

OutSmart

Complimentary • August 1997

Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



ARE THEY FIGHTING FOR THE SAME PIECE OF THE PIE?

**The Gay Community Center
vs.
The Gay Conference Center
vs.
The Gay African-American Center**

Our Gayest & Greatest Survey
I N S I D E

PLUS: Texas Politics • Gay Wealth? • Yet Another Cunanan Editorial

SWILLEY HUDSON'S #1 SELLING AGENT!



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

NEW



Fabulous new Prairie-style home by Davis Raley, Architect. 3-2 1/2-2, hardwoods up and down, stained glass, beamed ceilings, fireplace, wonderful kitchen/great room, master with jacuzzi and shower room! \$299,900

NEW



Grand 2 story Victorian on Harvard, 4-2-2, all renovated, hardwoods, high ceilings, new kitchen and bath, double front porches, even a view of downtown! \$264,900



CLASSIC! Over 2,400 sq.ft. 4 BA, 2.5 BAs, entrance foyer, pocket doors, pine floors, big rooms, large lot, plus 2 car garage \$239,900.....\$234,900



WOODLAND HEIGHTS, BIG! 3-2 Totally renovated, hardwoods and marble floors, custom kitchen with Corian counters, Sauna!, deck with Jacuzzi. Great Yard!..... \$189,900.....\$179,00



CUTE COTTAGE! 3 bedroom, 1 bath, centrals, high ceilings, nice corner lot. 2 car garage! \$73,900.....\$69,900



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



Grand Custom Built Home on large corner lot. Master bedroom down, lots of living and entertainment space, over 3,000 sq. ft! Large den with fireplace. \$119,900



HOUSTON HEIGHTS TOWNHOME. 3 Story! 3-2-2, high ceilings, fireplace, super kitchen, downstairs master with jacuzzi, courtyard. \$126,900.....\$119,000



WOODLAND HEIGHTS. Brick cottage, 3-2-2, centrals, hardwoods, lots of built-ins. Kitchen with Corian counters, breakfast area, French doors in dining room. Cute! \$149,900

Satisfaction Guaranteed... SM



Houston's Lesbian, Gay, Bi, & Transgendered REALTOR®



Suzanne Anderson
239 Westheimer PROPERTIES

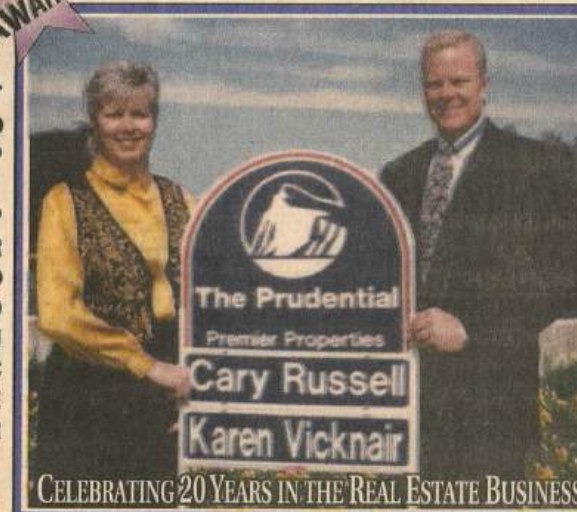
713 **529-8484**

"SIBLINGS SELLING DWELLINGS"

AWARDED

Multi-Million Dollar Producer

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



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

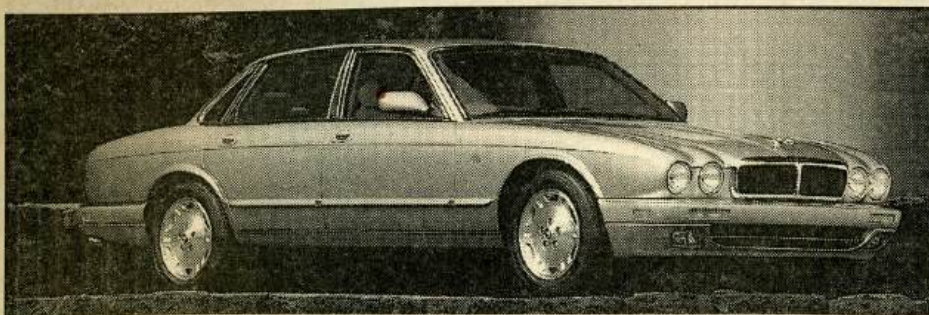


- Prequalify by Phone or Fax
- Evening/Weekend Appointments
- Loan Approval in 1-2 Weeks
- Only 3% Down (in some cases)
- Marginal Credit Programs
- Gay Owned/Straight Friendly

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



An extraordinary automobile,
at an extraordinary price.

\$699*
A MONTH
FOR 36
MONTHS

For less monthly. Jaguar XJ6 comes
equipped with anti-lock brakes, security
system, power seats, walnut and leather
trim interior and sunroof.

*1997 Jaguar XJ6. \$6375 down includes cap reduction of \$5523.08, TT&L and first mo. payment. (No sales tax deal) Total
Payments: \$25,164. Residual: \$28,218.30. Selling Price: \$50,410. MSRP: \$55,330. Includes 10,000 miles per year. Excess
miles charged at .20¢ per. Jaguar Credit approval required. Does not include excessive wear and tear. Limited time only.

MOMENTUM 3101 Kirby Drive
JAGUAR in River Oaks 713-526-3147

DRIVEN TO PERFECTION.®

Spectacle Lens Specialist

Custom Clip-Ons

Custom Frame Coloring

Fashion Coordinator

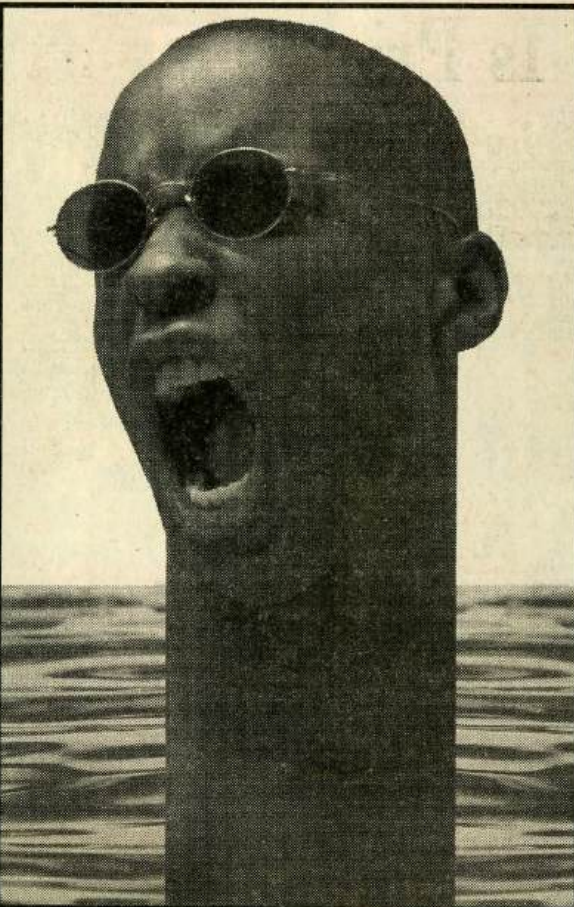
Handmade Frames

& Duplications

Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

713-622-4411

The Pavilion
1800 Post Oak Boulevard



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 cul-
tural and social communities that are separated by
traditions of ignorance and misinformation, thus cre-
ating 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 Writers Steven Foster

Columnists John Aaron, Dale Carpenter, Ricardo

Companion, Debbie E. Hunt, Kevin Isom, Simon

LeVay, Connie Moore, Daryl Moore, Madilyn

Stein, Sandra Wilkins

Guest Columnist Rick Schroder,

Francisco Sanchez, Jr.

Advertising

Advertising Director

Laura Hudman

Account Executive

Kelly Pachar

Administration

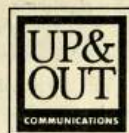
Marketing & Personnel Laura Hudman

Accounting Daniel Impastato

Circulation & Distribution Miriam Orihuela

Office Assistant Richard Silva

Support Staff Karyn McGinley



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 imply 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.



AUGUST 16 - 23

PAUL MITCHELL

Back to School
**BUY ONE
GET ONE
HALF PRICE
SALE**

Must be of equal or lesser value. Excluding Gallons.



Beauty
WAREHOUSE®
SALON & SUPPLIES

① 526-2553
2421 Rice Blvd
(In the Village)

② 785-9080
6401 Woodway
(Next to Whole Foods)

③ 461-9112
650 West Bough
(Town & Country)

④ 349-0884
680 Meyerland Plaza
(Next to Bed Bath & Beyond)

Every Day Is Pride Day at Riva's!

Riva's



Pierre-Yves Lumbroso and Michael & Joseph Siboyeh

Riva's

Italian Restaurant • Since 1977

1117 Missouri St. • 713/529-3450

One block north of Westheimer off Montrose

Garden Patio • Sunday Brunch

House specialties include
Beef Filet à la Riva and
Pesce Picatte-sautéed
catch-of-the-day
in lemon-wine sauce.
Traditional favorites
such as veal
or chicken Marsala,
eggplant parmigiana,
ravioli, lasagna, pastas,
specialty pizzas.

CONTENTS

August 1997

FEATURES

Before the Parade Passes By Steven Foster looks back at Houston's first nighttime parade. **13**

The Cunanan Fiasco Enough already. By Kevin Isom. **20**

Community Confusion Kyle Young looks at the many faces of the Gay Community Center. **25**

Shelling Out Coming Out Corporate. By Rick Schroder. **34**

B&Bs Fit for a Queen Sandra Wilkins finds some secret English hideaways. **40**

The State of the State Some surprising victories in the state legislature. By Francisco Sanchez Jr. **44**



13

COLUMNS

Dale Carpenter/OutRight 17

Simon LeVay/Queer Science 28

Connie Moore/OutLaw 32

John Aaron/Health 50

Ricardo Companioni/Dance Grooves 52

Madilyn Stein/SignOut 64



52

25

DEPARTMENTS

Letters 6

The Source 59

National Briefs 9

OutSmart Advertisers 66

Local Briefs 13

Marketplace 68

Queer Quotes 22

Classified 70

Calendar 54

SceneOut 72

Miller Lite

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Miller Lite
MillerTime

ON SALE NOW!

Lilith Fair
A Celebration of Women in Music
sarah mclachlan
jewel
joan osborne
emmylou harris
lisa loeb
second stage
mary blach helly willis hatell heiney
AUGUST 3

Magic Johnson, Miller Lite and ViBE present:
JAM'ON
The Ultimate Urban Entertainment Experience
Keith Sweat Brownstone
Mark Morrison SWV - Sisters With Voices
Hang at the Festival prior to the Concert
ViBE's Urban Gallery showcasing art, music & videos
NBA/Sony PlayStation Interactive Sports Center • 21's Food Joint serving food & beverages
Miller Lite Music/Comedy Stage • Plus Farm Fashions
AUGUST 19

the summer tour
COUNTING CROWS
THE WALLFLOWERS
with special guest
Engine 88
www.countingcrows.com
AUGUST 25

LIVE
SECRET SAMADHI
1997 North American Tour
with very special guest
Luscious Jackson
LAWN TIX ONLY \$15*
BZZ 107.5
SEPTMBER 22

BOSTON AUGUST 2
QUEENSRÛCHE AUGUST 15
LYNYRD SKYNYRD with KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD & PAUL RODGERS AUGUST 16

SANDI PATTY with THE HOUSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AUGUST 23
ALICE COOPER / DOKKEN AUGUST 24
COUNTING CROWS/THE WALLFLOWERS with ENGINE 88 AUGUST 25
CLAY WALKER with LEE ANN WOMACK AUGUST 29

CONCERTS TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE

TICKETMASTER 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.

Bank United ATM
located at the
North Gate of the Pavilion

Houston Chronicle

GMC

KPRC
HOUSTON

GTE Mobilenet

BANK UNITED

Coca-Cola

AT&T

Letters to the Editor

GLOWING WITH GRATITUDE

First of all, let me say what everyone I know is saying, *OutSmart* is the finest regional publication I have seen to date that addresses the wide spectrum of interest in our gay and lesbian community. It's refreshing to have a magazine that is not laden with explicit 900 ads. I can open your magazine at work and not be embarrassed when co-workers stop by. I also use your magazine to find gay-friendly businesses. I have found that when I let them know I saw their ad in *OutSmart* they give me a little extra attention. Keep up the good work, please.

What I really wanted to write about was my experiences at last weekend's Gay Pride Parade. I had a wonderful time! I have been either a participant or a spectator for the last 15 years at least. There have been parades that were more raucous, parades that were more solemn and parades that were more grand. The 1997 edition was for me the most fun and upbeat in recent memory. The cool of the evening had something to do with it, I am sure. The patient and pleasant attitude of the Houston police officers (at least where we were in the street next to Crossroads) was a far cry from years past. They did a great job of keeping the throngs of people out of the middle of the street without coming unglued. They did much better than I would have under similar circumstances. I'm glad they are here and working for all of us.

The parade organizers of course deserve tons of thanks from the whole city. It has to be a tough job, and they do it because they love it. That must be why they

do such a good job year after year. Other parade organizers in our city should take lessons from the Pride Week Committee. They give us one of the most spectacular parties in the country once a year, and many of us don't even take time to think of all the hard work a few people did to make it happen. They deserve our gratitude and admiration.

Thanks to two of Houston's greats, *OutSmart* magazine and the Houston Pride Week Committee.

—Jim Jennings, Houston

PUMPED UP ON REMARK

OutSmart magazine continues to be my favorite publication for news, entertainment reviews and society happenings in Houston's gay and lesbian community. However, the story you published in your July 1997 issue covering the Pride Week fundraiser "Pumped Up On Art" missed the mark.

Steven Foster wrote his unnecessary opinion regarding the artwork created by one of our volunteer artists from an autographed pair of shoes donated by Cher. Because art is so subjective, and because the event was a fundraiser coordinated completely by volunteers, Mr. Foster's opinion is irrelevant. The event was not meant to be a formal art show, and the artists who volunteered their time and talents did not expect their work to be reviewed so harshly in your publication.

The artwork that was created from Cher's shoes was one of only four selected to be showcased in the Grand Auction, out of almost 30 different pieces. The artwork created lots of positive attention for our event, and the artist dedicated his work to someone he loved very deeply who recently passed away from AIDS.

All of the artists are to be congratulated and appreciated for their very hard work and dedication given to make the event a success for our community.

—Nicholas J. Brines, Pumped Up On Art
Chairman Fundraising Coordinator,
Pride Committee of Houston

NAME THAT MAGAZINE

I notice that your magazine persists in putting on the front that it is "Houston's Gay and Lesbian Monthly Magazine."

Question 1: Will it cost you any extra \$\$\$\$ in production and printing to have it read "Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Monthly Magazine"?

Question 2: Over a period of time, do you honestly expect to lose advertisers because of such a change? Or do you expect your advertisers will lose patronage?

Question 3: Over a period of time, do you anticipate you might pick up advertising because of such a change? Or do you expect your advertisers to gain patronage?

I wish that you would start inclusifying the cover of your magazine. In the last *Advocate* poll, 64% of their readers were in favor of TG inclusion, 10% were unsure and ONLY, yes ONLY, 26% were against.

—Phyllis Randolph Frye, Houston

Publisher's note: The answer to your questions would be no. At this time, we will not be changing our name.

SLEAZY ADVERTISING

Having lived in Houston for two years, I must say that I have always looked forward to *OutSmart*. The articles are timely and informative, and both the general layout and editorial/advertising content of the magazine have always appeared to be professionally crafted and "in good taste." Therefore it should come to no surprise that I was extremely dismayed upon opening the July issue and seeing, on page 26, an advertisement for an investment firm that, well, had very little to do with investing. I ask, "Why would an investment firm have to do THIS to receive attention?" Of course this question is merely the beginning of a much larger discussion, but it must be said that it is something of an enigma and a disappointment to see that advertising dollars would result in your publication taking on the appearance of a "bar rag." Hopefully, this is not a trend.

—Samuel Thompson, Houston

Publisher's note: We regret even taking the ad in the first place, and we promise you'll never see that ad again in *OutSmart*. Thanks for your comments.

REGARDING OUTSMART ONLINE

Hi! Nice home page...the graphics are good and the articles are very well written. Thanks for creating an interesting magazine for our community that we can be proud of. (Not filled w/1-900's...know what I mean)...I would like to see more articles written by that clever Steven Foster!

—Vicki Gosler, Houston

Send your letters and comments to *OutSmart* Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. Fax to: 713/522-3275. Email to: Letters@OutSmartMagazine.com. Please include a phone number for verification.

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.



Please call for more information.

1-800-871-9440 24 HOURS

FT. LAUDERDALE • CLEVELAND
PHOENIX • CAMDEN



**VIATICAL BENEFITS
FOUNDATION, INC.**

Gay Owned and Operated

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.

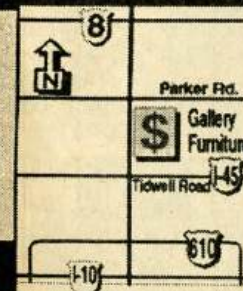
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TONIGHT

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!

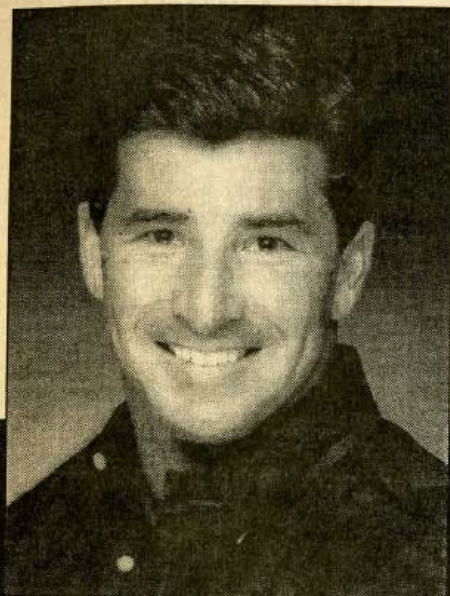


GALLERY FURNITURE

SAVES YOU MONEY!

6006 I-45 North (between Tidwell & Parker)

713/ 694-5570



Dr. Jeffrey Garcia

Say Goodbye to Pain!

"If accident, injury or stress have left you with chronic pain, relief may be a phone call away!"

- Physical Therapy
- Sports Rehabilitation
- Massage Therapy

Call
960-8575 for a
no-obligation
free evaluation

Call Today!

Yorktown Chiropractic
2301 Yorktown, Ste. 209 • Houston, Texas 77056

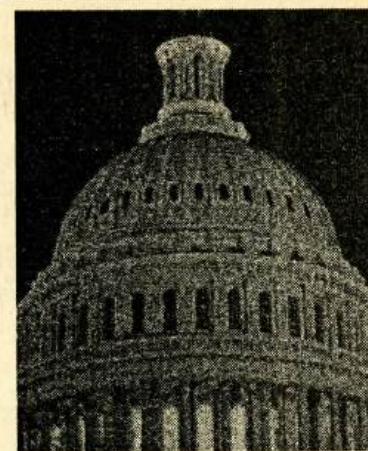
Memories That Last a Lifetime ...



JAMES CAMPBELL
photography

713.524.0104

National News Briefs



CUNANAN DIDN'T HAVE HIV

MIAMI (AP) - Autopsy tests showed suspected serial killer Andrew Cunanan was not infected with the AIDS virus when he took his life after three months on the run, *The Miami Herald* reported. Cunanan, 27, was not infected with HIV, the paper said, citing three unidentified law enforcement sources.

The revelation about the tests, conducted by the Dade County Medical Examiner's Office, undermines speculation that Cunanan, who was gay, was motivated to kill by his belief that he was HIV positive.

Cunanan was suspected in the July 15 shooting death of fashion designer Gianni Versace and four killings since April 29 in Minnesota, Illinois and New Jersey. With a nationwide manhunt intensifying, he shot himself in the face with a .40-caliber handgun on July 23 in an unoccupied houseboat in Miami Beach, 2 1/2 miles from Versace's oceanfront mansion.

Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said she did not know how the test results might affect the investigation into Cunanan's life and death in South Florida.

"If that's true, then it certainly would eliminate the speculation as to his motivation on those grounds," she said.

LOG CABIN WORKING FOR REPUBLICAN SUPPORT ON ENDA

WASHINGTON (AP) - Gay activists who are pushing for an end to job discrimination against homosexuals heard a rallying cry from an unexpected source—congressional Republicans.

"We ought to keep plugging away on it," Rep. Constance Morella (R-Md.), told a meeting of gay Republicans on Capitol Hill. "To not pass it is not only bad ethically and morally, it is bad business too."

The proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act, known as ENDA, failed in the Senate last year by one vote. The bill would extend basic civil rights protections in the area of employment to cover sexual orientation.

The Log Cabin Republicans, made up of gay Republicans and other gay activists, are hoping for

a different outcome this time around. The Log Cabin held its annual convention in Washington in July.

In the Senate, Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.), the lead sponsor, chairs the Labor Committee, which has initial jurisdiction over the bill. He has said he is committed to getting it passed. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), also is rallying support for the measure.

But prospects in the House appear less promising. The House held no hearings last year on the bill, which must first clear the Judiciary Committee. The panel is run by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), and he has gone on record as opposing the bill.

