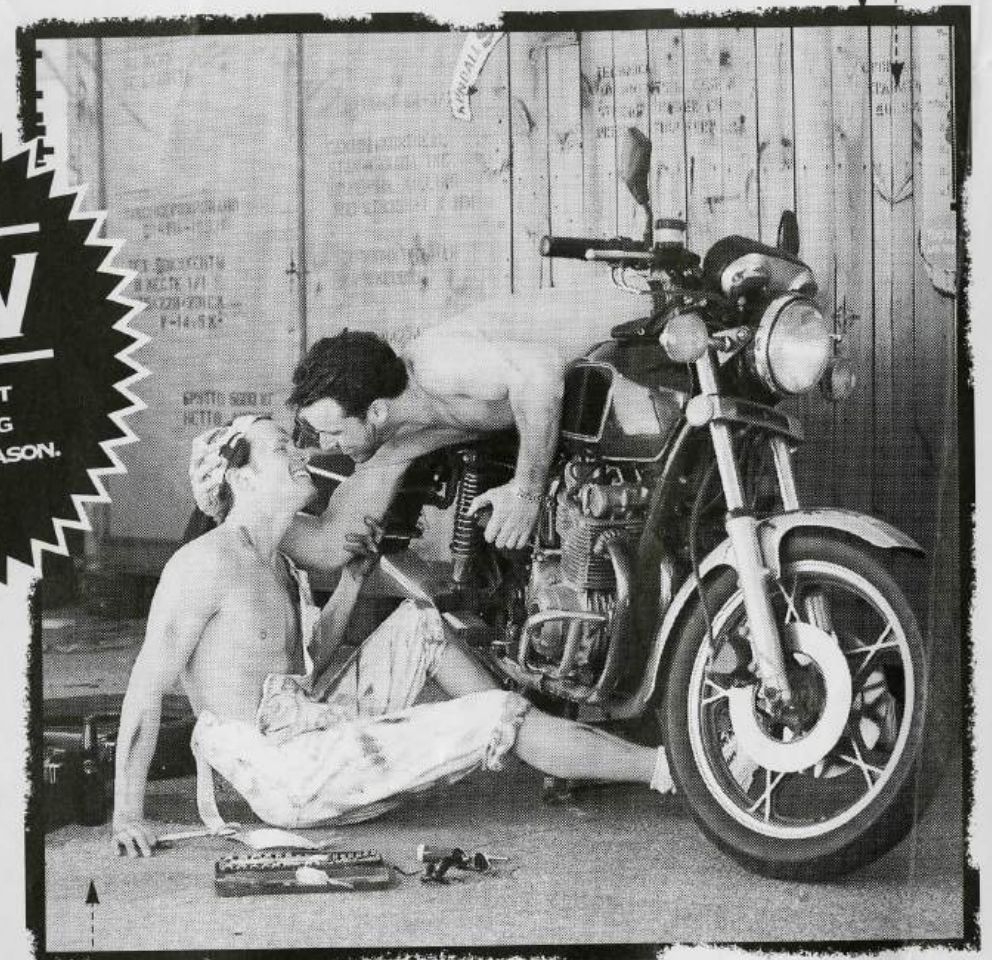


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