

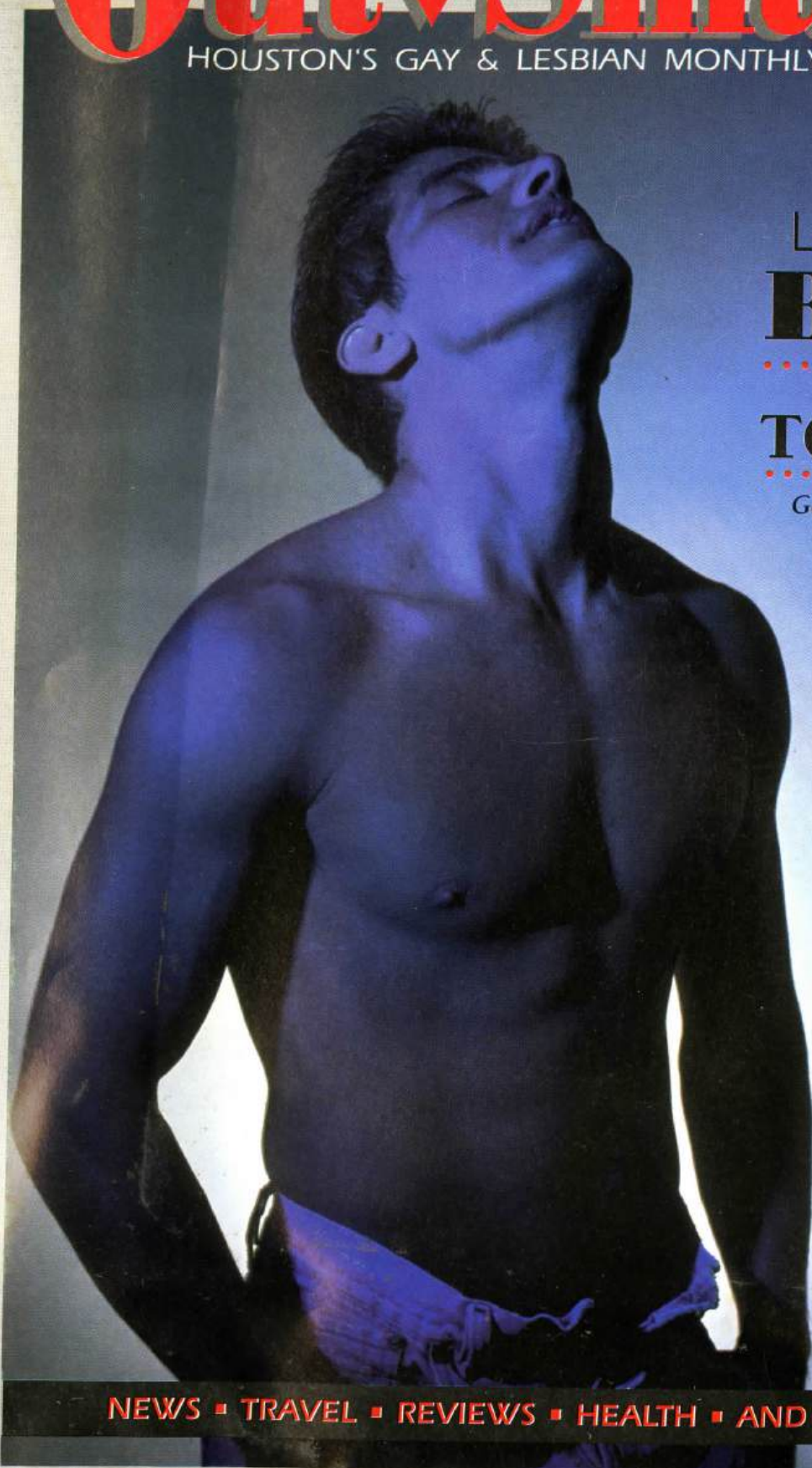
Volume 3 ▼ Issue 1

February 15 - March 14, 1996

Complimentary Copy

OutSmart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE



LITTLE BOY **BLUE**

AN INTERVIEW WITH
TOM STEELE

Gay Erotica or Porn for Pyros?
by Steven Foster

THE SEX ISSUE:

WHAT IS SEX?
by Patrick Vachon

**ARE YOU
ADDICTED
TO SEX?**
by Barbara Levinson

AN INTERVIEW WITH
MARGARET CHO
by Nancy Ford

THE SURVEY

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

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OutSmart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

Volume 3, Issue 1 FEBRUARY 15-MARCH 14, 1996

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- THE DATING GAYME** 34
If you're looking for a how-to guide to gay dating, you just may find it in Craig Nelson's new handbook. By Eric L. Roland.
- WHAT IS SEX?** 36
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ON THE COVER:

Tom Steele
photo by Theresa DiMenno

A Note From The Publisher



Happy Birthday to us! This month, OutSmart begins its third year of publication. Two years ago, when the magazine was first created, it was with the intention of providing Houston with a new look at its gay and lesbian community. The work has been hard, but well worth it, due to tremendous support and encouragement from our advertisers and readers.

Please help us to further our work in the community. Your response to the survey found in the middle of this issue will give us a better idea of the needs and desires of our community, which is why OutSmart exists. Would you like to see OutSmart devote more attention to health issues? Women's issues? Politics? Sports? Community events? Does our magazine offer the access you need to easily locate community supported products and services?

As the saying goes, it you don't vote, don't complain. The same can be said for surveys. If you don't speak up, how how are we to know what you think??

Thanks for helping us. Then, if you like, we'll help you celebrate your birthday the next time it rolls around.

—Greg Jeu
and the Staff of OutSmart

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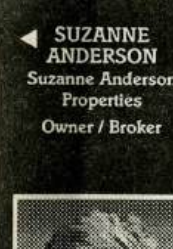
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Out of the Question

Last month, in the interest of equal time, OutSmart requested letters from those in "our family" who were tired of militants haranguing them to come out of the closet. "Innies" were encouraged to anonymously share with OutSmart readers their experience as to why "staying in" is a better choice. We received one response:

This letter is in reference to the article in the OutSmart [Vol. 2, Issue 12] by Martie Baillie, called "Closets With Revolving Doors."

I must say that it was a very good article and that I agreed with it on many points, but I also disagreed with a few. I disagree with the importance of people coming out of the closet, for the simple fact that not many people care. It seems to go one of two ways. One is that the people around you are totally homophobic, and you are instantly vanished. The other is that everyone around you instantly accepts it, because they are open-minded and couldn't care less.

I realize that in a perfect world we could all come out, and it would be accepted as another form of life. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world, and, for the most part, everyone in a public office must not announce their sexual preference for fear of retribution or loss of income.

Personally, I am of the opinion that it is safer to be content with the knowledge that you, your friends, and your family—and not the entire world—know "who" you are. For the most part, people are out for Number One and couldn't care less if you live or die, much less what your life consists of.

So why stress yourself by coming out publicly and chance the loss of employment, or even your life. I mean, have you ever picked up a paper and read about a heterosexual couple being beaten to death for announcing their wedding plans? Not likely!!!!

I personally have come out of the closet in recent years, but I find myself not disclosing my

Got something to say? Send your comments, suggestions, lucky lotto numbers to:

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personal life to my employer. I am there to work, not to socialize, so what I do on my own time with my own life is my business and not my employer's.

—Name withheld
Houston, Texas

More Than Just Friends

The following letter was sent to Bob Schnarr, programming director at KJAC-TV, Port Arthur, Texas, regarding that station's cancellation of the recent "Lesbian Wedding" episode of Friends.

Mr. Schnarr:
Once again, "out of line censorship" has reared its ugly head. When will you and others realize that the decision making is not yours.

People are very much in control of their lives and can decide for themselves what they will or won't view. It's a simple matter of free speech and free press. You and your station have no right to tell anyone what they can see, hear, or be exposed to. Just because you and your staff feel that a homosexual wedding/union is unnatural (which it is not) and choose not to air it, will not make it go away. We gay and lesbian humans exist and have for centuries. We work, pay taxes, vote, raise children, and have lives exactly the same as you or anyone. You and others with similar ideas and thoughts about others who you see as different need to pull your heads out of the sand and take a long look at yourselves. Absolutely no one is perfect, and each of us needs to worry about ourselves. The bottom line is that your station made a decision of grave proportion. It implies a dictatorship, Neanderthal, backwoods way of thinking. Heaven forbid that anyone in the triangle area is exposed to something other than a meat, potatoes, and chaise longue way of life. Homosexuality is not going to go away, Mr. Schnarr. It exists in our world like so many other things in life. The world is out there for people to experience and decide for themselves what it is they want or don't want in their lives. Run your life, not others. By the same token, run your station responsibly. It's OK to inform viewers of content prior to the show, so they can make an informed, intelligent decision for themselves. In closing, I must say I am extremely disappointed in you and your staff at KJAC-TV, Channel 4. As the world and its people move forward, it's unintelligent thinking like this that keeps your area going backwards. As a person who was born and raised in Groves, I look on my decision to live elsewhere as a blessing. Just consider how much I would be losing out on with the "speak no evil, see no evil, hear no evil" way of life your station expresses.

It is my hope that the homosexual community in the Beaumont/Port Arthur area will boycott your station and its advertisers.

—Charles J. Beaght Jr.
Houston, Texas

Triangle Tribulations?

An incredible result of Wyatt Roberts and the American Family Association's campaign against us has been that so many wonderful friends from Austin and Houston, and even around the nation, have come to our support. This support has taken the form of phone calls, letters, and new or increased advertising. It has been a most heart-warming response.

Thank you for your wonderful support, signatures, and ad. It meant a great deal to us. We look forward to working with you toward a more cohesive community.

—Kay Longcope
(Editor & Publisher)
and Barbara Wohlgemuth
(General Manager)
The Texas Triangle, Austin, Texas

Congratulations on the resulting story about The Triangle's plight in USA Today and the increased support of your publication. Like the Scripture says, "All things work together for good for those who love God." —Editor

On The Other Hand...

A lesbian acquaintance living in Texas sent me copies of OutSmart. I have read [the publisher's] editorial in the Vol. 2, #10 issue. I am not a Christian. I deny Christ. I am a Buddhist. (I am a 35-year-old Caucasian, who was baptized a Catholic.)

I don't know if Hitler will go to hell (as you claim in your column.) Only God knows. I know Hitler killed himself; maybe he had time to repent? (If not to make up for his sins?)

To be honest with you, I don't really believe in so-called "gay and lesbian magazines." A magazine like The Advocate, for instance, I think is strictly for gay men. The lesbian content is tiny and abysmal...it's embarrassing (to us lesbians).

My father's father was homosexual, and he was a cruel man. Cruel to children. Maybe he's in Hell! It wouldn't surprise me at all! It's a crime to hurt a child (because you can't handle being a fairy).

Well, ciao. I hope little J. C. will take good care of you [and] won't let you have AIDS or anything. Although I doubt it. 'Cause, as I said, I don't believe in him.

—Chantal Bigras
Montreal, Quebec

Thanks for reading OutSmart and sharing your views. You might also want to get in touch with Montreal's Gay Line at 514/931-8668 and/or the Women's Center of Montreal at 514/842-4780. Bon chance.

Subliminaljugation

Re: "Mr. Roberts Goes to Gaytown" by Steven Foster (OutSmart, Vol. 2, Issue 12).

But there was an erector set in Toy Story. Although only pieces, the mutant one-eyed doll's head, attached to erector-set spider legs, was instrumental in saving the day. Amazing how all those "misfits" were able to work together to support the theory that good does conquer.

Good article.

—Gary Archer
Houston, Texas

Fools Rush In

I just finished the January '96 issue of your magazine (my first exposure) and generally enjoyed it, though most of the writing seemed a little on the light side. "In Search of a Gay Soul," for instance, might have provided more specific information about gay life in non-western cultures, since that sort of information would, I think, prove most empowering to identity-seeking gays, as well as provide more cogent ideas for harmonizing in our own society. Still, the piece was good, and I'm glad to know you're out there.

I was greatly alarmed, however, by Terey Counts' letter expressing his support for Rush Limbaugh. Aside from the poor logic of the letter, Mr. Counts appears mistaken about some things, and I think the issue is worth addressing.

His point about neckties is laughable, as if admiring a tie designed by Limbaugh says anything about a person's political views. (Strangely, though, Mr. Counts is the second Limbaugh fan I've heard refer to the tie as "quality ties around \$35 each," which is Limbaugh's exact tagline for the product. Makes a pretty convincing argument that Limbaugh's followers are less his like-minded allies than they are his thoughtless mimics.)

Also laughable is his assertion that Limbaugh deserves admiration for "obtain[ing] the largest audience he possibly can." By that standard, Hitler should be revered as a hero—his audience was even bigger and more dedicated than Limbaugh's.

And regarding Rush's views of gays, I don't know what episodes of the show Mr. Counts has seen, but in a particular episode I happened to catch, Limbaugh called gays "pigs," referring, I suppose, to what he sees as the gay community's disgusting, self-indulgent lifestyle and offensiveness to civilized society.

I take no issue with Mr. Counts' enthusiasm for free-market economics, but he is foolish to try to reconcile his gay lifestyle with support for a hate-monger like Rush Limbaugh.

As far as Limbaugh's "gracious" response to Mr. Counts' letter, I'd advise against reading much meaning into that. Pre-Civil War slave owners were always happy to welcome the allegiance of the men they owned. Malcolm X called these confused slaves "House Niggers." While their sympathy with their masters may have won them occasional better treatment, they remained every bit as oppressed, detested, and looked down upon as their brothers out in the field.

So don't sell yourself and your community out, Mr. Counts. Give that tie to the Purple Heart, find a less fascist free-market group—like the Libertarians—to support, and start putting those ten hours a week to better use. Maybe go help feed all those homeless [people] Limbaugh and his lot like to pretend don't exist.

—Dan Treadway
Houston, Texas

Praise From StreetWise

I want to thank you for helping focus attention on the struggles, frustrations, needs, and hopes of homeless and throwaway youth here in Montrose. ["Where the Streets Have No Name" by Eric L. Roland, Vol. 2, Issue 12] While "only" about 50 percent of our clients self-identify as gay/lesbian, bi or transgendered, this is actually a relatively high percentage, since estimates of gay and lesbians in any given population usually run

between 3 percent and 10 percent. There are numerous explanations for why there are so many lesbian/gay street kids in this area of Houston. One of those reasons, as most of us realize (some through first-hand experience), is that a kid is more likely to be kicked out or forced to leave his/her home for being gay/lesbian/bi or transgendered than for being heterosexual.

Unfortunately, many of these same clients have real issues with the lesbian/gay community. Apart from feeling ignored by most of our community or told to "come back when you're 21" (as if the only thing we have to offer them is legal entry into the bars), many of them see all the "Johns" looking to buy sexual favors as "gay" regardless of the John's sexual or political identification. But articles like yours, published in a "Gay and Lesbian Monthly Magazine," let our clients know that there are people in the lesbian/gay community who genuinely care about them. And the donations we received because of the article remind my staff and myself that there are lesbians who value and support the services we provide to all of our clients.

Please let Eric know that he's welcome to come back anytime!

—Jays Janney
Director, StreetWise Houston
Houston, Texas

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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

February

15 CRUEL GARDEN LECTURE, discover the beauty of gay Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca's writings and the ballet based on his life, presented by Houston Ballet, 7:30 pm, Houston Ballet, 1921 West Bell, 713/523-6300.

16 LESBIANS IN BUSINESS, 6 pm, Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza, 713/529-0077.

17 HOMOSEXUALITY AND EDUCATION, seminar with Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network, sponsored by PFLAG Houston, PFLAG Victoria, and H.A.T.C.H., 2 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, 713/942-7002.

20 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.

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON, general meeting and social hour, 6:30 pm, 2700 Albany, 529-6979.

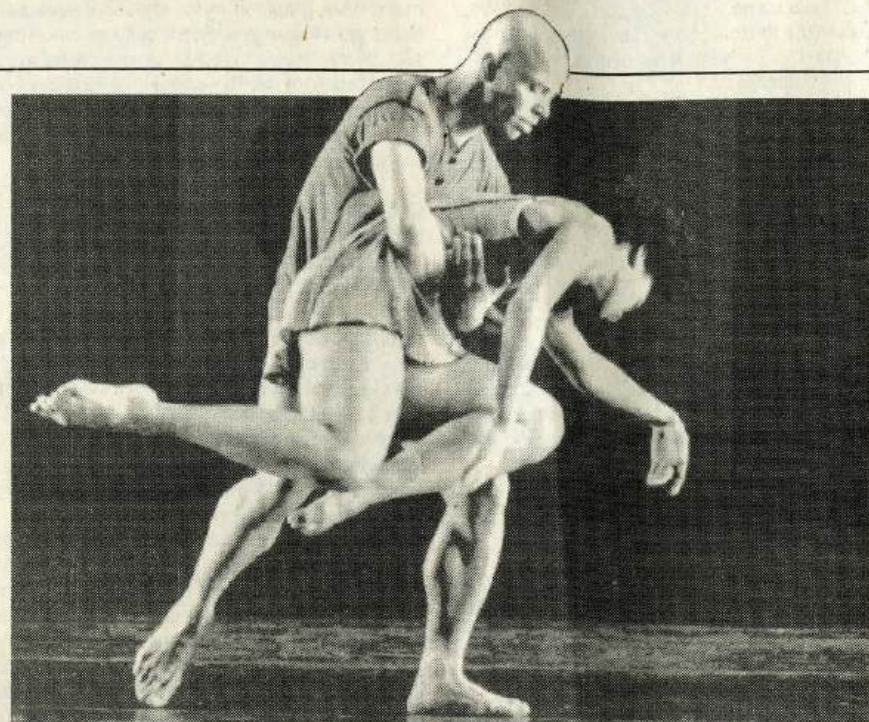
21 MEN'S NETWORK for gay and bisexual men, topic: *Wellness and the Mind* by Ty O'Malley, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

22 AIDS: A SPIRITUAL KIND OF CARING, panel discussion presented by the Houston Hospice Spiritual Care Committee, 7-9:30 pm, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 2525 Seagler, 713/468-2441.

JAZZY LADIES, with Marilyn Thibodaux, Claudia Burson, Erin Wright, and Carol Chaikin, 8 pm, Ovations, 2536 Times Blvd., 713/293-4233.

DOLLARS & SENSE, a panel workshop, reviews legal and financial matters concerning people living with HIV/AIDS, 7-9 pm, Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, 713/524-2374.

24 MALCOLM X SPEAKS, interview with Malcolm X at Berkeley, California in 1963, 1-3 pm, JIB Auditorium, Houston Public Library-Central, 500 McKinney.



Still/Here (with Arthur Aviles and Rosalynde LeBlanc above) is a two-part, multi-media work presented by the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Choreographed by Bill T. Jones, the work combines movement, music, dialogue, and video to portray the impact of terminal illness on the individual: the personal struggle to celebrate life amid the pain and fear of death. Describing his artistic intentions for the work, Jones, an openly gay, HIV-positive African-American, wrote: "Loss is a friend that all of humanity gets to know well. Whether the relationship is subtle like the loss of youth, or devastating like the death of a friend, a loved one, or philosophical like the loss of innocence or love—the experience takes one's breath away, sends the heart into a panic, the soul to reeling. But there's another kind of loss, perhaps epidemic to this technological age more so than any other: the loss of self. What does it mean to be told that your breast being cut off wasn't enough, the cancer has spread, you're going to die? What does it mean to know that a virus that causes AIDS is in your blood? I know. I know how one can be terrified of what might happen and at the same time fascinated and amused. I know how it feels to be driven at times to the point of madness because of the fear of not finishing one's work, while being at the same time utterly resigned to disappointment. To be profoundly sad, and at the same time absurdly happy. Many other people know what this loss is, what this dichotomy means. We're still here, and we struggle with survival every day!"

PATTY & MARCIE, lesbian musicians formerly Planet Earth Performers, 9:30 pm, Club Attitude, 2915 Main, 713/521-9960.

25 BLACKOUT '96, annual post-Mardi Gras party benefiting AFH Stone Soup, the Hospice at the Medical Center, and the Michael Mosley Foundation, 4 pm-midnight, Number's, 300 Westheimer.

26 GAY & LESBIAN READERS GROUP, will discuss *Invisible Life* by E. Lynn Harris, 7 pm, Barnes & Noble Vanderbilt Square, 3003 West Holcombe, 713/349-0050.

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

MINISTRY WITH SEXUAL MINORITY YOUTH, workshop designed for ministers and religious professionals, presented by Zion Lutheran Church, 8:30 am-5 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp at Pecore, 713/869-1493.

27 NAMES PROJECT VOLUNTEER MEETING, come learn more about the Washington, D.C. Quilt display in October, 7 pm, The NAMES Project Houston, 2410 Woodhead, 713/52-NAMES.

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

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.

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

29 DESSERT WINE TASTING, benefiting local charities, with musical guest Gordon Knot (Irish folk), 8-11 pm, Café Maison, 2089 Westheimer, 713/528-6750.

WESTHEIMERSPRINGSTREET FESTIVAL POSTERS, competition for poster design, all entries will be on exhibit Feb. 29-March 29, Hyde Park Gallery, 711 Hyde Park, 713/526-2744.

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.

March

2 DIVERSEWORKS 1996 GALA, featuring performance artist Pat Oleszko, 7 pm-1 am, Innova, 20 Greenway Plaza, call 712/223-8346 for reservations.

2-3 HOUSTON BOB MARLEY FESTIVAL, 12 noon, Velvet Park, Buffalo Speedway between Southwest Freeway and Richmond.

3 PATTY LARKIN, singer, songwriter, and acoustic guitarist, 7:30 pm, Heinen Theater, 3517 Austin at Holman, \$15 in advance (available at Inklings), \$17 at the door, 713/521-3369.

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

4 GREATER HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, general business meeting for all members, 6:30 pm, call 713/523-7576 for meeting location.

5 HIV COMMUNITY CAUCUS, public round-table discussion of HIV/AIDS concerns for all affected individuals, 6:30-7:30 pm, 811 Westheimer, Suite 203.

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON, executive meeting, 6:30 pm, 2700 Albany, 529-6979.

6 VOICES OF HOPE: Pastoral Ministry and Spirituality for Gay and Lesbian Christians, seminar sponsored by Catholic Parents Network, 9 am-4 pm, Dominican Sisters Meeting Room, 6501 Alameda, 301/927-8766 or 713/867-9020.

HOMEBUYER'S SEMINAR, 7:30 pm, Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer, RSVP 713/529-8484.

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 Your Reactivity* by Patrick Vachon, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

7 HOME SELLER'S SEMINAR, 7:30 pm, Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer, RSVP 713/529-8484.

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

11 HOUSTON PROFESSIONAL MEN'S ASSOCIATION, general meeting, \$15, 7-9 pm, Bibas, 607 W. Gray, RSVP 713/520-9083.

12 GREATER HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, networking mixer, 6 pm, Crossroads Market, 1111 Westheimer, 713/942-0147.

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS Support Group, MCCR library, 1919 Decatur, 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.

13 THE MIND/BODY CONNECTION explores wellness and the many alternatives to Western medicine for the treatment of HIV disease, 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.

14 SEX, TOYS, AND VIDEOTAPES, relationship education workshop presented by AFH's Bart Loeser, sponsored by Alternative Visions, 6:45-8:45 pm, Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose, 713/526-8223.

MARKETING SEMINAR, on how to market your business, 7 pm, Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer, RSVP 713/529-8484.

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.

15 FROG TO PRINCE SEMINAR, on buying a house and fixing it up, 7 pm, Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer, RSVP 713/529-8484.

LESBIANS IN BUSINESS, 6 pm, Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza, 713/529-0077.

16 PFLAG PEP RALLY, cheer on parents and friends driving to Washington, D.C., to lobby Congress for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, 7-9:30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas, 713/528-6477.

NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER, 9:30 pm, Venture-N, 2923 Main, 521-0911.

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heater

THE ACTORS WORKSHOP, 1009 Chartres, 713/236-1844. Through Feb. 24: *An Act of the Imagination*.

A.D. PLAYERS, Grace Theater, 2710 W. Alabama, 713/526-2721. Through March 17: *Summerhope*.

ALLEY THEATRE, 615 Texas Ave., 713/228-8421. March 1-24: *The Cryptogram*.

THE COMPANY ONSTAGE, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219. Through March 2: *Foxfire*.

COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE, 12802 Queensbury, 713/467-4497. Through Feb. 24: *Amadeus*. March 1-30: *Godspell*.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE, 4212 Main, 713/520-0063. Through March 10: *Miss Dossa*.

THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston, 713/480-1894. Feb. 16: *Gigi*. Feb. 25: *Crazy For You*.

HOUSTON BROADWAY SERIES, Jones Hall, 713/629-3700. April 2-7: *Ain't Misbehavin' with The Pointer Sisters*.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Heinen Theatre, 3717 Austin, 713/630-1138. Feb. 22-24: *The African Company Presents Richard III*.

HOUSTON SKYLINE THEATER, 1617 Fannin, 713/759-0701. Through Feb. 24: *Toyer*.

THE LITTLE ROOM DOWNSTAIRS, 1108 Peden, 713/523-0791. Through March 2: *Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein*.

MAIN STREET THEATRE, 2540 Times Blvd., 713/524-6706. Through March 9: *Pride and Prejudice*. Through Feb. 24: *Face to Face*.

NEW HEIGHTS THEATRE, 339 W. 19th, 713/869-8927. Feb. 21-March 3: *My Left Breast*. March 6-17: *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*. March 20-31: *Pretty Fire*.

RADIO MUSIC THEATRE, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722. Through Feb. 31: *Forever Hold Your Peace!*

THEATRE SOUTHWEST, 3750 South Gessner, 713/661-9505. Feb. 23-March 16: *The Rainmaker*.

THEATRE UNDER THE STARS, Music Hall, 713/622-TUTS. Through Feb. 18: *Carousel*. March 7-24: *The Music Man*.

ance

THE GRAND 1894 OPERA HOUSE, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston, 713/480-1894. March 23: *The Dance Consortium*.

HOUSTON BALLET, Wortham Center, Texas at Smith Streets, 713/227-ARTS or 1-800-828-ARTS. Feb. 22-March 3: *Cruel Garden*. March 7-17: *Romeo and Juliet*.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, Kaplan Theatre, 5601 S. Braeswood, 713/729-3200. March 16-17: *Topestry Dance Company*.

SOCIETY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, Wortham Center, Texas at Smith Streets, 713/227-1111. Feb. 23-24: *Still/Here* by Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company. Feb. 27-March 3: *STOMP*. March 22: *Les Ballets Africains*.

Radio & TV

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

LESBIAN & GAY VOICES: (Radio) 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.

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.

ngoing

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 HOUSING COALITION HOUSTON runs the nonprofit TLC House program, a 90-day, gay positive, emergency house for PWAs in transition. For more information about joining, call 713/521-1613.

AIDS MASSAGE 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 and general dislike of gay and lesbian people, harnesses support from a cross-section of the gay and non-gay population through the use of dialogue, educational workshops,

and advertising, and by using effective activism based on non-violence, intelligence, and common sense. For more information, call 713/659-8181.

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 MAISON COFFEE ROASTERY, 2089 Westheimer, 713/528-6750, is the only gay-owned and -operated coffee roastery in Houston. Live music every Friday and Saturday nights. Thursday night is singles night/movie night. Sunday is open mic night hosted by Somewhere South.

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. 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 713/597-2673 for more information.

DIGNITY HOUSTON, dedicated to the welfare of gay and lesbian Catholics and their friends, meets Saturdays at 7:30 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. 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.

EXXON ASSOCIATION OF GAY AND LESBIAN EMPLOYEES (EAGLE) meets monthly at the Montrose Library to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For more information, please call 713/916-8110 or 713/522-6212.

FIST (FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE) is a social group of women who explore the S/M, B/D, and fetish lifestyle. Monthly meetings and social events. Write: P.O. Box 20127, Houston, TX 77255-0217 or call 713/781-3567.

GAY AND LESBIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS meets monthly, providing socials, speakers, networking, and practitioner referral line. For information or a referral, call 713/523-4700.

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, exposure 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.