Meanwhile, Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-Calif.) is the sponsor of a competing measure dubbed the Workplace Fairness Act. The bill would prohibit employment discrimination for reasons unrelated to job performance.

Gay activists and civil rights group prefer the ENDA legislation.

Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.), one of several House Republicans who spoke to the Log Cabin group, emphasized the importance of such face-to-face meetings with members of Congress. He also is the prime House sponsor of the ENDA bill. "They need to know you," he said. "They need to think and feel what you think and feel, and in the end we'll win."

LESBIAN LAWYER LOSES FEDERAL APPEAL

ATLANTA (AP) - A federal appeals court decided not to reconsider the case of a lawyer who lost a job offer after former Georgia Attorney General Mike Bowers learned she was planning to marry her lesbian lover.

Bowers, now a Republican candidate for governor, had argued that if he hired Robin Shahar, her personal conduct would be at odds with his vigorous enforcement of the state's sodomy law and could undermine his credibility.

When he announced in June that he had engaged in an affair during most of his 16 years as the state's top lawyer, Ms. Shahar asked the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for a rehearing

continued on page 48

**WILL THE
PERSON
WHO STILL
HAS NOT
SEEN
GREATER
TUNA**

(The Comedy with "Tex" Appeal)

PLEASE CALL
1-800-821-1894
GALVESTON

*Come Visit
Houston's Exclusive
Montblanc Boutique*



Jeffrey Stone, Ltd.
Houston's Finest Cigars and Writing Instruments Since 1978.
5000 Westheimer • 713-621-2812
9694 Westheimer • 713-783-3555

In the battle against HIV,



www.merck.com

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.

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.

CRIXIVAN significantly decreases viral load in many patients.

CRIXIVAN provides powerful HIV suppression through 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.



there's a change in outlook.

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. Since CRIXIVAN has been marketed, other side effects have been reported, including rapid breakdown of red blood cells and kidney stones sometimes with kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of liquid each day may help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been associated with protease inhibition treatments. Also, 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 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 following page of this ad.

* IMS America; 3/96 - 4/97.

Remember to ask your doctor about CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Focus on the rest of your life.



CRIXIVAN®

(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

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, 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:

- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
- 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.
- 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.

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

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine)	HISMANAL® (astemizole)	VERSED® (midazolam)
HALCION® (triazolam)	PROPULSID® (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)
EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC)	ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)

BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (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.

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: liver problems including liver failure; kidney stones sometimes with kidney failure; rapid breakdown of red blood cells; abdominal swelling; and change in skin color.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

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



I Love A Parade!

by Steven Foster

OK, OK. Everybody knows the USA's first nighttime Gay Pride Parade was a well-executed, sparkingly fabulous, smashing success of professionalism and party planning. But we'd just like to illuminate you on some of the parade highlights (and lowlights) you might have overlooked. After all, with a cheering throng of thousands lining a half-mile through our fair Montrose, there was no way you could possibly see and hear everything that went on. So, without further ado, here's the OutSmart Pride Parade Picks & Pans.

Okay, Let Us Get This Straight: No Speedos, But Phallic-Shaped Lube Bottles Are Cool? Controversy swirled about dress code—keep the leatherboys and dragmeister nudity to a minimum, we understand—but 86ing tight shorts while having the Pride Committee clad with T-shirts featuring an MX missile-shaped bottle of lube seemed a bit curious. Not that we're prudes, but the whole thing seemed a little too, well, slippery.

Now Open: TV Janet's Body Shop. When her regal ride decided to gut itself in the middle of the parade route, TV Janet's driver was unsure how to proceed, what with smoke billowing out from under the hood and the radiator spilling its innards onto the parade path. Never fear, TV Janet's queer! TVJ hiked up her skirt, climbed down from her pedestal, rolled up her sequined sleeves, raised the hood, and dove right in with all the gusto of a drag version of Click & Clack. One question: how will she ever get the grease out from under those Lee press-ons?

"And in The Last Days, There Shall Be Signs...Hold It, That's Not What I Meant!" Alas, the parade was not totally offense-free. Oh, sure, there was the occasional fake breast exposed to the public. Yeah, there were the Rich's guys who looked like they were naked, but were actually clad in anatomically-correct body suits—great paint job, by the way. But the most shockingly offensive visuals were two signs: one depicting stick figures performing fellatio, the other illustrating anal copulation. The well-I'll-be-damned part of the whole deal were these graphic illustrations on posters carried by protesters from a Nacadoches church. Wonder if parishoners knew the money going into the collection plate was going to pay for stick figure porn?

Is That a Walkie Talkie in Your Pocket, or Are You Just Glad to See Me? It's like all the Pride Committee parade monitors had just watched *In the Line of Fire* and wanted to be Clint Eastwood and Rene Russo. And you know what? They were good! For those of you who missed it, the backstreet scenes with these guys spouting lines like "The drag float's ready, come back!" and "Roger that!" gave the parade the put-together im-

portance of a presidential motorcade or a Hollywood film crew taking over Montrose. No wonder the cops looked so calm, cool, and collected.

Houston's Finest! (And We Mean That Both Ways.) Something about a man or woman in uniform! And Our Men In Blue did a fantastic job of preserving the peace without ever having to pull out a piece. At times, the cops looked like they were having a great time; other moments, they had the stare of the world's toughest bouncer. This combined attitude of law and order was both appreciated and heartfelt. We can't thank you guys and gals enough for helping this parade be the most exciting (and felony-free) event in Houston's gay history.

Are You Saying That Hercules Was Weak? That Con Air Really Blew? Knowing a good time when they saw one, thousands of straights joined the "family" on the night of the parade. Said one wide-eyed wife to her cheering husband, "This is the feel-good event of the summer!" Everyone, call your agent.

Yeah, Well, We Don't Like Having Your Valets Tie Up Our Street, Either! It's way too loud. It's far too crowded. It's shockingly overrated. No, we're not talking about the parade! We're talking about the certain Montrose eatery that was bitching in the *Chronicle* for having the parade screw with their Saturday night reservation schedule. We don't want to Ruggles...uh, we mean ruffle...any feathers, but, check, please! (Word

continued on page 14

Local Briefs

TALK SHOW HOST "OUTS" MORALES

Liberal talk show host David Jones stirred up some controversy recently by alluding that Attorney General Dan Morales might be gay. Morales, who made the news recently by marrying an ex-topless dancer, plans to run for governor.

Jones, co-host of "97Talk's" *Hunter & Jones*, said he was just stating the possibility that Morales got married to snuff out rumors that he is gay.

"He's putting out press releases saying he married somebody who danced in a titty bar," said Jones. "He's promoting himself as a married man. Nobody else does that."

Diane Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said she has no reason to believe the rumors are true.

"I think that's a big leap for anybody to make," she said.

Jones said that Morales is "not the most favored" attorney general in the Democratic Party.

"He will have an opponent," said Jones. "My suggestion about Morales is as much political as it is prejudicial, so to speak."

Hardy-Garcia says that too often accusations of being gay are used for political gain.

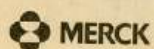
"We're still living in this world where people believe that being gay is in some way scandalous," she explained. "We live in a world where that's supposed to be able to ruin somebody's career. It's sad."

Jones said that was not his purpose.

"How could it be that when I am promoting same-sex benefits, when I am promoting gay marriage and saying that the Defense of Marriage Act is not only morally wrong, it's unconstitutional?," he said. "How could I be seen as anything else other than supportive?"

Hunter & Jones can be heard weekdays from noon to 2 p.m. on 97 Talk.

Local Briefs continued on page 49



©1997 Merck & Co. Inc. All rights reserved. 972607-(6)-(502)-CRX



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

to the offender: Don't bite the hand you feed.) Thumbs up, however, to all the other grills and bistros on the boulevard who opened up their parking lots, doors, and bathrooms to the huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

Now That's What We Call Star Treatment! Well, the Texas Commerce Bank team certainly gave new meaning to the term "banker's hours." Marching into the night, the legion of 75 marchers (30% of them were happily straight-but-not-narrow) gave TCB a crowd-pleasing pro-gay presence. Executive VP Kevin O'Brien was there cheering with his wife and kids, and the marchers looked like they were having a ball. The only quote heard more than "I'm switching to Texas Commerce" was the snappy, I-knew-it-all-along retort "I already bank there."

Something Fishy's Going on Around Here (And We Couldn't Be Happier) Thanks to the judges for gracing *OutSmart* with the Glowing With Pride Award for our very own float, the Aqueerium. When we saw Outrage (Stop Dragon Our Heart Around) and those flying Wallenda cheerleaders from Dallas, we got really, really nervous. In the words of our immortal mermaid emcee, Laura Hudman, "Thank you, Houston! And Happy Pride Week!"

And the Award Goes to...

HOUSTON TROPHY—Best Nonprofessional Motorized Float

Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf

STONEWALL TROPHY—Best Unit Commemorating Pride

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

EDISON TROPHY—Best Nonprofessional Lighted Unit

Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (AVES)

RAINBOW LIGHTS AWARD—Best Professional Lighted Unit

Community Gospel Church

GYPSY TROPHY—Best Out-of-Town Unit

Cheer Dallas

RUBY SLIPPERS TROPHY—Best Walking Unit

Texas Commerce Bank

Best Professional Float

Outrage

GLOWING WITH PRIDE TROPHY—Best Interpretation of Slogan

OutSmart Magazine

ACCESS HOUSTON TO AIR PRIDE PARADE VIDEO

Videographer Kevin White will air his video of the country's first nighttime Pride Parade on August 25 at 7:30 p.m. on Access Houston. Using both high-tech and low-end handheld cameras, White's assembled a quick, cute record of the Parade.

From its opening sequence of the magical rainbow that blessed the parade's beginning to its ending that shows the Houston-banned HRC public service announcement (smart move), the hourlong video showcases the nocturnal highlights quite nicely. Despite a few gaffes—battery failure 86'd footage of most of Dignity, Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf and (sob!) *OutSmart*'s floats—the video has some truly charming, inspired moments. There's a lesbian couple testifying how their on-screen kiss mortified their parental units, straight folks snagging bare-breasted drag queens for kitchy photo ops, and a Houston cop's horse who breaks into a nifty little tango. The tape quality is first-rate, capturing much of the vivid color, twinkling glamor, and spirited hijinks of the floats, their riders, and the 50,000 spectators. And it's a great game of people-watching. The drag Tina Turner, in her dimly-lit moment, looks exactly like La Tina; *Triangle* columnist Nancy Ford sports a charmingly devilish, dazzling smile as she passes by the lens; Sheila Jackson Lee, it turns out, is a hilariously goofy dancer in her convertible; and the high-voltage smile on Annise Parker makes her look positively presidential.

It doesn't matter
what section

Your Reservation is
in. Here, every booth is
smoking.

Reserve your booth space right now for the biggest business event of the year.

Empower '97. The Gay Business Expo.

In this city alone, nearly 350,000 homosexuals flex their monetary muscle by lucratively supporting gay-friendly businesses. **Empower '97** is your chance to show the highly desirable gay market you want and value their business—because on October 11, the George R. Brown Convention Center will be filled with hundreds of hungry consumers (both gay and gay-friendly), and market-smart companies. Booth availability is limited, so if you want your business to

heat up, reserve your space at Expo '97 by calling (713) 462-1354 today.

Join comedienne Judy Tenuta, Texas CommerceBank, and a entertainers, speakers, and big league companies who will be making **Empower '97** the business opportunity of the year. So make your reservations now. This is gonna be a hot one.



Empower '97

Corporate Sponsors

Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages • Premier Paging • Computer Factory • Mortgage Associates of Texas • Mortgage Credit Reports, Inc.

Media Sponsors

MIX 96.5 • OutSmart Magazine • The Houston Voice • Judy Tenuta sponsored in part by Laff Stop.



HOUSTON'S
BEST
SELECTION
OF
MEN'S

SWIMWEAR
UNDERGEAR
GYMWEAR
CLUB CLOTHING

B R O T H E R S

1232 Westheimer
Houston • 713-522-1626
MON-SAT 10-9 p.m. SUN 12-6 p.m.

Look for our booth at the Chamber Expo. Oct. 11



LeftOut

*Most Americans learned long ago
that money buys access in
American politics.*

Who's Dirtier—Clinton or the Republicans?

by Daryl Moore

If anyone really wonders whether those on Capitol Hill are out of touch, the beginning of televised congressional hearings on alleged fundraising abuses should forever resolve that question. While Republicans attack Clinton/Gore fundraising techniques for holding high-dollar teas in the White House, and Democrats attempt to defend them, most Americans who are home during the day tune in to Oprah, Jenny Jones, and Geraldo.

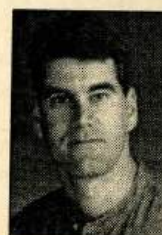
Why? Because while daytime talk shows may offer some surprises to some Americans, most Americans learned long ago that money buys access in American politics and they just aren't surprised anymore.

What is interesting is that Fred Thompson, the Republican from Tennessee appointed to lead the attack, and his Republican teammates are so out of touch they thought Americans would be surprised by the influence of money on politics. Did they really believe we had forgotten that they actually allowed corporate polluters who had contributed to their campaigns in '94 to sit in their congressional offices and draft legislation to weaken the Clean Air Act? Did they think we didn't notice when they tried to narrow the scope of their inquiry to "illegal contributions" to Democrats rather than broaden it to include all unethical "soft money" contributions to both parties?

Yes, they probably did. And they're probably right. Because, unfortunately, we've grown used to watching Capitol Hill auction off political favors over the years.

The Republicans' sudden interest in ethical fundraising, however, is merely a smokescreen to divert our attention from the real issue. That is, how are Republicans and Democrats different when it comes to rewarding their rich friends in exchange for political contributions?

Remember, while Clinton may have been inviting rich individuals for tea or a night in the



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

continued on page 21

OutRight

*Whether it's men excluding women, or
women excluding men, the affront to
individual dignity, good sense,
and decency is the same.*

Sexism at the Texas Lesbian Conference

by Dale Carpenter

In the gay civil rights movement, the "weaker sex" has never looked stronger. Since the advent of AIDS, which has killed so many men in the movement, women have done an admirable job of taking up the slack. At the national level, a woman leads the largest, richest, and most influential gay civil rights organization of them all, the Human Rights Campaign. At the state level, a woman leads the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby, the largest gay civil rights group in Texas. In Houston, two of the past three presidents of the local gay political caucus have been women. Women have achieved this prominence in the movement despite the fact that, according to surveys, there are far fewer gay women than gay men in the world.

Continuing the tradition of gay women's political activism, the annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC) was recently held in Houston. The TLC attracted some 450 participants. It featured a speech by a famous victim of Bill Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy, Col. Margaret Cammermeyer. Also appearing were Linda Morales, a hero of the legal fight against the sodomy law; Deb Price, an openly gay columnist for a major newspaper; and Annise Parker, a candidate for city council in November. The conference included some 20 workshops covering a wide range of topics, including: business networking, using the Internet to find romance, and hate crimes against gay women. Organizers even permitted a pro-life group to have an information booth. If you didn't know better, you'd think the TLC was an inclusive conference reflecting the diversity of the gay community, its supporters, and anyone interested in issues affecting gay women in Texas.

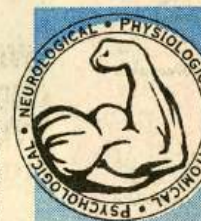


Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney, is state president of the Log Cabin Republicans. The opinions expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the views of Log Cabin.

continued on page 18

Try it.
Love it.
Live it.

Get a jump on fitness with the "Healthy Start Program." This unbelievably affordable plan starts you with a detailed fitness evaluation, a 1-week nutritional program, and two personal training sessions in our fully equipped private facility!



Once you've tried it, we're sure you'll love it. We'll even prove it by applying the cost toward any other fitness package we offer! From health maintenance to fat loss and body shaping, Muscle Mechanics makes it easy to begin with the "Healthy Start Program." Call now and give it a try.

**MUSCLE
MECHANICS**

713.523.5330 4316 YUPON

**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



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

Your FIRST CHOICE Travel Experts...

BEST VALUE FARES*

Roundtrip fares as of 7/23/97

Amsterdam.....	\$514.00
Boston	\$408.00
Key West	\$312.00
London	\$639.00
New Orleans.....	\$98.00
New York	\$371.00
Palm Springs	\$358.00
Paris	\$438.00
Provincetown	\$573.00
San Francisco	\$328.00
Seattle	\$306.00

* 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 up-dates.

FLASH! COMPANION FARES BACK
FOR LIMITED TIME ONLY!

Dates to Remember...



**COSTA RICAN
HIGHLIGHTS
NOV 8-15**

For the discriminating and
adventurous traveller.
Space still available.

**OLIVIA
HAWAIIAN CRUISE
DEC. 13-20**



The best way to see the Hawaiian Islands.
Pre and post packages available.



Coy Tow, 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

OutRight

continued from page 17

No men allowed at the speeches. No men allowed at the luncheons or dinners. Even male photographers and reporters were told to stay away. TLC organizers graciously accepted advertising revenue from men, but the male vendors themselves could not enter. The same no-males policy is in force every year at the TLC.

We have an old-fashioned word for policies that shut people out of events and places because of the accident of their birth: discrimination. When discrimination irrationally targets the members of one sex, it is called sexism. Imagine the outcry if a group of gay men convened a big annual conference on gay issues and decided to exclude women. The barricades have not been built that could hold back the fuming legions marching to protest such a conference. And yet what could TLC organizers say in opposition to a men-only gathering? Whether it's men excluding women, or women excluding men, the affront to individual dignity, good sense, and decency is the same.

TLC organizers aside, I doubt that most of the women who attended the conference actively support the no-males policy. I suspect that most participants either quietly oppose the policy or give it no thought at all. In fact, I've spoken to many gay women who think it's wrong to exclude men.

The TLC's no-males policy is wrong and has two harmful consequences. First, it reinforces the stereotype that gay women hate all men. If you look hard enough, of course, you can find examples of anti-male thought in some radical feminist circles. That is surely a minority view among gay women. To outsiders, however, the no-males policy is evidence that the radical fringe is running the show. The policy appears to be an arbitrary exercise of power with no purpose other than blind anti-male vindictiveness, exposing an ugly "you've-had-all-the-power-so-now-it's-our-turn" attitude. But worse than that is the damage the policy can do to gays' moral high ground on the broader issue of discrimination. It's hard to convince others to stop discriminating when you practice it yourself.

The second harmful consequence of the TLC's no-males policy is that it impedes understanding between gay women and men who are often separated by ignorance and misinformation. Gay women complain that gay men either don't understand or don't care about their particular frustrations and concerns. Fair point. The fact that so few men have protested the TLC's no-males policy is Exhibit A that men don't care. What better way to educate men on issues of importance to gay women than to permit—no, *encourage*—men to attend the TLC, where information about the lives of gay women is disseminated? The no-males policy precludes an honest dialogue between men and women about gay women's issues at an important conference on the topic.

So why do TLC organizers cling to this anachronistic relic of 1970s feminism? The only defense of the policy I've heard came from gay activist Torrie Osborn in a recent interview. Said she: "When people feel the need to share their voices with their own, it has to be respected. It empowers women. It

allows women to continue to strengthen our own voices in an incredibly sexist society."

Osborn is making two points. First, she holds that it's O.K. for people to congregate with "their own" to the exclusion of those who are not "their own." That sort of argument should be familiar to anyone who lived in the 1950s and 1960s. Back then, white racists defended segregation on the ground that whites should stay with "their own" and blacks should stay with "their own." Similar arguments have been used to keep women out of all-male business associations and other establishments including, regrettably, some gay bars. Osborn would never defend these discriminatory policies and neither would TLC organizers. But they fail to see how rigidly dividing people into groups of "their own" assaults the very principle of equality they espouse.

Second, Osborn argues that women need the sanctuary of a women-only environment in order to fortify themselves against "an incredibly sexist society." Grant her observation that sexism directed principally at women pervades our society. Add that such discrimination is especially harmful to women because men generally occupy positions of greater power and are more able to inflict real damage. The question remains: How can that justify directing sexist policies back at men, especially at men who want nothing more than to hear and to understand women's perspectives? Two wrongs do not make a right. Thus, Osborn's talk of our "incredibly sexist society," while true, does not support her conclusion. We should be trying to end sexism, not perpetuate it.

Further, Osborn's notion that women need to be shielded from the prying eyes and ears of men in order to "strengthen their voices" is an impoverished and patronizing conception of women. Osborn conceives women as so weak that they must be protected, just as Victorian society thought women were delicate vessels who require shelter from the workaday world. The truth about women is very different, as anyone who has witnessed them running gay organizations can attest.

I freely concede that sex segregation may be appropriate under very limited circumstances, especially where physical privacy is at stake. For example, our culture is probably not ready for mixed-sex public showers, changing rooms, or toilets (though you'd never know it at a gay bar). But sex segregation is certainly unjustifiable where the principal activity of the event is the exchange of ideas on political, cultural, and philosophical issues. The TLC is useful because that is exactly what participants do. The sexes need not be afraid to hear each other out on such matters.

So I issue this challenge to TLC organizers: 'fess up and end your sexist no-males policy outright. I doubt you'll be overrun by those pesky men anyway. Or at least put the matter to a vote of the participants at the 1998 TLC in San Antonio. Or, at the very least, conduct a debate on the merits of opening the conference to all interested people regardless of sex. You might be surprised at what you hear. Women, the backbone of our civil rights movement, aren't as fragile as you think.

