

OutSmart

Complimentary • April 1997

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



LOVE MAKES A FAMILY

Gay Parents are redefining family values — for the better.

PLUS: Col. Margaret Cammermeyer • Ellen DeGeneres • Patti LaBelle • HGLPC's Lane Lewis



RICHARD HILL

QUALITY STANDS OUT™

Buying or Selling? Please call me for maximum results in real estate!

#1 LISTER! # 1 SELLER! TOP PRODUCER!

Swilley & Hudson
"The Spirit of Excellence"

Office **869-0456** Voice Mail **768-3095**

e-mail: rick@iah.com

Internet—www.netguys.com/rhillhome.htm



WOODLAND HEIGHTS, BIG! 3-2 Totally renovated, hardwoods and marble floors, custom kitchen with Corian counters, Sauna!, deck with Jacuzzi. Great Yard!... \$189,900



GARDEN OAKS, 3-2-2 on corner lot, hardwood floors, all new kitchen and baths, master with jacuzzi tub, huge yard!... \$165,900



HOUSTON HEIGHTS, 2-1-2 great location! High ceilings, hardwoods, footed tub in bath, newish 2 car garage, deck, landscaped!... \$132,900



WOODLAND HEIGHTS, Bayland Street! 3-2-1 refinished hardwoods, centrals, new berber carpet, new vinyl, Jenn-Aire in Kitchen, great trees!... \$122,900



HEIGHTS TOWNHOME, 2-2-2, soaring ceilings, hardwoods, galley kitchen, Huge master with 3 closets. Best part of Heights. \$115,000



MEMORIAL AREA, Great condo, 2-2, overlooks courtyard, Super area near Post Oak and Memorial!... \$69,900



WOODLAND HEIGHTS, 2-story, 3 bedroom 1 and 1/2 bath, plus 2 apartments for rental income. Great area! Corner lot!... \$155,900



HOUSTON HEIGHTS TOWNHOME, 3 Story! 3-2-2, high ceilings, fireplace, super kitchen, downstairs master with jacuzzi, courtyard. \$126,900



OAK FOREST, Fabulous renovation! 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, gourmet kitchen, fireplace, oak floors, separate quarters behind house. \$125,000 \$114,900



HARVARD STREET, Huge 2-story, over 3300 sq. ft., ready for remodeler!... \$179,000



WOODLAND HEIGHTS, 3-bedroom, 1-bath grandma's house! Great for first-time home buyer. \$89,900



WEST HEIGHTS, Cute cottage, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, centrals, updated, light and bright. \$89,900

OPEN HOUSE! APRIL 20, 1997 (12-3 pm)

Historical Avondale Mansions

These homes offer residential & commercial opportunities.



217 Avondale



202 Avondale

For more information Call
Neal Boggiano 713/919-0462

For more information Call
Mary Walbert 713/768-3132

Suzanne Anderson Properties

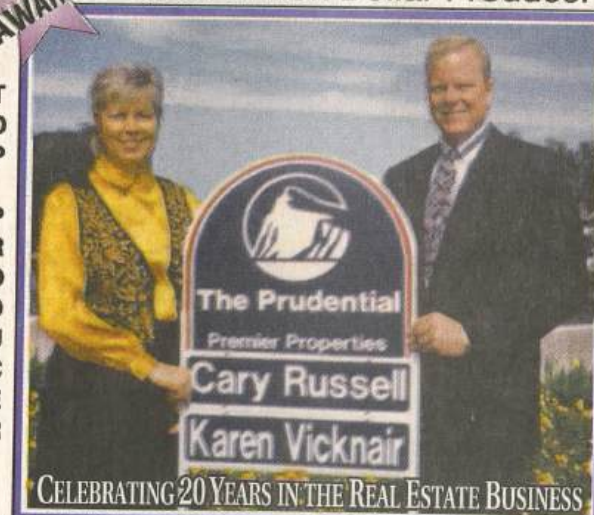
239 Westheimer • Houston, Texas 77006 • (713) 529-8484 • Fax (713) 529-2598

"SIBLINGS SELLING DWELLINGS"

Multi-Million Dollar Producer

AWARDED

TOP PRODUCER



TOP SALES & LISTINGS

Karen Vicknair & Cary Russell
281.859.0337 & 713.721.9175

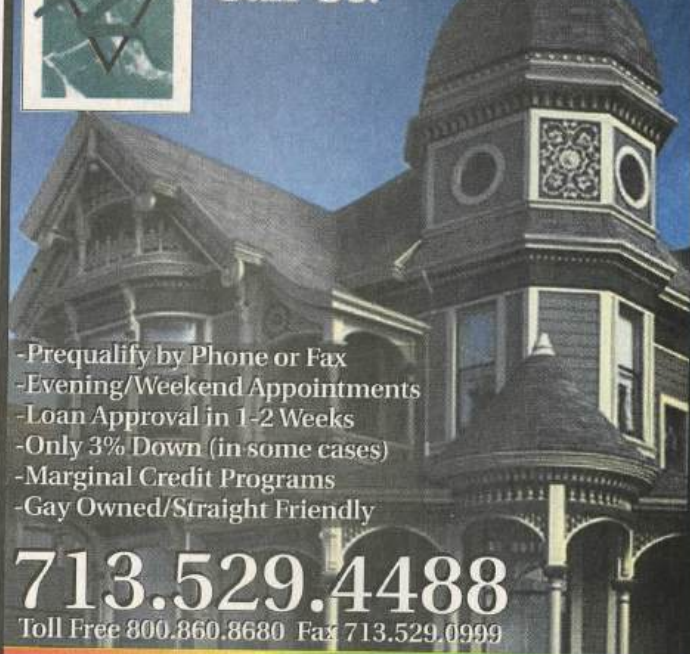
email address: isellhomes@hotmail.com

YOUR AREA PRUDENTIAL
REAL ESTATE AGENTS

The Prudential
Premier Properties

PRIDE MORTGAGE

When It's Time to Finance Your Home... Call Us!



- Prequalify by Phone or Fax
- Evening/Weekend Appointments
- Loan Approval in 1-2 Weeks
- Only 3% Down (in some cases)
- Marginal Credit Programs
- Gay Owned/Straight Friendly

713.529.4488

Toll Free 800.860.8680 Fax 713.529.0999

E-Mail: pridemtg@aolmail.net • Web Page: http://www.pridemtg.com
4200 Montrose Blvd. Suite 430 • Houston, TX 77006

ALLEY THEATRE

By Terrence McNally

From the acclaimed author of *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* and *Master Class* comes this tale of eight gay men who gather at a New York country house over three summer holiday weekends. At once emotionally stirring and brimming with wit, McNally's bittersweet play was an instant Broadway hit, resounding with themes of love, friendship and loss.

LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!
1995 Tony® Award-Best Play

Special Benefit Preview – May 8th.

Reception following, meet the director and cast. Call 713-228-9341 for details.

Neuhaus Arena Stage – May 9- June 1, 1997

Note: this production contains nudity, profanity and sexual situations – it is not intended for those audiences who might be easily offended.

TICKETS: 713-228-8421 / TTY: 713-220-5710

Sponsored by: **EAGLEUSA**
Arena Stage Season Sponsor

Continental
Airlines

OutSmart

CONTENTS

April 1997

Raising the Dead Lane Lewis tries to revive the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Cacus — by Lujack Tyler **16**

Pioneering Parents Denay Hudson and Norri Collier are the Ozzie and Harriet of the '90s — by Kyle Young **20**

Family Style Gay parents say their kids are the hope of the future — by Kyle Young **27**

Saluting the Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer continues the fight — with the support of her children — by Steven Foster **34**

New Attitude Patti LaBelle is the mother you didn't know you had **54**



Columnists

Daryl Moore/LeftOut Anti-gay Tom DeLay **12**

Dale Carpenter/OutRight Putting an end to hate crimes in Texas **13**

Simon LeVay/Queer Science The survival of the gay gene **19**

Connie Moore/OutLaw Final court orders are not always final in custody battles **42**

Tom Moon/The Examined Life For HIV positive, renewed health can be stressful **50**

Fred Walters/Guest Columnist Nelson Vergel pushes the PoWeR **52**



Departments

Letters Assimilation necessary for progress **4**

News Briefs Channel 13 refuses gay ad **6**

National Briefs Kids of Lesbian Moms Healthy **8**

Queer Quotes Xena: Warrior Princess is a Babe **10**

Calendar Ellen's Outing & Stages' Dog House **44**

The Source Covering the Community **58**

At Home Birdhouse building with Kiki Neumann **61**

Dance Station kisses Hispanic women & gay men **62**

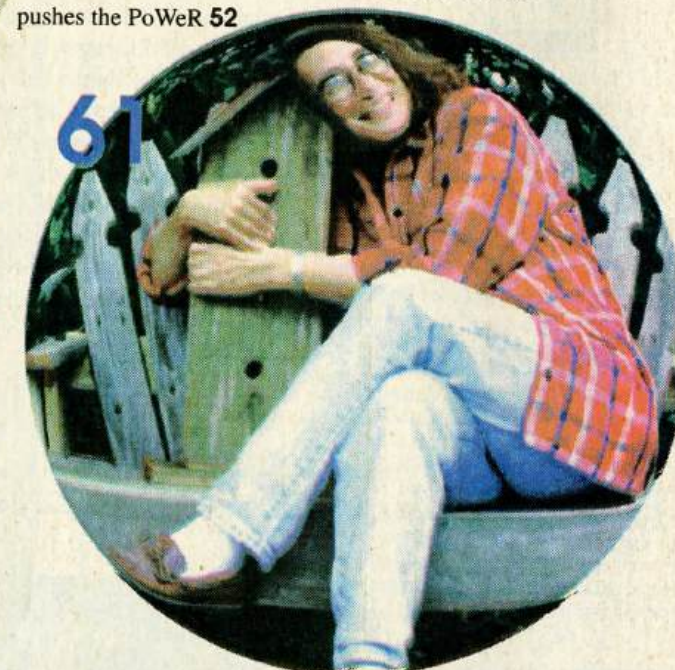
SignOut Mars in Virgo may mess with your love life **73**

Marketplace Shopping and services **76**

Classified Massage your stress away **78**

Scene Out Marching in Austin; AALGA Awards **80**

On the cover: Denay Hudson, photo by Karen Barfield



OutSmart

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 all of us.

Publisher/Editor in Chief Greg Jeu

Editorial

Managing Editor Kyle Young

Production Coordinator/Copy Editor

Blase DiStefano

Contributing Graphic Design

Anas Ben-Musa

Contributing Writers Steven Foster,

Lujack Tyler, Q. VanBenschoten

Columnists Dale Carpenter, Ricardo

Companioni, Simon LeVay, Tom Moon, Connie

Moore, Daryl Moore, Roy Oakes, Madilyn Stein,

Sandra Wilkins

Guest Columnist Fred Walters, Jr.

Advertising

Advertising Representatives

Kristi Felts, Laura Hudman, Sharon Ownchylid

Administration

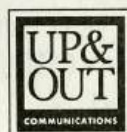
Director of Marketing & Personnel

Laura Hudman

Circulation & Distribution Daniel Impastato,

Karyn McGinley, Miriam Orihuela

Office Assistant Richard Silva



OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place
Houston, Texas 77006
713/520-7237
713/522-3275 Fax

E-mail address:

Letters@OutSmartMagazine.com

Web site address:

http://www.OutSmartMagazine.com

OutSmart is published monthly. Over 15,000 complimentary copies are distributed in Houston and surrounding areas. Annual subscription: \$16. Up&Out Communications is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. The opinions and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or management of OutSmart. Inclusion in OutSmart does not infer sexual orientation. © 1997 by Up&Out Communications. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. Unsolicited material is accepted. No manuscript returned without SASE.



Letters to the Editor

ASSIMILATION PREFERENCE

I read with interest two articles in your March issue — one by Daryl Moore [LeftOut] and the other by Dale Carpenter [OutRight].

I am a firm believer in the right of a woman to make her own decision on whether to terminate a pregnancy, but I am also able to appreciate Ms. Quindlan's suggestion that we try to meet on a middle ground. Isn't it amazing, though, that state and government legislators still spend so much time on this one issue, when there are so many important problems facing us. I wish Mr. Moore success in his efforts to use the same persuasion in his fight to have homosexuals accepted by society.

Regarding Mr. Carpenter's "Queer Gays: A Dialogue," — I am almost 80, and lived through the years when homosexuals were referred to as "queers" (in a hushed voice) and don't think that is preferable to the recognition and acceptance by some that we have today. We are hopefully moving toward a time when one's color, religion or sexual preference will no longer be the issue, but only what one thinks and how he expresses himself will be important. It can only come after assimilation.

We have many homosexual customers, and I advertised in OutSmart to attract new clients from your community. Since then, you have been sending me copies, and I have read quite a few sto-

ries that I found interesting and that awakened me to the many problems you face.

—Mrs. Earle E. Rosenblum
Earle Rosenblum Jewelry
Houston

IS THIS A GREAT TIME OR WHAT?

Enjoyed your Publisher's Perspective in the March OutSmart. That MCI commercial took my breath away, too. "From your ad agency to God's ears," I thought when I saw it. It's a comfort to find a technological advance that actually might foster the values of diversity and democracy rather than homogeneity and control.

The magazine looks great. As always, I enjoy reading it.

—Judith A. Meyer
Houston

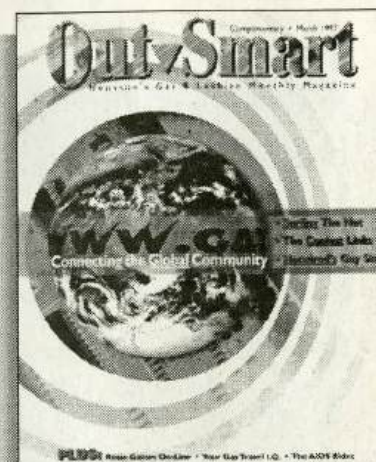
We'd love to hear from you!

Write to: Letters, OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006.

E-mail address: Letters@OutSmartMagazine.com. FAX number 713/522-3275.

Please include a daytime phone number.

www.OutSmartMagazine.com
Bookmark us.



A Mortgage is too Important
to trust to an Amateur.

Experience

plus

Expedience

plus

Personal Attention

plus

Competitive Rates

plus

Quality Service

equals

Complete

Customer

Satisfaction!



Marc R. Archuleta



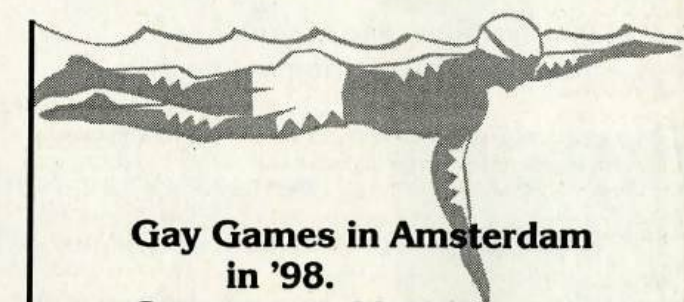
Jo Anne Downes

Home Loan CORPORATION

1717 St. James Place, Suite 200 • Houston, Texas 77056

713.297.8000

**THE GAMES ARE COMING!
THE GAMES ARE COMING!**



**Gay Games in Amsterdam
in '98.**

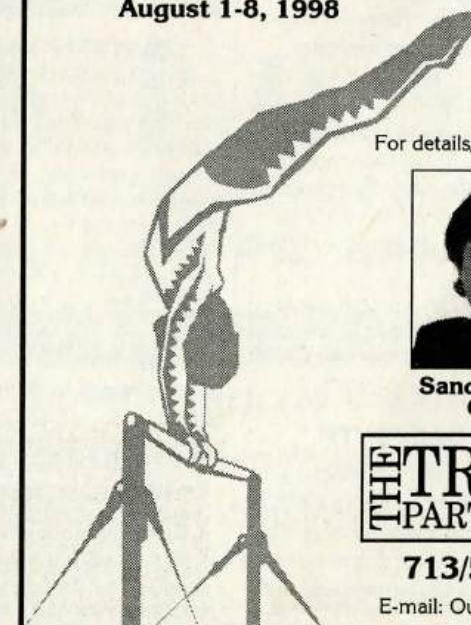
**Gay men and lesbians,
you must not wait!**

**Best air, best beds,
event tickets, too,
Packaged or customized,
just for you.**

**You'll cry, you'll moan,
you'll surely shout.
If you wait too long,
we'll be sold out!**

**So be Out & Smart,
as we know you are.
Book Amsterdam NOW,
and be a star!**

**Gay Games V - Amsterdam, Holland
August 1-8, 1998**



For details/brochure, contact



Sandra Wilkins
Owner

**THE TRAVEL
PARTNERSHIP**

713/526-4471

E-mail: OutTravel@aol.com

UNLUCKY 13

Not everyone who's invited will attend Ellen's coming out party.

The guest list for Ellen DeGeneres' groundbreaking April 30 episode just keeps getting bigger and better. Lesbian songbirds k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge, along with Laura Dern (as the object of desire) and Oprah Winfrey (as Ellen's therapist — see photo at right), have now been joined by Gina Gershon and Demi Moore, who were reportedly in L.A. shooting scenes the last week in March.

Religious party-pooper Jerry Falwell, however, has been sending out nasty little anti-invitations. Urging advertisers to pull out, the good reverend has even been tossing around the fresh-from-the-marketing-department "Ellen DeGenerate" phrase in the media. Three of Ellen's big advertisers have responded to the controversial episode by pulling their usual spots. And even though Chrysler, General Motors and Johnson & Johnson say their decision has nothing to do with Falwell, you gotta wonder.

The Human Rights Campaign has hit a bit of a snag as well. Their efforts to air a public service announcement in which a lesbian is fired from her job simply for her orientation have been resoundingly trounced by ABC. This left HRC to peddle their spot directly to the affiliates. Albany, Albuquerque, Atlanta, Boston, Denver, San Francisco, Seattle, even Traverse City, Michigan, for gosh sakes, have said they'll air the spot. And what about Texas? Austin said A-OK, Dallas, done deal. San Antonio, all set. So let's give a big round of applause to our sister cities and a big, fat finger to Channel 13.

That's right, the network home of such big-hearted crusaders as Marvin and big-all-over party crashers like Alvin won't air the spot on their net-



work. And expect tons of media coverage from this very same station on the day of the *Ellen* episode. There'll be many-a-camera crew heading east to ask every buck-toothed Bible beater in Pasadena what they think of Ellen coming out of the closet. So, in short, Channel 13 will profit from the controversy, but they won't use that same position to enlighten Texans to the fact that, as the HRC spot states, "In 41 of our 50 states, a person can be fired just for being lesbian, gay, or bisexual with no legal recourse."

When reached by phone, Channel 13's promotions director, Tom Ash, mumbled, "No comment."

Get your pen out, kids, and let 13's general manager know just how unfortunate their decision is. Write to: Henry Florsheim, KTRK-TV, 3310 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77005. Or call 713/666-0713. Tell them you're beginning to feel "the Spirit of Texas" around 5 or 6 o'clock every day.

—Steven Foster

Local News Briefs

TRIANGLE BOUGHT

Long-suffering Kay Longcope's *Texas Triangle* has recently been purchased by Todd Cunningham. Owner and operator of Dallas' Angle Media, Inc., Cunningham contacted Longcope after hearing of the paper's closing and expressed interest in acquiring the struggling pub. After months of negotiations, Cunningham became the owner on the March 23 issue. Longcope will remain *Triangle* editor-in-chief.

POZ LIFE EXPO

The POZ Life Expo, coming to Houston April 25 and 26, will feature continual workshops focusing on living and thriving with HIV. Speakers include Dr. Arlette Pharo, Body Positive's Rich Arenschieldt and Bart Loeser from the Austin HIV Wellness Center.

The event, sponsored by POZ magazine, takes place at the George R. Brown Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. For more information, call 1-888-500-EXPO.

IT PAYS TO BE GAY YOUTH

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is accepting applications for the 1997 PFLAG Houston Scholarship. Recognizing outstanding gay and lesbian students, the college scholarship awards a high school senior \$1,000 each year for four years.



MUM'S THE WORD ON M-BAR

Mysterious. Mired. Missing in action. These are just a few of the monikers being bandied about Montrose regarding the proposed new M-Bar. The upcoming club on the curve is shrouded in almost as much secrecy and rumor as a new Woody Allen movie. The old place has been demolished, the graffiti-tattooed facade is there, but so far, no M-Bar. Rich's promotions director Stacy Tate's only comments were, "I'm not at liberty to say. When the bar is built, it'll be ready to go."

Applications for the college scholarship are being accepted through April 26. For scholarship information or to contribute, call Sherry Stephens at 713/729-7333.

THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Pancakes, antiques, a silent auction and a chance to win a trip — the annual Spring Festival returns to Bering Memorial United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 12.

The all-you-can-eat breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. in a giant tent on the parking lot of the church at 1440 Harold, at the corner of Harold and Mulberry in Montrose. Tickets are \$5.

Bering is active in the Reconciling Congregation Program, a national network of Methodist churches that publicly welcomes gay and lesbian people. Currently, 127 participate in the program.

For more information, call 713/526-1017.

YOU BETTER WORK

Participants in Houston's Workout for Hope will burn more than 120,000 calories as they take more than 10 million steps toward a cure for HIV/AIDS and related cancers. On Saturday, April 26, more than 1,000 local participants will take part in a national effort to raise funds for research at the City of Hope Research Center and Beckman Research Institute. The event is taking place at 75 sites nationwide.

"Workout for Hope, now in its ninth year, attracts people of all fitness levels from across the country," says Cecilia Cooper, director of the campaign. "The campaign incorporates many types of fitness activities and events so everyone has the opportunity to make a difference in the fight against HIV."

The Houston Workout is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. For more information, call 713/521-2910.

**FREE
admission!**



1997 NATIONAL TOUR

**POZ
LIFE EXPO '97**

CO-HOSTED BY
NATIONAL MINORITY AIDS COUNCIL

A quality of life consumer expo for
everyone impacted by AIDS and HIV

CHICAGO
NEW YORK
WASHINGTON
ATLANTA
LOS ANGELES
HOUSTON



Over 7,000 attended the first
New York POZ Life Expo in 1996!



Join us as we bring POZ magazine to life!

Learn about new treatment strategies • Meet new people

Attend educational programs

Talk to experts • Free health screenings • Free samples

★ **H O U S T O N** ★

**GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER, 1001 AVENIDA DE LAS AMERICAS
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, 10 AM-6 PM APRIL 25-26th**

THE HOUSTON POZ LIFE EXPO IS SPONSORED BY

Bristol-Myers Squibb • Ortho Biotech • Roche Laboratories

Janssen Pharmaceutica • Merck • GlaxoWellcome

Pharmacia & Upjohn • Roxane Laboratories • Sandoz Nutrition

Serono Laboratories • Hyatt

**Exhibitor Info: 800.243.9774 • Local AIDS Service Organization Participation: 202.483.6622 x.602
General Information: 888.500.EXPO • To subscribe to POZ call: 800.9READ POZ or visit: www.poz.com**

National Briefs

GAY POET ALLEN GINSBERG DIES

NEW YORK — Death has claimed the poet laureate of the beat generation. A friend says Allen Ginsberg died of liver cancer Saturday, April 4 at age of 70.

Ginsberg, whose raw, angry verse epitomized America's beat literary movement in the 1950s and '60s, had been ill for some time, but news of his cancer became public only two days before his death.

In 1956, Ginsberg published *Howl and Other Poems*, a book of free verse considered the paramount poetic work of the beat movement of the 1950s.

FUNDS CUT FOR GAY ART

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Commissioners angry over a showing of the Pulitzer Prize-winning gay-themed play *Angels in America* voted today to cut off funds to arts groups that expose viewers to "perverted forms of sexuality."

After a contentious meeting that lasted until after midnight, the Mecklenburg County commission voted 5-4 to cut off \$2.5 million of county money for the Arts & Science Council, a quasi-public group that funds more than \$11 million worth of arts projects annually.

Instead of giving the money to the council to distribute, county commissioners decided they will distribute the money directly to groups that meet its new standards.

"Do we give money to the arts and say, 'Spend it as you desire'? Do we not have a duty to be a steward of the public's money?" said Tom Bush, who cast the deciding vote.

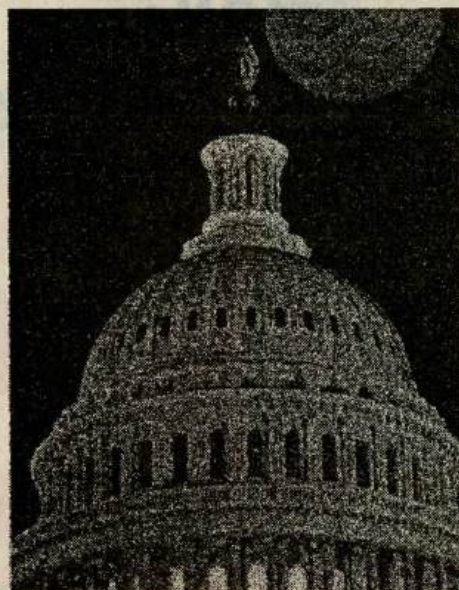
Among the works the commissioners cited were *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, which was performed in Charlotte last spring amid protest and a court fight, and *Six Degrees of Separation*, which a theater company is scheduled to perform next week. It features a gay character.

"This is a sad day in this community," commissioner Park Helms said. "Please watch us and please forgive us for what we are about to do."

GAY FAMILIES TO MEET IN PHILLY

The Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI) will host the 18th Annual Family Conference, July 24-27 in Philadelphia, PA. The gathering for gay and lesbian parents and their children will feature well-known speakers including Human Rights Campaign executive director, Elizabeth Birth, and April Martin, author of *The Gay and Lesbian Parenting Handbook*.

For more information, call the GLPCI at 202/583-8029.



GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST LIEBMAN DIES

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marvin Liebman, a gay rights activist who for many years hid his homosexuality behind his work with conservative political action groups, has died of heart disease. He was 73.

Liebman was a founder of organizations that included Young Americans for Freedom and the American Conservative Union. He worked on Ronald Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign and followed him to Washington a year later to become a public relations official at the National Endowment for the Arts. Liebman later worked as public affairs director for the Federal Trade Commission.

In 1990, he revealed his sexual orientation in a publicized letter to a close friend, William F. Buckley, the editor-in-chief of the *National Review*. He later explained that he could no longer tolerate what he saw as an increasing sense of homophobia in conservative speeches and said he felt "like a Jew in Germany in 1934 who had chosen to remain silent, hoping to be able to stay invisible as he watched the beginnings of the Holocaust."

Liebman severed ties with all political parties in a 1995 column in the *Advocate*, a national gay magazine.

Liebman was born in New York and during World War II served in Army Air Forces in the United States, Africa and Italy. He left the Army in 1944 with a general discharge for being homosexual and was denied veteran benefits.

He died March 31 at George Washington University Hospital. He is survived by a sister, Eleanor Lidofsky of New York.

10TH ANNIVERSARY FOR GAY EMPLOYEES GROUP

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. — Lesbian and Gay Employee Group: LEAGUE (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered United Employees at

AT&T) is announcing its 6th Annual Professional Development Conference to be held at AT&T's Corporate Headquarters site in Basking Ridge, N.J. this May 14.

"This is the first year we've held our conference at our Headquarters location," says Linda Escalante, co-president of LEAGUE. "We're looking forward to working with our company's leadership."

"This is a crucial, milestone conference for us," says Michael Albert, co-president of LEAGUE. "This marks the 10th year of our organization. We have broken many barriers and brought diversity to our workplaces; however, we still have a long way to go."

The LEAGUE organization is the oldest such employee group in the United States. It has given rise to many other employee groups like it around the country. LEAGUE was integral to AT&T's pioneering effort of target-marketing gays and lesbians with a direct-mail program in 1994. Since then, LEAGUE has been at the forefront of bringing lesbian and gay businesses and consumers to AT&T products and services.

"It is important to lesbians and gay consumers that they know the companies they buy from have integrity in caring for lesbian and gay communities. AT&T has demonstrated this many times," says Linda Escalante. "This is especially important as we enter local markets."

COURT MULLS N.J. ANTI-BIAS LAWS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A New Jersey law that protects gays from discrimination survived a Supreme Court challenge on March 31. The court, without comment, turned down a minister's argument that the law violates his free-speech right to condemn homosexuality as sinful.

The Rev. David B. Cummings of Pittsgrove, N.J., had challenged sections of the law that prohibit aiding or coercing someone into discriminating against people because of their sexual orientation.

In 1992, New Jersey lawmakers amended the state's anti-bias law to add sexual orientation to the personal characteristics protected from denial of housing, jobs or access to public places. The law also protects against discrimination based on race, sex, age and marital status.

The law says people may not aid or coerce anyone else into committing acts of discrimination, or boycotting or commercially blacklisting someone who is protected by the law. Those provisions were challenged by Cummings, pastor of the Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Pittsgrove.

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church, which separated decades ago from the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., believes that homosexuality, bisexuality and sex outside marriage are "grievous sins."

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TONIGHT

Se
Habla
Español

Respect for every customer!
Immediate Delivery!

BRING THIS AD AND RECEIVE
\$50 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OF \$500 OR MORE.
Limit 1 Per Customer

We sincerely appreciate your business!



GALLERY FURNITURE

SAVES YOU MONEY!

60006 I-45 North (between Tidwell & Parker)

713/ 694-5570

Your FIRST CHOICE Travel Experts...

BEST VALUE FARES*

Roundtrip fares as of 3/20/97

Amsterdam.....	\$656.00
Boston	\$240.00
Key West	\$148.00
London	\$339.00
New Orleans.....	\$98.00
New York	\$667.00
Palm Springs	\$374.00
Paris	\$338.00
Provincetown	\$573.00
San Francisco	\$198.00
Seattle	\$198.00



* Fares, dates and information are subject to change by fare supplier at any time. Uniglobe First Choice Travel makes no guarantees regarding any listed information. Please call for availability and pricing updates.

Dates to Remember...

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW FOR
SOUTHERN DECADENCE!



LONDON, PARIS
& AMSTERDAM

RSVP CruiseLines
June 21-28. June 28-July 5

GAY DAY
AT DISNEY
Orlando, FL June 28-July 5



Coy Twu, Owner

UNIGLOBE
First Choice Travel

2236 W. Holcombe at Greenbriar
713/667-0580 • 1-800/856-1835

e-mail: uniglobe.fc@worldnet.att.net
http://www.uniglobe.com/sc.firstchoice

Member of the IGTA & Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

★ Michael Boatman (actor on sitcom *Spin City*)

(USA Today, 3/18/97, Michael Szymanski)

"[Michael] Boatman, who plays gay character Carter Heywood on *Spin City*, was thrilled it won Outstanding Television Comedy Series [at the GLAAD Media Awards], gloating, 'I kissed Michael J. Fox on national TV and America dug it, baby!'"

★ John Waters

(Premiere, 4/97, Marc S. Malkin)

Marc S. Malkin: You've said [*Pink Flamingos*] is a kids' movie. John Waters: I'd probably get arrested for this, but I have shown it at birthday parties for the kids of good friends of mine, and they weren't as shocked as adults. Divine was like a clown to them. Divine was influenced by Clarabell. I showed *Pink Flamingos* to my first class in prison, and it was all murderers and they were, like, "You are really a sick man. Something is really the matter with you."

What did your parents think?

They have never seen *Pink Flamingos* and my father paid for it. But I paid him back every penny with interest. I think they were scared. What parents would be glad that their son is with someone in drag eating dogshit? No parent is that liberal.

★ Joan Rivers

(E! Channel's Academy Awards Pre-Show, 3/24/97)

"Everybody's been walking through [the entrance to the Academy Awards]. Pat Boone just went through in beautiful chiffon. And Michael Jackson is here with his little boy...his wife is home with the baby. And later on, Paula Jones will be here trying to get another look at a governor's ball."



Joan Crawford arriving at the recent Oscars ceremony?

★ James Mischka (fashion designer)

(Movieline, 4/97, Diane Clehane)

Diane Clehane: If Joan Crawford were alive today and going to the Oscar ceremony, what would you put her in?

James Mischka: A drop-dead black tuxedo.

Queer Notes

Compiled by
Blase DiStefano



Lucy Lawless as the Flawless Xena.

★ Kate Mulgrew

(Entertainment Weekly, 3/7/97, Mike Flaherty)

"[A]ctresses playing forceful women must navigate a tightrope between strength and femininity. 'I'm often cautioned not to cross a certain line one way or the other — "Don't be too butchy, don't be too vulnerable," ' says Kate Mulgrew of playing [Captain Janeway on *Star Trek: Voyager*]. 'But I'll tell you, I'd much rather have this set of challenges than play some bimbo on *Melrose Place*.'"

★ Piper Laurie

(Movieline, 4/97, Hollywood Kids)

Hollywood Kids: You're friends with several gay actors who've remained in the closet. Why do they refuse to admit the truth?

Piper Laurie: Maybe they want the paycheck more than the freedom.

★ Ellen DeGeneres

(USA Today, 3/18/97, Michael Szymanski)

"Gay rights activists, openly gay celebrities, closeted actors, those who play gay roles and non-gay stars buzzed about *Ellen* at [March 16th's] Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Awards.

"Ellen DeGeneres' character on *Ellen* will reveal herself to be a lesbian on the April 30 episode. The GLAAD audience wondered whether DeGeneres would add anything more.

"She was shaken to tears by a three-minute standing ovation. 'What better way to change the show and do something positive and wonderful than by having my character come out?' she said.

"I started doing research for the character,' she added, getting uproarious laughter from the predominantly gay and lesbian crowd. 'There were so many people to consult.' ...

"Jennifer Tilly, who plays a woman seduced by a lesbian in *Bound*, which won Outstanding Movie, said, 'Ellen's show is going to be a lot better because I think people were uncomfortable seeing her (character) try to date men.' ...

"There are 22 recurring gay and lesbian characters on prime time and that's before the April 30 *Ellen* show,' said Chastity Bono, who serves as GLAAD's entertainment media director. 'What she's doing (on *Ellen*) is probably one of the most important things that has ever happened to the gay and lesbian community.'"