HEARTSONG WOMEN'S CHORUS rehearses at 7 pm on Mondays on the third floor of the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. New and former members welcome! Call 713/947-1488 for information.

HELPING CROSS DRESSERS ANONYMOUS (HCDA) meets 8 pm every Tuesday at 239 Westheimer.

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.

HOPE PROJECT (HIV, Outreach, Prevention, and Education) provides HIV/AIDS information to the African-American community. Board meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month. Contact the HOPE line at 713/741-2450 for more information.

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

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

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

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.

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FIRST DATE PART II

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YOU I WISH HE'D MOVE CLOSER

HIM DOES HE LIKE MY BODY? I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING

YOU I WONDER IF USING MY X-RAY VISION WOULD BE A BAD THING

HIM IS HE GONNA MOVE CLOSER ANYTIME SOON?

YOU WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?

HIM SURE

YOU HE'S CUTE... BUT HE SMELLS

HIM I CAN'T BELIEVE I FARTED

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; 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. 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. 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 Monday at 8 pm at 1214 Miramar (Graustark at Castle Court). Call Alan at 713/528-7977 for info.

MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER offers numerous counseling groups, including groups for men and women living with HIV, people in recovery, lesbian survivors of cancer, survivors of sexual abuse, people living with chronic pain, lesbian survivors of domestic violence, and many more. For more information, contact (24 hrs.) 713/529-0037.

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, 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.

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 is 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, please call 713/528-SAFE (7233).

RAINBOW RANGLERS, a gay country and western dance club, teaches 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) seeks gay and lesbian alumni of Rice University. Contact Neal Tannahill at 713/526-6718 for more information.

SOUTHERN COUNTRY HOUSTON provides country and western dance lessons, exhibitions, and charity events to benefit service organizations. Free dance lessons are offered every Tuesday at The Ranch, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway. For more info, 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 nonprofit organization to educate and inform all people about gay/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 ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSEXUAL SUPPORT (TATS) is a peer support group devoted to serving the emotional, social, and educational needs of transgendered persons, their partners, families, and friends. For more information, call 713/827-5913 or write to TATS, P.O. Box 142, Bellaire, TX 77401.

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

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL VETERANS OF AMERICA, Houston Chapter. Location and times of meetings as announced. Write to GLBYA, 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.

**Sunday,
February 18**
*Wynonna Rodeo Post-Party
at The Ranch*

Thursday, February 29
*Safer Sex Seminar for Lesbians
9:30 pm • New Program for '96
with Information Kits*

Friday, March 15
*Cowboy's Nightmare
Rockin' Country*

Friday, March 29
*Outrageous
Gay Girl Rock and Roll*



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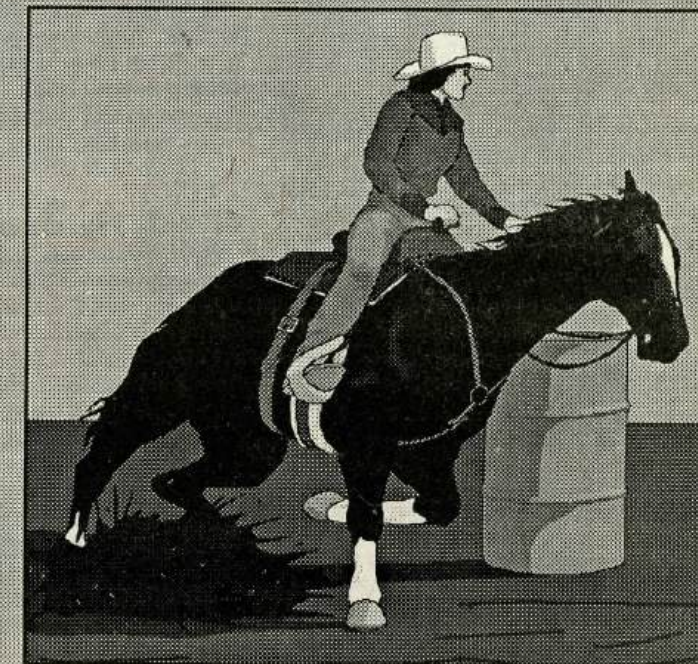
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Cybill Shepherd

(Art & Understanding, Jan/Feb/95, Nick Steele)

"I hope this doesn't sound superficial, but one of the good things that has come out of the AIDS epidemic is that I have had to look at alternatives to sex that are safe. I had to look at phone sex from a different standpoint. I have learned a lot about myself and that has been very rewarding. I also think that flying solo is a wonderful thing. I highly recommend it!"

Anka

(author)
(Details, 6/95, Anka)

"I became a man. Well, sort of. I enlisted the assistance of Diane Torr, a cross-dressing performance artist and...John Grant, a special-effects makeup artist whose job it was to metamorphose my friend Susan, myself, and three other girls into virile he-men...."

"After the shock of seeing ourselves as men wore off, we all sat on the floor and made fake penises out of tubular bandages and cotton balls to achieve that Marlboro man bulge. 'Don't make them too big,' Diane warned as Susan and I began constructing thick ten-inchers. When we were done, we were hung like a couple of Clydesdales...."

[After passing as men at a restaurant, we visited] a place most women rarely patronize: a local strip bar....

"This is when one of the strippers came over to our table and asked if anyone wanted a lap dance. 'I'll have one,' I said, real macho, as she led me over to the 'adultery couches.'..."

"She felt the Ace bandages on my chest and said,



Sandra Bernhard (seen here in 1991's Hudson Hawk): Is it big or small?

"Nice pecks." "Yeah," I said, "I've been working out." Then she put her hand on my prosthetic penis and said real deadpan, "Wow, you're really packin'." "It's pretty big," I bragged, "but it's a little bumpy."...

"As my second day as a man came to a close, I went home and looked in the mirror once again. I visualized what it would be like having sex with the new me. I admired my masculine bulge and fondled my cotton balls. I got turned on by the man in the mirror. Then I did the most manly thing a horny guy could do. I had sex with myself."

Queer Notes

Compiled by
Blase DiStefano

for her; she was on the show at least once a month. But despite his best-laid plans, he could never get alone with her. At one point, Lana, Johnny, Doc Severinsen, and I had dinner. Then Lana and I went off together; it was pretty obvious we were

You got quite a lot of flak for talking about gay affairs in your book.

Oh, yes. In fact, I was the first female celebrity ever to address bisexuality openly. Even a few years ago, it was still taboo.

Rock Hudson

(Rock Hudson: His Story, 1986, by Hudson and Sara Davidson)

"I have given over a thousand interviews...and I've often wondered how an interviewer can come into somebody's home and ask all kinds of questions, brazen questions, about his personal life."

"A favorite question among the fan magazines was whether or not I slept in the nude. I couldn't understand who could give a damn about my sleeping habits, but there were the questions.... As a matter of fact, I went through a great deal in learning to sleep in the nude. From my childhood, I remembered my mother saying, 'Well, what if there's a fire?' and I thought, right, indeed, what if there's a fire—I'd have to run out naked and people would see my pee-pee."

"Then when I was twenty-one, I thought, hell, if there's a fire you can just wrap a blanket around you, and I've slept in the nude ever since. But who in hell cares?"

Donovan Leitch

(Part-time singer/model/actor-producer & son of pop star, Donovan)

(Vanity Fair, 7/94, George Wayne)

Wayne: Of late, you seem to be turning into a male supermodel. I love you in the Pepe Jeans campaign. Have you stripped naked for Bruce Weber's camera?

Leitch: Yeah, he stuck me in the bathtub with one of his muscle boys and we shaved each other. I didn't mind stripping for Bruce, but now I'm getting really insecure. I never used to think about how I looked....

You're insecure?

Yeah, even though I'm in the middle of it, I still feel like an outcast. Maybe I'm just a drama queen.

Eric Stoltz

(Movieline, 12/94, Stephen Saban)

"...[W]hat is the big deal with nudity? When I see a love scene where the actors are strategically covered, I think, 'There's an actor who's uncomfortable being nude and they shouldn't have taken the role.' It takes me out of the story and I end up thinking about how self-conscious the actor is."

Judy Carne

(Laugh-In)

(The Advocate, 4/24/90, David Andrusia)

Andrusia: In your act, you talk about your relationship with singer Lana Cantrell.

Carne: Oh, yes, that was so wonderful. Lana wasn't beautiful, but she was stunningly handsome, and she attracted men without ever trying at all. **Was that a problem?**

It was in at least one case. Johnny Carson had such a thing



Cybill Shepherd (seen here on the set of 1989's Texasville): Is it safe or unsafe?

Eric Stoltz (pictured here in 1987's Some Kind of Wonderful): Is it a big deal or a little deal?



Joyce Rudolph

Morrissey

(formerly with The Smiths)

(Details, 4/94, William Shaw)

"...Morrissey's art often drips with homoeroticism, from the playful lewdness of the early 'Handsome Devil' ('A boy in the bush / Is worth two in the hand / I think I can help you get through your exams') to the use of 'palare,' the language of London's rent boys, on both the title of the more recent album *Bona Drag* and the track 'Piccadilly Palare.' Yet to the frustration of some of his gay following, he has never declared any orientation at all. Morrissey always publicly pronounced his celibacy. He insists his songs simply express truncated, go-nowhere desires. No one believes him, but the frequency with which he restates his claim is interesting."

"Even before he became desirably famous, as a seventeen-year-old he reportedly boasted in his diary: 'I don't have sex much...I can almost count the number of times.'"

"...I ask him if he might ever make an unambiguous statement about his sexuality. 'Well,' he says blithely, 'it can't possibly be believed, I know, but sex is actually *never* in my life. Therefore I have no sexuality.'"

"But it's in your songs."

"The desire for, the search for, yes, but the actual physical act is *never* in my life."

"You must have had sex at some time in your life," I insist. "So for the moment at least your sexuality becomes fixed."

"Um," says Morrissey awkwardly, "it has never become fixed in my life." A long and rather solid silence fills the room."

Jean-Claude Van Damme

(Movieline, 8/94, Stephen Rebello)

"[I]s his male member a match for his ego, let alone the rest of his pumped-up physique?"

"I've got a normal dick," he observes. "In America, journalists ask more open questions. In Europe, they've got too many complexes to ask. In Asia, they never ask about it. They would just love to see it."

Re: Jean-Claude Van Damme

8/94 Movieline interview

(Movieline Letters, 11/94, Curtis Freeman)

"Not all gay men speculate over the size of Jean-Claude Van Damme's penis, because it's overshadowed by his arrogance. It seems everything would be small by comparison."



Jean-Claude Van Damme (pictured here in 1995's Sudden Death): Is it normal or abnormal?

Sandra Bernhard

(The Advocate, 12/15/92, Lily Burana)

...In her interview with The Advocate, Madonna said you have the biggest dick she's ever seen. Is that purely theoretical?

That's kind of her in a nutshell, you know what I mean? She never saw my dick. She wasn't interested in my dick, so I don't think that's really for her to say.

But size queens everywhere want to know, Sandra. How big is it?

Actually, it's small. And tight, if you want to talk in literal or, rather, clitoral terms.

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AIDS Housing Coalition 1996 Spring Rummage-A-Rama Sets Yard Sale

The AIDS Housing Coalition Houston (AHCH) needs your used but intact donations ahead of time to make their annual rummage sale a hit. Scheduled for March 2, 1996, 8 am-3 pm at 117 Tuam, the sale will feature used lamps, tables, chests of drawers, chairs, headboards, antiques, sewing machines, kitchen appliances, office equipment, air units, fans, heaters, electronics, exercise equipment, children's toys, and casual clothing items.

To make your tax-deductible donation or for more information, call Matt Locklin at 713/521-1613.

Houston Area Women's Center Offers Domestic Violence Counseling

The Houston Area Women's Center offers free individual counseling and support services for lesbian and bisexual survivors of domestic violence.

Battered lesbians/bisexual women must overcome the obstacles that all battered women must face, including fear for their lives and their children's lives, lack of resources, isolation, self-blame, and denial. Additionally, if battered lesbians report the assault, they often face the problem of being "outed" to police officers, the District Attorney's office, the local women's center, and often their own families. There is now help available for lesbians/bisexual women who are confronting these issues.

The Women's Center offers free individual counseling, support services, and shelter to all women and children who have been battered or sexually assaulted. To schedule an appointment, call 713/528-2121.

OUT HERE

Democratic National Committee Hosts Lesbian and Gay Strategy Meeting

In preparation for the November '96 elections, Democratic National Committee National Chairman Don Fowler has invited lesbian and gay Democratic organization leaders throughout the United States to participate in a pre-election strategy meeting February 16-18, 1996, in Washington D.C.

"This election is exceptionally crucial for this country and the Democratic Party. Extremists will stop at nothing to build on their majorities in Congress and impose their far-right agenda on the American people." Fowler went on to note that the Democratic Party has fought for a more inclusive society which affords equal opportunity to all regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Lesbian and gay Democratic organizations will be briefed on the re-election outlook, AIDS funding, voter registration, and the religious right. For more information, contact Brian Boyd or Carla Darby at 202/863-8056 or 202/488-5143.

Bering Foundation Announces Plans for Donated House

Bering Community Service Foundation was recently named beneficiary of the home of Edwin Leslie Pierson (Les) at 1401 California. As an avid supporter of Bering's programs, Les arranged for Bering to receive his home and a portion of his estate as a gift at the time of his death.

The house is a gift in memory of Les' mother, Nettie Roberts Pierson. Title to the house was transferred from Les' estate to Bering in November, and a formal dedication ceremony was held in December.

Bering is now looking for furniture for its new house. Donations of furniture are requested to defray the cost of setting up the house, including conference/dining table and 8-10 chairs, sofa, pair of lounge chairs, three office desks, file cabinets, and office chairs. Please call Sue Murchison or Stacie Cokinos at 713/529-6071 for more information or to donate items.

Astraea Comes to Houston

The Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation is expanding its influence to Houston with its premiere event in the area, dubbed *An Evening of Cocktails and Culture*. The celebration will introduce the local and surrounding lesbian community to the organization, and spread the word about Astraea's grant-making programs that benefit thousands of lesbians nationally.

Founded in 1977, the Astraea Foundation is the oldest and largest multiracial, multicultural social change foundation supporting lesbians nationwide. Their purpose is to raise money and make grants to organizations, individuals, and projects that promote the social, political, educational, and cultural well-being of lesbians and all women and girls. Since 1990, they've given away more than \$1 million.

An Evening of Cocktails and Culture is scheduled for Friday, February 23, 1996, 7 pm, at the home of Candy Anderson and Guy Yount. The host committee includes Suzanne Anderson, Dr. Jackie Doval, Pat Gandy and Eleanor Hanley, Sue Lovell, Kathy Hubbard and Annise Parker, the Sister of Houston and Donald Skipwith. Entertainment will be provided by poet/performance artist Niobe. For reservations, call Jane Hutto at 713/869-9238. Suggested donation: \$35, \$60, \$100 or \$250.

For information on Astraea, call 212/529-8021; fax 212/982-3321; e-mail Anlaf@aol.com; Web Site: <http://www.imageinc.com/astraea/>

Medical Services Division of Montrose Clinic Sees Increase in Clients in '95

Expanded services and hours of operation and a new facility offered more Houstonians access to needed medical services at the Montrose Clinic in 1995. Last year, over 9,500 client visits for HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and related medical services were provided by the clinic, compared to 8,191 such visits in 1994, announced Eileen Hegar, clinic president.

"The good part of the increases in people testing and seeking services is that we are now able to offer intervention to people who would not have known their status otherwise," Hegar added.

Hours of operation are as follows. All services are scheduled by appointment:

- HIV TESTING: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 5-8 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-5 pm.
- STD TESTING: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11 am-8 pm; Tuesday and Thursday, 9 am-6 pm.

- FROST EYE CLINIC: Monday and Thursday, 9 am-5 pm.
- CMV RETINITIS SCREENING: Every other Wednesday, by appointment only.
- HIV DERMATOLOGY SCREENING: Tuesday, 1-5 pm.
- OB/GYN SERVICES: Wednesday, 5-8 pm
- NUTRITION CLINIC: Thursday, 9 am-12 pm (call 713/285-1293 for scheduling).
- HEARING SCREENING: First Monday of each month.

For more information, call the Montrose Clinic at 713/520-2000.

Log Cabineers Expand to San Antonio

In mid-January, more than 40 people attended the first organizational meeting for the new San Antonio chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, a group dedicated to changing the Republican Party's hostility toward gays and lesbians. At the meeting, Dale Carpenter, state Log Cabin president, outlined the basic functions of Log Cabin, which includes supporting gay-friendly Republicans for public office.

Residents who attended expressed relief that the city would finally have an organization that reflected their political views. A second meeting to elect officers and adopt bylaws is scheduled for Saturday, February 24. For more information, call Log Cabin Republicans of Texas at 512/467-9797.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston Seeks Members

All you need to join is to love music, love singing, and the ability to come up with \$10 each month for dues. That's the criteria for joining the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, according to Bill Elwood, GMCH vice president and membership chairman. You don't have to audition, or even be gay, but the latter helps, tease their recruitment slogans. However, you do have to be a man, which is sometimes easier said than done.

For more information, call 713/521-SING.

PFLAG Converges on Washington

Last July, several members of the Houston Chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) began coordinating a week-long, cross-country bus trip starting Saturday, March 16. The 55-seat bus will roll across seven states, picking up families bound for Washington to meet in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a federal bill aimed at protecting gay and lesbian people from being fired from most jobs, based on their orientation. En route they will deliver PFLAG's message to large urban areas and small towns at community meetings, press conferences, and church luncheons.

"We want to make the workplace safe for our children," explained event coordinator Gail Rickey. "Surely, people across the country who have children of their own would understand the unfairness. We can tell them stories of gay people being fired and they'll say, 'Well, why don't they sue?' There is no protection, and we can start a dialogue about that."

With the support of the Human Rights Campaign, PFLAG plans for Washington include a media brunch in the congressional building, lobby-

ing representatives, and a candlelight vigil on the steps of the capitol.

For more information, call Kyle Young at 713/871-1272 or Donna Pinnick at 713/630-1114.

Texas Lesbian Conference Comes to Dallas

With the theme *Telling and Tracing our Past, Living and Loving our Present, and Charting and Challenging our Future*, the Texas Lesbian Conference is scheduled for May 3-5 at the Dallas Grand Hotel. The annual conference offers a wide diversity of workshops addressing health, relationships, spirituality, leadership, culture, sexuality, skills building, politics, and much more.

For more information on exhibitor and vendor space, call Beth Hotchko at 214/520-8108. To register, call Naomi Madrid at 214/520-8108.

Kolbe House Presents 'Movietime Friday Night'

A year-long film festival, consisting of themes addressing issues of the sexual-minorities community, has begun the third Friday of each month at Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview. Movietime Friday Night features a popular video, discussion of the film, snacks, and conversation. The festival was conceived as "...a place to go and a thing to do in a relaxed drug- and alcohol-free environment." Videos are provided by Lobo Book Store and Cactus Video. For more information, call Chuck Perroncel at 713/522-8182.

Texas Lesbian/Gay Journalists Hold Conference

Navigating the '90s is the theme for a conference presented by the Texas Chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, set for March 23, 1996. To be held at the University of Houston's Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, the day-long conference addresses the issues of how best to "navigate the '90s" as a lesbian or gay journalist, as well as offering tools for the future.

Provocative writer and *Chicago Tribune* columnist Achy Obejas is the morning keynote speaker. Roman Catholic priest and best-selling author of *What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality* Daniel Helminiak gives the keynote speech for the luncheon, hosted by comedian and *OutSmart* magazine columnist Nancy Ford.

The conference begins Friday evening, March 22, with a reception. Registration ranges from \$20 to \$55, and is open to non-members of the association. For more information and registration, call 713/220-6025 or 1-800-735-3800, ext. 6025.

Bunnies Bounce Back to the Bayou, Seek Beneficiaries

The wildly popular spring fundraiser, now known as Bunnies on the Bayou, seeks nominations of 501(c)3 charities to be the recipients of its generosity. This year's lavish outdoor party, attended annually by over 2,000 people, will be held Sunday, April 7, 1996. Worthy organizations in need of funds should send background information, current status, and mission statement to Bunnies on the Bayou, P.O. Box 66832, Houston, TX 77266. Deadline is March 1, 1996.

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O U T ▼ S M A R T

Log Cabin Republicans Reveal Radical Right Election Plans

The Log Cabin Republicans of Texas revealed today that members of the radical religious right in both major political parties plan to use the upcoming March 12 Texas primary to advance an extreme anti-gay agenda. The agenda will be unveiled the night of the March primary in the form of at least ten resolutions to be approved by participants at party precinct conventions. According to sources familiar with the radical religious right movement in Texas, the precinct convention resolutions will then be submitted for approval as part of each party's state platform. Although the resolutions will be introduced at both Democrat and Republican precinct conventions, religious right forces are much stronger in and expect more success in the Republican Party.

Of the ten proposed resolutions, one deals directly with homosexuality. It states in full:

Whereas, the (Republican or Democrat) Party of Texas believes that the practice of sodomy leads to the breakdown of the family unit and the spread of the deadly disease Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS),

The (Republican or Democrat) Party of Texas calls upon federal, state, and local governments to enforce all laws with respect to homosexual conduct. We demand that state public health authorities regularly inspect health clinics, adult bookstores, bath houses, and restaurants for the presence of communicable diseases. We oppose the teaching of educational materials on AIDS and in the public schools that homosexuality is the equivalent with heterosexual expression and oppose any "celebrations of diversity" glorifying homosexuality. We believe homosexuality should be presented as unhealthy and illegal. We further demand that no person should receive special legal entitlements and/or privileges based on sexual preference (homosexuality, pedophilia, necrophilia, bestiality, or incest), including marriage between persons of the same sex or custody, adoption of children, spousal benefits for insurance or employment purposes or enhancement of criminal penalties, including so-called "hate crimes."

Be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the (Republican or Democrat) Senatorial/District Convention Resolutions Chairman from the ___ Precinct of the (Republican or Democrat) Party with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention of the (Republican or Democrat) Party of Texas.

The proposed resolution expands upon anti-gay language already present in the Republican Party's state platform. The proposed resolution hits on all the favorite targets of the religious right's campaign against gays: "special" rights, gay marriage, adoption and custody of children by gay couples, domestic partners benefits, and hate crimes legislation which was recently narrowly defeated in the Texas House of Representatives. Further, it puts gays on a par with necrophiliacs, pedophiles, and others. The resolution could also be used to support legislation that would deny HIV-positive people,

whether gay or straight, access to public accommodations like health clinics and restaurants.

"It is clear that the so-called religious conservatives in the Republican Party plan once again to press an extreme anti-gay agenda at the upcoming precinct conventions and, later, at the state convention," said Log Cabin State President Dale Carpenter. "They have evidently learned nothing from the fiasco of the 1992 Republican National Convention after which the party was identified with an

"It is clear that the so-called religious conservatives in the Republican Party plan once again to press an extreme anti-gay agenda at the upcoming precinct conventions and, later, at the state convention," said Log Cabin State President Dale Carpenter

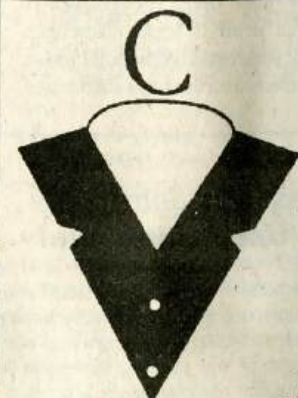
intolerant and extreme social agenda that cost Republicans the election," he added. "The state party could greatly expand its base, and perhaps become a true majority party, if it would welcome moderate and conservative gays—as leaders in the national party have done," he suggested.

Log Cabin emphasizes that participation in the political process is the only way to defeat the extreme agenda represented by the proposed anti-gay resolution. The group urges mainstream and moderate members of both parties, and especially Republicans, to vote in the primary election

and then to attend their precinct conventions. Precinct conventions for both parties take place at 7 pm on the night of the primary at each precinct's polling site. All voters in the primary are entitled to vote at those conventions, which last anywhere from a few minutes to more than an hour. Typically, only a handful of voters show up at precinct conventions, enabling a few dedicated people to control the outcome of votes on resolutions.

Other resolutions drafted by elements of the religious right for approval at March 12 precinct conventions deal with opposition to the Goals 2000 education reform, the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capitol, the abolition of abortion, opposition to United States participation in the United Nations, and the abolition of no-fault divorce.

For more information about how to participate in defeating anti-gay initiatives in your precinct, call the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas at 512/467-9797. Copies of the ten proposed resolutions are available upon request.



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OUT IN OUR WORLD

From Gaynet Wire Service

Federal Court Topples Anti-Gay Law in Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson has declared a 1992 state law prohibiting state agencies from using public funds in direct or indirect support of gay and lesbian organizations as unconstitutional. The law was quickly passed by the state legislature and signed into law after officials at Auburn University gave recognition to a gay student group on the campus. Lawmakers had argued that because sodomy is illegal in Alabama, no state funds should be used to support the "gay lifestyle." Judge Thompson, however, ruled that the law was simply an attempt to restrict discussion at public schools, an illegal restriction of free speech.

Nebraska Legislator Wants to Legalize Gay Marriages

LINCOLN, Neb. — With the prospect that courts in Hawaii will soon declare same-sex marriages legal, it hasn't been too surprising to most observers that conservative legislators and politicians in Utah, South Dakota, Washington state, South Carolina, Oregon, Florida, California, Virginia, and New Mexico have made barring gay and lesbian matrimony a priority. One shining and surprising exception to all this "stop-the-wedding" frenzy has come from America's heartland, in Nebraska, where state Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha has introduced a measure that would amend Nebraska law allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry in the Cornhusker State. Chambers acknowledges that his proposal, LB1260, probably won't win approval on its first pass through the state legislature, but he says he's determined and won't give up. "This is an issue related to civil rights and civil liberties that can't be dodged by political bodies," he says. "It has an impact on so many people."

Forbes' Gay Views Become a Political Issue

DES MOINES, Iowa — Demonstrating once again, for better or for worse, that gay rights can no longer be separated from national politics, Republican presidential hopefuls have increasingly tried to derail the unexpectedly surging candidacy of multi-millionaire Steve Forbes by portraying him as "pro-gay." In Iowa earlier in January, state campaign officials who were supporting Sen. Phil Gramm's presidential bid, told reporters that Forbes supports allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the U.S. military under the current "Don't ask, don't tell" compromise policy. More recently, Forbes was asked if he was in favor of allowing same-sex marriages. Although clearly uncomfortable with the question, Forbes responded, though not with great clarity, that "Compassion is not approval. There should be special rights for none, equal rights for all."

Anti-Marriage Bills Explode Around America

PIERRE, S.D. — Sparked by the likelihood that state courts in Hawaii will soon declare same-sex marriage legal, a rapidly growing number of state legislatures throughout the country have started a rush to outlaw gay and lesbian marriages from being recognized locally, even if they should be legal elsewhere in the U.S. Legislatures in at least nine states—Alaska, California, Idaho, Iowa, New Mexico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia and Washington—had various versions of "gay miscegenation" proposals before them at the end of January. A ban on recognizing same-sex marriages has been introduced and is currently sitting in committee in the Alaska legislature. The California Assembly, the state legislature's lower chamber that is now controlled by Republicans, approved a similar anti-marriage bill by a 41-31 vote. The measure may face more opposition in the state Senate where Democrats still retain a slim majority. The Idaho legislature also just received a proposal that would block recognition of same-sex marriages performed in any other state. In Iowa at the end of January, three anti-gay measures were introduced simultaneously, including one prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriages in the state. Lawmakers in New Mexico took things a step farther and the state Senate has received a resolution to

amend the state's constitution to "prohibit the solemnizing of same-sex marriages and to require that all same-sex marriages recognized as valid in another state be considered invalid in this state." If approved, the proposed amendment would require approval of the state's voters. In South Dakota, legislators were able to force a vote on an anti-marriage bill that had failed to get out of committee earlier by attaching it to a tax measure. The bill passed the state House of Representatives by a 49-18 vote in late January. A similar measure passed the state House last year as well, but later died in the state Senate. Also in late January, the South Carolina legislature received a measure—sponsored by the House Speaker, and therefore likely to pass there easily—to bar any recognition in the state of gay and lesbian marriages performed in other states. The House of Delegates in Virginia, where same-sex marriages are already forbidden by state law, has also received a measure that would bar recognition in the state of such marriages performed elsewhere. A Washington state legislative committee approved by a 12-5 vote a measure that would both explicitly prohibit same-sex marriages in the state as well as deny recognition to such marriages even if legal elsewhere. The measure, if approved by the full House, is not expected to survive the state Senate.