TEXAS COMMERCE

Where people make
the difference.



EXPERIENCE STAR TREATMENTSM

713-216-4865

Member FDIC.

E



P.R.I.D.E.
team

Proud participant of Empower '97.

"Dot
by dot
building
up the
image..."

Marion E. Coleman
Your Community Image Inker!



House of Coleman
Fine Printing & Graphics

901 WEST ALABAMA
HOUSTON, TX 77006-4693
713.523.2521
FAX 713.524.264





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



WHERE QUALITY SERVICE
COUNTS THE MOST

JIM JADLOSKI

Independent Travel Agent

713/682-3362

Guest Column

On the twisted road to equality, we seem to have taken an unexpected step.

Yes, We Have No Bananas

by Kevin Isom

We should have seen it coming. Everything was going so well. First, there was lesbian chic. Then there was *Ellen*—*The Episode*. Then Mickey Mouse and Goofy stood up to the cartoonish Southern Baptist boycott. But then along came an alleged gay spree killer—yes, the authorities are calling him a spree killer—who swept into South Beach and casually murdered Gianni Versace, the talented, rich and influential gay fashion designer.

A gasp of horror went up from fashionable gay and straight folk all around the world, and celebrities as diverse as Princess Di, Naomi Campbell, Elton John and Sylvester Stallone were grief stricken. And with good reason. Versace was an openly gay role model of successful and caring living, whose senseless death narrows the world a little for gays and straights alike.

Besides, without Versace, who would create trends like those ubiquitous white jeans? Who would give Elizabeth Hurley clothes that would make her stand out from the shadow of her actor-boyfriend-befriender of prostitutes, Hugh Grant?

More importantly, where would we find homoerotic images of male beauty in straight magazines? Even for people who don't buy into the whole designer cachet, Versace made a difference—and an improvement—in body-conscious style, not to mention the buffed-up types of bodies he promoted. I, for one, am all for eye candy. Will we now be left with only Calvin Klein?

The mainstream news media was, of course, all over the case like Bruno Magli shoes on O.J. Simpson. Here was an alleged spree killer who, in his mother's words, was a "high-class gay prostitute." What copy this made for the nightly news!

Forget Ellen, forget Disney. Lesbian chic? What was that? Here's an alleged queer-Heidi Fleiss with murder on the mind! *Hard Copy* even came out of summer hiatus to jump right on the case. And if *Hard Copy* is on the beat, you know it's gotta be big. For days, there were alerts on nightly news in every podunk town with even a smidgen of openly gay culture. ("Bucksnort, Tennessee: Is the Killer Here?") In part, it was because the F.B.I. neglected to get out information to gay communities across the country when they first knew of the very real threat.

But we should have seen it coming. After all, we'll never be truly equal to straight folks until we're equal in every way. And that means bad as well as good. Strange as well as stylish. Straight folks have produced years and years of serial killers. Remember Ted Bundy? Now we had our very own spree killer.

Curiously, though, instead of just accepting a spree killer for what he was—bananas—the mainstream media seemed obsessed with finding a reason, an explanation, for his killings. They suggested, without any evidence to back up the assertion, that the alleged killer had discovered he had AIDS and just snapped. Sort of like Mike Tyson, but without the ear goop.

But doesn't it seem the least bit strange that thousands upon thousands of gay men have died of AIDS, and none have gone on a cross-country killing spree? Isn't it worth noting that most gay men instead have thrown their efforts into a brave and largely successful community response to AIDS?

Doesn't it also seem strange that the mainstream media has tended to lump Versace and his alleged killer into the same "lifestyle"—you know, the gay one? While both the victim and

his alleged killer might both have been gay, their lifestyles were hardly identical. But the media hasn't seemed to think so. They must also think that Princess Di and Queen Latifah, both being royals, must live the same lifestyle, too.

The saddest part of all this hoopla is that Versace's longtime companion, Antonio D'Amici, was rarely mentioned, if at all. Instead, the focus was on "Poughkeepsie, New York: Is the Killer Here?"

On the twisted road to equality, we seem to have taken an unexpected step. A step which, with the alleged killer's apparent suicide, will soon be forgotten.

I'm looking forward to getting back to Disney, those zany Southern Baptists, and lesbian chic.

Kevin Isom is a syndicated travel writer and humor columnist. His short story "The Brothers Mangrum" appears in the Spring 1997 issue of Paris Transcontinental.

Left Out *continued from page 16*

Lincoln bedroom in exchange for contributions to the Democratic Party in 1994, one-fourth of all the delegates the Republicans invited to their '94 National Convention were millionaires who contributed heavily to the Republican Party.

There's a big difference between how the GOP rewards its rich conventioners and how Clinton rewards his overnight guests at the White House. And the difference is in the proposed tax cuts.

Specifically, while Republicans loudly complained about Clinton's unethical system of rewarding political contributors, they quietly drafted a tax-cut package intended to repay the millionaires who contributed to their '94 campaigns.

Indeed, the Republicans have proposed a tax-cut plan that gives as much or more tax relief to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans than it does to the bottom 60 percent. On the contrary, Clinton pro-

posed a plan that gives 10 times more tax relief to the bottom 60 percent than it does to the wealthiest 1 percent.

So while Republicans hold televised hearings to convince the American public that Clinton engaged in illegal fundraising practices, they simultaneously reward their rich contributors with huge tax cuts at the expense of the middle class. And even if that's legal, it's not right. And both they and the American public know it.



Margaret Cho

Friday, Aug. 29 through Sunday, Aug. 31

Two Shows Each Night at 8PM and 10:30PM

Sunday's Performances co-sponsored by
The Houston Lesbian and Gay
Community Center



Order tickets by phone @ 713/524-2333

or at the Laff Stop box office, 1952-A W. Gray, weekdays after 10 am.

Hollywood
FRAME GALLERY

Custom Framing
Movie collectibles
2431 Bissonnet
713/942-8885

PRESENTS
an exhibition of
original movie art
related to the films
of Alfred Hitchcock

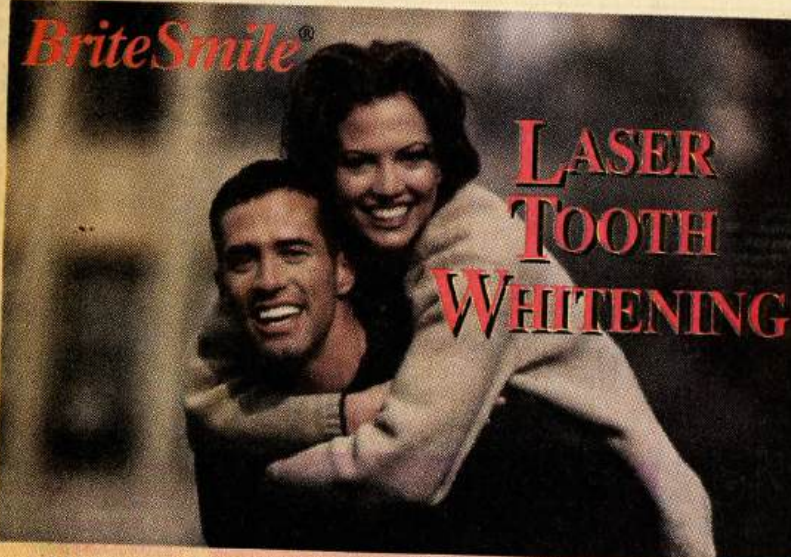
Works on display from 28 of Hitchcock's 53 films include movie posters, film stills, and celebrity autographs. Many will be available for purchase. A birthday celebration for Hitchcock's 98th birthday (Aug. 13) will be held Sat., Aug. 16, 10 am-4 pm, with a Hitchcock quiz, door prizes, and refreshments.

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



Dramatic Results in a Single Treatment!



Laser Tooth Whitening is painless and simple. Call today for a free consultation and see how a beautiful smile can change your life.



Richard E. Gervais, D.D.S., Inc.
8527 West Bellfort, Suite C • Houston, TX 77071
(713) 772-2111

Elton John

(Rolling Stone, 6/25/97, Edmund White)

"Considering how promiscuous [Elton] John was in the '80s, it's a miracle that he's HIV negative, and he's the first to recognize his good luck. And even after six years of sobriety, he recognizes how precarious it is. 'I love promiscuity—but why should I sabotage my life?' he asks. 'Every performer has that self-destruct element somewhere inside. I'd love to have a glass of red wine, but why should I destroy my whole life for that? My career is still there; I have a great art collection, a fabulous relationship. But if I were to go and fuck one boy and take one line of coke or one drink, my whole life would be in ruins.' He gives a little smile. 'I know I sound like Thoroughly Modern Millie.'"

Kathy Najimy

(Entertainment Weekly, Summer Double Issue '97)

Entertainment Weekly: Who is creative?

Kathy Najimy: Bette Midler—a constant inspiration. Lily Tomlin—a mentor. Sandra Bernhard—who pushes me more toward my edge. Susan Sarandon—a goddess. Gloria Steinem—I always think, "What would Gloria do?" Oprah Winfrey. Cyndi Lauper. And oh, yeah, Ellen.

Brad Davis

(The Advocate, 7/8/97, Robert L. Pela)

Brad Davis' wife "Bluestein Davis is appalled that the excesses that led to her husband's death should ever be glamorized. 'It would sadden me to think a young gay man would make some correlation between idolizing Brad and thinking there was something sexy about his being a drug addict,' she says. 'The fact is, he died of AIDS, and his last two years were horrifying. If anything, he'd want to stand as an example of what bad judgment and bad choices can lead to.'"

Gina Gershon

(Movieline, 7/97, Dennis Hensley)

"Tom Cruise, Elvis, the Beatles—they all know what it's like to have women screaming at them, and now I do, too."

Will Smith

(Us, 8/97, Chris Heath)

Chris Heath: Would you mind if your son was gay?

Will Smith: I love him dearly, but you know, I would hope that he would like women. Because I could be of more assistance to him in his life. I don't think

there's anything wrong with hoping that your children will fall in line with nature.

So you're saying that being gay is unnatural?

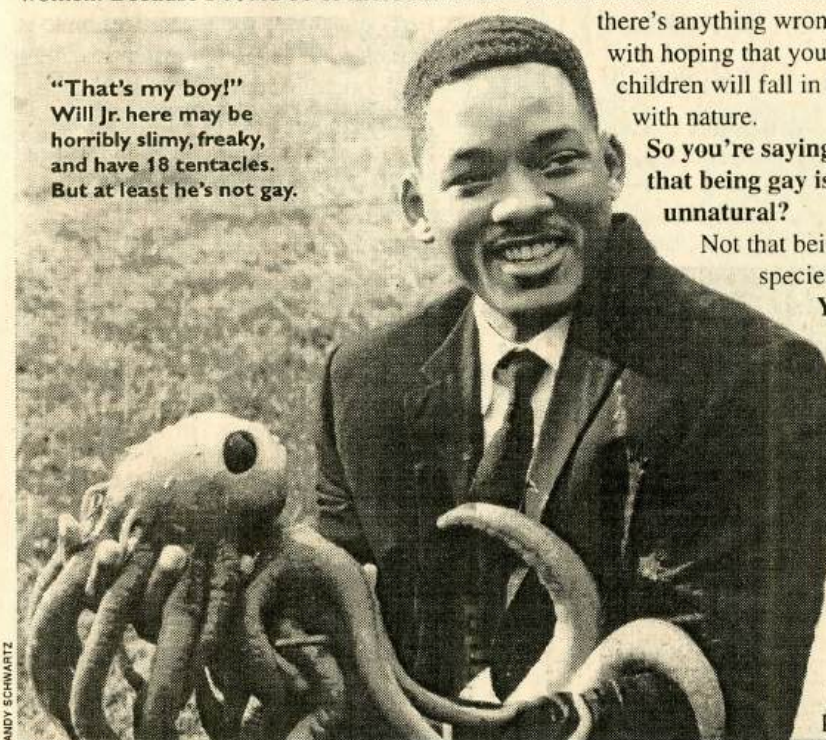
Not that being gay is unnatural, but that the procreation of our species is based on a male-female relationship.

You're on wobbly ground here.

I don't think it's too wobbly. You raise your children to believe the things you believe. There's nothing wrong with homosexuality, but I'm not a homosexual and, yes, it would be difficult for me if my son was a homosexual. I haven't sat down and intellectually thought about why it would be difficult, but it's just like it would be difficult for me if my son believed in a different religion...

Or if he got really into Michael Bolton?

Yeah. However, Michael Bolton's actually pretty good, so I actually have a problem with that statement. Michael Bolton is great. That's your prejudice.



SUZANNE TENNER ANDY SCHWARTZ

Who's a Lesbian?

(Entertainment Weekly, Summer Issue '97, Dave Karger/Michael Sauter)

"Television viewers who watched *Ellen's* coming-out episode saw a commercial for *My Best Friend's Wedding* that seemed especially hip. In the spot, a bridesmaid says to Julia Roberts, 'We thought you were a lesbian.' However, the chuckle-worthy line is missing from the final cut of the movie.... Why? Director P.J. Hogan says preview audiences' laughter kept drowning out the line.... Hogan considered leaving it in 'just for truth in advertising [so] we shuffled it around constantly, but no matter where we put it, you could never hear it. By the time the audience stopped laughing, they just heard the word *lesbian*. And they were going 'What? What happened? Who's a lesbian?'"



Julia Roberts and Dermot Mulroney bask in the light of Rupert Everett's fey ray.

Julia Roberts & Rupert Everett

(Us, 8/97, Tom O'Neill)

Rupert Everett "said I was his 'ultimate fag hag,'" [Julia Roberts] announces, bursting with pride. "I adore him." ... "We were dancing in one scene [of *My Best Friend's Wedding*]," she recalls, giggling, "and he was being all sexy with me, saying hilarious stuff like 'Darling, can't you see it? My last ray of heterosexuality is shining on you.'"

Billy

(Entertainment Weekly, 6/20/97, Jim Mullen)

Billy is a "\$50 anatomically correct gay doll. But what really costs you money is his membership at the gym."



Actually, we DO recruit.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is seeking singers and non-singing volunteers.

Rehearsals for our 19th season begin Thursday, September 4, 7-10 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh (at Missouri Street). Join us as we welcome our new artistic director, Dr. J. David Faber, and begin preparations for a holiday concert featuring music from many nations and cultures.

For more information, call 713/521-SING.

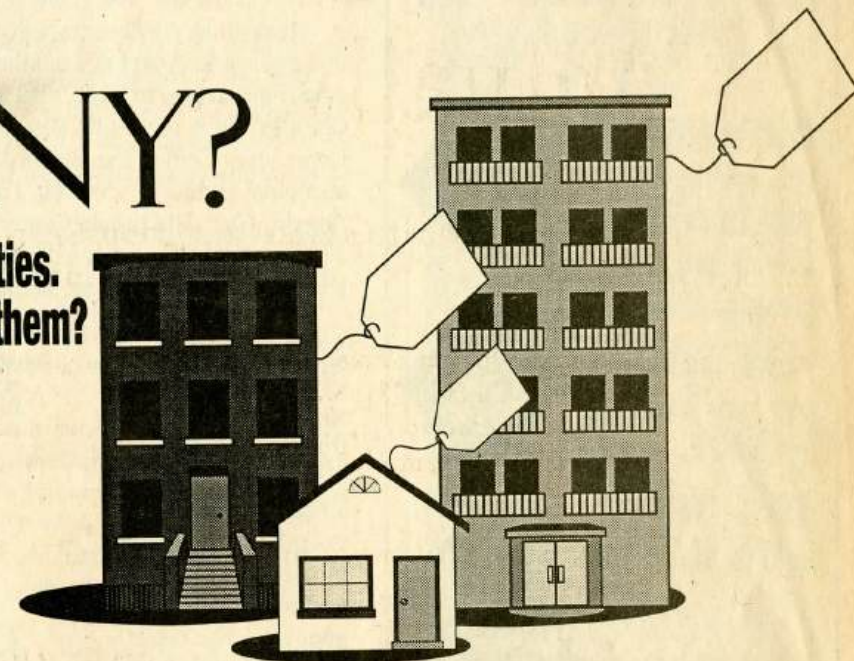


The Montrose Singers, DBA Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, is a non-profit organization.

THREE'S COMPANY?

Three groups are developing gay facilities.
Is this town big enough for all of them?

by Kyle Young



The recent surge of groups wanting to provide gathering places for Houston's gay community has got some people downright confused. In January, fundraising efforts began for the formation of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. In February, the African-American Lesbian Gay Alliance announced plans for a small community center that will focus on services for the black community. In June, The Hollyfield Foundation and the Elliott H. Matthews Foundation announced the appropriation of \$100,000 for the construction of office and meeting spaces for gay organizations.

Who's on first? Maybe all three groups. They all report to be supportive of each other's efforts. But in a time where many see funding sources as limited, can all three succeed?

"That's a competition essentially," says Torie Osborn, former director of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. "It's too bad everybody can't sit down and figure out a way to work together."

Hollyfield and the Community Center representatives have met, but all that came out of it was polite agreement to not get in each other's way.

Hollyfield, a nonprofit organization which distributes proceeds from rental

properties it owns to gay and HIV service organizations, already has the funds in hand to renovate a section of the Hollyfield Center, 2700 Albany. Alan Cranfill, executive director, says the Hollyfield board considered allowing the Community Center to set up shop in the space but decided against it.

"This is a private building owned by the foundation," says Cranfill. "It will never be owned by the community, so we didn't want anybody to get the wrong impression by calling it a community center, because it will always be the Hollyfield Center."

Cranfill says his organization also felt that starting out the Community Center in the Hollyfield facility could hamper the group's ability to raise funds.

"That might be negative for them in their fundraising ability because people would think they're already in a community center," says Cranfill, "so we're hoping that they are able to proceed with what they are doing."

The Hollyfield Foundation recently sent a survey to gay organizations to find out how to best use the conference center space. The 3,000-square-foot facility at the back of the current Hollyfield building was once a dance floor for the Elk's Lodge during prohibition. After renovation, the

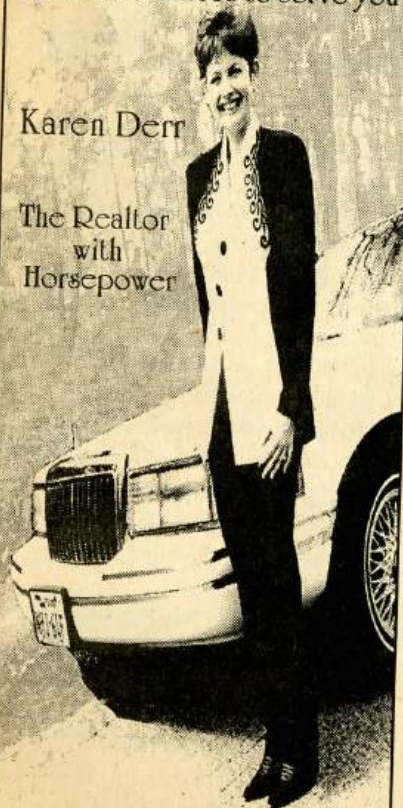
area will most likely contain several small offices, a meeting room and an outdoor patio for events. Storage lockers may also be available for small organizations who use the meeting space but have no need for an office. Eventually, another 3,000 square feet currently in use by an after-hours dance club may be used for the conference center.

While the Hollyfield facility could potentially draw away groups who would office or hold meetings at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Cranfill says the development of the conference space is not meant to compete with the Community Center.

"Houston needs a community center," he says.

That seems to be the one point everyone can agree on. The idea for a community center in Houston is not a new one. The first attempt came from a group called the Promethian Society in the late '60s. They met for a short time in a tin shed behind The Roaring '60s, a lesbian bar on Shepherd. In 1972, a group called the Montrose Gaze established a house where groups could meet. It too was short-lived. In 1975, a nonprofit organization called the Montrose Activities Center (MAC) opened a facility.

Now with 3 offices to serve you



Karen Derr
The Realtor
with
Horsepower

www.KarenDerr.com

Karen Derr & Associates Realty & Novell Homes
Proudly Present...

New Garden Homes

"In the Heart of Spring Branch"

If a New Home 10 min. from the Loop Is What You're Looking For...

Timbercreek North Is The Place For You!!!

Priced from the \$90's to the 140's

We currently have 4 models for you & your family to view.
Served by the acclaimed Spring Branch Independent School District.

Come by or Call Today!!!

713-827-8440

Or visit on-line - <http://www.KarenDerr.com/timbercreek>
Open house: Mon.-Sat. 10am-5:30pm -- Sun. 12:00-5:30pm



BIG IN THE HEIGHTS! 3 bd 2 bath with both formals, hardwood floors, high ceilings, +/-1800 s.f. \$149,900. Call 713-862-1600

COUNTRY RIGHT IN TOWN - 4 bd 2-1/2 bath on 1/2 acre, unrestr., security, auto gate, workshop, hardwoods, like new kitchen, French doors, huge spa - \$89,900.

LOG HOME & 8-1/2 ACRES - north of Kingwood, pond, +/-3100 s.f., hi-ceilings, stone accents, 4 bd 3 bath \$225,000. Call 713-862-1600

1/2 ACRE LOT - just north of Kingwood, 3 bd 2 bath, new carpet, POOL! \$115,000

HUMBLE LIKE NEW - 3 bd 2 bth, spa tub. Assume 7% w/app. - \$79,900 - 713-862-1600

U-Plumb-It

Parts • Fixtures • Faucets

Old or New

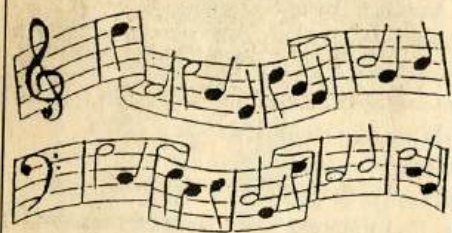
We have the **PARTS** to fix virtually any plumbing problem.