★ Xena: Warrior Princess

(Entertainment Weekly, 3/7/97, Mike Flaherty)

"Though the character of Xena [played by Lucy Lawless] is regularly shown in the intimate company of men, sexual ambiguity is a mainstay of the show — which openly gay *Xena* producer Liz Friedman is all too happy to admit: 'I don't have any interest in saying they're heterosexuals. That's just bulls—, and no fun, either.' ...

"[Of the contrast between Xena and a TV predecessor, Friedman says,] 'Wonder Woman's nails were always perfect, and she really looked like she cared about it. If Xena were in the middle of a fight, and a guy accidentally yanked off her top, she wouldn't go "Aah!" and cover her chest. She'd punch the crap out of him.' ...

"And Xena's invasion of a staunchly male domain, by the way, doesn't offend straight guys. Hardly: 'What's not to like? The show is a scream. Xena's a total babe. Not only that, she's a babe who likes other babes...it's a babe-fest,' says 20-year-old George, an online devotee. 'I watch her in action and think, "Wow, she could kick my a—," and I kind of dig that.' Gay females, ironically, are hooked for much the same reasons."

★ Kim Basinger

(Movieline, 4/97, Lawrence Grobel)

Lawrence Grobel: Britain's *Time Out* declared animal rights the number one hip cause on the planet, eclipsing AIDS and homelessness. What do you think of that?

Kim Basinger: [Sarcastic] Hip hip hooray. I don't think you can call any movement more "hip" than AIDS. But anything you get involved in, there's just one rule I have and it's focus. There are so many animal rights issues, I could deplete myself in one week. I've really had to choose....

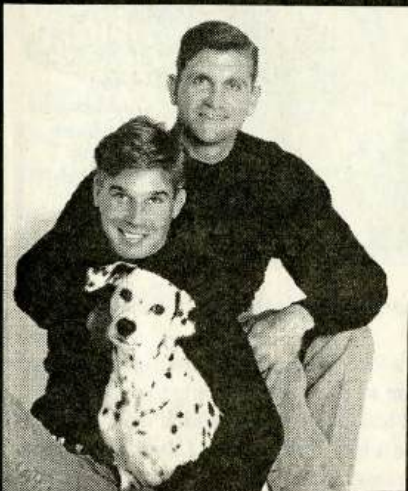
Some doctors say that animal research helped lead to the discovery of the AIDS virus.

I don't believe in any animal testing. There are other ways. You don't have to be an animal rights activist, you just have to care about one word: injustice. What right does man have to use the "lesser creatures"? Animals are great teachers. They taught me to be the mother I'm becoming, because I've brought up so many animals in my life.



Ellen DeGeneres has been "doing research" for her role as a lesbian.

Bring your dogs & cats in for a fun Family portrait!



Gabriel Tran
PHOTOGRAPHY

Creative Portraits
Pets are welcome
Gift certificates



(713) 524-8879
3311 Richmond, Ste. 315
(Between Kirby & Buffalo Speedway)
By Appointment

LeftOut

Shark Attack!

Just When We Think It's Safe to Go Back Into the Water.

by Daryl Moore

At a time when Republicans should be happy with their political lot, they're not. Just call it plain greed. They retained control of both the House and the Senate. Their enemy-in-chief, Bill Clinton, is again besieged by scandal. And they have the opportunity to set the political course of the nation for the next four years.

But much to its chagrin, the Republican majority has discovered that it's much more difficult to govern than to voice the dissent of an unhappy minority. And even though it has enough votes to override a presidential veto on many issues, the Republican Congress that promised a revolution is seriously stalled.

Indeed, Newt Gingrich has become the phantom of the political opera; has been sucking up to Jesse Jackson; and has been disrespecting the minority poster-child for the party, J.C. Watts. Trent Lott took over Bob Dole's position, and moderate demeanor, and has thus far steadfastly refused to be the revolutionary the revolutionaries had envisioned. And Republican Senator Fred Thompson actually promised to investigate the campaign-finance dealings of both Democrats and Republicans, which isn't what he was supposed to do at all.

But just when you think the Republican sharks are asleep, adrift again in a sea of ineptitude, Texas congressman Tom DeLay drags bait through the political water with the hope of rousing the revolutionists. What does he use for bait? A promise to impeach liberal federal judges whom he deems "judicial activists."

In March, DeLay announced a plan that is ridiculous and frightening, even by

DeLay's subterranean standards. He decreed to reign in activist federal judges by proposing "congressional oversight of the federal judiciary." In other words, the folks who brought us the Defense of Marriage Act, who want to legislatively mandate prayer in school, and who seek to repeal abortion rights, are going to start

firing federal judges who have the audacity to declare legislative acts that subvert the constitution "unconstitutional."

DeLay's call for the impeachment of judges is a constitutional stretch, to say the least.

This is no exaggeration. According to DeLay, "articles of impeachment are being written right now" against three judges. The first is a Texas judge, Fred Biery, whose crime is ruling that two Republican winners in the last election cannot be sworn in because their elections were decided by illegally cast votes. The other two judges committed far worse deeds. One suppressed evidence and threw out a defendant's confession in a criminal case because he believed the police search was unreasonable under the Fourth Amendment. The other blocked the implementation of California's Proposition 209, which bans some forms of affirmative action.

DeLay's call for the impeachment of judges is a constitutional stretch, to say the least. The Constitution allows Congress to impeach and remove a federal judge for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." It requires a simple majority in the House (which the Republicans have) and a two-thirds majority in the Senate (which they almost have).

Until now, however, Congress has always understood that the power of im-

continued on page 14

OutRight

Freedom From Fear

Hate Crimes Law Will Send Message to Texans.

by Dale Carpenter

Seven years ago I was severely beaten in a vicious attack by four young men who called me "queer" and "faggot" as they pummeled me. I was repeatedly kicked and punched in the head, chest, and stomach. When I fell to the ground, they surrounded me and continued the assault. Finally, one of them delivered the coup de grace by breaking a wooden crutch over my head. Blood covered my clothes. My face turned black and blue and swelled until I was unrecognizable. I lost hearing in one ear for a month. The police advised me not to bother pressing charges since the defendants would make an issue of my homosexuality at trial (I was closeted at the time) and a jury wouldn't convict them for putting a fag in his place. The memory of the incident will never leave me.

Franklin Roosevelt said that freedom from fear is one of the four "essential human freedoms." Yet the defining characteristic of gay life in the latter half of the 20th century has been fear. Fear of exposure. Fear of losing one's job. Fear of ostracism by family and friends. Fear of AIDS. And, of course, fear of violence committed by those who hate us. It is this last species of fear that is addressed by a bill pending in the Texas legislature that would increase the penalties for crimes committed against a person or property because of the victim's race, religion, or sexual orientation.

You know the fear I'm talking about. We have adopted survival strategies in response to it. It is the fear that keeps you from holding your lover's hand as you walk down the street or wait in line at the

movies or converse in a restaurant. It is the fear that prevents you from saying "I love you" out loud in public or kissing at a baseball game or responding to the homophobic joke you hear in the locker room. You make concessions to that fear dozens of times a day in ways that you have stopped consciously thinking about. It has

become second nature. It impoverishes our lives. Until we are free from the gnawing fear of violence, gays will not share equally in the life of the nation.

There have been some 250 anti-gay "hate crimes" reported in this state since 1992.

The problem of anti-gay hate crime is widespread and undeniable. In fact, the problem is worse than we've been led to believe. There have been some 250 anti-gay "hate crimes" reported in this state since 1992. Many more than that, like the beating I took, have gone unreported either because the police aren't interested in investigating them or because victims are too afraid to report them. Even when reported, they're less likely to be punished. A recent study concluded that arrests were made in only 51 percent of reported anti-gay murders across the country, compared to an arrest rate of 66 percent in all homicides nationwide.

I do not know whether harsher sentences for those who commit hate crimes will deter them. I am unaware of any definitive study of the effect of harsher sentences on hate crime rates. But deterring crime is an objective of our criminal law, and augmenting penalties has long been thought a means to that end. There is no reason to think otherwise in the case of hate crimes. Much of the effectiveness of the law, if it's passed, will depend on the

continued on page 40

DENTAL PLAN

\$9.00/month

or

\$15.00/month Per Household

(includes significant others, roommates, families, etc.)

All Pre-Existing Conditions Are Covered
— even if you've had a dental problem for a long time.

No Limits on Visits or Services
— you can go to the dentist as often as you like and get whatever services you need.

Cosmetic Dentistry Included
— such as bleaching or aesthetic bonded finishes.

All Specialists Included
— such as Periodontists, Endodontists, and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

No Deductible
You know exactly how much you must pay from your pocket each time you see a dentist.

No Claim Forms

Also Includes Vision Plan & Discount Prescriptions

Call for a free brochure:
Houston Buyers Club

713-520-5288
800-350-2392

Life The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
Rocks The Woodlands *MillerTime*
 ON SALE SATURDAY, MARCH 29 10AM!



ERASURE

FRIDAY MAY 16

CONCERTS TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE
 713-629-3700 • BLOCKBUSTER MUSIC • FOLEY'S
 Online Information: <http://www.ticketmaster.com>
*ALL TICKETS SUBJECT TO AGENCY CONVENIENCE AND HANDLING CHARGE.
 DATE, VENUE AND SUPPORT ACT(S) SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Houston Chronicle GMC KPRC 21.1 GT Mobilnet Coca-Cola BANK UNITED

Shark Attack

continued from page 12

peachment should be used sparingly. Indeed, in 221 years, only 13 judges have been impeached, and only one for political reasons.

But Republicans have become frustrated of late. Even though they're in charge, they've been infighting and haven't accomplished much. So they've begun to do what they do best. Blame the liberals. This time, it's the liberals in the judiciary. You know, liberals like those on the United States Supreme Court who refused to uphold the Colorado hate statute.

So damn the Constitution. DeLay is calling for the heads of judges, none of whom have been accused of treason, bribery, or any other high crime or misdemeanor. Oh no. They've been accused of something far worse — making judicial rulings the conservative Republican majority finds offensive.

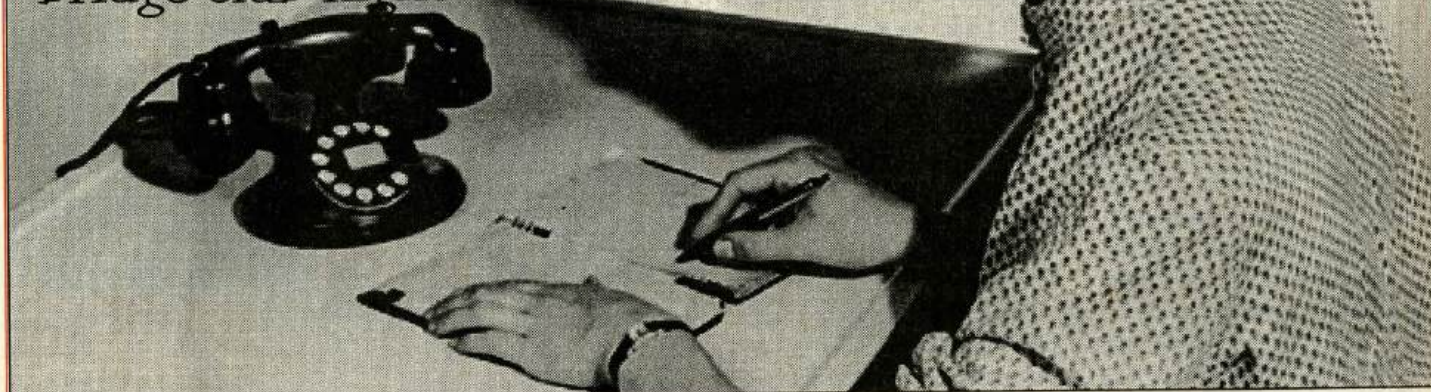
So, just when we thought it was safe to go back into the water. Just when we believed that Bill Clinton would have eight years to appoint judges who looked somewhat like America, the sharks smell fresh political blood. And they begin moving toward unsuspecting swimmers — federal judges who still believe in the Constitutional rights of individuals.



Daryl Moore is a lawyer in Houston. He has a general practice and is board certified in civil appellate law.

The Cellular Saga continues...

If only Lorraine had a pager from Premier, she wouldn't have to wait by the phone, thus missing her all-nude bridge club night.



PREMIER PAGING

12220 Murphy Road, Suite E CALL (713) 575-8500

"Where friends send friends."

Bravo Plus
\$49.95

Includes Pager, Activation
 and 3 Months Airtime

Airtime
 from \$4.95 mo.

Voice Mail
 from \$2.95 mo.

BUY GAY
 FIRST



**PRIMECo
 Phones**

No Contracts • No Deposits
 Virtually Crystal Clear
 Ask about our Rental Program

**SPECIAL AIRTIME
 RATES FOR
 YOUR PAGER
 OR OURS!**

**FREE
 DELIVERY!**



Activate
 Your Pager
\$19.95
 Includes 3 mo.
 Airtime

copy.com

COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR

Our **ON-LINE INTERNET BAR** is available for
 your surfing enjoyment!

Finally, a copy center that can meet your needs.

- State-of-the-Art Equipment
- Stimulating High-Tech Environment
- Experienced, Knowledgeable Staff

Stop by soon and visit our fabulous shop.

NOW OPEN!

1201 Westheimer, In the Tower Theater Center
 Telephone 7 1 3 / 5 2 8 . 1 2 0 1



LAST MAN STANDING

Lewis Hopes to Revive the HGLPC.

by J. LuJack Tyler



J. LuJack Tyler (left) and Lane Lewis, HGLPC president.

Lane Lewis is the newly elected 17th president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC). After 22 years of working for equal rights in Houston, HGLPC is the oldest gay and lesbian civil and human rights organization west of the Mississippi. Since the 1985 "Straight Slate," the organization has gone through a barrel of trials and tribulations.

Before Lewis' election last Fall, many caucus pioneers discussed folding the historic organization due to an all-time low membership, suffering public image and organizational infighting. A former board-of-trustee member said the HGLPC's "days of constant smoke and mirrors are gone with the wind." And indeed they were. An organization that once had 350 members voting for its presidential leadership sunk to the point of struggling to fill board seats.

The HGLPC annual dinner that once drew such inspiring guests as Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank, AMFAR Director Mathilda Krim and gay rights authors Andrew Sullivan, Torie Osborn and Michaelangelo Signorile began settling for less-than-prominent speakers such as last year's Mattress Mac.

Lewis campaigned on issues of political action, fundraising, membership and inclusion. Caucus members responded with enthusiasm and optimism. They elected the 29-year-old native Texan in hopes of saving the organization.

Lewis has worked most of his adult life for lesbian and gay rights. He began working as a lesbian and gay crisis intervention counselor at Houston's IntraCare Hospital at the age of 23. Soon afterward, he joined the late Bill Scott to found the Lewis-Scott Youth Center, a place for lesbian and gay street youth. The center soon evolved into the Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth, Inc. (HIPY).

In 1994, Lewis was named the executive director for the AIDS Equity League. During Stonewall 25 in New York City a year later, Lewis was appointed international direct action director.

Today, he is a bartender at Pacific Street nightclub.

OutSmart: Does being one of the youngest presidents of the HGLPC frighten you?

Lane Lewis: No. The only way I've ever accomplished anything I've ever done is because I've had accomplished people to mentor me — more senior people who have always been there when I ask a question and have always given me an honest answer.

Who are some of these people?

Bill Scott, Annise Parker, Chris Bacon, Rob Bridges, Terri Richardson, Ray Hill, Brian Bradley and Steven Bradley. Although some of these people are gone now, most of them are still around and will be around while I'm president. One of my strengths is, and shall always be, my willingness to ask questions.

What has your experience been like so far as president of the caucus?

I continuously find support from people most willing to work toward betterment of the caucus and a true unified community. In spite of the recent merger of memberships between the HGLPC and the Lesbian and Gay

Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), most of the caucus' grassroots membership is apathetic about the caucus.

Why is that?

The answer is two-fold. Part of it is that people don't feel like there are issues out there that affect their lives. They don't always understand how politics affects their lives. As long as they're able to keep their jobs, go and party all night and feel safe at the grocery store, they don't see how politics will affect them. That's where the caucus does have some control to reach out and explain to them some of the issues — whether it be marriage, hate crimes or employment discrimination. There are ways of explaining it in such a way that they can be affected.

And what is the second issue?

The second issue is the trouble that the caucus has had at marketing itself as a vibrant organization. I don't see the caucus as having a very vibrant image, and that hurts.

Why does it hurt?

Well, not only for the more senior people in our community

who don't want to get drugs back into the old politics, but also for the younger people in our community who don't see it as an organization that's very entertaining.

Many conservative lesbian and gays in the community felt turned off by former HGLPC President Pat Gandy's active and frank relationship with the Democratic Party. Gandy's predecessor, Democrat Terri Richardson, was criticized by some as being too willing to allow Dale Carpenter, then HGLPC board of trustee and now state president of the Log Cabin Republicans, to initiate all of his pro-gay Republican initiative. Which political party do you identify yourself with?

None. I am only willing to join hands with a political party that will — right now, today, this moment — stand up and fight vehemently for equal human rights for all people. The Republican Party has been in power and the Democratic Party has been in power, yet I don't have employment or hous-

ing protection, nor equal access to the military. Clearly, various parties have been more helpful than others, but neither party has done all it can. I do feel it's important to continue working with all parties to continue to educate and inform.

What will your presidency offer to encourage gay Democrats and Republicans work together through the Caucus?

We all want the same thing — equal rights for gays and lesbians. But one of the challenges that we've had in the past is everyone not being heard. I think that the caucus is a place where everyone can and should be heard. Last year's precinct initiatives were very successful. The primary focus is just to allow everyone's opinion to be voiced, and the body rule.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans can allow any back-handed politics. Period. It's not good for the caucus, the community or the people.

One of the most popular rumors of late is that the caucus is going to fold. Are you the last man standing?

I've never become involved with an organization and left it worse off than I found it, and I don't intend on starting now.

During your term as executive director of the AIDS Equity League — and more so after you left — there was a controversy. Some people in the community thought you left the Equity League with no money. Will you explain what happened?

When I left the Equity League knowing that I was going to be resigning in a month or so, I orchestrated a gathering before I left. I asked a particular individual for several thousand dollars.

The position that I was being put in, as an executive director, was raising money to continuously pay myself. I didn't feel comfortable in that position. I felt that the money would be better spent on client services.

Knowing that I would be resigning from the Equity League, I went to this person and asked him for \$25,000. He gave me \$15,000 — three checks, each of \$5,000. Once I secured the money in the bank, I resigned. So do I feel like I left the Equity League broke? No, I don't.

But what the public saw was that when you left, almost immediately, the organization folded.

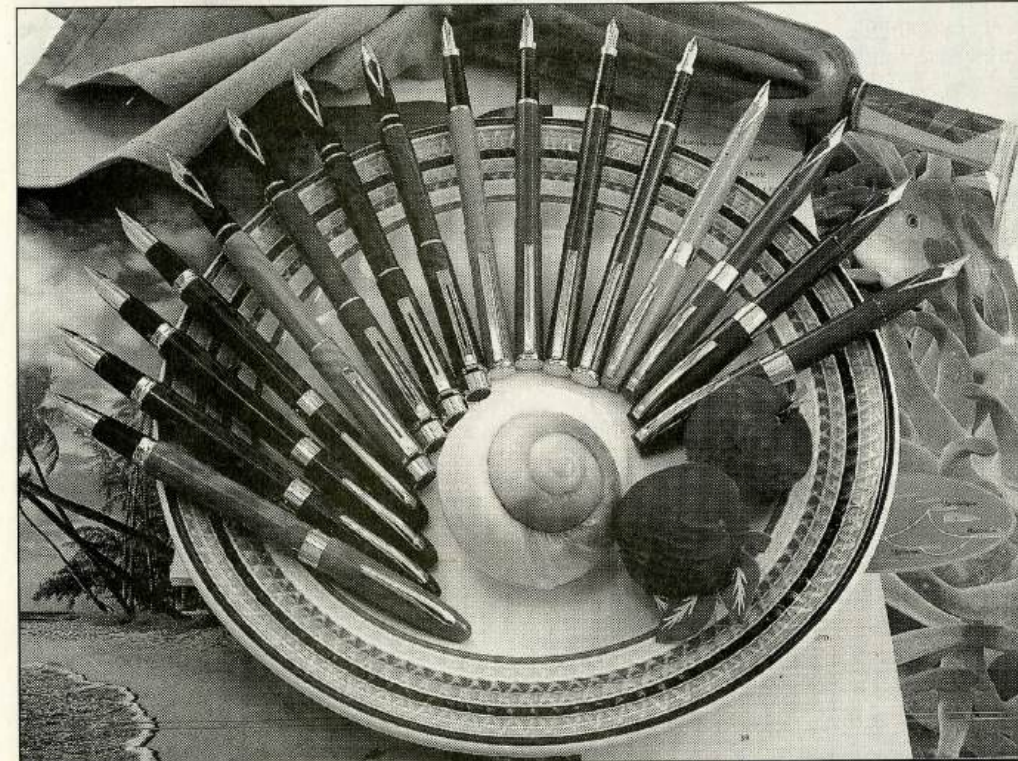
I think that's a reflection of my absence, not my presence.

During the 1996 presidential campaign, candidates used phrases and slogans that would stick out in the voters' minds. Bill Clinton's phrase was, "Let's build a bridge to the 21st century." What message are you sending to our community that is symbolic of your tenure?

I would have to say, "Cut the crap. Let's get it done."

[Laughing] Well, it certainly isn't, "Keep hope alive."

continued on page 39



Jeffrey Stone, Ltd.

Houston's Finest Cigars and Writing Instruments Since 1978.

At Jeffrey Stone Limited, we embrace the same attitude toward our fine writing instruments as we do our cigars; offer an unmatched variety and never compromise on quality.

We carry the region's largest selection of pens and accessories from the finest makers:

Sheaffer

Montblanc	Cartier
Pelikan	Waterman
Namiki	Parker
Aurora	Visconti
S.T. Dupont	

Exclusively Appointed Merchant

Davidoff
Cigars

5000 Westheimer • 621-2812
9694 Westheimer • 783-3555

BE A WALK 'N ROLL STAR

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1997—SAM HOUSTON PARK - DOWNTOWN

THE SOUTHWESTERN BELL HOUSTON

AIDS WALK

FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE
HOUSTON

THE EIGHTH 10K
WALKATHON/ROLLATHON

The frightening fact is, one in every 90 Houstonians is HIV positive—Men, women, children.

That's not something we can just walk away from.

Come with us and walk, pedal, stroll or roll—boldly towards making a difference.

Register today—it's free. And the proceeds go to benefit 14 Houston-area HIV/ AIDS education, health care, volunteer and social service programs. It's your chance to make a difference ... so they can make a difference.

Call 713-629-WALK

Produced by: AIDS Foundation Houston

Supported in part by:

OutSmart
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

Inherited Gay Genes

Why Gays Have Survived Evolution When We Don't Reproduce at the Same Rate Straights Do.

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Several lines of research, including family, twin and molecular-genetic studies, suggest that a person's sexual orientation is in part inherited. But if "gay genes" exist, how come they haven't been eliminated during human evolution? People who are "genetically gay" would be expected to have fewer descendants, so their genes would die out. But there's no evidence that homosexuality has become less common over the ages.

A number of theories have been put forward to explain this apparent paradox. First, it's been pointed out that gays and lesbians do often have children, either out of pressure to conform, or simply out of a desire to be biological parents. Still, it seems likely that, over the span of human evolution, a lack of sexual interest in the other sex would in general have led to fewer children. For males especially, reproduction is a highly competitive affair in which sexual attraction is the prime motivator.

Another possibility is that gay genes do tend to die out, but they are replaced by new, spontaneously arising mutations. This is known to be how certain disease-causing genes (such as the gene for hemophilia B) are kept in the gene pool. It is unlikely, however, that this could be the explanation for the persistence of "gay genes," simply because homosexuality is so common.

A third theory depends on the fact that, for most genes, we carry two copies, one on each of two "homologous" chromosomes. Sometimes a particular variant of a gene is harmful to a person's reproductive success when it is present in two copies but beneficial when present in only one copy. A well-known example is the gene for sickle-cell anemia: having two copies causes sickle-cell disease, but having one copy confers protection against malaria. Similarly, it is possible that having two copies of a "gay gene" makes a person gay and lowers their reproductive success, but having one copy has some benefit that helps to keep the gene in the gene pool. What that benefit might be, we don't know.

A variant on this theory concerns genes on the X chromosome. (You'll remember that Dean Hamer and his colleagues at the National Cancer Institute reported a possible "gay gene" on this chromosome.) Men have only one X chromosome, but women have two. It's possible that this gene has some benefit in women that outweighs its reproductive cost in men. For example, if the gene promotes sexual attraction to men, then in women it might actually increase reproductive success, making them, as it were, hyper-het-

erosexual. As Robert Trivers, an evolutionary biologist at the University of California, Santa Cruz, has pointed out, the fact that women have two X chromosomes and men only one means that, over time, the survival benefit of a gene on this chromosome in women outweighs its effect on men.

Finally, there are theories that explain gay genes by saying that they promote the reproduction of a gay person's close relatives. Let's say that a woman, by virtue of her "gay genes," has one child fewer than she otherwise would have had, but she uses her freed-up energy and resources to help her siblings rear a total of two more children than they otherwise would have had. Since her siblings share about 50 percent of her genes, those two extra nephews or

nieces are about as "good" (in evolutionary terms) as one child of her own. Thus, seemingly altruistic behavior toward one's brothers and sisters could, in the hard-nosed world of evolutionary psychology, be as selfish as reproducing oneself.

These theories allow for the possibility of interactions between genes and the environment. For example, if a boy had a childhood accident that left him smaller or weaker than his peers, he might have a lesser chance of fathering children himself. In this case, it might make good evolutionary sense for him to devote himself to helping his siblings rear children, since he has little to lose.

One problem with this kind of theory is that it doesn't really explain homosexuality, it only explains the lack of heterosexuality. Why, in other words, should gay men waste so much time on gay sex — time that, according to these theories, would be better spent baby-sitting their nephews and nieces?

None of these theories are overwhelmingly persuasive. It may be that, when the genes themselves are identified, their survival value will be better understood. In the meantime, I like to think that evolution has created us simply because we're so fabulous.



Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996) and the forthcoming gay techno-thriller, *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak / Masquerade Books). He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of OutSmart or at SLeVay@aol.com



Colby's christening at Memorial Drive Presbyterian.

LOVE Makes A FAMILY

By Kyle Young

Village West. The small West Houston neighborhood is not likely to be perceived as a hotbed of progressive thought. Typically, the rows of houses are filled with church-going, family people. They have well-manicured front yards. They watch out for each other's houses. Most everyone knows everyone else's business. On spring afternoons, the streets are full of kids playing ball and riding bikes. And in the middle of it all, two women who love each other are raising a family.

Denay Hudson and Norri Collier have three children — Lisa, 12, Matthew, 11, and seven-month-old Colby.

Hudson would make June Cleaver proud. She cooks, cleans, drives carpool and changes diapers. Collier is a working mom, supporting her family as a chiropractor in private practice. The two take turns going to school, church and community meetings, so one parent can be at home with the kids. They transport the kids to after-school activities — dance, gymnastics, swimming, karate and drama classes. They help with homework.

The couple is active in their community. Hudson serves on the board of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays as well as the

Human Rights Campaign. She is active in Friends of Briarwood, the private school's version of the PTA. Collier is the treasurer of River Oaks Business Women's Executive Committee, an organization that encourages women in business.

The family attends Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church every Sunday, including church school.

They are a loving family with busy, hectic schedules — like millions of families across the country — both straight and gay.

THE FIRST DATE

Collier says a family was the furthest thing from her mind 10 years ago when the two were on their first date. Hudson had just found out that she was to become the guardian of her brother's children.

"I still remember when she was

telling me this," says Collier. "What's interesting is that I didn't think anything of it. I knew that there would be someone there for her, so I said, 'Well, I wouldn't worry about it... so where do you want to have dinner?' I had no intention of being that one. It was a first date."

One month later they both entered into motherhood.

"Norri and I were going out on our first date on a Saturday and 30 days later were driving down Interstate-10 toward Orange to go pick up two children," says Hudson. "So that's sort of how our family happened."

At the time, the couple didn't know how long the children would be in their care.

"We just took it one day at a time," says Collier. "The kids' needs were overwhelming, so I think that took both of our focus to try to help them."

The children are still with the couple. They call Hudson "Mom" and Collier is simply "Norri."

"With Matthew and Lisa coming to us the way they did, and because of their background, they needed to call one person Mom," says Hudson. "They were calling my mother Mom. They called a stranger Mom. They were calling day-care workers Mommy."

CONCEIVING

Watching the couple at home with their baby, it is obvious the child has been blessed with loving parents. Hudson says her pregnancy was the fulfillment of a 15-year dream, although she wrestled with the decision for three years before trying to get pregnant. It was a struggle to overcome negative messages from society and actually decide to do it.

The couple went to a doctor for artificial insemination. By September of '95, Hudson had nine failed attempts at getting pregnant. At the back of her mind, a consistent thought repeated, "I can't get pregnant unless I'm married."

"At the time, we'd been together for eight years," says Hudson. "We had always said at some point we wanted to have a ceremony, but you put it off because of your own homophobia. There were so many decisions to make — what would it look like, who to invite? You want your family to come, but can they really be there for you and support you? And if they can't be as happy for you, the same as they would be at a heterosexual union, do you want them there?"

In November of '95, with their parents in attendance, the couple had a small ceremony conducted by Carolyn Mobley, a minister from the predominately gay Metropolitan Community Church. Three weeks later, Hudson conceived her son.

During her pregnancy she spoke to a college classroom as a member of the PFLAG Speakers Bureau. One student asked if she would consider having children.

"So I said, 'Well, I am pregnant,'" says Hudson. "I thought the guy's teeth were going to fall out. He was just shocked."

The couple found support from friends and family. Parents from PFLAG hosted a baby shower. Hudson says her mother was "thrilled" that she was going to have a baby.

Her sister, on the other hand, did not approve.

"My sister really laid a bombshell on me after he was born," says Hudson. "I think once we had a commitment ceremony and I got pregnant, it just kind of pushed her over the edge as far as me being gay. She told me that two women shouldn't be raising kids. That was in October, and all these years that we've lived together with Matthew and Lisa, she never said anything. Why was it O.K. to be a mother for

Matthew and Lisa, but to have one of my own is not O.K.?" Her sister hasn't spoken to her since then.

PARENTING

Although Collier is the financial provider for the family and Hudson is a stay-at-home mom, the couple says they are not limited by the traditional parenting roles so often dictated by gender.

"We get along, that's the bottom line for us," says Hudson. "So, any of those kind of issues aren't really an issue. She doesn't hound me if I don't cook dinner for a week and we eat out of a can or have frozen dinners. We just have a really good easy give-and-take thing."

Hudson takes care of feeding the baby. "I've got the breasts," she laughs.

She is also the primary diaper-changer.

"But I clean up the dog poop," grins Collier.

The connection between the two women is energetic. It comes from a couple who long ago left the silence of the closet to be out gay women. They are proud of their family, and they are not afraid to be visible.

"We live at our house openly as a couple, being open with the kids, being honest with the kids," says Hudson. "When you are living as a family unit, and you walk out your doors, you can't stay in the closet because kids are kids. They talk freely about their life. So we're outed a lot by the kids."

Collier says you never know who children will decide to enlighten.

"We were in a restroom at a restaurant several years ago, and we had Lisa," laughs Collier. "A lady came up to wash her hands, and Lisa looks up and says, 'These are my moms, I have two moms.' I was like — *Thank you for sharing, Lisa. She doesn't want to know.*"

Coming out to Matthew and Lisa was a process. Hudson says they would take their cue from the children.

"They mentioned the word gay," says Hudson. "We had told them early on, but they really just didn't get it — didn't understand it, so we just didn't press it."

"They would ask Denay, 'So, when are you going to get married?'" says Collier.

"I'd explain it to them, but I don't think they ever really got it," says Hudson.

As the kids grew to understand, the couple also had to teach them about people who might look down on their family.

"We have said to them that there are people who don't agree, and we've tried to talk in general about a lot of things in society that people don't agree with," says Hudson. "There

"I don't really see that what we do is any different than heterosexual parents who are trying to bring up their kids."

Denay Hudson



Kyle Young

are a lot of differences of opinions and this is one of them."

She says that she expects a more "emotional" discussion about the issue as the children move into their teens. Already, the kids have discovered the sting of homophobia. Recently, Matthew was called "gay and lesbian" by kids at school.

"We kind of laughed and said, 'You can't be a lesbian because you're not a woman,'" says Collier.

Lisa's friend who spent the night at the family's home returned to school the next week spreading the news that Lisa has two moms. Lisa was embarrassed.

"We knew that kind of thing was going to happen. We knew it," says Hudson. "Matthew gets teased because he likes to dance. Lisa is teased because she has fair skin and fair hair. So, it's going to be something, and this is just one more of those things."

Hudson and Collier teach the children to find inner strength and self-worth.

"There are people in society who just aren't nice. We're just trying to tell them over and over again that you just have to learn how to not let these people get under your skin. Learn how to fend them off. So, I don't really see that what we do is any different than heterosexual parents who are trying to bring up their kids — to teach them stability and strength and respect for themselves. We just get to work on it a little more. So, is that a bad thing? I say no."

The couple thinks it is important for gay parents to be visible to the children's teachers.

"We have mentioned to the teachers that Matthew is being teased and being called gay," says Hudson. "The teacher, especially last year — the look on her face — there was no file for that. A very sweet teacher. We liked the teacher, but it was almost like she didn't believe us. She didn't think that was going on. It was too early for that, she said. They usually don't start that this early, she said. This was fourth grade. And again this year, we mentioned it to the teacher. She was more open to checking it out and taking action, but she hadn't heard it. So you can tell that they don't know what to do with it."

Hudson says it is difficult for gay parents to make changes in the system.

"The schools think it's a political issue," says Hudson. "It's harder for a gay parent to go into the schools, for us to go in there and demand curriculum or demand that the administrators do something effective in making these demands."

As Matthew and Lisa get older, the couple is becoming more aware of the need to educate Houston's educators about gay issues in general.

"I wish the movement was further along for Matthew and Lisa's sake, so that schools did have programs to talk about all this," says Hudson. "Matthew and Lisa need it now. Maybe in five, 10, 20 years — I don't know how long it's going to take, but at some point, the schools are going to have to start looking at this issue."

