

Volume 3 ▽ Issue 5

June 15 - July 14, 1996

Complimentary Copy

OutSmart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

HOUSTON CELEBRATES LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE WEEK

LOVE IS A BASIC
HUMAN RIGHT

Edward
Fallon

DAY OF
COMPASSION

TV SUPPORTS
AIDS AWARENESS

JANICE IAN
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QUEER KIDS
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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 3 June 15-July 14, 1996

FEATURES

- QUEER KIDS** 32
DiverseWorks presents five Houston artists in *Beyond Desire, School's OUT*. by Eric L. Roland
- THE REVENGE OF JANIS IAN** 34
Say you had your first hit record at 15, then were considered "too old" by the industry at 18. Janis Ian talks to Nancy Ford about *Revenge*.
- HEEL THYSELF** 40
Sound the shoe horn! It's time for the Pumped Up On Art Gala. Shoe-biz art at its finest! by Eric L. Roland
- LOVE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT** 40
Iowa State Rep. Ed Fallon talks about gay marriage. And, as a heterosexual, why he's for it.
- HOUSTON LESBIAN AND GAY PRIDE WEEK CALENDAR** 46
The Pride Committee of Houston wants to set you up with a date. You can even bring your significant other.
- AIDS DAY OF COMPASSION** 54
Eric L. Roland examines television's efforts to bring more awareness to real life drama.
- THE STORYTELLER'S SONG** 56
When you can't laugh till you cry, sometimes it's better to cry till you laugh. A story of compassion by Tristan A. MacAvery.

DEPARTMENTS

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| Letters to the Editor | 6 | HIV/AIDS Watch | 60 |
| OutSmart Calendar | 8 | OutSmart Travel | 66 |
| Queer Quotes | 14 | OutLaw | 70 |
| Out Here | 16 | Future OutLook | 72 |
| Out in Our World | 18 | Classifieds | 78 |
| Left Out | 28 | Resource Directory | 80 |
| OutRight | 30 | OutWit | 82 |
| OutGrowth | 58 | | |

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by Chris Huffman Graphics
713/523-2213

COVER PHOTO

by Robert Derr Photography & Web Design
713/802-2845

NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER



This month Houston celebrates Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. And do we have reasons to celebrate! Last month's Supreme Court ruling gave us one of the biggest victories in gay and lesbian civil rights history. The ruling said the Colorado amendment's "disqualification of a class of persons from the right to seek specific protection from the law is unprecedented in our jurisprudence." At last, the Supreme Court has recognized us as a class of citizens.

And while there are plenty of righteous individuals still out there trying to suppress us, we can't forget the many individuals who continue to stand with us. It's easy to forget that many of our friends, family members, clergy, and elected officials have gay pride but are not gay.

In this issue we're proud to be able to reprint a speech given by Iowa State Representative Ed Fallon about why he believes gays and lesbians should have the right to be legally married. We hope you find it as inspiring as we do. Cheers!

Greg Jeu and the staff of OutSmart

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Barnes & Noble salutes Gay Pride Week.

At Barnes & Noble, you'll find events that reflect the spirit of the gay and lesbian community. As we celebrate Gay Pride Week, join us for these discussions:

The Galleria

Gay & Lesbian Book Group

Wednesday • June 19th • 7:00 PM
5000 Westheimer Road, across from The Galleria
(713) 629-8828

Same-sex unions sanctioned by the Church? Homosexuality as a social ideal? Find out about these and other topics when we explore the historic reality of homosexuality. This month we'll be discussing John Boswell's *Same-Sex Unions in Pre-Modern Europe* and K.J. Davis's *Greek Homosexuality*.

Vanderbilt Square

Gay & Lesbian Readers Group

Monday • June 24th • 7:00 PM
3003 West Holcombe Boulevard (713) 349-0050
Join our book discussion group, which meets on the last Monday of every month. Our current selection is *Chloe Plus Olivia: An Anthology of Lesbian Literature from the Seventeenth Century to the Present*, edited by Lillian Faderman. Be sure to register for our fabulous door prizes!

Westheimer and Voss

Pride in the Culture

Wednesday • June 26th • 7:30 PM
7626 Westheimer Road at Voss Road, in Westheimer Crossing
(713) 783-6016
Shelly Porter, a Human Rights Fund spokeswoman; Eric L. Roland, editor of OutSmart; and Steve Nettles from the Montrose Clinic will host a panel discussion on gay and lesbian issues such as the recent Supreme Court ruling on Colorado's Proposition 2 and the role the media plays in contemporary gay culture.

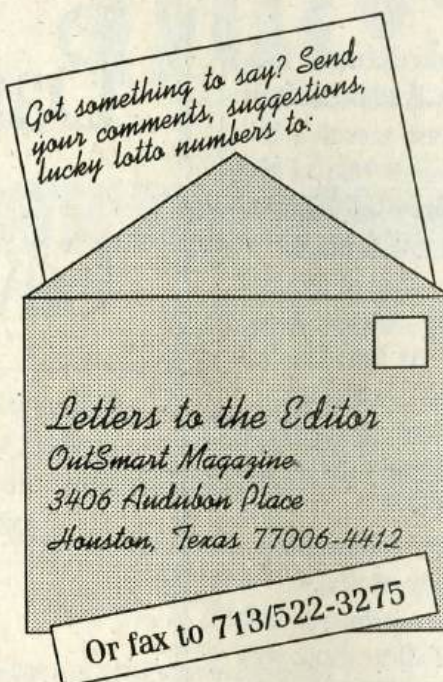
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"The Gay Republican"

In keeping with the conservative value of expressing appreciation to those who've earned it, I thank Daryl Moore for his advertisement for Log Cabin Republicans ("Left Out," May 15, 1996). Log Cabin Houston is the second largest and fastest growing Log Cabin chapter in the nation. At least part of the credit for our growth goes to him and other gay liberals, who mention us often. As a good Republican, I am not ungrateful.

Mr. Moore wonders "...why anyone would choose to be a gay Republican." Republicans are hardly monolithic in their views about gay civil rights. For instance, William Weld, the Republican governor of Massachusetts, has been described by the *Wall Street Journal* as the most pro-gay governor in the nation of either party. Still, it is true, as Moore points out, that most contemporary Republican politicians are hostile to our community's interests. But it is also true that the Democratic Party's record on gay issues is a sorry one as well.

For example, in the 30 years from 1964 to 1994, a Congress controlled by Democrats refused to amend the Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation. It was also a Democrat-run Congress that balked at the idea of gays and lesbians serving openly in the nation's armed forces. A Democrat-dominated Texas legislature resisted repeal of the sodomy statute. Finally, President Clinton, a Democrat, has announced to the nation that he opposes the legislation of same-



sex marriages. It is fair to ask: What exactly do gay Democrats have to show for years of unfailing loyalty to their party?

Following three decades of liberal gay activism, U.S. public policy toward gays and lesbians

remains largely antagonistic. Half the states still brand us criminals, and none of them recognize the validity of our relationships. Any gay soldier who makes known his homosexuality faces expulsion from the service. Gay men and women who get fired from their jobs on account of their sexual orientation are without legal recourse. So-called "hate crimes" against members of our community are commonplace, and often go unpunished. Gay Democrats, despite their self-righteous arrogance, have failed to unilaterally provide a society in which gays are even safe, much less affirmed.

If we are ever going to succeed in producing serious permutations in the law, we must yield to the realization that our cause requires a bipartisan approach. Historic shifts in American social and legal policy rarely occur without the support of both major parties. The Democratic Party, even if many of its members are sympathetic to us, will not risk the consequences of acting without political cover.

Equality of rights for gay men and lesbians will become the law only after the Republican Party acquiesces to the change. Conservative and moderate gays are the only ones ideologically equipped to mount a fight for gay rights within the ranks of the GOP. We are the only ones who can make a conservative case for pro-gay change.

I am therefore happy to concede the left side of the battlefield to Mr. Moore and other gay Democrats. They have an important role to play in advancing our community's interests. But while

a campaign by gay Democrats is necessary, it is not enough. In the fight for gay liberation, gay Republicans are the second front.

Paul W. Simmons
Houston, Texas

Since when is "expressing appreciation to those who've earned it" a "conservative value"?—Ed.

Mr. Moore, regarding your article, "The Gay Republican," you suggest that maybe the reason you don't "get" the mission of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) is that, "Perhaps it's that I'm just a liberal." I think you've stumbled upon something.

I hope the fact that LCR-TX has forced the GOP to sit down at the table and have a reasonable discussion (albeit under court order) has convinced you that we gay conservatives are not the lapdogs that the gay media has portrayed us as. If we are, then the lapdog has bitten back.

Your question, "why would someone gay voluntarily try to integrate into a political party that has traditionally excluded gays and lesbians..." misses the point. The point is not to assimilate; the point is to reform, build coalitions, and break stereotypes. To say that our part of the mission to bring about equal rights for gays and lesbians is any less valuable is incredibly shortsighted. You should be happy that there are soldiers like us willing to go behind enemy lines and fight for what we believe.

You ask "why anyone would choose to be a gay Republican." ... The reason I am a Republican is because I believe in less government. I am angry at the radical parts of the Republican Party that have lost sight of this basic concept, but my goal is

to point out the inconsistency of their attempts to legislate morality. ...

Tirey B. Counts
Houston, Texas

Tirey B. Counts is state secretary of Log Cabin Republicans—Texas; the views expressed are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas.—Ed.

From All Walks of Life

Well, we are still counting the money, but it looks as though this year's Southwestern Bell's From All Walks of Life was a great success. Our initial figures show that we will have a 35% to 40% increase in monies collected from pledges over our last effort. Also, we had a 56% increase in the number of walk/roll-a-thon teams.

It is quite certain that we could not have done this without the help from many sources, and your participation in the event was extremely essential in our overall success. As you know, we looked on this year as a "new" start for this event. With help such as you gave us, we should be able to make this event as strong as any in the country. In fact, tonight we start planning the next event.

It is our hope that you understand this is a growing (and learning) experience for us all. Your input was essential in helping to guide us in the right direction. Please keep us in mind for next year, as I am sure that we will be calling again.

Don Browning
Publicity Chair, From All Walks of Life
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

June

15 GAY MEN'S CHORUS BENEFIT, a celebration of Broadway and popular music with Marsha Carlton, Clay Howell, Randall Jobe, and others, benefiting AFH Stone Soup, 8 pm, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center. Tickets are \$10, \$15, and \$20; call 713/227-ARTS.

16 LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, come celebrate pride and bring a covered dish for the Pride Picnic, 11 am, Memorial Park picnic area, a.k.a. "the fruitloop."

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LESBIAN & GAY ALLIANCE (AALGA), general meeting, 5:30 pm, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1410 Harold, 713/864-2242.

BICYCLING IN WEST OAKS, sponsored by the Chain Gang, Houston's Gay & Lesbian Cycling Club, 38 miles, 9 am, meet on the southeast side of Mervyn's at West Oaks Mall, 713/863-1860.

17 L E A DELARIA, the first openly gay comic to perform on television will bring her "in your face" comedy to Houston, Vickie Shaw will open, 7:30 pm, Houston Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 day of the show, 713/524-2333.

18 OUT, POSITIVE & PROUD! with openly gay and HIV-positive comics Kevin Maye and Steve Moore, 7:30 pm, Houston Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 day of the show, 713/524-2333.

GRAND MARSHAL'S RECEPTION, sponsored by Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund, Soiree Aubergine, Colt 45s, Venture-N, 7-10 pm, Venture-N, 713/521-0911.

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON, gen-

eral meeting and social hour, 6:30 pm, 2700 Albany, 529-6979.

SEX, TOYS, & VIDEOTAPE explores the diversity of ways to enjoy safer sex, 7-9 pm, AFH Office, 3202 Wesleyan, 713/623-6796.

19 LAMBDA ROLLERSKATING, RollerBall 1996, come dressed in formal attire or be creative and come dressed in something wild, 8-10 pm, Starlite Skating Academy, 8075 Cook Rd., 713/933-5818.

JUNE BREAKFAST MIXER, sponsored by the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, call Coy Tow for details and information at 713/526-6668.



Comedians (l-r) Lea DeLaria, Kevin Maye, and Steve Moore.

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

20 PRIDE WEEK SOCIAL, with the Houston Outdoor Group, bring your favorite entree or dessert and canned goods for AFH Stone Soup, 7 pm, Assistance Fund Building, 1116 Jackson, RSVP 713/466-3309.

AIDS GARDEN DEDICATION, the vegetable garden at the Multi-Service Center will be refurb-

ished, vegetables will be planted, and the harvest will benefit AFH Stone Soup, 10 am, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray.

GAY PRIDE ICE SKATING CELEBRATION, sponsored by Montrose Ice Picks, skaters are urged to wear red tank tops or their favorite gay T-shirt, 8-10 pm, Galleria Ice Rink, 713/522-3687.

WHAT'S THEIR SECRET?, panel discussion on long-term relationships of 15 or more years, sponsored by Alternative Visions, 6:45-8:45 pm, Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose.

21 PUMPED UP ON ART, auction of celebrity shoes turned into works of art, 7 pm, JAGS, 5120 Woodway, 713/529-6979.

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

21-22 CAFEMAIISON LIVE MUSIC, eclectic music with Johnny Barnett on Friday, June 21 and Irish folk with Gordian Knot on Saturday, June 22, 2089 Westheimer, 713/528-6750.

21-23 SCHOOL'S OUT, performance art piece with four gay youth from Houston, 8 pm (2 pm on Sunday, June 23), DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, 713/223-8346.

22 PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT, opening night party for photography by J. E. Townley, exhibit runs June 22-July 19, 7-9 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore, 713/526-5200.

24 GAY & LESBIAN READERS GROUP, will discuss *Chloe Plus Olivia* by Lilian Faderman, 7 pm, Barnes & Noble Vanderbilt Square, 3003 West Holcombe, 713/349-0050.

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS of Houston general meeting, 7 pm, Renata's, 2006 Lexington, 713/529-9100.

25 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, SEX, & INTIMACY, explores the options of safer sex and sensuality through discussion and games, 7-9 pm, AFH Office, 3202 Wesleyan, 713/623-6796.

26 GAY & LESBIAN ISSUES FORUM, with Steve Nettles from the Montrose Clinic, Shelly Porter of the Human Rights Campaign, and Eric L. Roland from OutSmart magazine, 7:30-8:30 pm, Barnes & Noble, 7626 Westheimer at Voss, 713/783-6016.

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

27 SELF-EMPOWERMENT IN HIV DISEASE, with Dr. Tarek Elbeik discussing viral load assays and Nelson Vergel discussing breakthroughs in HIV weight loss, 7-9 pm, Granger Room, Doubletree Hotel at Allen Center, 400 Dallas, 713/526-5883.

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

28 HOW TO GO ON LONG-TERM DISABILITY, free seminar led by attorney Mitchell Katine, 6-8 pm, ONCOL Medical Associates, 4140 Southwest Freeway, 4th floor, RSVP: 713/961-7100.

LESBIAN AND GAY POTLUCK, sponsored by the Lesbian & Gay Unitarian Universalists, 7 pm, Crane Fireside Room, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin, 713/526-5200.

28-29 CAFEMAIISON LIVE MUSIC, eclectic music with Donna's Dreams on Friday, June 28 and progressive folk with Jorge Palomarez on Saturday, June 29, 2089 Westheimer, 713/528-6750.

30 BENDING GENDER BARRIERS, panel discussion of female-male relationships and interactions, sponsored by the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance of Houston, 5:30 pm, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, rm. 211, 713/864-2242.

July

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

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

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

6 WOMEN IN COMBAT: AT HOME AND ABROAD, reception paying tribute to women in the armed forces, benefiting the Houston Area Women's Center, 5:30 pm, Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood, 713/470-6853.

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

9 RIBBON CUTTING, Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce welcomes new business PostNet, 12 noon, 2620 S. Shepherd.

HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN PARENTS Support Group, MCCR library, 1919 Decatur, 7-8:30 pm, 713/980-7995.

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

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

11 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.

12 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.

heater

ABSOLUTE THEATRE, Chapultepec Restaurant, 813 Richmond, 713/921-7469, June 21-July 7: *Transmigration of Existence*, *Casket Letters*, and *A Little Lite Larceny*.

ACTORS THEATRE, 2506 South Blvd., 713/529-6606. Through June 23: *The Rainmaker*.

THE ACTORS WORKSHOP, 1009 Chartres, 713/236-1844. Through June 22: *Psycho Beach Party*.

ALLEY THEATRE, 615 Texas Ave., 713/228-8421. Through June 23: *The Food Chain*, June 21-July

7: *Agatha Christie's Black Coffee*, July 12-28: *The Nerd*.

COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE, 12802 Queensbury, 713/467-4497. July 12-August 17: *Fiddler on the Roof*.

DIVERSEWORKS, 1117 E. Freeway, 713/223-8346. June 21-23: *School's OUT/The Naming Project*.

ENSEMBLE THEATRE, 4212 Main, 713/520-0063. Through July 21: *Over Forty*.

GALVESTON ISLAND MUSICALS, 800/54-SHOWS. Mary Moody Northern Amphitheatre—June 12-29: *The Wizard of Oz*, July 3-20: *South Pacific*, July 24-August 10: *Camelot*, The Grand 1894 Opera House—August 1-18: *Cabaret*, August 22-Sept. 8: *Gypsy*.

THE GROUP THEATRE WORKSHOP, at Ovations, 2536-B Times Blvd., 713/522-2204. Through June 19 and 20: *10 Percent Revue*.

HOUSTON BROADWAY SERIES, Brown Theater, Wortham Center, 713/629-3700. June 21-23: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, August 6-11: *Grease*.

MAIN STREET THEATRE, 2540 Times Blvd., 713/524-6706. Through July 7: *The Mask of Moriarty*, July 18-August 18: *The Drums of Sweetwater*.

NEW HEIGHTS THEATRE, 339 W. 19th, 713/869-8927. Through June 29: *The Monogamist*.

STAGES REPERTORY THEATRE, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/527-0220. Through July 7: *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family, Part III*, June 14-July 14: *The Drunkard*.

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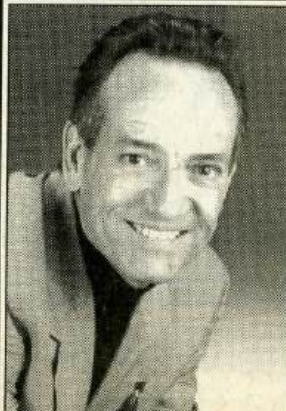
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THEATRESOUTHWEST, 3750 South Gessner, 713/661-9505. Through June 22: *Pack of Lies*.

THEATRE SUBURBIA, 1410 West 43rd, 713/682-3525. Through June 29: *Five Tellers Dancing in the Rain*.

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.

AIDS TALK HOUSTON: (TV) Access Houston Community Television (AHCT). Showtimes are listed in local television guides under AHCT channels.

MONTROSE 77006: (TV) Access Houston Community Television (AHCT). Showtimes are listed in local television guides under AHCT channels.

Ongoing

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

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

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

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 713/526-8822.

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 at the Art League, 1953 Montrose. Among other media, the course offers lessons in painting, printmaking, and ceramics on a rotating basis. For information, call 713/523-9530.

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

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.

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

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: 7534 Carew, Houston, TX 77074 or call 713/772-5826.

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, ex-spouse problems, step relationships, etc. Meets at MCCR, 1919 Decatur, the second Tuesday of every month from 7-8:30 pm, 713/980-7995.

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

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

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 at 8 pm, Tuesdays, 239 Westheimer.

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 713/587-6914 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 is actively seeking local or out-of-town musicians of all skill levels to join them in this year's Gay Pride Parade. Auditions are not required. 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 713/875-2891.

HOUSTON WOMEN'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE is a nonprofit organization for women who enjoy the sport of softball. For more information, write to P.O. Box 70666, Houston, TX 77270 or call 713/721-6854.

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. Call Eric Mayo at Living in Process Southwest for more information—713/622-7250.

LIVING WITH HIV 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 Thursdays from 7 to 9 pm in room 117 at Unity Church of Christianity, 2929 Unity Drive at Hilkroft. For further information, please call 713/782-4050.

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.

MILAM HOUSE is a housing facility for HIV-positive persons who, because of health, social, and/or economic conditions, are unable to provide for their own basic human needs. We are seeking volunteers to help with everything from shift work to administrative and fund-raising. If you can help, please contact Dallas at 713/520-9248 or email us at ahhlvlntr@neosoft.com.

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. 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.

TAU CHI CHAPTER OF TRI ESS is a local support group for heterosexual male crossdressers and their wives or partners. For more information, call Brandi at 409/856-6759.

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.

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.

THOMAS STREET HEALTH CENTER COUNCIL is an elected advocacy group that advise the hospital district on matters concerning Thomas Street AIDS Clinic. Persons interested in running for a seat on the board should attend their meetings, every second Wednesday, 2015 Thomas St., 713/521-1613.

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

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Memorial Park: Modern classic 3 story succo townhome. Soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, incredible master bath with jacuzzi, stacked windows, and WBFP!.....\$280's
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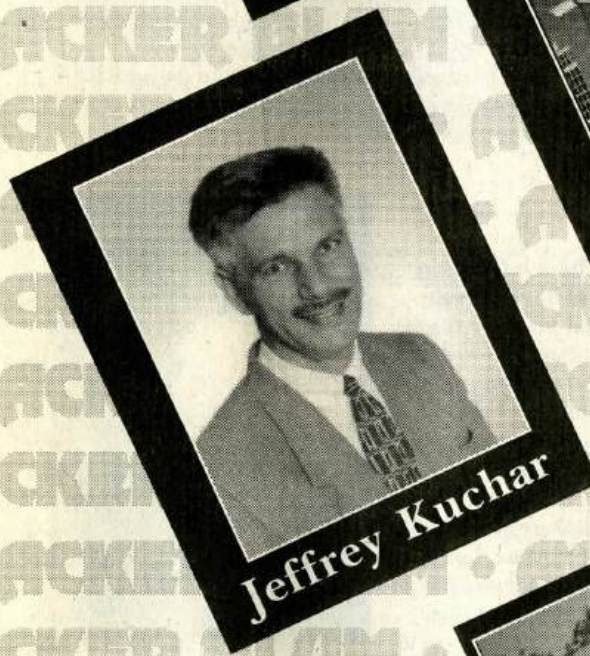


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Montrose/Neartown: Secluded oasis in the heart of it all! Updated 1/1.5 plus loft with expansive decks, blond hardwoods, halogen lighting, soaring ceilings, skylights and much more!.....\$130's
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Cherryhurst/Montrose: Walk to the park from this stunning tri-level townhome. Master suite with jacuzzi bath, 2 story living room featuring WBFP, wet bar and more!.....\$140's
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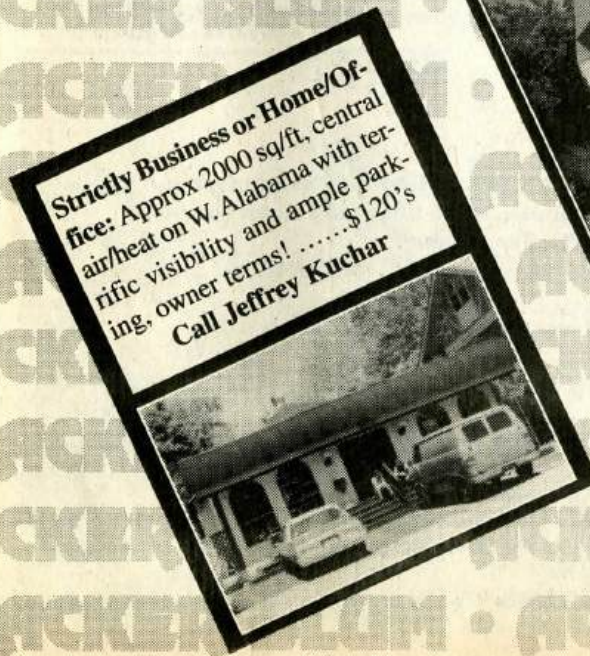


Jeffrey Kuchar

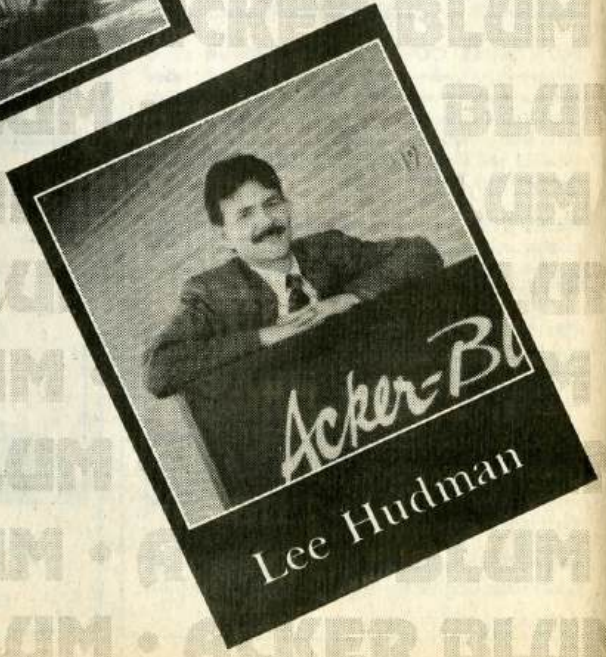
Med Center: Smashing contemporary! 3/2.5/2 with terrazo floors throughout, lush tropical pool and patio with magnificent kitchen. Great house for entertaining!!.....\$Low 200's
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The Nanny's Fran Drescher: Would you notice her at a Barbra Streisand concert?