We will also show you how to do it yourself and **SAVE**.

10% OFF with this ad!

713-942-2277

1424 Montrose (near West Gray)



We're gay...we play...

BAND MUSIC
...come join us.

Houston Pride Band

Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm
Location: Dignity Houston
1307 Yale (in the Heights)
Contact: Russell Williams 524-0218
E-mail: HousTxBand@aol.com

It survived a few months. They tried to revive it in the late '80s. It didn't work.

Meanwhile, small community centers that got started years ago in other major cities have grown to large, vital facilities. Close to home, the Dallas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, founded in 1984, has an annual budget of \$500,000. The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center works with an annual budget of \$19 million and has over 240 full-time staff members.

Osborn, who led the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center for seven years, says starting a center from scratch is difficult.

"Frankly, in the 1990s, to start something like this you better have some money and some marketing on your side. You better have some people on your board who can generate money, whether it's contacting the foundations or being able to write checks themselves," insists Osborn. "The reality is that it's no longer good enough to just have a good idea. You have to be a little more sophisticated. You have to have a fundraising plan.

You've got to have some major donors. There's plenty of money in the Houston community. There are people who could fund it, but you have to be able to make the case that there's a need out there."

Brian Tognotti, Community Center president, says the board is looking for a small site to start some initial programs so that community interest will grow.

"It's difficult sometimes to sell an idea or a concept where there's actually nothing concrete," says Tognotti. "That's one of the reasons we've established a goal to try to get into a space as quickly as possible. If people have an actual physical space to go to, if they know this is the Community Center, this is what we want to build, we feel it's a lot easier for people to get behind something like that."

Tognotti says that the original site for the Community Center will be open within two months using grant money from the Chicago Resource Center and the Kellett Foundation. The group hopes to raise \$200,000 for a permanent building by March.

"When I talked to these guys, I had the impression that this was a professional effort," says John Kellett, Kellett Foundation president. "Even though they were

young and relatively new to the community, they seemed to have the right attitudes. They seemed to know what needed to be done. Without endorsing these guys too thoroughly, because the proof of the pudding is in the community center, the Kellett Foundation was supportive enough of the concept to give them a grant of \$1,000 early this year."

Tognotti says he realizes that the failure of past community center efforts in Houston means donors will be watching closely.

"We feel very strongly that we have to perform very re-

sponsibly as an organization," says Tognotti. "The board has been meticulous about record-keeping and keeping everything in order. Certainly everybody wants to make sure that the money they give is going to actually get to the services that are being talked about."

Osborn recently did signings at community centers all over the country while publicizing her book, *Coming Home to America*. She says there are three crucial elements to a successful gay community center: social services, such as a drop-in center for gay youth; social and recreational activities; and space for groups to meet. She says new community centers often focus only on the space.

"You can't just find a place and have town hall meetings and maybe have the

There's plenty of money in the Houston community. There are people who could fund it, but you have to be able to make the case that there's a need out there.

lesbian moms group and the gay pilots group meet there," explains Osborn. "You really have to create programs and an identity of your own that can be funded both through government grants and private donations, or you won't survive. Over and over again, I've seen these kind of community space centers that buy a building or rent a building and have people meet there. It doesn't work. You don't have an income stream."

Community Center organizers say they are currently developing workshops and classes for the facility. Basic seminars for those just venturing out of the closet will be offered. Other ideas include classes about aging and parenting. The group also plans to work closely with the Houston Area Teenage Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) to provide programming for gay youth.

Steve Walker, co-president of the African-American Lesbian/Gay Alliance (AALGA), says that his group also wants to provide a safe place for youth. While AALGA members are supportive of the community center concept, Walker says there is an additional need for a smaller facility that targets people of color. The "Little House on the Corner" project will require \$10,000 to get started.

"It's one of our goals to make that a reality by the end of the year," says Walker. "We want to have office space and meeting space, but the main focus is to have a space for lesbians and gays who might be rejected from their homes because of parental pressure or HIV status."

Walker says African-American gays and lesbians in crisis will feel more comfortable coming to a facility that is centered in the black community.

"One of the driving forces behind doing this is to gain inroads with the mainstream African-American community," says Walker. "They have a tendency to believe that everyone who's gay or lesbian is not African American. Our shelter would be completely contrary to that."

Walker says most of the project's financial support has come from AALGA members and the National Black Lesbian & Gay Leadership Forum.

Tognotti and Community Center board member Carl Riedl have not heard about the AALGA project, but they would be in-

terested in finding a way to work with Walker.

"Maybe we can somehow compliment each other's effort on that," says Riedl. "We really are trying to attract diversity."

Tognotti says that collaborative projects are essential to a strong community center.

"The interest to work together, to work on common projects is all out there," explains Tognotti. "It's just that we need a force to have all that interest bear fruit. That's what community centers do in various ways."

Longtime community activist Ray Hill says that the Houston community is big enough to support all of these efforts. He says Hollyfield's conference center should not be considered competition for the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

"Having conference space available is nice," explains Hill. "That's not to be confused with a larger concept of a community center. I don't think those two things conflict. It's like saying the Dome is in competition with the Sheraton across the street. They compliment one another, rather than compete."

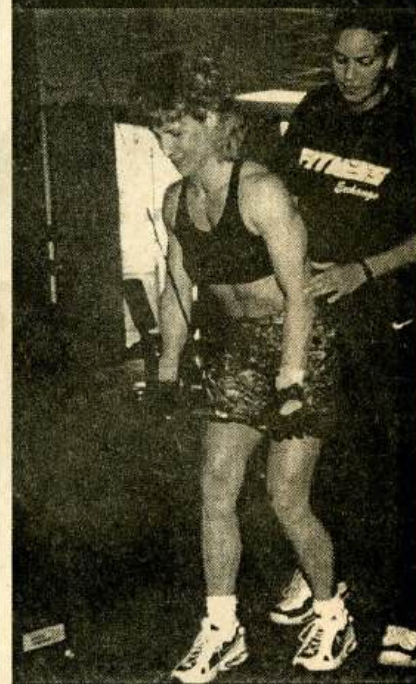
Driven by dedicated volunteers, these three efforts are a testament to the growing spirit of Houston's gay community. If local resources are limited, you wouldn't know it by talking to these groups. It is possible that within the next year, Houston may be the home of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, the Little House on the Corner, and the Hollyfield Conference Center. If it is to be, it will require strong community involvement.

"The most thrilling part of being involved in this," smiles Riedl, "is the people who have been participating, the diversity. I'm really starting to feel the rainbow, and I've never felt like that before. I'm meeting people or groups that I normally would have no cause to interact with. The more we focus on that, we'll just be amazed what can happen in Houston."

To participate in these community efforts call: The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 713/867-7904; The Hollyfield Foundation, 713/520-6300; and the African-American Lesbian/Gay Alliance, 713/523-5950.

1/2 OFF SALE!

ON ALL NEW RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIPS.



NEVER A WAIT FOR TONS OF NEW EQUIPMENT!

- ☐ NEW CYBEX
- ☐ LIFESTEPS
- ☐ NEW NAUTILUS
- ☐ NORDIC TRACKS
- ☐ AEROBICS
- ☐ PRECOR TRANSPORTS
- ☐ FREE WEIGHTS
- ☐ HAMMER STRENGTH
- ☐ LIFESTRIDES
- ☐ RECUMBENT CYCLES
- ☐ LIFEROWERS
- ☐ NEW PURETAN BEDS
- ☐ LIFECYCLES
- ☐ FREE PARKING

FITNESS
exchange

20 YEARS IN HOUSTON

4040 MILAM@BUTE

HOUSTON, TX. 77006

713/524-9932

MONDAY - FRIDAY 5AM - 10PM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 8AM - 8PM

Don't Miss the Boat!

RSVP
announces 1998 schedule!
Call early for best rates and lowest airfares.



1997 PROGRAMS STILL AVAILABLE:

CLUB RSVP

November 8-15, from \$745

NEW FOR 1998...

FIVE-DAY CARIBBEAN SPLASH

February 15-20

from \$795 inside/\$1395 outside

SOLAR ECLIPSE CRUISE

SOLD OUT

from \$795 inside/\$1395 outside

MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE

March 15-22

from \$695 inside/\$1195 outside

ALASKAN ADVENTURE CRUISE

August 3-10

from \$895/\$1495 outside



Sandra Wilkins
Owner

**THE TRAVEL
PARTNERSHIP**

713/526-4471

e-mail: outtravel@aol.com

Queer Science

"It's time to retire those 'statistics' about the supposed affluence of our community. They may make us feel good, but they're probably wrong."

Gay Affluence: Fact or Fiction

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

Are gays and lesbians an economically privileged group, much sought after for our purchasing power and our trendsetting buying habits? Or are we an economically oppressed minority, forced to accept substandard wages or jobs that do not match up to our abilities? And are gay men better off than lesbians? The answers to these questions, like so many questions about us, depend on who you believe.

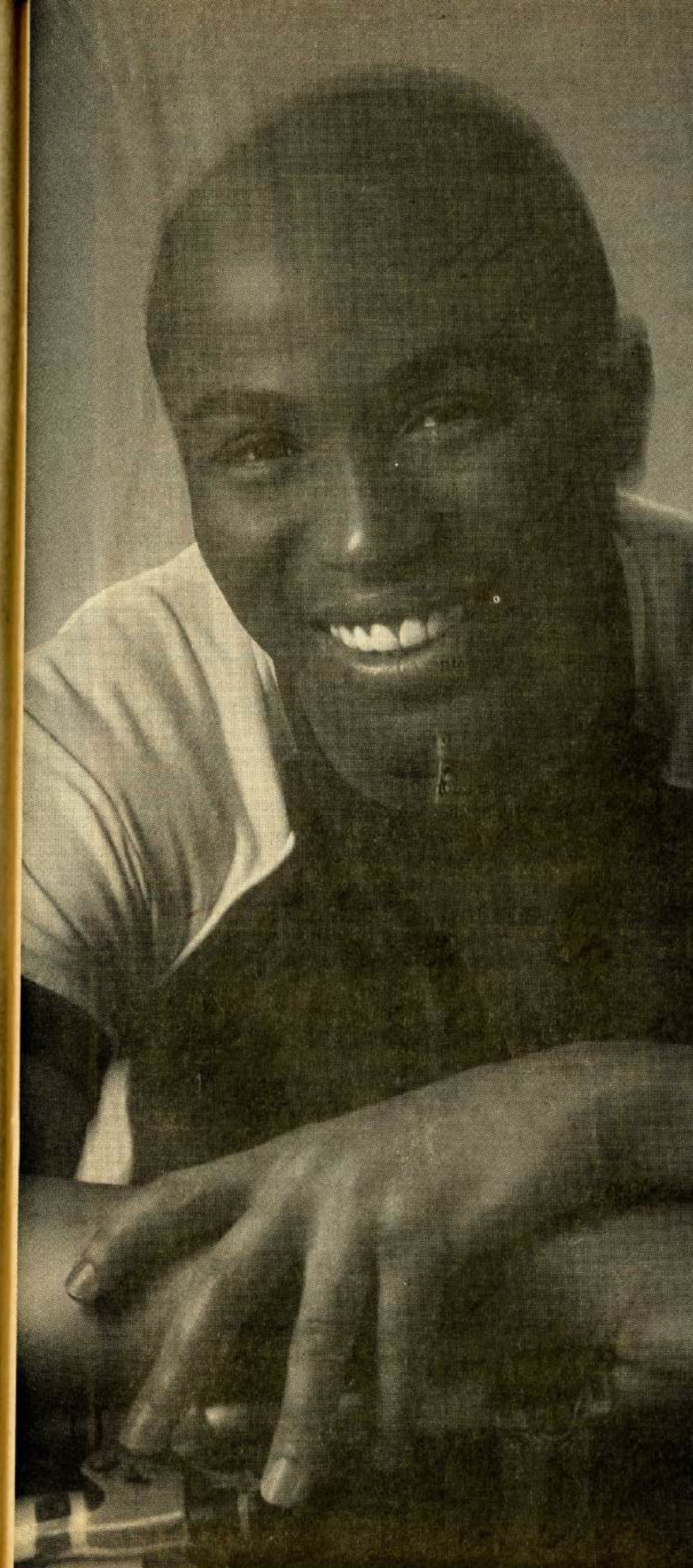
Of course, we know that our community is very diverse economically, as in most other respects. We are wealthy Hollywood executives, we are mired in rural poverty, and we are everything between. So, to get a true picture of the average income of gays and lesbians, we need to do some kind of statistical survey, and that's where the trouble begins. Because identifying gays and lesbians in the population is not easy.

One approach has been to survey gays and lesbians contacted through gay newspapers and magazines. According to several surveys of this kind, gay people in the U.S. earn significantly more than the national average. In addition, they tend to live in two-income households. Thus, one study conducted in the late 1980s reported that gays and lesbians have an average household income of \$63,100, compared with \$36,500 for the general population. When one throws another factor into the equation—the presence of fewer children in gay households—one is left with an image of gay people as having unusually high disposable incomes.

But these conclusions are suspect for two reasons. First, gay people who read gay magazines and respond to the surveys may be a privileged minority within the entire gay community. Second, one has to be concerned about potential bias on the part of the people who organize such surveys—perhaps a desire to help gay people feel good about themselves or to prove that gay people are a worthwhile target for advertising dollars.

Another approach has been to use data derived from national random-sample surveys. One such survey, conducted in 1993 by the market-research firm Yankelovich Partners, reported that self-identified gays and lesbians have personal incomes about the same as those of heterosexual people of the same sex. In accordance with the generally higher incomes of men than women, gay men in the survey had an average personal income about 60 percent higher than that of lesbians. But this difference disappeared when the data were corrected for household structure:

continued on page 31



PUT SOME FREEDOM INTO YOUR HIV MEDICATION SCHEDULE

It takes strong medicines to fight HIV. But your medicines also have to be easy to take. That's why many people now take ZERIT (also known as d4T) as part of their HIV therapy.

Most people tolerate ZERIT quite well. You take just one capsule twice a day, with or without food. And you can combine ZERIT with most other medicines you might be taking.

ZERIT is approved for the treatment of HIV-infected persons who have already received prolonged AZT therapy. However, there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking ZERIT may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Please note that all HIV drugs cause side effects. ZERIT has been shown to cause tingling or pain in the hands or feet in 13% to 24% of people.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT

ZERIT®
(stavudine) Capsules
ALSO KNOWN AS d4T

Please see brief summary of prescribing information on following page.
©1997, Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, Princeton, NJ 08543, U.S.A. F9-K002L 7/97

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION.

ZERIT® (stavudine)

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution

Brief Summary of Prescribing Information, 10/96. For complete prescribing information, please consult official package circular.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A1455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing ≥60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 88 weeks (range 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline, 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic.

Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Table 1 -- Incidence of Disease Progression

	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program¹. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation).

¹ The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy "Category C". Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C_{max}) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of the sternbra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.17 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/mL at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Table 2
Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification

	Study A1455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	ZERIT (20 mg BID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy				
Grade 1-2	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3
Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials^a

Adverse Events	Study A1455-019 ^b	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	31
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	*	*

^a This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

^b Includes all clinical complaints.

^c Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4
Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities^a

Lab Tests (units)	Study A1455-019 ^b	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (≤5.0 x ULN ^c)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (≤5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (>5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	*	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13

^a This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

^b Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

^c Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

^d ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01). US Patent No.: 4,978,655

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB

Immunology

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Princeton, NJ 08543
U.S.A.

F9-B001A-10-96

Adapted from: P4577-04
Revised October 1996

Queer Science

continued from page 28

both gay men and lesbians live in households where the average income per household member is about \$12,500. Thus, if gay people's households function as economic units, the disposable income of lesbians and gay men may be about the same.

The finding that gay and straight people have similar personal incomes is a little puzzling, because several surveys have reported that gay people are more educated than straight people, and also are more likely to live in large cities. Both these factors are usually associated with higher income. So, is something else operating to keep gay people's income down?

To address this question, another study was conducted by economist and lesbian activist Lee Badgett of the University of Maryland. Badgett re-analyzed data collected by the National Opinion Research Center in 1989-91. The raw data indicated that, on average, lesbian or bisexual women earn an average of 18 percent less than heterosexual women, and gay or bisexual men earn 7 percent less than heterosexual men. The gay or bisexual men earned 75 percent more than the lesbian or bisexual women.

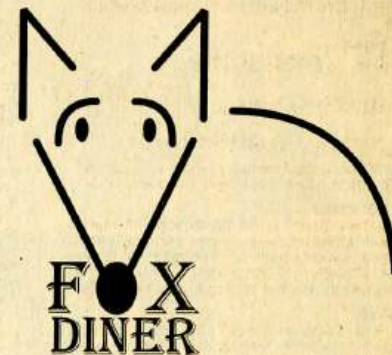
Badgett then used detailed statistical tests to remove the effects of other variables, such as occupation, race, educational level, and area of residence. After correction for these variables, the gay or bisexual men earned about 24 percent less than heterosexual men, while there was no significant difference between the incomes of lesbian or bisexual women compared with heterosexual women. In other words, gay men take a significant hit in income simply because they are gay. Lesbians may not take a big hit in income for being lesbian, but they do take a significant hit for being women.

Badgett believes that these income differences demonstrate the effects of discrimination against gays and women in the workplace. In fact, she uses her results to argue in favor of legislation such as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, that came close to passage in the U.S. Senate last year.

I'm not sure that Badgett has made a watertight case with respect to anti-gay discrimination. For one thing, it's possible that gay men aren't as focused on salary when they choose their positions. Maybe they lay more emphasis on the intangible rewards of work such as the opportunity for service, creativity and the like. Such preferences might lead to fine differences between the positions held by gay and straight men, differences that are not captured by Badgett's broad occupational categories. Or maybe, having fewer dependents, gay men are less motivated to work overtime or to seek promotion.

But still, based on the more scientifically sampled studies, it seems pretty clear that gay people earn either the same as or somewhat less than heterosexuals. It's time to retire those "statistics" about the supposed affluence of our community. They may make us feel good, but they're probably wrong, and they also feed into a belief that we don't need gay-rights legislation.

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nonas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the novel *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He is also a 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.



905 Taft

Between Allen Parkway and West Dallas

713/523-5FOX

Comfort Food Is
What This Vixen's Fixin'

HOURS:

Sunday Brunch Buffet • 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Monday-Thursday • 11AM to 10 PM

Friday • 11 AM to 11 PM

Saturday • 5:30 PM to 11 PM

BYOB

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

"Best New Restaurant."

-The Houston Chronicle

"...a veritable temple of indulgence."

-The Houston Business Journal

"...works like a charm."

-The Houston Chronicle

"It's comfort food given a twist..."

-Houston Press

"...Fox Diner is a most appealing little bistro."

-Inside Houston

"...another little flower in this harsh city."

-My Table

"...this diner focuses on food..."

-Texas Monthly

"This has been a truly wonderful evening.
Gertrude has said things that will take her
10 years to understand."

-Alice B. Toklas

Introducing FOXWARE

Hand Crafted Aluminum Service & Objets d'Art
at Heights Pavillion • 244 W. 19th Street

Proudly serving all hungry Houstonians!

GMAT LSAT

GRE MCAT

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.

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

OutLaw

Family Ties That Bind

by Connie Moore

Persons in our community are creating families in record numbers. The most common ways of bringing a child into a home are through donor insemination and adoption. This month we review some of the legal aspects of creating our families and look at the newest trends.

Donor Insemination

Many women are choosing to become parents through the process of donor insemination. Some are choosing to use the services of medical facilities and unknown donor semen, while others prefer to know personally who the donor is.

In Texas, when a woman is artificially inseminated, the resulting child is not the legal child of the donor, unless the donor is married to the woman. The Texas Family Code says:

§151.101 Artificial Insemination

- (a) *If a husband consents to the artificial insemination of his wife, any resulting child is the child of both of them. The consent must be in writing and must be acknowledged.*
- (b) *If a woman is artificially inseminated, the resulting child is not the child of the donor unless he is the husband.*

Because the law does not allow the donor to have a legal relationship with the child, this statute provides the inseminating mother protection against a paternity action by the donor at a later time. Since the unknown donor has little chance of finding out that a child has been born, using an unknown donor provides the greatest protection for the lesbian mother. Those couples wishing to use a known donor should prepare and sign insemination contracts and termination agreements. There are no guarantees that a known donor will not attempt to establish a parent-child relationship with the child later in life, and if the donor has had significant parent-type contacts with the child he may be successful because it is the best interest of the child.

Adoption

Adoption is fast becoming a viable option for lesbians and gay men seeking to have children. There are two main steps in the adoption process. The first step is finding and obtaining placement of a child. The second is the legal proceedings.