Missouri Considers Medical Pot Measure

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri legislature is considering legislation that would make possession of small amounts of marijuana for medical purposes legal in the state. The proposed measure would limit the amount that could be possessed to less than 70 grams and would require anyone possessing the drug to have a physician's certificate that the patient "needs marijuana as part of a therapeutic regimen." Marijuana advocates claim the drug can help people with severe diseases, like cancer and AIDS, overcome the side effects of some medications as well as stimulate appetite.

Tennessee Sodomy Law Ruled Unconstitutional

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Court of Appeals has ruled unanimously that the state's anti-gay sodomy statute is unconstitutional. In overturning the state law, the court ruled that the right to privacy includes "the right of the plaintiffs to engage in consensual, private, non-commercial sexual conduct" that were none of the state's business because they involve "intimate questions of personal and family concern." State officials gave no immediate indication of whether they would appeal the ruling to the state Supreme Court or not, but most rights advocates expect an appeal.

Gay Brit to Portray Oscar Wilde in Film

LONDON — Openly gay British comic actor Stephen Fry, perhaps best known to American audiences for his portrayal of the erudite and condescending butler in the PBS presentation of *Wooster and Jeeves*, says his next major role will, appropriately enough, be starring in a film bio-pic of 19th-century playwright, wit, and bon vivant Oscar Wilde. Wilde was imprisoned for two years in 1895 for violating English sodomy statutes. Fry declined to discuss details of the project further.

San Francisco Police: A 'Commanding' Lesbian

SAN FRANCISCO — As part of sweeping changes instituted by newly elected Mayor Willie Brown in San Francisco, Melinda Pengel has become perhaps the highest ranking openly gay police officer in any major U.S. police force. Pengel, who was in the first class of women cadets to join the city's police department in 1975 and in 1994 became one of the department's highest ranking women officers, has now been made a commander on the force of some 2,000 officers. A commander ranks in the city's police department only below the police chief and deputy chiefs. Among her new duties, Pengel will oversee the department's policing efforts on the city's trouble-plagued public transportation system.

Two Stations Refuse to Air 'Friends' Wedding Show

NEW YORK — Despite the "celebrity" appearance of House Speaker Newt Gingrich's lesbian half-sister Candace, two local NBC affiliates blocked airing of the episode of the popular show *Friends* because it featured a lesbian wedding. KJAC-TV in Port Arthur, Texas, and WLIO-TV in Lima, Ohio, refused to air the episode, complaining that the lesbian wedding wasn't up to their local community standards. In a press release announcing the cancellation of the program, Ron Kelly of KJAC-TV said, "We do not believe the episode of *Friends* meets prevailing standards of good taste in our community." Station officials at WLIO-TV gave no reason for canceling the episode.

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Hearing Begins

SEATTLE — The attorneys representing Navy Lt. Richard Watson called the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays and lesbians in the armed forces "the height of hypocrisy," arguing in federal court that it was an unconstitutional invasion of privacy. Watson, a 34-year-old officer who was training to eventually captain one of the Navy's nuclear-powered submarines, has said he told his commanding officer he is gay to avoid the possibility of being blackmailed as his naval career advanced. He continues to serve in the Navy while his case, one of several like it, is in the federal courts.

Hawaii High Court Refuses Mormon Appeal on Marriage

HONOLULU — Hawaii's state Supreme Court has ruled that the Mormon church cannot be a party

to the complex legal case involving gay and lesbian marriages. Attorneys for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the state had asked the state high court to allow them to join with the state's legal officers in opposing same-sex marriage in the case because, the attorneys said, Hawaii officials couldn't satisfactorily represent their interests. The church's attorneys told the court that if same-sex marriages become legal in Hawaii, the church could lose its license to perform any marriages in the state because Mormon ministers would refuse to perform same-sex marriages. The state Supreme Court, however, summarily rejected the Mormons' argument, saying that state marriage laws have never required any minister or church to perform any marriage ceremony that doesn't conform to their customs.

Hawaii Lawmakers Table Partners/Marriage Bills

HONOLULU — Faced with what may well be one of the most contentious issues in the struggle for gay rights so far in the U.S., the judiciary committee of the Hawaii House of Representatives has effectively closed the door on any legislative efforts this session to deal with the status of gay and lesbian relationships. The committee rejected three different measures: one that would set up a domestic partnership registration, another that would legalize same-sex marriages in the state, and a third proposal that would have extended the legal definition of marriage. Rep. Terrance Tom, who chairs the judiciary committee, was critical of a state commission's recommendations last year endorsing same-sex marriages, insisting that there had not been enough public debate on the issue. Hawaii state courts, many believe, may this year

rule that the state Constitution's equal rights protections prohibit Hawaii from refusing to grant gays and lesbians marriage licenses the same as it does for opposite-sex couples.

South Dakota Lawmakers Reject Anti-Marriage Measure

PIERRE, S.D. — A committee of the South Dakota legislature has rejected by an 8-5 vote a bill that would have effectively barred same-sex marriages in the state by defining marriage legally as a contract between a male and a female. The measure's sponsor, Rep. Roger Hunt (R-Brandon), argued that because of the possibility that Hawaii courts may soon legalize gay and lesbian marriages, South Dakota should spell out who legally can be considered married in the state. Hunt introduced a similar bill in the legislature last year, which was approved by the lower chamber but died in the state Senate. Keith Elston of the ACLU in South Dakota, which worked with gay rights activists to fight the proposed measure, said, "Lawmakers are realizing that anti-gay legislation is bad for our economy, bad for the state's image, and bad for all citizens, not just gay, lesbian, and bisexual people." Hunt, however, indicated that despite the committee vote, he may still try to convince the state House of Representatives to vote on the bill.

California Legislators OK Ban on Same-Sex Marriages

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — To the surprise of few, Republicans now in control of the California state Assembly have given initial approval in committee to

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Out in Our World

Continued from previous page

a measure that, if it becomes law, would bar the state from recognizing same-sex marriages. The Assembly's judiciary committee quickly approved the bill, put forward by Assemblyman Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), along an 8-to-4 party-line vote. Knight said he introduced the legislation in anticipation that Hawaii will soon become the first state in the U.S. to recognize gay and lesbian marriages. California law already specifically defines marriage as a legal contract between a male and a female, effectively prohibiting same-sex marriages in the state. If approved by the full Assembly, where the bill now will go, the measure would have to be passed by the state Senate, where Democrats still hold a narrow margin, as well as be signed into law by Gov. Pete Wilson.

Mixed Ruling in Canadian Customs Case

VANCOUVER — The British Columbia Supreme Court has handed down a mixed ruling in the case of the Little Sister's Book Store, a gay and lesbian shop that had charged Canadian customs officials with unconstitutional censorship. The provincial high court declared that customs officials had in fact used their power to seize published materials coming into the country in ways that violated the nation's Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Customs officials have seized,

and sometimes destroyed, hundreds of gay and lesbian books and magazines ordered by Little Sister's, mainly from U.S. publishers, claiming the materials violated Canadian pornography laws. The court ruled that the customs actions "in large part... are the arbitrary and improper consequence of an inadequate and flawed administration of the legislation." It also ruled that the incidents involving Little Sister's were isolated episodes but constituted a "grave systemic problem." The most disappointing part of the court ruling, said Janine Fuller of Little Sister's, was the justices' failure to declare the statute that gives customs officials the authority to seize materials as unconstitutional. Fuller called the failure of the court to overturn the customs legislation "disappointing" and said the store would be appealing that part of the ruling, but that she was otherwise pleased with the rest of the high court's ruling. "This decision is a complete vindication of the gay and lesbian community and the lives of its people, and for that we celebrate the decision," she said. "It has been a long, hard climb. We haven't quite reached the summit, but we're damn close. We are confident that we will succeed at the Court of Appeal."

Virginia Excludes Gay Couples From Home Loans

RICHMOND, Va. — Under pressure from Gov. George F. Allen, the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) has reversed a 1994 policy and now effectively prohibits unmarried or gay and les-

bian couples from getting home loans through the state housing agency itself. The new definition of a household adopted by the VHDA states that a "single-family loan can be made to more than one person only if all such persons... are related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or by legal custodial relationship." Albert Eisenberg, one of the VHDA commissioners, disagreed loudly with the change. "It is bigoted nonsense elevated to formal state policy," Eisenberg said of the new policy, which he said may lead to expensive legal court challenges as well as possible trouble with federal housing agencies that underwrite most of the loans the Virginia agency makes. Most of the state's real estate organizations opposed the new definition, as did gay rights groups and the ACLU, which said the change would "inspire lawyers to look for loopholes." In addition to Gov. Allen's backing, the rule change was also supported by the Virginia Family Foundation and Concerned Women for America, which argued that only "traditional" families should be given economic benefits from the state agency.

'Marriage Ceremony' in the Works in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — While conservative legislators around the country have been wrangling for more than a year with various ways to explicitly exclude gay and lesbian couples from anything even remotely resembling legal marriage, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors appears to be about to officially

create a "civil ceremony to solemnize" same-sex domestic partnerships under the aegis of the county clerk's office, the city official who also performs civil wedding ceremonies for heterosexual couples. The measure, which would extend no benefits beyond its symbolic ceremony, is believed to be the first time any governing body has moved to create a civil rite to acknowledge same-sex unions. A board committee quickly approved the measure and sent it on to the full board. Five of the board's 11 members are co-sponsors of the ceremony. The county clerk's office has estimated that adding the ceremony would probably increase the number of registered partners by two or three times. And, with a \$30 fee for the ceremony itself, the clerk's office also estimated the proposed rite could add close to \$50,000 to the city's coffers.

Anti-Marriage Lobbyist Quits Clinton's Hawaii Campaign

HONOLULU — Linda Rosehill, a Hawaii national committeewoman with the Democratic Party, has resigned her post as head of the state committee to re-elect President Clinton after it was reported that she has become a lobbyist for Hawaii's Future Today, an organization that is trying to block same-sex marriages in the state. In resigning the re-election post, Rosehill said that her opposition to gay and lesbian marriages wasn't out of step with other Democratic officials. But since reports of her involvement in the anti-marriage campaign surfaced, many activists had called for the Clinton campaign to remove Rosehill from her state post.

Catholic Bishops Speak Up in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Gays and lesbians in Zimbabwe have received limited support from an unexpected source when the country's Catholic Bishops' Conference issued a pastoral letter denouncing attacks against homosexuals. Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who is a Catholic, sparked an international flap last year when he refused to allow a gay rights organization in the country to operate a booth at an international book fair in the nation's capital, calling homosexuals "sodomists and sexual perverts" who are "worse than dogs and pigs." He followed up later by saying the gays and lesbians have "no rights" in Zimbabwe and threatened to imprison homosexuals. Although the Catholic Church considers homosexuality a "disorder" that should be dealt with as such, the Bishops' Conference letter condemned what it called "any attempts to institute a witch-hunt or hate campaign" against homosexuals. "It is therefore not right for anyone, including government, to harass, persecute, or torture people simply because they are known to have this inclination," the Bishops' Conference letter said.

Charges of Vote-Packing to Deny Texas Gay Lawmaker Endorsement

AUSTIN, Texas — In a move that some believe carries anti-gay overtones, state Rep. Glen Maxey (D-Austin) says campaign workers for Eloy De La Garza, who is running against Maxey this spring, packed a meeting of the University of Texas Democratic Club

with new members from a normally conservative fraternity to get the club's endorsement for De La Garza, a student at the school. Maxey is openly gay and frequently introduces gay rights measures in the state House of Representatives.

Some university Democrat club members agreed with Maxey that large numbers of pledges appeared from De La Garza's campus fraternity. De La Garza denied sending the frat pledges to pack the meeting. But Maxey, who has won the university Democrats' endorsement since entering state politics, said, "It's a shame that in such a serious race as state legislator that there would be young people who were told they had to do this as a pledge class."

Bishop Faces Heresy Trial

WILMINGTON, Del. — The heresy trial of retired Episcopal Bishop Alter Righter for ordaining an openly gay priest is slated to start before a panel of nine bishops February 27, only the second such heresy proceeding in the history of the church, although the bishops who brought the charges against Righter say it won't be the last. Righter, the retired bishop of Iowa, ordained Barry Stopfel as a deacon in 1990. At the time, Stopfel not only acknowledged that he is gay, but also that he had been living with his male partner throughout his seminary studies. The ten bishops who brought the charges against Righter say bishops in New Jersey, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Washington may also be charged with heresy for similar ordinations if the ecclesiastical court finds Righter guilty.

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Out In Our World

Continued from previous page

role in marriages. The government should not be in the role of sanctifying marriages. That's when they run into problems." State Senate leaders quickly said they didn't think the legislature was likely to go along with Cayetano's idea to pull the plug on marriage. While legal experts say they have no idea if a state could even stop issuing marriage licenses, they do agree that the most important benefits of legal marriage are derived from the federal government in the form of income taxes, Social Security benefits, and pension regulations, all of which depend on state legal definitions of a marriage.

Los Angeles Council to Examine Lesbian Cop's Case

LOS ANGELES — According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the city council has unanimously approved a resolution to scrutinize a police department request that LAPD Officer Virginia Acevedo, who is a lesbian, name all her friends and sexual partners as part of a disability claim. Acevedo went on disability last year, claiming it was a result of stress from anti-gay harassment at the department. But in evaluating her claim, the LAPD insisted it wanted the names of the officer's intimates because they may have been the actual cause of the stress. Council members said asking for such information was "outrageous" and said they wanted to examine the case carefully.

Repeal of Cincinnati Rights Measure Cost City Millions

CINCINNATI — The *Cincinnati Enquirer* reports that the city's Convention & Visitors Bureau says it has lost some \$35 million in tourist and convention income because of an anti-gay measure approved by voters in 1993 to repeal an earlier anti-bias measure that included gays and lesbians. The visitors bureau report had been requested by the city council and cited ten larger national organizations, including the American Library Association, that specifically mentioned the repealed rights measure as their reason for not holding conventions in the city.

Utah Education Board Wants to Find a Way to Stop School Gay Group

SALT LAKE CITY — According to a report in the *Deseret News*, the Utah State Board of Education has told state officials to find "all available means" to control the kinds of non-curriculum clubs that are formed at public schools in the state. The move is aimed at preventing a gay and lesbian student club from being formed at East High School in the state's capital city. C. Grant Hurst, who introduced the directive, told the newspaper it wasn't specifically about the gay club at the high school and said he was concerned the current legal situation could allow neo-Nazi groups to be formed at public schools in Utah. Hurst admitted, however, that he had gotten "numerous" phone calls opposed to the gay club and none about possible neo-Nazi clubs forming. The board's resolution speaks only about the "formation of any organizations, in schools, that may create a disruptive or unsafe atmosphere for children or that may attract or entice children to make decisions that could have a long-term negative impact on their lives." The Utah attorney general's office told educators late last year in a letter that federal law and court rulings mandate that school clubs have to be treated equally no matter how potentially controversial. The board's own attorney late in 1995 said the only way the state could keep the gay club at East High from forming would be for all clubs to be prohibited, stop receiving federal education funds entirely, or to ask Congress to repeal the Equal Access Act.

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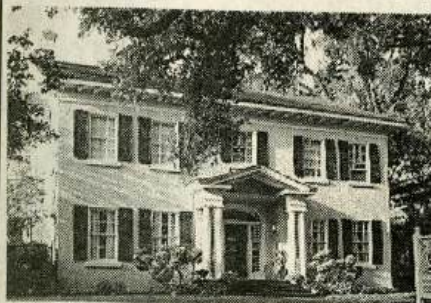
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The Men Who Would Be President

With the first presidential primaries just around the corner, it's time to take a look at the men who would be president. If you happen to be a gay Republican, it may be time to consider crossing over—either parties or orientations, because the Republican candidates you have to choose from are a gay nightmare.

Where do the Republican presidential wannabees stand on the issues?

BOB DOLE

Although he mishandled the Log Cabin Republican contribution in an attempt to placate the Christian Coalition, Dole's record on gay and lesbian issues is one of the least frightening of the Republican candidates. He has denounced anti-gay discrimination but opposes "special rights" for gays and lesbians. (Who doesn't?) He doesn't deny having gay staffers and he sponsored the Ryan White AIDS Care Act. Unfortunately, he appears to be running from his moderate record in an attempt to shore up the support of the far right. For example, he and his wife recently left their Methodist church after a right-wing commentator labeled it "too liberal" because of its pro-gay program. If he'll turn his back on his church for the presidency, will he turn his back on us?

PHIL GRAMM

One of the most affirmatively mean and ambitious candidates in recent history, Phil Gramm leaves little doubt on where he stands on gay and lesbian issues. Years ago he publicly announced he didn't want a "homosexual teaching his third-grader" and is campaigning on a promise to overturn President Clinton's "destructive and unworkable policy on gays in the military." Unlike Dole, Gramm's seduction of the far right appears to be sincere. The Christian Coalition gave him an 86 on a scale of 100. (What does it take to make an A?) He is the only candidate to publicly state that he is "too ugly" to be elected president. We hope he's right.

LAMAR ALEXANDER

Alexander is the stealth candidate of the Republican contenders. A stumble by

front-running Dole could mean a nomination for the man many find more politically attractive than "ugly" Phil. Although he is a Christian and a conservative, he is not favored by the Christian Coalition because of his stance on abortion. In his words, he personally opposes abortion but doesn't believe in governmental prohibition of it. (We call that pro-choice, Lamar.) Even if the Christian Coalition can forgive him, they'll never forgive his wife, "Honey," who is a long-time volunteer for Planned Parenthood and has served as a board member for PBS.

MALCOLM "STEVE" FORBES JR.

If the presidency were for sale, Malcolm Jr. could buy it with his personal fortune of \$200 million. Forbes is concentrating on economic rather than social issues, pushing a 17 percent flat tax on all individuals. Because he doesn't have a political track record, it's hard to tell where he would come down on gay and lesbian issues. He is pro-choice and favors the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy over the ban against gays in the military. Perhaps this reflects a candidate who wants the government out of the boardroom and the bedroom. We'll have to wait and see.

RICHARD LUGAR

If you're gay and thinking of voting for Lugar, think again. Known primarily for his intellectual acumen on foreign policy, this Indiana senator loses his ability to reason when considering gay and lesbian issues. He opposed the District of Columbia's implementation of its domestic partners' law. He voted to prevent funding of seminars that "accept homosexuality as a legitimate lifestyle," and he voted to cut off funding for schools that teach tolerance of homosexuality. He also voted for legislation prohibiting permanent immigration of HIV-positive in-

PAT BUCHANAN

A homophobic anti-Semite who frightened moderates in his address to the '92 Republican convention, Buchanan sets the standard for those courting the Christian Coalition. His hatred of homosexuality is pervasive and is a linchpin of his fundraising efforts. More than once, Pat has shared his view that homosexuality is not on the same

only anti-gay votes, including his opposition to lifting the ban.

If you're underwhelmed by the credentials these eight offer to the gay and lesbian voter, consider the Democratic alternative—the re-election of Bill Clinton.

Clinton promised to lift the ban and then didn't, instead endorsing a "don't ask,

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES AND THE ISSUES

THE CANDIDATES/ISSUES	LIFTING THE BAN	EMPLOYEE NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (ENDA)	ROBERTA ACHTENBURG'S HUD NOMINATION	CUT-OFF SCHOOL FUNDING IF TEACHING TOLERANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY
Dole	opposes	opposes	opposed	supports
Gramm	opposes	opposes	opposed	supports
Alexander	opposes	opposes	n/a	n/a
Forbes	"don't ask/tell"	opposes	n/a	n/a
Lugar	"don't ask/tell"	opposes	opposed	supports
Buchanan	opposes	opposes	n/a	n/a
Dornan	opposes	opposes	n/a	n/a
Keyes	opposes	opposes	n/a	n/a

"moral par" with heterosexuality. His belief that homosexuality and Christianity are mutually exclusive is best reflected in his *Time* magazine statement that "homosexuals appear literally hell-bent on satanism and suicide."

ALAN KEYES

A black Roman Catholic radio host parented by two Democrats, Keyes is a single-issue Republican. He is obsessed with abortion and spends most of his time, speeches, and the lion's share of his radio show railing against it in his fight for "the unborn." If you happen to be gay and opposed to abortion, don't look for shelter from Keyes. He responded "None!" when asked what role gay Republicans could have in his campaign.

BOB DORNAN

The congressman from California is perhaps the most rabid gay-baiter in the race for the presidency. Dornan became apoplectic after Clinton issued an executive order banning discrimination against gays and lesbians in security clearances because, as he put it, he "wouldn't trust them with a \$5 loan, let alone the nation's secrets." He has called gays and lesbians everything from "lesbian spear-chuckers" to "sodomites." Not surprisingly, his track record reflects

don't tell" policy that guts the First Amendment. Then, when gay-friendly former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders said "masturbation" at an AIDS conference, he dumped her for being too radical even though he knew of both her politics and proclivity for speaking her mind long before he appointed her.

On the other hand, Clinton has been the best friend the gay and lesbian community has ever had in the White House. He appointed openly lesbian Roberta Achtenburg to a HUD cabinet position. He is the first president ever to invite gay and lesbian leaders to the White House to address gay and lesbian issues. And, he has consistently increased the AIDS budget and funding for HIV education and services.

After sizing up the Republican contenders and considering Bill Clinton's record, what are gay and lesbian voters to do? Well, even though Clinton may not be a gay or lesbian voter's first pick for the presidency, when comparing him with the other eight who would be president, the choice, to me at least, is clear.

Daryl L. Moore is a lawyer in Houston, Texas. He has a general practice and is board certified in civil appellate law. The opinions expressed in this column are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of OutSmart magazine.

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The Gay Struggle Within

(Part 1 of 2)

The Fear of Being Ordinary

A specter haunts the comfortable assumptions of the radical gay left: the normalization of gay life. Some time ago, a friend and I were discussing the hazards of being openly gay in a law firm, where the prize often goes to the young associate most willing and able to conform to the patterns, practices, and attitudes of the senior partners who make the hiring and promotion decisions. When I reflected that my career might go better if I were straight, he strongly dissented. "If you were straight, you'd be just another ordinary lawyer in a suit; who would notice you?" It was my first encounter with the fear of being ordinary.

In movies, on television, and in theater, gay people are enjoying unprecedented visibility. Further, the representations of gay people in these media are fairer to the diversity of gay life than they have ever been. *The Sum of Us*, an Australian film, depicts a masculine young man who plays rugby, drinks beer, drives a truck, works as a plumber, and cares for his father after a debilitating stroke. We are ten minutes into the movie before we learn that the young man is gay. In *Priest* and *Philadelphia*, we are treated to similarly ordinary people who are sincere, responsible, hardworking, devoted to friends and family, and gay. These movies strongly suggest that in a better world, the latter would be among the least important facts about the characters. Their troubles stem from others' prejudice, not from their homosexuality. On television shows from *Roseanne* to *Melrose Place* to *Frasier* to *Friends*, gays are woven into story lines without much fanfare, integrated into the lives of everyone around them. Comedy Central regularly features openly gay comics. Paul Rudnick's play (and now movie) *Jeffrey* depicts a full range of gay characters—from the preppie-ish body-conscious star who tries to swear off sex to his campy, sarcastic queen of a friend.

You would expect the American Family Association, the television reverends, and the various other anti-gay monitors of our culture to be apoplectic at the routine portrayal of unexceptional gay characters. And so they are; the routinization of gay life subverts every stereotype their prejudice feeds upon. But if you think they are alone in their alarm at the emergence of the ordinary homosexual, you are wrong. They are joined, for somewhat different reasons to be sure, by the radical gay left.



by Dale Carpenter

The cultural criticism from the gay left typifies its broader backlash against the emergence of the ordinary homosexual. Michael Cunningham, in a well-argued film review last year for the *New York Times* entitled "Just Your Ordinary (Gay) Guy," wrings his hands at the thought of masculine, "assimilated" gay men who are "just like everybody else, except for one little thing." By contrast, Cunningham praises the character Diego in the film *Strawberry and Chocolate*. Diego, as Cunningham describes him, is "swishy and coy," worships the opera star Maria Callas, fusses over his collection of French teacups, and suffers unrequited love for a straight man. Cunningham praises Diego—many of whose traits would fit neatly into the world view of Lou Sheldon and the Traditional Values Coalition—as a "step in the right direction" in the portrayal of gay characters. Cunningham announces his eager anticipation for the release of *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*, a film which (sometimes hilariously) features three gay drag queens camping their way through small-town America. "Go, girls," concludes Cunningham.

Other examples of this genre of cultural criticism abound. There's a recent piece in *Harper's* in which the author lambastes gay periodicals like *Out* and *Poz* for showing clean, contented, freshly scrubbed gay women and men. Where's the unseemliness, the sex advertisements, the fetishists, the emaciated bodies of people dying in misery?

asks the contemptuous writer. Pat Robertson might have asked the same things. In her new book, *Virtual Equality*, Urvashi Vaid denies that homosexuals are "just like" heterosexuals and describes gays as almost a subspecies of *Homo sapiens* with its own peculiar values and ideas. Not long ago, a columnist writing under the pseudonym "Orland Outland" for the San Francisco-based *Frontiers* magazine, bitterly criticized gays "who have put their own sense of being alien behind" them.

Take Luke Sissyfag, please. You may remember Sissyfag, the former ACT UP member who once distributed graphically illustrated condom packages to schoolchildren, shouted down President Clinton on national television, regularly pranced before television cameras in lipstick, eyeliner, and pink plastic hair barrettes, and generally championed the idea of a natural gay "queerness." He was a walking gay minstrel show, playing for the amusement of nodding straight audiences. Well, he now calls himself Luke Montgomery. He appears on fundamentalist radio programs to decry the "gay lifestyle" as "totally devoid of any moral character," consisting of nothing but rampant sex and continual drug use. He says that antidiscrimination laws are "fascistic," pro-

moted by a gay community that doesn't feel good about itself. Some say that Luke's present and past personas are inconsistent; I say they are perfectly consistent. If there is one person who literally combines in one body the fear of both the radical gay left and the anti-gay right that homosexuals might one day be considered ordinary members of society, it is surely Sissyfag-Montgomery. Whether he's trashing gays or defending gays, Luke wants gays to be seen as somehow special, or perhaps, just to be seen.

"If it is ordinary to be gay, there's nothing special about you on that account."

And that's just it, isn't it? Behind all the talk of revolutionary values, the need for a "sense of being alien," the supposed subversion of gender roles, lies the fear of being ordinary. It is the childlike need to have everyone's attention. If it is ordinary to be gay, there's nothing special about you on that account. You have no secret rings or rites, no hidden passages or esoteric language, no distinct set of values, no special insight into human suffering or longing. You're only an individual who, at the end of the day, must make his or her own way in the world, unable to depend on the safety of belonging to a benighted group. If you are to be distinguished at the

law firm, it must be by your own worth, not the accident of your birth.

It's not that we should encourage a new mythology of gays as a model minority to counter the old mythology of gays as irredeemably alien and threatening. How truly boring and inaccurate it would be to see gays simply as Rockwellian citizens in suits and ties, always minding their manners, selfless and forgiving, having none of the usual appetites and vices. But we are in no danger of propagating that myth; Hollywood is still churning out a steady diet of depraved, homicidal homosexuals, cross-dressing gay men, and man-hating gay women.

And anyway, it is equally mythologizing and harmful to the cause of equality to show gays as the radical gay left has romanticized us—as sexual revolutionaries, with alien natures and values, threatening and iconoclastic, angry, ennobled and enlightened by our oppression, not "just like them" in the sense that matters. We are better, and bigger, than that. We need not fear being ordinary.