Fran Drescher

(Enter Whining, 2/96, Fran Drescher)

"...Once, on a trip to New York, Peter [Jacobson, my husband] and I decided we would try to get tickets for Barbra Streisand's show at Madison Square Garden, tickets that were most difficult to get, when we were told by a Sony executive that she records under the Sony label and that Sony Signatures was handling all the merchandising as well. Before we could say evergreen, two ground floor-level comped tickets were messengered to our hotel. 'This really takes the cake, we're going to hear Streisand sing, live! Somebody pinch me. We're not worthy, we're not

worthy,' we thought as we melded into the thousands of paying customers at the Garden's entrance. What an exciting night, the thrill, the rush, the fans... are beginning to notice me. Soon, everywhere we turned, large groups were looking, pointing, and moving toward ME. It never occurred to me, but Peter said, 'We're in New York at a Streisand concert. I guess a lot of her fans are your fans, too. Who knew?' And let's not forget, it was Gay Pride Week."

Art Alexakis (with band Everclear)

(Interview, 6/96, Ray Rogers)

Ray Rogers: When I heard the lyrics to your next single, "Heartspark Dollarsign," about "a love so pure" meeting "a hate so blind," it reminded me of meeting my boyfriend's father.

Art Alexakis: That's really hard. I went through a period of my life when I dated guys as well, when I was eighteen, nineteen. I think all people are bisexual, or have the ability to be. I mean, love is love. If you feel love and you're treated with love and respect, then [f---] the rest of the world.



Sharon Stone

(The Advocate, 5/28/96, Jess Cagle)

Jess Cagle: Now let's play a game. It's called "Death Is Not an Option." I give you two people, and you have to choose which one you'd sleep with and explain why. First choice: Dan or Marilyn Quayle?

Sharon Stone: Dan—he wouldn't remember and couldn't spell my name....

George Clooney or Val Kilmer?

Does this negate the possibility of a threesome?

Regis or Kathie Lee?

Kathie Lee, because she's so perky; I know she would bring me breakfast in bed.

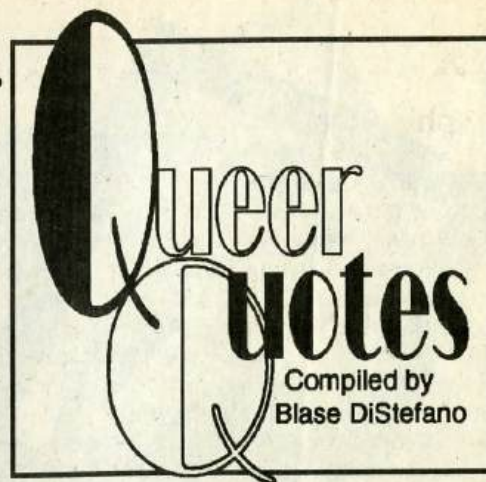
Pat Robertson or Ralph Reed?

Does this negate the possibility of a threesome with George Clooney and Val Kilmer?

Newt or Candace Gingrich?

Candace. At least she is sure of her sexuality.

Actress Sharon Stone (seen here in 1995's The Quick and the Dead): Would she rather sleep with Newt or Candace Gingrich (and why)?



Sophie B. Hawkins

(Us, 3/96, Hillary Johnson)

"I never know what I'm going to do tomorrow," she says. "I wake up in the morning, and I don't know—and that's relationshipwise and sexualitywise. That's why I use the word omnisexuality. I wanted to define my sexuality around myself, not around him or her. I can never confine it."



Rapper Ice T: Is sex with men in prison a gay area or a gray area?

Ice T

(Interview, 6/96, Eric Berman)

Eric Berman: In your book, *The Ice Opinion* [1994], you said you regretted having been "hard on gay people." Why did you say that?

Ice T: Because when I was comin' up, I really didn't understand gay people. When you're young, you think somebody's gay because they can't make it as a man. But you learn, you grow up. Personally, I'm as straight as six o'clock, but if being gay's your thing, cool. So I learned to get to that point. The funny thing about gayness is that there are a lot of men that are gay and don't think they are. Like when you go to jail, you be runnin' with these hard niggas who be havin' sex with men, and they don't think that's gay. Real niggas be talkin', "Yeah, I'm gonna [f---] him." And the same nigga'll get back on the streets and be a man. It's a gray area.

Sapphire (author of Push)

(Interview, 6/96, Mark Marvel)

Sapphire: [In my novel *Push*] Precious Jones, the protagonist, has been raped by her father since she was seven years old.... [A]t sixteen, when the novel begins, she's still in junior high, unable to read and write, and pregnant with her father's child.... [T]hey kick her out because she's pregnant. And then she goes to an alternative school, [where her teacher is Miss Rain].

Mark Marvel: Miss Rain is really the first person who tries to help. She's the one who gets Precious thinking for herself. She teaches her to read and write, which is how Precious finally communicates what her father has done to her. But the more she opens up, the more Miss Rain also forces her to confront her own ignorance, such as Precious's feelings about homosexuals.

Sapphire: Yeah. Well, as a bisexual woman who has never been in the closet, it was very hard for me when I encountered homophobia, and I couldn't back away from that in my characters—it would have been a disservice to what I was trying to do not to have Precious confront her ignorance. Precious has to deal with this and somehow incorporate it into dealing with her other problems. She has to go outside of her community, to people who she's been taught are in some ways her enemies, to get the help she needs....

Timothy Leary

(Vanity Fair, 6/96, "Proust Questionnaire")

Proust: If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what do you think it would be?

Leary: A beautiful, smart, brave, funny Asian woman.

Tammy Faye Messner

(Larry King Live, 6/7/96, Larry King)

Larry King: [So you did] a TV show—*Jimmy J. and Tammy Faye*. Jimmy J. [Bullock] is gay, right?

Tammy Faye Messner: Yes, uh-huh.

Didn't you think that was against the religion you preached all those years?

You know, when I look at people, Larry, I don't look at people as straight or as gay. I just look at 'em as people I love.

Didn't they preach against it?

Oh yeah, they preached against it, but I'm really sick of judgmental Christians. I think we better start walking our talk. I want to be a hospital, not a courtroom. And I'm not gonna judge anybody again, because I have been so misjudged in my lifetime that I don't wanna judge again.... I love Jim J., and we have a wonderful rapport together. We sorta hit it off like brother and sister.



Tammy Faye: Is she now walking her talk? She doesn't have a gay brother, does she?

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Help for Male Survivors of Sexual Assault

The Houston Area Women's Center rape crisis program has formed a new support group for male survivors of sexual assault. It is designed to provide a safe, confidential environment for men to talk about their experience and their struggles in society around the issues of male sexual assault. All services are free of charge and confidential. For more information, call Diane Williams at 713/528-6798, ext. 246.

NAMES Project Houston '96 Board of Directors Elected

The NAMES Project Houston has announced its new board of directors and officers. They include David B. Jackson, chairman; Leora Feldman, vice chair; Arnold Sachs, secretary; Perrie Dolph, development; Jo Anne Banker, finance; Doris Price, education; Barry Mandel, outreach; Gerry Buncher, volunteers; Bert Ritvo, membership; Susan Battelstein, display/logistics; Daniel Chanis, merchandise; Pete Martinez, panelmaking; Maggi Jones, media; and Jackson Hicks, Keith J. Crawford, Joel Laser, Steve Lupino, Robert Cruz, Monique Bossett, Eric H. Shamban, and John Janco, members at large.

Sincere gratitude is expressed by the organization to Barry Mandel, past chairman, and last year's officers, who have overseen a remarkable expansion of the education/outreach efforts of NAMES Project Houston.

Soiree Total Exceeds \$40,000—Again!

Boosted by a significant contribution from Houston's Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) for the second year in a row, Soiree Aubergine's 1996 fundraising efforts on behalf of Bering Community Service Foundation have exceeded \$40,000 once again. This year's total of \$41,000 is the second highest in the group's five-year history, and brings the community's total contribution to the foundation programs through Soiree to \$159,000. In addition to underwriting all food costs associated with the Bering Adult Day Care Center nutrition program for the year, funds raised through Soiree V will also purchase the remaining equipment needed to complete the recently renovated Care Center Kitchen and assist in a renovation and expansion project being planned for the Bering Dental Clinic.

In addition to the support of TGRA-Houston, Soiree V received significant support from community organizations, including Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star (RSICSS) and the Montrose Softball League, and from corporate sponsors Bistro Cuisine, City Streets, Continental Airlines, Gentry, House of Coleman, and Leather by Boots. As in previous years, fundraising costs were underwritten by Soiree Aubergine Host Committee fees and sponsors' in-kind contributions, allowing 100 percent of monies raised to be contributed directly to Bering Community Service Foundation.

Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival Calls for Entries

Organizers of the Austin Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival (aGLIFF) are soliciting film entries for this year's ninth annual regional showcase, which opens August 30. Submissions are due June 28 for narrative and documentary works, features, music videos, boy and girl shorts, and regional films. Cash prizes up to \$3,000 and a post-production grant will be announced at an awards party on September 14, 1996.

An advisory panel made up of film, publishing, and television professionals will judge the entries. The six-member panel includes director Nicole Claire of the Moon Conn; Dr. John Downing, radio-television-film professor at the University of Texas at Austin; Charles Duggan (Twilight of the Gods); Barbara Grier, owner of Naiad Press; senior vice president of the Canadian production company, Telescene, Bruce Moccia; Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker Dr. Dee Mosbacher; and Paris Pointer, producer/director of Last Call at Maude's.

For more information on film entries, contact Scott Dinger at the Dobie Theatre, 512/472-3240. Festival information and a Call for Entries form is available at <http://www.agliff.org>.

Pride Band Needs Musical Marchers

Get your instruments out of the closet! The Houston Pride Band is preparing for this year's Gay Pride Parade. The band is actively seeking local or out-of-town musicians of all skill levels to join them in this festive event. Auditions are not required. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings, 7-9 pm, at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale. For more information, contact Russell Williams at 713/524-0218 or e-mail: HousTxBand@aol.com.

Political Caucus Blasts Republican Party Decision

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) has joined Log Cabin groups from around Texas in protesting the state Republican Party's decision to not allow Log Cabin to set up a booth at the upcoming convention in San Antonio. At the request of statewide Log Cabin president Dale Carpenter, the HGLPC is calling on the entire community to lodge a complaint against the party by calling Barbara Jackson, the Republican Party executive director.

"The caucus is committed to the rights of gays and lesbians to participate openly in all political parties here in Texas," said Pat Gandy, HGLPC president. It was further stating that the HGLPC finds it reprehensible that the Republican Party has decided to exclude a group of active Republicans from voicing its beliefs in fair and equal treatment for gays and lesbians, and that "we wouldn't stand for this in the

Democratic Party, and we won't stand for it in the Republican Party."

Barbara Jackson can be reached in Austin at 512/477-9821. Additional information about Log Cabin can be obtained from Dale Carpenter at 713/758-3293.

Houston Attorney Receives Frank J. Scurlock Award

Mitchell Katine, partner with Houston law firm Williams, Birnberg & Andersen, LLP., was recently selected as the recipient of the 1996 Frank J. Scurlock Award by the State Bar of Texas and its Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee. This award is given to the individual who has contributed the most in the past year to provide voluntary legal services to the poor and to encourage pro bono activity. Katine's ongoing efforts to provide and promote voluntary legal counsel for indigent persons with HIV/AIDS have been highly recognized by the State Bar of Texas. In addition to practicing law and providing pro bono services, Katine is an adjunct professor at South Texas College of Law where he teaches a course on HIV and the law.

Montrose Clinic Offers Women's Health Clinic

The Montrose Clinic has begun to offer a Women's Health Clinic every Wednesday from 5-8 pm. The fee is \$40; however, no one will be turned away. Visits include complete examination by a gynecologist, lab work, medication, and referral if needed. Call 713/520-2000 to schedule an appointment.

Participants Wanted for Survey of Violence in Same-Sex Relationships

Only recently has physical and sexual violence within gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered relationships been studied. Estimates indicate that approximately 25 to 50 percent of lesbians and gay men report physical violence in a committed relationship. In addition, at least one study indicated that 12 percent of gay men and 31 percent of lesbians have been coerced sexually by an intimate partner. Although illegal, such incidents are unlikely to be reported to law enforcement nor is the victim/survivor likely to seek help through social service agencies.

Dr. Susan C. Turell, assistant professor of psychology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, in cooperation with the Montrose Counseling Center, the Houston Area Women's Center, and the Montgomery County Women's Center, is conducting a survey to determine the scope of this problem in the Houston community. The survey is designed to be the first step toward more education and discussion of the problem within the gay and lesbian community, more victims/survivors seeking services to end the violence, and better service provision by providers.

To participate in the 20-question survey, call Dr. Turell at 713/283-3332. Surveys are also available at Crossroads Market and Inklings Bookstore. All answers are confidential and anonymous.

Clark Read Civil Liberties Foundation Honors Members of Press

Clark Read Civil Liberties Foundation has honored three members of the Texas press at its recent Celebration of Freedom of the Press Awards Ban-

quet. Honorees included Jennifer Lenhart, reporter for the Houston Chronicle; Kay Longcope, editor of The Texas Triangle; and Sonceria Messiah, publisher for the Houston Defender.

Lenhart received the First Amendment Award for Reporter for standing up to the Harris County District Attorney's office and for risking jail time for refusing to reveal confidential sources received during an investigative report of a police officer's slaying of a youth in Bellaire. Longcope received the First Amendment Award for Editor for resisting intimidation used by the American Family Association of Texas and for using that attack as a focal point to gain support for gay and lesbian issues. Messiah received the First Amendment Award for Publisher for resisting racial and economic pressure and for providing an independent voice for Houston's African-American community.

Planned Parenthood Adopts Free Mammogram Program

The American Cancer Society estimates that 184,300 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996, and 44,300 women will die from the disease this year. In response, Planned Parenthood is offering free mammograms to women over age 50 who have an income of less than \$24,000 per year. The goal of this program, funded by a grant from the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP), is to help women get necessary screening for early detection of breast cancer. Mammograms, provided by M.D. Anderson LifeCheq Cancer Prevention Program, are available in Houston at 3601 Fannin on Wednesday, June 26, and Friday, June 28. Call 713/494-5757 for an appointment.

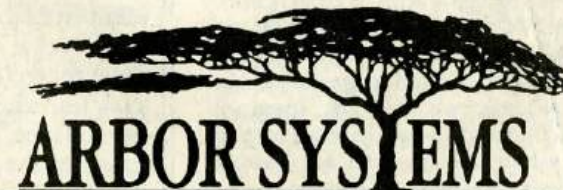
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Out in Our World

The Nation

Archbishop of Canterbury Preaches Unity, Anti-Gay Bishops Say No

LOS ANGELES—Dr. George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, urged Episcopalians not to overreact or act impatiently as the church struggles with its position on ordaining gay priests, while 10 bishops who had brought heresy charges against a retired bishop for ordaining an openly gay member of the clergy all but threatened to lead a schism in the church in the U.S.

In a sermon commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese, Carey warned Episcopalians against "walking away from one another" over the issue and said we must learn to get along with each other despite differences. "We need to learn a new language—a language of acceptance and love of one another," Carey said in his sermon at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in Los Angeles. "I don't mean by this we have to agree or accept the political correctness of our day. There will always be questions that have to be left hanging while we wait for fuller answers. What we must not do is walk away from one another."

Aside from the heresy trial in Delaware earlier this year, Carey has come under pressure from conservative Anglican clergy in Britain who have insisted that he condemn the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Robert Runcie, who it was recently revealed had ordained priests he knew were gay. In Dallas, the 10 bishops who unsuccessfully brought the heresy charges against retired Bishop Walter Righter, warned that they would seek approval at the church's convention next year in Philadelphia for new canon laws that would explicitly bar ordaining openly gay priests. The bishops are also forming an independent fellowship of Episcopal congregations in the U.S. that share their views against ordaining gay priests, a move that could portend a formal schism within the American church.

Episcopal Church: Ordaining Gay Clergy Not Against Doctrine

WILMINGTON, Del.—A court of the Episcopal Church has ruled that it is not against church doctrine for a bishop to ordain sexually active homosexuals to the priesthood, thereby

Court Puts an End to Amendment 2

WASHINGTON—In a ruling that brought a collective sigh of relief from U.S. rights activists, the Supreme Court has ruled that Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 is unconstitutional. Justice Anthony Kennedy said in the court's 6-3 majority ruling that the Colorado ballot measure was "inexplicable by anything except ill will toward homosexuals."

The ruling found that Amendment 2 identifies people by the single trait of their sexual orientation and denies them protection across the board "in a law unprecedented in American jurisprudence." The Court's ruling invalidates the 1992 Colorado referendum that was narrowly approved by 53 percent of the voters and would have blocked anti-bias measures in Denver, Boulder, Aspen and anywhere else in the state that adopted such measures. The high court's majority opinion found that Amendment 2 violates the Constitution's guarantees of equal protection under the law, ruling that it illegally bars homosexuals from seeking legal protections against discrimination in housing,

employment, health and welfare services, education, and real estate sales.

Justice Kennedy called "implausible" Colorado's central argument that Amendment 2 simply made gay and lesbian citizens equal with other state residents by denying them any "special rights."

"This decision is an outstanding moral victory," said Elizabeth Birch of the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign. "And this triumph is especially

important in light of the congressional gay-bashing, which has reached an all-time high in the last two weeks."

Anti-gay activists who supported Amendment 2 were outraged at the Court's ruling. Will Perkins, the Colorado Springs car dealer who launched the campaign to pass Amendment 2, called for a "public outcry" that would force Congress to impeach the Justices who ruled against the measure. The majority decision was joined by Justices Kennedy, John Paul Stevens, Sandra Day O'Connor, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. Dissenting were Justices Scalia, William Rehnquist and Clarence "Coke Can" Thomas.

ending the possibility of a heresy trial against Bishop Walter Righter, 72, the retired Bishop of Iowa, for ordaining Barry Stopfel, who is gay, as a church deacon in 1990. The nine presiding bishops had been considering the issue of whether Bishop Righter should face heresy charges for the ordination for 10 weeks.

Their decision was announced from the steps of the neo-gothic Cathedral of St. John by Delaware Bishop Cabell Tennis and included little in the way of comment or clarification except that there was "no such written con-

straint" in church law against such ordinations. The formal announcement noted that the ruling was not "an opinion on the morality of same-gender relationships."

While Bishop Righter's trial may be over, the issue itself may be far from settled, some church observers say. The Rt. Rev. Andrew Fairfield, the Bishop of North Dakota and the only dissenting member of the court, said the numerous biblical condemnations of homosexuality, as well as Christian tradition and church teachings, hold that "the bottom line is, homo-

sexuality of any kind is prohibited." Some conservatives predicted there would be a schism if the church's general convention, which will meet in Philadelphia next year, doesn't prohibit the ordination of sexually active homosexuals.

In a related development, the day the trial ended in Delaware, the Gay & Lesbian Justice Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas charged that Bishop James Stanton of Dallas, who was central in bringing the heresy charges against Bishop Righter, was responsible for "worsening the climate of fear and self-repression" among clergy in his diocese. Bryant Hudson of the Dallas gay group revealed that in December the Rev. Rex Perry of a church in Stanton's diocese was charged with fondling an undercover policeman in a public restroom. Perry has since resigned, but the Dallas gay Episcopalians said it is Bishop Stanton's anti-gay attacks that lead to clergy in his diocese hiding their sexual orientation, preventing them from any "attempt to lead lives of openness and accountability in response to the gospel, and sends a clear message to those who seek ordination to hide and repress any hint of same-sex attraction."

Hudson said, "This climate of fear and repression will continue to lead to the type of severe spiritual self-alienation and irresponsible sexual activity that led to Father Perry's arrest."

FDA Warns of Leaky Condoms

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has warned consumers that some condoms manufactured in Malaysia do not meet breakage standards and should not be used. The condoms, manufactured by Dongkuk Techno Rubber of Malaysia, are sold in the U.S. under several brand names, including Pamitex, Magic, Black Jack, Maxi, and Ginza. The FDA warned the abnormally high breakage and leakage of the condoms means they may not be effective in preventing spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

Texas GOP Retreats on Gay Issue

The Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF) has announced that the state Republican Party has agreed to Log Cabin requests to hold booth space and program advertising for the gay Republican group. A hearing had been scheduled in early June for a temporary restraining order to prevent the Republican Party from reassigning the booth and printing the program. The interim agreement also included court-ordered mediation by both parties, scheduled to have taken place in Austin on June 12.

"The court has ordered the Texas GOP to sit down with us and try to resolve this dispute on reasonable terms," said Dale Carpenter, state president of Log Cabin Republicans. "We've wanted to do that from the beginning."

If mediation fails, a hearing will have taken place the following Friday to

address the need for a court injunction. The court injunction could compel the Republican Party to permit the Log Cabin Republicans to have an exhibit booth at the state convention. GOP officials returned the money the Log Cabin had already paid to reserve the booth.

Log Cabin Republicans is the nation's largest gay and lesbian Republican organization with more than 10,000 members in 54 chapters in 32 states. Log Cabin Republicans seek to educate the Republican Party about the concerns of gay and lesbian individuals.

The Texas Human Rights Foundation is sponsoring the suit for the Log Cabin Republicans. THRF works to protect and advance the rights of gay and lesbian Texans and people with HIV/AIDS through litigation, education, and legal services.



Invisible Lipstick Lesbians

NEW YORK—Women's beauty and fashion magazine, *Allure*, includes excerpts from the soon-to-be-published book by Lindsay Van Gelder and Pamela Robin Brandt, *The Girls Next Door: Into the Heart of Lesbian America*. The excerpt, entitled in the magazine "Some Lesbians Are Glamour Babes; Others Aren't," looks at similarities and differences between lesbians and straight women in makeup, body consciousness, and similar beauty issues in a light-hearted manner.

South Carolina Anti-Gay Measure Repealed for Olympics

SPARTANBURG, S.C.—Faced with the prospect of having the Olympic torch relay re-routed around the county and finding the men's U.S.A. gymnastic team pulling their training site, the Spartanburg county council has decided not to keep an anti-gay resolution it approved in mid-May. The resolution, similar to ones passed

Continued on next page

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22:4 says, "Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life." Fullness of life comes when we give up our rights and turn them over to God. Jesus said in Matthew 16:25, "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

The second evidence of humility is a disciplined life. Proverbs 25:28 says, "Like a city whose walls are broken down, is a person who lacks self-control." A person who has no control over their own spirit is not a humble person.

A third evidence of humility is obedience. Proverbs 10:8 says, "The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin." Proverbs 3:1 tells us to remember the instructions we have been given. In so doing we will find favor and good reputation in the sight of God and humanity. If, as we come to an awareness of God's purpose and will, we bow our knees obediently to God, that is evidence of humility.

One further evidence of humility is wisdom. Proverbs 11:2 says, "When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom." Wisdom is God's gift to the humble. "The way of a fool seems right to them, but the wise one listens to advice (Pro. 12:15). A humble person shows their wisdom by listening to wise counsel. Genuine humility rests on God's Word, not on personal opinion or pet theories.

It is not possible to gain humility by our own efforts. It comes only by faith. We do not get it by flexing our muscles or showing our strength, but by bowing our knees in helplessness before God. Humility cannot be gained by arrogant pride that rests in its own ability and talent, but by simple submission to God's purposes. Jesus was this perfect example. Read Philippians 2:5-8.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH BY REV. JANET PARKER

One of the most desirable traits demonstrated by Jesus was humility. Many people today have lost the understanding of true humility. Humility to most people means subservience, simidity, easy to push around or persuade. These definitions could not be further from the truth. William Temple in his book, "Christ in His Church," defines humility this way. "Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself than of other people, nor does it mean having a low opinion of your own gifts. It means freedom from thinking about yourself one way or the other at all."

Humility does not require us to put ourselves down, or to avoid being concerned about our own interests or rights. Humility that is greatly occupied with ourselves and which knows how little we are worth is not Christian humility. It is simply another form of self-preoccupation.

What are the evidences of humility in our lives? First, Proverbs tells us that humility manifests itself in a full and happy life. The humble person is happy and is not threatened by others. Proverbs 22:4 says, "Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life." Fullness of life comes when we give up our rights and turn them over to God. Jesus said in Matthew 16:25, "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it."

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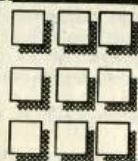
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Out In Our World

Continued from previous page

by two Georgia county commissions in 1993, has no actual legal effect but states that homosexuality is "incompatible with community standards."

The commissioners decided earlier that month to pass the resolution as a show of their support for Cobb County, Ga., which has been excluded as a site for Olympic Game events because of the resolution. But when the Spartanburg council was confronted by the American men's gymnasts team with moving their training site elsewhere over the anti-gay measure and statements by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games that it might re-route the torch run around Spartanburg County, the county council voted 4-1 to repeal the resolution.