FINDING SUPPORT

The family has participated in activities with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents group hoping to meet other gay families. Hudson says it's important for the kids to see other gay families that are "stable and healthy."

"We've got some families who are friends of ours here in the neighborhood, but they're not gay," says Collier. "We have not been able find a gay family that's close to us who is doing the same thing, or has the same age kids."

continued on page 57



OUR STAFF HAS INTERIOR MOTIVES

Entertain.

Burn lots of candles.

Have a friend help you cook.

Set an example.

Serve wine in an old fashioned.

Redo a room.

Rekindle an old flame.

Laugh outloud.

Play Barry White and Ella Fitzgerald.

Turn the lights down low.

**[When you're creating the mood,
we're the best at setting it.]**



"Because there's no place like home"

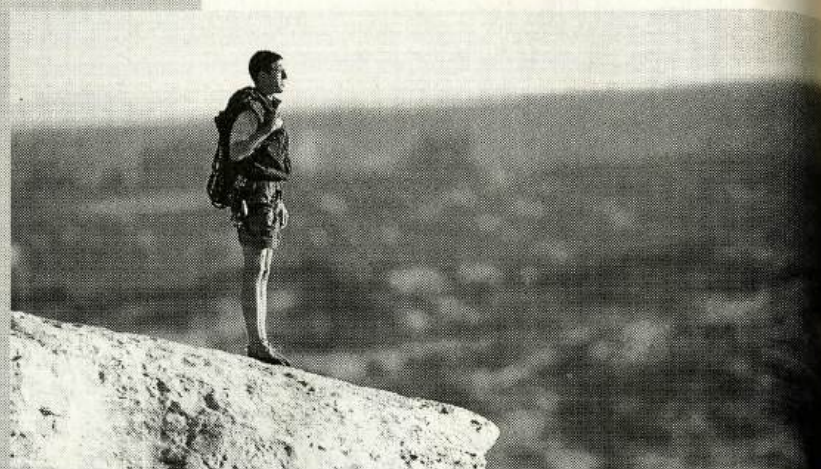
3200 SHEPHERD (713) 528-0220 FAX (713) 521-3868

If you're HIV+, you know the feeling.

You're at war with an unseen and dangerous enemy. Everything's at stake — your health, your peace of mind, and your expectations for the future.

It's time to strengthen your attack.

New *viral load* testing, now available from your doctor, identifies the amount of active virus in your body — and is considered to be an important indicator of disease progression, together with CD4 T-cell counts. The best way to reduce the build-up of HIV is to maintain a low viral load.



there's a change in outlook.

CRIXIVAN significantly decreases viral load in many patients.

CRIXIVAN provides powerful HIV suppression and is a new generation of treatment based on protease inhibition. In some patients, CRIXIVAN has lowered the amount of HIV in the bloodstream to levels undetectable by available testing. (Note: The clinical significance of changes in serum viral RNA measurements during treatment with CRIXIVAN has not been established. Also, the virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

CRIXIVAN also increases CD4 T-cell levels in many patients.

With less virus to repel, the immune system produces more disease fighting CD4 T-cells to combat opportunistic infections.

CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated and is currently the most widely prescribed* protease inhibitor medication.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN in clinical trials developed kidney stones. This occurred in about 4% of patients. Drinking at least 6 glasses of liquid each day may help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Make sure your healthcare provider knows about all medications you are taking or plan to take.

Every day is an opportunity to fight back.

Educate yourself with knowledge about nutrition, fitness, and new treatment developments that can help you lighten your load and manage the virus.

Important Considerations: CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in adults when antiretroviral therapy is warranted. It is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Therefore, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. It is not yet known whether taking CRIXIVAN will extend your life or reduce your chances of getting other illnesses associated with HIV. Information about how well the drug works is available from clinical studies up to 24 weeks.

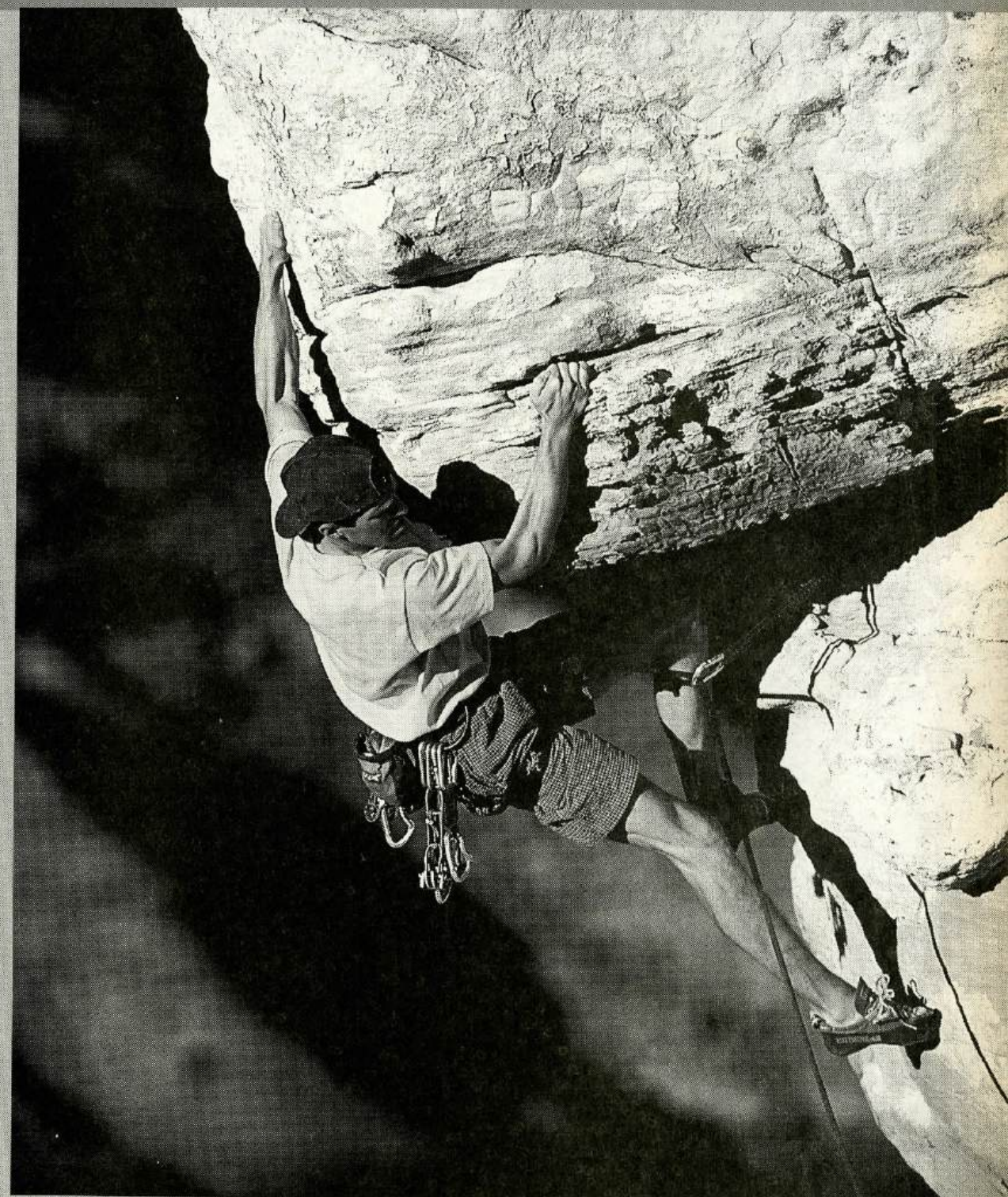
For additional information on CRIXIVAN, please read the patient package insert provided on the last page of this ad.

Remember to ask your doctor about CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Focus on the rest of your life.

In the battle against HIV,



www.merck.com

* IMS America; 3/96 - 12/96.



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of adults with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) when therapy is warranted. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a new type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. It may help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count.

CRIXIVAN may be prescribed alone. CRIXIVAN may also be prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor to see if you should take CRIXIVAN alone or with other anti-HIV drugs.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. It has not been studied in children and adolescents.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example - a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **Drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquids (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN has caused kidney stones in some patients. By having enough fluids in your body you may help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor.

It is not yet known whether taking CRIXIVAN will extend your life or reduce your chances of getting other illnesses associated with HIV. Information about how well the drug works is available from clinical studies up to 24 weeks.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.

Also talk to your doctor about:

- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)	VERSED® (midazolam)
HALCION® (triazolam)	PROPUSSID® (cisapride)	

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)	BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine)	isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole)	ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
EPVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)	ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)	
VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.	
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust the dose of MYCOBUTIN.	
NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.	

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN in clinical studies developed kidney stones; this occurred in about 4% of patients. Drinking at least 6 glasses of liquid each day may help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

In clinical studies, side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Other side effects occurring in 0.5%-2% of patients in clinical studies included: sleepiness, fever, indigestion, excessive gas, muscle pain, leg pain, anxiety, depression, decreased skin sensation, itching, and painful or difficult urination.

Side effects occurring rarely, in less than 0.5% of patients in clinical studies, and also considered serious, included: gall bladder inflammation, liver cirrhosis, pneumonia, and swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

*Retrovir, and Septa are registered trademarks of Glaxo Wellcome Inc. Epir is a trademark of Glaxo Wellcome Inc. Bactrim and Versed are registered trademarks of Roche Laboratories. Diflucan is a registered trademark of Hoechst. Ortho-Novum is a registered trademark of Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation. Zent and Vitor are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Bactrim is a registered trademark of Abbott Laboratories (Pharmaceutical Division). Tagamet is a registered trademark of SmithKline Beecham. Mycobutin and Halcion are registered trademarks of Pharmacia and Upjohn Laboratories. Nizoral and Propulsid are registered trademarks of Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc. Seldane, Ritalin, Rifamate, and Ritalin are registered trademarks of Marion Merrell Dow Inc. Rimactane is a registered trademark of ChaiGeneva Pharmaceuticals.



©1997 Merck & Co., Inc. All rights reserved. 972607-(501)-CRX

Houston's Gay Parents Come Together FAMILY VALUES

By Kyle Young

Featuring photos of Houston's gay families



Diane Zvara and Denise Slaughter with their daughter Stephanie — and canine children Kelly and Sandy.

The monthly newsletter for the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents (HGLP) organization reads like a small town paper: "Happy Birthday to Ashley and Taylor on March 13. The family is going to Disney World for Ashley and Taylor's birthday," "Desiree (9) made the A honor role for the first time. She has moved to the flip-flop group in gymnastics," "Tristan and Chloe have started playing on baseball teams. Chloe is studying for a science test..."

The brief listing of anniversaries, birthdays and children's accomplishments are a window into Houston's growing numbers of gay families. Michelle DeChant, HGLP president, says the group is trying to increase visibility in order to meet the needs of more families.

"I think there are a lot of gay and lesbian parents who just sort of live isolated with their kids and they don't even know about us," says DeChant.

Cary Russell with son Ryan and daughter Lisa.



Glenda Redworth and Suzanne with children Dawn and Ray



Mike Cleming with his children Christopher and Kayley, and partner David Carlton



Michelle DeChant, HGLP president, with children Tristan and Chloe.

men who do come to the group feel welcome.

"There's no tension between the gay men and the lesbians," says Redworth. "We are all there because we want to be with other parents. I wanted my kids to have some male role models who were safe people, and I got it."

Redworth is the mother of two children, Dawn, 20, and Ray, 17. She began coming to the group in 1989. She has watched the group grow to over 80 families who participate in monthly support groups and family activities. Parents

come from as far as Katy, The Woodlands, Pasadena and Jasper.

Both of Redworth's children have been involved in Just For Us, a youth group for children of gay parents. The group is sponsored by HGLP. She says participation in Just For Us gave her children confidence.

"It's real important, especially once they hit puberty," says Redworth. "They hit middle school

and all of a sudden they have a lot of peer pressure, and they have to decide whether to tell their friends. It's a coming out process for the kids, too. Both of my kids got to the point, around eighth grade, of standing up to their peers or to teachers and just saying, 'My parents are lesbians. So what.' It took them several years to get there."

Although 52 percent of the parents currently in the group have children from a previous heterosexual marriage, that percentage is changing. More gay couples are choosing to have children via artificial insemination, adoption or foster parenting.

Denise Slaughter and Diane Zvara have a three-year-old daughter, Stephanie. Slaughter says artificial insemination was the right decision for them.

"I reached a point in my life where I believed I had a lot to give. Diane and I's relationship has been enriched because of Stephanie. I feel like we have so much to offer her by our commitment to teach

and nurture; plus have a lot of fun together. We are definitely a family."

DeChant says the group has adapted to meet the needs of all gay parents, regardless of how they got their children.

"We've been pretty successful at integrating all of the different types of parenting and not polarizing," says DeChant. "There's a lot of difference between preschoolers and teenagers, but once you have them it's all the same thing. You have to do the same stuff."

The support group is open to gay parents and "parent wanna-bes."

"There are a lot of people who come to the support group early," says DeChant. "They may be a couple considering adopting a child, and they come early and that's really good. There are people who come as soon as they figure out that they're lesbian or gay and they're still in a marriage with kids. They come to us."

"I think these children may be what the world needs to help heal itself. These children may have something to teach other children."

—Michelle DeChant

DeChant, who is divorced, says that she wishes she had gotten involved with the group sooner.

"You see other parents from previous heterosexual marriages who come to us way long after it," says DeChant, "and if they had come to us sooner we could have helped them a little bit more. It's hard to do it by yourself, and we have a lot of resources."

For many of the parents, the support group provides a place to talk about coming out to children.

"It's really a process. Coming out to your kids is like coming out in general," says DeChant. "People do it right away, and other people take time doing that, and getting to that place where they can do that. A lot of the people working on coming out

issues come to the support group and talk about this stuff with other people who are going through it or who have been through it to get support — it's often 'Wow, you mean you told your kids and they still love you?'"

Other common topics in the support group are custody issues, artificial insemination and teenagers.

"The teenage issue, I'm sure, is the same with straight families," says Redworth. "That's just inherent in being a parent. It's maybe a little more complicated sometimes."

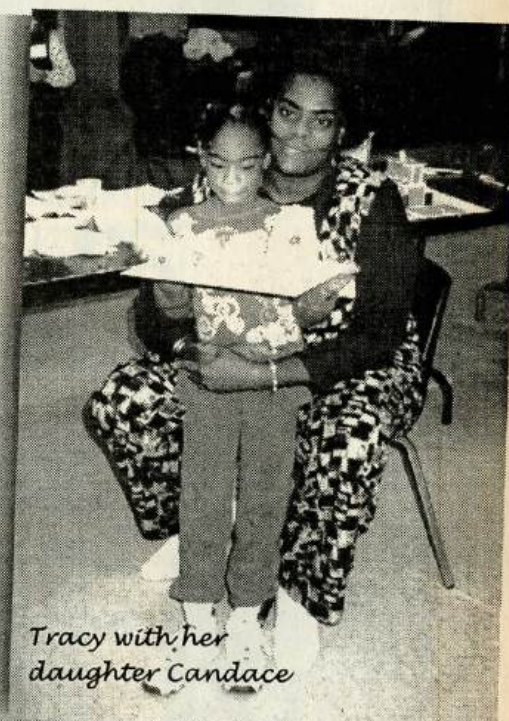
DeChant says that she wants the group to move beyond supporting gay families to celebrating gay families.

"Gay parents are changing right now," says DeChant, "but so much of what we do comes from a defensive posture. You'll see articles from time to time in mainstream magazines. They'll have little captions at the top of the page that say 56 percent of Americans think it's O.K. to be a gay parent. I think it's more than O.K. I think that these children may be what the world needs to help heal itself. These children may have something to teach the other children. When they grow up to be adults, they might be a lot more free in a lot of ways."

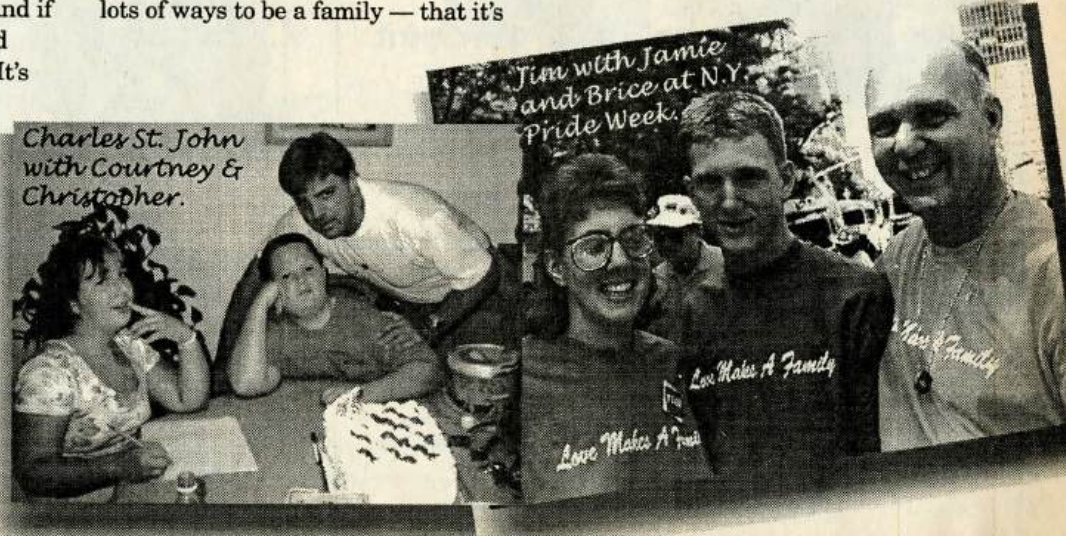
Redworth says children of gay parents often have a respect for diversity not found in most kids.

"As long as they are around other gay families, they see that there are lots of ways to be a family — that it's

O.K. to be in a couple or not be in a couple," says Redworth. "I think that parents in the group are a little more enlightened than the norm as far as gender roles go. My goal for my kids was to raise a well-rounded girl and a well-rounded boy which meant they got to do the same chores. They had the same expectations. They each got dolls and they each got tools, and they each got to play a sport, and they each got to do an instrument. I wanted them to be well-rounded. I didn't want them to be these categories like that."



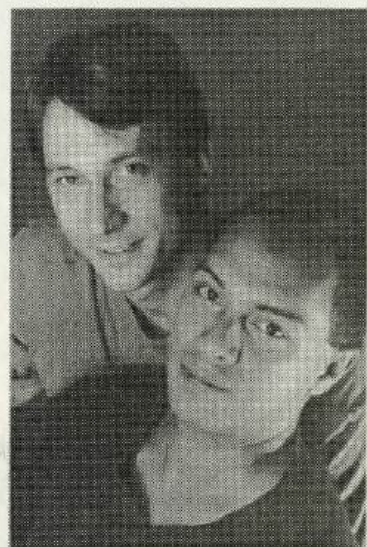
Tracy with her daughter Candace



Charles St. John with Courtney & Christopher.

Jim with Jamie and Brice at N.Y. Pride Week.

Love Makes A Family



Theresa DiMenno
Photographer
713/464-4471

SPRING FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
7 AM - 2 PM

Pancake Breakfast - \$5.00
(Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Eggs & More)

Rummage Sale
(Furniture, Antiques, Collectibles)

Silent Auction

Health Fair • Entertainment

RAFFLE

Win a trip to Sydney
A Caribbean Cruise • Free Airline Tickets
1 for \$5 • 3 for \$10 • 10 for \$25



Bering Memorial United
Methodist Church
A Reconciling Congregation

1440 Harold Street at Mulberry • Houston, Texas 77006 • (713) 526-1017

Experience her live and in person!



Caroline Myss

author of *Anatomy of the Spirit: The Seven Stages of Power and Healing*

Anatomy of the Spirit
Seminar

April 25-26

Houston, TX • Adams Mark Hotel

Friday, 7-10pm & Saturday, 9am-5pm

Don't miss out! Contact The ConferenceWorks!
now for information or for a brochure.
Fax 317-328-1475 • Phone 800-395-8445

sponsored by AHP—The Association for Humanistic Psychology
in cooperation with AHMA, AHNA, Personal Transformation Magazine,
St. Joseph & St. John Hospitals

Continuing Education Credit Available



The Princeton Review

SMALL CLASSES • PERSONAL ATTENTION • GUARANTEED RESULTS

1-800-2REVIEW
info.houston@review.com

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with ETS, LSAs, GMAC, AACM, or Princeton University.

The group is encouraging non-parents who are supportive of gay families to also become involved. There is a need for assistance with child care during support groups.

"I think there are a lot of people in the community who like kids who might want to have kids in their lives, but not full-time parenting," says Redworth, "and this could be an opportunity for them to do that."

Through support groups, family activities and providing resources, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents group is pioneering the way for many more healthy and happy gay and lesbian families.

"This is family values right here in action," says member Judy Tinsley. "I think we make better parents in a lot of ways. We're much more tolerant, much more open-minded. We pass that on to the kids who pass it along to others. They are a real hope for the world."

Annual HGLP membership dues are \$15 per family. You do not have to be a member to participate. The HGLP support group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Drive. Child care is provided. On April 19 and 20, HGLP families will go camping at Lake Livingston. For more information about the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents group, call Michelle DeChant at 713/528-5172.

JUST FOR US

Kids of Gay Parents Come Together for Support

Sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents (HGLP), Just For Us is a support group for children with gay par-ents, grades 6 through 12.

As president of Just For Us, 16-year-old Renae is a girl on a mission. Under her leadership, the group has grown from eight members last year at this time to 32 members today. It is her goal to have 50 kids participating by the end of the year. Like most in the group, Renae's parents are divorced. When her mom came out to her several years ago, she didn't take it well.

"You feel like your double-whammied," says Renae. "First your parents get divorced, and they're spilt up, and then you have to deal with this whole new lifestyle. It used to be in my old school, if you were from a broken home and your parents were divorced, you were looked down upon. So, some of our kids are looked down upon, and they are really scared about their family now. It was frightening for me."

Her mom found out about HGLP and the Just For Us group. Renae decided to give it a try.

"They were real nice to me that day and they all took me in," says Renae. "Usually when you are new, people are kind of cold toward friendly. It was nice and inviting. I couldn't wait to go back."

"They could understand what I was going through," says



Renae with mother Rhonda, and her partner Lynn at a HGLP family activity.

Renae. "Some of their parents had just come out to them. Some of them had known for a while. It was just nice to have people to talk to. You didn't have to be scared to tell people about what was going on in your family and what your problems were because they all understood. You weren't in the closet and you didn't have to hide what was going on."

Many of the kids in the group who come from divorced homes feel caught in the middle of a battle between their parents.

"Usually kids are asked to choose one way or the other," says Renae. "You either love me or don't love me and you love the other one, but you can't have both of us. That's another issue that we have to deal with in our group."

Renae says she is open about her family now at her new school. She says her teachers and friends have been supportive. She is no

longer worried that her friends will abandon her.

"Some of my friends will come over to my house, and I haven't told them about my mom yet," she says. "They'll be hanging around my house and they'll figure things out. So when I finally decided to come out to my friends, they're like, 'Oh, we already figured that out.'"

For information about Just For Us, contact Renae at 281-738-0832.

Books for Kids

Compiled by Lambda Rising Bookstore

ANNA DAY AND THE O-RING; Wickens, Elaine; \$6.95 - Evan has dog named Anna Day, a best friend named Ileana, and two moms. But what's really on his mind is the missing piece to the tent that he got for his birthday. It takes some unintentional help from Anna Day to solve the crisis.

ASHA'S MUMS; Elwin, Rosamund and Michele Paulse; \$5.95 - Asha's two lesbian mums become an issue for the teacher and the curiosity of classmates. Asha responds that having two mums is not a big deal. They are family.

BEACH PARTY WITH ALEXIS; Johnson-Calvo, Sarita; \$2.95 - Alexis and her two moms decide to have a cookout on the beach and invite all of Alexis' multi-cultural friends.

BELINDA'S BOUQUET; Newman, Leslea illustrated by Michael Willhoite; \$6.95 - Daniel's

best friend, Belinda, is cruelly teased for being fat until one of Daniel's mothers takes them both into the garden. There, she gently explains that flowers, like people, take many forms. Each has its own needs, and its own beauty.

BOY'S BEST FRIEND; Alden, Joan; \$12.95 - Will, a seven year old asthma sufferer, wants nothing at all for his birthday if he can't have a dog. He sees his birthday come and almost go without a gift. But at the last hour, Will's two moms present him with a dog who will make a difference by being different. (For ages 4-8)

DADDY MACHINE; Valentine, Johnny illustrated by Lynette Schmidt; \$6.95 - A fantasy tale of two kids with lesbian mothers who decide they want daddies and, while their mothers are out, create a machine to make their own daddies.

continued on page 32

YOUR FULL-SERVICE FLORIST

Special Occasions or Anytime

- Designs for All Occasions
- Fresh Arrangements
- Permanent Floral Designs



- Citywide Delivery Available
- Flowers Wired Worldwide
- Major Credit Cards Accepted

1700 Waugh Dr.

713-529-2300

Beautifully nestled among the live oaks and tall pines on a prominent corner at San Felipe and Bering is a new symbol of strength, elegance and compassionate service. With the recent opening of J.B. Earthman - Tanglewood, the Earthman family rededicates itself to providing unexcelled service while entering its second century of dignified, affordable care.



Visit our website
www.earthmanfunerals.com

J. B. EARTHMAN
Tanglewood
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
5740 San Felipe at Bering 713-785-3911
Stan Ford, Funeral Director/Manager

The Joy of Elegance...

You invite the guest, and we'll do all the rest...

- 10-2,500 Guests
- Service Personnel
- Flowers
- Box Lunches
- Luncheons, Buffets & Seated Dinners
- Office & Private Parties
- Wedding Receptions
- Cocktail Receptions

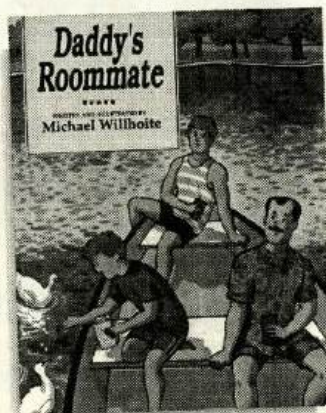


JOY CLAYTON, Owner

Clayton Catering
Full Service Caterers
1701 California St. 713-526-1800

Books

continued from page 31



DADDY'S ROOMMATE; Willhoite, Michael; \$8.95 - For children aged two to five! In 32 pages with color illustrations, we see a young boy, his father, and the father's roommate in many situations familiar to all kinds of families.

DAY THEY PUT A TAX ON RAINBOWS AND OTHER STORIES; Valentine, Johnny; \$12.95 - Three brothers use their unique talents to discover hidden treasure; a girl is washed off her boat during a storm and discovers a kingdom beneath the sea; and a young boy saves his village from a future without rainbows.

DUKE WHO OUTLAWED JELLY BEANS AND OTHER STORIES; Valentine, Johnny; \$8.95 - Five original fairy tales about being different make up this enchanting collection of stories with original color drawings by Lynette Schmidt.

ENTERTAINER; Willhoite, Michael; \$3.95 - Fame and fortune come to Alex, a talented boy who loves to juggle — until he discovers what's really important in life. A story told in pictures.

FAIRY TALES OF OSCAR WILDE; Wilde, Oscar; \$19.95 - These moving stories span the range of human emotion with wonder and romance that ensure them a lasting place in the hearts of children and adults.

FAMILIES: A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY, COMMITMENT, AND LOVE; Jenness, Aylette; \$4.95 - Seventeen children and their parents openly discuss the challenges and benefits of contemporary family life today. Includes interviews with children of gay and lesbian parents.

FAMILIES: A COLORING BOOK; Willhoite, Michael; \$2.95 - Many kinds of families, including a diversity of races, generations, and cultural backgrounds, are depicted in this book, along with several of the families including lesbian and gay parents.

FUR PERSON; Sarton, May; \$6.95 - This charming story is drawn from the true adventures of May Sarton's own cat and recounts his evolution from a Cat-About-Town to a Gentleman Cat and finally his emergence as a genuine Fur Person.

GENEROUS JEFFERSON BARTLEBY JONES; Brown, Forman; illustrated by Leslie Trowin; \$7.95 - Jefferson considers himself lucky to have two dads, because one of them is always free to have fun with him on the weekends. He generously loans out one dad, then the other — and suddenly discovers himself home alone for the first time.

GLORIA GOES TO GAY PRIDE; Newman, Leslea; \$7.95 - Gay Pride Day is fun for Gloria, and for her two mothers. Here, the author of *HEATHER*



HAS TWO MOMMIES describes, from the viewpoint of a young girl, just what makes up this special day.

GREAT PEACE MARCH; Near, Holly; \$15.95 - In words and images that span the earth, Near celebrates peace and the courage required to make it real in our world. The stirring words and dramatic paintings by Lisa Desimini create a vision of peace that becomes a powerful call to action on behalf of a peaceful planet.

HEATHER HAS TWO MOMMIES; Newman, Leslea; \$7.95 - In story form, we learn of a new kind of family structure that is really ordinary in its daily living and caring relationships. Line drawings and simple language tell of Heather growing to preschool age and beginning to question why she has two mommies instead of a daddy and a mommy.

HISTORY OF WOMEN FOR CHILDREN; Epstein, Vivian; \$5.95 - The first and only book to outline women's story for younger children. In this book, society is traced from matriarchy to patriarchy, describing the subsequent loss of women's power. Many notable achievements of famous women are portrayed.

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOUR DAD WAS GAY?; Heron, Ann and Meredith Maran; \$6.95 - Jasmine, Michael and Noah are all regular kids, except for one thing: they have gay parents. This book, written by two lesbian mothers with help from their sons, will be a lifeline for all young people who have to face the issues and concerns of having gay parents.

JENNY LIVES WITH ERIC AND MARTIN; Bosche, Susan; \$7.95 - The first English-language book ever to explain the gay lifestyle to young readers. Through photos and brief text, this book tells the story of a weekend in the life of a young girl who lives with a gay male couple — her father and his lover. Ages 6-9.

LIVING IN SECRET; Salat, Cristina; \$3.99 - When 11-year-old Amelia runs away from her father's home in New York to live with her mother in California, she must take on a whole new identity. If her father tracks her down, there is a chance he will have her mother arrested. This fast-paced, contemporary novel examines the changing face of today's "traditional" family.

MY FIRST COLORING BOOK; Haring, Keith; \$4.95 - From the estate of Haring comes this delightful collection of large drawings with thick black lines suitable for coloring. Haring's distinctive work allows the colorer to use imagination in creating colors to compliment his designs.

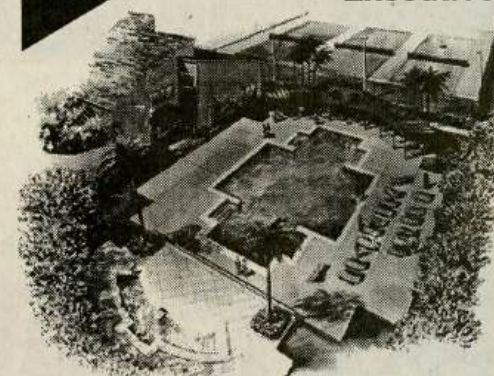
ONE DAD, TWO DADS, BROWN DAD, BLUE DADS; Valentine, Johnny; \$10.95 - Two children, one with blue dads, one from a more tradi-

continued on page

Twenty One Eleven HOLLY HALL Apartments

Take Advantage
of Our 1 Bedroom
Specials

1, 2 and 3 bedroom apartments
Executive suites also available



- Washer/Dryer in every apartment
- Intrusion Alarms
- 32-foot Jacuzzi
- 24-hour MANNED ACCESS GATES
- Fitness Center, FREE Fitness Trainer
- Lighted Tennis Courts

REM
PROPERTIES, INC.
PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY REM PROPERTIES, INC.

2111 Holly Hall
799-2111

In Memoriam Of Our Founder, Cecil Ray deLoach (1952-1991)

Living with HIV? The Medical Escrow Society

can help you make the most of your life insurance today.

You receive **CASH NOW** for your life insurance policy (up to 85% of your policy's value).

We create competition and negotiate among the 12 most reputable funding sources to make sure you receive the **highest cash settlement....We work for you!**

We qualify anyone with a life threatening illness. Absolutely **no fees or obligation** at any time.

All types of policies qualify: group (issued through employment or associations), term, whole life, universal, federal employees (FGLI), and veterans (converted VGLI).

All your personal and medical information is held **strictly confidential**.

Client information kits including applications
can be requested 24 hours a day by calling:

1-800-422-1314

OUR INTERNET ADDRESS is www.med-escrow.com

© The Medical Escrow Society 1996



Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer — still in the National Guard?

PHOTO: ZAHEDI/ABC

I N T E R V I E W

Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer

B Y S T E V E N F O S T E R

The unofficial poster girl for the “Gays in the Military” debate, Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer, will be the featured speaker at this year’s 10th Texas Lesbian Conference, held Friday, May 16, at the Renaissance Houston Hotel. Decorated, discharged, reinstated,

subject of both a critically acclaimed book and television movie, the most famous homosexual who ever Served in Silence spoke candidly with *OutSmart* from her home in Seattle on the eve of her attending the March 16 Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Media Awards.

OUTSMART: What’s been going on?

COL. CAMMERMEYER: Well, I’m still in the National Guard, pending the final clarification to determine whether or not the Justice Department is going to try to continue their case in district court. Any word from your attorneys on how successful they’re going to be in that?

Let me backtrack a little bit. You know, I was reinstated in 1994, and at one point, the Justice Department was going to argue that. They wanted to have the case thrown out as though it had never happened. But the judge ruling here and the district attorney in the federal district court have ruled that the policy is unconstitutional, so the Justice Department had wanted to try and get it vacated. And it

went to the appeals court and the appeals court heard the case and they can only reconsider it a moot point — that the policy is no longer in effect, that Cammermeyer is to be reconsevered, and “we won’t rule on it, and we’ll just dismiss it.”

Then they wanted the case to be vacated. They’d have to go back to the district court to see if the judge, who originally decided that it was unconstitutional, would have to throw it over to another decision. And we’re right in that process now of hearing from the Justice Department whether or not they’re taking back their decision.