The most popular way to find a child for adoption is through an adoption agency. A growing trend on the adoption scene is placement of international children. International adoptions are gaining in popularity because of the ease of finding an adoptable child, the shortened length of time for placement, and the security of knowing that there is virtually no chance for the biological parents of an abandoned or orphaned child to come back later to cause problems. For those wishing to use a domestic adoption agency, the waiting period is usually much longer, although there are ways to shorten

this time and increase the possibility of placement. Being willing to adopt a special needs child, including an older child instead of an infant, will increase the chances of a successful placement. If one is lucky enough to learn of an individual who wishes to give up a child for adoption, a private adoption can be a substantially less expensive option, although there are potentially more risks involved.

Once a child is placed in an adoptive home, it is time to legalize the family relationship. The Texas Family Code states that any child living in this state may be adopted if the parent-child relationship has been terminated as to each living parent. There is no Texas law stating that two unmarried individuals cannot file a joint petition to adopt a child. Each adoption is examined by a court on a case-by-case basis, and many times the court assignment can have more impact than any other on the success of a joint adoption. However, an adoption by one person is a routine—although still a highly technical—process, and single-parent adoptions are successfully finalized regularly.

There is an exception to the requirement that all existing parental rights be terminated, and that is if the person seeking the adoption is the *spouse* of the legal parent. In this situation the legal parent's rights do not have to be terminated. This means that an attempt to have a co-parent adopt his or her partner's child is not impossible, but it is very difficult. Essentially the court considering the adoption would have to accept the co-parent as the "spouse" of the parent in order to satisfy the Family Code requirements.

There is a much easier and less expensive option for establishing legal rights for a co-parent through the use of other family code statutes. For instance, a co-parent can petition a court to be appointed a joint managing conservator and thereby obtain certain court-ordered parental rights.

There are many considerations that come into the decision to parent, including work, money, friends and family, relationships, and even homophobia. Those who do choose to parent should keep in mind that no matter how you choose to bring a child in your life, because of the lack of legal recognition of our relationships, there are additional steps that must be undertaken in order to protect your family.

Connie Moore is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian/feminist law firm based in Houston. Moore & Hunt has pursued the area of human rights law with an emphasis on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights and is a part of the cooperating attorney network of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. For more information regarding this article, call 713/522-4282.

Moore & Hunt is hosting its annual Creating Families seminar on Saturday, September 20. Speakers will include a doctor who assists with the donor insemination process, an adoption agency owner who will explain the process of finding an adoptable child, a psychologist who works with couples through the difficult process of deciding if the time is right to bring a child into their lives, a financial expert to advise on how to get financially prepared for this big step, and attorneys talking about the legal ramifications of creating a family and giving suggestions for legal protection for parents and co-parents. The program also features families who have succeeded in becoming parents through insemination and adoption.

Registration is \$35, which includes lunch. For more information, call Natalie at 713/522-4282, ext. 10.



10% OFF AVEDA PRODUCTS

WITH THIS COUPON

PLEASE VISIT US AT
METROPOLIS
 AN AVEDA CONCEPT SALON

AVEDA

HOURS 10 - 7 TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY
 HOURS 10 - 4 SATURDAY

TEL 713•526•2900
 FAX 713•529•7377

4317 MONTROSE BOULEVARD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006

Realtor Appraiser

From the Heights & Montrose to Pearland & Alvin, I am the **Appraiser & Realtor of Choice!**

Parts of Pearland are only 12 minutes to the Montrose area via Hwy 288 with minimal traffic. And you can get a brick 3 bedroom house in the \$70's in these areas! Or maybe a house with some acreage from the low \$100's up!



Sam Ferreri, RAA

281-485-3200

Real Estate Brokerage
 RE/MAX Pearland
 5517 W. Broadway, #E
 Pearland, Texas 77581

"22 years experience"

Out at Shell

Changing the Corporate Environment One Closet at a Time

By Rick Schroder



The stage was set, the orchestra had begun to play, and very soon thereafter the curtain would rise. The night before coming out at Shell Oil Company, I laid in bed, my mind filled with second thoughts, wondering about all the critics. Like any premiere, coming out could be a great success or a dismal failure. It all hinged upon my commitment to the part. How's that for high drama? The tough part was getting up the courage to tell my peers, but on October 17, 1994, I did. That was the day it all started, a continuing process that I don't regret.

Coming out provided an opportunity to be visible on gay and lesbian issues in the workplace—not as an irritant, but as a resource to management on the issue of sexual orientation in the workplace. Being out isn't standing out. It's about being yourself and being comfortable in a work environment that allows one to contribute to his or her full potential. Coming out isn't about asking for special privileges because you're different—it's simply expecting the respect and opportunities offered everyone else.

About a year ago, a close friend suggested I publish my story. He said it would change my life in ways I couldn't imagine. Having a pretty vivid imagination, I was skeptical, but as time would pass, his prediction would ring true. At his urging, I agreed to do a "Coming Out" story which was printed in the May 1996 issue of *OutSmart* magazine. In my case, life has changed—not just for my benefit, but for that of many others.

After the article was released, I became acquainted with some really wonderful people—the gay and lesbian community of Shell Oil Company. They were calling or leaving e-mails applauding the story. I made a conscious effort to personally respond to each message.

In the process I met a co-worker who decided it was time to come out at work, and wanted to start an employee group. Others also expressed interest in the idea. Within a couple weeks of my article being released in *OutSmart*, six people were sitting in a living room creating the beginnings of an employee group.

In July 1996, we staged a "Diversity Party" celebrating Shell's inclusion of sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policy. In addition to planning the typical festivities, we also created two surveys for people to pick up at the door to take home and fill out. One provided data to generate a mailing list respectful of

each individual's level of privacy. The other was an anonymous survey intended to generate data on the demographics of the gay community at Shell and provide a baseline on workplace issues regarding sexual orientation.

Many of the guests responded to the surveys, spawning the creation of a gay employee group, SEAShell (Support, Equality, and Awareness at Shell). The data from the anonymous surveys was compiled into a summary report which went out to everyone on SEAShell's mailing list in September. Other copies were sent to various managers having expressed interest in sexual orientation issues in the workplace. The survey launched a cooperative journey with some of management to understand, through awareness and education, the various workplace issues important to the gay community.

At the same time the employee group was forming, I had communicated to management that my article had been released. Several courtesy copies were distributed. Funny thing about managers—they don't like surprises. So I made sure they were in the communication loop while I wrote my "Coming Out" story and the developments that have occurred since it was published.

In September, I was appointed by management to the Diversity Council at the Shell Westhollow Technology Center where I work. The council members and senior management from Westhollow participated in the first Shell Diversity Awareness Workshop with a module addressing the topic of sexual orientation.

The night before the workshop, I laid in bed with all the anxiety of the coming event, reminiscing about the comforts of the closet. During those hours of pondering, life ironically seemed so much easier in the closet. After all, you only had to worry about losing your job if someone found out you were gay.

But the easy answer isn't always the right answer. Staying in the closet allows us to complacently go on with life. We never take the first steps toward attempting to fix the social issues, al-

continued on page 39

OutSmart PRESENTS

THE GAYEST & THE GREATEST

This is it—time to cast your vote for Houston's best, wildest, weirdest and queerest stuff we love! The answers should all be local, so don't nominate David Hasselhoff as, say, sexiest TV person. (Then again, if you'd want to put him as that, you shouldn't be allowed to vote anyway.)

One ballot per person. Ballots may be mailed or otherwise delivered to *OutSmart* offices at 3406 Audubon Place or faxed to 713/522-3275.

You may drop your ballot in the Gayest & Greatest ballot boxes

at any of the following locations:

Basic Brothers, 1232 Westheimer

Crossroads Market, 1111 Westheimer

Inklings, 1846 Richmond

Lobo, 3939 Montrose Blvd.

Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama

Join us at Toopees, Wednesday, August 20, 7-9pm
for a survey signing party!

ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1.

THE GAYEST & THE GREATEST

Queer Cuisine

Do we eat out? Yes we do! Where do you?

Bravo Breakfast _____
 Bitchin' Brunch _____
 Coolest Coffee Place _____
 Craziest Cajun _____
 Choice Chinese _____
 To-Die-For-Dessert _____
 The Greatest Greek _____
 Incredible Italian _____
 Ideal Indian _____
 Maximum Mexican _____
 Tastiest 24-hour Eatery _____
 Prettiest Patio _____
 Super Sushi _____
 Top Thai _____
 Very Vegetarian _____
 Best Place If You're Rockefeller _____
 Best Place If You've Hit Rock Bottom _____
 Place You'd Just Die If Your Trainer Saw You There _____
 Queerest Restaurant _____
 Most Homophobic Restaurant _____
 Best People-Watching Restaurant _____
 Super Service _____
 Service That Sucks _____

Bar None

Where are you shaken? Where are you stirred?

Coolest Club to Dance _____
 Best Place After 2 A.M. _____
 Best Place to Shoot Pool _____
 Best Place to Show Off Your Leather _____
 Best Piano Bar _____
 Favorite Straight Bar _____
 Best Place to Two-Step _____
 Best Place to Twelve-Step _____
 Best Bar if You're a Lipstick Lesbian _____
 Best Bar if You're a Diesel Dyke _____
 Best Club If You're Under 21 _____
 Scariest Bar When the Lights Are On _____
 Scariest Bar When the Lights Are Off _____
 Best Drag Show _____
 Best Sports Bar _____
 Jazziest Jukebox _____
 Happiest Happy Hour _____
 Best Bar Outside the Loop _____
 Hottest Hangout for Couples _____
 Best Place to Find a Lover for the Night _____
 Best Place to Find a Lover for Life _____
 Friendliest Bar Staff _____
 Bar Staff That Throws the Most Attitude _____

Charge!

She works hard for the money. So where's she spend it?

Antiques to Make Auntie Jealous _____
 Finest Furniture Store _____
 Finest Furniture Store You Wish You Could Afford _____
 Mod Music Store _____
 Top Tape Rental You Go Through the Front Door _____
 Top Tape Rental You Go Through the Back Door _____
 Best Bookstore _____
 Most Luscious Lingerie _____
 Luckiest Lottery Spot _____
 Coolest Clothes for Boys _____
 Coolest Clothes for Girls _____
 Coolest Used-Clothes Store _____
 Kickiest Club Clothes _____
 Most Magical Massage _____
 Most Fabulous Florist _____
 Favorite Psychic Friend _____
 Greatest Grocery Store _____
 Finest Fitness Gym _____
 Best Place to Buy Power Tools _____
 Favorite Lesbian Trailer Rental _____
 Premier Plastic Surgeon _____
 Super Shoe Store _____
 Super Shoe Store With Size-14 Pumps _____
 Top Tattoo Parlor _____
 Rad Radio Personality _____
 Bad Radio Personality _____
 Sexiest TV Guy _____
 Sexiest TV Gal _____

#1 Crush

You love 'em. You love 'em not.

Wouldn't Touch That TV Guy With a Remote Control _____
 Wouldn't Touch That TV Gal With a Remote Control _____
 Raciest Rocket _____
 Cutest Comet _____
 Adorable Aero _____
 Alluring Astro _____
 Hottest Hotshot _____
 Divine Drag Queen _____
 Dud Drag Queen _____
 Hottest Gay Mover & Shaker (male) _____
 Hottest Gay Mover & Shaker (female) _____
 Next TWIT Coverboy Should Be... _____
 Best Club DJ _____
 Best Bartender _____
 Hippest Hairdresser _____
 Brightest Gay Businessperson _____
 Sleaziest Gay Businessperson _____
 Local Celeb You Wish Was Gay _____
 Local Celeb You're Glad Who Isn't _____
 The Ultimate Gay Socialite _____
 Pinkest Politician _____
 The Most Visible Volunteer _____
 Sweetest Place to Steal a Kiss _____
 Perfect Place for a First Date _____
 Perfect Place for the Last Date _____
 Most Erotic Elevator _____
 Best Place to Meet _____
 Best Place for Meat _____
 Wildest Weekend Getaway _____
 The Most Mod Movie Theatre _____

The Place The Thing

Where? What? You tell us.

Favorite Place of Worship _____

Place Where God Wouldn't Go on a Dare _____

Favorite Annual Gay Event _____

Best Place to Bike _____

Best Jog Locale (for running) _____

Best Jog Locale (for watching) _____

Hottest Museum _____

Perfect Park _____

Liveliest Live Music Spot _____

Best Spot to Take Out-of-Towners _____

Best Non-Montrose "Family" Neighborhood _____

Best Live Theater _____

Awesome Art Gallery _____

Best Spot to Take Out-of-Towners _____

No Names Please

What's the scoop on you?

Gender Bender

Are you ♂ or ♀ or making it up as you go along?
 Male _____ Female _____ Other _____

Sexual Persuasion

Don't want to label, but...
 Gay _____ Straight _____
 Bisexual _____ Other _____

Years of Living Dangerously

You might be as young as you feel, but how old are you really?

Under 20 _____
 20-29 _____
 30-39 _____
 40-49 _____
 50-59 _____
 60+ _____

Show Me The Money

What's your annual income (in thousands)?

Under \$20 _____
 \$20-\$40 _____
 \$41-\$60 _____
 \$61-\$80 _____
 \$81+ _____

The A, B, C's

So what *really* happened after kindergarten?

High School _____
 Associate's Degree _____
 Bachelor's Degree _____
 Master's Degree _____
 Doctorate _____

Fruit Loop

Are you an innie or an outie?

Inner-Loop _____ Outer-Loop _____

Pick-Up Lines

Where do you usually pick up your copy of

OutSmart? _____

What locations would you like us to add to our
 distribution sites? _____

Shout Out

Anything else you want to let us know? _____

*Thank you! Look for the
 Gayest & Greatest
 special issue in October!*

Out At Shell continued from page 34

lowing them to perpetuate, and acknowledging that the stereotypes are just a part of life. Being open about one's sexual orientation in the workplace and increasing people's awareness on gay issues isn't easy, but it can change perceptions. For that reason, I tucked the anxiety away in the back of my mind, attending the workshop as an openly gay employee of Shell Oil.

I think most people came away from the event with a better understanding of the issues pertinent to our community in the workplace. Shortly after that session, other members of Shell's gay community found themselves interacting with management in diversity awareness sessions addressing workplace sexual orientation issues. What better resource could management learn from than their own employees? What better show of support could an employee ask for than their own management?

I mailed a copy of the SEAShell survey to the CEO of Shell Oil, and on the afternoon of my 36th birthday came an interesting gift—a call from the corporate director of Diversity. Through support from the Diversity director's office, SEAShell, along with other employee groups, began defining their respective missions and goals.

In March of this year, a group of gay employees from Shell met at the Lovett Inn for a two-day workshop geared toward defining a path and future for SEAShell. Liz Winfeld of Common Grounds, and author of *Straight Talk About Gays in the Workplace*, was the instructor. Out of that workshop, SEAShell defined the pertinent issues faced in the workplace and created its mission and goals.

In coming out, I hoped to change people's perceptions and perspectives of the gay community. I measure progress through observations in my immediate work environment, by understanding where the company is going with workplace issues regarding sexual orientation and by evaluating the company's record with respect to tangibles (e.g. sexual orientation in the EEO statement, recognition of employee groups, awareness training, benefits, etc.).

I've found that by being out, management and co-workers have a resource to help them understand the issues surrounding sexual orientation in the workplace. Through increasing awareness on the issues, some have become supportive of the gay community at work. While others are not necessarily supportive, they have a better understanding of the issues and respect me as an individual. Then there are those who, for whatever values or beliefs, are not willing to comprehend or understand the issues faced by gay people in the workplace. It's not my place to change a person's values or beliefs.

Values or beliefs are the social principals or standards held by each of us. Some of those standards may be a reflection of our association with a class or segment of society. Others may be tied to cultural origins, our upbringing, or personal experiences. Regardless of their origin, personal values are a part of our individuality. Valuing people isn't about changing personal beliefs.

Regardless of one's beliefs, people should behave in an ethical and professional manner, creating a comfortable work environment where everyone can contribute to their full potential. If this

is the goal, then one has only to begin by discussing the "unspeakables." Gay workplace issues are among the many "unspeakables" of corporate America, issues which people don't feel comfortable acknowledging or discussing. If there's constructive dialogue with managers and co-workers about gay issues in the workplace, I view it as making substantial progress. Communication is the key to resolution.

It's been a little over a year since my coming-out story in *Out Smart*. In that time I've seen some of management in the company making the effort to increase their awareness of gay issues in the workplace. Several members of Shell's gay community have come forward to help in that education process. The employee group, SEAShell, formed and has been growing in leaps and bounds.

All of these events transpired over the course of a year. I still wouldn't consider Shell to be the ideal environment for a gay employee to be "out," but I certainly think they're making significant progress in the right direction.

I've been out at work for almost two years, and I still feel a certain amount of anxiety before walking into a meeting with management or co-workers to discuss the issues involving sexual orientation in the workplace. But I think back on how I felt the day I came out, and I realize the anxiety isn't what it used to be. Actually, I found a place to keep all the anxiety that creeps into life—I put it in that empty closet I occupied for so many years prior to my coming out. There's no reason to let all that space go to waste.

First Anniversary Special Complete Multimedia System Only \$1099.00*

(Limited Time Only)

computer



factory

Fine Custom Computers, Tailored to YOUR Needs
 Affordable Upgrades and Repairs
 Financing Available 90 Days Same as Cash
 Friendly Free Advice
 Major Credit Cards Accepted

13147 Northwest Freeway, #155
 (290 @ Hollister behind Golden Corral)

713.462.3453

*Intel Pentium 166mhz/16 meg RAM/Western Digital 12 Gig Hard Drive
 16X CD Rom/Trident SVGA Videocard/Soundcard/Speakers
 14" SVGA 28 dot pitch Color Monitor included!!!

HOUSTON
 GAY & LESBIAN
 CHAMBER
 OF COMMERCE
 CHARTER MEMBER
 Proud Sponsor
 of
 Empower '97

Travel Out

by Sandra Wilkins

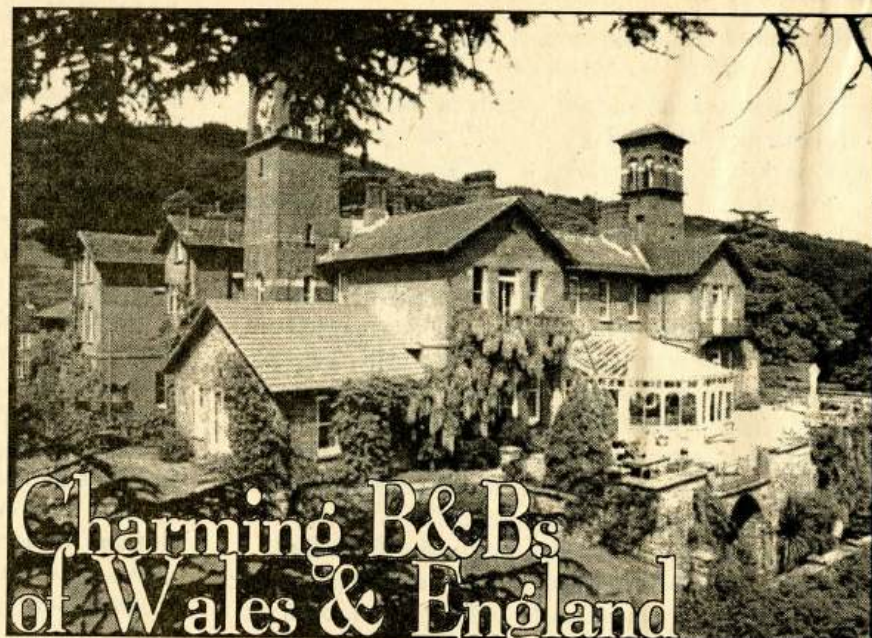
I recently returned to England for the first time in eight years, and it felt like being reunited with an old friend. I must say, London felt almost "new." On the heels of Tony Blair's election as prime minister, I detected a very upbeat and positive "feel" in the air, and London was clean, crisp and bustling as always. I think it was the hustle and bustle that characterize most huge cities that persuaded me and my partner Kim to cut short our London visit by three days and move on to the splendid countryside for the remaining 10 days of vacation.

The first time I laid eyes on the English countryside I fell in love for life, especially with Wales. The love affair continues to this day. We picked up our English-made Vauxhall car at Heathrow, and within minutes behind the wheel, I was very glad to have reserved an automatic transmission. Driving on the left is a somewhat tricky proposition, and not for the weak of heart. Having to shift gears with your left hand just adds unnecessary anxiety to this already challenging chore. I successfully negotiated my first "round-a-bout," the demon of all British roadways, and off we flew on the M4 toward Bath, Bristol, and the Severn Bridge to cross into the glorious Welsh countryside.

Crossing the border from England to Wales, you are confronted immediately with the strangest language imaginable. Welsh is full of consonants, lacking in vowels, and is nearly impossible to pronounce. This language has been written since the 7th century, and 20 percent of the inhabitants still use the Welsh language, rich in literature and color, older than English, the tongue of the original Britons. In fact, the story of the language is a considerable part of the story of Wales. It is flowing and musical, and Welsh choirs are famous the world over.

Fortunately, all road signs and mileage markers are posted in both English and Welsh. How in the world would you say "Merthyr Tydfil" or "Llandfaelogfach," two towns we had to locate to arrive at our first country lodgings? Rely on a good map, and don't plan on asking a local how to get where you're going!