Another Sth. Carolina County OKs Anti-Gay Resolution

GREENVILLE, S.C.—While neighboring Spartanburg was busy repealing an anti-gay resolution to avoid a possible Olympic boycott, the Greenville County council approved by a 9-3 vote an identical measure. The Olympic torch is slated to pass through Greenville on June 26, but a spokesperson for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said the group is unsure what, if anything, it may do about the approved resolution, which calls homosexuality contrary to "community standards" in the county. At least one ACOG member, however, was quoted in news reports as saying that the organizing committee "couldn't function as a civil rights watchdog for the nation."

S. F. Mayor Names Lesbian Attorney and Controversial Minister to Board

SAN FRANCISCO—Mayor Willie Brown has appointed two new members to fill vacancies on the city's board of supervisors, including the seat left empty when lesbian rights activist Carole Migden was elected to the state Assembly. Brown announced the appointment of Leslie Katz, 34, to fill the unexpired term of a supervisor who has retired to work on a private project with strong city interests. Katz will face re-election this November.

Brown's other appointment may be more problematic and perhaps more ironic. The Reverend Amos Brown, pastor of the Third Baptist Church and a prominent leader of the city's African-American community, was intensely criticized three years ago for his support of a black member of the city's Human Rights Commission, the Rev. Eugene Lumpkin, who called homosexuality "an abomination" and implied that the Bible calls for the death penalty for it. Lumpkin was shortly afterward fired from the commission, but the incident left a strain between Amos Brown and the city's gay community. The Rev. Brown also opposed the city's domestic partner law at the time it was before the voters, but it is Rev. Brown who will fill

Olympic "Briefs"

SAN FRANCISCO—"I'm An Athletic Supporter," read a quickly scrawled banner hanging from a second story apartment window in San Francisco's predominantly gay Castro District as runners carrying the Olympic Torch made their way on the street below in their continuing sprint from Los Angeles to Atlanta. Although the Olympic run through the Castro had not been publicized in advance, denizens of the crowded and busy district quickly jammed the streets to cheer the sprinter on, turning the brief streak through one of the country's gayest neighborhoods into an impromptu street party.

With the blessing of Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Visitors Center will open in June outside the Olympic Ring to welcome gays and lesbians to the Summer Games there later this year. It is

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the first time any city hosting part of the Olympics has set up a visitors center specifically aimed to lesbians and gay men. The center will help gay tourists with information, programs about exhibits and events at the games, as well as with entertainment and dining information in the city.

The Wayne County Commissioners in rural Georgia have repealed an anti-gay resolution the board adopted two years ago, copying a similar measure that the Cobb County Commission adopted earlier, and which has been a bone of contention ever since. The commissioners in Wayne County said they were concerned the Olympic Committee might reroute running the Olympic Torch through the county, as they have with Cobb County, if the resolution wasn't repealed.

Migden's unexpired term of office, meaning he will not face an election race till November 1998.

University Task Force Says Change Blood Donor Policy

MINNEAPOLIS—Prompted by objections raised by a gay student at the University of Minnesota, a school task force has agreed to change the university's policies on refusing to accept blood donations from men who have ever had sex with another male in the past 20

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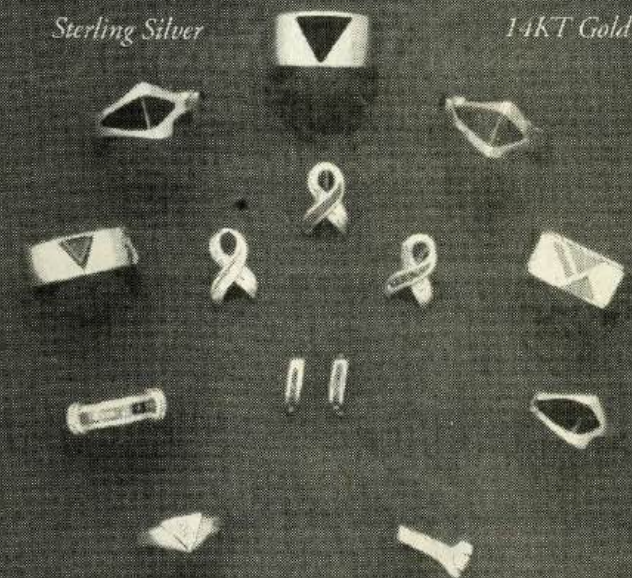
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years. The university task force was set up earlier this year after Sean Wherley of the University Gay Community, a campus organization, raised objections to the policy. The policy is based on a Food & Drug Administration recommendation that excludes males who have had sex with another male since 1977 from donating blood. The task force recommended instead that the university blood program adopt a policy that excluded only any individual—male or female—"who has had anal intercourse even one time within the last 12 calendar months."

The University Gay Community has vowed now to go to the FDA to convince that agency to alter its policy as well.

Dole's D.C. Campaign Puts Ad in Gay Paper

WASHINGTON—Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's capital campaign organization has put an ad in the May 3 issue of the *Washington Blade* urging readers to vote for a slate of committed Dole delegates. An uncommitted slate, including seven openly gay Republicans, is challenging the Dole slate and has already been endorsed by the district's local Log Cabin Club.

Many political observers believe the challenge from the uncommitted slate prompted the Kansas Republican and presumed-presidential nominee's campaign to put the ad in the paper. The Dole campaign ad came just days after news that Abner Mason, a gay Boston Republican activist and Log Cabin Club officer, would be one of Massachusetts' GOP delegates to the Republican National Convention in San Diego later this year. Mason is a committed Dole delegate.

Dole has had an on-off record with gays during his current presidential campaign. Earlier this year a \$1,000 campaign contribution from Log Cabin was returned to the group's PAC organization. Dole initially defended the returned check, saying he didn't want voters to

Continued on next page

Same-Sex Marriage

Anti-Marriage Bill Moves Along Its Chaotic Path in Congress

WASHINGTON—The far-right's proposed congressional measure, known as the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), easily won approval of a House subcommittee by a largely party-line 8-4 vote, and is expected to reach the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote by early July. The Senate companion measure should be reaching the floor of the upper chamber at about the same time, Senate leaders said.

The measure would outlaw same-sex marriages by defining marriage as "the legal union between one man and one woman." The term "spouse" would also be restricted solely to mean a person of the opposite sex, thereby excluding the possibility of federal spousal benefits for domestic partners. The proposal has left rights activists at loose ends since it was introduced in Congress earlier in May, quickly winning endorsements from the Republican leadership and the promise of President Clinton's signature if it passed Congress.

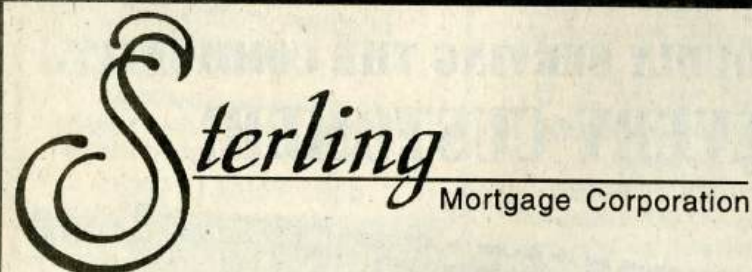
Clinton supporter David Mixner fumed on CBS-TV's *Face the Nation* that the President's quick announcement that he would sign the measure was "an unconscionable position for him to take." Mixner said Clinton's decision was doubtless political in his efforts to keep his popularity lead over anticipated Republican challenger Senator Bob Dole of Kansas in the November election. "But this goes to the heart of everybody's

civil liberties," Mixner said. "It deals with property rights, insurance rights, immigration rights, bereavement rights, and to deny us equal opportunity really makes us second class citizens."

In Seattle, councilwoman Tina Podlodowski, who is a lesbian, resigned as co-chair of Clinton's Washington state re-election campaign, but said she still supports Clinton in the upcoming election, an echo of the dilemma many gays and lesbians feel over an issue that most paid little attention to until it exploded on the national political landscape this year. Podlodowski told the *Seattle Times*, "I'm still very supportive of the President but I believe it's important to show leadership on this. This issue speaks to a broader issue of civil rights."

In an interview with the *New York Times*, openly gay White House advisor Bob Hattoy said the President had been out-manuevered by conservatives on the issue and said Clinton and his campaign advisers were more "homostupid" than homophobic, saying that supporting same-sex marriage now is "a loser" politically. "I just wish the straight white boys at the White House would educate themselves a little more," he said. "It's not that they're homophobic—they're homostupid, and they don't know that the buzzwords they're using are the buzzwords the right wing uses as terrorist dividing tactics and that the gay and lesbian community has a visceral reaction to."

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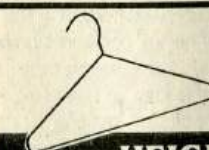
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Out In Our World

Continued from previous page

think he was "buying into some special rights for any group." But later, he said returning the check had been "a mistake" and blamed his campaign staff for the blunder. Even so, Dole agreed during the caucus campaign in Iowa to sign a Christian Coalition pledge opposing same-sex marriages.

Doman Stirs HIV, "Don't Ask" Military Policy Pot Again

WASHINGTON—Goaded by Rep. Bob Doman (R-Calif.), the House National Security subcommittee on military personnel approved at his urging a new armed forces HIV-discharge policy the same day Congress repealed the previous one which Doman had inserted into the military appropriations authorization. The subcommittee, which Doman chairs, also included language that would repeal the current "don't ask, don't tell" policy barring openly gay and lesbian service members from the military.

The Doman provisions would reinstate the previous outright ban against homosexuals, as well as adding questions about sexual orientation back in enlistment forms new recruits are required to fill out.

Utah College OKs Lesbighay Club

SALT LAKE CITY—Student senate leaders at the private liberal arts campus of Westminster College took only a few minutes to approve a gay and lesbian club at the school, a sharp contrast with rancorous debates that recently led the state legislature to outlaw all such gay and lesbian clubs at public schools in the state. "Westminster Pride," as the club is known, has been meeting at the school since last September, but applied for official recognition in order to get meeting space and funding as a legitimate campus organization.

School Board Victory in New Hampshire

MERRIMACK, NH—Two years of contentious tumult over an anti-gay policy may have come to at least a temporary end with the stunning 2-to-1 victory of Rosemarie Rung for a seat on the school board. As the result of Rung's election, religious-right candidates who had forced the anti-gay policy through the board, no longer hold a majority. Rung vowed during the race to work to repeal the anti-gay Policy 6540, which prohibits school employees from "encouraging or supporting homosexual activity as a positive lifestyle alternative."

The race registered the largest voter turnout in the town's history.

Lesbighay Families Photo Exhibit to Show at School

MADISON, Wisc.—Parents at Madison's Hawthorne Elementary School dropped their objections and agreed to let a photo exhibit

depicting gay and lesbian families go on display at the school library. Some parents had initially raised religious objections to the exhibit, called "Love Makes a Family: Living in Gay & Lesbian Families," by Massachusetts photographer Gigi Kaeser. After several meetings, the parents agreed to let the library exhibit go ahead, stipulating only that it be positioned in the school library so that parents who didn't want to see it wouldn't have to. The parents also asked teachers at the school to tell them how they will deal with any questions their students may raise about the exhibit.

The World

Sex Survey: The World's Full of Surprises

LONDON—It was "good news/bad news" for the citizens of the new Russia as London International Group, one of the world's largest condom manufacturers, released the results of its third annual international survey of sexual behavior. According to the LIG survey, Russians are the second most sexually active people in the world, led only by Americans. "Our survey will explode a lot of myths about sex," said Pauli Jakobsson of LIG.

The study reports that based on surveys of 10,000 people in 15 nations, Americans have sex 135 times a year, trailed closely by the randy Russians who succumb to western bourgeois thrills 133 times annually. The former Soviets also trailed the Americans in their self-centered view of sex, with 61 percent of U.S. citizens interviewed saying their own satisfaction was most important in sex. Some 42 percent of Russians said their own gratification was paramount, placing them next behind Americans. Thailand came in at the bottom of the list in terms of frequency of sex, averaging just 64 times per year.

Poles turned up as the most safe-sex conscious in the survey, with a full 13 percent of Polish respondents claiming they routinely carry condoms in their underwear, leading the Italians in their claims of having condoms on hand. Canadians, somewhat surprisingly, came in as the most hostile to the idea of safer sex, while the Russians did little better, ranking 12 out of the 15 countries. Canadians, however, also ranked first as the world's most sensitive bed partners, with 51 percent saying satisfying their sexual partner was their top priority in bed.

Another surprise the survey reports is that women respondents turned out to be more sexually selfish than men, with 31 percent saying their own satisfaction was most important in the sack, while 25 percent of men said their own gratification was primo in bed.

A Lesbian by Any Other Name

HALIFAX, Canada —Just how "up front" can Rosemary Porter and Terry Henson be about their wedding, scheduled for Saturday, May 11? Well, not only did the two women

send out tons of wedding invitations to friends and family, they also ran a standard engagement announcement earlier this year in the city's daily, the *Mail Star*. To make sure no one misunderstood that this was two women getting married, Terry Henson first had her name legally changed to "Theresa Henson" solely to eliminate any possible confusion.

Mr. Gay UK Contest Draws Celebs

LONDON—Australian teen heartthrob, singer and former TV soap star Jason Donovan, who four years ago successfully sued *The Face* magazine for suggesting he was homosexual, presided as master of ceremonies at Britain's Mr. Gay UK contest. Contest host Richard O'Brien introduced Donovan, who first made waves as the star of the Australian soap opera *Neighbors*, by saying, "Jason, as everybody knows, is heterosexual," a remark that nevertheless drew wolf whistles and cheers from the audience as Donovan appeared on stage, dressed in a plastic garbage bag over his head.

Some 2,000 people attended the huge event where 30 contestants from throughout the United Kingdom vied for the \$8,000 first prize. Designer Jean-Paul Gaultier and actor Michael Cashman served as judges in the contest, awarding the title to Roy Fairhurst of Yorkshire.

Teen Mounts Legal Challenge to UK Age of Consent Law

LONDON—Euan Sutherland, a 19-year-old gay student, has been given the go-ahead by the European Commission on Human Rights to challenge the British age of consent laws before the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg if Parliament doesn't change the law. In 1994, Parliament lowered the age of consent for homosexual sex from 21 to 18, but the age of consent for heterosexual sex in Britain is only 16.

Sutherland petitioned government courts without luck to equalize the ages for all sexual activity, arguing that it was discriminatory. "It's normal for a 19-year-old bloke to be going out with a 17-year-old girl," Sutherland said. "If I was doing that [with another male] it would be illegal. Both of us would be breaking the law. There are jail penalties." Sutherland's legal challenge is expected to be joined soon by another gay youth, Chris Morris, 16.

Transsexuals Present British Lady Golfers with Handicap

LONDON—Britain's Ladies' Golf Union has adopted a rule requiring participants in its officially sponsored competitions to be "amateur golfers who were females at birth" because of several recent cases involving male-to-female transsexuals in the association whom other golfers say have an unfair advantage because of their physiological strength.

LGU officials said the competition restriction is similar to one already in place in the U.S. Ladies' Golf Association and was needed to

Continued on next page

Same-Sex Marriage

Continued from page 23

Both the Human Rights Campaign and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force have issued a number of press releases in the past few weeks attacking DOMA and criticizing President Clinton's statements that he would sign the measure, but the Washington, D.C.-based civil rights groups have been unable to find many political allies willing to publicly fight against the proposed legislation as it continues its rapid movement through both houses of Congress.

President Clinton has personally told reporters that he would sign the proposed "Defense of Marriage Act" currently in Congress if it reaches his desk, even though he acknowledged that the measure, which is being pushed by far-right religious activists, was little more than an election year maneuver to "pit one group of Americans against another." Speaking to reporters at the Milwaukee City Hall, Clinton said, "As I understand it, what the bill does is to state that marriage is an institution between a man and a woman, that, among other things, is used to bring children into the world, but the only legal effect of the bill is to make it clear that states can deny recognition of gay marriages that occurred in other states. And if that's all it does, then I will sign it."

Clinton said the issue was "hardly a problem that is sweeping the country," and defended his record on gay rights and opposed bias against gays and lesbians. "I do not favor discrimination against people because they're homosexual," Clinton said. "And you asked me what I would say to gay Americans who may disagree with me about this: I say, look at my record. Name me another president who has been so pilloried for standing up for the fact the we shouldn't discriminate against any group of Americans, including gay Americans, who are willing to work hard, pay their taxes, obey the law and be good citizens."

The rift puts many gays and lesbians in an

uncertain position in terms of the November election because retiring Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) not only also endorsed the bill, he became its first co-sponsor in the Senate.

The President's statements about signing the measure have strained relations with much of the country's gay rights community almost to the breaking point, and in fact an already accepted invitation to top Clinton aide George Stephanopoulos to address a Human Rights Campaign dinner in June in San Francisco was promptly withdrawn because of Clinton's endorsement of the bill. Russ Roeca, a member of HRC's board of governors in San Francisco, grumbled in announcing the Stephanopoulos dis-invitation, "I have no choice but to support Clinton for president, but we certainly don't need to have him send one of his people to dinner."

A news release from the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign said that a Clinton endorsement of the bill would be "an unconscionable capitulation to religious political extremists" and "demanded" that the President oppose the measure. Elizabeth Birch, head of HRC said, "The statement by White House press secretary Mike McCurry earlier this week that same-sex marriage would weaken the family was silly and completely inconsistent with the president's previous positions regarding equal rights for gay men and lesbians."

Openly gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) called the anti-marriage bill "a transparent political issue in the presidential campaign."

House Speaker Newt Gingrich's lesbian sister Candace Gingrich, who works with the HRC, charged that anti-gay politicians were using the proposed legislation "to bludgeon each other" during the election campaign.

Stephen Monkarsh, a Los Angeles board member of Lawyers for Human Rights, said, "I think he [Clinton] has been the first president to really include gays and lesbians at the table. For that, I admire him greatly. But I think in terms of the marriage issue, it's unfortunate that he feels

Continued on page 77

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Out In Our World

Continued from previous page

prevent unfair advantages because transsexual operations are "more prevalent these days."

At least one women's amateur golfer disagreed. Joan Rothschild, former president of the English Ladies' Golf Association, speculated it would be even more unfair to allow transsexuals in the association at all and then refuse to let them compete. "You can't allow someone to play as a woman and then, when she gets down to a low handicap, expect her to disappear," Rothschild said.

Fare Discounts for Gay
Couples on French Trains

PARIS—The state-run French rail service, SNCF, has announced that gay and lesbian couples will now be eligible for similar discount fares on trains enjoyed by married couples. The SNCF announced that same-sex couples could get the 25 percent discounts as long as they were traveling together and had a local registration certifying their registered relationship.

South Africa
Adopts Constitution
With Civil Rights for All

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—South Africa's Parliament has overwhelmingly approved by a 421-2 vote the country's new 150-page Constitution after nearly two years of complex negotiations and sometimes acrimonious debate. The nation's new governing document includes, for the first time in the world, equal rights protections that include sexual orientation.

"United in diversity," begins the preamble to the country's newly approved Constitution, although at least two of the country's right-wing political parties said they would challenge some of the provisions of that diversity in court. In fact, nearly every major party in South Africa expressed reservations about parts of the new document. Even President Nelson Mandela noted that there are still concerns among many of the country's minorities about the guarantees enshrined in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. "The fact that we have adopted this Constitution does not mean that we are not going to address those concerns," Mandela said. "We will continue searching for solutions because we want everybody to feel that he or she is part and parcel of our efforts to resolve the problems of South Africa."

After a long history of white-minority rule and rigidly enforced apartheid, the new Constitution will bring majority rule to the nation when the next general election in 1999 marks an end to the present transitional government. The Bill of Rights outlaws all discrimination in the country, whether based on sexual orientation, race, religion, gender, political views, disability, and other categories.

In a cable to President Mandela about the newly adopted Constitution, the Washington, D.C.-based National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, stated, "The South African people have paved

a new road of equality and fairness by outlawing all forms of discrimination in the constitution, including for the first time anywhere in the world, the discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation." Fewer than a dozen countries worldwide have national laws prohibiting bias based on sexual orientation, and South Africa is the first nation to enshrine such protections in its Constitution.

Canadian Commons
OKs Federal Anti-Bias Law

OTTAWA—Canada's House of Commons has approved by a 153-76 vote a government-backed measure that would add sexual orientation to the country's Charter of Human Rights and legally outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in Canada's regulated public sector workforce, which makes up 10 percent to 15 percent of the nation's labor force. All of the nation's provinces except Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Alberta already have similar anti-bias laws, and the Canadian government has been promising to introduce federal legislation for two decades, so passage of the measure wasn't much in doubt.

The bill created enormous political turmoil in the country. When two MPs in the conservative Reform Party spoke out against the measure by saying it was acceptable for businesses to discriminate against homosexuals and other minorities, the party's Parliament leader, Preston Manning, expelled them from the party caucus, saying, "It is not all right for employers to fire any employee simply because an intolerant customer complains about their color or lifestyle."

The legislation now goes to the upper house of Parliament, the Senate, where it is also expected to pass by a comfortable margin. The measure also requires the royal assent of Canada's governor-general, which is little more than a political formality. Six nations—Norway, Sweden, Holland, Slovenia, Israel, and South Africa—have enacted federal legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

British Transsexual
Wins European Court Case
in Sweeping Ruling

LUXEMBOURG—A Cornwall College tutor, identified only as "P" in court records, sacked after a sex-change operation, has won a European Court of Justice battle over the discharge. The court ruled that the European Equal Treatment agreement of 1976 prohibits any discrimination based on sex and is not limited just to bias based on an individual being of one gender or the other. The court ruled that the anti-bias provision, which concerns all members of the European Union, should apply "to discrimination arising, as in this case, from the gender reassignment of the person concerned."

British government officials said it was unclear if UK law would have to be changed to conform to the court ruling. Some political leaders say the ruling is so sweeping that it may force the government to drop its ban against homosexuals in the nation's armed forces. ▼

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L E F T ▼ O U T

**How can gays and lesbians
commit to matrimonial monogamy when,
for them, it's prohibited by law?**

The Defense of Marriage Act

—Bob and Newt's Unholy Alliance—

The piety of the hypocrites rushing to save the holy sacrament of marriage is nauseating. After 20 years in the Senate, Bob Dole's legislative legacy will end with his proposal of the Defense of Marriage Act, which he sponsored before stepping down to run full time for the presidency. His congressional counterpart, Newt Gingrich, will carry the legislation in the House.

It is difficult to imagine two more unlikely proponents of legislation purportedly intended to save marriage than Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich. After all, neither Dole nor Gingrich can lay claim to one of the oldest sacraments of marriage, "till death do us part." Mr. Dole left his first wife alone to raise their teenage daughter, whom he now proudly refers to as his greatest accomplishment.

Newt nearly made his lifetime commitment to his first wife, but only because her life expectancy was shortened by a diagnosis of cancer. Although modern medicine saved her, it forced Newt to break his lifelong vow. When he broke it, he demonstrated his capacity for compassion by asking his wife to sign divorce papers while she was still in the hospital undergoing cancer treatment.

It is offensive that America permits these two charlatans to wave the family-values banner under the guise of the Defense of Marriage Act. It is offensive because its proponents do not intend to defend marriage, but

intend only to prevent gays and lesbians from obtaining the benefits long associated with heterosexual matrimony. It is offensive

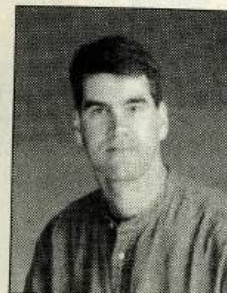
Why do two committed individuals, who have been together for years but have chosen not to marry, enjoy fewer benefits under the law than two people who get drunk in Las Vegas and wake up hungover and hitched?

because its proponents politicize on the alleged promiscuity of the gay community, all the while attempting to ban legally recognized same-sex commitments that promote monogamy. And, it is offensive because its proponents argue that without its passage, marriage is doomed in America.

Indeed, if Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich are so concerned about protecting the sanctity of marriage, why don't they pass a Defense of Marriage Act that outlaws adultery, spousal abuse and neglect, and divorce on demand. Why don't they pass a Defense of Marriage Act that mandates pre-marriage counseling, marital monogamy, and a six-month waiting period for wannabe divorcees. Or why don't they just pass a resolution that promotes fidelity, commitment, and consideration, and call it the "Packwood Pact."

Certainly, Bob and Newt do not consider the institution of marriage sacred. If marriage were sacred, men couldn't order wives from catalogues. Americans couldn't divorce and remarry 30 days later. And the "three strikes and you're out rule" could apply to marriages, not just baseball and felony convictions.

Bob and Newt did not introduce the Defense of Marriage Act to protect marriage. They introduced it solely because they



by Daryl L. Moore

thought they had found a political gold mine that could undermine Clinton's re-election effort and keep the Republicans in control of both the House and the Senate. And, although they're preaching the politics of marriage, they're promoting the politics of divorce—asking straight Americans to divorce themselves from gay Americans.

Why? Because the majority of Americans agree with them. Sixty-seven percent of Americans are opposed to same-sex marriages. Only 33 percent are in favor of them.