You know, when I think about it all, I was in the army since 1989, so it’s been a long haul. [laughs] You have such a good sense of humor about it

WANTED

**We'll Buy Your
USED LEATHER, JEANS,
LEATHER GARMENTS &
SPECIALTY ITEMS**

**LEATHER
FOREVER**

711 Fairview - Houston, TX 77006
(713) 526-6940



You'll love it at...
The Lovett Inn

Romantic Rooms • Jacuzzi Suites
Corporate Lodging • Gift Certificates
Refreshing Pool & Jacuzzi • Parties to 150

*One Free Night**

The Lovett Inn

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006
(713) 522-5224 (800) 779-5224

*In conjunction with any other two nights paid Sunday-Thursday. Based on availability. One coupon per customer. Can not be used with any other discount.

all. I guess you've been through so much, it's just a rolling-off-your-back kinda thing. Is there any moment you regret — a time when you said, *Man, this is it. I just wanna get out?*

There was a time when I really wondered what I had gotten into. But I kept on falling back to what the original purpose was to begin with, which was to try and change the policy.

You've felt tremendous support from the community?

Oh, especially from a community that I didn't even know existed. You know, it struck me a little bit like being an immigrant and finding out that there are all sorts of people just like you.

It's liberating when you realize you're far from alone.

And it's that horrible word "empowering." Because with that comes a certain sense of responsibility, I think. You represent a group of people, and that presents an opportunity to go out and try to change people's minds about what [gays and lesbians] are about.

You're going to the GLAAD Awards, is that right?

I was asked to attend the GLAAD Awards to present an award to Sharon Bottoms. [Bottoms, who lost a custody battle to her mother, has also been the subject of a made-for-TV movie.]

Are you excited?

Yeah, I'm looking forward to it.

Got your dress picked out?

Well, I probably will wear my dress [uniform].

Well, you look dashing in it.

Thank you!

Speaking of uniforms, you're in yours in most of your press pics. It's striking, yet somewhat stern and, to many, the military equals cold, firm. Yet you've continually shown a personality to the media that's warm and candid and very loving. It seems you're not just shattering perceptions about gays and lesbians, but about the military in general, which is good. They need a good face in the aftermath of, say, the Tailhook-type scandals. How do you feel about the military as an institution?

Well, I think the military is an institution that needs a lot of help. And that's the tragedy about it. They talk about cleaning it up and taking care of it, but they don't do it. The military is [more concerned with] fighting, and validating how many bombs we can get, how many submarines. For what? Who are the enemy? Who is it that we're gearing up for now?

Good point. A lot of gays and lesbians are really pissed off at President Clinton for don't-ask-don't-tell. Where are you with all that?

I think it backfired, as most compromises do.

You have four children, is that correct?

I have four sons and five grandkids.

And all your sons have accepted your lesbianism and they're happy and everything's fine, right?

Well, it's like a non-issue more than anything else. My son, for instance, is majoring in psychology and he had to give an oral presentation and he talked about the effect of divorce on children. At the end, somebody asked [why I

divorced]. And he said, "Oh, she's gay," and he sort of grinned and sat down. Nobody said a word.

What a testimony to our progress.

And it is really shocking to me. Truly shocking.

Really?

Yeah, because they don't have that same homophobia that I have, have had, and that continues to come back periodically. One of the kids called, and he was not happy in his



I think the military is an institution that needs a lot of help. They talk about cleaning it up, but they don't do it. The military is more concerned with fighting and validating how many bombs we can get. For what? Who are the enemy?

job and wanted to do something different, and he said, "Maybe I'll just come out as gay and write a book and have a movie about me." And this is a kid who is married, with kids, and happy. You know, it becomes a joke. It's so curious. It makes great storytelling. It shows how far we've come.

When you were coming out, was it more difficult coming out to your children or your parents?

Well, my father was [coming to live with me] and so it was sort of a mixed blessing. You know, "Okay, if you don't want anything to do with me, you're on your own." [laughs] And when I wrote him, I didn't have to deal with him directly. The reaction that he had was with my brother and not with me. But it was, "I have bad news. Your sister says that she's a lesbian." And my brother said, "What are you going to do about it?" And my father said, "Nothing." And my brother said, "Well, you have to do something." So my father wrote back and said, exactly as it was in the movie, "I hope it doesn't hurt your career." It was very matter-of-fact. But with the kids, it was much more heartwrenching for me because I really wasn't sure that they would want to have anything to do with me.

And that frightened you.

Well, it wouldn't if I wouldn't have fought so long to establish a relationship with the children. I tried very hard to be a good parent, and your worst expectations are exactly what you're fearing: that you'll be rejected and that bond would be no longer. I think the tragedy is that we don't give enough credit to that relationship. We don't give them much credit for being involved in that relationship.

We expect them to reject it.

This is basically OutSmart's parenting issue.

American College of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

Curriculum is fully accredited by the National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Master Level
Educational Program
is approved by
the Texas State Board of
Acupuncture Examiners

Continuing education for
health care professionals

Full and
part-time enrollment

VA Benefits

ACAOM

is committed

to providing an excellent
education for its students
and affordable health care
to the community.

For more information call

713/780-9777

MCCR Choir Sunday, April 13, Auction '97 1997 at 1:00 PM



in the MCCR
Fellowship Hall

*A Texas
Hoedown!*

Come join us for
brisket for
lunch and some
fantastic items
for bidin'!



Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
1919 Decatur St Houston, Tx 77007 ☎ 501-9149

Any tips?

Well, my kids certainly have come a long way from being unsure about gay life and of the effect of my coming out on our relationship. And we've all worked through all of that. We've worked through our roles, parent roles, grandparenting roles the same as everybody else. You know, "Gee, can you babysit this Saturday night?" [laughs] **You've been there, you've done that.**

I was taking care of three of my grandsons for a couple of weeks while their parents were on vacation and I had this rush of déjà-vu. *I have been here before! That's why I went back to work!* It was quite fascinating because I hadn't realized how anxious I was to do more than just child care, I was feeling claustrophobic, all of the things I was feeling 25 years earlier.

What are the ages of these three?

There are twin boys that are eight months old and their older brother is probably nine months older than that.

You volunteered for this duty?

Well, you know, you only volunteer once. And the second time is under duress. It's funny, there's one thing you never lose.

What's that?

The ability to lift up legs and change diapers.

Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer will be the featured speaker at the 10th Texas Lesbian Conference to be held May 16-18 at the Renaissance Houston Hotel. For more information, call 713/867-3934.

Last Man

continued from page 17

Although I'm not sure whether it's going to play well on billboards. One of the things that the late minister Malcolm X talked a lot about, and something that we in the lesbian and gay community can learn from, was that "nobody puts more obstacles in the way of the black movement than black people." I think that we do that within the gay and lesbian community, too. Many of our obstacles are created by ourselves. It has to do with being up against an obstacle like the United States government, or peoples' religious biases, or certain prejudices. Goliath is so much bigger than David that David, instead of fighting Goliath, ends up arguing with himself over which rock to throw. That's what we get caught up in. The picture is so overwhelming that we get caught up in the details. Unfortunately, so many of those details fall within the walls of our officers and our body — not within the scheme of what we're trying to accomplish.

When you speak of Malcolm X, obviously he is an influence in your life...

He is.

When you were 12, who were your influences?

Elvis Presley [laughing] and Shawn Cassidy.

Who are your heroes now?

Well, there are many. Let's see, Malcolm X, Bill Scott, Terry Tafoya, [long pause] The Artist Formerly Known as Prince — which may seem odd, but these are all people who made order out of chaos. And I look to them to get inspiration — from their words, their work and their music.

What three words best describe you?

Honest, forthright and mentored.

What are the goals this year for the HGLPC Political Action Committee?

To elect an openly lesbian or gay person to City Council, and to elect a qualified candidate for mayor.

Rumor has it that former HGLPC President Annise Parker is running for City Council in the fall. Has the HGLPC endorsed Parker?

It's not a rumor, Annise is running. And no, the caucus has not yet endorsed her. However, I have no doubt that it soon will.

What role does the HGLPC hope to play in the historic mayoral race this election year?

Hold a series of "HEET Wave" house parties to raise money for the caucus and introduce Annise Parker when we endorse her. For the mayor's race, we will be activating an intense phone bank campaign, mailing out 30,000 endorsement newsletters and provide Victory Club members with an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with all our endorsed candidates.

What is the Victory Club?

The Victory Club is composed of individuals who give \$1,500 to support the caucus' financial future.

Do you have any final thoughts?

Membership is of vital importance to the caucus. The more members we have, the more money we can raise, the more voter identification we can provide to endorsed candidates. Money, people and votes — that's the basis of political strength and survival.

Oh My God!
**I forgot to advertise in
OutSmart's Pride Issue!**



Don't be like Clara . . . and miss out on getting into OutSmart's June '97 Pride Issue. There is no better time to target Houston's gay community than Pride Week. While OutSmart reaches thousands of Houstonians each month, our Pride Week issue puts your message in front of even more consumers who come into town just for this event.

HURRY!!!

Reserve your ad space by Friday, May 2.

Call 713/520-7237.

Karen Derr & Associates Realty



List with us
& We list
Your Home
On-Line For
FREE!!!

862-1600

2 Offices to serve you!

From the "Inner-Loop" to "Horse Country"
KAREN DERR IS...

"The Realtor with Horsepower" (tm)



FOR THE HORSY CROWD - Only 2 yrs old, 6+ acres surrounded by nice homes, 3 bedrms plus study with French doors to overlook covered porch. Barn, workshop with 3 overhead doors. \$235,000. Call Karen - 713-862-1600

BUNGALOW BLUES? - Go just 5 minutes outside the loop & this 4 bedroom 2 bath, large closets, both formals, 3 car garage is yours in lovely neighborhood \$129,900

FISH IN YOUR OWN POND WITH PIER - LARGE LOG HOME on 8.5 acres. Gamerm up, country kitchen with stone accents, large pantry, island, porches all around. Only 6 years old, like new interior. \$249,900 or with 3.5 acres for \$199,900.

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT? - Nice brick home on 1 full acre, but another 3/4 avail. 3 Bed 2 bath, nice large den with French doors to huge sparkling pool. \$96,000

COZY HIDE-AWAY - 10 acres with cedar home surrounded by multi-level decks. Woods all around, private road. Showplace vacation home just minutes from Houston - \$89,000. Call Karen - 713-862-1600

ATASCOCITA PINEHURST - builders own custom home, like new, glass transoms, upstairs gameroom, 4 bedrooms, master down has large bath with garden tub \$515,900

HEIGHTS BUNGALOW - 2 large bedrooms, huge kitchen, ceramic tile entry & bath, central air & heat, big covered back porch, large corner lot. \$119,900. Call Karen

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE EXTRAORDINARY LISTINGS WE

SPECIALIZE IN. LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL?

GIVE ME A CALL AT 862-1600 OR VISIT US ON-LINE AT...

http://www.KarenDerr.com

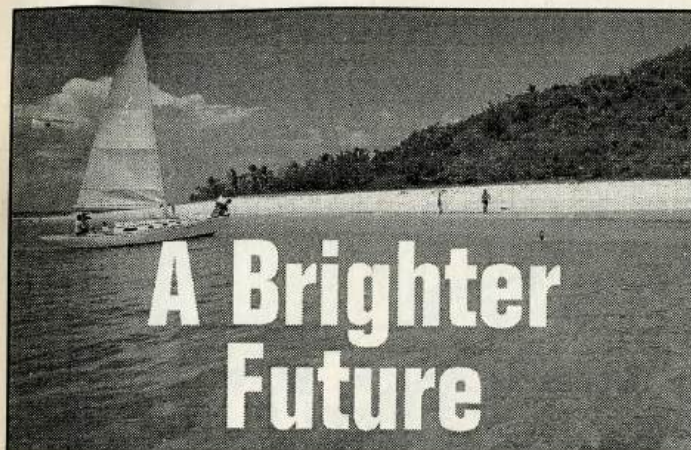
**+ Maranatha
FELLOWSHIP**
Metropolitan Community Church
P.O. BOX 667032 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266-7032

Bible Study Sunday 10 AM

Worship Service Sunday 11 AM

Nursery Provided

For more information,
call Reverend Janet Parker at 528-6756.



A Brighter Future

Providing financial support for people facing a life-threatening illness.

We can turn your life insurance policy into cash and provide you with what you deserve – confidentiality, personal attention, and fast service. Call your local representative, Janet Cohen, for a **free video** and start the application process today. **Create peace of mind.**

The Choice is Simple – Experience, Advocacy and Education.



or contact our website: www.lifebenefactors.com
Founding Member, Viatical Association of America



He'll do a helluva lot more than just sweep you off your feet.

Want to make your sweetheart really happy? Give him another man – a Man-Maid man, that is. Man-Maid cleans your home from top to bottom, quickly, expertly, beautifully. Sure, you could express your springtime affections with flowers or a card. But why not give your true love something that will really sweep him off his feet? A spring cleaning from Man-Maid.



call: 993.9737 page: 949.1861

Freedom From Fear

continued from page 13

willingness of police to investigate the crimes and prosecutors to charge criminals under it. But enhancing penalties for hate crimes may increase the reporting rate and arrest rate by sending a signal to police, prosecutors and victims alike that this state takes such violence seriously.

Two main objections have been raised against the Hate Crimes bill. The first goes something like this: Crime is crime. We should not punish criminals worse just because they attack a member of a politically correct minority group. The lives of gays, blacks and Jews are no more valuable than anybody else's, so why should people who attack them get a harsher sentence? There was a time when I saw merit in this argument.

The problem with the crime-is-crime argument is that it is both true and beside the point. Certainly a gay person's life is no more intrinsically valuable than a straight person's. Any law that tried to establish the opposite principle would be offensive. But that's not what the Hate Crimes law would do. The Hate Crimes law does not protect classes of *people*; it targets classes of violent *offenders* (those motivated by bias). The criminal does not get a longer sentence because she mugs a person who happens to be gay. She gets a longer sentence if she targets the victim *because* the victim is (or is perceived to be) gay. Thus, the law is not triggered by the sexual orientation (or race or religion) of the victim but by the motivations of the attacker.

Moreover, the law swings both ways. It enhances penalties for attacks motivated by bias against a majority group as well as by bias against a minority group. Indeed, in the case in which the Supreme Court determined that hate crimes laws are constitutional, the defendants were a group of African Americans who had attacked a white person.

Further, there is nothing wrong or unusual about concentrating our police or prosecutorial resources in places where protection is most needed. Crimes against police officers are especially harshly punished because police officers are especially vulnerable to criminal attack and because we perceive a wider social harm to such attacks than simply harm to the officer-victim. Gays, too, are also especially vulnerable to criminal attacks. The social harm of hate crimes goes well beyond the effect it has on the victim alone. It terrorizes the entire class of people who are gay.

Similarly, we concentrate police officers in neighborhoods with higher crime rates. Does that mean we value the lives of residents in those neighborhoods more than others? Hardly. We put the police in those neighborhoods because that's where they're needed. The Hate Crimes bill identifies classes of bias that have been identified as common motivations behind crime. It expresses the judgment that these areas are problem areas more than others. The legislature makes these kinds of judgments in almost all law it adopts. Something like this is the response to the tiresome person who asks, Why aren't Aggies included in the bill? Aggies aren't included because, although people ridicule them, Aggies are not commonly the target of crime simply because they're Aggies. The law should address identified problems, not fantasies.

The second argument against the Hate Crimes bill is that it will be impossible to know the subjective motives of the criminal. After all, how do we know whether Mr. Smith killed Ms. Jones because she's gay or because he wanted her gold watch?

That is such a poor argument, it would not merit a response if it were not so common. Criminal defendants are sentenced every day in this country based on a jury's determination of why they did or did not do something. Did Mr. Smith kill Ms. Jones because he wanted her gold watch or because she was about to shoot him? The answer can be gauged from the objective facts surrounding the homicide and from any witnesses who saw or heard the events. And the answer determines to a large extent the punishment, if any, meted out to Mr. Smith. Similarly, whether a crime was motivated by bias can be judged by a number of considerations: the intensity of the attack, statements made by the defendant before or after the crime, the location of the attack, and the observations of any witnesses. This is not rocket science, folks.

The Hate Crimes bill will not deliver us entirely from fear. That will take a change in social attitudes toward gays far broader and deeper than a single law can achieve. But if it passes, the Hate Crimes law will send a clear message to everyone in Texas: whatever you think of homosexuals, you better think again if you're thinking of committing a criminal act to put us in our place. Our place is next to you, after all, sharing in the essential liberty of freedom from fear.



Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney, is state president of the Log Cabin Republicans. The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the views of Log Cabin.

Kroger On Montrose

Serving our community since 1977

Full Service Deli



Fresh party trays and orders to go
Gourmet meats and cheeses

Floral



Arrangements custom-made for any occasion
Floral deliveries nationwide
Call 1-800-4-KROGER for delivery



Pharmacy

For all your medication needs
Competitive prices
Over 150 different insurance plans honored and private billings for many others if you qualify

3300 Montrose Boulevard
526-7865 Rx 526-1239



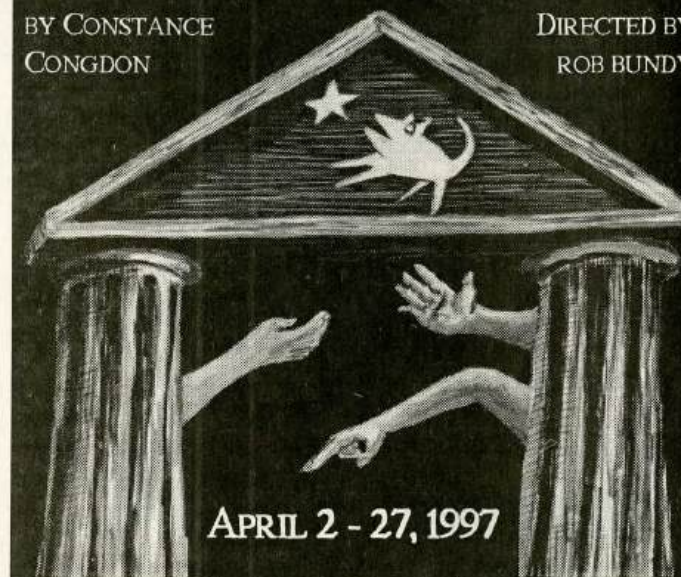
Kroger — Where It Costs Less To Get More

STAGES
Repertory Theatre

DOG OPERA

BY CONSTANCE
CONGDON

DIRECTED BY
ROB BUNDY



APRIL 2 - 27, 1997

NO DOGS. NO OPERA. JUST GREAT THEATRE.

CALL 52-STAGE

STAGES REPERTORY THEATRE — 3201 ALLEN PARKWAY AT WAUGH DRIVE

Art by Gail Sipstak

U-FRAME-IT

or we frame it for you!

Traditional and Contemporary Frames...
with just 7 day service!



OVER
1000
FRAME PROFILES

Save \$1000

Custom Framing Over \$50
Not valid with other offers.
Expires 4/30/97

U-FRAME-IT

3425 Kirby at Richmond
(between Office Depot & Pizza Uno)
713.523.2205



No Haggle. No Hassle.
A different kind of car company.
A different kind of car.



Saturn of Houston

Southwest Frwy @ Beltway 8, exit Bissonnet

713/777-6100

SATURN 10050 SW Freeway Houston, TX 77074

**Your Home
Away
From Home**



**TOOPEES
COFFEES**

New Expanded Menu

Now Serving
Premium Beer & Wine

1830 W. Alabama • 713/52-AROMA

M-Th 6a-11p • F 6a-12:30a • Sat 7a-12:30a • Sun 7a-10p

COMING!
Diana Jones!
May 10, 9-11pm
Call for ticket
info.

**HOLLYWOOD
FRAME GALLERY**

*Come out
and see us!*

**The Best
Selection
of Celebrity
Autographs**

Custom Framing
Movie Collectibles

**2431 Bissonnet
713/942-8885**

Kathleen & Ricky Connaughton, Proprietors

OutL

by *Connie Moore*

When is a final court order not a final order? When it involves minor children and a family law court. I would bet that each of you knows someone who feels he or she got a raw deal after a divorce or child custody dispute. However, many people are unaware that any decree in a *Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship* is seldom final when children are involved. The court retains the power to modify the orders that provide for custody, support, or possession of a child until the child reaches adulthood.

The decree can be modified in three main areas: custody, support, and access. A modification in custody involves changing the managing conservator of the child as defined by the decree. A modification of support involves changing the amount of money paid as child support between each conservator. Finally, a modification of access simply changes the visitation rights between parties.

Custody

The court can modify a decree on the basis of custody of a child of any age under 18 if the circumstances of the parties have "materially and substantially changed." The parties involved include the possessory conservator, sole managing conservator, joint managing conservators, or any other party affected by the decree. A material or substantial change could include remarriage of a party, a change in residence or school of the child, a change in the physical or emotional needs of the child, or even the "coming out" of one of the parents. In the case of a joint managing conservatorship decree between lesbian or gay co-parents, a change of circumstances would also certainly include the parties deciding they no longer wished to live together. With a modification of the decree, a material change could result in the appointment of a new sole managing conservator for the child or the appointment of joint managing conservators. However, this appointment must be a positive improvement for the child.

The above considerations concern a child of any age. If the child is 12 or older, the child can file a written designation choosing either parent as managing conservator. If the court finds this change is in the best interests of the child, the court can modify the decree appropriately.

Generally a change in custody will not be considered by the court within one year of the last custody order. A provision of the Texas Family Code provides for a modification if the child's present

environment may endanger the child's physical health or significantly impair the child's emotional development. Again the standard test remains that modification is in the best interest of the child. Also, a court will modify if the sole managing conservator has voluntarily relinquished custody of the child for over six months.

When a sole managing conservator or possessory conservator wishes merely to modify custody to a joint managing conservatorship between the parties, three elements must be present: circumstances must have materially or substantially changed since the date of the decree; keeping sole managing conservatorship of one parent would be detrimental to the welfare of the child; and the

modification would be a positive improvement and in the best interest of the child.

**I would bet that each of
you knows someone
who feels he or she got a
raw deal after a divorce
or child custody
dispute. However, many
people are unaware that
any decree in a *Suit
Affecting the Parent-
Child Relationship* is
seldom final when
children are involved.**

On the other hand, a court can modify the decree from joint to sole managing conservatorship only if the change would be a positive improvement in the best interest of the child and if one of the following three elements are present: the child's present environment may endanger the child physically or mentally; there has been a substantial violation of the terms of the decree; or a material or substantial change in circumstances has made the present decree unworkable.

Support

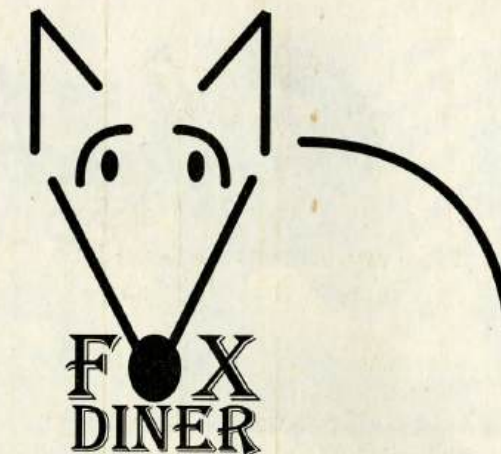
The court also modifies child support based on changed circumstances. Many people are aware that there are now guidelines for the amount child support paid in Texas. The existence of the guidelines can in itself be a changed circumstance warranting an increase or decrease in child support.

The Texas Family Code specifically states a few circumstances that cannot be used to change the amount of support paid. For example, if the parent who is paying child support remarries, the court will not add the new spouse's resources to the original conservator's for the purpose of raising or lowering the amount of child support. Also, an increase in the needs, standard of living, or lifestyle of the party receiving child support does not warrant a change in the amount of child support paid.

Access

The last area where the court can modify a decree is access to the child, frequently referred to as visitation. The court will modify

continued on page 49



Comfort Food Is
What This Vixen's Fixin'

905 Taft

Between Allen Parkway and West Dallas

713/523-5FOX

HOURS:

Monday-Thursday • 11AM to 10 PM

Friday • 11 AM to 11 PM

Saturday • 5:30 PM to 11 PM

Here is what people are saying
about FOX DINER...

"...a veritable temple of indulgence."

—The Houston Business Journal

"...works like a charm."

—The Houston Business Press

"...recapture the days when
food was fun and delicious."

—The Houston Chronicle

"Life is a banquet, and some poor
sons-of-a-bitches are starving to death."

—Auntie Mame

Proudly serving all hungry Houstonians!

Calendar of Events

April

4-6 Friends Fest '97. The main event for this Texas tradition of women's music in the woods is its Saturday night concert. Hosted by comedian Nancy Ford, the scheduled performers include: 2 Girls/2 Guitars/2 Much, Anna Egge, Jai (Little Bear), Susan Pop/Beth Lewis/Shelly Reynolds, Suzz Raff, The Freds, Mandy

Woods/Lara Linette, Barbara Lewis & the Sisterhood, Nancy Scott/Millie Marlow/Mary Reynolds, Therapy Sisters, Handful, The Jane Gang, and Girls with Guitars. The weekend also offers a gigantic raffle, a Friday night movie and a Saturday volleyball tournament. At Recreation Plantation in Dripping Springs, Texas. Call 512/894-0567 for more information.

4-6 Home & Garden Show. This remodeling extravaganza is for the home owner who is serious about remodeling. Encompassing over 125,000 square

feet of space, this exposition offers the very latest in technical and design advancements for every aspect of home and garden including home remodelers, improvements, decorating, gardening supplies, landscaping, maintenance, services and everything for the home, all under one roof. \$6 for adults, \$4 for juniors and seniors, free for children under 12. Friday 2-9 pm; Saturday 10 am-9 pm; Sunday 11 am-6 pm @ George R. Brown Convention Center.

5 David Roussevé. As Houston's favorite

SMOOTH MAN, HAIRY WOMAN



Greg Mottola



Miss Xanna Don't

Greg Mottola is writer/director of the new film, *The Daytrippers*. "The main premise of the film is a woman looking for her husband and pondering whether or not there is something wrong with her marriage," says Mottola. It so happens that a lot of the search takes place with her family in a car. "Most road movies are about finding freedom and then realizing that there's either a price to pay for that or that you can't really escape yourself. And here, it's more like being put into a prison movie sweat box that happens to have wheels on it! This is not about cool people driving around with the wind in their hair," says the smooth-talking director. You gotta see the ending. Now playing at River Oaks Theatre, 2009 W. Gray, 524-2175.

Miss Xanna Don't is lead singer of the alternative-country band, Miss Xanna Don't & The Wanted. "My real name is Suzanne, so I've gone by Xanna for a long time," she says. "The 'Don't' part came from a drunk guy...that kept bugging me and asking me my name. When I told him, he said, 'Oh, like Xanna Do.' and I said, 'No, like Xanna Don't.'... It was too good to not keep." Her hair-raising hairdo is constructed of her own natural hair. Using approximately half a can of hairspray, she does it herself in about 30 minutes. However, when she comes to Houston, because of the weather, "it takes me about an hour." The band will perform

Friday, April 25, at 10:30 p.m. at The Blue Iguana, 903 Richmond, 523-2583.

son on the international contemporary dance scene, New York-based David Roussevé returns home with his powerful company of 12 dancers. He has created a significant body of work in his own style of riveting dance-theater that incorporates sensational ensemble dancing with music, mime and storytelling. 8 pm @ Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater. For more information: 227-ARTS.

6 Great Gatsby '97. Bring out the knickerbockers and "flapper" dresses, and celebrate the second annual Great Gatsby benefiting Body Positive Wellness Center, which provides health and rehabilitative programs for those with HIV. Houston's historic Lovett Inn will be transformed back in time to recapture the Halcyon days of endless Prohibition Era partying. Revelers can sip refreshing cocktails and beverages, sample a delicious buffet by Boulevard Bistro, La Strada, Pico's and Tutto Bene, participate in the costume contest, acquire silent auction items and enjoy entertainment by Music Man Entertainment. Dressy casual (Gatsby costume optional). 4-8 pm @ Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. For more info: 713/524-2374.

9 Dog Opera. Place a free 40-word Romance ad and enjoy complimentary wine and free admission to the premiere of the new gay comedy, *Dog Opera*. Join Houston Press Romance, 7-8 pm, at Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh. For more info: 624-1416.

10 Bering's Tenth. 1997 marks Bering Community Service Foundation's tenth year of service to the community. Founded in 1987, the Support Network, Care Center and Dental Clinic served only a handful of people. Today, Bering serves over 4,000 individuals. To commemorate the anniversary, the entire community is invited to a candlelight procession at 7 pm, beginning on Harold St. (between Dunlavy & Mulberry) and processing to the Bering Memorial United Methodist Church parking lot where festival tents will be set up for people to gather. For more information: 713/529-6071.

11&12 33 Fainting Spells continues their tour of *The Uninvited*, an evening-length dance theater duet by Seattle's choreographing sisters Dayna & Gaelen Hanson. The troupe takes their name from several Chekov plays in which fainting occurs a total of 33 times. The dancers share an eccentric attitude toward movement, which Dayna describes as "neurological chaos" or "movement that surprises the mover." \$15 general public, \$10 members, \$7 students/seniors. 8 pm @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main @ Naylor). Reservations: 713/228-0914.

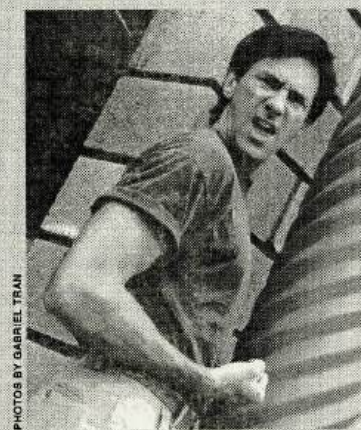
11&26 Garden And Yard Society (GAYS). On the 11th, there's food and fun plus an organic composting lecture @ Inside/Outside Antiques, 502 W. 18th @ Nicholson. On the 26th, an all-day bus tour to Bellville, Hempstead Brenham. For more info: Regina @ 862-3922 or Vickie & Clyde @ 661-6378.

12 Poet Louis Adame presents "Poets on AIDS: A Reading of Their Work." Works by Doty, Gunn, Howard, Liu, Rich, Hacker and other poets who have written about the AIDS epidemic will be read. 3 pm @ Houston Community College, 1200 Holman. For more information: 639-7582.

12 & 19 Just For Us, a social/support group for teenagers who have gay or lesbian parents, is holding a scavenger hunt on the 12th. Then there's a camping trip planned for the 19th. For the time and location of each event, call 713/284-4939.

13 Ethnic Festival. The 35th Annual Sts. Cyril & Methodius Slavic Heritage Festival, the "Oldest Ethnic Festival," is unique. It features five Slavic nationalities — the Croatian, Czech, Polish, Slovenian and Ukrainian — coming together to form a celebration of

STAGES HAS GONE TO THE DOGS



PHOTOS BY GABRIEL TRAM



Rob Bundy, artistic director at Stages Repertory Theatre, takes stock of his debut season and answers spring fever in Houston with *Dog Opera*.

by Q. VanBenschoten

OutSmart: Last fall in *OutSmart*, you said that part of your self-evaluation as a director was to have some one walk out of your performances. How have the audiences reacted?

Rob Bundy: We've been successful. We have two classifications of audience members: the walk-outs and the walk-ups. The walk-outs say, "This is too much for me." The walk-ups say, "It is so wonderful to see vital theatre in Houston."

So they either love you or hate you.

I'm proud to say the fan mail outweighs the hate mail, but the hate mail is just as important. It indicates that we are shedding the right audience members.

Shedding?

For a while the fare at Stages was just plain vanilla — light, entertaining, mindless fare. And there are audiences that want that. Stages is producing plays for people who want to be entertained in a wide variety of ways. Stages has more flavors than just vanilla, and the audience gets a taste of something new with every show.

Why *Dog Opera*, and how does it fit into the season?

Dog Opera is the most contemporary piece we are doing this year. I have wanted to direct *Dog Opera* ever since I read an early draft long before the New York production at the Public.

So it's a musical?

No. No dogs. No opera. Just good theatre.

The tag line for the show states, "No matter what side of the fence you're on, a good man is hard to find." Where did that come from?

Connie Congdon has drawn — with enormous sensitivity — a whole mélange of characters, both gay and straight. The play centers around the friendship of Maddie and Pete, best friends since adolescence. They are close, maybe too close. One of Pete's boyfriends actually accuses Pete of having a celibate marriage with Maddie so that all he really needs from a man is to get laid. Sometimes friendships are like that. They prevent you from having a healthy romantic relationship.

Playwright Constance Congdon has intentionally structured the casting so that some actors play a variety of parts. For instance, one actor plays everybody's boyfriend, including both Maddie's and Pete's. This device makes a subtle statement and is intended to diminish the perceived difference between heterosexual and homosexual relationships. It emphasizes just how similar we all are, regardless of how our romantic pursuits are manifested.

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Speaking of multiple roles, I notice a number of actors returning from earlier this season: Robin Burke, Connie Cooper, Holli Golden and Bill Hardy. Are you getting that "repertory company" feeling?

I'm not out to develop a Stages company, but I know a good actor when I see one.

There are rumors that the set is red.

It's true! It's true! The locations aren't realistic but hinted at through the use of limited props, lighting and sound. This production typically has a bare, minimalistic set — a blank canvas. Elva Stewart, the scenic designer, was very clever. She said, "Just because the canvas has to be blank doesn't mean that it has to be white, black or a neutral color."

And the symbolism?

No. There is no symbolic meaning. It is just a lively, fun color. But I'm sure that someone will come up with a symbolic meaning and get an A on their thesis.

What's planned for next season?

If not telling. You'll have to wait until May 1 to find out. Needless to say, it will be diverse, exciting, and I'm sticking around for it.

Dog Opera runs from April 2-27 at Stages, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. For tickets, call 713/527-8243.

tradition, art, culture, music, historic displays and exciting food and drink. Admission is \$3 for adults, and children under 12 are free. At St. Thomas University at the Jerabek Center (near Montrose @ Yoakum & W. Alabama). For more information: Jolanta Mazewski-Dryden @ 713/529-1616.