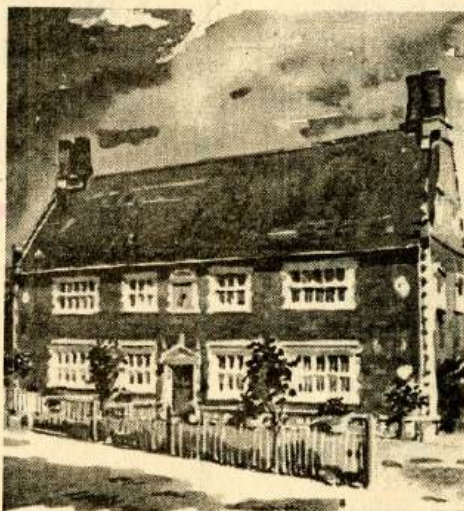
Three Wells Farm was our first stop, a working farm owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Bufton, and their lovely daughter, Sarah. It was a delight: a 19th-century farmhouse, surrounded by a small lake with ducks, and rolling green hills from every vantage point,



Gliffaes Country House Hotel

dotted with hundreds of sheep and their baby lambs. One should always stay at country farms, inns and country-house hotels when visiting the English countryside, for they provide a glimpse into a way of life totally unknown to us urban dwellers. Additionally, the pleasant interaction between other guests and the hosts makes the experience all the more rich and memorable.

It is almost impossible to describe the unspoiled beauty of Wales. It is a small geo-



Cotton Old Hall

graphical area with a 6,000-year history, where at every turn in the road you'll discover an ancient castle, walk among the ruins of abbeys and prehistoric tombs, and feast your eyes on some of the most splendid natural beauty God ever created. This is the England you've imagined from books and have seen in movies.

Leaving our farmhouse experience, our route took us along the Usk River, running like a squiggly line between the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains. We were now headed for the first of several country-house hotels, an experience that ranks among my top 10 in life. There is nothing new about English country-house hotels. Grand English country homes have always been run as hotels.

The wealthy-landed gentry and aristocracy of days gone by maintained fabulous estates with great style for the enjoyment of their guests. However, in the past the guests were there by invitation only, and they didn't pay. In the late 19th century the upper classes began to fall upon hard times, and many of these magnificent houses fell into disrepair. By the mid-20th century, these homes had been bought, modernized and refurbished to operate as a paying hotel. Country-house hotels don't operate at all like the hotels we're accustomed to. There are no coffee shops, boutiques, elevators or concierges. Instead, they are luxurious country homes, with a caring staff to cater to the needs of a small number of guests. Another delightful distinction is that these lodgings are most often run not by professional hoteliers but by couples who have turned their social and entrepreneurial skills to the task.

We enjoyed two favorites: the first was Gliffaes, located near the village of Crickhowell in the county of Powys in Wales. Built in 1885 as a private residence, Gliffaes is situated in its own grounds amidst the magnificent scenery of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The grounds of the hotel consist

of 33 acres of gardens, lawns, woodland and parkland. The trees planted in the 19th century are among the rarest and most beautiful to be found in Wales.

Owned and operated since 1948 by the Brabner family, Gliffaes provides an atmosphere of friendliness and informality. There are 22 bedrooms with private baths, all individual in décor and furnishings. Our room had a lovely four-poster bed, fireplace and a sitting area, which opened onto a balcony affording gorgeous views of the river and mountains. A country house is not a hotel so much as an experience, an amusing indulgence, a fast rewind in front of a large log fire to the days when this same house and its servants might have been put at your disposal by a generous host.

Based at Gliffaes, we took day trips to surrounding points of interest. This part of Wales had survived the collapse of the wool industry and closing of many coal mines, which included the closing of many of the rural railway routes. We were delighted on some of our long walks to discover the unused railway tracks made for wonderful paths, where wildflowers were growing in abundance, relics of the lovely habit Victorian ladies had of scattering flower seeds from the windows of the rail carriages.

Our adventures also included a picnic in the Brecon Beacons, and a pub lunch at Hay-on-Wye, where we also bought fabulous antique books at very reasonable prices. One highpoint was the visit to majestic Tintern Abbey, founded in 1131 by Baron Walter de Clare. The building fell victim to Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. Now roofless, the ruins are still very much intact and romantic. William Wordsworth, who wrote the famous poem about the abbey, commented, "No poem of mine was composed under circumstances more pleasant than this."

Perhaps one of the most endearing aspects of the country-house experience is the evening meal, often provided in the cost of the room, as is a full breakfast. So, by 6 p.m. each day, we had returned, freshened up and sipped a glass of sherry in the solarium with other guests before dinner. Forget now and forever two myths about England: one, that it rains all the time, and two, that the food is bad. We enjoyed brilliant sunny days far more than rainy ones, and savored some remarkable meals throughout our trip. Not only were beef, lamb and fish creatively prepared, the vegetables and vegetable dishes were out of this world. Most country houses have their own herb gardens, if not a full vegetable garden. Since Wales is primarily a rural area, local farms deliver hand-picked fruit and vegetables to the kitchens each morning, where the enterprising kitchen staff then prepares the freshest of fare. One of our favorites was a leek-and-potato pie, a quiche dish of sorts, with local Caerphilly cheese surrounding the egg custard, laden with sautéed leeks and potatoes in a homemade pastry crust.

From Wales we trekked back east, bypassing London, stopping along the way to soak up more beautiful countryside, savoring ancient, rural England which seeps through to the present like old stains through new wallpaper. Our destination was an area known as East Anglia, situated northeast of London. It is bordered by Cambridge to the west and the English Channel to the east. Specifically, we headed to the city of Norwich, located in the county of Norfolk. This part of England lacks the drama and majesty of Wales, but is nonetheless quite pretty, and has its own interesting history. In fact, at one point Norwich grew to rival York as the second largest city in England, after London. Situated on the river Wensum, Norwich was a vital link to the rest of the world in early days. In 1066 when William the Conqueror sailed from Normandy, Norwich was a busy town, exporting the products of the rich agricultural land of Norfolk. The Normans threw up the castle in the center of town and then built a monastery and church. In fact, William had stone shipped from his

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

Life's a Drag!!



So why don't you treat yourself to unique artwork that will show off your outrageous personality at **Fine Toon Cartoon Art Gallery!** We are proud to be an authorized representative of every major animation studio.



Fine Toon™
Cartoon Art Gallery, Inc.
 2427 Bissonnet between Kirby & Greenbriar
 713/522-6499 • 800/636-9393
 Visit our award-winning web site!!
<http://www.finetoon.com>

THE RAINBOW LODGE

Bed & Breakfast

"Escape to the Mountains"

- Southwest Elegance
- Huge Rooms w/Baths
- 5-Acre Compound
- Fireplaces
- Hot Tub

Rusty & Jody
505/281-7100
Albuquerque, NM
OutSmart Discounts

home town of Caen, France, across the channel and up the river to construct the church, a magnificent cathedral, still standing in city center.

In Norwich, we experienced another country-house hotel called Catton Old Hall. It was built in 1632, from reclaimed Caen stone, local flint and fine oak timbers. Lovingly restored by its present owners, Roger and Anthea Cawdron, this home is a feast for the eyes. As the door to our bedroom opened, we momentarily suppressed squeals of delight until we were alone and able to become almost giddy with pleasure. The room itself measured 20' x 30', replete with exposed ceiling beams, good carpet and beautiful bedcoverings, pillows and window appointments. The bathroom was proportionately large, complete with a whirlpool bath, almost unheard of in English homes. Personal touches were everywhere, from entertaining books and magazines, to a coffee/tea maker, TV and VCR, hairdryer, shoeshine kit, and delicious bathroom soaps, bubble baths and lotions.

This loving attention to every detail was apparent throughout the house, a testament to Anthea and Roger's respect for keeping the traditions of gracious country-house living alive and well. The nature and quality of the country-house experience is determined in part by the character of the house, its history, architecture and setting. But most of all it is determined by the personalities of the host and hostess. The friendly, pleasant and welcoming personalities of Anthea and Roger are stamped firmly on every corner of Catton Old Hall.

In the mornings, Roger set the breakfast tables, made the coffee and welcomed guests into the bright yellow dining room, while Anthea prepared the monumental, traditional full English breakfast. For those of you not familiar with this thoroughly decadent, fat-laden feast, it consists of good coffee, fresh-squeezed juice, hot or cold cereal, followed by eggs of your choice, English bacon and sausage, grilled tomatoes, and muffins or toast. After beginning one's day in such a fashion, the scant salad for lunch never looked so appealing!

Braced by breakfast the guests set about for their chosen activity for the day. Around 7 p.m. all would gather in the sitting room, surrounded by comfortable chairs and sofas, upholstered in various shades of beautiful white fabric, and sip sherry before dinner, gazing at the cavernous fireplace uncovered by the Cawdrons during the restoration. Soon enough dinner was served, and the guests would proceed into the din-

ing room, now transformed by candlelight with beautiful linens and fresh flowers. If so desired, guests could choose an appropriate wine from the cellar to accompany their meal. The wines were interesting, varied and very reasonably priced.

Our favorite meal from Anthea's kitchen continued to dispel the myth about English cooking. We started with an angel hair pasta in a light, fresh tomato sauce, flavored with herbs from the garden. This was followed by a thick, tender fillet of beef, garlic-roasted potatoes and crisp vegetables du jour. As we were asking for assistance to be removed from the table, dessert appeared—a fresh summer pudding, made of blackberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and topped with rich, thick English cream.

As I titillate you with thoughts of such a vacation, let me advise you of its affordability. We rented a very nice car, suitable for four adults, for 10 days, for \$560. Our stay at Gliffaas, with a deluxe room, and including breakfast, was \$85 per person per night. Catton Old Hall, with our luxurious room, full breakfast and marvelous dinner, was \$93 per person per night. Excluding airfare, which gyrates all over the map according to when you buy, when you travel, etc., a seven-night vacation of this sort can be had for under \$800 per person. Think about that next time you go to P'town or Palm Springs!

Of all the holidays I can and do recommend, a leisurely trip to the English countryside to enjoy the country-house hotel experience ranks at the top. Nothing I know of works better at erasing the pressure and stress of urban life, while simultaneously surrounding the soul with great natural beauty, tranquility, gentility and the pleasant sense of a calmer, more dignified time.

One final note: oddly, this didn't come up until the end of the article, because it didn't come up at all on the trip—gays and lesbians are warmly welcomed everywhere in England. Not once did we get asked why we requested one bed for two women. All of our hosts knew we were a couple and were as respectful and kind as anyone would dream of. We made great new friends on this trip, and lived each minute being exactly who we are. There's a warm and welcoming world out there, my friends. Go grab some of it!



Sandra Wilkins is the owner and president of The Travel Partnership, 713/526-4471.

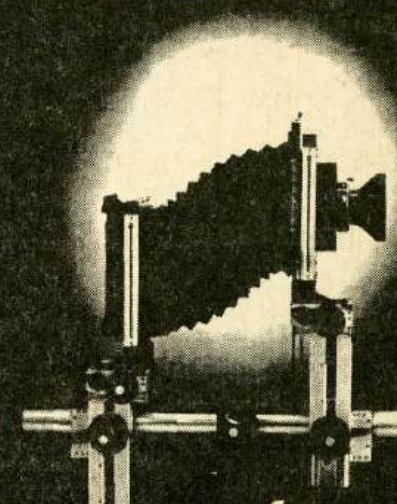
Offering gentle, private, and individualized care for adults in a comfortable, homelike setting.



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

WOODALLEN PHOTOGRAPHY



ADVERTISING PHOTOGRAPHY

SINCE 1946

713/526-1747

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

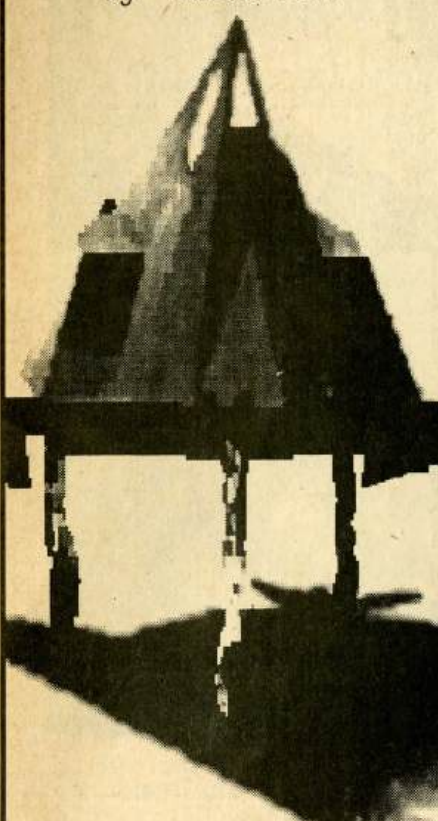
Clayton Catering

Full Service Caterers

1701 California St.

713 526-1800

Stealth Web Design
by: Robert Derr



Some of our clients:
OutSmart Magazine
www.OutSmartMagazine.com
Premier Victorian Homes
www.PremierVictorian.com
copydot.com
www.copydot.com
Karen Derr Realty
www.KarenDerr.com
Beeper Boutique
www.beeperboutique.com
Houston Hotshots
www.HoustonHotshots.com
House of Guitars
www.house-of-guitars.com
Elvis
www.KarenDerr.com/elvis
Cat Food
The Other White Meat
www.neosoft.com/stealth/catfood
Stealth Web Design
www.neosoft.com/stealth
rcderr@neosoft.com
713-802-2845

75TH LEGISLATURE: A Report on the Progress of Gay Issues

by Francisco Sanchez Jr.



For the first time since Reconstruction, Republicans controlled the Texas Senate and maintained strong numbers in the Texas House. That, combined with a growing conservative sentiment in Texas, led some Capitol observers to anticipate the worst in legislative issues affecting the gay and lesbian community. Instead, the outcome was an aggressive extremist campaign that was constantly blocked by technical legislative procedures and handy legislative skill.

With the leadership and vision of organizations like the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) and other key communities of interest, all Texans fared well in a highly controversial and sometimes explosive legislative session. Moderate and progressive legislators defeated anti-gay, anti-choice and anti-family measures that would have not only hurt minorities but all sectors of our state.

Among the battles fought in the Texas Legislature were a ban on same-sex marriages, hate crimes, employment nondiscrimination protections and discrimination-free education. In some cases, bargaining away a gay-friendly bill to stop the passage of divisive legislation meant victory in an environment that was more hostile than in previous sessions.

Republican State Representatives Warren Chisum (R-Pampa) and Arlene Wohlgemuth (R-Arlington) were stifled by House Democrats in their effort to pass a bill barring same-sex marriages in Texas. Although current Texas law prohibits same-sex marriages, Republican legislators hoped to turn the issue into a campaign tool against Democratic legislators in swing districts that are facing re-election in 1998. The bill had to be introduced

in three separate versions before it could be successfully heard in committee. Finally, a stealth version of the bill was referred to the House Business and Commerce Committee in a last-ditch effort to get it to the full House.

As a result of crafty maneuvering by LGRL executive director, Dianne Hardy-Garcia, the bill was tracked successfully, and political activist Terence O'Neill had the opportunity to testify before the committee. O'Neill, finance vice president for Texas Young Democrats, was the only Houstonian to testify before committee in opposition to the bill. The bill was eventually delayed for a week before being sent to the House Calendars Committee. In the end, leaders of the House Republican Caucus were unsuccessful in bringing the matter up for a vote. Despite that 76 members co-sponsored the legislation, 75 votes were necessary to pass a bill, Democratic leaders were able to hold the bill in committee.

Again, the LGRL was instrumental in passing S.B. 80 by Ellis, the hate crimes bill, out of the Republican-controlled Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Not allowing partisanship to be a factor, Hardy-Garcia negotiated language with Sen. Jerry Patterson (R-Pasadean) that would not only protect gays and lesbians by strengthening penalties but would eventually garner the senator's critical support. The bill was not heard by the full Senate or House.

In the battle over the state budget, there was no increase in the amount directly allocated to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) for HIV/AIDS services. Instead, skillful horse-trading allowed the TDH to keep a \$4.1-million surplus. In re-

turn, the Texas Board of Health voted in mid-July to distribute those \$4.1 million to purchase new drugs like protease inhibitors in an expanded effort to curb this long-standing health crisis.

Other issues important to the gay and lesbian community during the 75th Legislature were H.B. 487 by Danburg (D-Houston) and H.B. 1258 by Ehrhardt (D-Dallas). H.B. 487, relating to prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace was heard in the State Affairs Committee. H.B. 1258, by Ehrhardt, was a historic bill that would have prohibited discrimination in schools on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national origin or religion. Although neither bill was enacted into law, the Texas Legislature faced increased pressure to respond to the growing concerns of gay and lesbian Texans.

Overall, the 75th Legislature proved to be a test of the community's political clout and ability to form successful coalitions with progressive and moderate legislators. The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby, under the leadership of Hardy-Garcia, has been instrumental in developing those relationships and expanding the base of support for gay and lesbian concerns. In fact, organizations like the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other moderate groups have been brought into a coalition that works to directly impact the lives of Texans by making this state safer and more equitable for everyone. These organizations should be commended for their tireless work and commitment to representing us in the legislative process.

While no gay specific-friendly bill made it to the governor's desk, neither did any anti-gay legislation. There were, however, several measures passed that can greatly benefit the Texas gay and lesbian community. They include:

INSURANCE

This session's insurance legislation was the friendliest in years. Substantive changes in the partisan makeup of the House Insurance Committee allowed for greater sensitivity to consumer concerns. Two Democratic freshmen replaced out-

going Republicans on the committee, and legislative efforts that were left pending in the committee's previous sessions were considered favorably.

Rep. Glen Maxey (D-Austin) filed and passed critical legislation relating to viatical settlements. H.B. 163 amends the Texas Employees Uniform Group Insurance Benefits Act to allow accelerated benefits and viatical settlement agreements under state employees' group life coverage. H.B. 1865, also by Maxey, amends articles in the insurance code concerning accelerated benefits by: allowing payment under both individual and group policies and certificates, eliminating the requirement that the insured have a life expectancy of 12 months or less, permitting accelerated benefits when the insured has a long-term care illness like AIDS or cancer that is likely to cause permanent disability or premature death, and removing the accelerated benefit cap of \$25,000 or 50 percent of the policy's death benefit.

In response to federal health insurance reforms, Texas will fund the existing high-risk pool to make health insurance available to individuals who are not able to find insurance coverage. Regulations were adopted regarding health coverage, pre-existing conditions and continued coverage from one plan to the next.

This session, an impressive HMO package addressed the regulation of HMOs and PPOs. SB 382 authorizes the Insurance Commissioner to regulate HMOs in a way to ensure that enrollees have continued coverage and bill payment if an HMO becomes insolvent. S.B. 385 provides an appeals process for denied care and provides a definition for emergency room treatment with the "prudent layperson" standard. Additionally, legislation passed through this bipartisan effort allows HMOs to be sued for medical malpractice—the only such law in the United States.

WOMEN'S HEALTH ISSUES

The single largest victory for women during the 75th Legislature was the defeat of Republican Sen. Florence Shapiro's parental notification and consent bill, S.B. 86. The bill would have created an undue

*Thanks to your
support, we are
moving to a
larger location!*



Gabriel Tran
PHOTOGRAPHY

- Creative Portraits
- Children & Pets are welcome!



713/524-8879
2990 Richmond, Ste. 300
(Between Kirby & Buffalo Speedway)
By Appointment

burden on teenagers by mandating parental notification and consent before undergoing an abortion. The bill's authors would not work with moderate legislators to provide alternate routes through courts or other adults for minors to comply with the bill. S.B. 86 passed the Republican-controlled Senate and was defeated by technical maneuvers orchestrated by

House Democrats and moderate legislators.

Other victories will have a more positive effect on Texas women. H.B. 723, spearheaded by Rep. Dawna Dukes (D-Austin), creates a Medical Disclosure Panel for the purpose of adopting standard forms for the disclosure and warnings of hysterectomy complications. The

bill is designed to make the disclosure forms consumer-friendly by using language that can be easily understood. Research suggests that some hysterectomies are performed needlessly. Women who are better informed about such procedures can make better decisions and exercise the option of a second opinion.

Also, S.B. 54 allows women direct access to their obstetrician or gynecologist without the authorization or referral from a primary care physician under health benefit plans. Prior to the passage of this bill, women were required by their benefit plans to obtain a referral from their primary care physician. As a result, S.B. 54 requires plans to allow women to designate, in addition to a primary care physician, an obstetrician or gynecologist to provide health-care service within their specialty.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Legislation filed by Sen. Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound) would have paved the way for conservative voting blocs to infringe on the rights of women and minorities. In California, Proposition 187 was used by Gov. Pete Wilson (R-California) and the Republican Party to target the access to education and health care of immigrant children. Although the divisive campaign was successful, millions of dollars have been spent to challenge and overturn unconstitutional referendums like this and others throughout the country. In Colorado, Amendment 2 prohibited state laws from protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. Initiative and referendum has often been used to circumvent the openness of the legislative process by placing public policy issues on general ballots and in the hands of money-intensive campaigns.

Francisco Sanchez Jr. served as the legislative aide to a local state representative during both the 74th and 75th legislatures. He is a member of the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee and is profiled in the August issue of The Advocate.

Flowers and Plants for All Occasions
Ask about our Special Delivery Rates

"Casa de Flores"

Welcome! Open 7 - days, 9AM - 10PM
Call 713-910-1225
7502 Galveston Road at Samco



BRAD BRAGER, MA, LPC

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELING

Licensed Professional Counselor
Individual, Couples & Group Therapy
17 Years Mental Health Experience
Reasonable Rates, Saturday Appointments

3033 CHIMNEY ROCK SUITE 440
HOUSTON, TX 77056 713.318.4788

Preferred Graphics

High Quality, Custom
Designed Graphics.