And, although I'm not one of the 67 percent, I wonder why we're bucking for same-sex marriages? After fighting for decades to keep the government out of our personal lives, why are we now asking it to sanction or legitimize our relationships by calling them "marriages"? Why does anyone, gay or straight, require a governmentally recognized marriage to enjoy the financial, social, and emotional benefits traditionally associated with one? Why do two committed individuals, who have been together for years but have chosen not to marry, enjoy fewer benefits under the law than two people who get drunk in Las Vegas and wake up hungover and hitched?

If we want the benefits traditionally associated with marriage, should we be fighting for same-sex marriages or just governmental recognition that all individuals, gay and straight, have the right to choose a partner and enjoy spousal benefits without first participating in a ceremonial marriage?

By buying into the traditional, governmental concept of marriage, are we accepting less than we should demand? So far, heterosexual marriage is the only game in town. Liz Taylor played it seven times and lost. Michael Jackson even played it once, supposedly. Do we really want to play this game? Or do we want to play our own? ▼

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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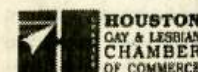
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O U T ▼ R I G H T

The Gay Voter's Dilemma:
the lesser of two evils, none of above,
eenie, meenie, miney...

Our Family Values President

About a week before the 1992 election, I told a gay Republican acquaintance that I might vote for Bill Clinton. Stunned, he asked why. I replied that Clinton was going to do all sorts of good things for gay people, like end the ban on gays in the military. He started laughing uncontrollably and said I was terribly gullible to think Clinton would keep his word on that or anything else. "We'll see who has the last laugh," I retorted. The rest, as they say, is history. (See OutRight, "Clinton's Military Disaster," OutSmart, June 1994.)

There have been other Clinton travesties, of course: his promise to a drooling evangelical on national TV that the government wouldn't do anything to "promote" the "homosexual lifestyle," the rubber gloves incident, his administration's decision not to support us on the most important gay civil rights case ever to reach the Supreme Court, and his appointment of an AIDS "czar" who does little more than give speeches apologizing for his record.

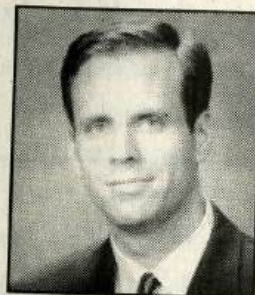
The latest Clinton insult to gays comes on the Defense of Marriage Act. Now there's no doubt that congressional Republicans bear the lion's share of the shame on this issue, but then they never promised us a rose garden. The bill would protect the sanctity of heterosexual marriages—most of which end in divorce, child custody fights, spouse-beating, and a hundred other horrors—from homosexual happiness. There's nothing startling in Clinton's opposition to same-sex marriage in itself since it's the only politically tenable position right now. What gets me is that he's willing to sign a radical bill that lets the federal government define marriage and gives states the power to refuse to recognize lawful marriages from other states—both of which are unprecedented in

our history and our law. Clinton will be remembered as the President who signed the first-ever federal law banning homosexuals from the military and defining marriage as the "union of one man and one woman."

In a line that might have been written by Pat Robertson, Clinton justified his support of the bill by saying that "this is a time when we need to do things to strengthen the American family." The press must have bitten their lips to keep from laughing in his face when they heard that. Bill Clinton—who faces a lawsuit for sexual harassment and has admitted to "bringing pain" to his own marriage—proposes to lecture the nation on "strengthening the family." It occurs to me that the last thing that threatens his family, or anyone else's, is a happy gay couple living down the street.

Then, adding insult to injury, he called the bill *he supports* "one more attempt to divert the American people from the urgent need to confront our challenges together." In other words, the Republicans made me do it. He then indignantly defended his own record on gay civil rights by saying that no other President in history had been so "pilloried" for his pro-gay stand. That is, at the same time he pledges to sign the most mean-spirited and unnecessary anti-gay legislation in history, he huffs and puffs about his gay civil rights record. The man is an evolutionary marvel, a kind of living human Dodo bird. Centuries of moral development and teaching on subjects like shame, modesty, and honesty have passed him right by.

Fearful that gay voters may abandon their man or (more likely) stay home in November, the gay left has gone into panic mode in its effort to re-elect Clinton. David Clarenbach, head of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said in a fit of typical gay left



by Dale Carpenter

hyperbole that "if we don't re-elect Clinton we'll never have another pro-gay president in our lifetime." That must set some kind of record for questionable assumptions built into a single sentence.

Urvashi Vaid, author of the widely unread *Virtual Equality* and former head of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, has collapsed into what might charitably be called cognitive dissonance over Clinton's latest betrayal. In stream-of-consciousness style, she told the *New York Times*: "I can't vote for this guy [Clinton]. I'm not going to vote for Bob Dole. I know that by staying away from the ballot box I'm helping Dole to win. Can I live with myself if I don't vote for him? Or can I live with myself if I do? Sure I'm going to vote for Clinton in the long haul. There are clear differences between him and Dole. On that basis, I will vote for Clinton in 1996. But I don't have to say that I like him or like doing it." People have been diagnosed at MHMRA (Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority) for saying things more intelligible than that.

Finally, a chorus of gay political groups, who just days before Clinton's announcement had fallen all over themselves to denounce Bob Dole for sponsoring the Defense of Marriage Act, parroted the White House line on the subject. Elizabeth Birch, the usually reasonable head of the Human Rights Campaign (which has endorsed Clinton), reacted to Clinton's surrender by lashing out at Dole. She said Dole got the President into this mess since the bill is merely a "ploy" to help Dole's "floundering" presidential campaign. So HRC's position in the presidential campaign is this: When Dole does a bad thing, attack Dole. When Clinton supports that bad thing, attack Dole. She did add that she was "sad" and "disappointed" that Clinton "felt the need to take the politically expedient way out." Message to Birch: that's a "need" Clinton frequently feels.

The gay left's desperate defense of Clinton's sorry civil rights record amounts to this: He may not be very good, but he's the best we've got. This apology usually points out that he's named openly gay people to low-level bureaucratic positions in his administration (can you name even one?), he's pledged to support a bill barring employment discrimination against gays (will he be as silent on that as he was on ending the military's gay ban?), and he's barred discrimination within some federal departments. Meager perhaps, but it's still better

than any other president has done. And yes, Clinton's better on paper than Dole on gay civil rights issues.

But that's a rather modest metric against which to judge him. The nation has been discussing gay issues for less than three decades, so only six presidents can have been expected to address them in any sustained way. I think we're entitled to judge Clinton against his own promises to us, against the justifiable expectations we built up when he took our money and expectations of him, Clinton has been the most disappointing president in U.S. history on gay civil rights issues.

Whether we vote for Clinton or for Dole, we'll get a president ready to trumpet "family values" and treat gays as either a political expedient or a political impediment. I suppose most politically aware homosexuals will dutifully pull the lever for Clinton in the end. But unless Patrick Buchanan is permitted to declare another "culture war" against gays and lesbians on prime time from the podium of the GOP National Convention, Clinton won't get anywhere near the level of financial or emotional commitment we gave him four years ago. He doesn't deserve it.

If he wins in November, it's "Family Values" Bill who'll get the last laugh. ▼

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

**Clinton will be remembered
as the President who signed
the first-ever federal law banning
homosexuals from the
military and defining marriage
as the "union of one man and
one woman."**



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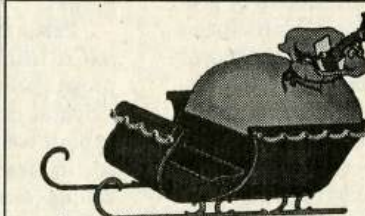
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Clockwise from top
left: Ronnie Tipton,
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Brandy Merritt.

QUEER KIDS RISKING IT ALL

Presenting Their Lives Through Performance Art

It's not easy being young. Peer pressure, low self-esteem, unestablished goals, and much more go into the anxiety that plagues young adults. Throw in a sexual orientation or gender identity issue, and life's problems seem insurmountable. Often ignored by society, even its own gay and lesbian community, queer kids—including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth—are not often given the opportunity to present their stories—their heightened angst, their enlightened thoughts, their acts of survival—to a curious and welcoming audience.

Five young Houstonians, however, are being given the chance to do just that in a unique project called School's OUT. Sponsored by DiverseWorks as part of their gay and lesbian performance art series called *Beyond Desire*, School's OUT has allowed five young local artists, age 17 to 24, to team up with two

young adults from New York to develop a multimedia performance art piece. And although school is officially out, these queer kids have reentered a classroom of sorts to participate in intensive workshops in performance and media making led by New York video artist Mary Ellen Strom, creator of the unique project.

Performance art is often considered a door that opens the self to artistic potential. School's OUT is no different. The project provides a supportive group experience in which participants can deal with the process of growing up queer and explore common themes in their lives—coming out, loneliness, sexism, fear of the future, homophobia, racism, and AIDS—while presenting it in an artistic form. It works both as therapy and as a tool for creative exploration.

"We're getting in touch with each other as a group and getting in touch with ourselves," says 22-year-old Daaimah Mubashshir, one of the participants from Houston. "It's all about our own issues...our own *inner* issues. And we're risking a lot to put it on stage."

An active writer of poetry and short stories who is planning on having her work published, Mubashshir says that the workshops leading up to the actual performance have been very helpful. Not only has she gained insight and material for her

by Eric L. Roland

introspective young African-American says she has also learned new ways to get in touch with issues and information she wants to write about on her own.

"It's given me new techniques of expressing myself and challenged me to express myself to people I hardly know," she says. "I never realized that what I have to say counts, and I never understood that I really do have a lot to say."

"This group is bringing that out in me," continues Mubashshir. "It's challenging me to get some courage to say what I want to anybody, just point blank, without hesitation, and without sugar-coating or watering it down. This is challenging me to put it all on the table and let others deal with it."

Ronnie Tipton, another young Houston artist in the group, says he has also learned a lot about himself. The 18-year-old energetic blond, who's been performing since he was very young with such groups as Houston Ballet, American Dance Company, and Theater Under the Stars, plans to go to school for architecture. With various races, sexes, sexual orientations, and gender identities represented among the participants, Tipton has learned the value of diversity.

"Before this ever started, I never thought I would talk to some of these people," he says. "They're not the people I usually associate with. Now I would much rather associate with these people than the people I've been associating with in the past."

"But that's what's going to make a good performance, because we are all totally different," Tipton continues. "It's all about us, and it's all about being natural. We're not really acting, we're just getting up on stage and being ourselves in front of a lot of people."

The School's OUT program began in 1992 when Mary Ellen Strom was selected by Dance Theater Workshop in New York to develop an art initiative for New York City gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth. With the assistance of Barbara Brickert of the Youth Enrichment Services Program of the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Center, she devised the curriculum for the program, which consists of a period of intensive workshops that are used to create the multimedia performance art piece.

During their intensive workshops, the Houston group of diverse young artists, including Mubashshir and Tipton, as well as Brandy Merritt, Tiffani Raiford, and Diana Taylor, have not only explored the group's dynamics and their own personal issues, but they also have prepared their groups' performance piece. With the help of Strom, they taped and edited their own video shorts, which will be woven together with monologues that they each wrote. Each of their video/monologue pieces will then be placed into an already existing theater production that the two youths from New York—Prudence Brown and Jason Newland—will also be a part of.

Although many may see this project as a form of group therapy for these young queer kids, Strom prefers to focus on the artistic merit of the work. She primarily wanted to create a space in which young people can make art.

"First and foremost the program is about art-making, not therapy," says Strom, while acknowledging that art does improve self-esteem. "When you create something that is profound and great, you feel good about yourself. But this is true for adults and young people alike."

Loris Bradley, who helped bring the School's OUT project to DiverseWorks for the second time in three years, says that most likely the next time the project is conducted it will be a

youth-generated and -run project or, at least, a program run without the help of Strom and the two youth from New York. Furthermore, Bradley says she wants to continue the program on an annual basis as part of DiverseWorks.

"We're looking for an artist in Houston who would want to work with 'out' lesbian and gay youth," she says. "There hasn't been a Mary Ellen [Strom] or a Barbara [Brickert] that's presented themselves to do that yet, but it could be a video artist or a theater artist or a writer."

DiverseWorks will present School's OUT Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 22, at 8 pm and Sunday, June 23, at 2 pm at DiverseWorks Artspace, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main at Naylor). Tickets are \$12, \$10 for DiverseWorks members, and \$7 for students and can be reserved in advance by calling DiverseWorks at 713/223-8346. ▼

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Janis Ian

Say you had your first hit record at 15, then were considered "too old" by the industry at 18. What's left at 45?

Revenge.

There we were, so many of us caught in the disco-y '70s, full up to our pimply cheeks of teen angst, somehow knowing we were different, yet unable to label it. Then came this new album—8-track for some—from Janis Ian. *Wasn't she some folk singer from New York who married a black guy?*, the limitedly informed asked. *Between the Lines*, especially its crossover hit *At Seventeen*, burned its way into the collective musical consciousness of youth and elder, rocker and folkey, and, lamentably, elevators forever. Many of us who were grasping for definition of any kind found it in the lyrics of Janis Ian.

If not definition, perhaps this 1975 Grammy-nominated Best Song and Record tossed a bone commiseration

to many a poetry-writing, best-friend-loving pre-lesbian. Ian's dark lyrics of misunderstood love and adolescent hopelessness were a screaming contrast to that same year's number one hit, "Love Will Keep Us Together." I have yet to encounter any lesbian of a certain age who not only has in her music collection the old vinyl LP of *BTL*, but generally has also replaced it with a shiny new CD.

While most 15-year-olds were looking for a ride to the record store, Janis Ian was making her first record. Paradoxically, her initial success came with the overwhelming popularity of *Society's Child*, which lamented the overwhelming unpopularity of interracial love.

Today, Ian continues to be society's child, provoking thought via her back-

by Nancy Ford



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Janis Ian

Continued from previous page

page, final-word column in *The Advocate*, as well as through her music. Last year, when her mammogram revealed an abnormality, Ian's frank account of her reaction gave a face-to-breast cancer awareness, especially in the hard-hit lesbian community. On June 21, the day before her concert at Rockefeller's, TV's *General Hospital* will feature her song "When Angels Cry," in conjunction with television's "Day of Compassion" AIDS-focused daytime dramas and talk shows.

Her new CD, released by Beacon Records and co-produced by Ian and John Jennings, is aptly titled *Revenge*. In this decade Ian seems to have taken revenge on all her past critics as she enjoys an abundance of health, love, and professional success. The CD's "Ready for the War" isn't about Vietnam, or even Bosnia, and glides through a contradictory yet flirty bossa nova rhythm. "Take Me Walking in the Rain" is head-snappin', happy, makes you want to go walking in the rain with your lover, and would have no place on an early Ian album. Which is just fine. This is, after all, 1996 and *Jesse*, so to speak, has come home.

Even though the record industry prematurely deemed her "too old" at 18, Ian has to her credit two Grammys, nine nominations, and a 15-entry discography, including (ahem) the soundtrack for Jodie Foster's *Foxes*. The dozens of artists who have covered her songs reads like the guest list at the Legendary Musician's Hall of Diversity; among them, Etta James, Joan Baez, Chet Atkins, Bette Midler, Mel Torme, Cher, and even Vanilla Fudge.

Today, at seventeen-plus, much of the speculative, cynical observer still exists both in her music and her conversation. When I talked with Ian, she was vacationing in Maryland with Pat, her partner of seven years.

The Days Are OK

Nancy Ford: Last year you spent your last vacation pondering the health of your breasts. How's everything now?

Janis Ian: [Laughs] Everything's fine. It was just one of those fluky things. It's one of those epidemics where, if there were as many cases of testicular cancer as there are breast cancer, we would have a cure by now.

And if men menstruated, tampons would be free.

[Wild laughter] There you go!

The World Was Younger Than Today

This is your fourth decade in music?

Amazing.

Do you remember your very first performance?

Yeah. Gosh. There were so many of them. I guess the first one of note was at the Village Gate in New York—'63 or '64.

So you would have been about 12.

Uh-huh.

How did the audience accept a 12-year-old on stage? Were you scared to death?

No. I'd always wanted to be a performer, so it was fine with me.

Then on to Leonard Bernstein's show [in 1967].

That's what got *Society's Child* played, because no one was going to play it. It was a good thing he featured it, because otherwise it never would have gotten out.

Did it surprise you later when his homosexuality was revealed?

You know, I actually really never thought about it. I usually don't think about people like that. I guess it's not a major concern of mine. For me, Bernstein was first and foremost a brilliant musician and certainly someone to emulate in terms of the way he conducted himself as an artist. I really don't think too much about whether other people are gay or straight. That's one of the advantages of being out. I don't really have to think about it unless it's part of my column.

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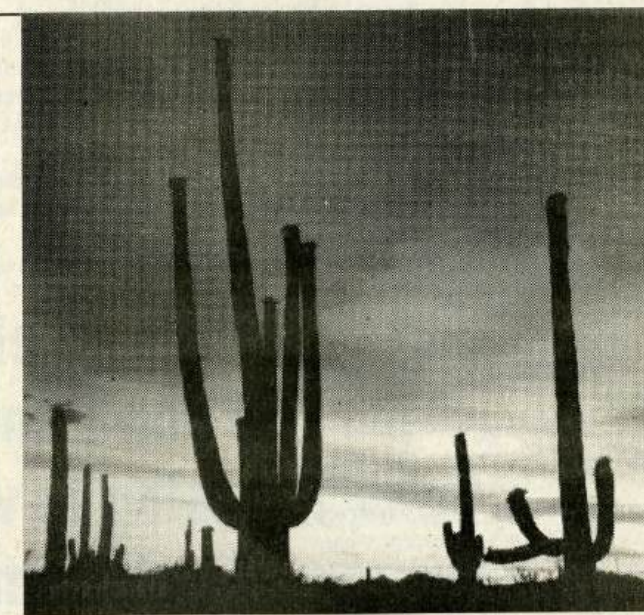
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The show we're doing here at Rockefeller's is during Pride Week. Have your audiences changed since you came out publicly? It's usually about 20-25 percent, maybe 30 percent [gay/lesbian]. It depends on the gate. Obviously, if I'm playing Palm Springs during the [Dinah Shore] golf tournament.... But otherwise, it's pretty mixed. It always has been. It's always been mixed in terms of age—and in terms of gender, as well—since I was a kid. You span so many different musical eras and styles. I was listening to *Revenge*. Everything you do sounds so different from the last thing.

Yeah. Actually, I'm not sure that that's good or bad. [Laughs] I'm not sure whether that's such a great thing.

As successful as you've been, I'd venture to say it's a pretty good thing.

Well, it's kind of hard for me to keep up with it, though. But I enjoy it. I think...[sighs] I think, when you're recording, you reach an age and a point in your career where you think, "Boy, I may never get to do this again. I better do it well."

In your press kit you say, "*Revenge* is about survival. It's about outlasting the enemy."

I think at the end of the day—for someone like me—the enemy is anybody who gets in the way of my work. Including myself. The enemy is obviously fear and intolerance and all those buzzwords that we've gotten so used to that they barely have an effect now.

Your Harmony's an Open Breeze

Is there a certain way you prefer to write, or do you just write when it comes?

Both. When I'm home and I'm writing for a movie, or writing on assignment, then obviously, I'm going to write to order. I'll just start my day writing.

It's a job.

Well, yeah, it is. It's got to be a job.

It's a great job. I wanted to ask you about the Grammys this year. They were so heavily female-dominated.

The world is pretty female-dominated right now in music. I mean, there's lots of little girls singing out there.

Why do you think it took so long?

These things seem to go in cycles. There was a point in the '60s where

everything was pretty female-dominated too with Aretha Franklin leading the pack and Joplin and all those.

And you.

Uh-huh. I don't know. To me, a lot of the girls, or women, who are out here right now singing sound pretty much the same—sort of a clone generation of singers, to me. There's not many Ani DiFranco's out there, you know.

Dreams Are All They Gave for Free

It's an election year.

It's an election year. I don't know who I'm going to vote for. I hate 'em all.

What do you think is going to happen? Any predictions? Do you think the gay community will join together in support of Bill again, or is this gay marriage thing going to destroy it?

I don't know that the gay movement is going to be organized enough. We got the shit kicked out of us these last four years, starting with the military fiasco. I'm not even sure that [the election's] something that ought

to be a priority. It's questionable to me whether it makes a big difference to us—as gay people—who ends up in power. (My partner's rolling her eyes.) They're all going to do whatever the electorate tells them to do. If the entire electorate tells them that gay people should be rounded up and shot, I'm sure they would do that.

Chilling.

And if the entire electorate says my sons and daughters are gay, then they would go with that. I don't know what Clinton is going to do.

You Have a Lovely Wife

Speaking of your partner, when gay marriage becomes legal—and I have faith that it will during our lifetime—do you intend to marry? Oh yeah. Absolutely. First plane out of here.

Wouldn't that be the best revenge...? ▼

Janis Ian performs at Rockefeller's Nightclub on Saturday, June 22, 1996. Nancy Ford, a Houston-based comedian and writer, opens for her. Call 713/869-5483 for reservations.

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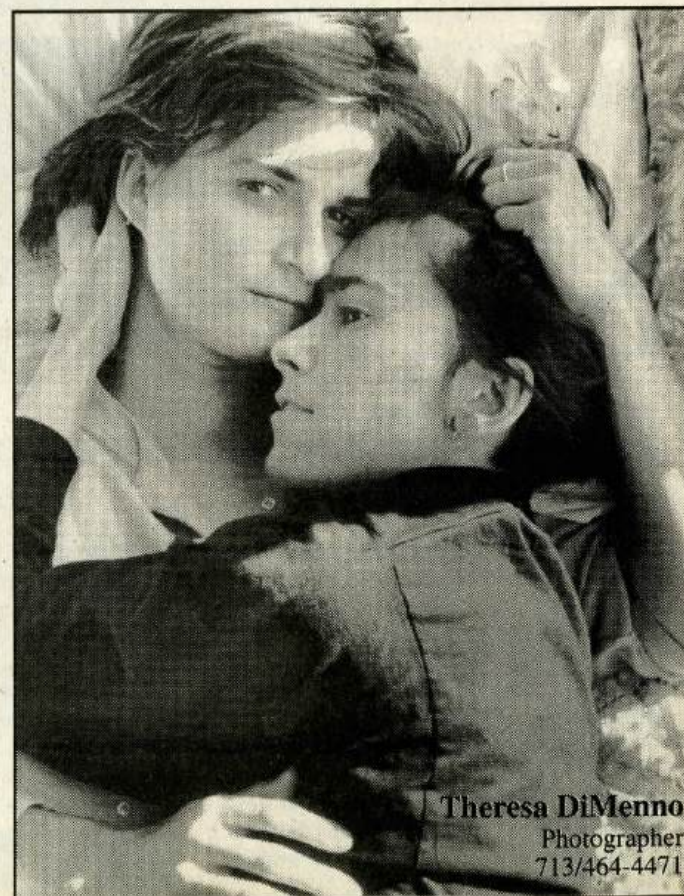
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Some women wear pumps to make themselves taller. Others wear pumps to match the elegant dress they're wearing. Most drag queens wear pumps to make them look more feminine, while other drag queens, who are already taller than most men in flat feet, wear platform pumps to make them look fierce! Pumps come in all shapes, sizes, styles, and colors, but pumps don't often come as a work of art. Until now.

The biggest event, second only to the parade and festival, for this year's week-long lesbian and gay pride celebration is the Pumped Up On Art Gala to be held June 21 at JAGS, 5120 Woodway. The event will feature both silent and live auctions of high-heeled shoes, or pumps, from local and national celebrities. But you're not just going to be bidding on a pair of stinky, worn-out celebrity shoes. Instead, one shoe has been autographed by the celebrity, while the other pump has been transformed into a work of art by one of many local artists.

For instance, one of Gloria Estefan's high-heeled, black platform clogs has been beautifully turned into a functional lamp (see above) by popular local artist Kermit Eisenhut. Dance music diva Martha Wash's shoe, adorned with cut-up pieces of a CD, has been effectively placed atop a gold record by the talented Liz Zambrano.

Other nationally known celebrities, whose shoes were used to create art for this

by Eric L. Roland

event, include Loni Anderson, Ruth Buzzi, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalaya, and Olympian Carl Lewis. Numerous local celebrities, including restaurateur "Mama" Ninfa Laurenzo, Houston's first lady Elyse Lanier, and KTRK Channel 13's Jan Glenn, also donated shoes for the event. One special pair of shoes, which will not be transformed into a piece of art but will be auctioned off, are the autographed ballet slippers of Houston Ballet's prima ballerina Janie Parker. Parker donated the slippers she wore as the lead in *Cinderella* on June 14, which just happened to be the final performance of her career.

While local artists donated their time, talents, and materials to create the works of shoe-art showcasing the celebrities, organizer Scott Lewis was the one in charge of garnering the shoes from which the works were created. After buying a book called *The Address Book*, which contains the 4,000 most important people in America, Lewis picked out 200 names of women and some

men, like Larry Kramer and Elton John, and mailed them all a letter explaining the event and asking them to donate a pair of shoes.

"Two weeks to the day later, I got a Federal Express from Dionne Warwick with shoes," says Lewis. "Then Gloria Estefan's shoes came, then Sally Jesse Raphael's. Out of the 200 letters we sent, 50 or so came back with change of addresses and stuff, and out of the remaining 150, we got 20 pairs of shoes. All of these people started getting involved and it overwhelmed us. I never imagined."