Next Month: "The Gay Struggle Within (Part 2 of 2): The Fear of Being Extraordinary."

Dale Carpenter, a lawyer in Houston, is state president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas. The opinions expressed in this column are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Log Cabin or OutSmart magazine.



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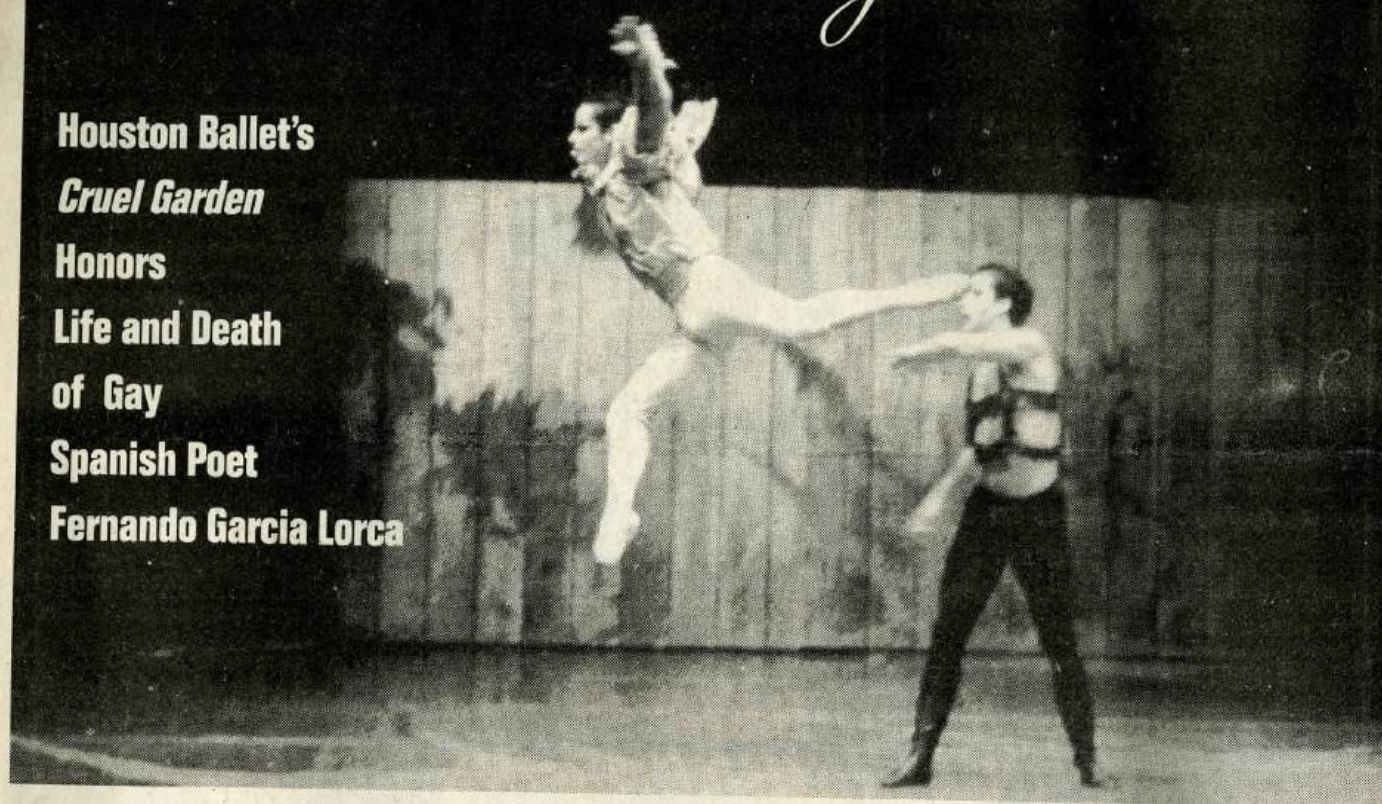


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Resurrecting Lorca

Houston Ballet's
Cruel Garden
Honors
Life and Death
of Gay
Spanish Poet
Fernando Garcia Lorca



The life of Fernando Garcia Lorca would be best defined as tragic. As a controversial intellectual, writer, poet, artist, and activist, Lorca lived life on the cutting edge. *Cruel Garden*, a contemporary and cutting-edge dance/theater piece to be performed by Houston Ballet, chronicles pivotal events in the life and works of this gay Spanish poet and playwright.

Lorca, one of the most complex personalities of the early part of this century, was a cult figure whose works have been more widely translated than any other Spanish writer and whose inspiration came from the ancient traditions of rural communities in Spain. While enrolled in a university in Madrid, Lorca became a focal point for a revival of Spanish heritage and culture. His works, most notably the play *Blood Wedding*, are cloaked in a surrealist spirituality typical of the avant-garde—much like the modernist works of Salvador Dali and filmmaker Luis Buñuel, both of whom were close colleagues of Lorca in Madrid.

In 1929 Lorca moved to New York to study English at Columbia University and to experience modernism in America. During this period, Lorca was profoundly moved by the oppressive way in which minorities,

Despite the enormous worldwide outcry and condemnation that followed Lorca's death, government officials refused to divulge any details concerning his murder.

specifically African Americans, were treated. This, combined with the increasing mechanization, industrialization, and subsequent "dehumanization" of the working class, horrified Lorca. With these images firmly implanted in his mind, Lorca returned to an increasingly turbulent Spain in 1931.

Lorca was physically unremarkable—short, rather uncoordinated, and not at all concerned with his own appearance. Intellectually, he was multi-talented—not only as a writer, but as an actor, artist, musician,

and a gifted, charismatic speaker. Though viewed as a threat by the fascists of Francisco Franco's regime as well as the extremely right-wing Catholic Church, Lorca never stopped producing works that portrayed the powerlessness of his people over their government.

As Spain hurtled toward World War II, Lorca continued to speak out with little regard for his own welfare, stating, "Theater that does not use laughter and tears to take the social and historical pulse, the drama of its people, the genuine color of their spirit and landscape has no right to call itself theater." On July 18, 1936, with Franco's military insurrection, the repressive regime lost all tolerance for intellectuals not cooperating with the government. As an artist, fascist opponent, and known homosexual (labeled as a "red fag"), Lorca became a target of immediate retribution and soon went into hiding at the home of fellow poet Luis Rosales. As the Spanish Civil war commenced in August of 1936, Lorca was dragged from a friend's home, arrested, and

executed with a shot through the neck. He was 38 years old.

Despite the enormous worldwide outcry and condemnation that followed Lorca's death, government officials refused to divulge any details concerning his murder. After his death, Lorca's works were proscribed in Spain, and his plays went unperformed. Not until 1970 did investigative writers begin to glean details of what had occurred. Ian Gibson's book *The Death of Lorca* is one of the best accounts of the tragedy and was used as the primary reference for the creation of *Cruel Garden*.

Choreographer Christopher Bruce, hailed by London's *Daily Telegraph* as the "Nureyev of contemporary ballet" and performance and visual artist Lindsay Kemp, a leading figure in "Europe's Gay Avant-Garde," created the work in 1977 for London's premier contemporary dance company, Ballet Rambert. The work was finished in four weeks and, with the completion of the eclectic musical score of Carlos Miranda, *Cruel Garden* was presented to European audiences and hailed by critics as "a great masterpiece of the English stage."

Lorca's works and life are inexorably intertwined in *Cruel Garden*, and like Lorca, the piece itself evades description—not really a ballet, not really theater, not really performance art. Dancers sing, singers dance, and love, death, and art collide.

In creating *Cruel Garden* numerous challenges are offered to the audience and the performers. Dancers must mentally and physically step out of their toe shoes and into flamenco boots. They must recite poetry in Spanish, sing, speak, and mime—all with convincing theatricality. For the audience, metaphors abound in this work. Part of the set, by prominent English designer Ralph Koltai, bespeaks the tragedy of Lorca's life and his death as well as the death of his friend, famous Spanish bullfighter Ignacio Sanchez Mejias, who was fatally gored while in the bullring. Lorca's 1935 poem "Llanto por Ignacio Sanchez Mejias" (Lament for the Death of a Bullfighter), a memorial to Mejias and considered to be one of the greatest elegies in modern Spanish poetry, is one of the literary centerpieces for *Cruel Garden*. Other literary references include "La Luna Asoma" (The Moon Appears), "Poeta en Nueva York" (Poet in New York), and scenes from the play *Blood Wedding*.

According to director/designer Lindsay Kemp, "*Cruel Garden* is very much total theater in its style. The story is certainly told through the dancers, but also through the colors of Picasso, Lorca's own music, and the puppets that he was famous for throughout the rural Spanish villages."

With a style that is best described as "fusion of all the performing arts," Kemp, who has been on the cutting edge of theater since the 1960s, found the collaboration with choreographer Bruce irresistible. "We had wanted to work together years before we actually had the opportunity to." Kemp, who is English by birth but Southern European at heart, lives in a converted monastery in Italy and admits, "The English critics think I'm very un-subtle indeed. I love religious images, rituals, and masses, in the same way as Lorca. *Cruel Garden* was a wonderful excuse for me to put all of my Spanish obsession into something."

This impassioned, darkly erotic work vividly evokes the life and work of one of the world's greatest gay artists and one that we should seek to know in greater depth.

Cruel Garden runs from February 22 through March 3, 1996, at Brown Theater, Wortham Center. Tickets range from \$10 to \$75 and are available by calling 713/227-ARTS or at Houston Ticket Center (in Jones Hall and Wortham Center) or all Ticketmaster outlets.

A free lecture/discussion on Lorca and *Cruel Garden*, led by University of Houston Professor Pedro Gutierrez, a scholar specializing in the study of Lorca's works, will be held February 15 at 7:30 pm at Houston Ballet, 1921 West Bell. Also speaking will be choreographer Christopher Bruce, composer Carlos Miranda, and several Houston Ballet dancers.

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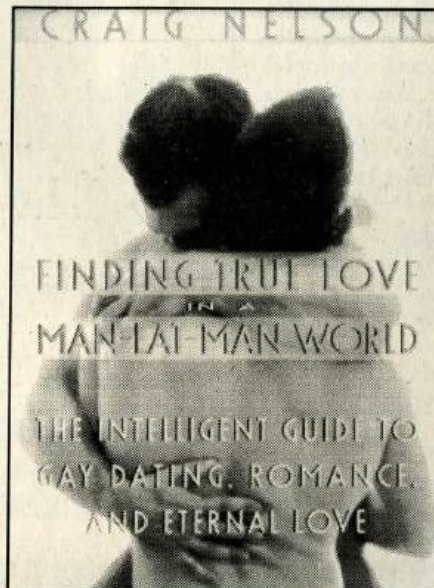
Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Gay Dating, But Were Afraid to Ask

or

The Dating Gayme

by Eric L. Roland

**Dating, Romance, Sex. If you're
looking for a how-to guide to
gay dating, you just may
find it in Craig Nelson's
*Finding True Love in a
Man-Eat-Man World*.**



Are you constantly asking yourself why you can't get a date? Or why you can't even meet someone worth dating? Or, better yet, why all of the men you *do* end up dating turn out to be damaged goods?

You've tried meeting men at quiet piano bars, loud dance clubs, and church mixers. You scope for men at the gym, at the grocery, while driving to work, and you've even tried to make eye contact at a funeral. Your friends have set you up. Your coworkers have set you up. Even your mother has set you up (which turned out to be the best date you had all year!). But the fact is, you're still single.

Dating has never been easy for gay men. In fact, it's a helluva lot easier to meet men now than, say, 50 years ago. But the problem doesn't seem to be with meeting men; the problem is with meeting and dating *compatible* men and then keeping the relationship going.

Craig Nelson, who considers modern gay life to have been born 25 years ago with the Stonewall rebellion, likens gay dating to any 25-year-old adult: "insecure, filled with hopes and dreams, arrogant, experimenting with new ideas, naive, exhilarated with freedom, fickle, vain, and, of course, obsessed with sex.... In this twenty-five-year-old milieu there are practically no rules, no guidelines, nothing set in stone for gay couples—we each have to make it up as we go along."

Nelson's recently published book, *Finding True Love in a Man-Eat-Man World: The Intelligent Guide to Gay Dating, Romance, and Eternal Love*, may finally be a gay man's saving grace. Packed full of information on meeting men, dating, relationships, and sex, the 298-page book gives serious, yet often humorous, insight into the intricate strategies involved in gay dating by looking at how gay men's psyches, as well as their penises, operate during the dating game.

Author of *Bad TV: The Very Best of the Very Worst* and ghostwriter of *America* by Andy Warhol, Nelson is a Houston native who's now an editor at Random House in New York. That's right, he's not a relationship therapist like you might think and says we should be thankful he's not.

AIDS, combined with a generation of baby boomers hitting their forties, have created a profound social shift: Never have so many wanted so quickly to settle down and get spoused—and never have so many had so much trouble doing exactly that.

Meeting Men

Following the chapter on "How to Go to a Bar," which includes information on how to go to a sex club, Nelson turns to other avenues for meeting men in the chapter simply titled "Where to Meet Men." Citing places other than bars, sex clubs, and gyms, Nelson discusses political, religious, professional, social, recreational, and activist organizations in your area "where you can follow your heart or brain and maybe meet some guys along the way." He also gives a run-down of media-mediated introductions, including meeting guys via phone sex, through computer bulletin boards, and by placing or responding to a personal ad in a local newspaper or magazine.

"I think that people used to always meet someone through sex clubs or bars and now it has broadened," says the 40-year-old Nelson. "I think now more often people are meeting through politics, charity works, or hobbies, or in other directions. I think that's a big improvement."

One rather unique suggestion of Nelson's on a place to meet men is at art gallery openings, especially those that are showing the works of gay artists. Since the openings usually occur just before dinnertime, Nelson notes that this gives you something to suggest doing if you meet someone interesting. He sums up this suggestion by writing: "The art is a natural way to have a conversation; they usually serve wine and cheese, and they're free."

Having Sex

"Everyone likes sex, but only gay men pursue it with their signature brand of relentless gusto," writes Nelson in his chapter on "Sex Tips for Guys." While suggesting that many gay men could afford to learn more about sexual techniques, Nelson takes an opportunity to write about some of his

own personal pet peeves—some of which are justified, some of which are according to personal taste. For instance, he suggests that gay men need to learn how to buy quality condoms and have an assortment of them on hand in the bedroom. This is probably true, considering that many gay men think a condom is a condom and readily use the freebies they receive at the clinic. On the other hand, Nelson urges men participating in oral sex to shave beforehand, reminding them that a five o'clock shadow has the consistency of sandpaper. Considering the number of gay men with mustaches, beards, and the now-popular goatee, something must be said for men who enjoy a little facial hair between their legs.

Nelson has many other suggestions on the do's and don'ts of oral sex as well as a detailed description that could best be described as Anal Sex 101. And, as if anyone in this day and age didn't know (although we all know someone who needs to be reminded), the author outlines activities that are believed to be utterly safe, those that are believed to be probably safe, and those that are believed to be unsafe.

Settling Down

While primarily informing readers about dating men (pick-up tactics, tips for dating, meeting the "family", etc.) and the accompanying troubles (codependency, personality differences, dumping the bum, etc.), Nelson does dedicate ample space to discussing strategies for keeping a budding relationship together with the hopes of settling down once you've found Mr. Right. Insecurity, feelings of love vs. lust, male competitiveness, second thoughts, fidelity, jealousy, and more are all topics Nelson touches on. Certainly one difficulty to overcome during the serious-dating phase of a relationship is whether or not to live together.

"Living with someone is an intense thing, you have a lot of your personal stuff thrown in your face," says Nelson. "It's a lot easier in certain ways to not live with someone—you don't have to take them into account, you don't have to worry about what they think about something, you can pick your nose anytime you want."

"In fact, I wish I had written more about singlehood being underrated and couplehood being overrated in America," he continues. "I really do think you should be happy being single before you start thinking about living with somebody. If you're looking to live with someone to fill up some empty part of yourself, you're guaranteed disaster."

Underlying many passages throughout the book are the issues of self-esteem and

self-image, which Nelson believes has much to do with the internalized homophobia that we all have. He likens all of us to frightened deer, who don't feel strong and don't feel in control; therefore, undermining our efforts at meeting, dating, and being intimate with another man. While he believes that internalized homophobia about sex is waning, Nelson hopes that in the future we can overcome our internalized homophobia about love. As for self-image, he finds it extremely common for gay men, even the most physically beautiful of gay men, to be unhappy with their looks.

"The entire body question in gay life today is that you should look like a Tom of Finland drawing," he says. "If you have the perfect set of abdominals, you'll then start thinking about the fact that you're not hung, or if you have a perfect bubble butt, you'll then start thinking about the fact that you have a bald spot. It's never ending."

And, it doesn't stop with gay men's obsession with body image. In general (yes, I'm talking stereotypes), single gay men are continually looking for the perfect man, and coupled gay men are wondering if they made the right decision. Our collective gay identity is quickly approaching 30 years old, so hopefully our knowledge will reflect our maturity—maybe in the future we won't have as much trouble playing the gay dating game.

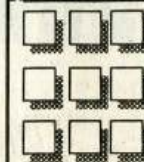
Finding True Love in a Man-Eat-Man World: The Intelligent Guide to Gay Dating, Romance, and Eternal Love by Craig Nelson was recently published by Dell Publishing. The 298-page book (ISBN #0-440-50689-1) retails for \$12.95.

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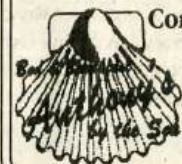
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What Is Sex?

SEX IS: POWER, ROMANCE, CONTROL, SECRETIVE, ESCAPE, ATTACK, MANIPULATION, VALIDATING, INTIMATE, RELEASE, COMMUNICATION, SUICIDE, BEAUTIFUL, ABUSIVE, PUNISHMENT, EXCITING, COERCION, LOVE, DANGEROUS, DIRTY, FUN, SHAMEFUL, STIMULATING.

Sex, like just about anything else in and of this world, is meaningless. What brings meaning to it is the culmination of one's life experiences. Based on the messages we receive throughout our lives, a perception is created in our minds about our sexual selves, as well as our future sexual relationships. Behavioral manifestations then result, which are extensions of our personal and unique sexual script.

In general, sex can be expressed in two ways. It can manifest as an extension of love, thus the term "lovemaking," or it can be expressed as an extension of fear, or "hate-making." The manifestations of lovemaking lead to increased intimacy and connection, while sex expressed as an extension of fear generally results in separation.

While growing up, all of us received many overt and covert sexual messages. In an ideal situation, those messages would have been of a positive nature. Our parents would have affirmed and normalized our sexual energies, including our interest in masturbation, same-sex interests, as well as our developing bodies. Our teachers would likewise have been able to, and encouraged to, assist and counsel us in a similar manner without fear of reprimand. In these ideal situations children would be able to ask questions and feel safe to come forward in sexually confusing situations. They would be encouraged to speak out if being sexually violated or were curious about their sexual development or differences. Unfortunately, however, we likely received messages which judged sex and sexuality harshly. Because of our attitudes regarding sex, the cultural shame is passed on from generation to generation.

In most families, sex is rarely talked about. If

discussed at all, it is likely done so with an air of avoidance or judgment about it, or simply discussed superficially. A child's questions are often met with parental discomfort, embarrassment, or shame. Typical reactions like "You're too young to be asking that" or "You shouldn't be thinking those things" relay to children that the topic is forbidden to be discussed. Sexual thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are likely to be either discounted or reprimanded. This generally leads to a belief that in some way sex is bad, dirty, or wrong, and that it should be kept secret. This parental discomfort is likely due to their own internalized messages about sex.

Overt and covert childhood sexual abuse contribute to distorted messages pertaining to sex being introjected into a child's belief system. Children who are sexually abused introject unhealthy messages about sex and generally carry guilt, blame, shame, and hatred, often blaming themselves for the abuse. They often grow up to believe that their self-worth is based on sexual performance or that they are undeserving of loving sexual relationships. Many also deny their sexual needs in an attempt to escape the memory of abuse or become sexually "promiscuous" in an attempt to feel needed and wanted.

In addition to all of the negative mainstream messages which are delivered, lesbian and gay children receive negative messages from home, school, media, and church about homosexuality. These messages generally contribute at some level to a core belief of inferiority and sexual deficiency. Needing to survive in a heterosexist society, homosexual children generally keep their secret well-hidden until their sexual coming-out process begins. All of these messages from parents, family, church, and society as a whole contribute to an unhealthy distortion as to the meaning of sex.

The cultural denial of men to be both sexually and emotionally intimate often leads to men (and especially gay men) separating sex from intimacy. There is often a great deal of difficulty in associating the two in intimate love relationships. There are few situations where men are presented with role models which depict two men in a

healthy (emotional and sexual) relationship. In an attempt to reconcile the struggle, gay men often separate the two by having intimate friendships separated from sexual partners. Women on the other hand might connect the two (sex and intimacy) too closely, finding themselves wanting to be sexual with other women to whom they are emotionally close. These are generalizations, however, and certainly not applicable to all same-sex relationships. Actually, they are very creative ways to access the emotional and sexual parts of the self while living in a heterosexist, homophobic, and sexist culture.

In addition to the overt messages we all received, most of us likely witnessed sex being

used for things that it was not intended. Messages which reinforced the use of sex as a means of power, control, or escape were introjected into our psyche and subsequently became part of our sexual script. These behaviors were a manifestation of the messages our parents and grandparents received and then passed on to us.

Most of us haven't seen how sex and physical loving is used as an extension of love. Very few of us witnessed our parents, grandparents, or other adults exhibiting appropriate sexual and emotional behaviors. More often we have witnessed sex being used as an extension of fear. The use of sex as a means of power, control, escape, and manipulation was likely a stronger message projected by the media, our families, or our culture.

The media, for instance, uses sex to sell products. Movies show how sex can be used for personal and professional gain. The media, however, is only repeating what most of us have been taught by the generation before us—*Sex is power!* and *Sex sells!* How many times have we heard language like, "If you do this for me, I'll give you a little tonight," or witnessed the withholding of sex as a form of punishment? In any relationship where there is a power imbalance, sex is a likely tool to be used to balance the system. Historically, in our culture, men have had the financial upper hand in relationships. With this misuse of financial power, it is not surprising that women have adapted and called upon their sexual power to establish a sense of equality. The conscious or unconscious use of sex as power is not uncommon in any relationship. The "I'll give you some" (giving) or "I've got a headache" (withholding) are common power plays in relationships. This form of manipulation is not uncommon in relationships. This dynamic plays out in opposite-sex as well as same-sex relationships. Gender or sexual orientation is not the issue here, but rather the perception of power. If there is perceived powerlessness within the relationship or situation, one person is likely to secure the sexual power.

Adults whose sense of self has been harmed rather than nurtured might use sex in some very creative ways. As indicated above, people who perceive themselves as powerless might learn that sex is a great way to feel temporarily powerful. In addition, those who perceive themselves with little to offer (again perceived powerlessness) might use sex to validate their existence. People

who have for any reason developed with a diminished sense of self may receive a sense of worth through sexual behavior. They may have been told that they were a great sexual partner or that they have beautifully developed bodies. Validation like this can have a great impact on children or adults who perceive themselves as worthless, reinforcing sexual behaviors. Knowing this at an unconscious level, many people use sex to give them a temporary sense of worth. A positive sexual encounter may offer a temporary solution to an underlying perception of inadequacy or worthlessness. Some may in fact even sell their body, seeing it as a source of value and validation.

Escape is also a common use of sexual energy. Many people use sex to avoid more unpleasant emotions. They then become sexual to escape feelings of boredom, sadness, anger, fear, or grief. Sex, especially sex with new people or in dangerous situations (public places, affairs), causes the body to secrete

chemicals such as adrenaline which puts the body in a temporary altered state. At these times, there is often a temporary relief from more "unpleasant" emotions. Through conditioning, people might learn that sexual acting out is a way to escape feelings of loneliness, boredom, or anger.

Sex might also be used as a form of self-abuse. An extreme form of abuse and escape in the age of AIDS is the practice of unsafe sex a form of passive suicide. There have been reports of HIV-negative people intentionally having unprotected sex in a conscious attempt to die. Others have stated that their guilt about being HIV negative was so great that it was easier to sero-convert. In doing so, they rid themselves of guilt and can also connect to the HIV-positive community.

It is not surprising then that this thing we call sex is so confusing. On one hand, we are told by our parents, teachers, churches, and culture that sex should be an extension and expression of love. On the other, we witness how sex is used to kill, manipulate, coerce, and control. We are also told that this expression of love is also shameful, dirty, and embarrassing. As lesbian and gay people, we are also told that our physical expression of love will result in eternal damnation. These double messages and double binds exist ev-

Continued on next page

The cultural denial of men to be both sexually and emotionally intimate often leads to men (and especially gay men) separating sex from intimacy.



by Patrick Vachon

OutSmart Salutes BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The following festivities are scheduled throughout Texas in honor of Black History Month. February 15-19, 1996: National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference in Dallas. February 25 at 5:30 pm: African American Gay Lesbian Association (AAGLA) Meeting at Bering Methodist Church, 1410 Harold. February 29, 7 pm: Rap Session: Black Gay and Lesbian History at Montrose Library.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It's our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves: 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be—you are a child of God."

"Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some; it is in everyone, and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

"As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

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Sex Is...

Continued from previous page

everywhere in our culture. Many, if not all, people then take their perception of sex and keep it in their own sexual closet, reinforcing the shame cycle.

The effects of unhealthy sexual conditioning can be seen everywhere in our culture. Like anything else, there needs to be attention paid to the underlying cause. As long as lesbian and gay people are viewed as inferior, ill, and unnatural, the culture will continue to nurture the cycle of shame which manifests in sexual misuse. The healing therefore must take place on many levels.

There must be individual, social, political, and spiritual shifts as to the meaning of sex and sexuality. A shift away from the current shame base will eventually be passed on to future generations. Cultural shifts, however, begin with the individual. The misperception of sex and sexuality must be shifted internally. Since the shame-based messages have been placed in each one of us, we must challenge them and allow for internal shifts of perception to occur. We must take an honest look at how much we might buy into the shame and then give up the old, outdated perceptions. We can do this in ways such as coming out or in other ways which affirm our sexuality and our sexual selves. This shift will then ripple outward to our families, neighborhoods, cities, and eventually the world. Remember that all manifestations in this world begin with a thought. Sex is a neutral thought that has become scarred by our culture. It can just as easily be reversed to become the expression and communication of love. Sex is love!

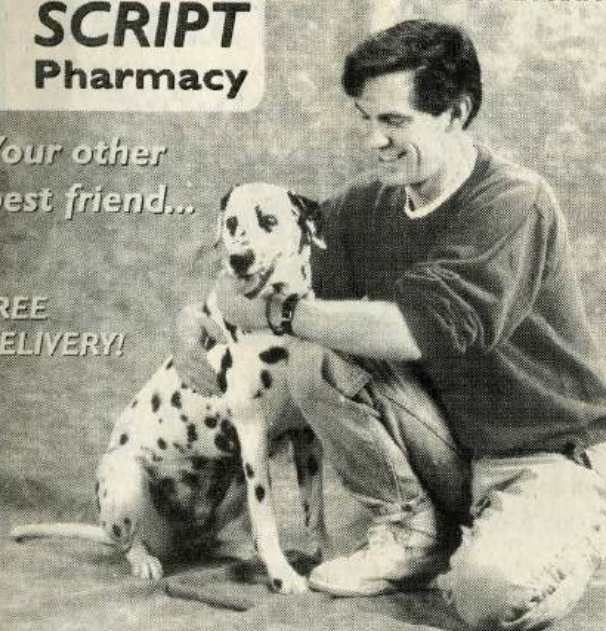
Patrick J. Vachon is a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and Advanced Clinical Practitioner (ACP) in private practice at the New Counseling Center in Houston. He is also a Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist and workshop presenter.

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MARGARET CHO



(Front row, l-r) Olivia Newton-John, Margaret Cho, Paul Regine; (middle row) Joel Polis, Marlee Matlin, Eric Roberts, Lee Grant; (back row) George Segal, Gregory Harrison, Bronson Pinchot, and Dimitra Arlys star as family and friends of Nick Stark (Roberts), who reunite for a two-day farewell party for Nick, who is about to lose his battle with AIDS in *It's My Party*.