713.528.7654

CHARTER MEMBER
GREATER HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Providing superior graphic design & desk-top publishing services to our community is our specialty! All work comes with our **Best Price/Best Service Guarantee!** All work is guaranteed to our client's satisfaction! Absolutely!

We offer design & layout, desktop publishing and offset printing. From Calling Cards & Stationery to Ad Copy & Design, go with the preferred source... Preferred Graphics.

811 Westheimer Suite 202

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.

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.
- Specialty contacts—bifocals, color lenses, frequent replacement lenses.
- Contact lenses for improving your vision.
- Vision Training & Orthokeratology
- Convenient hours—weekends & evenings
- Wholistic Eye Care

Eyes Are Precious
WHOLISTIC EYE CARE

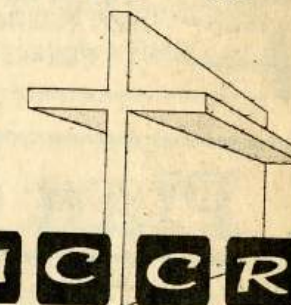
1428-A West Alabama • 713/524-2525

Just 3 blocks west of Montrose Blvd.



*Honoring a
Houston
community
servant on 10
years of faithful
service as a
volunteer to our
clergy staff*

Rev. Ralph
Lasher to be
honored
Sunday
August 3,
1997 at 9 &
11 AM
services



Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
1919 Decatur & Houston, Tx 77007 • 561-9149

"When I first met Madilyn, she informed me of several things that changed my life. Her readings have helped me process the happiness and sadness over the past six years."

—Marion Coleman

"The first time I went to Madilyn five years ago, she said my lover and I would have trouble with water on a wall of our new house. To this day, we can't seem to resolve the problem."

—Mark Ziegler

"I wanted to know if I should take what seemed to be the perfect job. Madilyn told me to ask what kind of track record the management had achieved to complete their tasks in the last five years. Needless to say, I accepted another position with a different company."

—Joe Brewster

Clairvoyant
Astrologer/Tarot
OutSmart Columnist

Madilyn Stein
713/622-7232



\$10 Off for OutSmart Readers

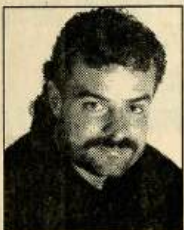
Houston's
"Best Cuban"
 Restaurant
 -Houston Press

TRY OUR
 FROZEN TROPICAL
 FRUIT SHAKES

Latina Café
 Cuban Restaurant
 1972 Fairview near Shepherd
 713/521-2611

Lunch
 Dinner
 7 Days

Plan On It!



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

Sean Yarborough
 Home Office
 713/862-3266

Main Office
 713/467-1166



**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

National Briefs

continued from page 9

based on the admission. She argued that Bowers' admission was proof he ran his office with a double standard because adultery and sodomy are against the law. But the court ruled 9-3 that it was too late for Ms. Shahar to introduce the new information and said she could have asked for it six years earlier during the civil trial.

Ms. Shahar had cited two newspaper articles and a press release from Bowers in which he admitted being an adulterer. But the judges said it's not certain the information would have been relevant in their earlier decision and said the evidence wasn't strong enough.

CHURCH STUDIES GAY PARTICIPATION

DENVER (AP) - The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is calling for more sex education in churches and more study on the participation of gays in the church. Delegates at the church's recent five-day national convention passed those resolutions, which do not bind the 4,000 local congregations but are considered the "sense of the General Assembly" and are recommended to the nearly 1 million members.

The sex education resolution called sex a gift of God, but said the church and society "reflect abuses of sexuality through sexual harassment, rape, promiscuity, rigidity and many forms of selling sex."

The Rev. Donna Compton of Oklahoma City said the resolution shouldn't have been restricted to high school youth. "If we pretend junior high kids are asexual, it's like pretending meat grows on trees," she said.

Gay and lesbian participation in the church will be studied for at least two years. The church has no national policy on ordination of practicing homosexuals, but leaves it up to individual regions. Three regions of the church have voted not to prohibit gay ordinations, and the other 33 regions either prohibit such ordinations or have no policy.

GAY OFFICER DISCHARGED

DALLAS (AP) - The Army has discharged a gay lieutenant colonel one week before he would have qualified for a full retirement, concluding the decorated officer had engaged in unbecoming conduct.

Steve Loomis, 50, of Killeen learned of his "other than honorable" discharge last week. An Army board of inquiry concluded that the 20-year veteran engaged in "conduct unbecoming an officer"—homosexual acts and use of "force, coercion or intimidation."

Loomis said Army officials were being vindictive because he is gay. "In my case, it was private relations with another soldier, off-post, off-duty, not in my chain of command, and they say conduct unbecoming—read that 'sodomy,'" Loomis said. "But how many single soldiers or ... married soldiers do exactly the same thing? And how many of them have it held against them?"

Cecil Green, an Army spokesman at Fort Hood, said Loomis was not court-martialed because his case was not a criminal matter. "He had due process of law," Green told *The Dallas Morning News*. "All of his appeals were made and the decision was made."

Loomis, who enlisted as a volunteer in 1967 at the height of the Vietnam War, received two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and other honors. He stayed in the reserve and returned to active duty in the 1980s.

His attorney, David Sheldon, said evidence used to establish Loomis' sexual orientation was improperly obtained after an arsonist torched the officer's home. A videotape confiscated by civilian authorities at the home and turned over to the Army showed Loomis participating in homosexual acts, Sheldon said. The arsonist, a young enlisted soldier who was discharged after pleading guilty to setting the fire, had posed for nude photographs for Loomis. The Army said he broke into the home because he was obsessed with the photos.

Local Briefs

continued from page 13

HATCHING PROGRAMS

The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) needs additional volunteers, facilitators and program personnel to expand programs and outreach this fall. Any adult over 24 years of age wishing to work with the youth or help facilitate Friday and Sunday night programs, make plans to attend a Facilitator's Screening to be held in the middle of August. Call HATCH at 713/947-7002 for additional information.

WE ARE ONE (MAKE THAT 2,101)

MCCR's musically charged program raised the roof of the Houston Music Hall on June 22. Under the direction of MCCR director of church music, Keith Yost, the combined choirs of MCCR Houston and MCCR Knoxville really PTL'd the over-2,100 people in attendance. The program, "Make Us One," written by Babbie Mason, the daughter of a black preacher, brought the Gospel to the crowd, which included mayoral candidate George Greanias, city council candidate and our favorite activist Annise Parker, power-printer Marion Coleman, Dr. Patricia Salvatto, and hundreds of local residents who hadn't graced a church with their presence in years.

BEATING VIOLENCE

Thanks to a grant from the Office of the Governor's Victims of Crime Act program, the Montrose Counseling Center is now providing a full range of services to survivors of same-sex intimate partner violence and sexual assault. "Gay men and lesbians are not immune to violence and abuse," says Kristina Friman, a staff therapist and educator of the program. "We offer a safe place...to be heard, and to get help." Services are free of charge and include individual counseling, group sessions, and case management. For information, contact Friman at 713/529-0037, ext. 26.

SHELLING OUT

Shell Oil Co., the biggest company in Houston (based on revenues) and the 13th largest company in Houston (based on employment), will begin offering benefits to domestic partners next year as part of a major revision of its benefits program. The change concerning domestic partners includes same-sex partners. This inclusion "reflects the value we place on all employees and is designed to better align our benefit package with the needs of a diverse work force," stated the company in an outline of the changes. To qualify for the benefits, partners must meet Shell's criteria for a "spouse-like relationship." All this is much to the chagrin of Christian radio loudmouth Jim Klubnik. "It's not something they should do," Klubnik told the *Houston Chronicle*. Our suggestion? Keep your radio off KHCB-FM and use your Shell card with abandon. Shell's just joined a very impressive, gay-friendly list that includes such giants as IBM, Apple, Microsoft, the San Francisco 49ers, Warner Brothers, and Houston law firm Vinson & Elkins.

TAKING THE FIFTH

This month, the People With AIDS (PWA) Coalition-Houston will take their services to the Fifth Ward Multi-Service Center. The PWA satellite office will offer free, weekly Life Skills Training Classes for PWAs, and make case managers available for intake, assessment, and referral services two days each week. The office is located at 4014 Market Street, Suite 103C. The phone number is 713/222-1873.



Healthy Colon Center

Come see why colonic hygiene is so popular among actors and athletes. You will *look* your best when you *feel* your best.
 A safe, modest procedure for lower bowel cleansing.
 We use a state-of-the-art device, FDA cleared.

• Special for OutSmart Readers •
50% discount for first-time clients!

Hillcroft Professional Building • 3838 Hillcroft, Suite 430
 (Just north of Channel 39 @ Westpark)

281/549-0711 • Pager 713/210-6384

A cure for financial stress.

When you or someone you know is living with a terminal illness or AIDS, a life insurance policy can be sold to our company for immediate cash. It may sound strange, but it's true. Every year, we buy millions of dollars worth of life insurance from people who need to relieve financial stress from their lives.

As a pioneer in our industry, we know first hand how important money becomes when survival is an expensive choice.

Make a better choice. Call today for a copy of our free brochure or application.

1-800-572-4346



Alternatives for your Animal Companion



Homeopathy
Nutritional Therapy

Patricia A. Cooper, dvm
1951 Lexington St.
Houston, Texas 77098
713 520-5588

Celebrating a decade of
working together for change...

**Moore
& Hunt**
ATTORNEYS



Connie Moore
Debra E. Hunt
3608 Audubon Place
Houston Texas 77006
713-522-4282

Emphasizing family and
probate litigation, estate planning,
personal disputes, real estate and
small business issues.

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Health

Are You Too Skinny?

by John Aaron

O.K. So, maybe you've never considered yourself to be slightly on the scrawny side, but believe it or not, there are some people looking to put on a few extra pounds. They want—maybe even need—to gain weight. Yet, since most people spend much of their lives figuring out ways of shedding their extra pounds, the concept of underweight may be difficult to comprehend. However, if you're a part of the minority population that has tried everything they can to gain weight, you know that it can be just as difficult for underweight people to add those pounds as it is for overweight people to take them off.

WHO NEEDS TO GAIN WEIGHT?

The term "underweight" is generally used to describe two kinds of people: those whose weight is considered below normal but are still healthy, and those whose low weights are a cause for significant health concerns. For example, the latter group is at high risk for ailments such as respiratory disease, tuberculosis, digestive disorders, and some cancers. Women in this category are more likely to become infertile or give birth to unhealthy babies. For serious low-body-weight cases like these, a consultation with a physician is recommended before embarking on a program to gain weight.

On the other hand, individuals in the former category may range from young athletes who wish to create a stronger presence on the field to adults and elderly people living simple, ordinary lives. These people usually have a genetic predisposition to thinness, and it's important that they keep this in mind when implementing strategies for gaining weight. Perhaps they won't be able to change their physiology, but with consistency, they should be able to enhance it.

NUTRITIONAL STRATEGIES

A useful rule of thumb is that in order to gain one pound of body weight per week, you should consume an additional 500 calories above the amount you typically consume per day. This number will vary from person to person (depending on such factors as personal weight and metabolism), but you get the idea: Eating more than nor-

mal is a must if you want to gain weight. To do this, boost your calories by consistently consuming three larger-than-your-normal meals a day, plus two or more snacks, eating one during mid-morning and the other in mid-afternoon. Try eating foods that are high in calories, but you should consider restricting foods that are high in saturated fats such as cheese, fatty beef, butter and bacon. At best, you should stick to a high-carbohydrate, low-fat diet that you modify to include larger quantities. This also applies to your intake of protein.

Many individuals seeking to gain muscle use protein powders and amino acid supplements. This isn't necessary if you eat the recommended amount of dietary protein (15 percent to 20 percent of total daily calories or an average of one gram of protein per two pounds of body weight). Doing this may prove to be less expensive than buying the supplements themselves. However, to be sure you are sensibly increasing your caloric intake, you may want to set an appointment with a registered dietitian who can help you plan your meals.

EXERCISE AND CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY

In order insure that the extra calories you are eating won't simply become stored on your body as gained pounds of fat, it is crucial that you make strength training your primary form of exercise. If you rely only on eating calorie-dense foods to gain weight, you will only gain fat—not likely the change you were looking for. Strength training will convert the extra calories you consume into muscle growth that will enhance your health and appearance as well as your performance of daily activities and athletics. Working with a certified personal trainer who is qualified and who you feel comfortable with is a good way to learn which strength-training exercises will work best for you and to insure that you are performing them correctly to prevent injury.

BE PATIENT

Above all, be patient. Putting on weight can be a hard and often slow task, but don't get discouraged. If you consistently eat three large meals (don't forget the snacks, too) and participate in strength training, the results will come. All the benefits of improved health, enhanced appearance and increased energy will be worth the hard work, and definitely worth the weight.

John Aaron is the owner of Muscle Mechanics, a personal training and nutritional guidance facility. For information regarding this article, call 713/523-5330.

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

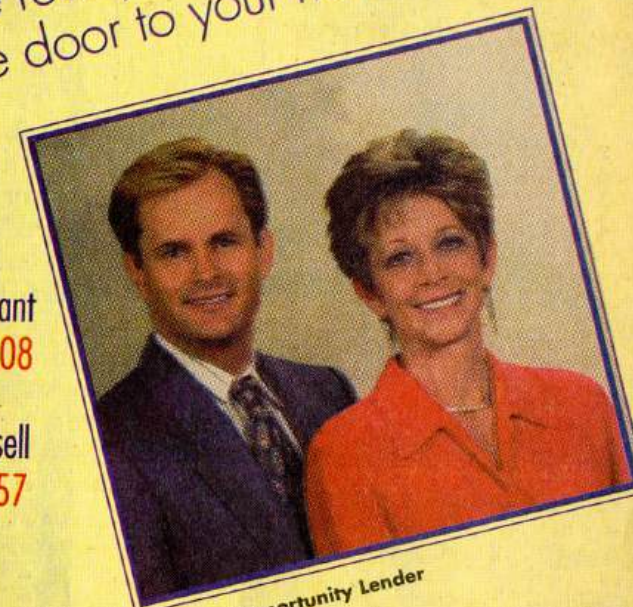
Also Includes Vision Plan & Discount Prescriptions

Call for a free brochure:
Houston Buyers Club

713-520-5288

800-350-2392

We are ready to help
open the door to your new home:



Tonya Grant
713.908.8908

Keith Russell
713.761.2357

An Equal Opportunity Lender

**MOMENTUM
MORTGAGE
GROUP**

5177 Richmond Ave., Suite 850 • Houston, TX 77056

In Memory of our Founders,
David Scott Reed (1946-1996) and Cecil Ray deLoach (1952-1991)

Living With HIV? The Medical Escrow Society can help you...



...make the most of your
life insurance today.

- Our experienced staff has helped over 5,100 people living with HIV, cancer, and other life threatening illnesses receive up to 85% of their life insurance in cash today when they needed the most.
- We create competition among the 12 most reputable funding sources to produce the highest cash settlements.
- All types of policies qualify: group, term, whole life, federal employees (FGLI), and converted veterans (VEGLI).
- We qualify anyone with HIV (up to 1,000 T cells).
- Absolutely no cost or obligation at any time.
- All your information is held in the strictest of confidence and applications or information packets can be requested 24 hours a day.

1-800-422-1314

www.med-escrow.com

Member of the VAA

Se Habla Español

© The Medical Escrow Society 1997



Full-Service Graphic Design & Computer Imaging

- Newsletters
- Brochures
- Displays and Exhibits
- 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 • 713.869.1064

Dance Grooves

by Ricardo Companioni

It's been two months since my last column. Last month I packed my bags—and my boxes full of records—and moved back to New York. Living in Houston was a wonderful experience for a native New Yorker like myself. It was so nice to have space and a car. I enjoyed the slower pace of life, even though I never got used to it. I now miss central air-conditioning and the pool in my apartment complex. I also miss gay taco night at Adobe and Saturdays at Rich's. I miss cruising through Picnic Lane in my friend Blake's convertible. I especially miss my dear friends whom I hope to see very soon.

Gay Pride in New York was spectacular, as usual.

The gay summer anthem this year is "Free" by **Ultra Nate** (Strictly Rhythm). If you only buy one single this summer, let it be this one. Make sure it includes the **Mood II Swing** extended vocal mix which clocks in at 12 minutes. DJs love this mix because they can get a cocktail or powder their noses while it's playing. For variety's sake, there's a **Full Intention** mix which is also very good. Absolutely essential.

Speaking of absolute essentials, the debut single by English trio **Olive**, "You're Not Alone" (RCA), is now domestically available. This former import was #1 in the U.K., and if there is a God, it will do the same here. The best mix is the Rollo and **Sister Bliss 12"** mix with the a cappella intro. Moody, dark, and delicious. "Things Just Ain't the Same" (Arista) is the title of the latest single by R&B artist **Deborah Cox**. I must admit I like this song better than "Who Do U Love." **Hex Hector's** club mix will work you into a frenzy on the dance floor. Another must-have.

The most sorely overlooked record this summer has got to be "I'm Scared You're Scared" by **Qkumba Zoo** (Arista). Far superior to "The Child Inside," this song deserves another chance. Go straight to **Junior's** mix and watch your floor light up.

Even though dance music is my specialty, it is not the only genre of music that I listen to. With that in mind, I must bring to your attention some non-dance music albums which I feel are exceptional. **Polyesterday** by **Gus Gus** (Warner Bros.) is British pop music at its best. Subtle and restrained, this is what the Dream Academy would sound like if they were still around. The album by the aforementioned trio **Olive**, *Extra Virgin* (RCA) is a blend of trip-hop and drum-bass with dark female vocals. Think **Portishead** meets **Billy Ray**



Gus Gus (Warner Bros.) is British pop music at its best. Subtle and restrained, this is what the Dream Academy would sound like if they were still around.

Martin. Trippy and haunting. *How Bizarre* by **OMC** (Mercury) sounds like a cross between the **Fine Young Cannibals**, the **English Beat** and **Madness**. Soulful and melodic. This is great driving music. Last but not least, the new **Lisa Stansfield** album, *The Real Thing* (Arista) and the new **k.d. lang** album *Drag* (Warner Bros.) are equally satisfying. The former marks the return of a diva with one of the sexiest voices in music today. The latter is an album of covers by my favorite lesbian. It's worth buying just for her rendition of the theme song to the cult classic *Valley of the Dolls*, originally sung by **Dionne Warwick**. Brilliant.

DJ TOP 10

Ralph Rosario

DJ/producer Ralph Rosario spins in various clubs in Chicago and Rimini, Italy. He made his Houston debut at Rich's this year during Gay Pride weekend.

1. **COME ON**
Sabrynaah (Distant Planet)
2. **BRING YOU LOVE**
Visual, featuring Barbara Tucker (Strictly Rhythm)
3. **VALGA EL BRILLO DE TUS OJOS**
Albita (Epic)
4. **GET THIS**
Superchumbo (Twisted)
5. **FREE**
Ultra Nate (Strictly Rhythm)
6. **ALL THAT**
Yoco Ross (Columbia)
7. **SHOW ME**
Urban Soul (King Street)
8. **TO THE RHYTHM**
Angel Moraes (Groovilicious)
9. **TICK TOCK**
Chiapet (Yoshitoshi)
10. **SPANISH STORM**
The Shadeaux Men (Nitedance)

And now for the latest NY dish. **Madonna's** gal pal and co-owner of Liquid in Miami, **Ingrid Casares**, has purchased a stake in Twilo. What this means is still uncertain, but word on the street is that besides being renamed Liquid NY, **Junior Vasquez** will probably be offered Saturday nights again (the previous offer fell through). What will happen to **Danny Tenaglia**? Maybe nothing, but in the highly competitive New York DJ world, anything can happen. As for Arena, it is still open and will stay open through the summer.

Ricardo Companioni is the manager of the Dance Music Chart for Billboard magazine.



robert
snellgrove,
lmsw-acp

counselor &
psychotherapist

trauma resolution
group now forming

713-522-7014

4200 MONTROSE • SUITE 540

Each candle has two flames symbolic of an eternal love, burning together in unity—a perfect statement of your love. These truly unique oil candles make the perfect gift.

Candles starting at \$24.95. Free 22 oz. Ultra Pure Oil with order!

Colors available: Blueberry, Raspberry, Emerald, Plum, Black Obsidian, Blue Marble, Cathedral Line and Desert Scape

The Double Oil Candle™
A GIFT OF LOVE

CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
Silver Moon Candle Company
1-888-697-6563



LAW

Practiced with
Principles
and a
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

Calendar of Events

August

1-3 The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston (GLSH) will be conducting training for new phone staff volunteers. GLSH is a nonprofit information and referral service providing information on organizations, services, events and matters of interest to and about the gay and lesbian community in the Houston area. The hate crimes/incidents hotline is also maintained by GLSH. To volunteer or for more info, call 713/529-3211 or leave a message at 713/529-9615.