One reason Lewis was surprised by the overwhelming response was because this is a very "gay" event. Printed on official Pride Committee letterhead, the letters stated that this was a benefit for The NAMES Project, Milam House, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, the Pride Committee of Houston, and the Texas Lesbian Conference. But, obviously it wasn't an issue for these celebrities.

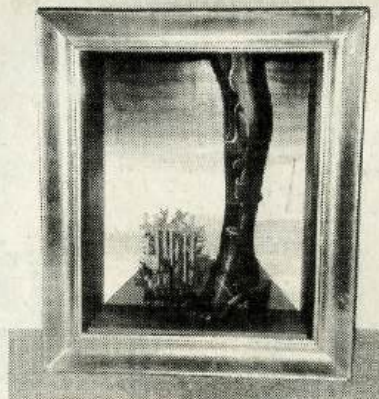
"Loni Anderson went out and bought a \$300 pair of beautiful snakeskin shoes, yet never put them on," says Lewis with glee. "She went out and bought 'em, signed 'em, and sent 'em."

Not all of the celebrities contacted, however, were willing to donate shoes, but they nonetheless wanted to participate in the fundraiser. Craft and cooking mogul Martha Stewart, for instance, didn't feel comfortable sending shoes, so she sent a T-shirt and some other items from her "Martha by Mail" catalog. Not satisfied by a T-shirt and a trowel, Lewis says he is still holding out for a pair of gardening boots.

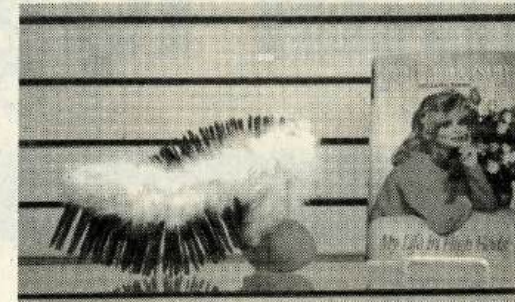
Presumably not being able to spare any shoes from his collection of clothing now on display (and for sale!) in the new Neiman Marcus in Atlanta, Elton John instead sent an autographed boxed set of CDs, which will be sold through the event's silent auction. Also up for bid in the silent auction will be a custom matted and framed watercolor painting sent in by U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California).

While getting some of the shoes was surprisingly easy, Lewis says he had to work at getting others. Since RuPaul only wears his size 13 platform pumps once or twice if he performs in them, one would think he could easily give up an old pair. However, Lewis says after repeatedly calling, faxing, and writing to RuPaul's agent and getting no response, he finally gave up. Then, after RuPaul's appearance here in Houston at the Concert of the Stars on May 4, his agent called Lewis and said a pair of white, open-toed platform pumps were being mailed to Lewis.

Another difficult pair of shoes to get was, surprisingly, Elyse Lanier's. While



Artist Ryan Geiger created this gold-framed shadowbox design for KHOU Channel 11 news anchor Clare Casadamont's open-toed pump.



Purple and green nails were "hammered" into Loni Anderson's unworn heel, which is piercing a crimson heart. Was artist David Lozano thinking of Burt?



KTRK Channel 13's Jan Glenn acted as artist when she concocted this playful design for this pump once worn by talk-show host Sally Jesse Raphael.



Artist Robert Ramos outdid himself with this outrageous design using RuPaul's worn-out platform pump. Added bonus: the piece is a working clock.

she said yes as soon as she was asked, Lewis said that coordinating and actually receiving them was a nightmare. In the end, he did get them. However, such was not the case with the Pointer Sisters.

"They promised us when they were in town for *Ain't Misbehavin'* that they'd love to donate three pairs of shoes," recalls Lewis. "They even joked, 'The artist is going to have to have a lot of room for Ruth's big shoe!' We called over, and over, and over, and we never did get the shoes."

Pumped Up On Art got its start two years ago during the 1994 Pride Week and was a much smaller event than this year's (it was not held during last year's pride week). For that event, Lily Tomlin's and Ann Richards' shoes were the two big national, or greater-than-a-local, celebrity shoe, and the remaining works of art were created from local celebrity's shoes, garnered with the help of local socialite Carolyn Farb. This year there are more nationally known celebrities represented in the shoe-art than there are local socialites and TV personalities, which will surely benefit the event by attracting a larger crowd and increasing the amounts of the bids.

Furthermore, while two year's ago the event was held at the now-defunct Museum Restaurant, this year's Pumped Up On Art is being held at JAGS, Jackson Hicks' restaurant in the atrium area of Houston's Decorative Center. Serving as emcee of the event will be KTRK Channel 13's Jan Glenn, and assisting with the auction will be Candace Gingrich, sister of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

Lewis credits Nicolas Brines, his co-chair for the event, with helping to make this such a big event. Brines, who does fundraisers for the University of Houston, worked toward marketing this event to more than just the gay and lesbian community. One of the ways to do this was to display the finished works of shoe-art at local retail stores. Completed works are currently on display in Marshall Fields (Galleria), Neiman Marcus (Town and Country), Accenté Shoes (Galleria), Brucette's Shoes on San Felipe, and at Crossroads Market & Cafe's new location on Westheimer.

If you're a shoe freak, or if you're into auctions of celebrity items, or if you're just looking for an evening of fun, this year's Pumped Up On Art gala will surely satisfy you. ▼

Pumped Up On Art, June 21, 7 pm, JAGS in the Decorative Center of Houston, 5120 Woodway. Tickets are \$20 and are available by calling the Pride Committee of Houston at 713/529-6979.

Love Is A Basic Human Right

BY STATE REP. ED FALLON (D-IOWA)

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I have anguished over this bill, not because there is any doubt in my mind as to how I should vote, but because I believe strongly that what we are dealing with here is the defining civil rights issue of this decade. Historically, this issue may prove to be the most significant matter we deal with this year, and so I would respectfully ask the body's indulgence and attention during this debate.

My remarks are directed both toward those who sincerely believe that this bill is good and just, and to those who know in their hearts and consciences that this bill is wrong, but in fear of public opinion and of how this issue will be used in campaigns next fall, they are inclined to vote in favor of its passage.

Back in the 1950s, many, many Americans were victimized by relentless, fear-driven red-baiting. There was a Bolshevik lurking in every bathroom, and you never knew but your neighbor or even your uncle might turn out to be a communist.

In the 1990s, red-baiting is out. But pink-baiting is in. Gay-bashing, generally thought of as a Friday-night frolic for inebriated thugs, has its parallel expressions in voting booths, city council halls, and legislative chambers across this country. Today we are witnessing one of those expressions in the form of this bill. By singling out gay and lesbian marriages as a union unacceptable in the eyes of the law, we fuel the fires of ignorance, intolerance, and hatred.

And if anyone here thinks that the positions we embrace, the laws

we enact do not affect the mood of the public, then you have a very low, and I believe, a very inaccurate view of the powerful influence we here in this body exert over the formation of public opinion. The message we're sending today is that it's OK to discriminate against people of a different sexual orientation, even though for the most part, that's the way they were born and there's nothing they can do to change it. And for those who would argue that homosexuality is a choice, I ask you: Do you really believe that anyone in their right mind would voluntarily choose to be in a class of people who are constantly made fun of, despised, beaten up and even killed, discriminated against, fired from their jobs, denied housing, and prevented from marrying? For gay and lesbian people,

AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER



THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH IOWA REP. ED FALLON
GAVE ON GAY MARRIAGE (HF 2183) IN THE IOWA HOUSE, 2/20/96

Love Is A Human Right

Continued from page 42

this array of abuse is par for the course. If you believe that homosexuality is a personal choice, then you have not tried very hard to see this issue from a gay or lesbian person's point of view.

Well, I suppose this is as good a time as any for me to come out of the closet. I can't help the way I was born. It's just who I am. I've never announced this to a group publicly, but I guess it's about time. I am heterosexual. I am absolutely certain in my entire being that I could never be homosexual, no matter how hard I might try. I've never been attracted to another man in my life, and the idea of engaging in a homosexual act is foreign and distasteful to me. But just as I would hope that homosexual men and women could accept me for who I am, I promise to try to accept them for who they are. Why can't you do the same? Why can't we all do the same?

Hatred grows out of fear, and fear grows out of ignorance. Though I've never hated homosexuals, I used to fear them. When I was a kid growing up, the worst name you could call someone was a gay loser. And the stereotype that still pervades the minds of many in this chamber—that of the highly

aggressive, promiscuous gay man seeking countless, anonymous relationships—is the stereotype that I grew up with, and the stereotype that contributes to volumes of ignorance and volumes of fear.

Over time, I've come to learn that this stereotype, like most stereotypes, is based on hearsay, not fact. The rogues who may fit the previous description are the exception to the

"All that gay and lesbian people are asking for is, if not understanding, at least tolerance [and] the same basic civil equality that all Americans yearn for and should be entitled to."

rule, just as there are male heterosexual rogues who are aggressive, promiscuous, and constantly hitting on and harassing women.

In my evolving experience with homosexuals, familiarity has displaced ignorance and dispelled fear. I now count as friends and constituents many same-sex couples. Some have children. Most are in long-term, stable relationships. All are very decent, kind, and normal people. I make no effort to judge the integrity of what they do in their bedroom, and to their credit, they've never

judged the integrity of what I do in mine.

One lesbian couple I count as friends have two children the same age as my son and daughter. They attend the same elementary school as my children. They play together. They go to the same birthday parties. They swap overnights. These two children are healthy, bright, and courteous, and their parents probably do a better job of parenting than I do.

Though you may have personal, religious reasons why this arrangement seems distasteful to you, there is absolutely no way you could rationally argue that this is not a stable happy, healthy family. In a pluralistic society that allegedly values the separation of church and state, why can we not simply live and let live? Accept the reality that this couple's religious beliefs on homosexuality are different than yours. Just leave religion out of it, as our founding fathers and mothers saw fit. If the fruit which falls from the tree is good, the tree must also be good.

Indeed, there are many religious groups that openly and lovingly celebrate unions between same-sex couples. For example, Methodists, the United Church of Christ, Congregationalists, Reform Jews, the Metropolitan Community Church, Unitarian Universalists, and Quakers.

There is no shortage of gay or lesbian couples that value and revere marriage. In fact, just last fall I attended the wedding of two women. Their son was present. The wedding was held in a local church. It was conducted by two ministers. And there were 150 family members and friends of the happy couple there to celebrate with them.

Yet, we're told by the bill's supporters that we need legislation to protect ourselves from this kind of marriage? No, ladies and gentlemen, this is not a marriage-protection bill. It is emphatically an anti-marriage bill. This rhetoric used by supporters of HF2183 may be slick but it is grossly inaccurate. What are you trying to protect heterosexual marriages from? There isn't a limited amount of love in Iowa. It isn't a non-renewable resource. If Amy and Barbara or Mike and Steve love each other, it doesn't mean that John and Mary can't.

Marriage licenses aren't distributed on a first-come, first-served basis here in Iowa. Heterosexual couples don't have to rush out and claim marriage licenses now, before they are all snatched up by gay and lesbian couples.

Heterosexual unions are and will continue to be predominant, regardless of what gay and lesbian couples do. To suggest that homosexual couples in any way, shape, or form threaten to undermine the stability of heterosexual unions is patently absurd.

And I know you'll say, "What about the gay agenda?" Well, just as there turned out to be no Bolsheviks in the bathroom back in

the 1950s, there is no gay agenda in the 1990s. There is, however, a strong, well-funded anti-gay agenda, and we have an example of its efforts here before us today.

All that gay and lesbian people are asking for is, if not understanding, then at least tolerance. All they are asking for is the same basic civil equality that all Americans yearn for and should be entitled to.

To those in this body who know in their hearts and consciences that this bill is wrong, yet are afraid to vote against it, I ask you to consider the powerful message this bill sends to the people of Iowa. It sends the message that discrimination against gays and lesbians is acceptable and officially sanctioned. It sends the message that it's OK to deny civil and equal rights to some minority groups in our society. It sends the message that the gift of marriage is good for some, yet forbidden to others. And for those in my own party who plan to vote for this bill, it sends the message that Democrats, who have traditionally stood up for and protected everyone's civil rights, aren't willing to do so in the case of homosexuals.

If you are weighing the political consequences of opposing this bill and find they are too heavy, I'd like you to think about the great moral changes that have occurred in this country over the past 200 years. Ask yourself when you would have felt safe to speak in favor of the separation of the colonies from Great Britain? When would you have taken a public stand for the abolition of slavery? When would you have spoken in favor of women's suffrage? In the 1960s, when would you have joined Martin Luther King and others in calling for equal rights for African Americans? When would you have spoken out against restrictive marriage laws banning interracial marriages?

While the choice before us today—between a green button or a red one—is a difficult one to make, it is nowhere near as difficult or dangerous as the choices faced by the many freedom fighters who came before

We're elected not to follow but to lead. We're elected to cast what might sometimes be a difficult, challenging, and politically inexpedient vote. We're elected to represent our constituents when they're right, and to vote our consciences regardless of whether our constituents are right. And our conscience should be telling us to stand up for civil rights regardless of how unpopular it may appear.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "A time comes when silence is betrayal." Such a time is now. With your no vote on this bill, you can help break the silence and stand with those who have no one to stand with them.

Thank you. ▼

Ed Fallon may be reached at efallon@house.legis.state.ia.us.

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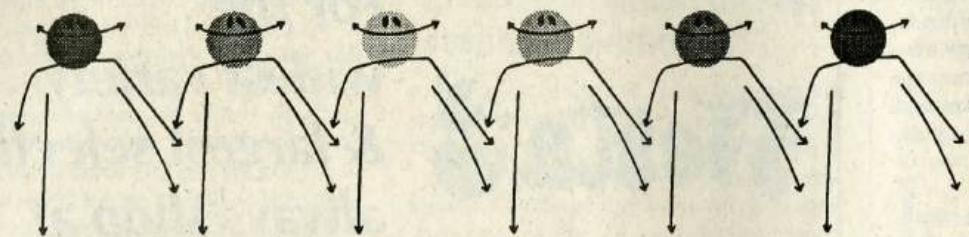
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borders.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Week 1996

**FRIDAY,
June 14**

**Houston Lesbian and Gay
Pride Week 1996**

Kickoff Party

Pride Committee of Houston's annual party announcing the beginning of ten days of Pride, sponsored by Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. Donation requested, FYI 713-529-6979

PUMPED UP ON ART Preview

The official kick-off for Houston's Lesbian & Gay Pride Week 1996. A preview of shoes donated by celebrities - one signed and the other given to a local artist to create a work of art to be auctioned off separately. See the completed artwork and original unchanged shoes of celebrities that include Loni Anderson, Sally Jesse Raphael, Gloria Estefan, Dionne Warwick, Martha Wash, and more, sponsored by Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Week 1996, 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, JR's party bar, FYI 713-529-6979

The Actors' Workshop presents The Dogs of Foo by Scott Ross

World premier of this story of a famous gay film director and his Japanese lover who experience homophobia and racism in Hollywood in the 1940s, The Actors' Workshop of Houston, \$15, 8:00 pm, 1009 Chartres at Lamar (behind Brown Convention Center), FYI 713-236-1844

Latinas Against AIDS/SIDA

Benefit to assist Stephen's House, 9:00

pm, Mela's Tejano Country, 1016 W. 19th St., FYI 713-880-1770

**SATURDAY,
June 15**

Rollin' With Pride Picnic in Park

Picnic and games for walkers, runners, bikers, skaters, etc. at Memorial Park. Everyone is encouraged to bring a covered dish. Beverages will be provided, 11:00 am, Memorial Park, 100 Picnic Lane (look for Lambda

Roller Skate Club banner), FYI 713-933-5818

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston TAKING CENTER STAGE

Benefit concert featuring Gay Men's Chorus, Bayou City Chorale, and Turtle Creek Chorale's ensemble group 3Acafellas2. Selections include songs from Broadway and familiar pop music, sponsored by Gay Men's Chorus of Houston benefiting AFH Stone Soup Pantry, \$10 to \$20, 8:00 pm, Wortham Center, Cullen Theatre, FYI 713-521-7464

The Actors' Workshop presents The Dogs of Foo by Scott Ross

(See June 14 Actors' Workshop listing for more info)

Angels Over Montrose Clinic

Variety show to raise funds for those in need of counseling but unable to pay the full amount, sponsored by Montrose Clinic, 9:30 pm, Venture-N, 2923 Main, FYI 713-520-2000

**SUNDAY,
June 16**

Mr. Montrose Contest

Contest to crown the new Mr. Montrose. Open to everyone, sponsored by Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Week 1996, 7:30 pm, Brazos River Bottom, FYI 713-528-9192

The Actors' Workshop presents The Dogs of Foo by Scott Ross

(See June 14 listing for more info)

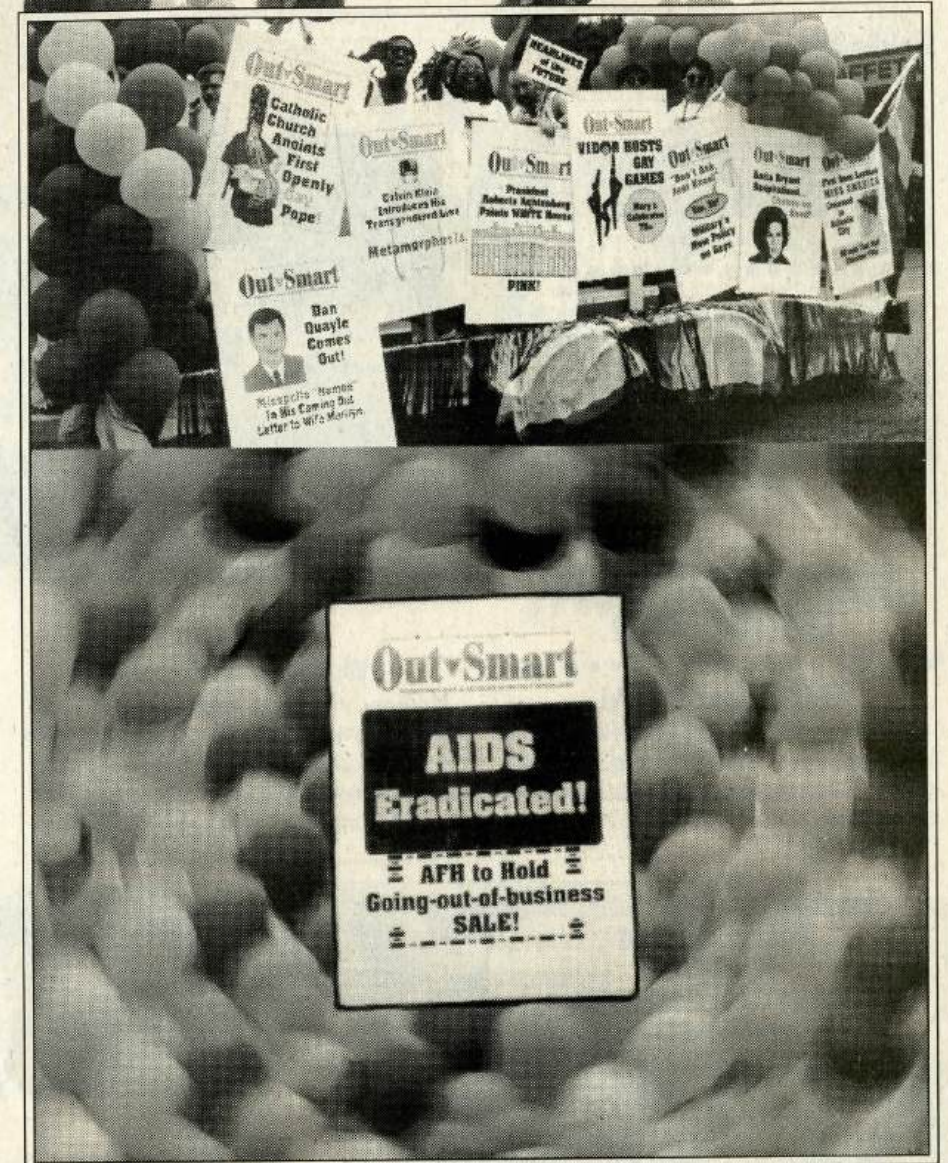
Miss Life Today Pageant - PWA Sweetheart 1996

3rd Annual charitable pageant selecting female impersonator who will reign as "1996 PWA Sweetheart," sponsored by AIDS Housing Coalition Houston Emergency Housing Fund, 9:00 pm, 2517 Ralph @ Westheimer, FYI 713-902-2231

**MONDAY,
June 17**

Financial Planning With a Life-Threatening Illness

Financial advisor Julie LaRue, LUTCF, dis-



cusses financial planning for people with life-threatening illness. Topics include benefiting from insurance plans, sources of funds in case of disability, and how to keep your employer-provided benefits. RSVP Required, sponsored by The Acacia Group, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, 9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 3000, FYI 713-888-3500

**TUESDAY,
June 18**

Bringing Your Money Out of the Closet

Financial advisor Julie LaRue, LUTCF, discusses financial planning for gay men &

Grand Marshal's Reception

Event to honor the Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Week 1996 Grand Marshals, Organization Grand Marshal, and Honorary Grand Marshal, sponsored by Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund Board, Soiree Aubergine, Colt 45s, and the Venture-N, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Venture-N, 2923 Main, FYI 713-521-0911

continued on next page

Pride Week Events

Continued from previous page

**TUESDAY,
June 18**

—continued—

Make a Joyful Noise VI

For the 6th consecutive year, local churches unite to present an evening of Gospel entertainment, sponsored by Community Gospel Church, 7:30 pm, Community Gospel Church, 501 E. 18th St. at Columbia, FYI 713-880-9235

**WEDNESDAY,
June 19****End of the Rainbow**

Houston Press and JR's present an evening of romance with free personal ads, door prizes, and complimentary hors d'oeuvres, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, JR's, 808 Pacific, FYI 713-521-2519

**AIDS Mastery
Workshop Open House**

Mastery graduates will be available to answer questions about the workshop. Snacks & non-alcoholic beverages served, sponsored by AIDS Mastery Workshop, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, 3202 Wesleyan, FYI 713-523-8711

**Mock Candidate Screening
Open House**

Mock screening of various political candidates by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Learn how the HGLPC screens and endorses candidates and meet various candidates, sponsored by Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, 7:00 pm to

Friday, June 21st
"Unchained"
(Dance Party Benefitting
Montrose Clinic)

Saturday, June 22nd
"Pumped"
(Release Party for
Cher's New Single)

Sunday, June 23rd
The Nellie Ribbons Encore Party
With Special Guest
Adult Video Star- Sonny Markham

Friday- 18 & up Retro Disco
\$1.50 Well \$2.00 Domestic Beers

Saturday- 21 & up Pumped. No Cover 9-10 pm
Hot Men Dancers

Sunday- 18 & Up Doors Open 7pm No Cover 7-10
25¢ Draft & 25¢ Well 7-10 pm

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A Night of Dance

Country & Western dance lessons and exhibition taught by professional award-winning dance instructor Mr. Red Draper, sponsored by Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club benefiting Stephen's House, \$5.00 donation per class or \$10.00 for three classes. Time: 7:00 pm beginner, 7:45-8:30 intermediate, 8:30-9 exhibition, 9-9:45 advanced, Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos Avenue, FYI 713-880-0670

**Theatre Night presents
Ten Percent Revue**

The quintessential gay musical revue, sponsored by The Group (Theatre Workshop), \$10.00, 8:00 pm, 2536 B Times Blvd. (in the Village), FYI 713-522-2204

Roller Ball II - 1996

Second Annual Rollin' with Pride Skate Night. All ages welcome. You may bring your own skates, sponsored by Lambda Roller Skating Club, \$5.00 + \$1.00 skate rental,



8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Starlite Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road (@ Beechnut), FYI 713-933-5818

Video Rewind

Take a trip back in time to the best of the eighties with \$1.00 well drinks and \$1.75 Budweiser long-necks, 9:00 pm, Heaven, 810 Pacific, FYI 713-521-9123.

**THURSDAY,
June 20****Lesbian & Gay Pride
Ice Skating Celebration**

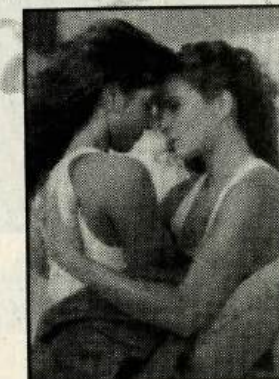
5th Annual Lesbian & Gay Ice Skating night at the Galleria ice skating rink. Wear red
continued on next page

**I listen - I hear you
I care**

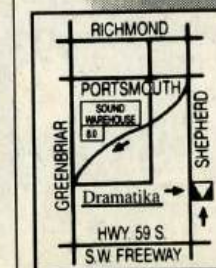
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For the Gals:

Sept. 4-10 Womenfest Key West
Oct. 16-21 Provincetown Women's Week Skylark Tours
Nov. 23-30 Exclusive Barbados, Thanksgiving Week ... Club Le Bon

For Guys & Gals:

Sept. 12-19 A Taste of Provence/1 week cooking classes in S. France Lifestyle Tours
Oct. 11-13 AIDS Memorial Quilt Display, Washington, D.C.
Oct. 17-20 Gay Rodeo Finals, Albuquerque, N.M.
Oct. 18-26 Chateau Francais Special-
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Nov. 9-16 CLUB RSVP, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico RSVP Travel Productions

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Pride Week Events

Continued from previous page

THURSDAY, June 20

—continued—

tank top or lesbian/gay organization or pride week T-shirts, sponsored by Montrose Ice Picks, \$5.00 admission + \$2.00 skate rental, 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Galleria ice skating rink, 5015 Westheimer, FYI 713-522-3687

Camping It Up in H.O.G. Heaven

Potluck social event with door prizes and a raffle. Come celebrate Pride Week and see what it's like in the great outdoors! Bring your favorite covered dish, sponsored by Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), benefiting AFH Stone Soup Pantry. Cost: one canned good, 7:00 pm, Assistance Fund Building, 1116 Jackson Blvd, FYI 713-KAMPOUT

Theatre Night presents Ten Percent Revue

(See June 19 listing for more info.)