Party Girl

People always think that I'm a lesbian. If the definition of gay is whether or not you've had sex with the same sex, then I would be not."

That said, comedian Margaret Cho nonetheless possesses that Garland/Midler/Morrisette thing that makes her an adoptee of highly loyal and demanding gay and lesbian audiences.

"I have a great gay and lesbian following," Cho admitted while visiting Houston recently. "That's not something you do on purpose; it just sort of happens."

Regardless of orientation, she comes by her familiarity with our neighborhood honestly. "I'm from San Francisco. My parents owned a bookstore which catered to, basically, theater queens. We had a lot of books on Helmut Newton photography and Kandinski—all kinds of art books and dance books and theater books—so it attracted this particular clientele. Also, my dad hired theater queens, because they

were the only people who knew how to sell the books. I was kind of put under their care."

That explains her dust-dry wit and surgical timing, a style more often delivered by someone much taller, with a wig and a tuck. "Some people are raised by wolves. I was raised by theater queens." One can almost hear a certain pride as she concludes, "I'm just a big drag queen."

Having started her career approximately a decade ago as a road comic, Cho was among the plethora of standups who found themselves with their own network sitcoms in the early 90s. ABC's *All American Girl* ran for one season, got better numbers than *Melrose Place*, and was canceled. That's show biz.

"I don't know if I'll be going back to television," she predicts more matter-of-factly than bitterly. "I entered it thinking that the art was the most important thing—to create something with reso-

by Nancy Ford

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nance." That's the theater queen in her talking. "I entered it thinking it was all about the art, and it's not. It's all about advertisers."

Not that the cancellation left Cho with an inordinate amount of spare time on her hands. When we spoke, she had just finished shooting *It's My Party*, with Eric Roberts and Olivia Newton-John, opening at the Greenway 3 in early February.

"I have a great gay and lesbian following," Cho admitted while visiting Houston recently. "That's not something you do on purpose; it just sort of happens."

loose ends, but at the same time she has to deal with the fact that she's losing her best friend."

Great. Half the people I know are suffering from post-holiday depression, and the other half are too busy executing a will to see "another AIDS movie." But she assures *It's My Party* is no downer. "It's sort of a different take on AIDS than we've seen in the cinema," she insists. "It's not like your *Philadelphia* or your *Longtime Companion*. It's not a tragedy. It's more like...an action film."

An AIDS action film. Okay. Though unavailable for preview, favorable second-party descriptions of *It's My Party* hint that it's rife with the dishy flavor that Cho is quite adept at serving.

But will it have resonance? We wouldn't be one bit surprised.

"It's a drama about a man who is dying of AIDS. It's based on a true story. He's really far along; he's very near death. But before, he has a huge party that lasts an entire weekend, and he invites all of his friends and family."

Cho describes her role in *It's My Party* with the sensitivity of one who is familiar with this particular neighborhood, too. "It was an incredibly moving experience, especially when you bring to it your own experience—which we all had—with the disease. I play his best fag hag girlfriend who has to be the caretaker and make sure he ties up all the

This month,
OutSmart celebrates its
second year as Houston's
gay and lesbian monthly
magazine.

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Yet, it doesn't seem fair. You've been reading *OutSmart* for two years now, learning more and more about Houston's gay and lesbian community. But we know so little about you *personally*.

Got a minute? Help us celebrate our "Terrific Twos." Complete this survey on the following two pages, answer honestly (your first response is always the best), detach, and mail or fax it back to us before April 15, 1996.

Your responses will help us continue to serve and provide our ever-expanding *OutSmart* family with the information you want and need.

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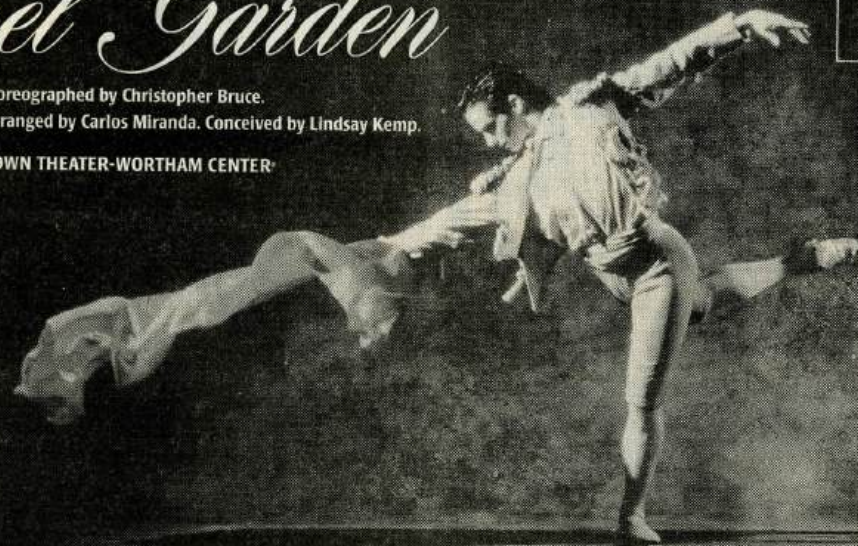


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OutSmart Survey

This month, *OutSmart* magazine begins its third year of publication. And we sure would like to know you better.

Please take the time to complete this survey. Unlike the IRS, we haven't calculated the "time required to complete this form," but hey, how about a few nifty incentives? First, if you choose to give us identifying information, respondents to the first 50 surveys received here at our beautiful downtown Montrose office will receive a year's free subscription to *OutSmart* magazine. Yes, you'll no longer have to fight the crowds at Kroger on delivery day; just wait cozily in your own little home for our arrival. Or, if you're already on our out-of-town subscription list, just think of the fling you can have with that extra 16 bucks!

Also, all respondents who supply identifying informa-

tion will be eligible to win two box-seat tickets to the **Virginia Slims Legends Tennis Tournament**, May 18 and 19, 1996, at the Westside Tennis Club or two tickets to the very popular Meet the Players Party. Complete this survey today—who knows the next time you might have the opportunity to actually rub tennis elbows with Martina Navratilova, Billie Jean King, and Virginia Wade?

Finally, here's the real kicker: your opinions and the feedback from this survey ARE important to us. By completing and returning the survey, YOU provide us with valuable input as we plan our future issues. As a community publication, we want to know the community and what you'd like to see in the coming issues of *OutSmart*. Thanks, and happy ☑ing!

Identifying Information (*optional- You may of course respond anonymously, but what about those prizes?)

*Your Name _____
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1. OF THE LAST 12 ISSUES OF *OUTSMART*, I HAVE READ [check one]:

- ☐ 1-3 ☐ 4-6 ☐ 6-9
☐ 9-11 ☐ All of them

2. I ALSO READ [check all that apply]:

- ☐ Houston Voice ☐ Houston Press
☐ Texas Triangle ☐ This Week in Texas
☐ OUT ☐ POZ
☐ Houston Chronicle ☐ NY Times
☐ The Advocate ☐ USA Today
☐ Genre ☐ Ten Percent
☐ Other _____

3. I GET MY COPY OF *OUTSMART* THROUGH [check one]:

- ☐ Subscription
☐ Friend or relative
☐ Business associate, doctor, or lawyer's office
☐ Distribution stop in my neighborhood
[please specify location] _____

4. HOW DO YOU READ *OUTSMART*?

- ☐ Right away (entire issue)
☐ When I have time (entire issue)
☐ Bits and pieces
☐ Only specific sections (name) _____

5. WHEN I FINISH READING MY ISSUE OF *OUTSMART*, I [check all that apply]:

- ☐ Save the entire issue
☐ Clip or copy articles to save
☐ Share it with a friend/relative
☐ Discard it
☐ Recycle it

6. HOW MANY OTHERS READ YOUR ISSUE OF *OUTSMART*?

- ☐ 1 person ☐ 2 persons
☐ 3 persons ☐ 4 persons
☐ Don't share my copy with anyone

7. AS A RESULT OF READING *OUTSMART*, I HAVE [check all that apply]:

- ☐ Talked about an article that I've read
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☐ Used a service or product of a business advertising in *OutSmart*
☐ Recommended an advertiser to my friends/family

8. HOW MANY TIMES IN THE LAST MONTH HAVE YOU USED A PARTICULAR BUSINESS OR SERVICE ADVERTISED IN *OUTSMART*?

- ☐ 1-3 ☐ 4-5
☐ 6+ ☐ Not at all

9. WHICH CREDIT CARDS DO YOU HAVE?

- ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa
☐ Discover ☐ American Express
☐ Gas Card ☐ Dept. Store
☐ None

10. GROSS HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1995 [check one]:

- ☐ under \$10,000 ☐ \$10,000-\$19,999
☐ \$20,000-\$29,999 ☐ \$30,000-\$39,999
☐ \$40,000-\$49,999 ☐ \$50,000-\$59,999
☐ \$60,000-\$74,999 ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
☐ \$100,000-\$149,999 ☐ \$150,000+

11. EMPLOYMENT STATUS [check all that apply]:

- ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time
☐ Disability ☐ Unemployed
☐ Full-time student ☐ Retired

12. WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO? [check one]

- ☐ Professional or Technical
☐ Executive/Manager/Administrator
☐ Sales/Marketing
☐ Clerical
☐ Self-employed/Business Owner
☐ Home/Child Care
☐ Student
☐ Other _____

13. THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED [check one]:

- ☐ Some High School ☐ High School Graduate
☐ Associate's Degree ☐ Technical School
☐ Some College ☐ College Graduate
☐ Post-Graduate Study ☐ Post-Graduate Degree

14. GENDER

- ☐ Male ☐ Female

15. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many _____

16. RELATIONSHIP STATUS:

- ☐ Single ☐ Divorced
☐ Committed relationship (not married)
☐ Legally married ☐ Widowed

17. I IDENTIFY MYSELF AS A [check one]:

- ☐ Gay man ☐ Gay female
☐ Lesbian ☐ Bisexual male
☐ Bisexual female ☐ Hetero/male
☐ Hetero/female ☐ Transgender/male
☐ Transgender/female ☐ Do not wish to identify

18. MY AGE IS [check one]:

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-29
☐ 30-34 ☐ 35-39 ☐ 40-44
☐ 45-49 ☐ 50-54 ☐ 55-59
☐ 60-64 ☐ 65+

19. RACE [check one]:

- ☐ African American ☐ Asian
☐ Native American ☐ Hispanic
☐ White ☐ Other _____

20. DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AS "OUT"?

- ☐ Yes, definitely ☐ Definitely not
☐ Somewhat ☐ Straight, but not narrow.

21. DO YOU HAVE AN ON-LINE COMPUTER SERVICE ACCOUNT? EXAMPLE AMERICA ON-LINE, INTERNET, ETC.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which one _____

22. MAY WE CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS SURVEY?

- ☐ Yes ☐ Yes, only if I win a prize
☐ No ☐ Hell, No!

23. HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS? IF SO, HOW OFTEN?

	2 +MORE TIMES A WEEK	ONCE A WEEK	2-3 A MONTH	ONCE A MONTH	LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH
Dine at restaurant	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attend live performances	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
See a movie at a theater	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rent videos	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Watch television	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work out at home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Work out at a gym	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Go to a bar/nightclub	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attend religious service	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Jog/run/skate/bike	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Attend a charitable benefit	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Perform volunteer activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

24. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF *OUTSMART*?

	LIKE VERY MUCH	LIKE SOME- WHAT	DO NOT LIKE	NO OPINION
Look/Design	☐	☐	☐	☐
Features	☐	☐	☐	☐
Columnists	☐	☐	☐	☐
Legal Advice	☐	☐	☐	☐
Financial News	☐	☐	☐	☐
Celebrity Interviews	☐	☐	☐	☐
Opinion Pieces	☐	☐	☐	☐
HIV/AIDS Coverage	☐	☐	☐	☐
Travel	☐	☐	☐	☐
Humor	☐	☐	☐	☐
Calendar	☐	☐	☐	☐
Reviews	☐	☐	☐	☐
Local News Coverage	☐	☐	☐	☐
National News Coverage	☐	☐	☐	☐

25. MY FAVORITE PART[S] OF *OUTSMART* IS:

[specify] _____

26. MY LEAST FAVORITE PART[S] OF *OUTSMART* IS:

[specify] _____

27. TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN *OUTSMART*:

Feel free to add any additional comments. We value your opinions. Thank you!

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little boy blue

An Interview With
Adult Video Star Tom Steele

—by Steven Foster—

Photography by Theresa DiMenno

Just as the heterosexual community is often, and unjustly, reduced to being labeled as "breeders" by some in the gay community, conversely, the gay community is even more often defined by mere sexual activity. When challenged, we say that it's a matter of individual choice. Or consensual activity between adults. Or freedom of expression. Yet, it is often the gay and lesbian erotic entertainment industry—constant fodder for our political opponents—that has become one of our worst enemies.

To avoid being buried as a community by stereotypes, it is necessary that we try to understand them. In *OutSmart's* first sex issue, Steven Foster talks to adult video star Tom Steele about the cash and conscience of gay porn and its impact on the life of one young man.

A few short years ago, Tom Steele was one of gay porn's biggest stars. But after a mere four-year rise to fame and naked glory, he left the industry. In a frank conversation, *OutSmart* asks Steele how and why he began his career, why he stopped, and what's the business really about—are blue movies gay erotica or porno for pyros?

"You wanna see something *bbhottttt*?" asks porn impresario Chi-Chi LaRue, practically spitting on a near capacity crowd.

One of the industry's most successful—and richest—producers, LaRue, most often seen in drag as he is this night, works the crowd with sexually suggestive taunts. Stalking the capacity crowd of the club with his immense, glitter-smothered frame, this dragmeister gestures wildly with pudgy fingers and fleshy arms. His face is a contortion of white pancake and blood-red rouge and lipstick. Gigantic black mane apparently solely responsible for the Antarctic hole in the ozone layer, LaRue looks like a pre-constructive surgery Roseanne possessed by Satan and an overzealous makeup artist. His appearance is even more puzzling when you consider this is a man who has made his fortune finding, recruiting, grooming, and packaging gorgeous young men for his pornographic films.

The mostly male, mixed-age crowd goes wild, treated to the shining gladiator-garbed Marco Rossi or decadent leatherboy William Katt, the two adult video stars appearing for the crowd's visual entertainment. While the two beefy, buffed, shaved concoctions of retrograde male fantasies strut to life on the stage, LaRue gets down to the real business of the evening—that for just five dollars! you can touch the crevasse of a porn star. And, after seeing the young boy do a rather energetic series of push-ups and Rossi climaxing bottled water over his chest, many reach out their less-than-perfect arms, pale fists clutching crumpled green fives that will quickly and efficiently be snatched out of their sweaty, still-wanting palms.

These (hardly) erotic exhibitions, complete with photo ops (yes, you too can have your picture taken with a porn star!), politely termed "public appearances," are all part of the porno promo machine, and everyone treats it as normal. Still, you get the feeling Colin Powell did not dress up in cropped military gear and gyrate on the counter of Barnes & Noble during his last publicity tour.

The little plastic serving tray is set down with a pleasant *click* and, immediately, Tom Steele examines the once-hip Japanese re-

sponse to the burrito.

"Is this scallops?" he asks suspiciously, yet politely.

Frantically, the waitress begins searching her ticket, pointing, justifying, accusing him of, yes, ordering the yamagucci.

"That's okay! That's okay! I like it! It's fine," Steele says quietly, hushing her panic. Satisfied, she is on her way. He is unfailing in his genteel manner, a kind of ersatz country boy polite.

Steele's face looks out onto Japon's sea of people busily swallowing their raw lunches—life in the food chain. Delicate LA Eyewear frames his large face. Study it just a moment and it's easy to see the strong Cherokee lineage from which he descends. Deeply set and heavily lidded eyes encase strong green pools that are clear and bright and animal-wild. His large, strong nose forms a solid profile, complementing long, drawn cheeks and massive jawline. His lips, full and pink against his dark complexion, barely open when he speaks, but part freely when laughing, which he does often, mostly at himself. The laugh emitted is a kind of aw-gosh-shucks, guilty schoolboy *hub-hub*. He's a compact, perfectly proportioned 5'8", and

He will talk about sexual mechanics on the set, then grin with glee over being happily married for nearly five years.

he moves his body with such small, little, hunched-shoulder movements, it's hard to imagine what he once did for a living. But what a living it was, making over \$60,000 and only working five or six months out of the year.

When Tom Steele first entered the world of adult videos, it was at the crest of the first gay wave. Almost overnight, it was no longer the 18 mm silent film with bad '70s music and ridiculously exaggerated overdubbed grunts and groans. No, somewhere between the devil and the deep blue movie sea, gay porn became something akin to an MTV video extravaganza with entire scenarios, elaborately staged fantasies, and highly complex sexcapades shot on high Beta, complete with sound, script (if not always a cogent plot), and Madison Avenue-caliber slick packaging. As homosexuality and homo-causes demanded the national spotlight, gay porn crept out of the darkness and into the light as well. Blue movies, as they were called eons ago, were now respectably commanding equal shelf space beside straight porn and, in some cases, replacing them. There

was an insatiable hunger that growled so loudly it demanded feeding. And there was a willing grocer ready to turn that tasty market into a billion-dollar industry cranking out as many as 800 videos in a single year. To make it up-close and personal, this industry began to make stars, icons you could fall in love with and hold on to. Secret celebrities to the outside world, yes, but to the gay kingdom, their names were as recognizable as any Hollywood hero. Sure, let them have their Stallone, their Schwarzenegger, their Stone, and their Cruise. We'd steal their monikers (Derek Stone, Jason Cruise) and make up our own (Jeff Stryker, Storm, and Tom Steele).

But for all these stars that were born, there were also stars of the falling variety, shot from the midnight sky of the indigo videotape by paid sex, prostitution, money, drugs, desire, and dismay. Burned-out, used-up, AIDS-ravaged, overdosed bodies, both dead and barely alive, litter porn's glitter trail.

Steele briefly details an upcoming personal appearance in Chicago with more than a little fatigue. "They've got this leather bar downstairs, but you have to walk through this bathhouse to get to the theater, so they're gonna be people walking around in towels. They can't touch you or anything like that. They're pretty strict in Chicago.

"You can be arrested."

It's not surprising to hear Steele be more than a little aware of the statutes of the law. But this preoccupation with legality is not so much to do with porn, pot (he likes his pot), or even paranoia, but history.

"We lived in St. Louis," explains Steele between bites. "My mother and father weren't living together. He wanted to get back together, so he brought us to Houston, came to the Fifth Ward, left the next day, and we never saw him again. I think I was younger than 14. Was I angry? He'd done it before, so I was used to it."

After the exit of one father, Steele's mother was saddled with raising Steele and his two brothers and sister alone in a neighborhood that was both physical and spiritual miles away from anything even resembling a sushi bar. For the future little boy blue, life at that time was startlingly black and white.

"I got my ass kicked a lot. And I kicked a lot of ass when I first got there. It was an all-black area and here's this skinny little white boy. They're always picking on you, so you had to learn to fight. Or you pick up something like a knife and stab somebody."

Steele's hands hold the tiny china cup of green tea. Up the smooth flesh of his forearm is a crude tattoo, the outline of a heart with an

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O U T ▼ S M A R T

Little Boy Blue

Continued from page 47

arrow curling around and through it like a snake. Unlike his brothers, with their constant daily dead-man-walking-door-slam reminder (they are both incarcerated; one for petty theft, the other for statutory rape), the tattoo is the only remains of the fruits from his youthful, minor league criminal labor.

"I stabbed somebody in junior high. A football player. I was a little guy. His girlfriend liked me. It wasn't my fault, it wasn't my problem, but he said he was gonna kick my ass after school. So I went by home ec. and got me a knife. He was in the hallway and he's coming at me and I stuck it in his leg, *wham!*, and took off running."

He laughs. *Hub-bub.*

"He didn't play football that season."

Interestingly, Steele has portrayed a football player in at least three films.

Hub-bub.

▲▼▲

Strangely, he does this.

He will mention his younger brother's jail term, then nonchalantly add, "He's gay, too." He will mention his mother's ill health, then joke about her needing insurance so he can bury her.

He will move in small gestures, yet live in millions of television screens in blatant exhibitionism. He will seem so shy and almost childlike, yet throw in a mischievous sexual confession. He will goof off in a photo shoot and tease the photographer's cat, but glare at the camera like he was scolding a lover.

He will talk about sexual mechanics on the set, then grin with glee over being happily married for nearly five years.

—OVERHEARD CONVERSATIONS—

"I do not share under any circumstances," states the lovely 40-year-old media rep with clear white skin. "I don't care what their sexual orientation is. I don't care what mine is. I don't share. I think love is very special. I don't think it comes along very often in a lifetime. I think it is something to be cherished."

"That's selfish," whips her African-American bisexual friend before summing up what she feels is the real reason for her friend's view: "She's heterosexual."

"Never. I don't watch porn," says the 34-year-old equestrian. "My brother has a couple. If my lover was in the business, I may be jealous, but I wouldn't ask him to quit."

"It's a good aphrodisiac," says another

His home is just how you imagine someone who grew up stabbing football players in the Fifth Ward and then came into money might decorate it—Gallery furniture with a sparkle of gay class. After a brief tour which involves meeting the cats (they have their own bathroom), Steele drops down onto the TV room's comfortable sofa and sparks up a joint that would do Bob Marley proud.

"I was working in a tire shop at the time," Steele reminisces about his entry into the business. "This guy came in to get his tire fixed—or something like that—and he came back the second time and wanted to go out and all that—tried to pick me up. We started being friends and, then, well, became more than friends, I guess."

A year later, they moved in together and, after that relationship disbanded, Steele left, moving to Galveston.

"I started going to Garbo's, and they asked me if I wanted to dance there. Six months went by and they asked if I wanted to do videos and I said, no, I didn't think so, and then a year went by. I was dating somebody, but he didn't promise me anything, and I told the guy, sure, I'd get in videos."

"I'm not sure if it was a good move or a bad move," Steele exhales a heady stream of smoke. "But it ended all right."

But in the beginning, it wasn't all right. In fact, to Steele, it was awful.

"*Powerline* was my first film. I made like \$3,000, worked for four days, nine hours a day. I went, *I can't do this. It's not worth it.* To me, it was too much pressure. I called my manager and said, *That's it.*"

The shame of nudity? The moral dilemma? The embarrassment of it all, having all your nakedness and lovemaking tech-

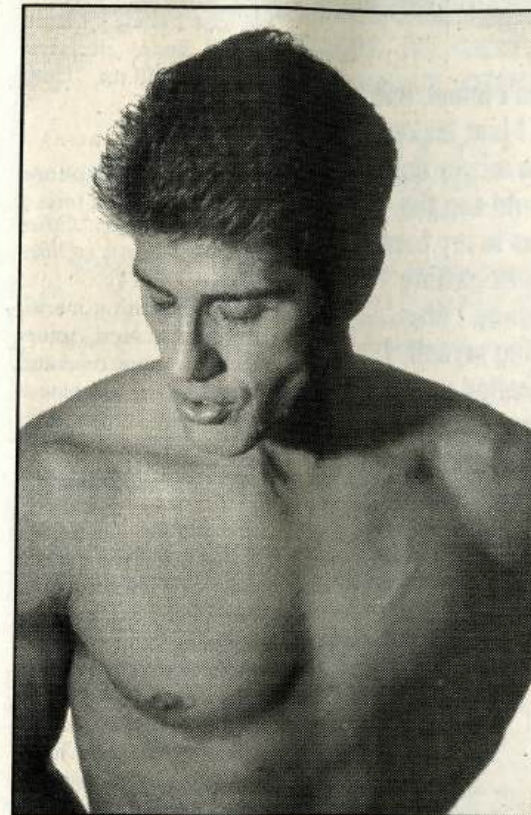
niques out there for all the anonymous world to see?

Nope.

"I didn't mind the work. It was just getting it up all the time and not having sex," sighs Steele. "All you're doing is dialogue—talking all day. In Falcon videos, you hop in bed, you have sex, and they film it. Three hours, the whole thing's finished. But, in *Powerline*, I was supposed to be looking at these guys having sex and I'm looking at a line on the floor."

So, for the most part, filming porno is the sexual equivalent of running from the *Jurassic Park* T-Rex against a blue screen.

But after his manager calmed him



"I didn't know the difference between a lover and me having sex and getting paid for it and doing it on film," Steele admits forcefully. "And I didn't know when to stop partying."

down, Steele finished the shoot, collected his check, and "They all started calling."

He would then go to work for and receive top billing with Catalina and Falcon, two of the most powerful adult film companies in the country. But it wasn't just the film work that earned him the income. It's a common, though unspoken knowledge in the industry that videos are, for lack of a more precise term, mere commercials for men. Sure, it might have started as fine erotic entertainment, but later became

infomercials for marketed meat, like Saturday morning cartoons are now just 30-minute commercials for theme toys.

"They always tell you that's where you make the money," admits Steele about the escorting business. "I was fine with that. The first year, I made \$60,000 escorting and was maybe working six months out of the year."

"Some people think that when you do escorting, you're [beep!] all the time. I'd say 70 percent of the people don't do anything, they just want to see you naked. \$300 an hour or \$2,000 a day for that."

And that's not including the radio network exec who gave Steele \$7,000 for a two-day meeting, then hired him at an even higher rate to baby-sit the man's 21-year-old boyfriend in Germany for two weeks—a job that came with such perks as the limo, keys to the 735 BMW, freewheeling spending account, and, as a thanks-for-playing parting gift, a brand-new Rolex. There's also the parties, the boys, the men, the favors, the gifts, the friends, pseudo-friends, L.A. movers and shakers, digging the dirt on everyone you read about in *People* and the *Inquirer*, and the like. But unlike some, Steele invested his money, saved money, even bought a club in Galveston.

Just like some, Steele invested in other things as well.

"When I got into videos, I didn't drink, I didn't do drugs, nothing," Steele confesses. "After that, you just get into the scene. L.A.'s a big coke city. I didn't get hooked or anything, but I like to party. I'd start at maybe 11:00 am doing X every hour on the hour, doing an eight ball in a couple hours by yourself, having orgies like crazy. This is really what it's like."

Here, the line blurred in more areas than just clean and sober, than just wild and crazy. Green eyes look sadly through smoke and memory.

"I didn't know the difference between a lover and me having sex and getting paid for it and doing it on film," Steele admits forcefully. "And I didn't know when to stop partying."

And I realized I just had to get out of it. I looked in the mirror and I thought, I want to kill myself. It was all of it. Partying, going out, screwing in L.A., starting in the morning doing mushrooms.

"I don't know. One day, I just looked in the mirror and I could see the bones in my face. I was getting skinny. I was killing myself. I called my manager and said, 'Sell everything I have. I want to quit.'"

Steele leans his head back, swirling in reverie. "And he got *pissed*," he laughs, his voice holding no judgment and an amazing

lack of incredulosity over the response to his plea.

"So I sold everything I had and moved to Houston and bought this place."

The last video he made before quitting was called *All The Way*.

Steele was one of the lucky ones.

▲▼▲

"One I enjoyed was *Say Goodbye*," Steele says softly. "That was a good movie. We had a lot of fun in that movie."

One of the landmarks of a new, almost romantic phase of gay porn, there was actually a story behind this flick and, in the movie, Steele and his young on-screen partner expressed their love, doubt, and affection toward each other, complete with lots of footage of the two young men walking on the beach, wrestling, talking, flirting, and the other f-word. Instead of the nasty, scene-setting voiceover describing some gee-what-a-coincidence situation with a coed or repairman, in *Goodbye*, the dialogue is a long love letter of sorts, a kind of rambling self-dialogue about loving *that one guy*. The movie's surprisingly warm tone is a strong reflection on what was going on before and after production shut down between Steele and his co-star, the popular pretty boy of porn, Joey Stefano.