14 An Evening of 12-Step Humor. The universally appealing and powerful humor of Mark Lundholm made such an impact across the country last year that he was the first non-alumnus invited to entertain at the Betty Ford Clinic Annual Alumni Reunion. His performance at the HBO Workspace last July created such a sensation that the industry people invited him back for an encore performance. He confronts his old demons, heroin addiction, alcoholism and sexual dysfunction. It's comedy for the chemically challenged at 8 pm @ Spellbinders, 10001 Westheimer. Tickets are \$10; advance tickets are strongly advised. For more info: 713/266-2525. No alcohol will be served!

15 Organs, AIDS & Taxes. Members of the Houston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists perform beautiful and exciting organ music to help ease the stress of tax day. Donations will benefit the AIDS Foundation of Houston. 7:30 pm @ Westminster United Methodist Church, 5801 San Felipe @ Bering.

15 Flower Show. "Flourescence: The Arts in Bloom," a biennial flower and horticulture show, features more than 400 floral and horticulture displays by experts from garden clubs, professional floral designers and noted Houston personalities. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 6-18, students and senior citizens. 10 am-5 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

16 Rainbow Fishing. Two separate 12-hour fishing trips will take place on the New Buccaneer, an 85-foot Catamaran (with color TV and a sun deck) which can take up to 100 people. Cost is \$80 per person. For more info: 523-6381.

19 Totally TV. Put down that remote control and make your way to Fine Toon! This special event will offer demonstrations and display rare art from popular Walt Disney television cartoons, including *The Little Mermaid*, *The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*, *Timon and Pumbaa*, *Aladdin* and *Jungle Cubs*. It will be hosted by Steve Wetzel (production manager of Walt Disney Art Classics) and Raffi Parseghian (Disney artist). 10 am-3 pm @ Fine Toon Cartoon Art Gallery, 2427 Bissonnet, 713/522-6499.

19 Book Sale. The Friends of the Houston Public Library's 19th Annual Bargain Book Sale will feature more than 80,000 books! Tax free! Free admission! Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-4 pm @ the Astrohall (\$4 parking). For more info: 713/247-2189.

23 Ellen DeGeneres. A week before her character Ellen Morgan on ABC's *Ellen* comes out of the closet, DeGeneres herself might just come out on *PrimeTime Live*. Hosted by Diane Sawyer. 9 pm on Channel 13.

25 New Orleans. Place a free 40-word Romance ad and be registered to win a 2-night stay at a cozy B&B in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Join Houston Press Romance, 6-8 pm, at Lobo, 3939-S Montrose. For more info: 624-1416.

25-27 The Lindy Hop. Houston will play host to one of the great legends of American popular dance when Frankie Manning swings into town to teach the lindy hop, the joyful, jivin' dance which evolved into the jitterbug. Tony Award-winning choreographer and long-time performer Manning is a veteran of the glory days of Harlem's Savoy Ballroom and Cotton Club. TV's Milton Berle show, Broadway shows like *Black and Blue*, and films ranging from the Marx Brothers' *A Day at the Races* to Spike Lee's *Malcolm X*. Registration is open to all and costs \$40 in advance and \$50 after April 12. The weekend workshop will be held at SPJST Lodge, 1435 Beall. For more info: Rowena Young @ 713/662-3861 (e-mail: rowenay@worldnet.att.net).

25, 27, 28 Hugh Wolff. Music director of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and chief conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, presents a program of American music, featuring two works by Aaron Copland, including the popular Fanfare for the Common Man. A Houston Symphony Concert at 8 pm on Friday and Monday, 2:30 pm on Sunday, @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. For more info: 713/227-ARTS.

26 Diana Awards. In addition to the presentation of the awards, the evening will consist of a seated dinner, open bar and musical entertainment by Jerry Atwood, Sharon Montgomery, Tommie Lee Jackson and Terry Pierce. The Diana Foundation will hold its 1996 Diana Award at 7 pm in the Salon of the Contessa at La Colombe d'Or Hotel. Tickets are \$150, and proceeds will benefit the Pet Patrol. For more information: 713/639-2000.

26 Workout for Hope. The ninth annual national Workout to fight HIV/AIDS and related cancers

will feature a full day of fitness, plus an all-day health and fitness festival. Participants may attend select sessions or all day. This year's event will include a silent auction, so don't forget your checkbook or credit cards. Requested minimum donation is \$10, or please bring \$10 worth of canned goods or personal hygiene items to be donated to Stone Soup, a food pantry operated by AIDS Foundation Houston. 8 am-3:30 pm @ George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A. For more info: 713/521-2910.

Theater

• **The Diary of Anne Frank** depicts the coming-of-age struggles of Anne, a young Jewish girl whose family is forced into hiding in a secret attic to escape the wrath of Hitler's Third Reich against the Jews. It is a poignant story of a young girl's undying hope in the face of an appalling period of history. From April 11-May 18, The A.D. Players bring *Diary* to Grace Theater, 2710 W. Alabama, 713/526-2721.

• **Dog Opera.** No dogs. No opera. Simply the Houston premiere of this poignant comedy about a gay man and his female best friend who buoy each other's spirits as they each search for Mr. Right. Ticket prices are \$15-\$25. Through April 27 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh, 52-STAGE. (See sidebar on page 45 for related article.)

• **Don Quixote and The Knights of The Mirrors** is an original play, puppet show and video adapted from Cervantes' novel. April 11-12, 8 pm (children's matinee on April 10 @ 4 pm), @ MECA, 1900 Kane. Tickets are \$5. For general & ticket info: 281/289-3569.

• **First Lady Suite.** Four chamber musical suites, from the riotously funny to the hauntingly lyrical, focus on celebrated First Ladies Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Mamie Eisenhower, and Bess (and Margaret) Truman and Eleanor Roosevelt. Through April 13 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo, 713/868-7516.

• **Grandpa Hasn't Moved in Days.** The Singing Furtle Family returns home for a funeral, but the deceased's dying request quickly turns the solemn occasion into a comedy. Admission is \$14, and reservations are required. Through May 3 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

• **Once on This Island.** A peasant girl saves a rich city boy from certain death and sets up a captivating musical romance. It's a Caribbean retelling of *The Little Mermaid*. Through April 27, Main Street Theater @ Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose, 524-6706.

• **Two Trains Running.** Set in 1969 Pittsburgh, this award-winning play explores the sometimes joyful, painful lives of a group of "regular" customers that hang out at Memphis Lee, a popular homestyle restaurant. The story focuses on the past, anger and dreams in the everyday lives of ordinary people in a touching, often funny, penetrating revelation of a world hidden from view. April 17-June 1 @ Midtown Art Center, 3414 LaBranch @ Holman. For more info, call The Ensemble Theatre @ 713/520-0055.

• **Vieux Carré.** Written late in Tennessee Williams' career, this play is largely autobiographical and rarely produced. Set in 1938, it depicts Williams' first sojourn to New Orleans and vividly portrays the delightfully eccentric characters inhabiting the dilapidated boarding house where he resided. Contains mature subject matter. Through April 12 @ New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th St. For reservations: 713/869-8927.

• **Write on Water** is an original mixed media play that sculpts the story of Gaby and Marie, their tragedies,

fears and reconciliations, through a fluid combination of the arts of dance, text and visual effects into one dramatic composition. Three performances: April 11, 17 and 18, all at 8 pm @ Hamman Hall, Rice University Campus. For reservations: 713/529-4123.

Radio/TV

• **After Hours** (Radio) Saturdays, midnight to 3 am. Featuring the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. KPFT 90.1 FM.

• **Lesbian & Gay Voices** (Radio) Thursday, 8-10 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 (Warner—Ch. 17; TCI—Ch. 41; Phonoscope—Ch. 72; Optel—Ch. 07).

• **Montrose 77006** (TV) is a fresh mix of gay & lesbian comedy, politics, and on-the-scene reports of activities in the Montrose area. For further information or to advertise your group activity, organization, or business: 902-2231 (24-hr. voice mail). Access Houston Community Television (AHCT); showtimes are listed in local television guides under AHCT channels (Warner: Ch. 17, TCI: Ch. 41, Phonoscope: Ch. 72, Optel: Ch. 07).

Art/Photography

• **The Art League of Houston** is offering free art classes for people with HIV. The ongoing course meets every Thursday & Friday from 1-4 pm at the Art League, 1953 Montrose. Mixed media projects for the artist and non-artist. Constructive art-making in a relaxed atmosphere. Focus is on the healing power of art. For information, call 523-9530.

• **Core 1997** showcases artwork from a variety of media, including drawings, prints, paintings, sculpture, installations and more. It brings together artists from all over the world, from as near as Texas City to as far as Pakistan. Through April 20 @ The Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose, 713/639-7500.

• **Fashion.** "Fabulously French" showcases trendsetting names in French fashion and a selection of their cutting-edge haute couture designs over a 100-year period. Presented on more than 30 mannequins, the outfits range from a 1909 Jeanne Lanvin dress to a space-age Courrèges coat from his first collection in 1965. Highlights from the career of Yves St. Laurent include a tulip dress from his second collection for the House of Dior (1959-60) and several examples illustrating his unique color sensibilities. Among other designers represented are Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel, Hubert Givenchy, Marc Bohan and Cristobal Balenciaga. Through Apr. 20 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 639-7300.

• **Georges Braque** is widely acknowledged as one of the most innovative and influential artists of the 20th century. This distinguished exhibition highlights paintings from the last 25 years of his career. April 25-August 31 @ The Menil Collection, 1511 Branard. An opening reception will be held from 7-9 pm on April 24. For more info: 713/525-9400.

• **Healing Hands/Patrick Palmer.** Houston's HIV+ Art Outreach Program and the works of its founder, Patrick Palmer, are now on display. Six years ago, Art League of Houston and Palmer developed the

ON THE TUBE



"I'm a lesbian!" Ellen Morgan, the character played by Ellen DeGeneres on ABC's *Ellen*, becomes the first lead character in TV herstory to come out of the closet. In Houston, you can see this historical hour on Wednesday, April 30, on Channel 13, or on several TV screens at "Ellen's Coming Out Party" at Toopees Coffees, 1830 W. Alabama.

(L-r) Ellen DeGeneres, Melissa Etheridge and Laura Dern pose for Ellen Morgan's coming-out episode. Also joining the cast for this special evening will be k.d. lang and Oprah Winfrey. Don't miss it!

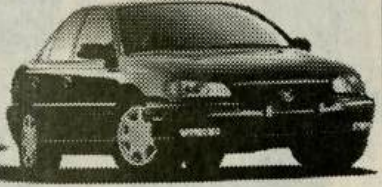
Danny (Robert Sean Leonard) is a young man in his late 20s with AIDS who comes home to die in the HBO film, *In the Gloaming*. The family must forge a new beginning with the son they hardly know. As they redefine their relationships, they confront the emotional barriers that have kept them apart. Ultimately, *Gloaming* is a story of reconciliation and healing. It debuts on HBO, Sunday, April 20, at 8 p.m.

In the Gloaming stars (left to right) Glenn Close, David Strathairn, Robert Sean Leonard (seated), Bridget Fonda and Whoopi Goldberg.



Cadillac
CREATING A HIGHER STANDARD.

**1997
CADILLAC
CATERA**



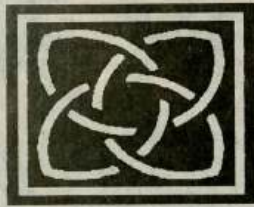
Bland Cadillac-Featuring:

- Full Line of New Cadillac 2
- GM Service and Parts
- Full Service GM Body Shop

All Inside The Loop.

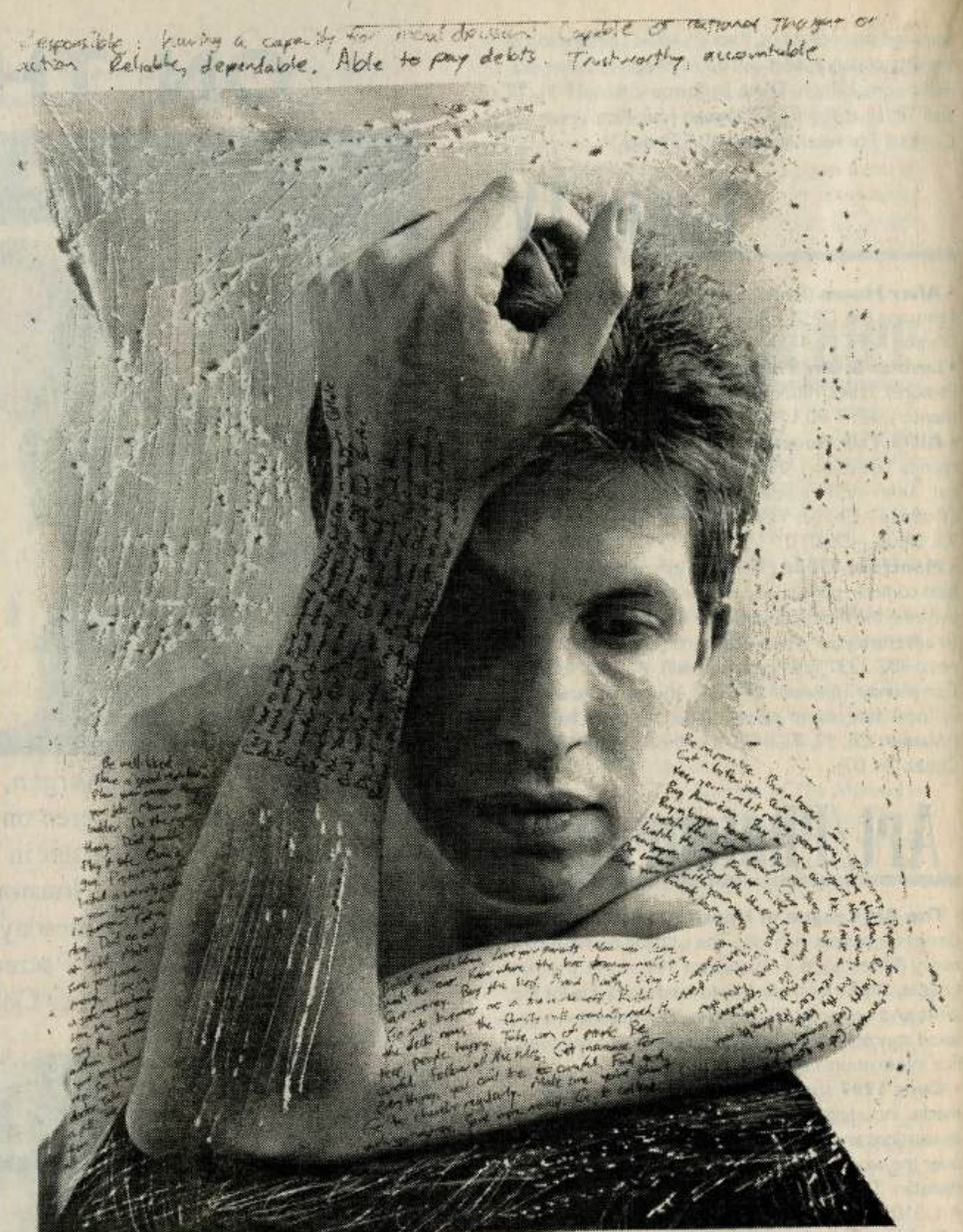
CUSTOMER DRIVEN SINCE 1939
BLAND **527-6600**
Cadillac Co. 2100 Bagby At Gray
Six Blocks West Of Main

**Alternatives
for your
Animal Companion**



**Homeopathy
Nutritional Therapy**

Patricia A. Cooper, dvm
1951 Lexington St.
Houston, Texas 77098
713 520.5588



"Self-Portrait, Responsible" by Lloyd Lemmermann is part of *New Masculinities: Cultural Representations*, a group exhibition that deals with a range of issues, including an examination of the social and cultural codes of masculinity; it challenges the myth of a unified male identity and provides critical analysis of masculinity. Now showing through May 11 @ Houston Center for Photography, 1441 West Alabama, 713/529-4755. (Web site: <http://www.mediaplace.com.hcp>)

HIV+ Art Outreach Program to offer free art classes to anyone infected with the HIV virus. The cost associated with making art can be expensive, so Palmer came up with the concept of selling a suite of prints as a means to continue the program, thus the "Healing Hands" suite was created. The prints can be purchased and are on exhibition through April 25 @ The University of Texas-Houston Medical School, 6431 Fannin. Palmer's "Positive/Negative" exhibition is on the 5th-floor gallery; "Healing Hands" is on the ground-floor gallery. For more info: 713/500-3036.

• **HSPVA.** The High School of the Performing and Visual Arts has been a fixture in the Houston arts community for 25 years. "HSPVA: Celebrating Twenty-Five Years" features 20 artists who represent the artistic di-

versity to emerge from just one high school. The group show runs from April 4-May 11 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main @ Taylor). For more info: 713/223-8346.

• **Lázaro Saavedra** is considered to be one of the strongest critics of the Cuban government. In his artwork, he questions issues such as the common equation of Fidel Castro's life as a revolutionary to that of Jesus Christ's, and the critical shortage of low-income housing in Cuba. Through April 12 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main @ Naylor), 223-8346.

• **Tropical** is an exhibition of Marsha Harris' colorful watermedia. Through May 10 @ Archway Gallery, 2013 W. Gray, 713/522-2409.

Ongoing listings in The Source. See page 58.

Second Time

continued from page 43

access if any of these four situations are present: (1) there is a material or substantial change in circumstances (including a child abuse conviction), (2) the decree is unworkable or inappropriate, (3) there has been a change in residence or a failure to notify of a change in residence, and (4) a conservator has repeatedly failed to give notice of an inability to exercise visitation. The court will consider a change in residence as a material or substantial change if it results in increased expenses for the other party. For example, if one parent moves across the country, the additional expenses would include plane fare for the child in order to fulfill the visitation requirements.

An important item to note is that *temporary orders* cannot be issued by the court for the purpose of a changing custody unless one of three factors are present. First, the child's present living environment is endangering the child's physical health or significantly impairing the child's mental health. These situations arise when conservators become physically or mentally abusive. Second, if the child's managing conservator has relinquished custody of the child for more than six months, the court will likely grant a temporary order changing custody if it is in the best interest of that child. Third, if the child is 12 or older, the court can make a temporary change of custody without the proof of endangerment.

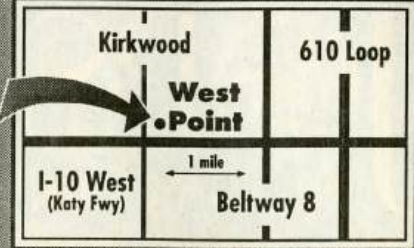
Many people assume that once the court hands down a decree in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship, no solutions remain available when events take place that warrant a modification of an existing decree. Within guidelines, a court can modify decrees on the basis of custody, support, and access if the change is in the best interest of the child.



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. For more information regarding this article, call 713/522-4282.

**Point Yourself to
Great Savings at
West Point.**



BUICK **MERCURY LINCOLN** **KIA**

Make your best deal on a new or used car, then present this ad. We'll give you another **\$200 off** the price of the car.
So, to start saving, get to the point.

West Point
Katy Freeway at Kirkwood
Skip Willett, Sales Representative
713-493-2000
Pager: 289-4365
Your Community Minded Dealership

Stressed Out?

**A Relaxing Massage
is the Answer**



John Dascoulias
Registered Massage Therapist

Serving
The Heights, Montrose
& River Oaks

Call for an appointment today.
880-1023

**Feel like a fly
caught in the World Wide Web?**

**Diverse
Office
Solutions
can help!**

Computer Consulting for
Today's Home Office & Small Business

**Internet Access Consulting
Sales, Service & Repairs
Installations, Networking
Custom-built PCs
Training**

For quick response: **713.912.5217**
Facsimile: 713.880.1865
E-mail: diverse@flash.net

JOBS HOUSTON

THE REAL SOURCE!

Finally, a new and improved way to reach qualified employees at an affordable cost. Pick up your copy today at select Barnes & Noble and other locations.

REAL JOBS!
REAL PEOPLE!
REAL SUCCESS!
REAL AFFORDABLE!

P.O. BOX 19709 • HOUSTON, TX 77224
713.984.8312 FAX 713.984.1837



MONSIEUR MASSAGE

Premium European Touch
by Roland Nicolaides

713/942-2399
River Oaks &
Montrose



The Examined Life

The Stresses of Hope

by Tom Moon

The HIV community is experiencing a new wave of excitement and hope as the new combination therapies make dramatic changes in the health of many who had reconciled themselves to sliding helplessly down the slippery slope. All year, among my own clients, I have been watching men regain health, weight and energy; get dramatically improved lab results; and lose their symptoms and opportunistic infections. Some are even contemplating returning to work after having reconciled themselves to living on disability.

But I've also been surprised to see that this sudden change in health and outlook is profoundly disorienting for some men, especially if they have been HIV-positive for many years. I have talked with men who are having attacks of anxiety, feelings of unreality, depression, suspicion and anger in response to the improvement in their health. Usually, they're confused by their reaction or ashamed to talk about them. Having hoped for something like this for years, they are shocked to find that the reality of it actually requires a difficult adjustment. One man said, "I promised myself that I would celebrate if this stuff worked. Well, it is working, but I don't feel like celebrating. I don't want to talk about it. I feel touchy, and I want people just to leave me alone."

How can we understand reactions like this? One of my clients explained it to me this way, "It's a little like living on death row and getting a stay of execution. I had a date when I knew I was going to die, and now all of a sudden I'm going to be allowed to live for a while longer. How long? Will I live to a ripe old age? Will the virus mutate in a few years and make the treatment ineffective? Don't know. Of course I'm happy about it, but I also feel a little like a yo-yo. I feel

like I'm being jerked around." Some men talk about how hard it is to feel hope when they have been disappointed so often in the past. A friend told me, "I got caught up in the AZT hoopla, and I got excited about some worthless alternative treatments, too. Intellectually, I believe that what is happening now is different, but I can't shake the feeling that I'll be making a fool out of myself if I let myself believe it. I've been conned so many times before."

Adjusting to the expectation of impending death isn't merely giving up. It is a process of psychological work which

takes a lot of energy. That was the point Elizabeth Kubler-Ross made with her five-stage map of the process of adapting to death. People who believe they are dying go through periods of denial and isolation, anger, bargaining and depression before they reach the point where they

can accept it with some equanimity. There are men who have been living with the expectation that they will live, for say, three more years who have gone through these stages and who have planned their lives with a more or less definite endpoint in mind. All of a sudden their whole adaptation to life has been turned on its head. They are elated, but they are also confused and thrown off balance. Sometimes they are angry, because adjustment requires undoing and rebuilding their entire frame of reference. More than one man has told me that the whole thing makes him feel weary. It seems that nothing about AIDS, not even good news, is simple.

Another reaction I am seeing is an upsurge of grief and depression. Some men whose health improves remember friends and lovers who died before protease inhibitors were available, and ask themselves, "Why me? Why now?" Some positive men are experiencing the sur-
vi-

vor guilt which is usually discussed only in relation to negative men.

It is important to not to pathologize the reluctance to feel excited. The new wave of optimism is a great relief to a hope-starved community, but the fact is that we still don't know the long-term effects of the new therapies, nor do we know what percentage will actually benefit from them. We appear to have taken an important step toward that long-hoped-for and too-often prematurely announced day when HIV will be a "chronic, manageable condition," but it is much too early to say that we have arrived at that point. If we let our need for hope carry us too far beyond what the available data actually show, we could be setting ourselves up for bitter disappointment later on. A little healthy skepticism is in order.

In the new environment the kind of reactions I am describing are typically feelings and thoughts that people keep to themselves. It's easier to deal with these things if we can understand them as reactions that are normal and understandable, and if people with HIV can discuss them with their friends without fear of incomprehension, ridicule or disapproval.

There is one area where the new optimism may have lasting unintended negative consequences, and that is the area of prevention. I hope I am wrong, but I am very much afraid that we are about to see a sharp increase in the number of gay men turning positive. We haven't succeeded in preventing the spread of a fatal disease. How much harder will it be to prevent the spread of what is perceived as a "chronic manageable condition?" There must already be men in the community who are asking themselves, "Why should I try so hard to be safe?" If I get HIV I'll just take my pills." People usually keep thoughts like this to themselves too. It is urgent that prevention programs take the lead in promoting open and public discussion of this kind of thinking immediately.



Tom Moon is a psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco. Call or fax him with questions or comments at 415/626-1346.

Too Busy to Shop?



- Assorted Themed Gift Baskets
- Balloon & Singing Telegrams
- Shipping & Same Day Delivery
- Major Credit Cards Accepted

995-GIFT
(995-4438)



Residential & Commercial Cleaning Service

- FREE ESTIMATES
- Dependable & Professional
- Bonded for Your Protection
- Regular Repeat Cleaning
- One-Time Cleaning
- "Deep/Spring" Cleaning
- "Custom" Cleaning
- Move-In/Move-Out Cleaning
- Realtor Make-Ready Cleaning
- Office Cleaning
- SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

665-MAID
713/665-6243

Making People Happy Since 1988

Absolutely Fabulous PET CARE

Pet Salon,
Boutique & Lodging



We Carry Nutro &
Sensible Choice Pet Foods.
Sandy Stutz, Certified Master Groomer

Serving Montrose
& Museum District
Pet Gifts & Novelties

T-F 7:30-6 • SAT 8-4
527-0707 • 908 W. Alabama

Faster Service

Solid
Answers

Top
Dollar

**SOUTHWEST
VIATICAL, INC.**

888-CURE-HIV
888-287-3448

Dallas' Largest & Oldest
Viatical Company

LAW

Practiced with
Principles
and
Passion



The Law Offices of Carol S. Helms
405 Main, Suite 607
Scanlan Building
713/223-5555

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Specialization

Plan On It!



Sean Yarborough

Home Office
713/862-3266

Main Office
713/467-1166

Exciting yet complicated!
I will help simplify
the process of buying
or selling your home.

Call today for your
free market analysis.

Service you can plan on.

RE/MAX

Missing a Link?

REALTORS, free linkup
to our website is available!

Check us out at
<http://www.mortgageassoc.com>

Call us today for details at 713/524.1850



5311 Kirby Drive • Suite 203 • Houston, Tx 77005

Guest Columnist

The Survival of the Fittest

The PoWeR Approach Is Improving the Quality of Life for Many With HIV.

by Fred Walters Jr.

Research has shown that preserving muscle mass is key to the survival of HIV-positive people. The loss of Lean Body Mass (LBM) due to anorexia, malabsorption, diarrhea, opportunistic infections, increased metabolism and many other causes is one of the most difficult problems to manage in HIV disease, even at asymptomatic stages. Wasting syndrome, with its resulting LBM loss, is still among the top three killers of people with AIDS in this country and overseas, even under the current optimistic atmosphere created by the new combination therapies with protease inhibitors. Wasting is still a widely misunderstood and mismanaged problem that does not have a standard of care in HIV disease. That's why the "PoWeR" guys started taking their message around the country.

Houstonian Nelson Vergel, a former chemical engineer, immigrant Latino and long-term survivor of HIV disease, decided three years ago that he was not going to become the next victim to "Wasting Syndrome" so characteristic of people with HIV/AIDS. After seeing his lover and friends die in bones and himself losing 20 pounds even while eating properly and exercising, he was fortunate to meet Michael Dullnig, an HIV-positive medical doctor who had gotten out of his deathbed. He started living again using a comprehensive self-designed program which included anabolic hormones, enhanced protein nutrition, supplementation and resistance exercise. Dullnig became a well-known writer in a health magazine telling people about his latest experiments on himself.

Vergel and Dullnig became close friends. Vergel started his own literature research on methods to enhance lean body mass. He was able to reverse his wasting and put on 35 pounds of muscle and regain his quality of life in four months. Dullnig, however, due to his low T-cells, eventually developed CMV retinitis, an opportunistic infection which renders people with AIDS blind. He put an end to his life after sending Vergel all the research material he had gathered over the previous year so that the work could continue.

Vergel left his career as a chemical engineer to create a non-profit organization called PoWeR, Program for Wellness Restoration. He went around the country to disseminate his message of wellness and empowerment without funding or sponsorship of any kind. He funded his travels with money from a life insurance policy he had cashed in on. At first, he encountered a lot of reluctance to "hormonal therapies." But after a few months others joined his efforts.

Michael Mooney was one of them. A writer, treatment advocate and an expert on nutritional products for those with critical conditions, Mooney became an avid researcher with Vergel. They studied lean-body-mass enhancement for those living with HIV and other debilitating illnesses.

Today, Mooney and Vergel have given over 35 seminars around the country and made major presentations at the XI Conference on AIDS in Vancouver, AIDS Medicine and Miracles, and the International Conference on Nutrition and HIV in Cannes, France.

They believe prevention is key. Over 100 doctors around the country are now endorsing the PoWeR program. Numerous HIV/AIDS agencies around the country also endorse their approach. PoWeR now has the support of top advisors in the fields of nutrition, research, clinical practices, exercise and hormonal intervention.

Many physicians, however, have been reluctant to use this therapy to manage wasting in their patients. The bad publicity from anabolic steroid abuse in athletes and the fact that these substances were banned in 1990 by the Anabolic Steroid Control Act for non-medical uses contribute to this reluctance. Further, many unfounded fears about increased liver toxicity, lymphoma and KS plagued the delivery of their message to the medical community.

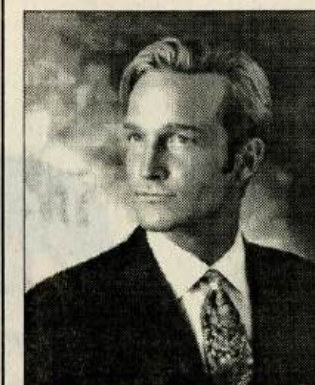
Some doctors do not believe in the benefits of supplementation and resistance weight training as therapies. Often, Vergel and Mooney have been able to overcome this resistance by empowering and educating patients to demand vital services and therapies necessary for their survival. Fortunately, many progressive doctors have been supportive of the "patient-doctor partnering" approach that has differentiated the long-term from the short-term survivors.

The team's upcoming book, *Built to Survive: Putting the Muscle into HIV Treatment*, is in the editing process. Vergel is also helping to create the Body Positive Wellness Center in Houston which will provide a one-stop approach to personalized weight training, nutritional counseling, massage therapy and a buyers club. This facility will serve those living with HIV, especially those who have limited income. He dreams of prototyping this kind of nonprofit center around the country. The first phase of this project will start in June.

Nelson Vergel, like many of his PoWeR clients, is now living a full and productive life with great hope for the future. The advent of combination therapies with protease inhibitors complemented by wellness programs like his have made a tremendous impact on those who thought a good and healthy life was a luxury they could never attain.

Vergel and Mooney will speak at the POZ EXPO, a free event with seminars, exhibits and products for HIV-positive people. The POZ EXPO will be held in Houston on April 25 and 26 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Fred Walters is the owner of The Buyers Club. For more information Body Positive Wellness Center, call 713/524-2374.



PROMPT
COURTEOUS
SERVICE

JEFFREY T. BULES
Your Insurance Specialist

HOME - AUTO - CONDO
RENTERS - LIFE - HEALTH
DISABILITY - COMMERCIAL

IMMEDIATE QUOTES
FLEXIBLE PAY PLANS

CALL JEFFREY AT 713-661-7700

ROB SCHMERLER INSURANCE AGENCY
6575 West Loop South • Suite 185 • Bellaire, Texas 77401
Business: (713)661-7700 Fax: (713)661-6472
Voicemail: (713)905-3525

Holy Union Jewelry Experts



Custom Jewelry Designs • Appraisals • Estate Jewelry
Expert Repairs • Dealer in Fine Watches

REINER'S
Fine Jewelry
Since 1918 Family Owned

Mon - Fri 9:30 am - 6 pm / Sat 10 am - 5 pm

2210 Westheimer • Houston, TX 77098 (713) 520-1212

Last Fat Bite... Diet

New
Non-Addicting
Medications

- Redux
- Fastin
- Pondimin

Lacey Lewis

WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC
2425 Sunset • Houston, TX 77005
713/520-9330

Why weight?
Call 713/520-9330



Patti LaBelle

Her Sweet Sounds (and Smells)

by Kyle Young

Patti LaBelle should be tired. Her unmistakable voice has been responsible for 20-plus albums and over 40 charted singles including "Over the Rainbow," "Lady Marmalade," "New Attitude" and "Somebody Loves You."

She should be tired. During the past six months the 52-year-old entertainer has been all over the nation to promote the new Patti LaBelle fragrance. Before that, there was a publicity tour for her autobiography, *Don't Block the Blessings*. Meanwhile, she's recording a new album. With four songs to go, she's aiming for a summer release — followed by touring — followed by a return to the studio to record a gospel album, which she plans to have in stores before the year is out. She *should* be tired — but when LaBelle came through Houston last month for an appearance at Foley's downtown, she was as fresh and energized as ever.

"In every city so many people come out. It's like I'm a rock star or something," LaBelle says. "They make me feel good. Most places we've been they've said I broke Liz Taylor's record and stuff like that, so it makes me feel good."

Indeed, Patti LaBelle draws a crowd — a crowd predominantly of black women and gay men. They love her. She signs publicity photos, books, CDs — even perfume bottles. She poses for pictures.

"Patti, is it O.K. if I get a picture with you?" asks one woman.

"As long as I have my face on," she beams.

Even with a Grammy and a star on the Hollywood Boulevard Walk of Fame, LaBelle treats each fan as if they were someone special.

The new Patti LaBelle floral perfume is currently the only celebrity fragrance identified with a black woman.

"Of course, we have Cher and Liz," says LaBelle. "It's not that their perfume is just for white women, because black women bought Liz and black women buy Cher — and white women buy Patti LaBelle. So, it's not geared *just* to black women, but I'm happy to say that I can be the woman who says, 'I am a black woman and here's something for my black women to buy' — and I want the white children to buy it, too. It's for everybody — and a white man and a black man if they want to wear it."

After a successful line of Patti LaBelle lipsticks and fingernail polishes, a fragrance was a natural step for LaBelle. She says she was involved in the process the whole way — selecting the fragrance, the color of the perfume and the design of the bottle.

"I love flowers. I'm a flower woman," says LaBelle. "I love jasmine. I love gardenias. So, those fragrances are some of the ones I wanted in my perfume."

Plans are under way for a second fragrance as well

as a men's cologne. Despite all of her current projects, LaBelle says her family still comes first.

"I never let this time take over my family time," she says. "If there is something that I have to do with the perfume or with the book or with anything, it would have to take a second seat to my husband and my family. They're not demanding. If I had to do it, they'd say go ahead and do it. I'm pretty blessed to be able to choose to do this when I can."