School's Out: The Naming Project

This Bessie award-winning ensemble leads us on a spirited investigation of what it is to be young and queer, sponsored by DiverseWorks, \$12.00, \$10.00, & \$7.00, 8:00 pm, 1117 East Freeway (I-10 @ North Main), FYI 713-228-0914

The Actors' Workshop presents

The Dogs of Foo by Scott Ross

(See June 14 listing for more info)

Unchained

Retro-disco charity event, \$5.00 - \$6.00, 9:00 pm to 2:00 am, Rich's, 2401 San Jacinto, FYI 713-759-9606

Houston's Hot IX:

A Night in Black Leather

This annual S&M/leather/fetish ball & fashion show gala kicks off NLA: Houston Leather Pride Weekend. Includes an erotic fashion show for men & women and fantasies from leading leather titleholders, sponsored by National Leather Association: Houston, 10:00 pm to 1:00 am, Venture-N, 2923 Main, FYI 713-527-9666

continued on next page

EAT OUT & CHIP IN

June 20 is
DIFFA Day
at Houston Area
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FRIDAY, June 21

Fridays Are Fabulous

Pride parade weekend kickoff party. 12 gorgeous Go-Go Gods. Giveaways, specials, and hors d'oeuvres served beginning at 6:00 pm, All American happy hour until 10:00 pm, JR's, 808 Pacific, FYI 713-521-2519

Pumped Up on Art

Hosted by Jan Glenn, local and national celebrity women including Loni Anderson, Sally Jesse Raphael, Gloria Estefan, Dionne Warwick, Martha Wash, Debra Danburg, Claire Casadamont, Ruth Buzzi, Donna Shalaya donate a pair of pumps - one autographed and left as is, and the other given to a local artist to create a work of art reflecting the woman as a celebrity. Sponsored by Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride Week 1996 benefiting: The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard, Texas Lesbian Conference, Milam House, The NAMES Project, and Pride Committee of Houston, \$20.00 donation, to 10:00 pm, JAGS, 5120 Woodway in the Houston Design Center, FYI 713-529-6979

Windows & Walls

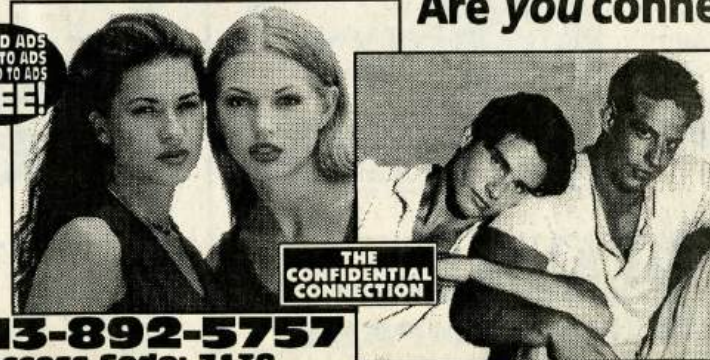
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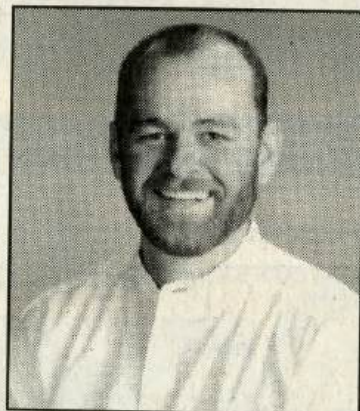
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Pride Week Events

Continued from previous page

SATURDAY, June 22

The Leather Symposium

Consists of three workshops: 1) Flagellation (flogging) 2) Submissives II, the Sequel 3), sponsored by National Leather Association: Houston, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Days Inn (conference room), 4640 S. Main (US 59 & downtown exit), FYI 713-527-9666

Latino Pride Gala...

the tradition continues

Semi-formal dance to celebrate lesbian & gay pride. Live bands and DJ to perform Latino music as well as country/western and dance/pop, sponsored by Aves, Inc., \$30.00 presale, \$40.00 at door, 8:00 pm, 2151 Holcombe near S Main @ Holcombe, FYI 713-626-2837

School's Out: The Naming Project

(See June 21 DiverseWorks
listing for more info)

The Actors' Workshop presents The Dogs of Foo by Scott Ross

(See June 14 Actors' Workshop
listing for more info)

SUNDAY, June 23

Pride Mass and Brunch

Sunday Mass for lesbian & gay Catholics and friends followed by a light brunch, sponsored by Kolbe Project (Kolbe House), free will offering, 1509 Fairview, FYI 713-522-8182

Nellie Ribbons Party

Invitation-only party along the parade route, sponsored by Nellie Ribbons benefiting AFH Stone Soup Pantry, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, 811 Westheimer, FYI 713-526-4608

Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Parade

The annual parade, one of the largest in the city, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, FYI 713-529-6979.

Pride Fest 96

Follow the Parade to Pride Fest 96. Starts immediately after the parade. Food/drink, merchandise, & information booths of community businesses and organizations and a concert featuring Bronski Beat and Ce Ce Pennaston as well as local performers, sponsored by Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. Donations requested, 7:00 pm (immediately following Parade), Lovett Street between Whitney and Taft, FYI 713-529-6979

Houston's Biggest After-Parade Party

99¢ well/juice vodka drinks from noon until 11:00 pm, Broadway showtunes, group sing-a-long and karaoke. Immediately following the parade, JR's, 808 Pacific, FYI 713-521-2519

After-the-Parade Double Bust

Cool off with a \$2.00 (optional) Buy-In and 25-cent refills of ice-cold Miller Lite draft or \$1.00 refills of our delicious frozen margaritas, with the sounds of John Sims and the seventies trash disco. Immediately following the parade, Montrose Mining Company, 805 Pacific, FYI 713-529-7488

Juneteenth Pride Celebration

A pride celebration to honor outstanding achievements of African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people featuring live entertainment and dancing, sponsored by African-American Lesbian & Gay Alliance benefiting Community Funds Account, \$5.00, 7:30 pm, Incognito, 2427 McKinney, FYI 713-864-2242

School's Out: The Naming Project

(See June 21 DiverseWorks
listing for more info)

SUNDAY, June 30

HGLPC Casino Day

Round-trip excursion to the Grand Casino Coushatta in Kinder, Louisiana. Departs Houston at 6:30 am and returns approximately 8:00 pm. Seating limited to 47 passengers, Sponsored by Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, \$25.00 plus gambling expenses, 6:00 am, 2700 Albany, FYI 713-923-6676

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Television industry Supports AIDS With a Day of Compassion

Day of Compassion

A PROJECT OF HOLLYWOOD SUPPORTS

by Eric L. Roland

On June 21 many programs on television will unite in support of people living with HIV and AIDS. The fourth annual Day of Compassion, sponsored by Hollywood Supports, will feature a powerful lineup of daytime dramas, television talk shows, cable networks, and other television programming, as well as participation by radio for the first time.

The list of participating talk shows includes *Cristina*, *Geraldo*, *Gordon Elliot*, *Home & Family*, *Jenny Jones*, *Jerry Springer*, *Late Date with Sari*, *Leeza*, *Maury Povich*, *Montel Williams*, *Real Life*, *Richard Bey*, *Ricki Lake*, *Rolonda*, and *Sally Jesse Raphael*. Some of these talk shows are producing new episodes for this day while others will be updating previous shows or rerunning prior episodes. Some of the new shows that will air on June 21 are "I Never Thought It Could Happen to Me," with Andy Lipshitz, the first doctor to announce he has AIDS, on *Sally Jesse Raphael*; Day of Compassion's Lawrence Leritz, *General Hospital*'s Kimberly McCullough, and Greg Louganis on *Rolonda*; and a special two-part episode of *Jenny Jones*.

Lifetime Television's *Late Date with Sari* takes a rare and poignant look at the lives of six HIV-positive women in a special ex-

panded one-hour edition. The six women, age 26 through 55, openly discuss how the virus has affected their lives with host Sari Locker, the 25-year-old professional sex therapist, author, and late-night talk show host.

As in the past three years, there will also be significant participation from many daytime dramas, including *All My Children*, *Days of Our Lives*, *General Hospital*, *Guiding Light*, *One Life to Live*, and *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Participation from these shows will vary from complete story lines, such as the ongoing HIV-positive character Robin Scorpio and the annual Nurses Ball for AIDS Charities on *General Hospital*, to a conversation or simple moment honoring those we have lost to AIDS.

Other committed participants in this year's Day of Compassion include 10 cable networks: A&E, American Movie Classics, Bravo, Encore, fX, Gems Television, Kaleidoscope, LifeTime, Network One, Sci-Fi Channel, and USA Network. These cable networks are scheduled to air AIDS-themed films, make HIV/AIDS the subject of their original programming for the day, or run AIDS-

awareness public service announcements (PSAs). Other programming participating in this year's Day of Compassion are Carsey-Werner shows, *CBS This Morning*, *Day and Date*, *Getting Healthy*, *Hard Copy*, *In Food Today*, *Inside Edition*, Telemundo's *Sevcec*, CNN's *Showbiz Today*, and E!'s *Talk Soup*.

The radio programming effort, new to this year's Day of Compassion, will feature national and local radio programming on compassion and support for people affected by HIV and AIDS. ABC News Radio will participate as will Voice of America, which will air a radio documentary featuring the voices of people living with and affected by AIDS. Radio stations around the country are being encouraged to feature interviews with people living with HIV in their own communities and to air PSAs produced by Hollywood Supports.

An entertainment industry project founded by leading industry figures, Hollywood Supports works to counter workplace fears and discrimination on the basis of HIV status and sexual orientation. In 1993, Hollywood Supports' volunteer Neil Tadken got the idea for Day of Compassion after watching an AIDS-themed episode of *One Life to Live*. He contacted other daytime soaps, and over half agreed to participate



A few of the many who will participate in television's Day of Compassion (Friday, June 21, 1996): (l-r) Geraldo Rivera, Sally Jesse Raphael, Greg Louganis (who will appear on *Rolonda*), and East Coast Day of Compassion coordinator Lawrence Leritz (who will appear on *Rolonda*).

that year in a day devoted to portraying compassion for people affected by HIV. Day of Compassion, now in its fourth year, is an annual project for Hollywood Supports, underwritten in part by a grant from the Permanent Charities of the Entertainment Industries.

Other Hollywood Supports activities, besides Day of Compassion, include "AIDS in the Workplace" seminars, "Sexual Orientation in the Workplace" seminars, and employee benefits counseling and analysis. For more information on how to participate, contact Hollywood Supports at 213/655-7705 or visit their website at <http://www.hsupports.org>.

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NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

You move just a finger, say the slightest word.
 Something's bound to linger—be heard!
 Someone is on your side—no one is alone.
 —Stephen Sondheim, *Into the Woods*

THE STORYTELLER'S SONG

This is a story for people who don't believe in stories. It's for people who don't believe that the actions they take—any actions—can cause ripples that will affect people's lives. It's for people who wonder if little things really make a difference.

I never met Alec (not his real name). My lover, David, was his case worker. Alec had full-blown AIDS. He was a painter, I was told, and when he had been diagnosed, his portraits became very dark, despairing, and finally ceased altogether. He suffered from wasting—what a horrible word, too nakedly truthful to be said aloud.

One Saturday evening after being with Alec for the afternoon, David came to me weeping. "He's so thin," David moaned against my shoulder. David has counseled over 200 patients and had lost many, but he had never become immune to the pain. I suppose it must make his job very difficult at times, but it makes him the best. He knew he would lose Alec too, and it cut him deeply. This was the first time that I felt Alec's pain, and I cried with my lover at feeling it.

It was the following Monday that David told me Alec had taken a sudden turn for the worse and was hospitalized. I discovered that David had gone to see Alec to arrange for legal documents—durable power of attorney, a will, and so on—that would allow Alec's lover to handle the arrangements, the

estate, and so on. Without them, Alec's family—who had apparently abandoned him when he came out—would arrive for just long enough to take everything away, denying Alec's wishes and leaving his lover with nothing. Unfortunately, Alec hadn't wanted to sign the papers. It was as if he could deny or delay his death if he simply didn't sign them.

David asked a favor of me. He knows that I've been a writer for years, and he had heard me perform something once that he had really liked. When I was part of a radio drama group in California, some 10 years ago, I had written several scripts in connection with a spoof called "The Golden Age of Radio Ministries." One of them was this little commercial:

My friends...I know that you are all spiritually prepared for the Rapture. But have you given any thought to what you are going to be wearing at this most momentous event in God's history? When God says "GOTCHA," will you be dressed to be blessed?

We here at Cloth of the Lamb All Wool Garments have contemplated this problem most carefully, and to take the worry out of your life, we have prepared a special line of clothing available only through this exclusive radio offer. Yes, complete ensembles of RaptureWear can be yours for as little as \$199.95. Not even

by Tristan A. MacAvery

Christian Dior can fit you as well as our testament-toting tailors and psalm-singing seamstresses.

For the men, we have the basic Holy Trinity Three-Piece Suit. The coat is cut with the full generosity of the Lord; the vest has specially reinforced sides, for the extra protection that Christ provides us; and the trousers are trimmed fully at the crotch so that you won't be choked at your Holy Spirit.

For the ladies, we have our elegant pure white gowns—simple, serene, and demonstrating honest chastity by its ample curves and delicately plunging neckline. To complete the ensemble, a simple white purse, stuffed with the complete line of Tammy Faye makeup, for that wholesome, natural look.

For the children, we have the official Jump To Jesus jumpsuits, fitted out with Keds for Khrist cross-trainers, to give them that extra boost when it comes time to run that race to the Pearly Gates.

And of course, for the purists among us, we have the finest 100-percent sack-cloth robes, guaranteed to have ashes in both pockets.

Yes, friends, Cloth of the Lamb All Wool Garments is pleased to offer you this quality line of RaptureWear through your local religious goods store. Be sure to see our ad in the Yellow Pages; look under "Clothing-The Last Word." And don't forget to inspect our complete line of holy underwear!

In my best Southern preacher voice, I read the commercial onto a tape for David, although I wasn't sure why he asked for it at the time. It was only later that I found out what he wanted to use it for.

Alec was able to return home from the hospital on a Thursday night, and David went to visit him on Friday. He sat alone with Alec and played the tape for him. Moments later, Alec's lover and Alec's sister heard what they thought was pained howling. They burst into the room, wondering what was wrong, and there lay Alec on his bed, practically in a fetal position, convulsing in laughter. David played the tape for them, too, and soon the whole house was laughing.

When Alec finally stopped laughing, he looked at David and said, "It's gonna happen, isn't it?" The light in his eyes had changed, David told me. Alec had always known that death wasn't far away, but it was somehow better now. He was ready to do what he needed to do, to prepare for his death. And for the first time, he wanted to fight back now. He had a painting in mind, he said—a bright one, a powerful one. Just as soon as he was on his feet again, he would begin.

In the meantime, David told me, Alec signed his papers and got his lover and his sister to make legal documents of their own. He had one other request, which David ful-

filled—he provided a copy of my tape, which was to be played at Alec's funeral. "For those of you who are still denying what's to come," someone would say, "we have this special announcement."

David told me all this on that Friday. He

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thanked me for helping. He was laughing, just like I was, just like Alec did. This was the first time that I had felt Alec's joy, and this time my tears were happy ones.

Two days later, he called to tell me that Alec had died.

David spent several days helping Alec's

lover and sister through the first stages of their grieving. The legal papers were all processed properly, and Alec's wishes were followed.

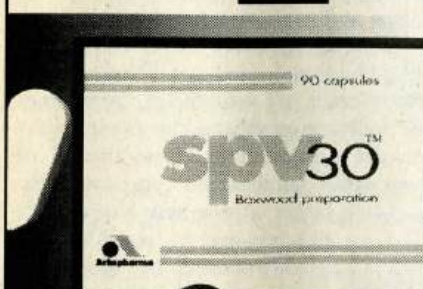
In my Native American culture, the heyokah is the storyteller, the sacred clown who teaches through humor and by turning everything upside down. The song of the heyokah is one of the wisdom and power of laughter, and there is nothing in this world that can't be laughed at (surely this is proven with the hilarious AIDS publication called *Diseased Pariah News*). This holy medicine man is there to remind us never to take things too seriously, and never to think that pain is stronger than joy.

I never met Alec. I've never met a heyokah, and I certainly don't claim to be one. But we all have our stories. We are stories. Sometimes, a person needs a story even more than he or she needs food. This is why you must believe in stories. This is why you must believe that you can take action, that you can be heard, and that you are needed.

Thank you, Alec. I hope you're still laughing. I will if you will.

Tristan A. MacAvery is a freelance writer who has published short stories and articles in the U.S., Canada, and Spain. He is at work on his fifth novel.

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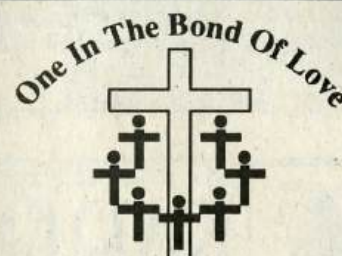
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"And the trouble is, if you don't risk anything, you risk even more." —Erica Jong

The Illusion of Safety

—What I defend against, I so create—

Two cats are playfully tumbling in the grass until a dog suddenly approaches, then they both dart off into a bush. A crowd is enjoying a holiday party until suddenly the raised voices of two people arguing causes a hush to fall over the crowd. Two men are engaging in passionate sexual intercourse until suddenly the awareness of a broken condom dramatically shifts the mood. What do these scenarios have in common? The presence, followed by the sudden loss, of safety. To experience full aliveness, joy, and love, all living animals must first secure safety. In the presence of any threat, real or perceived, the prime direction of the brain is toward survival. Once secured, the way is paved for the expression of fun, creativity, lovemaking, and full aliveness.

This task, however, is unending as we know it. From the time we are born, we perceive some form of attack which, in turn, requires some form of defense. As individuals—within families and in relationships—we protect ourselves physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually, and psychologically. Communities, societies, organizations, corporations, and nations are often in an ongoing struggle to secure themselves from perceived threats. Wars and nuclear armament are all attempts to secure a safe place so that the members in the group, as well as the nation, can grow and flourish.

As lesbian and gay individuals, we are likely to know well the repercussions of living in an unsafe world. Early in the developmental process, it is likely that all lesbian and gay individuals are aware of the potential threat of their blooming sexuality. With this

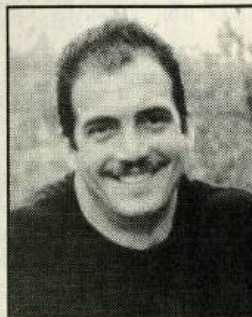
conscious or unconscious awareness, the individual likely begins utilizing what they can to secure their safety—they may deny or suppress sexual feelings or begin hiding behaviors that may identify them. Internal psychological processes are likely used to secure a sense of safety through self-deceptive means such as suppression and denial. This self-

A lesbian couple wrapped in warm embrace inside a club may break their connection upon reaching the door.

preservation process may work for a while but is likely overpowered by the drive to connect with, and love, another human being. Following this phase, self-awareness and gradual acceptance often necessitate a move, or distancing, from the perceived threat. This often takes the form of separation from the biological family or unsafe community.

If the choice is made to remain in a community that is unsupportive, individuals will likely form some sort of network that provides at least some moments of safety. Other gay-friendly people, as well as other lesbians and gays, may provide that need. The protective psychic walls, often built during childhood, tend to fall only as new outward walls are established. Sometimes these walls are established by moving away from the perceived and real threats of unsupportive families and communities to larger cities where a new sense of safety may be found.

Montrose in Houston, Castro in San Francisco, Greenwich Village in New York, and similar gay ghettos in other cities have traditionally provided geographic parameters that lend themselves to relative safety. Once inside these "Safety Zones," it is likely that one will witness the more outgoing expression of lesbian and gay affection and self.



by Patrick Vachon

Throughout our history, lesbian and gay people have been extremely creative in the establishment of safe places for self-expression.

Historically, private homes were used as a refuge for social gatherings, and in some countries major social connection still occurs behind the compound walls of the lesbian and gay social elite. More recently, gay bars, churches, organizations, and groups provide not only social acceptance but also physical safety. Once "inside" the concrete walls, internal protective walls may be lowered and more aliveness experienced. The relative safety "inside" and perceived (or real) threat "outside" is easy to observe: A lesbian couple wrapped in warm embrace inside a club may break their connection upon reaching the door. Men who generally greet each other with a hug and a kiss may only shake hands while in the "real world." Attitudes, clothing, and personality styles all may change with the presence of a safe, secure environment.

It is unfortunate that so much life energy must be wasted on securing such a place of safety each and every day. If not employed in a supportive environment, lesbian and gay people may have to be guarded about virtually everything they say, think, or do. If they have a social or political view, they often have to keep it to themselves for fear of attack. Jokes, verbal abuse, and sexual harassment are often accepted for fear of retaliation. Relationships in the workplace are often affected as well, since people can only allow others to get as close as the secret will permit. The terror of being "found out" limits the relationships of everyday life, and virtually all interactions with unsupportive professionals, merchants, or colleagues must be monitored for safety. All of these aspects keep lesbian and gay people on "hyper" alert status, and the energy wasted on this guardedness is energy that could be used more productively in the workplace, family, and relationships.

Securing a safe environment is our primary task as individuals, couples, and community. There is often a great deal of debate around the lesbian and gay social and political movement—some feel movement is too slow, others too fast, still others believe we should not rock the boat at all. In order to continue the process toward full expression of life energy, safety must be secured. This will likely require continued movement toward equal protection, which, in essence, means equal safety, and gay rights legislation of any kind is an attempt to secure this safety. Individuals will not flourish, our relationships will not flourish, and our

community will not flourish until this is accomplished.

How then does the transition from fear to safety occur? Like other aspects of growth, the main focus is with the individual. Each and every person must assume responsibility for the correction process. The familiar cliché "if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem" can certainly apply. Traditionally as human beings we tend to wait idly as someone else corrects the problem. We wait for economists to "fix" the economy, politicians to "fix" the country, and everyone else to end hunger. Individual responsibility is essential for growth, healing, and collective social change.

The solution is simple but surely not easy. To stop the attack, there must be a cease-fire. As long as there are defenses in place, the perceived threat remains, and the cycle continues. As we lay down arms and become vulnerable, the need for defensive-ness disappears and walls dissolve.

A global example of this is the old Soviet Union. As long as we saw them as the enemy, we maintained a collective perception of threat and parallel defense. For decades, as long as the United States saw the Soviet Union as the enemy, fears persisted. The threat of nuclear attack kept the U.S. hostage even to the point of building personal bomb shelters. As the "peace" process continues, we begin to see the people behind the "wall" and realize that we are all alike, which facilitates connection. As this occurs the perceived threat dissolves and so does the correlative military, economic, and political defense.

How does this principle apply to the gay and lesbian movement toward safety? First and foremost, it is essential that as individuals we address our own self-hatred. This "internalized homophobia," as it is sometimes called, must be acknowledged and released. As long as individuals believe there is something wrong with them, something to be embarrassed of, or ashamed of, they will hide and protect themselves from others.

Next we must own our own flaws in regard to creating a safe place for each other. Safety must be secured within our relationships, gay family, and community. One doesn't have to look too far to see the hatred, criticism, and judgment within the parameters of our own culture. This surely doesn't lend itself to a sense of safety within, and actually reinforces the external myth of our own unworthiness.

As the outward ripple continues, we must allow the heterosexual world to get closer to us. Slowly the internal and community walls must melt away so that mainstream culture

Continued on page 77

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HIV/AIDS Watch

AVES Initiates New HIV Counseling and Testing Program

Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (AVES), a Houston-based nonprofit agency providing a variety of services to individuals living with or affected by HIV, now offers anonymous and confidential HIV services. Counseling and testing are done at their offices in Twelve Oaks Tower, 4126 Southwest Freeway, Suite 1717, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1 pm till 7 pm by appointment only. A \$5 donation is suggested, and parking is free. Call 713/626-2837 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Montrose Clinic Begins Nutritional Clinical Trial for HIV-Positive Persons

Montrose Clinic has begun enrolling HIV-positive persons in a nutritional clinical trial designed to look at the long-term effects of taking nutritional supplements on HIV-related wasting.