"I met Joey before he went into videos through Michael Gere, another porn star," explains Steele. "We became friends. Every time I went to L.A. we saw each other. He wanted to get more serious in our relationship, but I was like, I can't live here in L.A. Not if you're in videos. They'll burn you out real fast. I think Joey was the one I had the most fun with. It was a lot of laughter, a lot of giggling, it was a lot of fun."

"He's dead now," Steele says flatly.

Stefano's death was one that rocked the porn world. He was their great Italian-white hope. Beautiful, handsome, fun, a "bottom" (passive partners rarely make it to any level of gay fame—anybody want to read into that?), Stefano showed up in such mainstream places as Madonna's *Sex* book. But, like many, Stefano got chewed up in the meat-grinder machine that gay porn is.

"A friend of mine in New York called me and told me he OD'd." In the dim of the entertainment room of his home, the television colors Steele's face in ever-changing hues of smoky gray, ice blue, mournful pink. His green eyes stray from table to ceiling to the window.

"Before he got into videos, he never did drugs, just like me. They all start off and say they won't, but they hang out enough, everybody does."

Stefano wasn't Steele's only affair that didn't end well. And while one could apply an intellectually persuasive chicken-or-the-egg argument to promiscuity vs. porn, there

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O U T ▼ S M A R T

Little Boy Blue

Continued from page 49

are no clear-cut answers anywhere, more like just another standard, albeit more dramatic, treatise on fidelity and trust in gay relationships.

"Since the first guy I was with..." Steele trails off, shaking his head at the memory of betrayal. "I was in love with him. And I came home to him in Galveston and found him in bed with another guy and I just lost everything, totally, no feeling whatsoever, everything totally empty. I just left. All my friends were like, 'You were taken care of!' That's not what I wanted. He realized that, too, when I left. He tried everything. I bought my club in Galveston, and he said, 'Why don't you close this little piece of shit down and move closer to town and I'll buy you the biggest club you want.' And I said, 'That's not what I want.' I'd rather do it myself. I don't want it. Money isn't everything."

Steele looks around the room again.

"They say he was trying to get off the freeway, and he hit those dividers at 90 miles an hour in his Bentley Turbo. I don't know whether he killed himself or not, but it was leaving Galveston after seeing me."

▲▲▲

They've been together over four years. "I still don't know if he believes me or not," says Steele's husband, Benny. "But it wasn't until we were going out after awhile and some of my friends asked me if I knew who he was."

An ex-banker turned cosmetology student, Benny is a charming, conservative, thin Hispanic man with tailored taste in both jewelry and clothing. He takes long drags from his cigarette and rolls his eyes. "I was shocked. I wasn't offended. It was just surprising. I mean, especially for me, I worked for a bank, Mr. Conservative. I hadn't seen any of his films. Then, of course, I wanted to see them all." He laughs, guiltily, but then smiles and shrugs.

"I think I've only seen two. I watched them with him. He went out and got them. He doesn't have any of them, which I thought was strange. We talked about it a lot, and he told me what it took to make one of them and when he told me, it took the thrill out of that."

"We'd been going out together about

six months and he told me he didn't want to do it anymore, he was trying to do something, find something else. He had done one film and after that, he said he would quit. I think he wanted to quit before me, but it happened a lot quicker when we got together. I told him he was going to quit. I don't want to seem like the bad guy. The fact that it was in the past was no big deal to me, but I don't think I could have dealt with it continually, because then it wouldn't have been like a monogamous relationship. Technically, it's not what they do to make the film, but, yes, it's monogamous."

"He hasn't made a film in four years," Benny declares, draining his glass of tea. "Until now."

▲▲▲

"It was supposed to be one movie," says Steele, his tone a kind of defeated anger. "Other Side Of Aspen 3. Not it's Other Side Of Aspen 3 and 4."

In the advertising world, much like the Screen Actors Guild, there are union rules and regulations binding companies who hire talent. If you want union-caliber talent, you have to be a signatory, thus agreeing to all the dictates and demands of the actors' union which, basically, ensures that if you are paid for doing one commercial, video, movie, or whatever, they

cannot use extra footage, tape, or whatever to make another without paying you. Moreover, in the advertising arena, you get paid per cycle. If your voice runs in that radio or your visage in a television commercial more than the 12-week period, *ka-ching! ka-ching!*, you get another check. This is not the way it works for adult videos.

"Whatever they want to do with the footage, they can do it," says Steele. "There's no union in this. I wish there was. I wish I could start one, but they'd kill me. Falcon Video is one of the most powerful companies there is. I don't know how dark it gets. The film companies are the ones making the money. I'm not trying to put anyone down, the models all know what's going on."

And, if you're getting \$5-\$6,000 a scene at the height of your career, as Steele was in his day, you're not going to go screaming through the set about union violations. Especially not on such a lavish shoot like *Aspen*.

Aspen was one of the most popular gay videos ever filmed. Feeling the heat from the now 20-plus video companies (not to men-

Continued on page 79



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There's More to Addiction Than Booze and Pills

ARE YOU ADDICTED TO Sex?

"I never knew what a sex addict was. It wasn't until I checked into one of the local hospitals did I become aware that such a term existed. A horrendous amount of shame and guilt came over me when I received the label 'sex addict.' Up to this point in my life, I thought I was normal. At the hospital, I was placed in their sex-addiction program, which at that time was made up of two people—me and another person. We were grouped together with the alcoholics, drug addicts, overeaters, and suicidal people. People laughed when we said that we were sex addicts and made side remarks like, 'Boy, I wish I had that problem.' I would exchange my addiction for any other type at any time. People seem more willing to come to the aid of people wanting to recover from other addictions, but they shun sex addicts. Society is filled with sex addicts, too many to count. Look at all of the cars parked at the adult bookstores, men's clubs, bathhouses, at night at Memorial Park, and the streets of Lower Westheimer. Most are either engaging or about to engage in some type of sexual activity that could lead them to end up like me. The only difference between them and me, right now, is that I got caught. My addiction took me to offend another human being. I am now a sex offender and a sex addict. I am getting help now and, with the proper treatment, I can control my compulsive sexual behaviors."

This is just one of the many stories from the men in my sexual addiction program. Unfortunately, there are many more. Addiction is a human experience. Any activity that influences and shifts our conscious thinking holds addictive potential. Drugs and alcohol influence experience and, consequently, these substances are highly correlated with addiction. Additionally, sexual behaviors, gambling, spending money, shopping, excessive exercise, and food are all activities or substances that may influence subjective experience. By definition then, any pathological relationship with any mood-altering substance, thing, or activity that, despite adverse consequences, is continued is considered an addictive behavior. The addict's relationship with a mood-altering experience then becomes central to his or her life.

Who are sex addicts, and what are they hoping to find or escape through their sexual behavior? Sex addicts are both gay and straight, male and female, and sex addiction cuts across ethnic and economic lines. They are people who, desperately afraid of any truly intimate relationship, repeatedly and compulsively try to connect with others through highly impersonal, non-intimate behaviors—masturbation, empty affairs, anonymous sex, frequent visits to prostitutes, voyeurism, exhibitionism, indulging in fantasies and pornography, visits to bookstores, and cruising parks. Sex addicts become mesmerized with the thrill and rush of adrenaline that they achieve only through their obsessive, highly ritualized patterns of sexual behavior. Some of those who are gay have

repressed their homosexuality; therefore, recognizing and getting help for their sex addiction also means coming to terms with their true sexual orientation.

For sex addicts, the quest to duplicate sexual euphoria becomes an obsession. Often neglecting and sacrificing their jobs, family, friends, and personal well-being, sex addicts are in search of that sexual high, again and again. Sex provides a quick mood change, it is a reliable escape from the stresses of their lives, and it is used to mask pain. Eventually, sex addicts become powerless over the addiction, going out of control as the compulsion takes control. Even harmful consequences cannot deter sex addicts' compulsion to repeat the act and find temporary relief. Sex addicts become powerless to change, often wanting to change and knowing that they have to change, but reaching a point where they cannot do so without some outside help.

Even consequences like the threat of disease, disruption of family life, and public humiliation aren't powerful enough to extinguish the addiction. Like all addictions, sex addiction is progressive, growing worse with time and can eventually even lead to insanity or death. These may seem like harsh words, but the truth is that I have seen many of my patients die from the consequences of this addiction.

Practicing unsafe sex while in the throes of his addictive behavior became a way of life for one of my clients, who we shall call Walter.

Years of frequent affairs with both men and women, numerous visits to adult

Sex addicts become mesmerized with the thrill and rush of adrenaline that they achieve only through their obsessive, highly ritualized patterns of sexual behavior.

by Barbara Levinson

Addiction of Sex

Continued from previous page

bookstores, tanning salons, and bathhouses became a way of life. Coupled with his alcoholic behavior, his addictions became a way for him to numb the pain and suppress his feelings of loneliness and despair. At some point, he contracted HIV. Just recently, Walter died. I had met him after he was arrested for public lewdness and was admitted to the hospital for a suicide attempt. It was during his stay there that he finally realized that he had been a sex addict for most of his life. Some of Walter's behavior patterns included the following:

- He felt ashamed for anyone to know about his sexual activities.
- He would hide these activities from others, such as friends, family, coworkers, etc.
- He lived in fear of his double life—his addictive/compulsive sexual behaviors and his professional life.
- When acting out, he would describe feelings of euphoria while engaging in sexual activity.
- He often violated his ethical standards, principles, and oaths of his profession.
- After acting out, his moods would often shift from euphoria to depression.
- He used sexual activity to either escape, deny, or numb any negative feelings.

- His behaviors interfered and were inconsistent with his spiritual and religious life and practices.
- He would engage in addictive behavior with little regard for place or time.
- He often jeopardized his own safety and health by not taking reasonable precautions or by going to unsafe places to engage in sexual activity.

During his treatment, Walter learned to control his compulsive sexual behaviors, which is often a difficult and arduous task. He began to understand the reasons for his addictive behavior and worked diligently in therapy, utilizing the 12-step program in his recovery process. Walter had also been addicted to drugs and alcohol but remained sober during this whole process. As he progressed, he began to set appropriate boundaries in friendships and relationships with other people. He was able to develop a sense of his own self-worth, and began seeing himself as lovable and attractive. Other people became not just sex objects to be used, but people to be cherished. His shame and guilt about his past abuse began to subside as he broke off relationships with abusive people.

He also took control of his financial life, something that was almost in ruin due to his addictive behavior—he had spent thousands of dollars on pornographic mate-

rials, 900 sex-line numbers, and visits to prostitutes. In order to maintain his physical and emotional well-being, he engaged in healthy activities, and being able to identify his manipulative and intimidating behaviors toward others, he was finally able to participate in a loving, intimate, and committed relationship. During the three years that he was in treatment, he was always insightful, introspective, and sensitive to the needs of others. When he died, he left a legacy that will not be forgotten. His struggle for growth and his connection with his Higher Power eventually brought him to a place of peace. Walter's story is not unique; his commitment to his recovery, however, was.

As Walter once said in a letter, "This war we fight is not all darkness. I am happy, and my heart is full of joy. [As a] real person, I love more than ever before. I have claim on more faith and hope than I could ever imagine. I experience life each and every moment, and I am filled with it. Not perfection, but humanness continues despite the presence of my disease."

Barbara Levinson, Ph.D., RN, LMFT, is the director and founder of the Center for Healthy Sexuality. She is a clinical specialist in psychiatric nursing, has extensive training in individual, family, and marital therapy, and has a specialized program at the center directed toward sex offenders and sex addicts.

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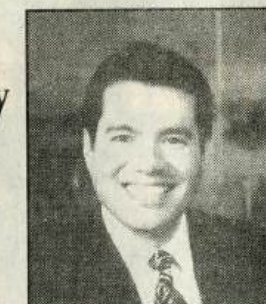
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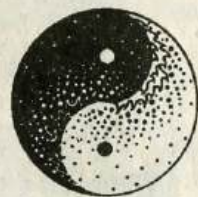
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O U T ▼ S M A R T

THE DATING GAME

Jim Lang never knew how easy he had it. Today, dating means much more than choosing from Bachelor Number One, Two, or Three...

Have you ever been on a date where, halfway through the evening, you realized something about him that just made you have to go to the restroom and laugh? Like the time in college when I went out with a guy on the swim team whom everybody wanted to go out with. He was cute, had a great smile, and a swimmer's body. But as I was sitting across the table from him at dinner, it suddenly occurred to me that he reminded me of a lemur. You know, the cute South American animal with the big sick-out ears, triangular face, and cute soulful eyes? And I thought to myself, "Wait a minute. I can't date a *pet*." So I had to go to the restroom and laugh, because, of course, it would be rude to laugh in your date's face...and hard to explain.

Generally speaking, there are a couple of different approaches to the dating game. There's the focused approach, where you choose one person to ask out—or be asked out by—and you focus your energy and thoughts on that one date. This is sometimes called putting all your eggs in one basket, with credit to Dorothy Parker for the quote. The other approach is the shotgun or scattershot approach when you just load both barrels and let fly. My friends have a word for this dating approach: slut. But dating does not automatically imply sex, and you have to open plenty of Captain Crunch before you find the magic decoder ring that fits you. I often take the shotgun approach myself, which, I realize, tends to make me sound like Barbie at her Malibu Beach House ("If your name is John, this must be Thursday").

Whatever your approach, before you even get to the first date, the critical moment of making the date must occur. There ought to be some simple method for this, along the lines of how I read in the *World Book Encyclopedia* when I was ten that a child is conceived when the man places his penis in the woman's vagina. Simple enough, I thought then. Much more complex, I realized later. Asking for a first date is sort of like that.

Whether you meet in a bar, the gym, a business networking group, or out rollerblading (braking being the greatest problem there), it's always a contest of nerves: Who will ask whom out? Generalized groping is inappropriate and doesn't count, and is especially difficult on the aforementioned rollerblades. As the consummate coward, I usually let the other guy ask me out. Though, of course, engraved name and number cards tend to ease the process. (I jest, of course. They're thermograph.) When he finally pops the

question, the next decision is what to do for the date. Where I live in the South, it's dinner, probably an outgrowth of the Southern hospitality thing—and there you are at lemur city. In the rest of the world, it seems to be coffee, except in California, where it's mineral water or low-fat gourmet yogurt or something.

No matter what your dating style is, that first date is always the "interview date." Sort of like dinner with the Gestapo. But one where you're worried about how you look. There are, of course, a couple of predate coping mechanisms to ease the



by Kevin Isom

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trauma. If your mood is right—and you go to the gym six days a week—you can wear something body-conscious to distract him. The theory is that if his tongue is on the floor all evening, he can't ask too many questions. This usually works. Or if your style is more restrained, you can try the boy-next-door look. Dress like Opie all grown-up, and let him ask the questions, to which you respond enigmatically. Confusion is a strategic advantage, and he'll never suspect your ploy when you look like Andy Griffith is your dad.

Any way you try to defuse it, though, it's still an interview. One where you're trying to keep the lettuce from sticking between your teeth. Inevitably, there is the usual slew of questions. Where are you from? Where did you go to school? Did you empathize with the ice pick-wielding murderer in *Basic Instinct*? The insidious part to the interview date is that you know you have to go through it to get the job, and if only if both of you agree to hire each other. And dating thereafter is like a job, albeit with some unusual perks (kissing, heavy petting, sex, Saturday mornings in bed—you get the idea), fraught with issues and complexities.

For instance, there is the potential issue of incompatible senses of humor. Like the time when I spent Easter in Pennsylvania with my ex-boyfriend. We were at a table of 16 of his closest friends at brunch, when I announced, in a voice like I was holding a cigarette, that we had celebrated Easter in the most appropriate fashion: Early in the morning, we'd both risen. My boyfriend was not amused. One of the reasons, no doubt, that he is now an ex. (Speaking of ex's, when someone who you thought was a prince turns out to be the wicked witch in disguise, do you: (A) cry for a month, (B) ignore it and go on with your life, or (C) put his parents on the P-FLAG mailing list?)

There are even problems of a more, shall we say, personal nature. Like the issue of navel lint. Without getting too detailed, say you're getting hot and heavy, and you notice from your close-up view that your partner's navel has a fuzzy resident. It happens to the best of us, but there's a clear dating etiquette question involved. Do you: (A) ignore it, (B) discreetly remove it and say nothing, or (C) yell, "Navel lint! Get the dustbuster!" I tend to opt for the Electrolux, as in, "Nothing sucks like an Electrolux," my favorite ad campaign when I was living in England.

While we're at it, and along similar lines, who invented colored condoms? More importantly, what were they thinking? Put a yellow one on, and it's like getting boinked by sunshine. A red one looks like

Santa Claus, and I don't know if I want Kris Kringle in my chimney. A green one brings back those childhood Lucky-Charms-Leprechaun-run-amok nightmares. Then, of course, there's my favorite, blue. It looks like Papa Smurf. I can't help throwing my voice and crying out "Smurfette! Are you in here?" Which tends to break a mood pretty quickly.

But I digress. Before you reach the later dating issues of humor, hygiene, and bedtime fashion, a more immediate question comes to mind: Who calls whom after the first date? If it's a great date, you both leave messages on each other's voice mails the morning after. If it's a good date, one of you leaves the other a message the next afternoon. If it's a bad date, your eyes started to glaze over during coffee, and he didn't take the car out of gear when he dropped you off. A great date leaves you smiling as you ponder the next date, and you find yourself wondering if your last names sound good together in hyphenated form. A good date leads to thoughts that, like a good wine, more dates could get better over time. A bad date means that even if you'd gone as Opie-all-grown-up-but-naked, things wouldn't have been any better. Or, if you're particularly charitable, and he at least *stopped* the car when he dropped you off (though he didn't take it out of gear), you can give yourselves the benefit of the doubt and try one more time. It's all a part of the dating game.

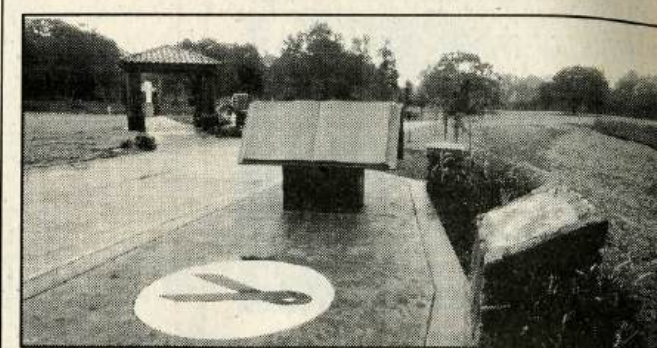
...There are a couple of different approaches to the dating game. There's the focused approach, where you choose one person to ask out—or be asked out by—and you focus your energy and thoughts on that one date. This is sometimes called putting all your eggs in one basket...

At certain parties, a friend of mine and I used to do our own abbreviated version of *Gone With the Wind*, which we called *Gay With the Wind*. He played Rhett, and I played Ashley. We would embrace, and I'd look up at him and say, "Oh, Rhett!" with as much passion as I could muster. He'd reply, "Oh, Ashley!" and we'd move closer in each other's arms. Then I'd say, "But, Rhett, what of Miss Scarlet?" And he'd answer, "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn!" and we'd kiss passionately. The only person who didn't like this display was my mother at my 25th birthday party, but she'd never seen me lock lips with anyone before, much less with a tall man calling himself Rhett. Still, that's the kind of dating moment that we all fantasize about—or, at least, I think we all do. Okay, I do. The kind where the game is over, the passion overwhelms you, the interview is past, and you don't have to worry about laughing at a lemur.

Kevin Isom is an attorney and writer in Atlanta. His work has appeared in several newspapers, magazines, and anthologies.



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DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH BY REV. JANET

Many people are involved in a recycling plan in their neighborhood. We are recycling newspaper, cans, plastics and glass. Have you ever thought about being recycled yourself? Do you ever go through cycles in your life where you continue to have similar experiences as if you are trying to catch on to a lesson or principle for life? The children of Israel went through what may be described as the "Bless and Test" principle. They learned in Egypt that God loved them and would never abandon them. They experienced first hand that God is their Deliverer as Moses stretched forth his staff and watched the Red Sea part. They turned around and saw their enemies hot on their trail. The waters closed in around the chariots and destroyed the enemy. God led them into the desert of Shur. If you've ever been in a desert, you can be SURE it is for learning purposes! It was only three days after this miraculous experience that they began to moan and complain about not having water to drink. Is there something wrong with this picture? God, who delivered them from a nation of people, is now unable to provide drinking water in the desert? How quickly we forget God's wonderful strength and might and care and love for us. What we learn is that we may be delivered out of Egypt, but it takes a lifetime to get Egypt out of us. God doesn't always let our life be without trials and testing. There are basically three reasons why we are allowed to march around in circles in the desert of "You can be SURE." First, God wants to teach us that our enemies are God's enemies too (Exodus 23:22). We must realize that God is not against us, or out to get us. God is for us. Secondly, God allows testing to teach us how to fight our real enemy (Exodus 15:26 and Judges 3:10-4). If you've never been in combat, you don't know how to use the ammunition properly and effectively. God's word tells us that we do not fight against flesh and blood, but against the unseen forces of evil. Our weapons are not with knives and guns, but prayer, faith, the Word of God, truth, right standing with God, etc. (Ephesians 6:10-19). Learning who our real enemy is, is half the battle. Thirdly, we are tested to see what we are made of (Job 23:10 and Isaiah 48:10). Job learned that through his testings he became like refined gold. It is in the furnace of affliction that we are cleansed and purified. All of us are beautiful vessels. We just need to get the dross purged from us. If you can endure the testings in life, there will be a crown of gold for you on the other side. God's blessings are for those who can see God in the midst of the trials. What we endure will reap an abundant crop of good things. Not too many of us have the ability to walk directly into success. It's that round about journey that leads us to the place where we can appreciate, manage and enjoy in a healthy way the success that life brings to us. It is God's grace that helps us prioritize the things that really matter in life. So if you feel that you've been around that mulberry bush more than once, don't fret. Look for the rainbow—watch for the hand of God, or whatever sign God gives you to know you're being sustained through this time of testing. The pot of gold is waiting on the other side.

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Confessions of a Gay Matchmaker

by Wendi E. Stinson-Phoenix

When I was in my early 20s, I discovered existentialism: We are born alone, we live alone, and we die alone, ultimately. Following this interpretation, I created a love affair with myself and bought into the notion that I was this self-sufficient martyr, watching (and being cynical of) other people fumble toward what I thought was intangible relationship bliss. I was a romantic who needed no one—I could fill myself with love and knowledge and never have to risk being truly intimate with other human beings.

By the time I had neared the end of my "trying twenties," most of the goals I had worked so hard to realize—professional, educational, personal, and spiritual—had begun the unfolding process. I was thrilled with the finished product. When I turned my vision toward the future, I could see myself happy and successful.

As the years passed, however, I felt a nagging loneliness and I, alone, could not touch this space. I realized that messages of isolation had been programmed into me at an early age and self-reinforced through my search for life's meaning. These messages, however, were in direct opposition to my maturing need for intimacy. My restlessness emerged from an absence of a special person with whom I could share this life I had painstakingly created.

When I first laid eyes on Trudi, I felt my heart smile for the first time since my childhood. I knew I would no longer pine for an existential life. Instead, I deliberately changed some of my old beliefs to new ways of being that were more conducive to participating in an intimate relationship with someone significant in my life.

When we met, Trudi and I exchanged ideas and dreams for the future. Our mutual ambition and our interest in humanitarian/

political commitments led to our founding Alternative Visions, Texas' first video introduction/relationship service for the gay and lesbian community. Its origin addresses "revisioning" the way in which we meet and relate to each other in the community, with either the goal of developing friends or lifemates.

**Our community,
perhaps because of
its political and social
oppression, coupled
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healthy, visible role
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how to make a
relationship work.
And, alas, it does
take work.**

Working with the community through Alternative Visions by positively impacting the gay and lesbian community through opportunity and education about positive, healthy, long-term relationships has been one of the most rewarding experiences imaginable. As lesbian "Yentas," we have learned from ourselves and our clients a great deal about what our community wants and needs within a relationship: honesty, intimacy, commitment, growth, fun, and the willingness to share our lives with one another.

One of the challenges Trudi and I have encountered from our clients has been an overt resistance to committed relationships. It's what we say we want and need, though we put forth very little effort to achieve it. Our community, perhaps because of its political and social oppression, coupled with the lack of healthy, visible role models, has left us confused and feeling incompetent regarding how to make a relationship work. And, alas, it does take work.

The work that we do within Alternative Visions concerns educating ourselves and each other about the process of relationships, not just the goal of relationships. Encouraging our clients to take notice of the process involved in co-creating the concept of "The Couple"—meeting, courting, and realizing a substantial relationship—is integral. Monthly relationship education workshops, facilitated by noted psychologists and

Continued on page 79

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- ▲ **Peer Counseling** is a weekly support group of 12 HIV+ individuals that meets nine times to discuss emotional, psychological and medical issues impacting those living with HIV.
- ▲ **Women's HIV Coalition** offers several programs that address the unique needs of women living with HIV.

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HIV/AIDS WATCH



FDA Approves Eye Implant for Treatment of HIV-Related Blindness

Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a new treatment option for the most common cause of blindness in people with AIDS.

The ganciclovir implant (Chiron Pharmaceutical) was approved 6-1 for the use of CMV retinitis, an eye infection that strikes 40 percent of all people with AIDS. The device is surgically implanted inside the eye, thereby delivering the antiviral medication directly to the retina in a time-released fashion. This new option bypasses the many problems—long infusion times, catheter infections, and potential serious side effects—associated with the use of intravenous ganciclovir or foscarnet, the established drugs used to treat this debilitating infection.

Chiron's study found that the implant slowed progression of the retinitis an average of 194 days compared to 72 days for patients receiving intravenous ganciclovir. The FDA panel, however, did express concern that giving physicians the ability to treat retinitis locally might encourage them not to treat systemic CMV. Therefore, two panelists suggested that patients should consult an internist before receiving the ganciclovir implant and continue to receive systemic treatment with either intravenous ganciclovir or foscarnet, or oral ganciclovir.

Nonetheless, this is an exciting new surgical option for the treatment of CMV retinitis—the most devastating eye infection in AIDS patients.

Roberto Diaz-Robena, M.D., is assistant professor of uveitis and vitreoretinal surgery at Baylor College of Medicine. For more information on this or other treatment options for CMV retinitis, contact Dr. Diaz at 713/798-3760.

Great SEXpectations Program Seeks Volunteers

AIDS Foundation Houston's (AFH) "Great SEXpectations" program is looking for gay and bisexual men to host house parties and/or assist with outreach efforts. The aim is to directly and indirectly stress the importance of safer sex, testing, and talking about important issues affecting the health and happiness of the community.

The house parties involve small workshops set up in individual homes for groups of men to discuss their concerns about HIV, sex,

dating, and relationships. They are designed to entertain and inform men on ways to stay healthy and happy. The two house-party formats are called "Erotic Choices," a safer sex workshop, and "Love, Lust and Intimacy," focusing on self-esteem and relationships. These workshops have already made a powerful impact in the community.

For more information, please contact Bart Loeser at AFH, 713/623-6796.

From Gaynet Wire Service

Fight on HIV Military Discharge

WASHINGTON — Under sharp criticism from AIDS activists and his own AIDS policy advisors, the Clinton White House says it will try to overturn a provision of the defense reauthorization bill that would force the discharge of military personnel who are infected with HIV. The Pentagon also joined in backing efforts to repeal the anti-HIV provision, which was tacked on the spending measure by Rep. Robert Dornan (R-Calif.). Defense Dept. spokesman Ken Bacon said the military had "several lines of defense" in overturning the Dornan amendment, with a direct legislative repeal in Congress being its preference. Bacon said Sens. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), William S. Cohen (R-Maine), and Rep. Peter Torkildsen (R-Mass.) have all indicated they may introduce legislation to gut the Dornan anti-HIV provision. Another possibility being discussed, Bacon said, was a presidential executive order that would effectively circumvent the HIV discharge measure, although he declined to discuss details. White House spokesman Michael McCurry also mentioned the possibility that the administration may try to repeal the forced discharge policy through a federal lawsuit, arguing that the provision is unconstitutional.

about fighting the epidemic than they have been in years. The virus isn't completely eliminated from the body by the new treatment, researchers say, because once the treatment is stopped, levels of the virus rise again. They also caution that longer-term tests are necessary to determine how long the drugs will continue to work. But researchers were quick to point out that the therapy—which involves high-dose use of a new class of drugs known as protease inhibitors—has held firm in some patients for more than a year. "The data is true, and it's unbelievable," said Dr. Raymond Schinazi of Emory University in Atlanta, after hearing the drug results presented at the Third Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. "There's no toxicity. It's a home run!" Protease inhibitors block HIV by interfering with the virus' final stage of reproduction, in which newly made HIV is packaged and spewed out of infected cells. One protease inhibitor, saquinavir, manufactured by Hoffmann-LaRoche, has been licensed for low-dose use by the Food and Drug Administration. Two others are well along in clinical testing: indinavir (made by the Merck Co.) and ritonavir (an Abbott Laboratories product).