LaBelle has been married to her husband, Armstead Edwards for 27 years. She's Mom to one teen-age boy, two adopted sons in their late 20s and the son and daughter of her late sister Jackie.

In addition to her family and career, LaBelle has worked hard in the fight against cancer and AIDS. She currently serves as the national spokesperson for the Minority AIDS Council.

LaBelle says it's hard to know why she is adored by so many gay fans.

"Child, I don't know," she says. "Every day I try to figure out why. It may be because they see in me a person who's out. I'm totally out. I'm totally free, and I'm

always myself. I'm not afraid of being whatever if it's going to embarrass me in the long-run — I take chances. I love all people, and I love all races, and I don't think anybody is better than anybody. I think when gay people see me, they see that I'm accepting of people. It doesn't matter what your sex preference is. It doesn't matter what you are as long as you're breathing. Just breathe for me."

She says it could also be that gays are aware of her mothering instincts.

"I'm like a mother, and all of my gay children, they come to me," says LaBelle. "Not all of them, but a lot of my gay friends, they come to me like I can help them in situations, and I say, 'Sugar, I can't help you with that one, but I'll talk to you about whatever.'"

They feel free to talk to me about anything. I usually can't help them, but I'll listen."

Patti LaBelle will return to Houston on July 12 to perform with the Houston Symphony Orchestra at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Tickets go on sale May 17.

It doesn't matter what your sex preference is. It doesn't matter what you are, as long as you're breathing.

Love Makes a Family

continued from page 23

"Even though it seems like there are a lot of gay families, in the big picture, there aren't," says Hudson. "They are scattered all over the city. They have different age kids. So, it's just not as easy as you'd think to become friends with other gay families. It is something that we want and that we look for."

Hudson says that their straight friends have grown from being around their family.

"I know that for one of our neighbors, it's given her the opportunity to talk to her young children about gays," says Hudson. "Where, before, I think it would have been a lot longer coming."

As gay families become more visible, straight society will begin to see gay parents in a more positive light.

"I think really the best thing that can happen is for people to get to know us," says Hudson. "We are just so plain. We're just a boring family. There's just nothing here that's any different than the family down the street. There's nothing when you walk in the house that's different."

Hudson's own mother has grown into a strong supporter. "We had this conversation recently. She said that before Norri and I, her opinion about gay people was a stereotypical opinion," says Hudson. "Knowing us has changed her opinion completely. She sees us no differently now than if we were a man and a woman."

Collier and Hudson also realize that many still do not accept the validity of their relationship, which is why both are strong supporters of gay rights organizations. Hudson says her public speaking with PFLAG and organizing for the Human

Rights Campaign are important. She encourages other gay parents to become visible and active.

"I'm at a point where I'm comfortable in my life," says Hudson. "Norri and I have a good relationship. We have a nice home. We have friends. We have family. We have a good support network, but I do it for the kids. My children are being teased at school. I have to tell them that Norri and I can't get married because the law is against us. What does that tell them about their family? That's a strong message to them. Although what they live is very normal and stable, there is this knowledge that the government believes that we're not O.K. So, that does give them a message that I wish they didn't have."

She says her community work is also fueled by the knowledge that she could have a gay child.

"What if one of my children ends up gay?" says Hudson. "I think about it. One of them could very well be gay, so I do it for the next generation."

JUST DO IT

The questions are coming in. More gay and lesbian couples are calling on Hudson and Collier for advice. More couples are realizing that they too can become parents. Whether it's adoption or artificial insemination or foster parenting, many gay and lesbians are joining Collier and Hudson in giving our society the gift of gentle, caring children who grow to have a deeper appreciation for the diversity of humanity.

"Anybody who wants to do it, I want them to do it," says Hudson. "It's just so fulfilling. It really is. It's just sad to me that any gay person who has that desire doesn't do it. I feel real sad for that. I understand, but now I just want to tell them to do it — do it — do it if it's in your heart."

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

Every
Question
You Need
To Ask
Before
Selling Your
Life Insurance
Policy

66
Pages

FOR THIS FREE CONSUMER GUIDE
CALL 800-932-0050

NATIONAL VIATOR REPRESENTATIVES, INC.

Feng Shui

Having a hard time with your career?
Would you like more out of
your relationships?
Feng Shui creates harmony in all areas
of your life at your home and office.

As featured on *Dateline NBC*
and *Good Morning America*

- New Decision Therapy™
- Feng Shui Consultations
- Psychic Readings
- Life Purpose Readings

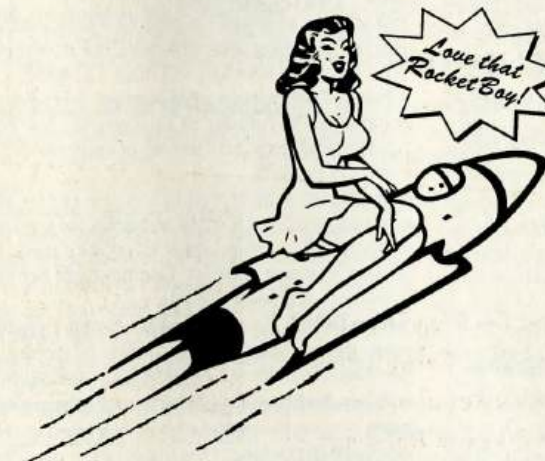


Sandra Nicholas

For information
and an appointment,
call 713/522-0990.

Sandra studied with world-renown Feng Shui authority Master Lin Yun.

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A BOOST.



ROCKETBOY
COMMUNICATIONS
713.526.6753

Print, radio, television, collateral, and other stuff to make your business really take off. For out of this world ideas at prices that are surprisingly down to earth, call RocketBoy.

Duet Here Personal Training for Two

Announcing an
incredibly affordable
way for you, and a
friend, to stay healthy,
motivated & have fun
while building muscle,
burning fat & sculpting
your ultimate body.
The "Duet-Program" is
new, custom tailored,
and available only at
MUSCLE MECHANICS

So call now!

**MUSCLE
MECHANICS**
713.523.5330
4316 Yupon

The Source

community • counseling & support groups • health • social • sports

Community

• **AIDS Equity League**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to insuring equitable treatment of the gay and lesbian community in local HIV/AIDS decision-making, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 524-9966.

• **Dignity Houston** is dedicated to the welfare of gay/lesbian Catholics and their friends, and meets Saturdays at 7:30 pm, 1307 Yale, Suite H, 880-2872.

• **EXXON Gay & Lesbian Employees** (EGLE) meets monthly at the Montrose Library to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For more information, please call 522-6212.

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston** (GLSH) is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 529-9615.

• **Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Teachers Network** (GLSTN). The goal of GLSTN is to make schools safe for everyone — straight and gay. All interested persons are invited to attend the meetings every 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore. For updates or more information: write to GLSTN-Houston, P.O. Box 541871, Houston, Texas 77254; e-mail: GLSTNHou@aol.com; or call 529-4571.

• **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce** (GHGLCC) fosters & promotes the economic development & vitality of gay, lesbian, & supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information, & networking opportunities for its members. Promoting a positive change of the diversity of gay & lesbian citizens, and to further strengthen our position in society, the chamber provides opportunities for the personal, professional, & social growth of its members. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, prefer-

ence, or gender identity. Meets the first Monday of each month. For more info: 523-7576.

• **HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer**, open forum for sharing information, 4th Tuesday of each month, 7-9 pm, 2700 Albany, Ste. 205, 527-8219.

• **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 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 587-6914 for more information.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus**, 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. For more info: 521-1000.

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

• **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 522-8182.

• **Log Cabin Republicans**, 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 pm (social), 7 pm (meeting), Renata's, 2006 Lexington, 529-9100.

• **OutVote**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to registering, educating, and motivating our community to vote. For more info: 520-VOTE or 522-9837.

• **Pride Committee of Houston**, executive meeting (7 pm, 1st Tuesday of each month) and general meeting (6:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday of each month), 2700 Albany, 529-6979.

• **Q-Patrol** is dedicated to the prevention of hate crimes against gays & lesbians, patrols the bar areas in Montrose, & is always looking for volunteers. If you have at least one Friday or Saturday night per month, please call 528-SAFE (7233).

• **Rice GALA** (Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association) seeks gay and lesbian alumni of Rice University. Contact Neal Tannahill at 526-6718 for more information.

• **Roundtable—The Houston Philosophy Forum** is open to anyone who is interested in civilized and open discussion on the topics of the day, 7 pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month @ Café Artiste, 1601 W. Main. For more info: Jackie @ 779-8620 or Beth @ 728-5590.

• **Second Chance Pets** is a nonprofit organization

that helps stray, abandoned, & unwanted animals find permanent homes. We provide medical care & an adoption site for the animals. The animals live in foster homes during the week. We need foster homes (especially for cats), volunteers for adoption days, publicity & fundraising, and adoptive homes for our many wonderful animals. For more information: 286-3535.

• **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.

• **The Texas Lesbian Conference** (TLC). Remember the conference in 1993? Well, get ready — it's going to happen again. But this one will be even better, because we will be celebrating a decade — yes, that's 10 years! — of our visibility & empowerment! It will take place at the same hotel (the Renaissance Houston), and we're planning speakers, entertainment, & workshops that will knock your socks off! Though it won't take place till May 16-18, we need your input & help now. For info, call our recorded voice mail message @ 867-3934, & if you'd like more info or would like to volunteer for one of our committees, leave your name & number, and we'll be back in touch with you.

• **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 Toop-ees, P.O. Box 131148, Houston, TX 77219-1148, voice mail 867-9581.

Counseling/Support

• **AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area**, support group for those infected and affected, Tuesdays, 7-8:30 pm, 17511 El Camino Real, #159. For more info: 488-4492.

• **AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.** (AFH) relies on volunteers to help meet the needs of its more than 3,000 clients. Choose from over 20 different volunteer programs, working days, evenings, weekdays, weekends, on the front lines, or behind the scenes. You'll join a talented pool of over 600 volunteers working in art therapy, the buddy program, the Stone Soup garden, helper, or pantry programs, hospital visitation, information & referral, and numerous other programs. Whether you can commit to 4 hours a month or 40 hours a week, AFH needs your time & talent. Volunteer department: 623-6796. World Wide Web: <http://www.aidshep.org>.

• **Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf**, general meeting every 2nd Friday of the month, 7:30 pm, Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, 869-2287 via Texas Relay 1-800-735-2988.

• **Centergy** — Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Reclaim your emotions. Identify & verbalize your feelings & desires. Face & release your blocks to living freely. Create the life you want. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face addictions: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Groups meet weekly: Women — Tuesdays or Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm; Mixed — Wednesdays, 7-9:30 pm. Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D., @ 942-7181.

• **Child Advocates** needs volunteers to help serve the nearly 3,800 children in Harris County who are in foster care because of severe, life-threatening, soul-threatening abuse. To help get these children into homes that are safe, loving, & permanent: 529-1396.

• **Crisis Intervention of Houston** needs volunteers for 24-hour crisis-intervention & suicide-prevention hotline that requires 53 hours of training & a commitment of 4 hours a week; cash contributions for hotline & counseling programs. P.O. Box 130866, Houston 77219, 527-9864.

• **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, and there are socials throughout the month. Call 681-9082 for dates, time, and place.

• **Empowerment for Living**, a weekly HIV-positive and -negative support program and potluck supper, Tuesdays, 6 pm, MCCR, 1919 Decatur. For more information, call 861-9149.

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston** (GLSH) is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 529-9615.

• **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. More info or directions: 861-6181.

Payless\$ Insulation

The Best for Less.

Since 1977

Residential

Commercial

Attic

Walls/Floors

Spray-On



We warranty our work!
"The people who care"

713 868-1021

Free Estimates

Lynda M. Kornbleet, Owner



DIALOGUE: RACISM

Center for the Healing of Racism has developed a program to promote the sharing of thoughts, feelings, experiences and perspectives among a diverse group of people. • Teams of facilitators from different heritages create a safe, respectful environment where participants can explore the issues of racism and its repercussions. Information is provided by the facilitators on such topics as defining prejudice and racism, where racism originates, how it is perpetuated, the forms of racism, and positive means for overcoming racism and healing its wounds. • Participants are then encouraged to dialogue within guidelines which promote real listening and understanding. • The

program is conducted in a nine-evening format of two hours each session or in an intensive weekend format of two eight-hour days. Workshops of shorter durations on more limited topics can be arranged to meet the needs of particular groups. • Three times a year, the nine-week series is offered to the general public free of charge.

The spring session starts April 15:

April 15 - defining prejudice & racism
April 22 - how racism is perpetuated
April 29 - unaware racism
May 6 - internalized racism
May 13 - cultural racism; film *Healing the Hurts*
May 20 - racial and cultural stereotypes; award-winning film *Ethnic Notions*
May 27 - institutionalized racism
June 3 - Oneness of humanity
June 10 - Ally building

For further information, please call 713/520-8226.



Wow! This is a deal...

HEIGHTS

Charming Victorian/2-2-2 plus den and study. High ceilings with Hardwoods and Central A/H. Great street and Great Price in the...Mid \$80's



MEDICAL CENTER-GALLERIA-DOWNTOWN

This 3-1-1 is located in a convenient close-to-it-all neighborhood. Gleaming hardwoods. Den with French doors to patio. Beautiful landscaping with large backyard....Mid \$70's



WEST U/AYRSHIRE

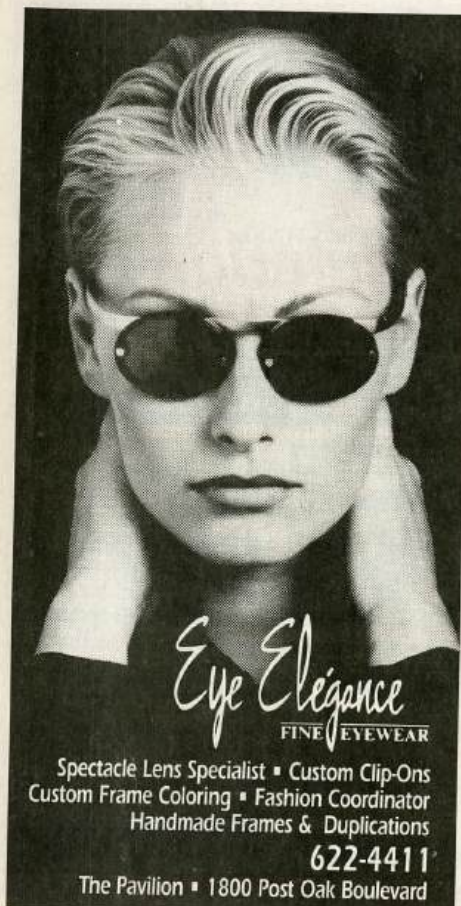
A 1/3 acre on a corner lot! Oversized 3-2-2! Over 2,500 sq. ft. HCAD. Large rooms and huge closets. Needs some work, but priced way UNDER Market. ...only \$130,000

WEST UNIVERSITY

Beautiful Townhome 2-21/2 plus carport. Fireplace with 9' ceilings and balcony! Small complex with pool and controlled access. Owner relocating; priced to sell today! ...Under \$70

RE/MAX Call **RON DUSTER**
METRO-INNER LOOP 713/528-1800 • 713/529-5026

continued on page 70



Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

Spectacle Lens Specialist • Custom Clip-Ons
Custom Frame Coloring • Fashion Coordinator
Handmade Frames & Duplications
622-4411
The Pavilion • 1800 Post Oak Boulevard

Rediscover the joy...

- Reclaim your emotions.
- Face and release your blocks to living freely.
- Create the life you want!



CT Energy
Rediscover the Joy

Experience the joy of releasing the energy at your center.

Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D.
Southwest Recovery Place
4726 Yoakum
Houston, Texas 77008
(713) 942-7181

Weekly programs for pairs, individuals, families & groups.
Corporate consulting available.

Center for Healthy Sexuality

Treatment of:

- Sexual Addiction and Compulsion
- Intimacy and Relationship Problems
- Sexual Abuse and Incest Issues

Individual, Couple and Group Therapies Available

Dr. Barbara Levinson • (713) 785-2600

THE TEACHERS STORE

1001 So. Allen Genoa • So. Houston, TX 77587
713/944-2306 • Fax: 713/910-2576
Store Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10am-6pm • Sun. 1pm-5pm
"Expanded hours during Back to School"

Featuring:

Bonus Buyers Program • In-Store Price Breaks
Teachers Lounge • Charge Accounts • Cash Discount
Inspirational Products • Home Schoolers • Parents Welcome



IF YOU HAVE HIV AND MONEY HAS BECOME A CONCERN . . .

We understand the financial difficulties that occur when living with a life threatening illness.

(VBF) secures purchasers for your life insurance policy, providing you with the funds you need today. We simplify the entire process, creating the least amount of stress on you. Our clients peace of mind and well being is our **NUMBER ONE CONCERN.**

We are committed to securing the absolute highest possible purchase price for your policy, while maintaining the utmost in confidentiality.

VBF is proud to be a National sponsor of AIDS organizations.



VIACIAL BENEFITS FOUNDATION, INC.
Gay Owned and Operated

Please call for more information.
1-800-871-9440 24 HOURS
FT. LAUDERDALE • CLEVELAND
PHOENIX • CAMDEN

Learn more about our free Physicians Hotline, Available to all Viatical Benefit Foundation clients, Along with our 24 Hr. Crisis Intervention Hot Line, Staffed by certified HIV counselors.

We are family concerned about the well being and security of all other families.



Not Just for the Birds

No one who's seen Kiki Neumann's rustic, charming birdhouses and benches can accuse her of sitting on the fence.

Because that's exactly what she's using to make her art.

by Blase DiStefano



Kiki Neumann sits on her recycled-fence bench. Also resting on the bench is one of her 3-story birdhouses.

Anytime a fence is being torn down throughout Montrose and the Heights, Kiki Neumann gets a call from various alert friends. "Fenceposts on Fairview!" "Cash from the Trash!"

She drops what she's doing and rushes to inspect the pile of discarded lumber which normally is hauled off to Houston landfills. From the chaos of ripped boards and rusty nails, she turns the mundane fence into garden benches, duplex birdhouses or whatever. Currently between careers (or maybe not), Neumann is involved in a personal mission to build birdfeeders and birdhouses only from the castoffs of urban dwellers.

Her mother gave her the first nudge by tearing down a particularly beautiful fence (the kind with the pointed tops). "I built a garden bench that started the whole endeavor," Neumann says. "So I named the company Mother's Old Fencepost and started selling off the rest of the fence." Overwhelmed with orders for birdhouses, cabinets and birdfeeders, Neumann hit the streets and found more than enough wood just from the inner loop.

As a member of the Garden and Yard Society, Neumann has found homes for many of her creations. "The garden club is a perfect venue for recycled wood products since members get

together once a month to swap plants, cuttings and information," she says. Every good garden or patio needs a bench, birdhouse or birdfeeder.

Neumann can be found prowling the streets looking for all sorts of discards to embellish her projects. "The whole thing has completely gotten out of hand and taken flight — it has a life of its own," she says. "The streets are rich with treasures in which to turn into wonderful things for our homes and gardens. Thank you, Houston!"

Kiki Neumann can be reached via pager at 281/289-2893, but give her some time to return the call. She's probably in the midst of hauling away another fencepile.

Joshua's
Native Plants & Garden Antiques

Erotic Statuary • Traditional & Whimsical Garden Decor
Easy to Grow, Hard-to-Find Perennials

50% Off
Any plant under \$10 with this ad.
One coupon per customer. Exp. 4/30/97

111 Heights Boulevard
Every Day 10-6 713/862-7444
Gay Owned and Operated

C
V

Custom Valet Cleaners

*Heirloom
Clothing Restoration
Expert Alterations
Hand-Finished Shirts
Leather & Suede Specialists*

1900 S. Shepherd at San Felipe
529-3366
Proudly serving the community

BRAVO KEY & LOCK

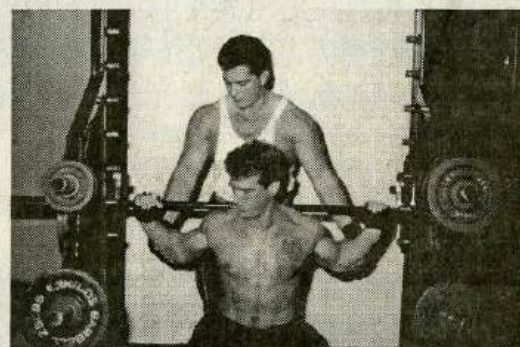
— 24 HOUR SERVICE —

Master Keying at Fair Prices
Autos • Commercial • Residential

523-KEYS • 522-1615
(5397)

1612 Westheimer at Mandell
A Proud Supporter of the Gay & Lesbian Community

Awesome New Gym in Montrose!



Never a Wait for Tons of New Equipment!

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| ☐ NEW CYBEX | ☐ LIFESTRIDES | ☐ PRECOR TRANSPORTS |
| ☐ NEW NAUTILUS | ☐ LIFEROWERS | ☐ HAMMER STRENGTH |
| ☐ AEROBICS | ☐ LIFECYCLES | ☐ RECUMBENT CYCLES |
| ☐ FREE WEIGHTS | ☐ LIFESTEPS | ☐ NEW PURETAN BEDS |
| ☐ CARDIO GLIDES | ☐ NORDIC TRACKS | ☐ FREE PARKING |

Grand Opening Sale - Free Initiation!



4040 Milam HOUSTON, TX. 77006 713/524-9932
MONDAY - FRIDAY 5AM - 10PM SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8AM - 8PM

Tired of increasing your eyeglass prescription every year?

**OUR FOCUS IS SEEING
BETTER THE NATURAL WAY.**

"I became interested in improving vision when my own vision tripled in prescription by the time I was 14 years old. To make sure that improvement techniques really work, I went to work for a preventative optometrist, Dr. Jacob Liberman, for 4 years before attending optometry school. I study vision improvement every day. I look forward to meeting you."

—Dr. Sue Moss, O.D.
Therapeutic Optometrist



Dr. Sue Moss, O.D.
713/524-2525

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Thorough, prevention-oriented eye exams.
- Vision Training & Orthokeratology
- Specialty contacts—bifocals, color lenses, frequent replacement lenses.
- Convenient hours—weekends & evenings
- Contact lenses for improving your vision.
- Wholistic Eye Care

Eyes Are Precious
WHOLISTIC EYE CARE

1428-A West Alabama • 713/524-2525

Just 3 blocks west of Montrose Blvd.

OutSmart at Home

**Add Oceans
of Motion
with Waves of
Ornamental Grass**

Sometimes when I mention the words "ornamental grass" to my design clients, I am met with harsh resistance and a closed mind. The massive, overgrown hedge of pampas grass (*Cortaderia sellowiana*) is the vision that the average client conjures up. Once planted in the wrong place, pampas is difficult to remove and its leaf blades can cut you as you work around it in the garden. But there are many other ornamental grasses that are more suited for home landscape use.

Some of the lesser-known ornamental grasses are beginning to appear at local nurseries and garden centers here in Houston. These grasses, you can't resist touching because of the appearance of their leaves or flower plumes. They can anchor a perennial planting or serve as textural contrast in mixed shrub borders. These grasses blend well with perennials or evergreen shrubs. Ornamental grasses often offer four seasons of interest, if you are in tune with the cycles of nature.

Grasses come in a wide variety of flower types, sizes and leaf colors. Some have plumed or feathery seedheads that can be used in dried flower arrangements. Some are large specimen plants. Others are only inches tall and serve as ground covers. Leaf blades can range from wide to narrow, colored, banded or even variegated. Whatever your need, an

ornamental grass meeting your site specifics can be found and planted with success in this area.

Heidi Sheesley of Tresearch Farms, Inc., a wholesale nursery in Houston, Texas, spent some time with me going over the many available species. Tresearch is testing a variety of ornamental grasses to gauge their suitability for Houston's climate. Throughout Tresearch's display gardens, different varieties of grasses appeared showing their versatility in diverse landscape settings. The grasses looked especially inviting and carefree when planted with blooming Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*) and other choice perennials on the day that I visited.

Why are grasses becoming more popular? Besides being beautiful additions to a landscaped bed, they are very low-maintenance plants. Most can be integrated into an average garden with ease, requiring no additional fertilizers or soil additives. The only annual chore that grasses need, according to Heidi Sheesley, "is an annual pruning in the spring to within 6"-12" of the soil line." Sheesley suggested that you leave this length of stubble to protect the new, emerging grass blades from early spring rains that can cause rot and from damaging late frosts. Ideally, this pruning should take place just as the new leaf blades are beginning to appear.

by Yvonne Bohanon

"One of the best
inner-beauty specialists
in America."

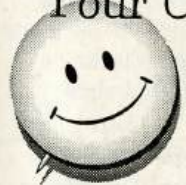
-Self Magazine, January 1996



- Deep Tissue
- Swedish
- Reflexology
- Aromatherapy Baths
- Aromatic Facials
- Polarity
- Seaweed Wraps
- Gift Certificates

3100 Richmond Avenue • Suite 204 • Houston, TX 77098
713-942-0923

Dry or Steam Clean Your Carpet & Upholstery



Roses are red,
And violets are blue,
We'll make your dirty carpet
Look like it's brand new!

Hey, we're not poets, but we're...

CARPET

PROS
OF
HOUSTON

- Carpet Repair and Stretching
- Fabric and Carpet Sealants
- Drapery Cleaning
- Oriental Rug Specialist
- Truck Mount & Portable Units
- Pet Stains/Odor Removal Specialist
- Hardwood Floor Cleaning Pro

\$10 OFF

(Purchase must total \$50 after coupon deduction. Not valid with any other discounts. Not valid on labor/materials/products/emergency extraction charges.)

Expert Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning Expert

CALL 713/526-4944

The following are some of the grasses available, in propagation or in production, at Treesearch Farms, Inc. Any or all would make excellent additions to your ornamental plantings. They are considered suitable to the climate and growing conditions in and around Houston.

Silver arrow miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Silberfeil') is a large-growing maiden grass that can reach 6'. Its variegated leaf blades have a creamy-white color along the outside of its leaves. It is an excellent grower for this area and displays tasseled plumes as flower blooms in August and September.

Japanese variegated miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Variegatus') is a smaller version of silver arrow and usually grows to about 3' tall. It has a softer, weepier habit and looks great planted as a stabilizing mass along the edges of a pond at Treesearch Farms, Inc.

Cabaret miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Cabaret') is a version halfway between silver arrow and Japanese variegated miscanthus. Its mature height is about 4' to 6' and it has a wider blade and a stiffer growth habit than either of the above grasses. I thought it was the prettiest of the cream-colored, variegated grasses displaying the showiest variegation.

Miscanthus morning light (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light') is another variegated maiden grass. Its narrow white to gray-white bands of variegation run up and down the outside of the leaf blades. It is a medium grower from 4' to 6' and has a silvery appearance from a distance. Its plumed flowers emerge with hints of reddish bronze and then fade to cream.

Porcupine grass (*Miscanthus sinensis* var. *strictus*) is almost identical to the light yellow, horizontally banded zebra grass. It has a better growth habit, being tighter and more upright than zebra grass. This clumping grass can reach 4' to 6' in a season. The blooms are copper fading to tan and appear in September. My neighbor has mixed this grass with a lemon yellow lantana for a colorful combination in her perennial border.

Oriental fountain grass (*Pennisetum orientale*) is one of the prettiest fountain grasses. With narrow, glossy, blue-green leaves, it mixes well with other blues and pinks. Flower heads appear in May and June giving the gardener a different season of bloom to incorporate into the landscape. The display resembles pink foxtails that fade to creamy tan. These grass clumps work well in low, mass plantings and remain ornamental until fall. It prefers a location in good morning sun and afternoon shade.

Dwarf fountain grass (*Pennisetum cassinii*) is a smaller version of the species. It is also a clumper and can be planted singly or in mass planting situations. It has little foxtails as blooms. Give it morning sun and afternoon shade to keep it ornamental during the late summer months.

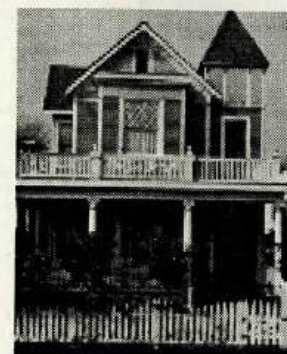
Red-leaved fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum rubrum*) is actually more of a rich burgundy to purple color than red. Used as an annual grass in ornamental plantings (it is not reliably hardy), this grass cannot be beat for its colorful leaf blades and foxtail blooms. It can reach 3' in a season. Use as specimen, mixed in with bedding plants or as a height element in a seasonal container planting. I have seen this grass appearing locally in commercial, annual plantings. It works well in containers adding color, height and movement all at the same time.

Mexican feather grass (*Stipa tenuissima*) is a very fine-textured mound of grass that has been described as "a flowing mane of blond hair." It mixes well with grays and works in low-water situations such as banks or xeriscape settings. Each clump is about 18" x 18".

Lindheimer muhly (*Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*) is a native clumping grass that can reach 3' to 4' height. When flowering it can reach 6'. It is fine-textured with blue-green foliage. Use it as a single specimen or as a mass planting. It likes full sun and well-draining soil. It is also a good xeriscape plant and is used at The

23rd Galveston Historic Homes Tour

For most of the 19th century, Galveston's prosperity was unparalleled in Texas. Master architects designed elegant homes for wealthy merchants. Skilled craftsmen left their mark on even the modest dwellings of the working class.



Visitors may experience the romance of the Island's Gilded Age during Galveston Historical Foundation's 23rd annual Historic Homes Tour, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays, May 3 and 10; noon to 6 p.m., Sundays, May 4 and 11, 1997. The Victorian era comes to life during guided tours of 10 outstanding, privately owned historic homes not usually open to the public.

"We try to show a wide range of homes during the tour," says Gina Spagnola, the event's director. "We want our visitors to appreciate that historic homes aren't just for the wealthy. These houses aren't museum pieces. They're comfortable homes for modern families."

Among the properties of the 1997 tour are the 1887 Alexander A. Allen Home, a rare Stick-style house filled with antique furnishings; the 1890 Isaac Heffron Home, a classic late-Victorian residence featuring a country kitchen; and the 1896 Louis Marx Home, an early Colonial Revival design restored as a comfortable family home.

A unique stop on this year's tour is the 1886 Mollie Walters Home, the last of Galveston's infamous Postoffice Street bordellos. The Walters House is being shown prior to restoration.

Tour tickets are \$15 per person the days of the tour and include one admission to each house on tour. Tickets may be used all four days of the event. Advance-purchase discount tickets are available for \$13 each through Friday, May 2.

The ticket price includes a catalogue containing histories of each home on tour and a map to the houses. Visitors may drive to the homes they wish to tour or take the free Homes Tour shuttle which connects each house on tour with 1859 Ashton Villa, 2328 Broadway, and The Strand Visitors Center, 2016 Strand.

Woodlands Native Plant and Xeriscape Garden near The Woodlands Recycling Center.

Florida muhly and **gulf coast muhly** were also recommended as good native grasses for this area. Florida muhly can reach 3' tall and makes a nice specimen. During its fall blooming time, hazy clouds of pink flowers cover it. Sheesley stated that "when people notice a hazy pinkness in open fields during October, it usually means there is a natural planting of gulf coast muhly grass."

My favorite grass is **bamboo muhly** (*Muhlenbergia dumosa*). This is a grass that you just have to feel and touch. From a distance it has a frothy, plumed, cloud-like appearance in the landscape with a light green color. It almost resembled an asparagus plant, but was lighter green and even finer textured. Up close, the plumed

leaves are grown on canes in various sizes throughout the plant. It is not, repeat not a bamboo. This arching, fine-textured plant would be an asset in any landscape. It requires a full-sun setting with good drainage.

Blue Lyme Grass (*Elymus arenarius* 'Glaucus') is the only evergreen grass grown by Treesearch Farms. Sheesley stated that the grass looks best in the fall and winter and has a stiff, upright appearance in those seasons. It is a gun-metal, blue-to-gray grass that spreads to 2' or 3'. It can be used as a beach grass and is good for erosion control or high-heat areas.

As you can see, there actually is more to ornamental grasses than just pampas grass. I hope you can find a place for one of these beauties in your garden. If you do, every breeze where the grass will flutter and sway with movement will convince you that you made the right choice. As always, enjoy the process.

If you would like to purchase a grass locally, check with your favorite nursery. Yvonne Bohanon is a freelance garden designer and writer. For consulting, she can be reached at 713/363-0717.

SUBSCRIBE OUTSMART 520-7237

Offering gentle, private, and
individualized care for adults
in a comfortable, homelike setting.



Bruce W. Smith, D.D.S.

General Dentistry

1006 Missouri Street • Houston, TX 77006

713/529-4364

MC, VISA, AMEX, DISCOVER, HEALTH CAP
• Most insurance accepted after confirmation

HANDS ON PRODUCTIONS

Full Body Swedish Reflexology

A healing, nurturing, and relaxing massage custom-made to the needs of your body.

In/Out Calls, Evenings/Weekends



M. Dan DeLeon, RMT
Registered Massage Therapist

990-5102

READY FOR SUMMER?



THE ART OF FITNESS

- * Weight reduction, body shaping, muscle toning
- * Beginner to advanced levels
- * Personalized-balanced programs
- * 13 years experience in physical fitness
- * Result oriented programs
- * Excellent references upon request

Personal Fitness Consultant
Phone: 713-938-BODY (2639)

Dance Grooves

Hot Imports and Houston's New Dance Station

by Ricardo Companioni

If you watched the Grammy Awards, you may have been wondering why there's a category for best polka album but not one for dance. Hopefully this will change, thanks to the efforts of the Committee for the Advancement of Dance Music (CADM). They have been lobbying for a dance category for quite some time now. **Michael Greene**, president and CEO of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), the organization that puts on the Grammys, says that we will more than likely see a dance category next year. It's about time! If you work in the music business and would like information on how to become a NARAS member, contact **Carylne Majer** at 512/328-7997.