Qualified participants must be at least 18 years of age and HIV positive with a T4 cell count of less than 100. Participants must not have started a new antiretroviral (either a reverse transcriptase inhibitor or protease inhibitor) in the past month, nor may they use appetite stimulants, steroids, thalidomide, or ganciclovir during the study. There is no cost to qualified participants, who will receive a six-month supply of one of two supplements, laboratory blood work, and dietitian visits. Interested persons should call Ron Cummings, resident director of H.O.P.E. Resource Center at Park Plaza, 713/285-1293, for more information or to schedule screening.

Anti-Gay, Anti-HIV Measures Added to Defense Bill

WASHINGTON—The House has approved a \$267-billion Defense Department spending measure that President Clinton has already said he would veto if it's not changed by the Senate because of the many social issues that conservative Republicans have tacked on to it. The measure includes amendments that would discard the current "don't ask, don't tell" armed forces provision and institute an outright ban on homosexuals in the military. It also includes the on-again, off-again amendment forcing the Pentagon to discharge any military personnel who test positive for HIV.

The Senate version of the defense measure calls for the same spending level but doesn't contain the controversial amendments House Republicans added to the bill. The measure also includes a ban on the sale of sexually explicit magazines, such as

Playboy and Penthouse, at military bases, as well as a prohibition against U.S. military hospitals outside the country performing abortions, except in cases of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is at risk.

Shifts in AIDS Research Funding

CHICAGO—As a result of tightening federal budgets coupled with increased criticism of federal HIV/AIDS research efforts, scientists say government health agencies are allocating more research money to non-government scientists, and that more innovative, experimental research proposals may not get funded. The National Cancer Institute's AIDS funding for the current fiscal year has shifted dramatically, reports the journal *Nature*, with outside research program funds increasing from \$37 million last year to \$104 million this year. At the same time, NCI's internal AIDS research allocations dropped from \$102 million in 1995 to \$66 million this year. The *Health Care Quarterly* reports that as managed care and government purse strings tighten, more experimental medical research, like the recent baboon bone marrow transplant to a person with AIDS, could come to a halt.

Bike Ride Dispute Settled

PHILADELPHIA—A dispute has ended over charges of racism that threatened to mar the June 21-23 Philadelphia-to-Washington AIDS bike ride. Organizers of the event have agreed to give 25 percent of the money generated by the fundraising ride to the city's Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition for distribution to agencies serving primarily racial and ethnic minorities.

The bicycle marathon ride is expected to generate up to \$5 million. Earlier in May a coalition of AIDS organizations serving racial and ethnic minorities had criticized the fundraiser, charging that predominantly white-run AIDS groups had excluded them from sharing the proceeds of the event. The coalition had called for a boycott of the marathon ride and had threatened to stage a "die-in" at the event's kick-off from downtown Philadelphia.

AIDS International Memorial Observed

SAN FRANCISCO—An estimated 5,000 people marched through San Francisco, joined by thousands in similar candlelight memorials in 270 cities in 43 countries around the globe, commemorating the people who have died of AIDS.

At the San Francisco memorial where the annual global event started, U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi was presented with a declaration endorsed by some 170 AIDS agencies around the world condemning discrimination against people stricken with the disease. In Cape Town, South Africa, Episcopal Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke at the memorial there, saying that "AIDS patients face the same fight as the victims of apartheid" did in that country before the end of the white minority rule. "AIDS is not really the new struggle we have to engage in after apartheid," Tutu said, "it is the continuation of it."

First Florida AIDS Ride Raises \$1.5 Million

MIAMI BEACH—The Florida AIDS Ride, the first of its kind in the state, drew some 757 bicyclists who rode three days from Orlando to Miami Beach, raising an estimated \$1.5 million. The funds raised by the cyclists will be distributed to several AIDS groups in Florida.

Clinton Signs

Ryan White CARE Act Extension

WASHINGTON—Saying he hoped to be the last president to have to sign a five-year extension of the funding program, President Clinton signed federal legislation re-authorizing the Ryan White CARE Act for five more years of federal spending. The measure was first passed by Congress six years ago and allocates federal funds to local communities hardest hit by AIDS for home care, transportation, hospice care, and other support services for people with AIDS/HIV.

The spending measure authorizes \$738 million for AIDS-related services in cities and towns around the country during the 1996 fiscal year, an increase over the 1995 level of \$632 million. The measure also includes some \$52 million in funding for states to provide new HIV/AIDS drugs for residents who can't afford them, and \$10 million for a new program aimed at getting pregnant women to voluntarily seek testing and counseling for HIV.

In signing the measure, Clinton said he hoped no future president would have to sign a similar spending measure. "By then, let us pray that we will have found a cure for AIDS and a vaccine to protect every American," the President said.

Gel May Prevent HIV Infection in Women

WASHINGTON—Researchers report that a vaginal gel containing a drug known as PMPA has been shown to protect female monkeys from the simian version of HIV, and may offer humans the same kind of protection from the virus. Dr. Roberta Black of the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, which sponsored the study, said, "For women to have a woman-controlled method is very important so they can protect themselves." Black said much more research is needed, including studies involving humans, to determine whether the PMPA anti-viral gel could prove safe and effective protection for women.

HIV Saliva Test Kit "100% Accurate," Researchers Report

BALTIMORE—Researchers at the University of Maryland have reported that an HIV saliva testing kit has been shown to be 100 percent effective in detecting antibodies to the virus. The test, known as ImmunoComb, is manufactured by Organics Ltd. of Israel.

University researcher Rebecca Saville, who headed the study, said the test requires very little training to use and gives results in less than 30 minutes. The saliva test kit is not yet approved for distribution in the U.S.

Stanford to Study Group Therapy for People With HIV

PALO ALTO, Calif.—Researchers at the Stanford University Medical Center are about to begin a large-scale, four-year study to help determine whether group therapy sessions for people infected with HIV can significantly impact their quality of life and general health. The study, the first long-term, large-scale project of its kind for people infected with HIV, is being headed by David Spiegel, a psychiatry professor at the center.

Spiegel says similar studies involving women with terminal breast cancer found that patients in group therapy experienced less anxiety and depression, reported only about half the pain, and had an overall survival rate that was 18 months longer than similar women not attending the therapy sessions. "We are interested to see if the same model applies to people living with HIV," Spiegel said.

Study: Better Predictive, Treatment Values in HIV Particle Counts

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—According to a new study, doctors now have a more accurate way of predicting how long people infected with HIV will survive, thereby giving physicians better guidance in how aggressively to treat their patients. Dr. John Mellors and a team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center have confirmed the relative accuracy of an extremely sensitive new blood test that counts the number of HIV viral particles instead of the current method which relies on counting the immune system's CD4 T-cells. "We found very strikingly that the amount of virus in the bloodstream predicted how individuals did," Mellors said. "The more virus, the worse the individuals did, by which I mean the shorter time to developing full-blown AIDS and dying."

The researchers analyzed blood samples from 180 gay men enrolled in a U.S. government study between 1983 and 1991. They found that 49 percent of the men with more than 36,000 HIV particles per milliliter of blood died within five years. But only 5 percent with just one-ninth that amount of virus died that quickly. "The likelihood of progression increases directly with the level of AIDS virus in the blood," Mellors said. "So we have a pretty good idea based on our study what the expected survival of an individual would be at a certain level of virus."

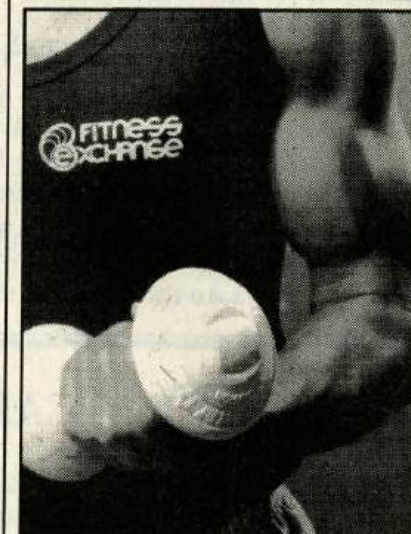
Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institutes of Allergy & Infectious Disease, says the researchers' findings will let doctors make better decisions about when to begin treatments and when to change to possibly more aggressive therapies. "If some individuals have very high set points [HIV particle counts], even though their CD4 cells are reasonably OK, you might want to more aggressively treat those people because you know that you can predict they are going to do more poorly," Fauci said. "Whereas someone who has a low [HIV particle count], even though their CD4 count might not be all that high, you might want to hold off on aggressive therapy. So really, it's a step toward using the steady state level of the virus much more as a tool both in prediction and in therapeutic decisions."

Parental Consent for Health Education Classes Proposed

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Almost unnoticed, California Assemblyman Steve Baldwin (R-El Cajon) and state Senator Quentin Kopp (I-San Francisco) have co-

Continued on page 64

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Leading AIDS activists from across the country met recently to draw up a set of standards which they are urging every viatical settlement company to strictly follow when buying your life insurance policy. The goal is to protect your economic security at a time of emotional and financial stress. If you are thinking about selling your life insurance policy, you should seek offers from a minimum of three viatical settlement companies and make sure that the companies you evaluate have signed this code.

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Jacques Chambers
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Pat Christen
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Marc Cohen
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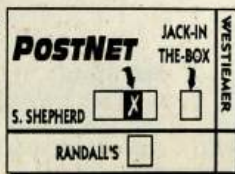
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HIV/AIDS Watch

Continued from page 61

authored a measure that would require parents' to agree to their children enrolling in any health education classes where sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, are discussed. The measure, innocuously entitled "School Districts: Curriculum," is only now receiving attention following approval by the state Assembly's education committee.

Organizations including California Medical Association, National Association of People with AIDS, and state superintendent of schools Delaine Eastin have voiced opposition to the measure. The lawmakers sponsoring the measure both say it helps give parents more control over what their children are exposed to in public schools. Members of ACT UP, the AIDS organization, say they plan to go before local school boards to encourage opposition to the proposed law.

FDA OKs Home-Testing Kit for HIV

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Food & Drug Administration has approved the first home-testing kit for detecting HIV, the virus generally believed to cause AIDS. Confide HIV Testing Service kits will be marketed initially at pharmacies in Texas and through a toll-free telephone number based in Florida. The FDA said that the home-testing kit, expected to be priced at about \$40, is intended for people who would prefer the anonymity of home testing instead of using clinics or medical facilities.

The new testing system is comprised of three integrated components: a home blood collection kit, HIV antibody testing at a certified laboratory, and a center that provides test results, counseling, and referrals as needed. The test is manufactured by Direct Access Diagnostics of Bridgewater, N.J., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. Critics of home testing say the kit is too expensive and that counseling services via phone in such a situation seemed hit-or-miss.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention estimates that 60 percent of Americans at risk for HIV have never been tested for the virus.

Birth Control Hormone May Play Role in Increased HIV Risk

WASHINGTON—Government researchers report that giving progesterone to female monkeys as a contraceptive dramatically increases their risk of becoming infected by SIV, the simian version of HIV, opening the possibility that women given the same synthetic hormone for birth control could face the same increased risks. That's important, experts say, since birth control methods that use progesterone, including depo-provera and Norplant, are growing in popularity worldwide because they can be administered as time-release implants or injections to allow a woman freedom from pregnancy for months on end.

Because the technology is relatively cheap, hormone implants have quickly become the contraceptive of choice for family-planning groups working with women in developing countries and American adolescents. It is these groups, experts said, who are most likely not to use condoms as a protection against AIDS, if they already feel they're protected against pregnancy.

Drug Combination Shows Effectiveness

WASHINGTON—A 73-week study by drug manufacturer Hoffman-La Roche of some 978 AIDS patients has shown that Invirase, the brand name for the firm's version of the protease inhibitor saquinavir, in combination with the drug ddC, reduced the rate of deaths by more than two-thirds compared to patients taking ddC alone. Saquinavir has been considered the least impressive of the new protease inhibitors, but the new findings, which have not yet been published, have prompted the drug manufacturer to ask the Food & Drug Administration to allow the new information to be added to the drug's label.

Houston Considers Minority Sensitivity Program for AIDS Funds

HOUSTON—The Ryan White Planning Council in Houston, which oversees distribution of federal AIDS funds to local agencies, is considering requiring sensitivity training programs for staff members of agencies that receive the money in an effort to increase awareness of minority issues among the people who deal with people with AIDS. The proposal would involve a 12-hours training program for the some 480 agency staff workers who deal with people with AIDS/HIV, emphasizing how minority communities deal with the epidemic. The training program would focus on gay men, African-Americans, Hispanics, drug users, and the hearing impaired.

HIV Cell Infection Agent Isolated

WASHINGTON—Government scientists report they have discovered a chemical clue to why HIV is infectious. Reporting in the journal *Science*, researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases say they have found a protein or "fusin" that must be present for HIV to infect white blood cells, the primary target of the virus.

Edward A. Berger, who headed the team that made the discovery, said the discovery gives scientists a "new handle on understanding" how HIV invades cells. "Obviously this is a potential target for developing new drugs to treat HIV infection," Berger said. "Potentially by coming up with a drug that blocks the receptor, you might block the ability of HIV to replicate."

The researchers cautioned, however, that there were still many mysteries about the virus that need to be answered. Among other things, they noted that HIV attaches itself to some types of immune cells in the early stages of the infection without using fusin. This means HIV comes in variations that connect to CD4 cells and some other molecular cofactor or cofactors on these cells.

Berger said that potential drugs that block the fusin receptor on cells could only do part of the job in combating HIV.

"Dramatic" Increase in HIV Levels After Tetanus Shots

BOSTON—Researchers with the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases have reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that tetanus shots can cause a dramatic increase in the reproduction of HIV in the body. After giving tetanus shots to people infected with HIV, the researchers found they had a 2- to 36-fold increase in HIV levels. The scientists also

found that blood samples from uninfected individuals who had been given the same tetanus shots more readily became infected with HIV after the injections. Researchers said the dramatic increase in HIV production appears to only last about six weeks, so the benefits of tetanus shots generally outweighs the temporary surge in HIV levels for most patients.

Blood Heat Treatment Gets OK for Expanded Trials

LOS ANGELES—The Indiana-based Hemo-Cleanse Inc. has been given approval by the Food & Drug Administration to expand testing of its blood-heating treatment of people infected with HIV. The second phase of the trials will include two-hour treatments at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana, and the Harbor-UCLA Research & Education Institute in Los Angeles.

HemoCleanse's treatment, similar to kidney dialysis, involves slowly drawing all a patient's blood from his body in small quantities and heating it to 108 degrees Fahrenheit before infusing it back into his body. The idea behind the treatment is that HIV is sensitive to even small increases in temperature and would be destroyed in massive quantities by the treatment.

Sixty patients will be divided into two groups during the trials. One group will receive two treatments each—the first for one hour, and the second for two hours. The other group will serve as a control group and will not receive the heat treatment, but will remain on standard HIV drug therapy.

Ex-Advocate Editor Richard Rouillard Dies of AIDS

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—Richard Rouillard, former editor of the Los Angeles news magazine, *The Advocate*, has died of AIDS-related complications here. He was 46 years old at the time of his death. Under Rouillard's editorship, the news magazine quickly made a transition from puffed-up lifestyle stories to often-exclusive—and occasionally sensational—cover news features, perhaps the best known of these, the outing of a highly placed Pentagon civilian official during the debate over the military's ban on gays in the armed forces.

Rouillard also worked in editorial positions at the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Buzz* magazine. Although he is best known for his editorial work, Rouillard graduated with a degree in law from the South Texas College of Law in Houston. After moving to San Francisco in the late 1970s, he was a co-founder of the National Gay Rights Advocates, an early public interest legal organization that battled in the courts for gay rights cases.

He is survived by his longtime companion, Bob Cohen.

Researchers: New PCR Test for HIV Is Less Reliable

CHICAGO—Stanford University researchers report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* that the new polymerase chain reaction (PCR) AIDS test, which is based on the presence of elements of DNA from HIV in the body, is less reliable than older tests that rely on the presence of antibodies to the virus. The researchers found that even with the elaborate precautions required in PCR testing, the results return five times as many false results as the more widely used antibody testing methods. PCR testing is also significantly more expensive and costs between \$150 and \$200, compared to standard antibody tests, which range in price

from \$5 to \$50.

The advantage of the PCR test is that it can be administered earlier to newborns because other tests rely on the formation of antibodies to the virus, which often don't show up for six months following infection.

KS Virus Appears to Be Widespread in Healthy Men

BOSTON—A report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* says the virus that is believed responsible for Kaposi's sarcoma, a rare cancer that strikes many AIDS patients, is found in the sexual organs of most men. Researchers with the Institute of Microbiology at the University of Ferrara in Italy report they found the KS-related virus, known as KSHV, in 30 of 33 semen samples of healthy Italian men—a 91 percent infection rate. The scientists also say they found the virus in the urinary tracts, in the prostates, and other areas of the genital organs of other healthy men as well.

The scientists say they believe individuals with healthy immune systems can live with the virus present in their bodies without any apparent problems, but that when the immune system is weakened, as it is when infected with HIV, the KS virus appears to become active.

EPA Issues Warnings Over Water Dangers

WASHINGTON—Responding to a 31-city survey by the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), the federal Environmental Protection Agency has ordered some 300 of the country's largest cities to monitor their water system for cryptosporidium, a parasite that can be deadly if ingested by people with weakened immune systems. The NAPWA report said that the public water systems in Seattle, Tampa, and Milwaukee posted the lowest risks for people there with compromised immune systems because of close monitoring. Municipal water systems of concern because of inadequate monitoring and notification programs include Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; Dallas; Minneapolis; Newark, New Jersey; and St. Petersburg, Fla. The EPA said only about 100 of the cities it issued the warnings to already monitor their water for cryptosporidium. ▼

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Vacations for One

—Not Always the Loneliest Number—



I have been asked several times to write an article about vacation opportunities for the single gay and lesbian traveler. This month *OUT & ABOUT*, the monthly newsletter for gay and lesbian travelers, spotlights this important subject. Publisher David Alport has generously given permission to reprint portions of that article for *OutSmart*.

Travel brochures are filled with pictures of happy couples enjoying the pleasures of romantic settings and foreign lands. If you're single, it's pretty easy to feel left out. If it makes you feel any better, heterosexual singles are similarly left out. But before you descend into wallowing, there are a number of reasons to be cheerful, and some of them follow in this article. Single travelers have more travel options than ever, as tour companies and destinations create programs to cash in on this large market.

Traveling solo has some advantages. Your schedule need not accommodate someone else's needs, and when there's only one seat left on an airplane, you don't have to find an alternate flight. In foreign lands, single travelers are more likely to reap the benefits of interacting with the locals, since it is easier to "shield" yourself when you're traveling in a couple or group. But traveling solo has disadvantages as well. The "single supplement" is the greatest of these, the extra charges levied on travelers who aren't sharing the cost of their sleeping accommodations with another traveler. These supplements are a simple matter of economics, not discrimination, particularly now that hotel rooms and cruise

ship cabins are almost exclusively designed for "double occupancy."

Although a number of tour companies (gay and straight) try to match single travelers with roommates to provide pricing parity for single travelers, it is a hit-or-miss proposition that often fails—it's hard enough traveling and sharing a room with someone you like, let alone a stranger. Even if the tour company doesn't offer a formal matching program, it's worth letting them know you'd like to share a room—they might be able to accommodate you. The largest gay tour operators base their single rates on shared accommodations, with supplements for single accommodations that can range from 20 percent to as much as 100 percent of the share rate.

Economics are just one side of the coin. The other is companionship, which can take many forms. For men in particular, romance (okay...sex) is often the goal, and many of the single vacation experiences for men are designed to facilitate such interaction. Travelers looking for congenial companionship also need facilitation, and some solo vacations do a good job of encouraging people to interact with each other. No matter which

kind of single traveler you are or what kind of interaction you're looking for, you'll be disappointed if you expect someone else—the tour operator, guesthouse manager, or others—to make it happen for you. Make the effort to introduce yourself, strike up conversations, say hello to the person next to you. We can't make it happen for you, but we can point you in the right direction.



by Sandra Wilkins

Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places

If you're looking to get laid, look for maximum density. No, we don't mean "big and stupid," but vacations where you'll meet lots of other like-minded travelers. Consider your options in three varieties: gay popular destinations, big gay group vacations, and gay events. If you're looking for pleasant company and congenial companionship, look

for environments that foster conversation and interactions. Consider your options in three varieties as well: gay guesthouses, smaller gay group vacations, and gay events. Gay events appear in both places, but travelers looking for companionship should choose events that are activity-based. The gay rodeo, gay softball championships, and gay ski weeks are all good options, as is any event where the participants have a common interest or purpose, or any purpose at all other than just partying.

Gay Vacations/Large Groups

Large gay group vacations can be an ideal option for single travelers, since they are specifically designed to provide interaction with a large number of travelers, a vacation setting conducive to interaction, and specific activities to stimulate and facilitate interaction. While those basic elements are pretty consistent across the different large group vacations, the subtle differences between those vacations can make a significant difference in your experience. For women, Olivia Cruises is the only company offering regular group departures of 300+ women. For men, RSVP and Atlantis are the most popular trips, and while there is a lot of overlap in their clientele, their trips are very different. Shy singles may find these large groups intimidating, and sometimes cliques of the young and restless create an "A-group/B-group" atmosphere that intensifies the effect. Still, for the singles, large groups have the most to offer, including the best "share rate" and "single supplement" programs.

Gay Vacations/Small Groups

Small group vacations have a distinct advantage in their ability to provide low-pressure social opportunities. Their distinct disadvantage is in numbers: in a group of 10-30 travelers, many or all of whom could be couples, the pickings are slim at best. These vacations are best for those who are more concerned with companionship than romance. If you're content with that, or with the possibility of one-night stands (quasi-commercial or otherwise) in the places your

tour visits, small group vacations are a good option for you. Romantic complications are not the only concern for single travelers in small groups. The cost factor is also an issue, as small groups are less likely to offer single share rates, and most likely to have large single supplements. Your enjoyment of a small-group vacation is also heavily rooted in your enjoyment of your fellow travelers. Couples know at the very least they can share

Single travelers have more travel options than ever, as tour companies and destinations create programs to cash in on this large market.

experiences with each other. Singles can really be on their own if the other tour members are not agreeable.

Different tour operators have different strengths. Toto Tours makes an effort to help tour members "let down their hair" and interact. Skylink Women's Travel runs group tours to women-popular destinations, where tour participants will meet lots of other women. Be sure to ask trip organizers who

the other participants are likely to be. Some good questions to ask: Are they mostly from one part of the country? Are they mostly singles or couples, older or younger? What do participants tend to do during free time at night? Do they break into smaller groups, disperse individually, or stick together? Consider what kinds of situations would make you uncomfortable, and ask about them.

Gay Event Vacations

"Girls just want to have fun" is a truism of the gay event experience, whether you are a girl of either the genetic or "you go, girl" variety. Events have the largest attendance, the randiest crowds, and the lowest prices. Sex, drugs, and rock and roll can dominate these events, sometimes to the exclusion of any real "quality time" to meet new people and explore new friendships. Women's events, traditionally dominated by the serious political granola lesbians, have begun to include parties that look more like boy's circuit parties. While the women at the Michigan Womyn's Festival are debating the exclusion of "womyn not born womyn," the girls in Palm Springs for The Dinah are debating which party had the hottest go-go girls. The guys' events, some in their second decade, have not evolved much from their original format. The newer events reflect a

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Vacations for One

Continued from previous page

trend toward more sophisticated production, but simpler formats: cruise by day, dance by night. Most events are mainly or exclusively skewed to men or women, with the exception of sports events like the gay rodeo or Aspen Gay Ski week, which tend to attract sizable numbers of both communities. Events that have an activity focus provide more quality opportunities for the casual interaction, and are better for fostering friendships and romances that last for more than just one night. Events are best for extroverts, who can capitalize on the quantity of participants. Introverts should consider going with a group of friends, and even then, be prepared to make a real effort to meet people.

Gay Popular Destinations for Singles

The big gay meccas are generally the best destinations for singles, since they best satisfy the density criteria, and have multiple venues for meeting other singles in various settings. But many other destinations can be good for singles.

Highly recommended destinations are the always popular Palm Springs, Key West, Provincetown, Honolulu, Fire Island, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Less well known as great destinations for gay travelers, but also highly recommended are San Diego, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the beautiful Central American country of Costa Rica.

A savvy gay or gay-friendly travel agent should be able to provide you with abundant information about gay tour operators, accommodations, events, and gay popular destinations. *OUT & ABOUT* routinely reports on all things important to the gay and lesbian traveler, and back issues of the newsletter, as well as their gay travel calendar, published quarterly, are available by calling their toll free number.

So, all you singles, buck up and go somewhere. There's a big, big world out there waiting for you to explore. Until next time, take pride in all of who you are, single or otherwise. ▼

OUT & ABOUT is a privately published newsletter for our traveling community, full of objective reviews about tour companies, destinations, and accommodations. To subscribe and receive 10 issues per year for \$49, call toll free 1-800-929-2268.

Sandra Wilkins is owner and president of The TravelPartnership, Inc., a travel company proud to serve gay and lesbian travelers. For more information, call 713/526-4471.