Milk Protein May Block Trans- mission of HIV

NEW YORK — Scientists with the New York Blood Center say research findings to be published in *Nature Medicine* detail the discovery of a protein compound derived from common cow's milk that appears to help prevent the transmission of HIV. The chemically modified version of the protein, known as B69, adheres to receptors on the body's CD4 cells and appears to prevent the virus from using those receptor sites as an entry

AIDS Researchers Cautiously Declare a 'Home Run'

WASHINGTON — A combination AIDS treatment using a new class of drugs has produced startling results in clinical trials, eliminating detectable traces of HIV from patients' bodies. Even many normally cautious scientists are calling the therapy a "home run" that has AIDS experts more excited

HIV/AIDS WATCH*Continued from previous page*

point to attack the cells. The researchers say the discovery is important because the modified protein could be developed into an ointment for use during sex that could provide a temporary barrier against HIV. Because the compound is relatively inexpensive and the raw material is widely available, they said it could be especially useful in less developed nations in combating the spread of HIV.

Military Discharge for HIV Passes House;**Clinton Expected to Sign**

WASHINGTON — The House has passed a \$265 billion defense spending measure that includes a controversial provision requiring HIV-positive service members to be discharged from the military. Although President Clinton had objected to the HIV provision, which was tacked on the spending bill by Rep. Bob Dornan (R-Calif.), White House press spokesman Mike McCurry said the President would sign the measure because "on balance, this bill does a lot of important things." Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) denounced the Dornan amendment as "gratuitous cruelty." The Pentagon, which did not support the HIV-discharge provision that Dornan inserted, says there are about 1,150 infected service members who would be affected by the amendment.

New AIDS Drug**May Cut Deaths by Half**

WASHINGTON — AIDS researchers from the University of Ottawa at the Third Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections have reported increased survival among patients receiving a protease inhibitor called ritonavir. Abbott Laboratories, the drug manufacturer that makes ritonavir, has applied for regulatory approval to market the drug, under the brand name Norvir, in the United States. This action would pave the way for increasing the availability of the drug worldwide. The Canadian researchers reported that a study involving some 1,100 patients at 67 medical facilities around the world found that patients taking ritonavir died or became gravely ill at only half the rate of AIDS patients who were not taking the drug. Until the federal Food & Drug Administration moves to approve the new drug, however, Abbott is making ritonavir available to some 2,000 patients internationally chosen randomly in a medical lottery.

Americans' Fear of HIV Infection Drops

WASHINGTON — Americans' fear of being infected with HIV has dropped dramatically during the past 10 years, according to an ABC News poll. The telephone survey of 509 adults in the U.S. indicated that just 17 percent said they feared being infected with the virus, the smallest percentage re-

ported in the 10 years Americans have been polled on HIV. The most recent poll was conducted because of Magic Johnson's return to play with the Los Angeles Lakers basketball team, and 74 percent of those polled said they approved of his return to the game.

Houston Urges Routine HIV Prenatal Testing

HOUSTON — Houston's health and human services department says it will now begin encouraging voluntary HIV testing for pregnant women as part of regular prenatal care at its facilities, a reflection of the ongoing demographic shifts in the AIDS epidemic. As in other cities around the country, fewer white gay men are contracting HIV while the number of women and African Americans becoming infected continues to increase. Because of these shifts in who is becoming infected, Houston health officials are trying to encourage more pregnant women to be routinely tested for the virus in an effort to begin early treatment and reduce the number of newborns infected by their mothers.

Some Infants Shed HIV Completely

LONDON — According to researchers reporting in the medical journal *Lancet*, nine infants who were infected with HIV by their mothers at birth have fended off the virus. Only a few such reports of HIV remission have ever been reported, and those have been received with a degree of skepticism. But the new findings originating in Italy, Belgium, and Sweden may not be so easily dismissed. Of some 264 babies who were born HIV-positive, the research team found nine who subsequently became free of the virus. In seven cases, both HIV tests used went from positive to negative during the course of the study; in the other two, the virus was detected even though the antibody tests indicated that the baby was not infected.

Baboon Marrow Transplant Recipient Doing Well So Far

SAN FRANCISCO — Jeff Getty, the Oakland, Calif., AIDS patient who received bone marrow stem cells transplanted from a baboon in an experimental effort to bolster his debilitated immune system, said a month after the procedure that he feels fine and his condition has improved, but added, "I wouldn't read too much into it." Getty, 38, underwent the experimental transplant injections, performed by researchers from the University of California at San Francisco and from the University of Pittsburgh, in December after a long struggle with the Food and Drug Administration to get approval. The doctors used baboon cells because the animals have been found to be resistant to HIV-1, the primary virus believed to cause AIDS. UCSF's Dr. Steven Deeks said it will be some time before it is known whether the baboon immune system cells, which are resistant to HIV-1, will proliferate and restore any part of Getty's ability to resist infections, which has been devastated by the virus.

Texas Viatical Firm Ordered to Meet SEC Regulations

WASHINGTON — U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth has ordered one of the largest viatical insurance companies in the country, Life Partners Inc. of Waco, Texas, to stop selling contracts on the policies it purchases from people with AIDS until the firm complies with federal Securities and Exchange Commission regulations. Two years ago the SEC charged that the policies that Life Partners purchases at a discount from people with AIDS and then sells to investors amounts to marketing unregistered securities under federal law. A federal district court agreed with the SEC and gave Life Partners time to comply with federal regulations. But late last year the SEC went back to federal court and charged that changes Life Partners made were inadequate to meet regulations. Judge Lamberth agreed and gave Life Partners 10 days to file the papers the SEC required. He rejected a contempt motion by the SEC, however, saying that Life Partners had not willfully violated his order.

Illinois Wants HIV Test Information

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Dr. John Lumpkin, head of Illinois' public health department, along with other health officials in the state, say they would like to include information on everyone who tests positive for HIV instead of just listing people who have been diagnosed with full-blown AIDS. Lumpkin has proposed that expanding the number of people on their health monitoring lists would make it easier to find infected patients to offer them counseling and treatment. But AIDS activists in Illinois say expanding the lists could actually keep people, especially in less urban areas of the state where the epidemic is growing fastest, from getting tested out of concerns over confidentiality.

Supreme Court Rejects AZT Patent Challenge

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, turning down an appeal by Barr Labs of Pomona, N.Y., and Novopharm of Ontario, Canada, refused to hear a case challenging the AZT patent held by Glaxo Wellcome. The two drug companies had wanted Glaxo Wellcome's exclusive patent voided to allow other manufacturers to make AZT because the AIDS drug was originally developed in the mid-1980s with the help of a researcher with the National Institutes of Health.

Washington Education Official Says She Has AIDS

SEATTLE — After keeping it a secret for nearly a year, Judith Billings, the elected Superintendent of Public Instruction for the state of Washington, has told the *Tacoma News* that she has AIDS. Billings, 56, said she believed she contracted HIV in the early 1980s when she was trying to become pregnant via artificial insemination, a rare route of transmission of the virus according to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Billings told the paper she would

FDA OK Sought for New AIDS Drug

STOCKHOLM — The U.S.-Swedish drug manufacturer Pharmica & Upjohn has released preliminary data on still-incomplete clinical trials of its drug Delavirdine (also known as Rescriptor) because early results hold so much promise, the firm says. Hoping that the early results will help get faster approval from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration for the drug, Pharmica & Upjohn said Delavirdine appears to help some patients infected with HIV stave off developing full-blown AIDS. The firm said that preliminary data from its ongoing tests with the drug indicate that patients receiving Delavirdine had been able to lower the amount of HIV in their blood system by at least 68 percent for as long as 60 weeks. Some 3,500 patients have been participating in the clinical trials so far.

Virginia Funeral Home Fined

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Justice Department has ordered the Fisher Funeral Home of Portsmouth, Va., to pay back \$300 that it had added on for embalming of people who had died of AIDS. In addition to the \$300, nine families will also receive \$3,600 each in fines. The settlement, which does not involve any criminal charges against the mortuary, also requires that Fisher post a written policy outlawing discrimination because of disability, including HIV/AIDS. The case is the first involving AIDS/HIV bias in

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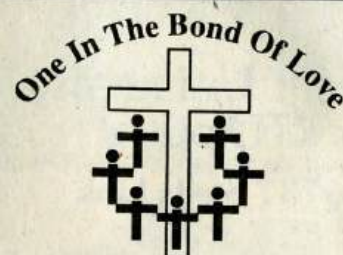


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HIV/AIDS WATCH

Continued from previous page

the funeral industry. "Charging additional fees for the same service, especially when grieving families are involved, is simple discrimination," said Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick.

Scientists Urge Refocusing AIDS Research in New Directions

WASHINGTON — Two leading American AIDS researchers have recommended that their colleagues focus their AIDS research work toward recreating the immune system in AIDS patients. Dr. Barton Haynes, of the Duke Medical Center, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, in the journal *Science* urged that their fellow researchers should look in the altogether new direction because of the disappointing results in finding a vaccine and the fairly limited luck medical researchers have had 15 years into the epidemic in fighting HIV with medications.

Congressman Wants Tele- scope Over HIV Prevention

WASHINGTON — Although AIDS and HIV infections continue to rise among Native American populations in this country, an amendment to the House appropriations bill for the U.S. Interior Department embroiled in ongoing budget battles in Congress would eliminate authorization for research into prevention measures for American Indians in favor of building a new telescope at the University of Arizona's Mt. Graham Observatory. Amendment 178, introduced by Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Tucson), would remove a Senate-approved portion of the Interior Department appropriations measure that authorizes the U.S. Indian Health Services to study what kinds of HIV/AIDS prevention programs might be best suited to reach Native Americans. Instead, Rep. Kolbe's amendment would authorize building a third telescope at the Mt. Graham Observatory along the Arizona-Mexico border.

Racial Problems Hit Board at GMHC

NEW YORK — Three African American directors of the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), including Dr. Billy E. Jones who heads the highly respected Kingsboro Psychiatric Center, have resigned from the GMHC board to express their dissatisfaction with how the AIDS agency addresses the needs of racial and ethnic minorities. AIDS organizations from coast to coast, most of them started by gay white men in the early 1980s in response to the epidemic that first hit the gay male community in this country hardest, have increasingly come under fire for not adequately addressing health needs as HIV increasingly moves into the African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and women's populations in this country.

Royal Ballet

Preparing AIDS Ballet

LONDON — This February the Royal Ballet will stage an original dance about the AIDS epidemic that will feature prima ballerina Darcey Bussell portraying HIV, the virus generally agreed to cause the disease. In the ballet, using music of the late gay composer Benjamin Britten, the remaining dancers will portray white blood cells struggling to combat the infection. Bussell said in an interview with the *Evening Standard*, "We have to be sure it is done well enough and made real enough. It sounded as though it would be a sad, depressing work at first, but I hope it is going to turn out very strong and powerful."

Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Condom Suit

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected a legal complaint by a group of Falmouth (Mass.) High School students and parents who sued to block a state-sanctioned school condom distribution program. The group that sued to stop the voluntary condom program claimed it violated their privacy rights as well as their religious freedoms. But the court refused to hear the appeal, noting that even if the school program offends religious beliefs, it does not amount to a violation of the parents' and students' constitutional liberties, leaving intact state court dismissals of the suit.

Drug Combo Treats AIDS Eye Disease

WASHINGTON — According to a report in the *Archives of Ophthalmology*, a daily injected dose of two drugs, foscarnet and ganciclovir, is a more effective way to combat the blinding AIDS-related eye disease cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis than either of the drugs used alone. Patients in the research who were given one or the other but not both drugs had recurring CMV retinitis infections in a month or two of starting the therapy. But patients in the study who were given both drugs were able to keep it under control for four months or longer.

GOP Proposes \$75 Million for 'Just Say No' School AIDS Programs

WASHINGTON — Part of the massive welfare overhaul that congressional Republicans have proposed in this year's ongoing budget battle includes \$75 million in federal funds for state schools to teach students the "gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity" outside marriage. The abstinence program proposal would provide money for schools to teach youngsters that complete abstinence is the only certain way to avoid unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS. Ignoring gays and lesbians who cannot legally marry in this country, the language of the GOP proposal states: "A mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity" and that sex outside marriage "is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects."

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AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. DAVID BAUMAN, N.D. NATUROPATHY DOCTOR

QUESTION: Can you tell me about your background, Dr. Bauman?

DR. BAUMAN: I am a licensed Clinical Social Worker (LMSW-ACP), Graduate of the University of Michigan. I am also a licensed Psychology teacher. I received my Naturopathy Doctorate (N.D.) through the Clayton School of Natural Healing. I am a member of the American Naturopathic Medical Association, the principal Naturopathic organization in this country. Currently, Naturopaths are not licensed in Texas. I am not a Medical Doctor. I can't treat, prescribe or diagnose.

QUESTION: Then, what can you do, Dr. Bauman?

DR. BAUMAN: I can provide naturopathic counseling.

QUESTION: What are your interests, Dr. Bauman?

DR. BAUMAN: My big interest lies in immunity issues. Here for example are three studies citing the effectiveness of Glycyrrhizin (GL) in dealing with HIV (Glycyrrhizin is a natural product).

EXPERIMENTAL DOUBLE BLIND STUDY: The clinical effectiveness of Glycyrrhizin (GL) by long term oral administration to sixteen (16) asymptomatic HIV-1 carrier patients with hemophilia was studied. Patients received daily doses 150-225 mg. of GL for three to seven (3-7) years. Neither progression of immunologic abnormalities nor development of AIDS has been seen. *Int. Conf. A.I.D.S.* 9 (1): 234 ([Abstract No. PO-A25-0596], 1993).

EXPERIMENTAL CONTROL STUDY: Ten (10) HIV positive patients without AIDS took 150-225 ml. of Glycyrrhizin daily. After one to two (1-2) years none developed symptoms associated with AIDS or AIDS related complex. 1/10 PTS. of a matched control GP developed ARC and two (2) progressed to AIDS and subsequently died. *AIDS Treatment News*, No. 103, May 18, 1990.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDY: Six (6) AIDS Pts. received 400-1600 mg. of Glycyrrhizin I.V. daily, after thirty (30) days, five of six (5/6) showed a reduction or disappearance of the 'P24 antigen' which indicates active disease. *Antiviral Res* 1.: (5-6), 225-61, 1989).

There are many other ways to deal with immunity issues that are as equally effective as the ones cited in these studies, using Natural Products.

QUESTION: Is studying immunity issues all you do, Dr. Bauman?

DR. BAUMAN: No, I provide information on what the top people in Natural Medicine say on nearly three hundred (300) disease conditions.

QUESTION: How can an appointment be made to see you?

DR. BAUMAN: By simply calling 540-9780. Thank you!

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Fort Worth Editor Re-assigns Gay Employee

Some gay journalists are reacting with anger and concern to the re-assignment of a Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* employee who was removed from his position as a graphics editor after one *Star-Telegram* reader complained about cartoons he drew for the *Texas Triangle*.

As of press time, stories about the re-assignment of Todd Camp had appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Austin American Statesman*, and the *Dallas Observer*. Camp, who drew cartoons on a freelance basis for the *Texas Triangle* from fall of 1992 until this past December, was the graphics editor for Class Acts, an award-winning *Star-Telegram* section marketed to high school students.

That was until *Star-Telegram* executive editor Debbie Price received a letter from one unidentified woman, whose membership in the American Family Association of Texas has since been revealed. The woman complained that Camp was "preoccupied with the subjects of pedophilia and incest."

Price immediately capitulated by re-assigning Camp and, in a letter, apologized to the AFA member for a "serious oversight.... We want to assure you that we will continue to maintain the highest standards of decency for 'Class Acts.' Again, we appreciate your diligence in bringing this matter to our attention."

Media response to Price's move has not been very nice. "Black, white, and yellow all over," read the tease in a subsequent *Dallas Observer*. "Star-Telegram knuckles under to Christian group, re-assigns gay editor."

Even the *New York Times* got into the act, pointing out in its very first paragraph on the matter that the re-assignment was

made on the basis of one reader's complaint.

The Texas Chapter of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association reacted to the transfer with outrage. "We are distressed that Mr. Camp was apparently never given a chance to defend himself against the baseless insinuations of an outside pressure group and that he was transferred despite having already ended his association with the *Texas Triangle*," wrote Brooke Egerton, chapter co-president and night city editor for the *Dallas Morning News*. "Associating gays and lesbians with pedophilia is one of the most insidious tactics of anti-gay activists. Yet your executive editor's letter to the American Family Association appears to buy this false logic, suggesting that Mr. Camp's presence was inconsistent with 'the high standards of decency.' This is deeply insulting."

"Judging from the report in this week's *Dallas Observer*," the letter continued, "we fear that you have surrendered your editorial independence. This frightens us. And it is bound to frighten journalists everywhere, gay and straight alike."

Price did not return repeated phone calls to her office for comment.

In a telephone interview from his home in Dallas, Egerton said he expects to meet Price to discuss the matter. "Todd Camp has unfairly had his reputation maligned, and we are not going to stand for this," he said. "We are all very concerned—gay, straight, mainstream press, gay press, whatever. Any time there is even the appearance that a newspaper will make editorial or personnel decisions because of outside pressure, it's very dangerous."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

'96 Pride Week Committee Goes Krogering

Howard McHale and Terri Vega, co-chairs for 1996 Lesbian Gay Pride Week, have joined the Kroger Company to introduce the Kroger Share Card program. Here's how it works: Before you check out at your local Kroger store in the Houston Division, the cashier first scans your Pride Committee Share Card. Automatically, 1 percent of your total purchases is donated to the Pride Committee.

Share Card proceeds will not only help finance a successful Pride Week, but are also made available to various AIDS and HIV services throughout Houston. To order your Share Card, call the Pride Line at 713/529-6979.

Java Java Reopens With New Look

Popular Heights eatery Java Java Cafe has made a comeback with a lavish, Euro-style remodeling and culinary additions. Now offering a salad and soup bar, the restaurant still offers the outstanding desserts for which it has become famous. Sarina Larive is back in place offering tarot readings to diners, making Java Java a multidimensional cafe, catering to many needs with its on-site UPS mailing center and floral service. For more information, call 713/880-JAVA.

Special Introductory Offer From Texas Rainbow Classifieds

Texas' first Internet Information Depot on the World Wide Web for Texas gay and lesbian communities is now available for viewing and posting information. The Texas Rainbow Classifieds offers 12 areas to browse, including community services, a social calendar, coupons, want ads, links to other Web Sites, and more. The goals of the service are to promote the gay and lesbian community's businesses, to assist individuals in establishing meaningful relationships, and to support and promote community organizations. As an introductory offer, it is now accepting free community announcements, personal ads, personal announcements, and obituaries.

The first 50 businesses to advertise in the Texas Rainbow Classifieds receive three months of advertising free of charge. For more information, or to post information, contact Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics, 713/528-7654, or e-mail your request to pgraphic@insync.net.

Shocking Gray Returns

Shocking Gray, the premier gay and lesbian catalogue mail-order firm based in San Antonio, has reopened with new ownership. San Anto-

Business Briefs

Continued from previous page

nio businessman Glenn Chase bought the assets from bankruptcy court in late November. The company, housed in a 9,000-square-foot San Antonio warehouse, had been experiencing rapid business growth with estimated annual sales of \$3 million, and a full-time staff of 40, when it was purchased from its local founders. The new owner, an East Coast media executive, had owned the business for about one year when he filed for Chapter 7 liquidation last August. A new catalogue will be distributed in early summer and will feature added lines of merchandise such as cosmetics and videotapes of classic films with gay and lesbian themes. The new owner also plans to reward repeat customers with a frequent buyer program.

GHGLCC Meets and Mixes

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce announces the following meetings: Monday, March 4, 6:30 pm: General Business Meeting, open to all members, location to be announced. Tuesday, March 12, 6 pm: Networking Mixer at Crossroads Market, 1111 Westheimer (at Vaughn), 713/942-0147. Tuesday, March 19, 7:15 am: Breakfast Networking Meeting at Allen Park Inn, Nashville Room, 2121 Allen Parkway, 713/521-9321. For more information contact GHGLCC at 713/523-7576.

The incident involving Camp is full of irony. It is ironic because Camp, citing burn-out, had quit drawing cartoons for the *Triangle* last December. It is ironic because editor Price has the same name as Deb Price, the nation's pre-eminent openly gay columnist, who writes about gay issues for the *Detroit News*. And it is ironic because a similar attempt to browbeat a mainstream Texas newspaper—in this case, the *Austin American Statesman*—had been defeated.

The roots of the controversy stretch all the way back to last September, when the American Family Association, a fundamentalist political group, began picketing First Texas Honda, a *Triangle* advertiser. In late December, the AFA turned up the volume: In an effort to force the *Triangle* out of business, it launched a boycott of more than 50 advertisers who do business with the *Triangle*.

One of the first articles on the boycott was written by *American-Statesman* reporter Juan Palomo, the newspaper's religion reporter and former contributor to the *Triangle*. The appearance of Palomo's byline on the story enraged AFA executive director Wyatt Roberts, a political activist whose anti-gay tirades can be heard weekly in Austin on a low-wattage Christian radio station.

Roberts immediately mailed letters to dozens of Austin area ministers telling them,

in effect, that Palomo is gay.

"I recently came across information that may interest you," Roberts wrote. "It concerns the reporter who currently covers religion for the *Austin American Statesman*."

"I am neither encouraging you to, nor discouraging you from, granting an interview to this individual. I do believe, however, you should be made fully aware of some of the views he has expressed in the past."

"To that end," Roberts continued, "I have enclosed a photocopy of an article which appeared on June 22, 1994, in the *Texas Triangle*, a weekly statewide newspaper that describes itself as 'The States' Gay News Source.' The article was written by the now-religion reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman*."

In stark contrast to the AFA member's letter to the *Star-Telegram*, Roberts' letter to Austin ministers was not acted upon, if not ignored altogether. And Roberts himself lost an important forum when the Christian radio station that sells his group's air time told him to back off from his attacks on the *Triangle* early in January.

Meanwhile, what of Camp? The former graphics editor has been given a writing job in the arts section of the *Star-Telegram*, losing neither status nor pay. He said he is "satisfied with the decision."

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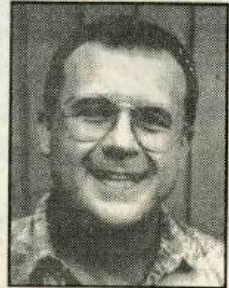
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You Can Do What Real Estate Investors Do

Buy a house. Fix it up. Sell it again. That's what real estate investors do. As a home buyer looking for a place to live, here's something you should know that real estate investors already know: Money to purchase and fix up (remodel, update, rehabilitate, improve, renovate, add-on, upgrade, alter, repair) a home can be obtained at better rates than bank financing by using an FHA 203K ("K") loan. That's right: Your government not only makes the financing available but has recently taken a strong position to encourage this program as part of an ongoing effort throughout the country to restore or rehabilitate inner-city areas.

How does the "K" loan work? Let's say you find a house to buy for \$60,000. (Yes, you can. A quick check of listings inside the loop in the Montrose/Heights areas indicates over 220 homes listed for sale under \$65,000.) You determine, with some expert help, that it will take about \$20,000 to fix up the house. With the "K" program, the price and fix-up estimate are combined for a total of \$80,000. After a down payment of under 5 percent (\$1,800) and closing costs (approximately \$4,900), you will be making monthly payments at a fixed rate for 15 or 30 years (probably \$790 to \$847). When the sale is closed, \$20,000 is held in escrow for repairs. As work progresses according to a prearranged schedule of improvements, payment is made for services from the money in escrow.

You end up with a property valued at \$80,000 with less out of your pocket and on terms no bank could match for a home improvement loan. Plus, when it's time to sell, the FHA loan is assumable. How else can you buy a home and finance the upgrades in

one monthly payment with minimal capital investment? For investors (owners who will not live in the property), the numbers are the same except for the required 15-percent down payment.

Space limitations permit only a brief overview of the amazing flexibility of the "K" program. You can finance and rehab single-family homes as described above. Or duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes. Get the idea? Live in one and rent the other unit(s). You can finance the conversion of a single-family dwelling to a duplex, triplex, or fourplex. Or turn a fourplex, triplex, or duplex back into a single-family house. You can even convert up-and-down apartments into two-story townhomes.

What if the property is non-residential? If you want to convert that business or commercial structure into residential, whether single-family, duplex, triplex, or fourplex, the "K" loan can do it. For example, convert an old warehouse into a fourplex. The "K" loan can also be used on "mixed use" residential property, provided the property meets certain commercial floor-space requirements. This could be an opportunity to have your business in your home, too—for example, a two-story, 2,500-square-foot home with a

computer-consulting business taking up about 1,200 square feet. Unrestricted residential areas in Montrose and the Heights present possibilities for entrepreneurial, independent professionals with this financing option.

For single-family homes, the FHA maximum mortgage amount is \$101,500 and tops out at \$160,250 for fourplexes.

OK, what about those grand old, turn-of-the-

century homes that need updating but cost over \$150,000? Too high for the "K" program, but there is a conventional loan mortgage for single-family, owner-occupied homes only that mimics the features of the "K" loan, but with a maximum loan amount of \$202,000.

As a home buyer looking for a place to live, here's something you should know... Money can be obtained at better rates than bank financing...

Here's something else real estate investors know, too: Right now, the numbers work. Given the current climate of low-mortgage interest rates and continued strong local job growth, real estate analysts and economists are forecasting a larger demand for housing this year. Before interest rates and property values start to climb again, you, as a potential homeowner or investor, need to become informed about the home-buying process and the number of options available to finance a home, including the FHA 203K loan.

Coming up with a down payment and finding a loan that meets the home-buyer's requirements are likely the greatest obstacles

faced by many first-time home buyers. Financing choices are numerous, sometimes complex, and often vary with market changes. This underscores the importance of the potential buyer working with a professional Realtor to make the most of his or her time and resources. You should know the price range you can afford before looking for a home to buy. Items like down payment, closing costs, and lending guidelines should be discussed and determined with a Realtor. In addition, neighborhoods, recreational interests, schools, and other amenities are important to consider in the home search.

"K" LOAN SEMINAR

To learn more about the details of the "K" loan, a seminar will be conducted by Debbie Pulido of Summit Mortgage, on March 13, at 7pm, at Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer. For more information, call 713/529-8484.

Ed Gonzales is a real estate agent with Suzanne Anderson Properties and currently director-at-large of the Neartown Civic Association. He is also on the board of directors of the Neartown Community Development Association, the Houston Association of REALTORS, the Texas Association of REALTORS and a charter member of Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. For questions regarding this article, call 713/529-8484.

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Planning for a Crisis

Most persons desire to maintain control over their own lives as much and for as long as possible. A little advance planning can make that happen and ease the transition if assistance becomes necessary.

It seems the holidays and the recent bad weather were triggers for several healthcare emergencies among our friends and clients. We were faced with some urgent reminders that there are persons in our community who have still not heard (or heeded) our prior gospels regarding crisis planning. Now is a good time to make sure your healthcare needs are in good shape so that a medical emergency, if it happens, does not also become a legal emergency.