Last month I mentioned the song "Bill" by **Peg Scott-Adams** (Miss Butch/Mardi Gras) about a man leaving his wife for another man. Come to find out, this is the same Peggy Scott that sang "You've Got It All" (Malice), one of the biggest club records in Houston history. While we're on the subject of comebacks, **Shirley Bassey** has teamed up with **Chris Rea** on "Disco La Passione" (Eastwest UK). It's tea dance music at its best, and Shirley still

looks and sounds great. A strange but genius collaboration. "Bill" isn't the only gay-themed song getting radio and video airplay — KRBE has been playing "Your Woman," the debut single by **White Town** (EMI). It's very '80s-sounding. When I first heard it, I thought it was the **Buggles** (remember "Video Killed the Radio Star"?). The vocals are distorted, but they are definitely male, and some of the lyrics are: "I guess what they say is true/I could never be the kind of girl for you/I could never be your woman." Is this a gay man talking to another? Is this a flattered but uninterested straight man talking to a gay man? Or is the singer singing through the persona of a female? You decide.

Watch out **Tori Amos**, here comes **Paula Cole**. The first single from her album *This Fire* (Warner Bros.) is "Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" (a question on every gay Texan's mind). You can't help but sing along to this catchy tune, and now you can dance to it, thanks to remixes by **Dekkard**, which are very BT-ish, and by **E-Team**, which samples "I Wanna Be a Cowboy" by **Boys Don't Cry**. If you haven't already purchased a copy of the



Mrs. Wood and Eve Gallagher

critically acclaimed album *Walking Wounded* by Everything But The Girl (Atlantic), I urge you to do so. This is one of those rare albums with absolutely no filler. "Before Today," which is one of my favorite cuts on the album, has just been issued as the third single. Believe it or not, the album mix works the best.

"Smalltown Boy" by **Bronski Beat** has been redone by **Lagado**. It's on the hard-to-find UK label called F.I. Records. I don't particularly care for the vocal mix (he's no **Jimmy Summerville**), but I love the dub which is in heavy rotation at Rich's. Call Rebel Rebel Records in NYC (212) 989-0770 for a copy.

"Ride a Rocket" by **Lithium** (FFRR), "That's When I Reach for My Revolver" by **Moby** (Elektra) and "Nightmare" by **Brainbug** (Groovilicious) are three flawless imports that have now become available domestically. "Rocket" is produced by **Victor Imbrea** (re-

Guaranteed
Acceptance
If Self-Employed

HEALTH, LIFE &
DISABILITY INSURANCE

Ferriulo & Associates
J. Al Ferriulo
800/834-4252



WHY FIX-UP?
BUY BRAND NEW.

Don't settle for a cramped bungalow that needs repair. Buy a spacious, new home in the close-in community of StoneBrook Village. Enjoy amenities like a gated entrance and front yards maintained by the homeowner's association. Come see the wide array of SmartSpace designs and discover why it's easier to own a new home — instead of repair bills..



StoneBrook Village
W. LITTLE YORK
HOLLISTER
HWY 290
LOOP 610
FROM THE \$120'S
Anthony Perkins 713-849-5816

Trendmaker Homes
SMART HOMES FOR SMART PEOPLE.

member that name) and features the vocals of **Echobelly** front woman **Sonya Madan**. All the mixes are good, but I prefer the Disco Citizens mix. "Revolver" comes with mixes by Moby himself and by **Rollo** and **Sister Bliss**, all of which are noteworthy. "Nightmare" is an instrumental track that is impossible to sit still to. Not since "I'm Ready" by **Size 9** has a record energized a dance floor like this.

Speaking of Rollo and Sister Bliss, they have remixed "I'm Not the Man I Used to Be" by **Fine Young Cannibals** (FFRRUK). It's actually the B-side of another single by FYC called "The Flame," which has been tweaked for club consumption by the tireless **Armand Van Helden**. Add **Mrs. Wood** to the list of budding female UK DJs with songwriting and production skills. She wrote a song with **Boy George** called "Heartbreak" (Flip-It). The vocalist on the song is platinum-toned diva **Eva Gallagher**. Mrs. Wood is currently working on new material for her debut album tentatively titled *Woodwork*. In her own words, Wood describes her music as "meaty, beaty, big and bouncy." Sounds like a description for something else.

DJ Top 10

by Michael DeGrace

(Club Some & Heaven)

1. DEAD MAN WALKING—David Bowie—Virgin
2. RIDE A ROCKET—Lithium—FFRR
3. FAITH, HOPE & ECSTASY—Stubborn Mule—Eightball
4. 2 WICKY—Hooverphonic—Epic
5. RELEASE YO'SELF—Translantic Soul—Ultra
6. SOOTHE—Phurry Freake—Open U.K.
7. FIRE—Victor Imbres—MCA Belgium
8. STAR PEOPLE—George Michael—Dreamworks
9. LOVELY—LEVEL 16—Progressive High
10. YOU DON'T KNOW—Cyndi Lauper—Epic



Be careful what you wish for. Last month when I prayed and hoped for a new dance station to pop up in Houston, I didn't expect it to happen so quickly. By now most of you have probably listened to it in your car, and you're probably over the fact that they play a lot of the same records over and over again. Therefore, here's a list of better times to tune in. The times listed are the ones when DJs are mixing live, so pay attention:

Weekdays	Morning Mix, 7:40 a.m. to 8 a.m. Lunch Mix, 11:40 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. Afternoon Mix, 4:40 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.
Friday	8 p.m. to 4 a.m.
Saturday	7 p.m. to 4 a.m.
Sunday	10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The new station features seven DJs who alternate during these times. The DJs include **Johnny J.**, **JD Arnold**, **Kamikaze**, **Ron E.G.**,

PICKS OF THE MONTH



Check out these tunes in our listening lounge at www.OutSmartMagazine.com

FLOOD (Junior DMC Mix)
Jars of Clay/DMC

RIDE THE ROCKET (Disco Citizens Mix)
Lithium/FFRR

NIGHTMARE (Sinister Strings Mix)
Brainbug/Groovilicious

Mixmaster Ray, **Nathan Looney** and **Charles Chavez**. If you pull out your memory book, you'll remember that Charles Chavez is the guy for KTFM San Antonio who remixed the **Texas Tornados** single "Little Bit Is Better Than Nada." He has relocated to Houston to become the music director at the new station. I recently spoke to Charles, and I have to tell you I'm very excited about what he and program director **Greg Head** are doing.

"We're definitely paying attention to what's happening in the clubs, and we are actively courting the gay market," he says. "We want to appeal not only to the 18- to 34-year-old Hispanic female, but also to the gay audience, the rave kids and everyone who loves dance music."

"We've done what no other station in Houston has ever done. We set up a blind date on the air for a gay caller." Remember that the next time you need a date. KHYS-FM (pronounced "kiss") is owned by Clear Channel, the same company that owns The Box and Magic 102. It has two signals, 98.5 and 103.3. Their slogan is, "The station that sucks a little less." By the way, JD Arnold's mix-show has been expanded to two nights, so if you miss him on Friday night from 12 to 4 a.m., then you can catch him on Wednesday night from 12 to 2 a.m.

Houstonian Ricardo Companioni is the manager of the Dance Music Chart for Billboard magazine



Books continued from page 32

trional family, compare notes in this light-hearted, easy-to-read book about parents who are different. They discover that blue dads aren't really that different from other dads.

PLAYBOOK FOR KIDS ABOUT SEX; Blank, Joani; \$5.50 - Not just another book about how babies are made, this is a book about sexual feelings for boys and girls whose bodies have not started to change. Illustrated with lots of blanks left to be written in and boxes to check and choose.

SATURDAY IS PATTYDAY; Newman, Leslea and Annette Hegel; \$6.95 - The trials and tribulations of a little girl as she tries to understand and come to terms with the end of her two mothers' relationship. A sensitive portrayal of a child dealing with a difficult situation.

STORIES FOR CHILDREN; Wilde, Oscar; \$14.95 - Six of Wilde's most popular fairy tales are gathered here in this sumptuously illustrated volume.

TWO MOMS, THE ZARK, AND ME; Valentine, Johnny; \$12.95 - A young child with two moms, a playful animal called a Zark, and the narrow-minded McFinks, all come together in this whimsical story that looks at just what a family is all about. Colorfully illustrated by Angelo Lopez.

UNCLE WHAT-IS-IT IS COMING TO VISIT!!; Wilhoite, Michael; \$12.95 - Igor and Tiffany learn that their gay uncle is coming to visit. Their mother is interrupted before she can explain what gay means, so some older kids tell them what to expect. The two children are alarmed at what they hear. But the stereotypes are shattered when Uncle Brett finally appears.

UPSIDE DOWN, INSIDE OUT AND BACKWARDS; Michals, Duane; \$19.95 - 80 pages of pictures and stories by artist Duane Michaels. This is a book of comic surprises and foolish follies, of rhymes and rattle tales and missing teeth, of secrets and mistakes and let's pretend for children.

WORLD IS ROUND; Stein, Gertrude; \$6.00 - This is Stein's only children's book, about a little girl named Rose and her search for identity. This is a charming and witty book, using Stein's usual humor and imagination, based on a young neighbor in the French farming community of Balignin where Stein and Tolkas summered. This story offers a rare view of the real little girl and her friend Miss Stein.

All listed titles can be ordered from Lambda Rising Bookstores. For ordering information, send e-mail to: lambda@rising.com or call 1-800-621-6969. This compilation and the descriptions included herein are copyright 1994 by Lambda Rising, Inc., All Rights Reserved.

So You've Met Someone!

NOW WHAT?

Don't waste time and energy. Have your astrological charts compared for compatibility.

Call Madilyn Stein at
713/622-7232 to set your appointment.
36 years experience.

Have you prepared for your own death efficiently?

Imagine all your life history organized, detailed and combined into one book, for you to pass on to your loved one or family member after your death, so that they may be relieved of any extra stress or pressures of not knowing what to do about your belongings or wishes.

"My Final Planner" workbook

allows you to take charge of your own funeral.

\$49⁹⁵ plus tax & shipping



DON'T LEAVE LIFE WITHOUT IT!

Send your name, address, phone number with check (with driver's license #), money order, or charge account number (and expiration date) to:

Nancé Wells & Company
2010 Louisiana • Houston, TX 77002
713-659-3686
or fax 713-659-3767

"An affordable mechanic you can trust"—OutSmart



Montrose

AUTO REPAIR

1511 1/2 TAFT AT WEST GRAY

REASONABLE RATES ★ HONEST & RELIABLE
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AUTO ★ SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

CALL JOHN FOWLER AT **713/524-3068**

Winter Special!

\$19⁹⁵ plus tax

FLUSH COOLING SYSTEM

One coupon per visit. Not valid with any other offer. Offer expires 4/15/97

SAVE 20% OFF

TOTAL COST OF REPAIR (Parts and Labor)

One coupon per visit. Not valid with any other offer. Offer expires 4/15/97

continued from page 59

- **Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse.** Montrose Counseling Center is offering a therapy group designed to provide a safe environment for men who share this type of experience to work together to resolve the impacts of the trauma on everyday life. Services are provided on a sliding scale basis, and insurance is accepted. Certain restrictions apply. For further information: Shane Hennessey at 529-0037.
- **Gulf Coast Transgender Community** meets 2nd Saturday of each month (cross dressing required). Open discussion 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month (cross dressing not required). P.O. Box 66643, Houston, TX 77266-6643, 780-4282.
- **Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH)** is open to gays and lesbians, age 15-21. Meets Fridays from 7:30-10 pm & Sundays from 6:30-9 pm. Call 942-7002 for location and information.
- **Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents (HGLP)** support group meets to discuss issues pertaining to today's gay families. If you have children or plan to have children, this support group can help with issues like coming out, ex-spouse problems, step relationships, etc. Meets at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr., 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7-8:30 pm, 284-4939.
- **Just For Us (JFU)** is a social and support group for youth in the 6th through 12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. Sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents, 284-4939.
- **Lambda Center A.A.**, 1201 W. Clay, Houston, TX 77019. For meeting times: 521-1243.
- **Living in Process Groups.** Ongoing mixed group for men & women 3 Wednesday evenings per month. Ongoing gay men's group 3 Thursday evenings per month. Call Eric Mayo at Living in Process Southwest for more info: 622-7250.
- **Living With HIV Support Group.** For anyone whose life is touched by HIV. Meetings include a relaxing meditation, information about community resources, & occasional speakers. The group meets Thursdays, 7-9 pm in room 117, Unity Church of Christianity, 2929 Unity Dr. For more info: 782-4050.
- **Male Survivors of Sexual Assault** is a support group 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. Call Diane Williams at the Houston Area Women's Center, 528-6798, ext. 246, for more info. All services are free of charge and confidential.
- **Montrose Counseling Center** offers numerous counseling groups, including groups for men & women living with HIV, people in recovery, lesbian survivors of cancer, survivors of sexual abuse, lesbian survivors of domestic violence & more. The center needs office furniture, equipment & interested citizens to serve on boards. 701 Richmond. More info (24 hrs.): 529-0037.
- **Muscular Dystrophy Association.** Houston/Gulf Coast, provides monthly support groups for adults with neuromuscular diseases, for people with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), for parents of MDA children, and Spanish-speaking groups. For the most current info on these ongoing groups, call the MDA office at 522-3941.
- **Overeaters Anonymous (OA).** For information about OA's 70 regular weekly meetings, call 973-6633.
- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Houston** — general meeting with small group discussions, 1st Sunday of each month, 2-4:30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral (Downtown), 1117 Texas Ave. PFLAG Houston Helpline: 867-9020.
- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Galveston County** — 3rd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, @ The Health Merchant, 27th & Broadway, 409/744-3200 or janettexas@aol.com.

- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays (PFLAG) Woodlands** — 2nd Sunday of each month, 2 pm, Northwood Unitarian Church, 1370 N. Mill Bend Dr. For more info: 713/867-9020.
- **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 info: Marty at 520-7870.
- **Rape Crisis Program.** Volunteers are needed in the rape crisis program of the Houston Area Women's Center. Volunteers answer hotline calls, counsel survivors in hospitals and at the center, and help with clerical support. The Women's Center offers extensive training for volunteers who work with survivors of sexual assault. Call 528-6798, ext. 273.
- **StreetWise Houston** is a drop-in/educational & support center for homeless, street, & lesbian youth, ages 13-22, located @ 202 Tuam. We provide HIV support groups, drug intervention, housing case management, & GED classes. We are seeking donations of hygiene products (deodorant, tampons, toothpaste, etc.), canned foods, furniture (beds, sofa, dining table), new socks & underwear, dishes, linens, & bus tokens. Also seeking volunteers who would like to teach life skills and/or be mentors to our young clients during afternoon or evening operating hours. For more info: Michelle @ 524-5757.
- **Support, Equality, and Awareness, at Shell (SEAShell)** is a Gay & Lesbian Employees Group whose mission is to provide support for members & co-workers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation, and create awareness in management of issues & concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace. For info: Robert @ 544-4246 or Rick @ 544-7098.
- **Tau Chi Chapter of Tri Ess** is a local support group for heterosexual male crossdressers and their wives or partners. For info: Brandi at 409/856-6759.
- **Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS)** is a peer support group devoted to serving the emotional, social, & educational needs of transgendered persons, their partners, families, & friends. For more info, call 827-5913 or write to TATS, P.O. Box 142, Bellaire, TX 77401.
- **Texas Commerce Bank's Diversity P.R.I.D.E. Team** welcomes you to be a part of equality. P.R.I.D.E. stands for People Recognizing Individual Differences Equally and is the bank's gay & lesbian diversity team. Our mission statement reads: "To support the inclusion of all employees regardless of sexual orientation and gender identification as valued employees of Texas Commerce Bank & to encourage an environment of equality, celebrating the individuality & diversity of each person. We will work to create an awareness within the organization & community — building opportunity & self-esteem — which will lead to equality." Meets every 3rd Wednesday, 5:30 pm. Harold Shultz 216-6740 or Richard Bielec 655-5423.
- **Women's Network** is a support group for lesbian and bisexual women. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 529-0037.

- **AIDS Housing Coalition Houston** runs the nonprofit TLC House program, a 90-day, gay-positive, emergency house for PWAs in transition. For more info about joining, call 521-1613.

Health

- **AssistHers** tries to help women live as normally as possible while coping with a life-threatening or debilitating illness. Eligible for service are women whose emotional, social, or sexual relationships are primarily with other women who have a debilitating or life-challenging disease, illness, or condition. Assistance may extend to a woman's partner, caregiver, or family. Services are provided regardless of ability to pay, & regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or economic status. Volunteers are trained & supervised in the provision of direct care such as emotional support, meal preparation, shopping, hospital & home visits, pet care, plant & lawn maintenance, transportation, & other assistance. Volunteers work as members of a Care Team, which is assigned one client, so it is realistic to expect 2 visits/week from volunteers. PO Box 131605, Houston, TX 77219-1605, 521-4628.
- **AVES** (Amigos Volunteers in Education & Services) provides social and health-care services to HIV-positive individuals. Volunteer wish list: 1) fluent, or at least functional, in English & Spanish; 2) comfortable discussing sexual matters with total strangers; 3) comfortable with various ethnic & sexual cultures; 4) able and willing to commit at least 2 hours a week; 5) able to staff the hotline during office hours; & 6) willing to make a long-term (6 months) commitment. 4126 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 1717, 626-2837 or 1-800-981-2837.
- **Camp Hope**, for children living with HIV/AIDS, needs sleeping bags, snacks, suntan lotions, insect repellents, toiletries, minor medical equipment (e.g. thermometer), toilet paper, toiletry kits, camper duffel bags, bed linen, fruit juices, soft drinks, and so forth. For more info: Mecie Hardin or Mike Mizwa, 623-6796.
- **Casa de Esperanza** needs clothes, sizes birth to 14; shoes; socks & underwear; children's videos; diapers and diaper wipes; food; art supplies; and toys for the shelter that serves abused and HIV-infected children. P.O. Box 66581, Houston 77266-6581, 529-0639.
- **The Center for AIDS (CFA)** is an information & advocacy organization working to accumulate knowledge and to share information regarding the latest medical treatments & scientific advances in the field of HIV/AIDS. The CFA advocates both locally & nationally for better treatments & better access to care for persons living with HIV/AIDS and strives to keep the Houston medical & affected community informed, updated, & involved in the search for a cure. The CFA holds monthly, informal meetings for persons with HIV/AIDS & other interested persons to discuss treatment options. For more info: 527-8219.
- **Family Hospice** is dedicated to serving people experiencing the final phases of life & those who care for them. We provide comprehensive services through our commitment to the highest standards of care. Volunteers can assist in a variety of tasks: patient care, nursing home volunteer, respite or relief visit for the caregiver, bereavement phone calls/visits, office work, assist during training seminars, delivery person, crafts volunteer or a number of other activities. To inquire about volunteering: Kevin Phillips @ 290-1746.
- **Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)** is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health of lesbians and bisexual women in the Houston area. 1st Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. Volunteers needed to help with computer work, fundraising, direct healthcare services, organizing projects, phone trees, & publicity/advertising. Call Pokey Anderson @ 526-7828 for more info, or write LHI, P.O. Box 130158, Houston, TX 77219.
- **Milam House**, a residential center for people living with HIV/AIDS, is in need of sincere individuals to offer friendship and support. In the safe, comfortable setting of Milam House, volunteers and staff strive to

address residents' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. As a home for people who are moderately ill and no longer able to provide housing for themselves, Milam House provides a safety net of assistance when needed. Most of our volunteers prefer one-on-one work with the residents—like lending a helping hand, a listening ear, and a companionship to count on. However, some volunteers provide clerical and general office assistance as well as planning and execution of fundraising events. For more info, call 520-9248 or e-mail ahhvlntr@neosoft.com. You can also visit at <http://www.neosoft.com/~ahhstaff/MilamHouse/>.

- **Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network** is a community-based, nonprofit agency that provides low- or no-cost health, social, educational, and research services; specializes in treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS care. Needed: cash gifts for indigent-patient care and capital campaign; volunteer time from general and specialty physicians or lay persons interested in HIV counseling/office support. 215 Westheimer, 520-2000.

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

- **Omega House** provides a homelike environment for persons with AIDS needing hospice care. We do not charge a fee for our services, thus we serve persons primarily who do not have traditional medical resources. Omega House is always in need of volunteers in all areas of our program. Also: donations of soda, bleach, laundry detergent, kitchen serving utensils, universal remote controls, talented musicians to share their talent with our residents, general office supplies. Financial gifts are also always welcome. Call Joanne at 523-7110.

- **Steven's House** provides intermediate care in a homelike environment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Needed: linens, pillows, personal-hygiene products, paper products, cleaning products, laundry detergent, bleach, nonperishable food items & fresh produce; small & large TVs with remotes, a VCR, videos, office furniture & office supplies; volunteers for tasks & services. More info: 522-5757.

- **Tobacco-Free Greater Houston** will provide a list of smoke-free restaurants in the Houston area. The group works to promote health through the reduction of youth access to tobacco & the promotion of a smoke-free environment. For a free guide, send a SASE to Tobacco-Free Greater Houston, P.O. Box 890769, Houston, TX 77289-0769.

- **That Dam Debate:** Safer Sex for Lesbians, a seminar presented by Nancy Ford, sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston, last Thurs. of each month, 9:30 pm, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 666-3464.

- **Thomas Street Health Center Council** is an elected advocacy group that advise the hospital district on matters concerning Thomas Street AIDS Clinic. Meetings are open to public comment & participation. 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 pm, 3rd floor conference room, 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall off N. Main, 793-4000.

- **Women's Clinic Montrose Clinic** is now offering a women's health clinic. Visits include complete examination by gynecologist, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. Fee is \$40; but no one will be turned away. Every Wednesday, 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 520-2000.

Social

- **20 Something** is a caring, informative, social community for les-bi-gay persons & their friends coming together in a safe & positive atmosphere to share, learn, & build friendships. For more info, contact Carrie, Julie, Daniel, Guy, or Darby at 315-6786 (voice mail).

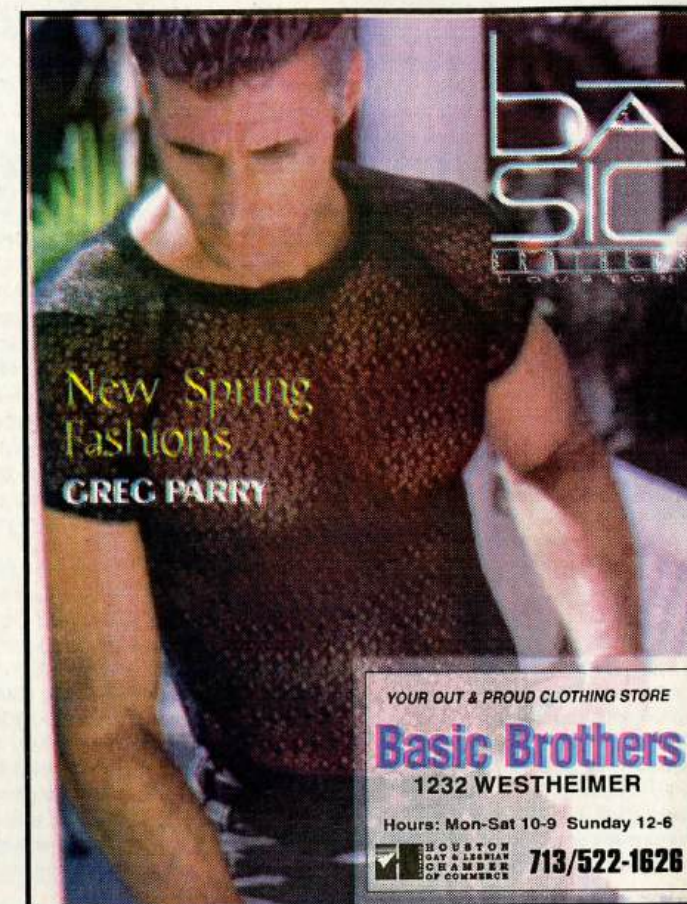
- **BiNet Houston** is a social/support/educational group which is open to bisexuals and bi-friendly individuals. For more information: 467-4380. It is best to call from 6-10 pm most evenings; otherwise, leave a message, and a representative will return your call utilizing utmost discretion.

- **Bluebonnet Young Democrats.** As a member of this lesbian/gay/gay-friendly group of young Democrats in Texas, you will have a chance to make a great impact. Possible projects in the future include trips to Austin, community forums, & other fun activities. Voice mail 632-9974 or pager 786-0493.

- **The Chain Gang Cycling Club** provides friendly cycling opportunities for members & friends of the gay & lesbian communities in metropolitan Houston. To join or for more information: 863-1860.

- **Females in Search of Trouble (FIST)** 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 772-5826.

- **Garden And Yard Society (G.A.Y.S.)** is a newly formed gay gardening club for women and men. Bring your gardening friends and supporting partners. For more information: Regina @ 862-3922 or Vickie & Clyde @ 661-6378.
- **Gay & Lesbian Health Professionals** meets monthly, providing socials, speak-



Basic Brothers
1232 WESTHEIMER
Hours: Mon-Sat 10-9 Sunday 12-6
713/522-1626



Where People of Style
Find your own road.

Eventually Find Themselves.

MOMENTUM SAAB
Houston's Exclusive Saab Dealer
713 • 995 • 0986
7300 Southwest Freeway (exit Bellaire)
<http://www.momentum-saab.com>

ers, networking, and practitioner referral line. For information or a referral, call 523-4700.

• **Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston** (GLOBAL) 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 info: Brandy Merritt at 808-0752.

• **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston** rehearses Thursdays, 7-10 pm @ Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh. Formal music training is not required, and singing & non-singing members are welcome. For info, leave message @ 521-SING.

• **HeartSong Women's Chorus** rehearses monthly at varying locations. New and former members welcome! Call 947-1488 for information.

• **Houston Area Bears** is a social organization for "bears" (hirsute men) of all sizes and their admirers. Their monthly social is held on the second Saturday of each month at the Venture-N, 2923 S. Main, 8 pm. For further info: The Grower Line, 867-9123.

• **Houston Outdoor Group** (HOG) 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. The general HOG monthly meeting is held the 4th Thursday of every month, 7-9 pm, at the Assistance Fund Bldg., 1116 Jackson Blvd., one block north of Fairview, west of Montrose. Call 526-7688 (KAMP OUT) or write to P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.

• **Lambda Rollerskating Club** invites all ages to join in the fun every Wednesday, 8-10 pm, @ Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. @ Beechnut. Admission is

\$5 (+ \$1.50 for skates). For info: 933-5818.

• **Lesbian & Gay Potluck.** The Lesbian & Gay Unitarian Universalists (LGUU) cordially invite you to bring a dish and join them every 4th Friday of the month, 7 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Crane Fireside Room, 5200 Fannin. For more info: 526-5200.

• **Lesbians in Business** (LiB), a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbians, jobs and businesses. 3rd Friday of each month, 6:30 pm, Innova Bldg., 20 Greenway Plaza, 529-0077.

• **Lone Star Nudist Group.** For gay or bisexual men who wish to share nude experiences. Singles and lovers welcome. Monthly meetings. Nude social events, massage group, and out-of-town gatherings. Call 866-8847 for more information.

• **Minority & White Men Together** (MWMt) is a social club made up of black, brown, red, yellow, and white men. We are committed to tearing down the walls of racial misconceptions and stereotypes. Our goal is to reach a better mutual understanding by forging new interracial relationships and friendships through social and political activities. For more info & an invitation to the next Sunday mixer: Michael at 867-9511.

• **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, potluck dinners, card games, and weekend daytrips. For more information, call 867-3903.

• **Rainbow Fishing Club.** To get on the free mailing list for the new fishing club for gays and lesbians, call John @ 523-6381.

• **Rainbow Ranglers,** a gay country & western dance club, teaches beginning level dance every Thursday at 8:30 pm & advanced level dance every Wednesday at 8 pm at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. Dance classes are free & open to the public. Info: 880-0670.

• **Rainbow Riders** is a bicycling club for womyn which meets every Sunday morning. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability and experience. For further information, call Cookie Davenport, 869-1686.

• **Scriptwriters/Houston** is a stage and screenwriter's support and networking group. Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month, 7:30 pm @ Jones Theatre at the University of St. Thomas, Yoakum @ Alabama. Free. For info: 707-5194 or 523-9291.

• **Sisters** is a social/support group for African American lesbians & friends. Meets 2nd Sunday of the month, 5-8 pm. Call 713/777-2999 for meeting location.

• **Southern Country Houston** provides country and western dance lessons, exhibitions, and charity events to benefit service organizations. Free dance lessons are offered every Tuesday, 8-10pm, at The Ranch, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway. Call 648-9340 or write to P.O. Box 1502, Houston, TX 77252-1502.

• **Texas Medical Center Lambda** is an association of bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered, & gay-friendly faculty, staff, & students at the Texas Medical Center. One community service or social event per month plus meetings the second Monday of each month, 7:30 pm @ Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Page for more information: 284-7206.

Sports

• **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 & Fridays from 7:30-9 pm & Sundays from 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join, call 713/692-2703.

• **Houston Women's Flag Football League** (HWFFL) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for women to play football. We are looking for players, coaches, referees, cheerleaders, & league/team sponsors for the next season. For more information: 315-9368.

• **Houston Women's Softball League** is a nonprofit organization for women who enjoy the sport of softball. For more info, write to P.O. Box 70666, Houston, TX 77270 or call 721-6854.

• **Team Houston for the Games, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization to educate & inform all people about gay/lesbian sports competitions & to encourage participation in the Gay Games and Cultural Festival. The next Gay Games will take place in Amsterdam, Aug. 1-8, 1998. For more information, write to Team Houston, P.O. Box 66405, Houston, TX 77266-6405 or call 935-1060.

• **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 77219-0585 or call 777-1444.

PLEASE
LET US KNOW YOUR
ORGANIZATION'S CHANGES
BY APRIL 15.
CALL 713/520-7237
FAX 713/522-0275
Or write to: OutSmart Calendar Changes,
3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006

Your Horoscope for the Month of April

Every month, OutSmart brings you "Sign Out," your monthly horoscope from stargazer Madilyn Stein.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

Aries is ruled by Mars; therefore, Mars in Virgo makes Aries dominatrix' lustful desires useless for the next three months. Trust me — best you bury yourself in work and leave your fiery fantasy with the newspaper delivery person. Rent risky movies and pop open your favorite cereal box, because it's going to be business as usual.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

Taurus loves Mars in Virgo just as much the second go-around, because nothing seems to inhibit your sexual appetite. Stretch your erotic senses and give the boss that special squeeze. This is the best time for a three-way mirror with two other consenting partners. Mars is sure to light your bulb if it's planted on firm ground.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)

Gemini and Virgo are ruled by Mercury, the planet of the mind. When Mars, the warrior, puts Virgo on alert, it also says the same to the "twins." This is a test for your dual controls, because you will be forced to recreate those visions that bring you hot flashes. You will exhaust your choices this year, so occupy your free time by flirting with pouting cucumbers in the gourmet section of Whole Foods.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22)

Cancer, Mars in Virgo sets romance and career as top priority even when it's not in your Day/Timer. This period will cause you to turn on with the changing wind. If you desire a steady lover, best you hang photos everywhere. Lick your lips, expose your shoulders and try tossing your hair with Caesar dressing. Maybe a new tomato will be yours.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

Leo, just like Aries, Mars in Virgo tastes like weak coffee. You've practiced overkill toward your partner, and now your partner's ready to build an escape route, so lighten up and ask 20 questions about space relations. Intense but loving, you're best when giving a party or feeding the office with your latest entree. Concentrate on complete business projects that have been haunting you, because Mars remains in Virgo until June.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Mars in Virgo means sexy business to Virgo's pent-up energy. You're forced to expose those hidden agendas that wildly circulate around the Montrose coffee shops. This is a window of opportunity to lighten your workload and work out what you've neglected. Stop repeating "you light up my life," and reflect back on last year's reign of Mars in Virgo. Ask no more questions — just roll those big eyes and sling your hood ornament far to the right side of the street. Watch the ice cream melt around the one you've been chasing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Libras are bewildered with Mars in Virgo. The best way to use this energy is to seduce the computer, because you really love to count on repetition. Remember, Venus rules you but Mars is forceful, and not everything will go as well as the smoothie you prepare each morning. You have more energy than usual, so double your workout and tend to those letters of acceptance you've avoided. Then ask for more money. You've earned it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)

Scorpio, fiery Mars casts dirt on your tail. Mars in Virgo makes you follow the stripe on the middle of your normal route to work. You've always been accused of being the most sexual sign in the Zodiac, but this time you will want consistency and commitment. They say you travel in pairs, so who are "they," and what difference does it make to the outside world? Gather some new techniques, and a new crop of choices will create the edge for stirring your heart strings to prove that you really can live in a normal reality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Sagittarius, let the Mars in Virgo move you from the bathtub to the dressing area. Stubborn old outmoded actions will run from your veins if you sit quietly long enough to discover, "you're OK if I'm OK." Fan clubs are useless unless you're willing to spotlight real love. These next three months can be joyous when you listen to what you're really feeling. Put on a Sherlock Holmes monocle, an old plaid hat and a G-string for just the right moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Capricorn, Mars in Virgo propels you into the best orbit any astroid could wish for. When you hit the right accomplice, everything around you will solidify. If you're truly ready for love, now's the time to open the shades that have drawn you into seclusion and repeat last year's attempts to view the future. Life can be like the movie *Phenomena*, because your innovative style is sure to please some head of state. This is the perfect time to dust off your desk, throw away old issues of *Fortune* magazine and never repeat business as usual.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Mars in Virgo will entice Aquarius to seek Norman Bates on steroids. That means that Aquarius will have wild optimism for the next three months when wanting to change or choose a partner. This sign is always attracted to Virgo types because Aquarius is an introspective perfectionist, as Virgos are. You love to reach those unavailable places that the air signs call home. So, for the next several months, you can bellow out new love songs, especially if the sound leads to a wild chase. Work won't take any overtime, so enjoy.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

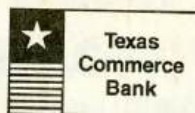
Pisces, your opposite sign Virgo gives a special shine to Mars. Chain, Chain, Chain is not a food franchise but all those hidden sensual sounds when you open the refrigerator. Your love for romance will be reinstated in your dreams if you ask for what you want. You'll have more energy to clean house and remove an old lover's energy when you vacuum. Virgo is opposite of your sign, and Mars is a driving force to work efficiently.

Madilyn Stein does astrology readings for individuals and major corporations, as well as dishing the stars for private parties. She can be reached at 713/622-7232.