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Equal Rights for Equal People

—Deciphering the *Romer vs. Evans* Decision—

Last month justice was served when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Romer vs. Evans* and affirmed the Colorado courts' previous decisions to overturn Amendment 2. This action translates into a great legal victory for gay and lesbian communities nationwide, as it is the first time in American history that the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized any type of protection for homosexuals as a class. Had the decision gone the other way, gay rights advocates would have had to challenge these types of discriminatory laws on a state by state basis. This would have been an extremely expensive task with a greater chance of failure. Now gay activists can continue the fight for equal protection in each state with support of the federal Constitution.

In order to understand the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision, it helps to look at a brief history of Amendment 2. The actual battle for this law began prior to 1992 when it was approved by Colorado voters. Just as in many other states, Colorado municipalities were passing local ordinances banning discrimination based on

sexual orientation. Some of these ordinances prevented employers from not hiring an individual because he or she identified as gay or lesbian. Others prevented this type of discrimination in the areas of housing, education, and health and welfare services.

One group was patently opposed to these anti-discrimination laws. This group of religious political extremists felt that these ordinances denied their freedom of association. They believed, for instance, that landlords should have the right to deny housing to a gay man or a lesbian because certain landlords might have a religious objection to associating with homosexuals. They truly believed that the anti-discrimination statutes were giving

**Religious political extremists
believed landlords should have
the right to deny housing to
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have a religious objection to
associating with homosexuals.**

homosexuals special privileges not afforded to others.

As a result they sought a constitutional amendment that would prevent all governments within the state of Colorado from passing laws protecting homosexuals. The Colorado state legislature wrote Amendment 2 and presented it to the voters. Only 53 percent of voters felt strongly enough to vote "yes" for the amendment, but that slim margin was enough to make it the law.

Gay interest groups immediately brought court action to declare the amendment unconstitutional. The Colorado courts agreed with the gay activists, saying that Amendment 2 violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The court battle eventually made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

What the Supreme Court says in the *Romer* decision is that Amendment 2 does not meet the standards of the 14th Amendment. The 14th Amendment was designed to ensure that no persons are denied equal protection under the law. It has been interpreted over the years to say that no particular group of people can be given less protection under the law than other groups, unless the state that has passed the offending law shows a compelling reason why discrimination should be allowed to happen.

In *Romer* the Supreme Court points out that Amendment 2 specifically identifies a group of people by a single trait (homosexuality), and then denies this group the possibility of protection under the laws of Colorado. This idea directly conflicts with the reasoning of the 14th Amendment by pre-

venting a specific class of people from having access to the legislative and judicial systems of their state. The Supreme Court further found that the state of Colorado could come up with no compelling reason why homosexuals as a class should be cut off in this manner. The landlord's excuse was just not good enough.

Had the Supreme Court decided to uphold Amendment 2, it would have revoked any existing laws already barring discrimination based on sexual orientation and prevented any new gay-rights ordinances from being passed. On a broader scale, it would have made it virtually impossible for gays to gain equal protection in any state. The 14th Amendment would no longer apply to the gay community.

Fortunately the Supreme Court ruled the other way. The Court ended its opinion by stating, "We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else. This Colorado cannot do. A state cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws."

The Supreme Court's decision did not necessarily advance gay rights in America. However, it did ensure that no state will have the power to pass laws that deny homosexuals equal access to seek protection under the law. Also, the *Romer* decision set a Supreme Court standard that refuses to allow religious groups or any other organizations to deny other citizens equal protection under the law. ▼

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

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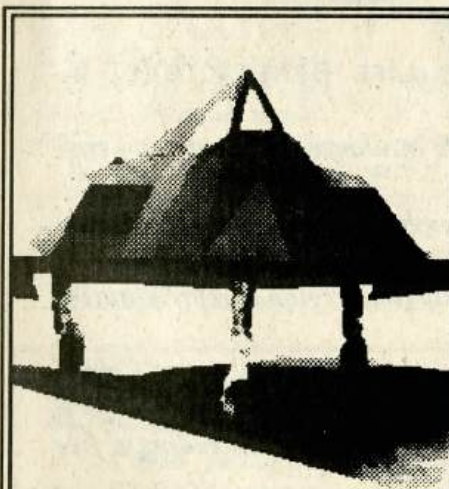
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Future Outlook



by Joseph Molina

THE WORLD

Major governmental issues and conflicts in other lands are well on their way to be recorded in the history books. Great dissatisfaction will be projected by the citizens of our country because of premature intervention, or rushing to another country's assistance, retreating as a result of incorrect protocol and then rushing back to the rescue.

ARIES (3/21-4/19)

June into July will challenge the way you react to life and life's situations to the utmost degree. You need to rethink how you use will power—try to channel it into more productive avenues. The previous patterns that you have followed may prove unsuccessful; unless there is a change in your reactions to events, situations could get out of control. A strong motivation to focus your life and place it into livable boundaries will knock on the door of your psyche. You will begin to direct your life into a more livable experience, breaking away from any and all individuals who are using you or who are no longer complementary to your growth. You may experience the extreme desire to break out of the shell of your life. A strong desire for change will empower you and could motivate some spontaneous event. A road trip could be in order or maybe a whole new wardrobe. But beware of spending money you don't have yet. Finances should be watched closely, and no money should be spent needlessly. Old debts could creep back up on you, so be prepared.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20)

Stop for a moment and look at life. Take note of your surroundings, your environment, and space. Look at relationships, your family, and your wealth. Are you certain that you are in charge of your life? Become aware of where you want to relax and what you need to do to relax in order to bring it about more easily. June will throw events at you which will cause you to sit and contemplate the repercussions of living at the end of the 20th century, in an age of cell phones, six-o'clock hair appointments, and satellite dishes.

You are encouraged to become aware of the hidden ecstasies in ordinary things. On the surface, you enjoy the comforts of an established home, the good life, and a secure and comfortable position in the world. But internally, your scrutinizing nature is putting your life to the test. Your value system is changing, causing you to view material issues in a more empowering way. Try gearing yourself toward nurturing yourself and creating the life you desire all around you. Don't be discouraged by this challenging period; after the authenticity of the love you have for yourself has been realized, you will love in a new and brighter way.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20)

June marks the passing of another birthday season, moving away from a sense of nervousness as you flit from one stroke of the Ego to another. This is a good time for spontaneous trips or perhaps even an unprepared-for change in living arrangements. As a new year of your life begins, success takes on new meaning and awareness—not so much in worldly achievements, but rather, success in creating ourselves out of the material given us by the circumstances and conditions of the present. Previously, you have been aloof and unable to make solid shifts to bring you closer to your path of success. You will experience a breakthrough in your consciousness, sparked by your will and determination to attain your desires. You now have the power of perseverance, so take advantage of the various opportunities that life presents to you. You could be well on your way to feeling strong and respected. This tone will last until the Sun makes its way to your birthday next year.

Some of you Geminis will experience a total rearranging of your life this year: Relationships which do not complement your growth will be torn down and will only remain if they are true. Careers will change if you are stagnant and unhappy. Any area that has not moved for you in the past will experience a great liberation. This includes love, family, work, friends—a seemingly total transformation will permeate your entire life, and a breaking down of walls and barriers shall occur. Habits that have been persistent crack, and the first remnants of the perfect life become visible.

CANCER (6/21-7/22)

Happy birthday, Cancer! The cosmic energies manifest for your birthday season in the form of events and new experiences. Seek assistance when beginning a new project, stable job, or investment. Be extra aware of your budget this month—you may be spending extra money on buying something for the house or family. It would be wise to hold off spending any additional monies until a later date, as an unknown domestic expense may arise.

Some Cancers will be in need of or seek out assistance in viewing a difficult domestic situation. Step back and observe your environment and then create your own security. For some, this will include partners or roommates, as you take them to new levels of awareness in the relationship. For others, the partner or roommate will be left behind. You're liable to be rather presumptuous and prone to extremes. Emotions based on an uncontrollable wit could get you into a little trouble. This birthday season marks a filtering away of past instability, one that should be overlapped with merriment and stress. Shake off the past year, and let the new one roll in.

LEO (7/23-8/22)

June into July will shower you with truths and realization about the burdens within your life. This could cause you to feel unhappy, unfulfilled, and confused. A good chiropractor would probably help you set yourself straight. Try to remain at ease and in control. When you relax your anxiety, your emotions will shift, and you will be inclined to redefine the direction of your life. Perhaps you'll simply reevaluate the methods you use to reach your goals.

You desire more freedom as monotony invades into your usual mode of being. Try hangin' with da home boyz, have one or two (social) drinks. This will help you move out of this sluggish air, to an easier space to breathe. You will have realizations of hope; as you re-decide how you are going to achieve your goals. Adopt a cautious air at this point. Making shifts is never easy and is often followed by a period of fear.

Be careful in accepting any kind of assistance in releasing this stress. The high standards that you place on yourself may not be the same someone else puts on themselves, so unless you're prepared to repeat past mistakes, be aware.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22)

June through July will emphasize your practical, methodical, and responsible nature. An emphasis brought on by a strong inner urge encourages you to toss your responsibilities out the window. You are experiencing great inner shifts. At first you will lag and want to do nothing unless it behooves you; empowering your ego seems to give you a greater sense of self-worth. On the outside, life may seem very unfulfilling as you survey your environment and finally settle in to decide how you want to improve the state of your being. You are likely to suffer from unprepared explosions occurring within your emotions. You must experience this volatility to begin revamping the present course of your life. Issues that have previously been unsolvable begin to dissolve into nothing more than memories.

A strong social period is likely to be experienced. New and exciting acquaintances are required to help break you out of a spring/summer funk. The alcohol level of your blood is likely to rise if this is where you find your social escape. Unless you're careful, an additional five pounds could be hanging your waist before summer officially arrives. Be careful not to push things too far. Impatience only causes conflict and dissatisfaction. Be more aware that although the past has made you who you are today, you can transcend those limitations. You are being led down a difficult path of awakenings. Awakening to life's misfortunes teaches us how to better deal with them.

LIBRA (9/23-10/23)

Your pride has been hurt and a circumstance produces a feeling of emptiness. Perhaps a slash to your character has occurred. But don't let life's mishaps trick you into a false sense of anxiety. Sit, cross your arms, feast and be merry, experience the joy of life. Soon you will experience definite relief as you come to the end of difficulties. Behind you, you release stress, a sense of slander, or possible loss or defeat. The air is magic, your wings are spread, and the gateway of desire is ahead.

Life now presents to you many strong and empowering events. You are at the beginning of a new series of experiences that will be exciting, vibrant, and fertile. The potential for success comes in varied forms and faces, including a new, exciting challenge in your career, or perhaps with a powerfully vibrant romance. Count on being exceptionally social and in the limelight. If you play your cards right, all of these things, and many more, could flourish.

You are encouraged to love the experience of life itself. Indulge (responsibly) fine wine, rich food, and see-and-be-seen parties. Desired opportunities

present themselves; you have no idea of the potential of what you can now achieve. Enterprising opportunities could assist you in breaking out of the structure that you have developed around your life. Some could find a new job or expand their career. If you are an artist, writer, dancer, or cook, your inspiration will now flow. Expect your financial state to balance, bringing your emotional state into accord.

SCORPIO (10/24-11/21)

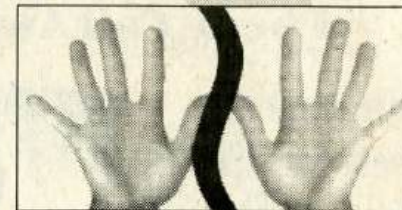
The cosmic forces present a very potent, yet perplexing picture of the Scorpion's present emotional state. The universe hurdles events into your life that will assist you in filtering out either your own nonproductive personality traits or people who inadvertently slow you down. You're blessed with the elements of harmony, balance, and equality which consistently present beautiful things before you. This could manifest as harmony in the workplace, with relationships, and yourself.

You are encouraged to maintain strength in the face of realignment. Putting life into order often calls for tearing things up and reshaping them back into a new form. Before life can reach a point of consistency, it will call for some effort and persistence. Personal introspection is encouraged. Do it—take a reflective view, stand back, and look at yourself. This is what the cosmic forces urge: If you work diligently, the fruits of life will blossom; if you stagnate now, you will miss a very empowering cycle.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21)

June begins with love, new awakenings in spiritual matters, and outdoor fun under the sun. There could be possible love opportunities, Frisbee games, and parties that last well into the morning. If relationships present themselves, they are of the temporary

Continued on next page



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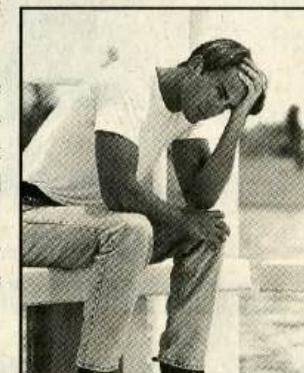
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Future Outlook

Continued from previous page

variety; seize the moment or it will be lost. You're prone to impatience, and the results will be evident.

A tearing away of your mask shall occur, and you will shed a layer of your skin. You will experience a change within your personal consciousness that will raise your passions to a new level, causing your sexual prowess to skyrocket. Be aware and responsible of your actions and motivations, as you stumble along into new experiences. Be careful not to fall into a situation in which you could become a victim of extreme emotional abuse.

If you are involved in a relationship, time alone in partnerships can be just as valuable as time spent with a lover. Learning to cultivate this quality will, in the long run, empower this relationship tenfold.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19)

July marks a calm, steady shift away from stress and complexities. You will become notably passive as you react to life more sedately. Pet peeves that would normally annoy you don't even get an eyebrow. With time comes wisdom, but age has little to do with it. Whether you're 27, 35, or 50, the benefit of past experience sets in. Along with this awareness comes different situations and people to assist you in experiencing that age. Only with time do wounds heal, whether they are on your foot or your heart.

An attitude shift is essential as you are moving away from difficulties. Your perspective will be forced to change; you become passive when you would normally become aggressive, and vice versa. Rechannel the bulk of this energy to make a courageous leap back into life, learning from the experiences of the last six months, and refocus on productively being alive.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18)

Two complementing forces continue to urge you into a more subjective state of mind. You are put in touch with your needs for personal freedom, which will help you look at your life in a new way and make better choices. Overall, you raise the quality of your life. This is more of a speculative period, for outlining plans and putting together a foundation, and formulating strategy that you will be able to rely on later in July.

You're prone to moving too fast and trying to rush things. This is what happens when you operate totally from the center of Ego. When life allows the

ego to reign, live it to its fullest! But when it's your alter ego's turn, girl, watch out! Watch your temper and how you relate to others, because currently you might not have a clue. Decide how you want to make shifts, so that you can enjoy more time off or simply live more comfortably. Try to stay in control of yourself as you're prone to want to try and escape. Better opportunities will present themselves so that you can make a better life for yourself.

PISCES (2/19-3/20)

The summer months present to Pisces freedom from the stress that life has placed on you. Events around you will become the remnants of the tension that you are leaving behind. This is a good time to seek to higher forces for assistance—perhaps a consoling friend, or even an attorney to fix that traffic ticket.

Time will still be required for your projects to become fertile, and life could still seem stagnant. Eventually the air will clear around you, and problems seem to fade into nonexistence. But before this wonderful experience will transpire, your anxieties could get the better of you. You're challenged to stick to changed attitudes once you've decided to change them, so that you can benefit from where you are going. Situations will ease, and it's then that you should take advantage of the moment. If assistance is required, do not hesitate in accepting or finding the aid, but make sure the assistance is true. It's time to move into a new level in life, and you should take advantage of the moment.

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

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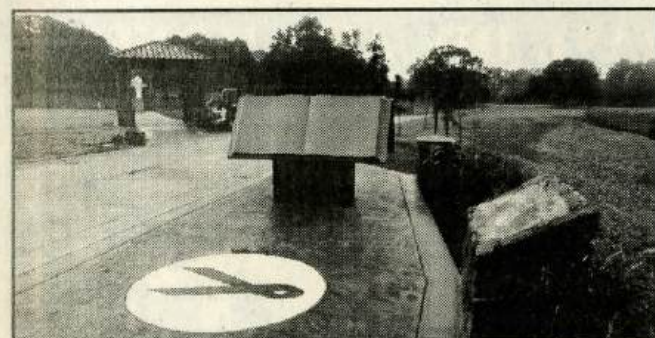
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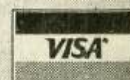
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Same-Sex Marriage

Continued from page 25

compelled to join with the GOP. My feeling is that Clinton is trying to avoid a political firestorm that the gays in the military issue caused him in 1993."

Anti-Marriage Laws Update

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Governor Jim Edgar signed a measure barring the state from recognizing same-sex marriages, whether legally performed in other states or not, making Illinois that first repealed its sodomy statutes over three decades ago the 10th U.S. state to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages. Meanwhile, in Michigan and Pennsylvania, similar anti-marriage measures won approval in their respective legislatures. The bills in each of the two states need only to have differences in the language of their upper and lower chambers worked out before being sent to their governors for approval. North Carolina's lawmakers, in their effort to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages that might be legally performed in other states, have been trying to quickly work around legal limits on the types of measures they can consider in a shortened special session. Complicated legislative rules have slowed down movement on the bill, but there remains very little active opposition to the measure in the legislature itself.

To find any good news in the same-sex marriage arena, activists had to look to Holland where the Dutch justice ministry announced it will be putting together a panel of experts to evaluate the possible impact of legalizing gay and lesbian marriages in the country. The Dutch Parliament has already voted in principle to support full equality in marriage rights for same-sex couples, but the government has continued to resist full marriage status for gays and lesbians, arguing that the international consequences for the tiny European nation could be enormous. The committee the justice ministry appoints will examine national and international laws and treaties that might be affected by such a move. It will have a year to prepare its report, including recommendations for legislation.

Anti-Marriage Campaigns Lumber Along

AUGUSTA, Maine—With state legislatures around the country heading into recesses for the summer, the anti-marriage bandwagon did little more than stumble along. While Hawaii lawmakers couldn't muster enough votes to pass an anti-gay marriage ban there before the legislature recessed for the current session, an Alabama state Senate committee approved by an 8-1 vote a bill that would bar recognizing same-sex marriages in the state, dropping a \$1,000 fine for clergy performing such unions that had been included in the original measure.

In Maine, the anti-gay group Concerned Maine Families has filed papers with the secretary of state's office to get approval to collect signatures for a ballot measure that would restrict marriages in the state to those between male-female couples only. If the signature-gathering is approved, the group would have to collect some 51,000 valid signatures to put the measure before voters - either in 1997 or 1998.

The South Carolina legislature gave its final OK to a measure outlawing same-sex marriages in the state and sent the legislation to Governor David Beasley, who has already indicated he supports the prohibition. The measure would prevent the state from recognizing any marriage between people of the same sex that was performed in another state.

In Arizona, Governor Fife Symington signed the state legislature's third attempt to enact a ban on same-sex marriages, making it the sixth state so far to legally refuse recognition for such unions, even if performed legally elsewhere.

A case strikingly similar to the Hawaii lawsuit has gotten under way in New Zealand, with three lesbian couples suing for the right to get marriage licenses that were denied them, according to a report in the *Queer News Aotearoa*. The women's attorney is arguing that the country's civil rights laws protects all citizens from being denied equal treatment, and therefore the couples are entitled to marry. The attorney general's office, however, has argued that marriage is mainly for procreation and that therefore same-sex couples are not eligible to legally marry. ▼

The Illusions of Safety

Continued from page 59

can learn that there is nothing to be afraid of. The lesbian and gay community has historically built walls to protect themselves from the "enemy," but the walls must come down. This surely will not be without resistance, as the very thing the individuals and community have built out of "survival" is the same thing that must come down for healing and growth to occur.

This, in essence, is counter-instinctual to our belief system and must be overridden. This can be done, one person and one day at a time. Effective change happens slowly—each person, opening up to others and risking vulnerability, will allow for this change to occur. We must see the "other" as friends and treat them as such, for love goes a lot further than hate.

Essentially this is a form of reeducation of the heterosexual world. As this occurs they will slowly realize that we are a friendly, loving people who have become protective due to a great deal of misinformation deposited in our psyche over thousands of years. This will not be the message however, if we continue the attack and maintain ourselves as a threat. When people defend themselves, they affirm to their perceived aggressor that there is something to be afraid of.

From the moment we choose to become human, we begin the useless fight of protecting ourselves from the inevitable fear—death. In our attempt to secure safety, we use valuable life energy, and this energy is used in all cases where we perceive threats.

In our future attempts to secure safety, we might consider a shift in our own personal and collective perception—one that is away from destructive self-hatred and projected hatred and movement toward a more loving state.

As we begin to see our enemies as friends, we can make room for a shift to occur. As we love others, so we are loved. As that energy infiltrates the consciousness, the result will be one of increased safety, allowing for our individual and collective expression of full aliveness. ▼

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. He can be reached at 713/529-1913, voice mail #4.

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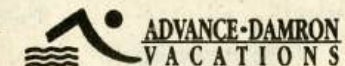
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What a World, What a World...

— QUICKLIES —

Unrelated Items That May or May Not Be Funny to Anyone Else

"Hey, This Ain't WaterWorld!"

According to a recent report in the *Houston Chronicle*, "In 1991, 1992, and 1993, Cornerstone Baptist Church picked up children in the neighborhoods throughout Colorado Springs, Colorado to attend carnivals at the church. Children were solicited directly and through fliers and were promised food, drinks, fun, candy, balloons, prizes, carnival games, a water fight and squirt guns."

Once at the church, a lawsuit filed on behalf of some of the carnival-attending children says, "They were...led...into a room where they were directed to remove their clothes, ... leaving them naked in that room in front of a host of strangers."

"After being given robes to change into, the children were taken to another room, the lawsuit says, where they were submerged in a dunk tank under the guise of baptism; in the alternative, they were in fact, baptized."

And they say *we* recruit.

We Deserve a Break Today

McDonald's is hiking its skirt to the adult market by announcing its new Arch Deluxe, the burger with the adult taste that children are eschewing instead of chewing. Considering myself an adult test market of sorts, I tried the A.D. as soon as it hit my neighborhood drive-thru. Stop me if I'm wrong, but I'm pretty sure that this mature breakthrough in junk food is little more than a Big Mac in a designer bun.

If Ray Kroc's kids really wanted to kiss up to the grown-ups they've been missing demographically, give us a grown-up version of a Happy Meal, complete with a toy surprise. Being adults, we get to pick our own toy, of course. Picking my own toy almost always makes me happy and generally inspires repeat business for all concerned.



by Nancy Ford

A Kid'll Eat the Middle

I'm flexible. I tried New Coke. I eat new blue M&M's right along with the yellow, brown, red, and (especially) the green ones. But now they're messing with my Oreos.

Nabisco, to celebrate the 85th birthday of my favorite cookie, wants to change the creamy white filling to some pastel color. I can handle red-icings Oreos during the holidays, but supposedly this color change-for-the-sake-of-change is to be permanent. This time they've gone too far. They've even set up an Oreo hotline to call with your personal preference of cream. 1-888-EAT-OREO.

Of course, I called. "Brighten Oreo's 85th birthday," the recorded voice instructed me to press 1, 2, 3, or 4 for pink, blue, yellow, or lavender respectively, or 5 for some other color. Of course, I pressed 5. Then the Oreos on the line wanted to know what color I had in mind. "Leave it white at least until Labor Day," I replied like the fashion-conscious homosexual that I am, "then we'll talk about a change." Then they wanted my address.

Free cookies. Cool.

Out Busts June

Happy Lesbian & Gay Pride Week, Houston! For the newly out, June is historically recognized as Gay Pride Month in honor of the battle of Stonewall, so named for the New York Christopher Street inn where patrons first resisted unprovoked harassment by the police. And so, most say, began the modern movement for gay and lesbian rights in the United States. It was already tense in the drag/hustler/queer bar, the air of the city still heavy with the scent of Judy Garland's funeral. Talk about a good place for a Stik-Up.

Second, it was in June 1977, when I first kissed a girl. Nineteen years of service to the community—thank you, thank you very much. There are a number of ways such an occasion could be celebrated. Perhaps a reenactment would be appropriate. That would involve my first lover's and my return to northeastern Ohio for a torrid arm-wrestling match on the floor of her living room, and the rest, as they say, is history. Her current husband and 2-year-old daughter might have something to say about the preservation of such a moment. Perhaps a nice card will suffice.

And finally, in 1996, 27 years after the first nail was broken at Stonewall, the United States Supreme Court, with a rousing 6-3 decision, has overturned Colorado's Amendment 2. It is now illegal in the state of Colorado, or any other state, to pass or enforce laws which would threaten civil rights based on sexual orientation. This is a big deal, guys. History has been made.

Let's have a parade! ▼

Nancy Ford is a Houston-based comedian and writer. She opens for Janis Ian on Saturday, June 22, at Rockefeller's Night Club. Call 713/869-8427 for reservations.

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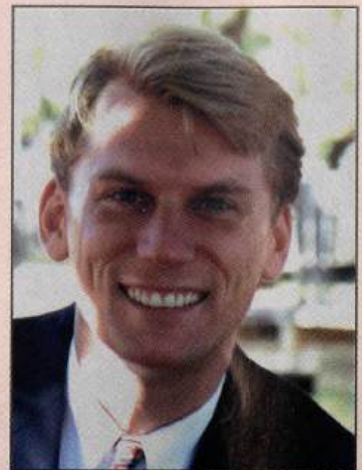
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