When you become seriously ill, your biological family has the legal authority to make all healthcare decisions for you. A healthcare power of attorney allows you to name another person as your agent with the authority to make healthcare decisions on your behalf when you are no longer able to make them yourself. "Healthcare" means any treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat your physical or mental condition. Your agent has the power to make a broad range of healthcare decisions on your behalf in accordance with your wishes. Your agent cannot consent to voluntary inpatient mental health services, convulsive treatment, psychosurgery, or abortion. Even after you sign this document, you can still make your own decisions as long as you are able to do so.

A directive to physicians (or living will) is a written statement that outlines a person's desires as to the use or continuation of artificial life support only. It does not name an agent to make your healthcare decisions. It tells the person's attending physician to either avoid using or to terminate the use of life support if they are near death. It only takes effect when the physician certifies in writing that

the person is suffering from an incurable or irreversible condition that would produce death without the application of life support, and that the use of life support only serves to prolong the moment of death.

Your healthcare agent is obligated to follow your instructions when making decisions on your behalf. Your physician must comply with your agent's instructions and your directive to physicians or transfer you to another doctor. You should discuss this document with your agent and your doctor and make sure each one has a copy of it after you execute it. You should also name an alternate agent who can be called in the event your agent is unable or un-

willing to act as your agent.

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

If a person has taken no steps toward planning for life's emergencies, the only alternative for caregivers may be a legal guardianship. In Texas, a court can appoint an applicant to be the guardian of a person, the guardian of an estate, or both. The powers and duties of guardians of a person include the right to have physical possession of the ward and to establish the ward's legal domicile, and the duty to care, protect, and provide the ward with clothing, food, medical care, and shelter. The powers also include the ability to consent to medical, psychiatric, and surgical treatment other than in-patient psychiatric commitment of the person. The guardian of an estate is entitled to the possession and management of all the property belonging to the ward, subject to the provisions of the Texas Probate Code. There are substantial restrictions and expenses involved with a court-controlled guardianship. Guardianship is the least flexible and attractive estate management option when compared to what can be accomplished with powers of attorney.

Most persons desire to maintain control over their own lives as much and for as long as possible. A little advance planning can make that happen and ease the transition if assistance becomes necessary. A healthcare power of attorney and directive to physicians are the legal components of your emergency plan.

Connie Moore is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian/feminist law firm based in Houston. Under Connie's guidance, Moore & Hunt is a part of the cooperating attorney network of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. In addition to feminist, lesbian, and gay issues, the firm concentrates in family law, contract negotiations and disputes, corporation and small business formations, wills, estate planning and probate matters.



by Connie Moore

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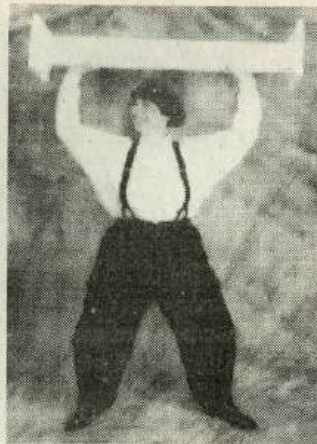


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PUERTO VALLARTAHHHHH

I began traveling to Mexico over 20 years ago, along the way learning the language and acquiring an intense appreciation of her people. With the exception of Hualtulco and Cabo San Lucas, I've vacationed in every beach resort Mexico offers, from Mazatlan to Acapulco on the Pacific, to Isla Mujeres and Tulum on the Yucatan, stopping along the way (and in geographical order) at Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Ixtapa/Zihuatenejo, and on the Gulf side, Merida, Cancun, and Cozumel.

Standing by my personal favorite for 15 years—*If you're gay, Puerto Vallarta is where you want to play.* In mid January, the "smartie group" gathered at the airport...all on time with proof of citizenship in hand to take off for our fabulous long weekend in Puerto Vallarta, staying at Jim and Brian's privately owned houses, Casa Panoramica and Casa Pilitas. I knew we'd have a memorable trip in store, but I had no idea just how much fun and camaraderie we'd share during our four days together.

Have you ever done a Mexico "villa vacation"? If not, why not? It is surely the most pampering experience you can imagine, and very, very affordable as well. In fact, staying in our private houses cost us less than a typical "package deal" for our three-night stay.

Here's the scenario: You get on your flight to Puerto Vallarta...you arrive on time and go through customs/immigrations...you are met by owners and their representatives with the minivans waiting to transport you to your personal home for four days...you arrive...your name is posted on your individual bedroom...you unpack and fluff up a bit...you stroll out to the pool terrace where the bartender mixes up a fresh batch of margaritas, and you enjoy Laura's hors d'oeuvres spread gener-

ously on the buffet...you hobnob with your traveling companions, size up the other guests, and start the most memorable weekend you'll ever spend. Well, doesn't this just sound too awful? And, you can accomplish this for under \$500 per person!

So why Puerto Vallarta? Where can I begin? It is *absolutely* the most gay-friendly place in Mexico. While there, I discovered three new bed/breakfast & hotels for gay and lesbian clientele only. I had the pleasure on two afternoons of watching the sun go down on the rooftop bar of Descanso del Sol, a refurbished and lovely hotel with a sunset view that knocks your socks off. Mr. J.C. Moore, part owner, and I had a nice conversation one afternoon, when he expressed

his pride and pleasure at the strides made by his Mexican partners in making the hotel an affordable and lovely accommodation for gay and lesbian travelers to Puerto Vallarta.

J.C. Moore is no stranger to the gay traveler, as he owns and operates The Ranch in Albuquerque, that city's most successful and largest gay club. In addition to his interest in Descanso del Sol, he has an interest in Pacos, perhaps the most upscale and sophisticated gay club in all of Mexico, just waiting for your playtime in Puerto Vallarta. Pacos is rightly proud to be air-conditioned, a rare and wonderful treat when the night heats up and so do the dancers! Where else in Mexico will you find the proprietors of restaurants, clubs, and hotels handing out printed information brochures for gay and lesbian activities?

What else about Puerto Vallarta is of significant interest? Plenty! Sitting on the edge of the Sierra Madre mountain range, Puerto Vallarta became famous when John Huston filmed *Night of the Iguana* with Richard Burton and Ava Gardner in 1964 on Mismaloya Bay. This then-quiet fishing village with colonial



by Sandra Wilkins

character shot into the public's consciousness with the ballyhooed romance between Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, which started during the making of that fabulous movie. Liz still owns a house there, but rarely visits!

Renting a jeep costs about \$40 a day, and with transportation you can explore the beautiful areas south of the city proper, exploring waterfalls, private coves, and hard-to-find restaurants. If sunset or dinner cruises have appeal, a company specializes in just such a treat for gay and lesbian travelers. This same group offers horseback riding for half- or full-day explorations.

Puerto Vallarta has grown dramatically over the past 10 years, but it still retains extraordinary charm. All houses are required to be painted white in keeping with the 100-year tradition set by early city padres. There are several areas that comprise Puerto Vallarta proper, including the new and booming marina area development, followed by the hotel and resort zone north of town, into downtown proper, called "old town," and continuing south to the Rio Cuale and Playa de los Muertos, which is coincidentally the "gay beach."

Along the riverwalk are several upscale and lovely bars, cafes, and bistros, conveying a sense of sophistication and fabulous cuisine from every part of the globe. This area conveniently leads to Playa de los Muertos, where the gay set gathers at the famous blue chairs, hanging out during the day at what used to be called Titos.

If you've been to Puerto Vallarta, no doubt you have or will return to this delightful respite. If you haven't had the pleasure, do put this out-of-the-ordinary Mexico spot on your wish list for the future. Until next time, adios!

Sandra Wilkins is owner and president of The Travel Partnership, Inc., a travel company proud to serve the gay and lesbian traveler.

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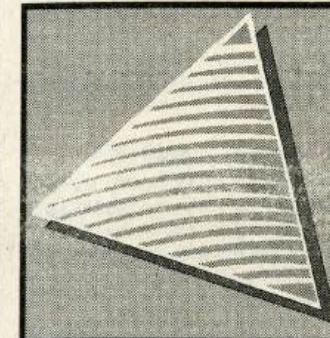
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Future Outlook

THE WORLD

Major events will be heralded by the media in the days to come. A man and a woman of high political standing will suffer from inopportune setbacks. They will have to contribute to charity, making a monetary sacrifice, so that their lives can be returned to normal. A group of physicians, both foreign and native, will soon join forces to save the sick and dying. A growing global virus will be snared in a trap, sending our world on its way to liberation.

ARIES (3/21-4/19)

The beauty of life, the wisdom of love, the luck of spirit, good health, a trip, and financial stability—in other words, potential opportunities abound. Beware of using too much aggression which could lead to obstacles and tyranny. Take time to reconsider, reevaluate, and re-think your approach to life. You could be being obstinate, willful, and embarrassingly eccentric, creating jealousy in or around you, causing distress in emotional and business relations. You must be aware of all these experiences and how you contribute to all the obstacles. However, many of you may choose to manifest grace instead. You must resonate the innocence of a child, and demonstrate the disciplined control at displaying your reflective



by Joseph Molina

creative observations, communicating your educated opinions. Controlling your nerves, words, and, ultimately, actions is the challenge life now presents to you.

If married, relationships at this time will be tested for their virtue. Temptation in the form of lust will abound. Inner emotional swings and external stress causes you to allow your eye to wander. If single, there is the probability of potential romance, but remember—lasting love is much more of a struggle than by living day by day.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20)

Be prepared for a slight change in plans, deviating for a slight fraction of time from your chosen path. There will be a great need for money, wealth, and security. Expect unexpected expenses that could cause a slight sense of tension or uncomfortable living conditions which may lead to the loss of friend. For some, pay close attention to your bills. Girl, don't screw with the rent! Others will find a new, more fitting court, upon which to develop future love. You're prone to losing material possessions—money, your home, or a valuable possession. An inopportune

experience reroutes your life into a newer, livelier, experience-filled existence.

If single, throughout all this mess a new love could appear, like a stranger in the night come to steal your heart. If married, just be good. Count your blessings, and don't mess around even if the opportunity presents itself on a platter.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20)

Take a breather. Sit back, relax, intone AA EE II OO UU, achieving a state of emotional stability that will help you stay optimistic, cheerful, and alive. Taking shortcuts to solve your problems will only result in creating more problems. Be straightforward and honest; knowing what to do is one thing, but doing it is another. You could feel tired, drained, and quite unmotivated, but by staying cheerful you will be energetic and could overcome the doldrums. You must know that your life is going through powerful inner shifts. Sometimes life must shatter so that its contents can be discovered.

If married, problems could arise in love. Disdainful reputations could find their way back home, bringing unwanted stress. This is a time to clarify and organize one's life so that love will know its place. If single, the cosmos leans toward love and the joy of flings. Celebrate life! Be alive! Live!

CANCER (6/21-7/22)

February through March will be influenced by slight environmental disturbances that can cause some stagnate ripples in your life. The key is handling each of these situations with wisdom, cunning, and grace, anointing unconditional love on everything you do. Through this, you will have the embodiment of a heroic Goddess or a great hero God in overcoming adversaries. Be conscious of your moods; stay aware of how their fluctuations cause you to be overbearing, emotional, and at times, immature. Be aware of this information so that you can ace all the upcoming tests in your life that will soon test your perseverance and tact.

LEO (7/23-8/22)

Environmental energy could cause you a bit of unrest and disquiet. Extreme emotional issues channeled through you challenge the energy of the environment and your sense of inner-being. You may choose to ignore the greater goals in life to live for the moment, reacting to the whim of other distracting influences. Be aware that you are not being responsible for your emotions and body, and that you are draining yourself of peace and tranquility. At times it can be hard to see how we are the architect of our own obstacles.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22)

February and March will emphasize the productive things that you do in life to enhance your security. You will notice a more pronounced sense of stability, both with work and with home. This causes you to spend time in the country playing with animals, good family, and friends. At the beginning of March, stay firm in your foundation, having both strength and patience simultaneously. Ahead of you are unforeseen challenges working against your critical nature.

An ounce of restraint with valor will equal ten ounces of gold.

LIBRA (9/23-10/23)

Libra is experiencing a cycle of inner-transformational shifts that will affect your philosophies, belief systems, and conditioned patterns. You will confront your inbred demons, whether they be the alcoholism, dependency, or your tendency to be overly critical. You are urged to try meditation; ten minutes with a good, soothing book can be just as beneficial as ten minutes sitting admiring the trees. You may have to deal with the emotional loss of friends or lovers. This could manifest as a great purging through the purification of death, or the ending of your temporary contemporary acquaintance. Allow yourself room and time to heal both your inner child and your daily life's pattern.

SCORPIO (10/24-11/21)

The surrounding air urges an inner push toward allowing new people in the form of friends and relationships to enter your life. You will awaken to the realization of new life—one in which you can finally allow for a new lover, or allow for the present one to shine. You will shed your skin and allow for your Scorpio nature to transform your Self. The sense of not having full control over your emotions will finally subside, and you will begin to illuminate from within. For some, a lover, friend, or partner will at long last be released from the entanglement of your emotions. For others, prepare for a shift out of a boring life into joy, excitement, and movement.

If single, a good relationship may not come immediately, but many new opportunities for one will. If married, ground yourself and keep your mind in focus; you are prone to experience some turbulence in love.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)

You will break away from overly dependent relationships and situations which are no longer benefiting your life. You could be experiencing an overwhelming sense of lethargy, which could be effecting your drive to succeed. You have been experiencing life at full throttle, causing erratic patterns and creating quarrels, both at home and at work. The universe is prompting a change to occur, either within yourself or through an external shift. You could be experiencing some difficulties between friends, or an overlapping sense of mediocrity. You must focus your mind and organize your life to allow for these changes to occur. Learn to surrender to a higher power and to let go as you learn to stop trying to force everything around you into being.

If married, relationships demand attention in order to maintain a balance. Some turbulent energy will be present, challenging your usually even temper. Stay calm, cool, and objective, so no unneeded difficulties arise. If single, no particular influence is present; love is still hidden in the void of the future.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19)

You must prepare for a slight disruption of your journey. A delay in your plans could occur. This delay is designed to reemphasize the lessons of responsibility, caution, and temperance to prepare you for the coming months. This shift will be noticed, as a slight disruption in your emotional state "Jane Fonda's" you back into place, aligning all your chakras.

At the beginning of March, prepare for an equalizing air to descend into your life, adjusting your career, romantic life, and home to your desired comfort or into an entirely different direction. Here, comfort can be achieved.

If single, playful partners and potential mates will

make themselves known in your life. You should be aware of how your emotions sometimes cause you to miss out on all these opportunities. If married, staying aware of all your emotional immaturity could afford you a great deal more spice in love.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18)

For a moment, stress will subside and your muscles will be relieved of tension. Events will move forward as your relationships ease. A harmony among friends will resonate. You will exaggerate your motions, creating laughter and gaiety. The foundation beneath your feet is solid, and your inner being is growing stronger and abundant, creating confidence, optimism, and abundance. A breakthrough occurs within your psyche that will manifest in all the world around you. You will spend more money on your home entertaining family and friends. You will bask in the joy of cooking and could host a delightful soiree. A sign will show you the breakthroughs occurring in your life.

If single, luck in love abounds the world 'round, abundantly gracing your life. If married, a cleansing air descends on relationships; it's time to confront habits, pet peeves, and slight annoyances.

PISCES (2/19-3/20)

It is imperative that you become aware of the issues binding your life, whether they be major or minor obstacles. They are the overflow of distressing energy moving out of your life. Potential wealth is shown, indicating a possible inheritance, money, land, or a valuable gift. This will catapult your career and popularity. Expect a promotion, raise, or a hefty income tax return. Be aware of difficulty in making solid decisions. This could cause this transition to be bumpy, and even interpreted as disruption. You are urged to allow your watery creativity to flow so that you can experience optimism and success. Be careful in taking on more projects than you can handle; ease into this new vibration like an eagle soaring in the air.

If married, it's time to clarify emotions and bring all emotional involvement into a realistic perspective. If single, you're prone to getting involved in scandalous relationships. You know what you do; if some of your actions come back to haunt you, remember where they began.

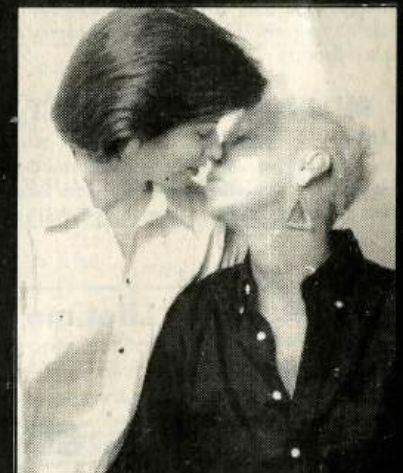
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The Classifieds

continued on next page

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Little Boy Blue

Continued from page 50

tion the cheesy independents filming low-budget numbers on their own), Falcon decided to throw some of their video weight around and produce what is probably the most expensive gay adult video ever made, with more than 30 of porn's hottest actors. When all production was spent and done, the bill was over half of a million dollars, considerably more than \$30,000 average.

"The house they had just for shooting, they were paying \$5,000 a week for and they were there for four months. There were like 37 people in this movie, supposed to be one of the biggest cast movies ever. This is the biggest video they've ever done and they spend a lot of money on their videos. They had a staff of 40 people. Whatever you wanted, you got."

In all this, Steele seems still amazed by it all, but his voice contains the slightest hint of set-pampering or glamour. But there is no shame in his voice, either.

"Mostly, I got back into it because I want to release this movie I have," says Steele. "Solo work, some black and white footage, some color. I have no backers, so I'm working on it with my own money. I don't want any backers. This is mine."

"I've never regretted anything. I can say I've done it, been there. I wanted to do it and I did it. I knew when to stop."

Maybe.

▲▲▲

There's a bit of winter chill on this night in the small garden, and Will Henderson Staples is walking through his botanical achievements.

"Tom Steele is a totally different person, totally different," Staples says of his alter ego. "He has to come out every now and then."

He examines the potted plants and colorful blooms, chuckling at the confession before commenting on his given alias.

"The name Tom Steele was picked for me by Catalina Videos. At first, I kinda thought it was a dumb name, but I guess it wasn't."

Muscular arms swing up to point out the lush tendrils that sensually, though innocently, swirl up around the black iron fence and white brick wall.

"They named me after a lawyer they hated."

Hub-bub.

Stepping through the plants, he catalogues them, describes them, boasts about them, like they're the symbols of his tangled, complicated, sometimes beautiful accom-

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Gay Matchmaker

Continued from page 58

our community, address topics including self-esteem, communication, trust, intimacy, and internalized homophobia.

Committing to a relationship with self and a significant other is time- and energy-consuming, and it does take work. Clients who have actively sought the rich rewards of a healthy relationship with themselves and others are significantly different—they are happy and satisfied.

plishments. They're like his tended pride and joy. Like they're his cats. Like they're his lover.

Like they're the son he bore from his very first sexual experience.

"I was 15, the girl was 16," he says under heavy moonlight, his deep voice a mumbling, humorless purr. "First person I ever slept with. I dropped out of school to support the baby. I took care of her for a long time, then we lost touch. It's been so long."

"He's not in Texas, I know that much. I hired someone to find him three years ago, but couldn't find him. I just wanted to find

As for existentialism, it is a fascinating philosophy. But it no longer boasts my critical allegiance. I have, over the past several years, pursued a love affair with Trudi, and I also actively participate in connecting myself with the rest of the world. It brings me joy to recognize and be a conscious part of the process. The rewards, personal and professional, have been countless. It is this piece of that philosophy that I strive to share with our clients at Alternative Visions. ▼

Wendi E. Stinson-Phoenix is a behavioral consultant and co-owner of Alternative Visions.

out where he was at. I think about him all the time. He's, like, 14 now. A boy, Christian. Sometime I'd like to see him, see how he's doing."

Staples shakes his head, like a shiver, though no breeze comes near.
"Someday." ▼

Steven Foster is a freelance writer in Houston and a frequent contributor to OutSmart.

Thanks to Ken Oeltjendiers and We Deliver Videos for their assistance in researching this article.

I can't believe I missed another issue of OutSmart magazine!
(SUBSCRIBE, and you won't have to miss another one!)

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In Memoriam

CHARLES MOODY

Charles Moody lost his battle with AIDS on January 11 at the age of 57. He is survived by his brother, Slade Moody.

Charles was an active member of our community and involved in several organizations to advance the cause of gay civil rights. He restructured and revitalized the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Veterans of America Chapter in Houston (GLBVA-H), was past member of the Houston Gay Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC), was an active member of the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) of Houston, served on the Ryan White Planning Council, was a member of Bering Methodist Church, and was a Sitting Precinct Chair in the Republican Party.

A gravesite service attended by his family and many friends was held at the Veterans' Cemetery.

For the past weeks, I have been trying to get through by phone to one of my favorite precinct initiative candidates, the ever-feisty Charles Moody. At first I got no answer, then I got the message that his line had been disconnected. The next day, I tried to fax him on his fax line, but to no avail.

Monday night I stopped by his apartment to see what was

up. One of my fellow Log Cabin members suggested that maybe he was just having a cash-flow problem and we could offer to help get his phone line re-connected.

When I rang the door bell repeatedly, the complex manager came out to say, "Are you here to see Mr. Moody?" I said that I was, and he told me that Charles had passed away. I had just seen him the previous week and couldn't imagine he was gone.

It seems that last week he thought he was having heart trouble and called 911. He slipped into a coma the next day at Twelve Oaks and never recovered. This brave soldier had fought in many battles during his lifetime, but this dreaded disease that has taken so many of our friends was too much even for him.

He was currently holding the position of Republican Party Precinct Chair of Precinct #728 and running for re-election in the March 12 primaries. He was living the dream that so many of us within the Log Cabin movement have: changing the Republican Party from the inside. He was breaking stereotypes within the Party and within our own community. He was also quite active in the local gay veteran's group and was proud of his service to both his country and his community. He was a valued member of LCR-Houston and we will miss him dearly.

His Comrade in Arms,
Tirey B. Counts (Jan. 16, 1996)

What a World, What a World...

So there I was, brand new to Texas, leaning against the bar in a woman's club for the first time in my life. My friends (*sponsors?*) introduced me to a woman who chose to skip the formalities of small talk. Caressing her Lite long neck, hooking her boot heel on the rail, she immediately asked if I was butch or fluff. New to the neighborhood, freshly divorced, I was somewhat unfamiliar with the lingo. Eager to make a new friend, attempting to be all things to all people, and yet careful not to step into the fire lane, I turned to her full-frontal and replied, "Bluff."

With that, my first volley returned, I entered that great tennis tournament which I now know to be Interactive Lesbian Life.

JoAnn Loulan, noted sexologist and lesbian whoopee icon, stated last year in an interview in *OutSmart*, "Being butch is not about being male. Being femme is not about being passive. I don't think any of us want to

be limited by being labeled or categorized. We have hundreds of choices about who we are as lesbians, and our erotic designations."

**Being
gay is
about
who we
are, not
who we
do, nor
how
often.**

Indeed we have. But just as we have hundreds of choices about our erotic designations, we have an equally impressive responsibility to not be defined by them.

How do we define ourselves? By our sexual proclivities? Race? Gender? Spirituality? Intellect? Condom brand-of-choice? Plain or peanut? Of course, we define ourselves by a balance of all these things. It's when one of these aspects of our psyche starts tipping the scale in negligence of the other aspects, that the trouble starts.

Someone once told me that the definition of promiscuity is any one who is getting more than you. It's all relative.

Relatively speaking, much has happened since my maiden voyage that night into that women's bar over a decade ago. At that time, politics was not an arena many gay men or



by Nancy Ford

lesbian chose to dabble in. Conversely, in 1995-96, 200 openly gay/lesbian candidates have contacted the Gay and Lesbian Political Victory Fund about running for public office. That's up from 40 just since 1991-92, according to Kathleen DeBold, deputy director of the D.C.-based organization.

In fact, nationwide, six openly gay men are currently seeking their party's nomination for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. (One of them—Patrick Baikauskas of Illinois—is a Republican. I knew you were wondering.)

Be sure that this increase in gay visibility will carry with it a new offensive from organizations like the KKK and its button-down offshoots, the American Family Association, Concerned Women of America, and the rest. Be sure they will pull out all the old labels and stereotypes, citing out-of-context biblical passages and skewed medical journals, like this:

"In certain professions a very large percentage practice abnormal sexual relations. Many of these individuals are thoroughly healthy, and not in any other way to be distinguished from normal human beings."

"Many homosexuals among men are splendid musicians, capable writers, adept hairdressers and designers, and perhaps the best of all, interior decorators. In fact, many of these individuals take a certain pride in their un-normality, claiming that their prac-

tice is far to be preferred to the old-fashioned, and to them obsolete relations that exist between normal men and women."

This text has been plucked verbatim from the highly respected medical journal/sex manual, *Eugenics and Sex Harmony* by Herman H. Rubin, M.D. The bad news is that this publication was considered the Bible of Sexology for some time, the theories of which were referred and adhered to almost exclusively by major U.S. medical universities and institutions of higher learning. Scared?

The good news is, *Eugenics* was published way back in 1933, and has since been used as a yardstick to measure how far the medical community has come in its research of homosexuality.

Yes, we've come a long way since 1933. Today we know better. Today we know that being a gay man or lesbian is not who you have sex with, any more than being a heterosexual is who you have sex with. Being gay is about who we are, not who we do, nor how often. Today, we know that stereotypes of this nature are archaic, and that this rhetoric is not only inaccurate, but dangerously inflammatory in a country whose economic and political climate is considered somewhat unstable.

Coincidentally, in 1933, Adolph Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany. The same day, the new Hitler regime banned all the gay press in that country, which was enjoying burgeoning success in the free-thinking Europe of the early 20th century. This ban was followed by the burning of an estimated 12,000 "homosexuality-sympathetic" books, periodicals, and other documents, marking the beginning of the end of the early gay rights movement in Germany. We know what happened next.

The next time you're about to settle in for a session of hot sex with your favorite butch or fluff, porn star or congressional candidate, make sure your partner has not only a condom, but a voter registration card, as well.

Who knows—your life may depend on it. ▼

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

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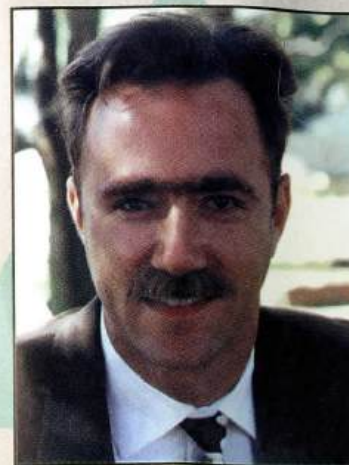
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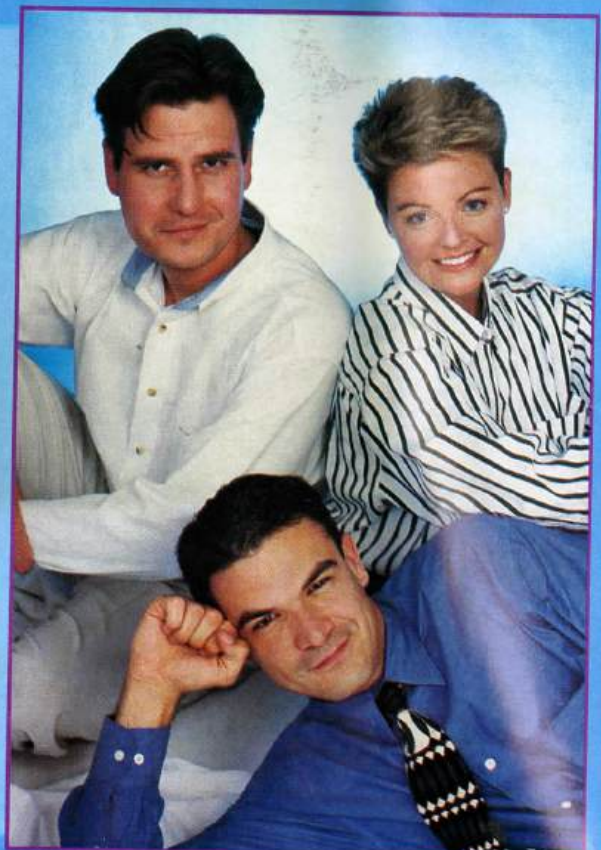
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