GREENWHITE ADVISORS
Comprehensive
Financial Planning
Investment / Asset
Management
Retirement Planning
Estate Planning
Life Insurance
Bill Green, CPA, CFP
Sandy White, CFP, CFS
Bill Green was selected by Worth Magazine as
"...one of the best financial advisors in the country."
713.869.1144
1225 North Loop West, Suite 1030, Houston, Texas 77008 • Fax (713) 869-3101

TEXAS COMMERCE.
WHERE PEOPLE MAKE
THE DIFFERENCE.



EXPERIENCE STAR TREATMENT™

Member FDIC.

OutSmart Advertisers

ACCOMMODATIONS	
The Lovett Inn • 501 Lovett	522-5224
ACCOUNTING SERVICES	
Hubbard Financial Services • 2615 Montrose	522-9000
Sean Yarbrough	862-3266
ADVERTISING	
OutSmart Magazine • 3406 Audubon Place	520-7237
Uptown Express Magazine • 3406 Audubon Place	520-7237
APARTMENTS	
2111 Holly Hall Apartments	799-2111
ASTROLOGICAL READINGS	
Phil Roddy	529-5842
Madilyn Stein	622-7232
ATTORNEYS	
Carol Helms • 405 Main, Suite 607	223-5555
Moore & Hunt • 3608 Audubon Place	522-4282
AUTOMOTIVE	
Montrose Auto Care • 1511 1/2 Taft	524-3068
AUTOMOTIVE SALES	
Fred Haas Toyota Mike Bienia • 8335 North Frwy.	
pgr. 713/406-8246 • Dealership 281/448-5201	
Momentum SAAB • 7300 SW Freeway	995-0986
Saturn of SW Houston • 10050 SW Freeway	777-6100
WestPoint Buick, Lincoln, Mercury, Kia	
Katy Frwy @ Kirkwood	493-2000
Montrose Motors • 428 Westheimer	524-7077
EDUCATION	
The Princeton Review	688-5500

ENTERTAINMENT	
THEATERS	
Alley Theatre • 615 Texas Avenue	228-8421
Society for the Performing Arts	227-1910
Stages Repertory Theatre	52-STAGE
Theatre LaB Houston • 1706 Alamo	868-7516
Theatre Under the Stars	622-1626
FINANCIAL SERVICES	
Texas Commerce Bank	216-7000
FINANCIAL ADVISORS	
Bill Green, CPA, CFP • 1225 N. Loop West, Suite 216	869-1144
Hubbard Financial • 2615 Montrose	522-9000
MORTGAGE BROKERS	
First Financial Mortgage Corp. • John Hathcote	669-9555
Mortgage Associates of Texas	524-1850
http://www.mortgageassoc.com	
Pride Mortgage • 4200 Montrose Blvd, Suite 300	529-4488
FITNESS, HEALTH CLUBS & PERSONAL TRAINING	
The Art of Fitness	938-BODY
Fitness Exchange • 3930 Kirby, Suite 300	524-9932
Houston Gym • 233 Birdsall	880-9191
Muscle Mechanics • 4316 Yupon	523-5330
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS	
Graphic Ink	522-7050
Preferred Graphics • 4200 Montrose	528-7654
Up&Out Graphics • 3406 Audubon Place	520-7237
HAIR STYLISTS	
Debbie's Style Shop • 2726 White Oak Drive	869-8977

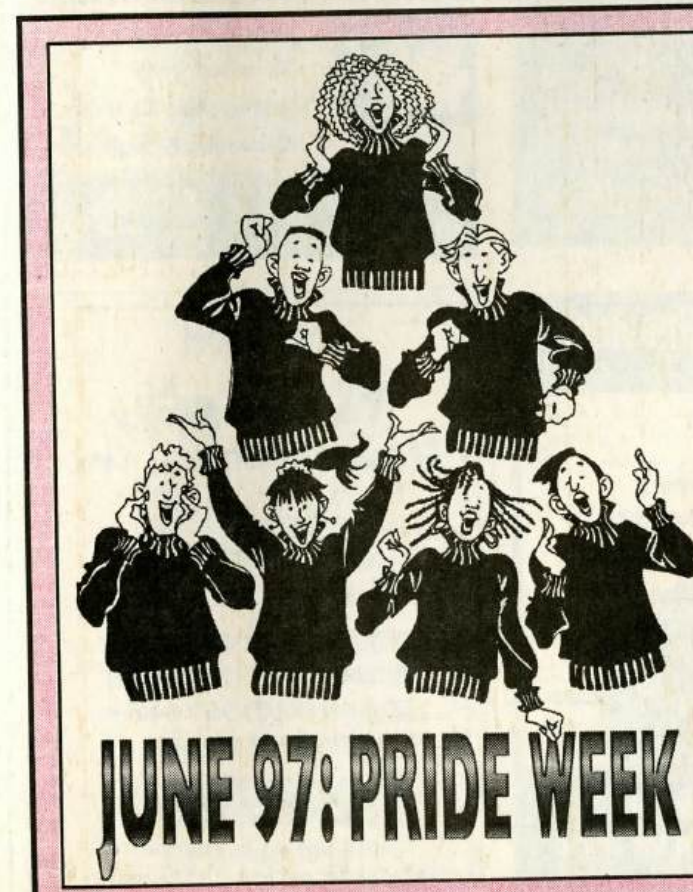
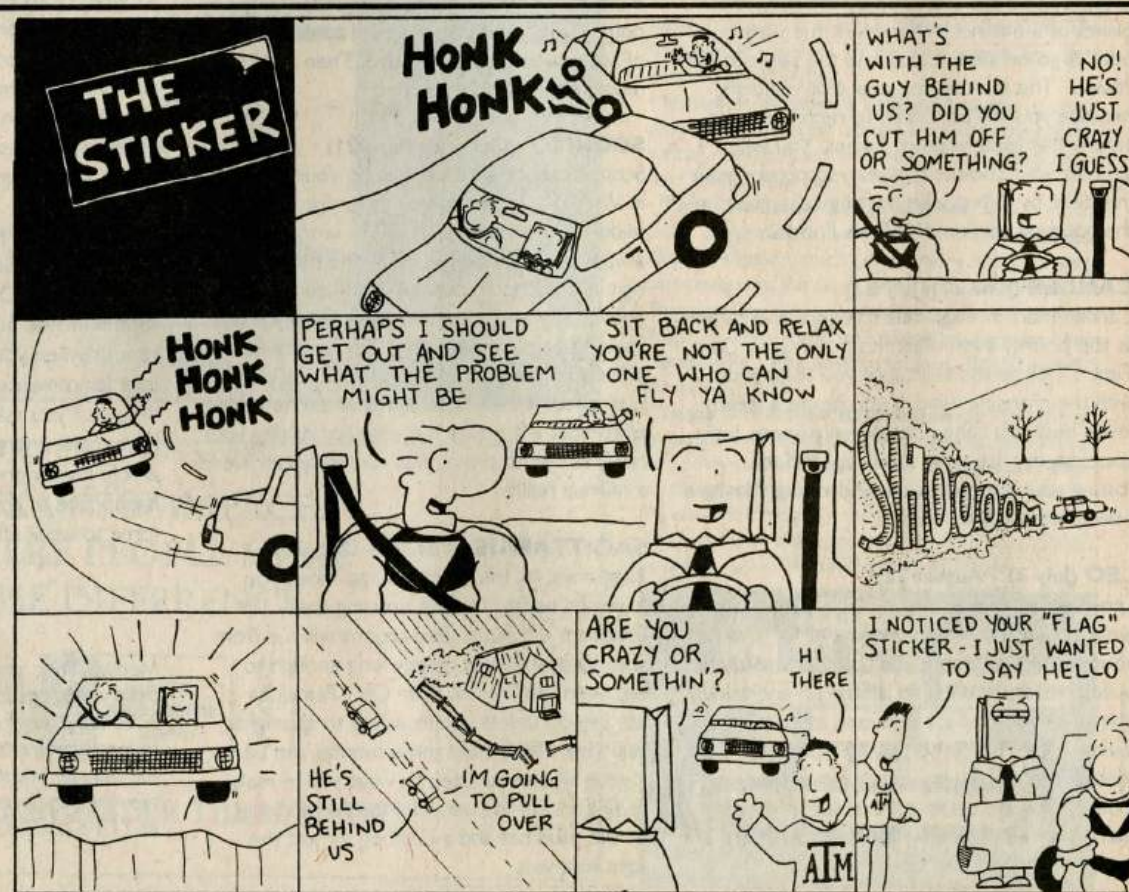
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS	
ACUPUNCTURE	
American College of Acupuncture	780-9786
DENTISTS	
Bruce W. Smith, DDS • 1006 Missouri	529-4364
OPTOMETRISTS	
Dr. Sue Moss • 1428-A West Alabama	524-2525
PHARMACEUTICAL & PERSCRIPTIONS	
STATSCRIPT • 4101 Greenbriar, Suite 235	521-1700
PHYSICIANS	
Gay&Lesbian Health Professionals Referral Line	523-4700
Nellie Grose, MD • 2201 W. Holcombe, Ste. 305	660-6620
RECOVERY	
Southwest Recovery	942-7181
INSURANCE	
Jeffrey T. Bules	661-7700
Ferriello & Associates	800/834-4252
MASSAGE THERAPISTS	
Altruistic Touches/James Burke	523-9153
M. Dan DeLeon	990-5102
Essential Touch/Alan Davidson • 3100 Richmond	942-0923
Monsieur Massage/Roland Nicolaides	942-2399
PSYCHIC & INTUITIVE READERS	
Sharon Mattison	681-1747
Joseph Molina	524-4411
Sandra Nicholas	522-0990
Joe Paxton	523-1627

PSYCHOTHERAPY & COUNSELING	
Barbara Levinson, PhD/Center for Healthy Sexuality	785-2600
Montrose Counseling Ctr • 701 Richmond Ave	529-0037
Patrick Vachon, LMSW-ACP	529-1913
REAL ESTATE SERVICES	
Bianchi Wendland Properties • 4617 Montrose	522-4811
Karen Derr	862-1600
Ron Duster • ReMax	528-1800
Richard Hill • Swilley-Hudson • 1505 Heights	869-0456
Cary Russell • Prudential Premier Properties	721-9175
Suzanne Anderson Properties • 239 Westheimer	529-8484
Sean Yarbrough • ReMax • 12649F Memorial Dr.	763-5688
Trendmaker Homes • Anthony Perkins	849-5816
RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUALITY	
Bering Memorial United Methodist • 1440 Harold	526-1017
Dignity Houston • 1307 H Yale	880-2872
Houston Mission Church • 1505 Nevada	529-8225
Maranatha MCC • 3400 Montrose, Suite 600	528-6756
MCCR Houston • 1919 Decatur	861-9149
RESTAURANTS & COFFEE BARS	
Dessert Gallery • 3200 Kirby Drive	522-9999
Fox Diner • 905 Taft Street	523-5FOX
Prince Street Market Coffee Delivery	880-2338
Toopees Coffee & Co. • 1830 W. Alabama	522-7662
RETAIL	
BOOKS, CARDS & PERIODICALS	
Inklings • 1846 Richmond Avenue	521-3369
The Teacher's Store • 1001 S. Allen Genoa	944-2306
CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES	
Basic Brothers • 1232 Westheimer	522-1626
Eye Elegance • 1800 Post Oak Blvd	622-4411
Leather Forever • 711 Fairview	526-6940
FLORIST	
Flower Mart at Hyde Park • 1700 Waugh Drive	529-2300
GIFTS	
Celebrations-To-Go Gift Baskets	995-GIFT

GROCERIES, SUPPLIES & LIQUOR	
Kroger • 3300 Montrose	526-7865
HOME FURNISHINGS	
Area • 3200 S. Shepherd	528-0220
Gallery Furniture • 6006 I-45 N	694-5570
JEWELERS	
Reiner's Jeweler's • 2210 Westheimer	520-1212
PAGERS	
Premier Paging	575-8500
VIDEO	
Memorial Video • 5514 Memorial Drive	864-6888
VITAMINS, HERBS & MINERALS	
Prince Street Health Buyers Club	880-2338
SERVICES	
CATERING	
Clayton Catering • 1701 California	526-1800
CLEANING	
CarpetPro Carpet Cleaning	526-4944
Howard's Housekeeping	688-7158
Maid in the Shade	665-6243
Man Maid Cleaning Service/Tony Akin	993-9737
COMPUTERS/COMPUTER TRAINING	
Diverse Office Solutions	Pgr. 912-5217
VMC—Visual Marketing Consulting Group	857-3595
CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING	
Payless Insulation	868-1021
U.S. Construction	526-7679
FRAMING	
Heights Custom Framing • 331 W. 19th St.	869-2900
Hollywood Frame Gallery • 2431 Bissonnet	942-8885
U-Frame-It • 3425 Kirby @ Richmond	523-2205

FUNERAL & MORTUARY SERVICES	
Earthman Funeral Directors • 465-8900	659-3000
INTERNET PROVIDERS	
Insync • 3400 Montrose, Suite 903	961-4242
Neosoft • 1770 St. James Place	1-888-NEOSOFT
Stealth Web Design/Bob Derr	802-2845
LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANERS	
Custom Valet Cleaners • 1900 S. Shepherd	529-3366
LOCKSMITH	
Bravo Key & Lock • 1612 Westheimer	523-5397
PET CARE	
Absolutely Fabulous Pet Care • 908 W. Alabama	527-0707
Patricia A. Cooper, DVM	520-5588
Sharon's Pampered Pet Inn • 2411 Bissonnet	522-7387
PIANO TUNING	
James B. Kozak	863-8608
PHOTOGRAPHY	
Theresa DiMenno	464-4471
Gabriel Photography • 3311 Richmond, Suite 315	582-7779
PRINTING & GRAPHICS	
Copy.Com • 1201 Westheimer	528-1201
House of Coleman • 901 W. Alabama	523-2521
Larry Knapp Graphic Design • 1418 Heights Blvd.	869-1064
VOICE MAIL	
Premier Paging	575-8500
TRAVEL AGENCIES	
Sandra Wilkins/Travel Partnership	526-4471
UNIGLOBE First Choice Travel/Coy Tow	800/856-1835
	667-0580
VIATICAL SERVICES	
Life Benefactors	800/330-5281; 409/744-3200
NVR	800-932-0050
Viatical Benefits Foundation	800-671-9440
Medical Escrow Society	800/422-1314
Southwest Viatical	888/CURE HIV

PICTURE THIS...
© BOB "ZONKED" SPEARS '97
E-MAIL: HOOPERKLVG.AOL.COM



There is no better time to target Houston's gay community than Pride Week. And there's no better vehicle than *OutSmart* magazine. While *OutSmart* reaches thousands of Houstonians each month, our Pride Week issue puts your message in front of even more consumers who come into town just for this event.

Hurry!!!

Reserve your ad space by Friday, May 2.

OutSmart
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine
Call 713/520-7237

OutSmart MARKETPLACE

**Want a Great Body?
Join a Great Gym!**



COME HAVE LUNCH WITH US.

dessert gallery

BAKERY & CAFE
3200 Kirby Drive, #106 (entrance on Lake Street behind Cafe Express)
713.522.9999 fax: 713.522.5511
Mon-Th 11am-4pm Fri & Sat 11am-midnight
Lunch Served 11am-4pm Lunch Served 11am-8pm / Desserts only after 8pm

*Sharon's
Pampered Pet Inn*

- Family Owned and Operated
- Proudly Serving Community Since 1982
- Boarding & Indoor Runs
- Temp Controlled
- Exercised Daily
- 2 Story Kitty Condos
- Grooming & Supplies

713/522-7387
2411 BISSONNET



God Loves YOU, so come share the
LOVING EXPERIENCE.
Serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual
Community of Catholics & Friends.
Become a part of Dignity U.S.A.

SERVICES
Saturdays 7:30 pm Traditional Mass
Inclusive liturgy celebrated.
Call 880-2872 and press 4 for
our Social Events and Schedules.
¡Todos bien venidos!
In the Heights • 1307 Yale • Suite H
880-2872

"Best Internet Provider"
Houston Press - Best of Houston '95

- All 28.8 modems
- ISDN Ready
- 100% Digital Network
- FREE WWW Home Page
- 7-Day a Week Tech Support
- Training Available

Get Insync!
Call Now! 961-4242

INSYNC
INTERNET SERVICES, INC.

<http://www.insync.net>
Connecting Houston to the World

*Howard's
Housekeepers, inc.*

"Mint on your
Pillow Service!"

Office: 713.688.7158
Telefax: 713.688.8572
Mobile: 713.557.6178
Howard Ransom

FREE ESTIMATES
Commercial & Residential

HUBBARD
Financial
Services, Inc.

- Income Tax Service
- Past Due Returns
- Out-of-State Returns
- Estate & Trust Returns
- Business Bookkeeping
- Business Tax Returns
- Notary Public

(713) 522-9000
Fax: (713) 526-6588
2615 Montrose Blvd. • Houston, TX 77006

**Counseling
for Evolution
and Revolution**

- ▼ Couples ▼ Individual
- ▼ Group ▼ Clinical
- ▼ Training ▼ Supervision

Colleen R. Logan, Ph.D., LPC

*As we evolve personally, we create an
environment for social revolution and acceptance*

- Coping with Homophobia
- Stress Management
- Self-Esteem Issues
- Depression
- Loss and Grief
- Intimacy
- Interpersonal Skills
- HIV / Chronic Illness
- Addictions

(713) 523-4567
811 Westheimer, Suite 110A Houston, Texas 77006

**HCF
HEIGHTS
CUSTOM FRAMING**

Conservation Framing
Prints & Mirrors
Corporate Accts. Welcome
Over 25 Years Experience
Rush Orders Available

PatCotter, CPF
331 West 19th St
Houston, TX 77008
713-869-2900
OPEN
Tuesday-Friday 10-6pm
Saturday 10-3pm

Image...
until they get
to know you,
it's what's on the
surface that counts.

With that, do you want your
image quickly splashed on paper? Or do
you want House of Coleman to ink a better job?

House of Coleman
Fine Printing & Graphics

901 WEST ALABAMA
713.523.2521 • FAX 713.524.2643

**Debbie's
Style Shop**

♀ ♂

Men, Women, Children
869-8977

2626 White Oak Dr. in the Heights
10 am to 7 pm Tues - Sat
Walk-ins Welcome!

Come Visit
Your Family in the Community

**HOUSTON MISSION
CHURCH**

One In The Bond Of Love

Service: Sundays at 10:30 am
1505 Nevada at Commonwealth
713/529-8225

**"Mom, Dad,
I'm Gay."**

Suddenly your whole life has
changed. Who can you talk to?
Parents, Families, and Friends
of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG)
is dedicated to keeping families
together. To begin your journey
of reconciliation, call our help
line at 713-867-9020.

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
www.pflagtx.org

**OutSmart
MARKETPLACE**

THINK YOU CAN'T AFFORD ADVERTISING?
YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO.

Your customers are **OUT** there.
And they're Very, **SMART.**

OUTSMART ADVERTISING: 713/521-7237

OUTSMART CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATIONS

Do you provide travel accommodations?

Tell over 30,000 OutSmart readers each month about your B&B, Guest House, etc. For advertising rates call 713/520-7237.

THE LOVETT INN. Affordable luxury in the heart of Montrose. Beautifully appointed rooms for both business and leisure travelers. All rooms have direct dial phones, private bath, breakfast and color TVs. Also available VCR, FAX, jacuzzi suites, pool and spa. Walk to clubs, restaurants, shopping, and public transportation. Convenient to Downtown, Galleria, Medical and Convention Centers. Call today 713/522-5224.

ANIMAL HEALTH CARE

HORSE MASSAGE?!

- AIDS IN PREVENTING INJURY
- IMPROVES CIRCULATION
- ENHANCES MUSCLE TONE
- EASES MUSCLE SPASMS
- RELIEVES TENSION
- IMPROVES DISPOSITION

Jodie Johnson, ESMT
281/346-2804
24-Hour Service
Available for Barn Calls

COUNSELING & THERAPY

Deborah L. McLeod, M.A., L.P.C., Empowerment Therapy for Individuals, Groups, Couples & Families dealing with Grief/Bereavement, HIV/AIDS, Depression, Anxiety, Sexual Abuse/Incest, Other Unresolved Abuse, Family of Origin Issues, Coming out, Self-esteem, Sexuality & Spirituality. 713/621-8855.

EMPLOYMENT

INCREASE YOUR INCOME\$\$\$ Live and work where you want, when you want. Earn management income. Full training and support. Achieve financial freedom. (713)862-9720.

We're expanding! OutSmart Magazine seeks seasoned advertising sales professional to join our sales team. Call 713/520-7237. Fax resume to: Laura Hudman, 713/522-3275.

NOW HIRING FIELD SERVICE TECH.

Professional with 3-5 years experience in Windows, NT Server, Workstation, Novell Network, and Connectivity. Microsoft Office and Back Office Products a plus. Fax resume to: (713) 468-7382.

FOR SALE

Antique china cabinets (2) and small buffet server. Beautiful furniture at bargain prices. \$550-\$850 OBO. Call Daniel at 713/880-3250.

HAIRSTYLING

Studio 911 Hair ... If your hair isn't becoming to you, then you should be coming to me. By appointment only. Don Gill 713/521-0911 77006.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

A HEALTHY COLON ADDS LIFE!

Colon hydrotherapy has a desolving and therapeutic effect on the large intestine, where by waste material, such as feces, gas mucus and toxic compounds are removed safely and gently. The result is a cleaner, healthier colon and an improved over all health status. **DO YOUR BODY A FAVOR, CALL HYDROCARE TODAY.** 713/942-9993. Renee Duclos, colon hydrotherapist, 2715 Bissonnet, Hou., TX 77005

ENJOY VIBRANT HEALTH!

Safe, 100% organic **SUPERFOOD** may help to create natural, sustained **ENERGY**, greater mental **ALERTNESS**, stronger **IMMUNE SYSTEM**, overall state of well-being. Free friendly info: Call (800) 310-4901. #18115

FREE HYPNOSIS INFORMATION

Smoking or Weight Problem? Try hypnotherapy! FREE Brochure. Call now, 24 hours. (713) 869-MIND(6463).

INSURANCE

ATTENTION

Now you can afford to take care of your teeth/vision/prescriptions.

- Pre-existing Conditions Covered • Up to 75% OFF Contact Lenses
- No Deductible • Eye Surgery, Including RK/RLK
- Dental Surgery Included • All Medical Prescriptions Included

ALL for only \$9.00 a month single or \$15.00 entire household

EXPANDING NATIONALLY

This stable profitable company is seeking ambitious, honest, men and women to market this plan Set your own hours! No license required. Free training available!

Call 24 Hours: 713/938-9787

MASSAGE THERAPY

You deserve complete relaxation by giving yourself the gift of massage. Feel your stress release with my soothing touch. Call Paul Henington (MT 012655) for an appointment. 713/529-9442.

BALANCE MIND AND BODY

Balance your body and mind with therapeutic massage and acupressure. RMT and certified acupuncturist specializing in pain and stress relief. Day/Eve/Wknd. For appointment call 281/290-4446. Special \$45/hr.

Reconnect Body, Mind, and Spirit. Release muscular tension and emotional stress through non-sexual Swedish massage. Unknot your stomach, sleep soundly and feel great! RMT #14089. Call Mike 713/797-0525.

LET YOURSELF GO- Experience a full body deep tissue Swedish Massage by Dwayne. Montrose location, 7 days a week. 713/527-0835. RMT#11412.

ART OF MASSAGE: restoring comfort and balance to your mind and body by the caring hands of a skilled therapist. Results can be relaxing, invigorating—even inspiring! RMT#7796. Michael 713/410-7689.

Treat Yourself to a relaxing massage. Your body will feel great and your spirit will soar. Invigorating results are achieved through Swedish massage combined with myotherapy. Christian Roff, RMT #01283. Call 713/632-0880.

ESCAPE the stress of everyday life with massage...soothing, relaxing, rejuvenating. In/out calls 7 days a week. **GIFT CERTIFICATES.** Deep tissue massage also available. Paul Rutledge RMT#MT012781. Paul Rutledge 713/686-1736.

mas•sage• THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE. Nice looking body builder, registered massage therapist, incredible 1 hour full body massage, private studio designed for massage, secure setting. Montrose. \$60. Noon to Midnight. Mitchell 713/521-3359.

WHOLENESS AND HEALTH. Healing and caring hands with Swedish, Deep Tissue massage. Balancing your life by restoring flow and energy. Peaceful. Relaxful. Be good to yourself! RMT#2233. Howard Kanelakos 713/528-6174. **TREAT YOURSELF** to a healing session of body-work. I combine massage and acupressure in a pleasant environment to bring you to a state of relaxation and well-being. John, RMT #4887. 713/880-1023.

PSYCHICS

Talk LIVE to our gifted Psychics...NOW!!!

1-900-267-8888 ext. 8665

(\$3.99 per minute. Must be at least 18 years old.)

Serv-U (619) 645-8434

Make decisions with confidence. CALL NOW.
Profits from phone service benefit AIDS Care Team

REAL ESTATE/LEASING

Timbergrove charming 2/1/2, updates, great neighborhood, \$90's. For sale by owner. 713/863-1763

GALLERIA AREA POOLHOUSE

Newly constructed one-floor poolhouse in quiet secluded neighborhood. All bills paid, free cable and pool access. No kids, pets, or smoking. \$450/month. Close to Galleria. 713/266-3944

HI-RISE PENTHOUSE FOR SALE, HOU., TX PENTHOUSE - PANORAMIC VIEWS OF HOUSTON

Curved glass (floor to ceiling) views Downtown, Medical Center and Hermann Park. 13' ceilings, 18' sky dome, marble baths, bidets, coal sauna, mirrored whirlpool area. Walnut on custom appliances, 3 patios. 3/2/2 \$395,000 Agent 713-522-2225.

Apartment Hunting?

Let us do the work for you. Montrose, Heights, Museum, Galleria, Medical Center. All areas. Lists available by fax, phone or mail. **COPENHAVER PROPERTIES** 713/880-1866

FOR LEASE

Small Office Space for Lease, Approximately 418 sq.ft. Located on corner of Nevada at Commonwealth. Ideal for salon. Call (713) 988-6940.

OUTSMART CLASSIFIEDS

TAX DEDUCTION!

Small Lesbian/Gay-oriented church group looking for new home! Need large residential (or smaller commercial) building for Sunday worship services and weekly classes, hopefully suitable for use as hub for future retirement center for members of our community. Fixer-upper okay. We are legally-incorporated non-profit church (IRS tax deductible), very progressive, non-denominational, open to all, in existence 10 years, Christ-centered with special focus on "A Course in Miracles." Help us fulfill our dream of opening a retirement center in the Montrose/Heights area. For more information on how you can be a blessing, leave a message for Richard Smith at 713/862-7533.

FOR GOOD TENANT

Quiet and Secluded in heart of Montrose...Spacious One Bedroom & Two Bedroom available NOW with modern interior and appliances, Central A/C and heat. Great view of beautifully landscaped garden area. Access to full size washers/dryers on property, **SWIMMING POOL** and covered parking. Crime deterrents include gates, dramatic landscape lighting and intercom call box at guest entry. \$440 mo. & \$655 mo. \$250 deposit. A BETTER PLACE. 713/686-8189 FREE SERVICE

RECOVERY

**Rediscover joy
and create the life you want.**

energy
Rediscover the Joy

Experience the joy of releasing the energy at your center.

Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D.
Southwest Recovery Place
713.942.7181

ROMANCE

**ARE YOU A HOPELESS ROMANTIC?
YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**

Meet other Romantic People...Now!
1-900-443-5780 ext. 4854

\$2.99 per min. Must be 18 yrs. Serv-U (619) 645-8434
Profits from phone service benefit AIDS Care Team

SERVICES

MAID IN THE SHADE

"Making People Happy Since 1988"

HOUSES • APARTMENTS • OFFICES

DEPENDABLE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

6210-A ROYALTON CALL 713/665-6243

Experienced bartender, chef, interior/exterior house painter. Call Cleve at 713/880-3607

Master Carpenter, custom cabinets, window boxes. Residential remodeling. Free estimates, 24 years experience, references. Call Tim Williams at Custom Cabinets, 713/526-7149.

A RAINBOW OF A RAINBOW. When you want things done professionally. Call Ray. Pager: 846-3339.

TRAVEL

UNIQUE

First Choice Travel

Corporate or Vacation
Olivia • RSVP • Atlantis • Our World
Customized or Independent
(713) 667-0580

1-800-856-1835 (outside Houston)
2236 W. Holcombe @ Greenbriar

Travel OutSmart!

The Travel Partnership, Inc.

SANDRA WILKINS
713/526-4471
pgr 903-1247

VACATION RENTAL

RAINBOW RANCH
Lesbian/Gay Campground
150 Acres of Seclusion
on Lake Limestone
— 817/729-5847 —

RAINBOW'S INN, a vacation getaway at Lake Sam Rayburn. **NEWLY** remodeled, mobile home on large wooded lot. Queen beds, sleeps six, beautiful deck. Near swimming, boating, fishing, golfing, horseback riding. Pets welcome, 2-1/2 hrs. drive from Houston. Affordable, lesbian owned, call for details M-F @409/962-1497, Sat-Sun @ 409/698-9757.

WANTED TO BUY

FAST CASH! HIGHEST PRICE PAID! We buy antiques, estates, furniture, collectibles, glassware, etc. Call John @ 994-5986 pager.

OUTSMART CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MADE EASY

R A T E S

Basic Classifieds are \$13 for 30 words or less & 25¢ per each word thereafter. Add additional 25¢ per each bold word. Discounts available for 3 or 6 months if ads are prepaid. Three insertions, base rate of \$10 per month. **Boxed ads with text only** are \$23 per vertical column inch (2 3/8" x 1"). **Boxed ads with graphics/logo** are \$46 per vertical column inch. 10% discount granted to advertisers who pre-pay for 3 or more consecutive months. **Deadline:** March 17 for the April issue. Order by phone & pay by VISA, MasterCard, or American Express. Or FAX it to us at 713/522-3275. Sorry, **we do not bill.** Mail your ad and payment to: OutSmart Classifieds, 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006-4412.

Preferred Graphics

**High Quality, Custom
Designed Graphics.**

528-7654

Charter Member
HOUSTON
Gay & Lesbian
CHAMBER
OF Commerce

Visit our Web Site
rainbow-classifieds.com

Do you need reliable service for your graphic needs? Providing superior graphic design to our community is our specialty! And it comes with a Customer Satisfaction Guarantee!

We offer design & layout, desktop publishing, typing, and printing to meet all of your graphic requirements.

From calling cards & stationary to ad copy & design, go with the preferred source... **Preferred Graphics.**

811 Westheimer Suite 202

U GOT THE LOOK



1 State Reps. **Debra Danburg** and **Garnet Coleman** at the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) march in Austin.

2 MCCR's **Carolyn Mobley** receives the Ken A.B. Harris Founders Award at the African American Lesbian Gay Alliance (AALGA) Honors Banquet.

3 AALGA co-chairs **Martina Cartwright** and **Steve Walker** at the second annual Honors Banquet.

4 HGLPC and PFLAG members at the AALGA dinner: **Annisie Parker**, **Alan Montgomery**, **Susan Upchurch**, **Don Church**, **Clarence Bagby** and **Jay Seegers**.

5 **Deborah Bell** and Houston NOW president **Shelley R. Tanner** at the Austin march.

6 PFLAG members **Barbara Winston**, **Gordon Weisser** and **Blake Weisser** at the AALGA dinner.

7 UofH Anthropology professor **Janis Hutchinson** receives the Audre Lorde Award at the AALGA banquet.



PHOTOS BY FRANK PARSLEY AND KYLE YOUNG

When graphic design is your destination...

713-869-1064



FULL-SERVICE
GRAPHIC DESIGN &
COMPUTER IMAGING

- Newsletters
- Brochures
- Logos & Corporate Identity Packages

We provide a range of related services to help you reach your market audience.

larry knapp graphic design

713-869-1064

1418 Heights Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77008

larry knapp graphic design

Putting you on the horizon of good health...

- Community-Minded
- Community-Managed
- Convenient Location
- Delivery Available

Let us transfer your prescriptions
to Houston's community-based pharmacy...

StatScript Pharmacy

Most insurance plans accepted including Medicaid & Texas HIV Program.
We accept assignments to minimize your up-front costs.

4101 Greenbriar, Suite 235 • Houston, TX 77098 • (713) 521-1700



U.S. CONSTRUCTION
& SERVICES

**Our
Capabilities
Include:**

- Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
- Ceramic Tiling
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Room Additions and Siding

We are an owner-operated company serving the Houston area for 17 years, specializing in residential and commercial remodeling. We have many satisfied references, both residential and commercial, for your review.

If we can be of assistance, please call. Thank you.

Call for free estimate

U.S. CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES

526-7679

Pager 698-0103

EXCEEDING YOUR HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS...

WHEN YOU DECIDE TO BUY, I CAN HELP!

- ★ FREE PRE-APPROVALS
- ★ MORTGAGES TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS
- ★ SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1988
- ★ SERVICE YOU CAN BANK ON



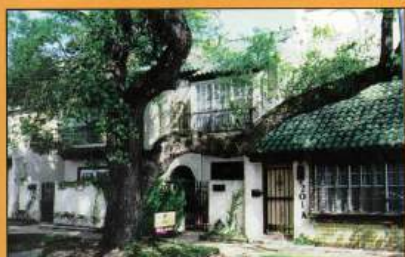
John Hathcote
Senior Loan Officer



669-9555

FIRST FINANCIAL MORTGAGE CORPORATION

6575 West Loop South ★ Suite 150 ★ Bellaire, Texas 77401



AVONDALE: Two-story townhome with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Mexican tile floors on first floor. Controlled access to parking area. Pool!!!

...\$84,900



MONTROSE AREA: Brick fourplex. Excellent investment opportunity. Monthly income in excess of \$2,000. Assumable first with owner second.

...\$149,900



HEIGHTS: Stunning two-story contemporary. Very open with lots of light. Two bedrooms and two-and-one-half bathroom. Fabulous interior.

... \$249,000



Anthony Bianchi



BianchiWendland

PROPERTIES

Positive & Rewarding Results Created by Our Commitment to Excellence

522-4811

4617 Montrose Boulevard • Suite 224 • Houston, Texas 77006



Scott Wendland