13, 20, 27 Video Presentations. The Center for the Healing of Racism has extended its film series into

August in response to positive demand by Houstonians for a responsible forum in which to hold conversations on race relations. Each video showing will be followed by discussions facilitated by center leaders. There is no charge for the series. • **August 13:** *In the White Man's Image* chronicles Captain Richard Pratt's effort to "kill the Indian and save the man" by teaching the Indians to read & write English and drill like soldiers. This 1875 experiment eventually led to a program of "cultural genocide" which forced Native American children to abandon their cultural heritage. Those who attended the schools help tell the story of a humanist experiment gone bad. • **August 20:** *Not in Our Town II* tells the stories of courageous communities across the country

that are standing up to church burnings, hate crimes and everyday racism and intolerance. • **August 27:** *None of the Above* is a documentary about people of mixed racial heritage based on the filmmaker's own search for identity & community. The intimacy of the interviews and the filmmaker's openness about her own experience make this film emotionally compelling and particularly relevant in today's multicultural society. 7:30 pm @ Westbury United Methodist Church, 5200 Willowbend @ West Bellfort. For more info: 281/550-2559.

14-17 In the Company of Friends. Featuring song & dance numbers from many well-loved Broadway musicals, along with pop favorites from stars like Bette Midler, Carole King and Garth Brooks, *Friends* is

MTV GOES GAY & VH1 DOES DRAG

Real World Features Gay Southern Doll

It isn't unusual for MTV's *Real World* to feature gay cast members. Out of the series' six seasons, five casts have included a gay participant. In New York, it was Norman. Los Angeles had Beth. Pedro brought the reality of AIDS to millions of viewers as a part of the San Francisco cast, and in Miami, Dan proved just how annoying covermodels can be. • The current *Real World* gang includes Genesis (pictured), a 23-year-old native of Gulfport, Mississippi. Don't let that Southern drawl and captivating smile fool you. This lipstick lesbian is not your typical debutante queen. "When I open my mouth, most people are shocked to know that I speak my mind clearly, don't take shit, and I am very much a liberal," says Genesis. •



It might be fun to watch how Genesis gets along with Elka (inset), the 19-year-old Mexican-American beauty from Brownsville. Elka says she was raised with strong Catholic values. Genesis is the first lesbian she's ever met. • Then, of course, there are the hormonal straight boys in the house who seem quite excited about living with a lesbian. The anticipation of a possible *Penthouse* fantasy being played out under their own roof fuels their wet dreams, but their desires are not likely to be quenched. Up until she moved in with her new housemates in Boston, Genesis lived with Tammy, her girlfriend of two-and-a-half years. • *Check out the Real World, Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on MTV.*

—Kyle Young

RuPaul Signs Three-Year Deal With VH1

Middle America's most consumer-friendly drag queen has recently signed a three-year deal with MOR video network giant VH1. After a shaky first-season start getting on her pumps as an interviewer, RuPaul has happily turned from an awkward emcee to capable couch schmoozer. Still believing the show needed some tweaking, however, The RuPaul Show has embarked on a brand new format this season, more in the vein of Conan/Dave/Jay than everything's Rosie. That means before we get to the celebs-schlepping-their-wares segment, we get hip radio DJ Michelle Visage as RuPaul's on-air foil. The girls dish the dirt about whatever they feel like and then cut



to comedic vignettes of various NYC street adventures. It gives the show the added spark it's needed. • As far as the proposed guest list, we'll see the ex-Mrs. David Lynch, Isabella Rossellini, beach babe Yasmine Bleeth, daytime Emmy martyr Susan Lucci, and the perky, permed talking-head of Bernadette Peters. Scheduled to join Ru for music will be The Brand New Heavies (for the hipsters), Chaka Khan (for the hip shakers), Pat Benatar (how did we forget her?), Robert Palmer (thought we did forget him), and poster lesbian kd lang. If you don't have cable, maybe this is the time to get it hooked up. • *The RuPaul Show* airs Monday through Saturday at 10:00 p.m. on VH1.

—Steven Foster

JULIE ANDREWS

Gasp! It's the one and only Julie Andrews making her Houston debut in Theatre Under The Stars' (TUTS) all-new production of *Victor/Victoria*. This marks one of her first musical stage appearances outside New York City and her final appearance in the gender-bending role. TUTS is mounting this production for her exclusively for Houston and Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre. Only Houston and Seattle audiences will have the



opportunity to enjoy Andrews' farewell performances in *Victor/Victoria*. Andrews' husband, Hollywood film giant Blake Edwards, will reprise his directing role. Andrews earned both Tony and Oscar nominations for her dual title roles of Victor and Victoria, and the play received seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Scheduled to preview November 25. You might still be able to get tickets by calling TUTS at 713/622-1626.

VICTOR VICTORIA

FRANCESCO SCAVULLO

Despite some overly "Gay 101" script stumbles, Lifetime's fact-based *Any Mother's Son* holds a steady, quiet power.

TELEVISION FOR STRAIGHT WOMEN?



Bonnie Bedelia plays the mother of a man who was killed because he was gay.

After U.S. sailor Allen Schindler was boot-kicked to death in a park restroom while stationed in Japan, Uncle Sam wasted no time in covering up the motive: Schindler was gay, and some of his fellow shipmates didn't really like that a whole lot. It took Schindler's mother Dorothy Hajdys a good deal longer to discover and accept the truth about the murder, her son, and, subsequently, herself. • Lifetime continues living up to their tagline with the fact-based telepic *Any Mother's Son*. The trouble is, the script has way too many gay people are just like you and me" and "gay people are born that way" speeches in its first two acts. Fine, maybe we need that (still). But when director David Burton Morris allows the camera to linger on a superbly nuanced Bonnie Bedelia positively oozing Emmy sweat as Hajdys, the movie displays some moments of extraordinary, quiet power. Morris has never quite lived up to the talent displayed in his magnificent, foul-mouthed, sex-charged *Patti Rocks*, and Bedelia is still one of the screen's most underutilized actresses, yet both manage to save *Any Mother's Son* from being another strain in the epidemic of women-in-emotional-peril-of-the-week flicks Lifetime loves to air. When Bedelia is first shown, she shows none of the gung-ho gusto she displayed in her Oscar-nominated turn as race car driver Shirley Muldowney in *Heart Like a Wheel*, and gone is the earthy glamor she brought to Bruce Willis in *Die Hard*. Here, Bedelia shapeshifts into a downtrodden but proud Chicago working mother who loves her family, even if she doesn't know what they're all about. And it's Schindler's brutal killing that brings about this intensely personal change in a woman who, up until the third act, can't even utter the word "queer" without having her lips curl up like she just sipped sour milk. And, p.s., it's fab to see *Family*'s Sada Thompson (as Hajdys' mother) again. • The movie's fine, but when it slows its docudrama pace or briefly delves into the unforgivable military coverup, *Any Mother's Son* is far from just any movie. So ignore the stock parts (righteously homophobic cousin, lovingly accepting sister, how every fag looks like he's an understudy on *General Hospital*), and enjoy Bonnie Bedelia's powerful performance playing a real woman living through unbelievably real hell—the murder of her son, the death of her blind faith in country, and the self-imposed suicide of her own prejudices. *The Lifetime Original Movie Any Mother's Son* premieres Monday, August 11 at 8 p.m.

—SF



MELISSA MANCHESTER

You dug the Patti LaBelle/Houston Symphony gig? Well, you're gonna love the Symphony's Exxon Pops pairing up with Grammy-winning Melissa Manchester. Everyone's going to be sobbing for "Don't Cry Out Loud" and mooning over "Midnight Blue," but *OutSmart*'s Big Reason To Attend will be to hear Manchester overpower the pavillion with covers of hits by Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand, Edith Piaf and Ella Fitzgerald. **August 29-31** at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets range from \$10-\$59 and are available at all Ticketmaster locations, or charge by phone at 713/227-ARTS.

—SF



**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

"Service, Not Just Sales"

Bryan K. Williams



713/880-1400 Office
713/813-4490 Pager



ERA® HOME BROKERS
Each office independently owned and operated.

Each candle has two flames symbolic of an eternal love, burning together in unity—a perfect statement of your love. These truly unique oil candles make the perfect gift.

Candles starting at \$24.95. Free 22 oz. Ultra Pure Oil with order!

Colors available: Blueberry, Raspberry, Emerald, Plum, Black Obsidian, Blue Marble, Cathedral Line and Desert Scene

**The Double
Oil Candle™**
A GIFT OF LOVE



CALL TODAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDER
Silver Moon Candle Company
1-888-697-6563

a testament to the importance of the relationships we forge throughout the fabric of our lives. Performances are at 8 pm on August 14; 2:30 & 8 pm on the 16th; and 2:30 pm on the 17th. Tickets are \$20, with \$15 tickets available for the Saturday matinee and for senior citizens, children under 12 and groups of 15 or more. Advance tickets: 713/285-0007, or at Basic Brothers, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, Uniglobe First Choice Travel, and Stages box office. A black tie gala performance will be held on August 15, with champagne and hors d'oeuvres at 7 pm, curtain at 8:30 and a silent auction & benefit performance at intermission. \$50 tickets for the black tie gala are available only by calling 713/285-0007. Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh.

15&22 HIV/AIDS Workshops. The first workshop (Aug. 15) will be offered for substance abuse professionals working with HIV-positive clients. Basic HIV information will be reviewed in the context of addiction, as well as barriers to treatment, treatment planning & relapse prevention. The second session (Aug. 22) will be held for social service professionals working with HIV-positive clients with addictions. This workshop will address the disease concept of addiction & relate it to HIV disease, the problems of adhering to medication regimens & over-medicating. Both workshops are free of charge & will be held at the Montrose Counseling Center office, 701 Richmond. For more info: Michael Migura at 713/529-0037.

15 LiB offers two diverse speakers at its monthly meeting—Monica Pope, co-owner and executive chef at Boulevard Bistro, and Caroline Burum, owner of Toopies. Women only. 6:30 pm @ Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. LiB hotline: 713/529-0077.

16 Just for Us. It's ice skating, & it's just for 6th-12th graders with their gay/lesbian parents. To join in the fun, call for time and location at 713/284-4939.

16 Prick Up Your Ears, directed by Stephen Frears, is the story of British playwright Joe Orton (Gary Oldman) and his lover, Kenneth Halliwell (Alfred Molina). Orton is the author of some of the most highly regarded farces of the English-speaking theater. This film shows how Orton prowled the streets at night for casual sex, driving Halliwell to murder him. In 1960s England, homosexuality is a crime, but Orton seems to enjoy danger; meanwhile Halliwell, eight years his senior, waits at home for his lover to return. Their relationship is never healthy, and when Orton refuses to take Halliwell to the banquet after winning an award for the play of the year, Halliwell feels he is not being recognized for the sacrifices he has made. Vanessa Redgrave costars. 9:30 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. General admission is \$5. Weekly film info line: 713/639-7515.

21 Great Wall China Adoption, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) agency dedicated to finding loving homes for the thousands of orphans living in China, will sponsor a FREE workshop on how you can help through adoption. Single men, single women, and couples from 25-60 years of age can adopt. 6:30-8:30 pm @ Jungman Library, 5830 Westheimer. For more information, call Barbara at 713/249-5941 (24-hour phone line).

22 Strikes Against AIDS is a fun 1950s-style rock 'n' roll bowl-a-thon, with a silent auction, raffle and entertainment. "Strikes" is hosted by the People With AIDS Coalition of Houston, which provides direct service and support to more than 1,700 individuals and families in Houston and nine surrounding counties. Advance tickets for the bowl-a-thon are \$25 (\$30 at the door) and can be purchased at Cafe Artiste, Basic Brothers, Lobo, Palace Lanes & the PWA office at 3400 Montrose. 8 pm-midnight @ Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd. For more information, call Liz Fraser @ 713/522-5428.

23 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents' August Family Activity is a Galveston cookout and trip to the beach, hosted by the law firm of Moore & Hunt. For more info: 713/284-4939.

23 Regarde les Hommes Tomber (See How They Fall). "Marx (Jean-Louis Trintignant), an aging smalltime hood, kills a policeman and is then tracked by the policeman's drinking buddy, Simon (Jean Yanne). Meanwhile, Marx forms an unlikely alliance with Johnny (Mathieu Kassovitz), a simple young man who becomes his criminal protégé. See How They Run develops into a bizarre triangle that explores the homoerotic undertones of intense male companionship." (Quote is from Adrian Wootton, London Film Festival.) This French subtitled film plays at 7:30 pm @ the Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. General admission is \$5. Weekly film info line: 713/639-7515.

24 The Theater District's world-class performing arts organizations will open their doors to the public for a FREE, fun-filled day of sampling the arts in the heart of downtown Houston. Enjoy backstage tours, ongoing live entertainment, set & costume displays, slide presentations, sneak previews of 1997-98 seasons, activities for children and free food. 1-6 pm @ Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.; Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.; Music Hall, 810 Bagby; Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas Ave.; and Jones Plaza, Louisiana and Capitol. For more information: 713/853-8039.

26 Step-Parenting for gay and lesbian parents is a lecture presented by therapist Lou Ann Mock. It's part of Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents' Summer Lecture Series and will take place from 7:30-9 pm @ Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr. For more info: 713/284-4939. Childcare provided.

Theater

• **The Comedy of Errors.** Amidst the comic confusions caused by two sets of twins, Shakespeare explores the nature of identity. A wild romp through a field of errors through which each of the characters finds a startling and wonderful truth. Part of Houston Shakespeare Festival, a project of Univ. of Houston School of Theatre. Through August 16 @ Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 713/520-3290. Univ. of Houston School of Theatre: 713/743-3003.

• **Dirty Dealings in Dixie.** This old-fashioned mellerdrammer calls for lots of fun and a love of popcom, mellow dramatic acting, and the joy of sing-alongs. Through August 30 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd @ Oak Forest, 713/682-3525.

• **End of the World Party** is a hilarious and heartwarming comedy about six gay friends sharing a summer house on Fire Island, and looking for love in all the wrong places. By Emmy Award-winning *Frasier* writer Chuck Ranberg. August 22-September 20 (weekends only) @ Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. in the Village. Tickets \$15. For reservations: The Group (Theatre Workshop) @ 713/522-2204.

• **The Invisible Man: An Outrageous Thriller** is a comedy chiller about five college co-eds who, as a class project, take over the management of a deserted old inn in the Colorado Rockies. During a snowstorm, an odd assortment of characters—including an invisible man—stagger into the hotel. "Is he a killer or a kindness freak?" the terrified girls ask each other. Through August 9 @ Actors Workshop, 1009 Chartres. For info or reservations: 713/236-1844.

• **The Tempest.** This fantastical tale of mystical spirits & human frailties, nobles & clowns, launches us on a voyage navigated by magical forces & the depth of emotion. Among the most. Part of Houston Shakespeare Festival, a project of Univ. of Houston School of Theatre. Through August 16 @ Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 713/520-3290. Univ. of Houston School of Theatre: 713/743-3003.

• **Sleuth.** This bewildering whodunit has all the ingredients of a top-class thriller. In a cozy English country house owned by a famous mystery writer, a young guest walks in, and they begin a jovial round of scotch and dialogue. The moment the host says, "I understand you want to marry my wife," the two are locked in a mortal encounter. The games that are devised—the murders plotted and subverted—add up to incredible suspense and an unsolvable crime. Complete with twists and turns that are breathtakingly audacious and fiendishly cunning. *Sleuth's* staggering ending should leave Alley audiences on the edge of their seats. Through August 17 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets are \$16 and are on sale at the Alley Theatre box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

• **Who Killed Hazel Patton?** is a murder-mystery-comedy about a tyrannical matriarch from South Texas who holds her wealth over her family's heads. This lively soap opera deals with an outlandish, steamy blend of plot complications, emotional and love entanglements. Through August 10 @ Midtown Art Center, 3414 LaBranch @ Holman. For more info, call The Ensemble Theatre @ 713/520-0055.

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) Thursdays, 7-8 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-



"UNDER THE BIG TOP"

The 29th Annual
Miss Camp America® Pageant

Saturday, September 13, 1997
Cullen Performance Hall • U of H

For tickets: (713) 940-STAR

**SKYY
VODKA**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

Bering Dental Clinic
Frost Eye Clinic
The Assistance Fund
The Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund
People with AIDS Coalition - Houston



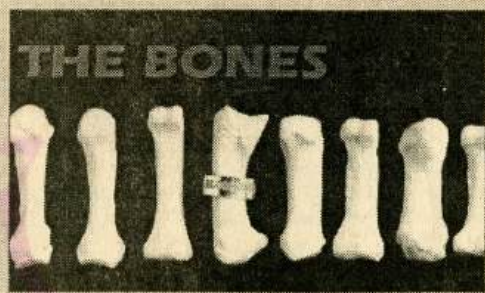
Returning as
Master of Ceremonies
Comedian
Danny Williams

M C A F

The Miss Camp America®
Pageant is a registered
501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

YOU MAY HANDLE THE BONES

It's more terrifying
than any *Scream*, and somehow
more real than *Cunanan*.
You have until August 17
to see *Lustmord* at the CAM.
Run to see it. Then run away.



WERNER LIEBENHEIT

Sex murder. Perhaps it is its ghastly horror that this particular spawn of psychopath has been almost "fava bean" trivialized, but none of the Hollywood gore tactics are present at the Contemporary Arts Museum's presentation of Jenny Holzer's *Lustmord*. Here, the newly revamped lower gallery at the CAM has been transformed into a glowing morgue of high-tech illumination and corpse-close sensitivity. • Holzer's powerful, pithy phrases into our light-bulbed burned into our collective consciousness through everything from MTV to Candlestick Park and while her work usually comes from a myriad of societal voices, this time, they come from a terrifying three. • Using her familiar medium of LED display, three square columns shove glowing acid-red, piss-yellow, and alien-green text into the ceiling, flashing like psychic messages in the departure terminal to hell. The phrases expose the thoughts of killer (SHE ACTS LIKE AN ANIMAL LEFT FOR COOKING), victim (I WILL NOT PREDICT HOW YOU WANT TO USE ME), and observer (SHE SMILES AT ME BECAUSE SHE IMAGINES I CAN HELP HER). Between this silent assault are tables of perfectly laid-out human bones which, a sign tells us, we may handle. From tiny, darkened teeth and enormous femurs to other shapes discernable only by a coroner, these smooth ivory forms are both beautiful and terrifying. Some are toe-tagged with metal bands of wraparound type so you're forced to pick them up to read what they say. Touch the bones and you cross the line from unwitting observer to unwilling participant. • With *Lustmord*, Holzer has powerfully interpreted a world of psychotic thought that, unfortunately in these times of a Dahmer and Cunanan, seems so often, everclose. *Lustmord* is this summer's best, most thoughtful, and most real scare. • Free.

making in a relaxed atmosphere. Focus is on the healing power of art. For information, call 713/523-9530.

• **"Finding Your Way" (One Worker's Journey).** In the artist's own words: "I work in multimedia because it allows me a broader range of expression. The only constant is evolution and change, so my work reflects that. I'll probably never do the same thing twice. In fact, it's unlikely I'll ever do ants again." So, is this art show really an ant show? The artist continues: "Why all the ants? I find ants to be one of the most perfect social structures on the planet. Everyone pulls together. Constantly struggling, searching and on the move, these creatures are the ultimate 'A' personalities. In short, I admire these girls. That's right, every worker is a female. The drone (male) exists only to fertilize the queen and then dies. The queen promptly tears off her wings after fertilization and sets about the task of reproducing for the rest of her life, while workers diligently and selflessly care for the queen and the preservation of the colony. (How's that for the ultimate single parent family?) But it's really not about ants. It's really about a journey. My journey and maybe yours, too. Leaving the old behind. Not being defined by what you started out as. And somehow ending up here. I used some humor (and, of course, the ants) to illustrate that." Enjoy the trip through August 31 @ Buter's Deli, 4621 Montrose. For more information, call STUTZ @ 713/522-9824.

copy.com



COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR

- Xerox DocuTech Copies
- Canon Color Output
- Mac & PC Rental
- Self-Serve Scanning
- Oversize Color Plotting
- Oversize B&W Plotting
- Posters & Banners
- On-Line Internet Bar
- Pick-Up & Delivery



1201 Westheimer
In the Tower Center
713/528-1201

The Source

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, 713/524-9966.
- **The Center for AIDS (CFA)** is a storefront information center that provides the latest treatment information on HIV & AIDS. CFA produces the treatment information newsletter *Research Initiative/Treatment Action!* or *RITA!*; the *RITA!* Fax Newsletter that goes weekly to doctors & researchers; & community forums that focus on treatment issues. CFA acts as a voice for Houston's HIV community in the national dialogue about research & clinical trials. For info: 713/527-8219. Web site: <http://www.neosoft.com/~hailrita>.
- **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 713/522-6212.
- **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, 713/529-9615.
- **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. Call 713/529-4571 or e-mail: GLSTNHou@aol.com.
- **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, preference, or gender identity. Meets the first Monday of each month. For more info: 713/523-7576.
- **The Homeless Pet Placement League** is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues and rehabilitates stray and abandoned cats and dogs. Volunteering, foster care, or adopting: 862-PETS.
- **HOPE Project** (HIV Outreach, Prevention, and Education) provides HIV/AIDS information to the African-American community. Board meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month. Contact the HOPE line at 713/587-6914 for more information.
- **Houston Area NOW** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 32217 Montrose Blvd. (near Westheimer, in the Interfaith Ministries Bldg.). Free parking accessible from Lovett Blvd. Social time @ 6:30pm &

program/business @ 7pm. For more info: 713/665-8669 or P.O. Box 540548, Houston 772254-0548.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.** 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. For more info: 713/521-1000.

• **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 713/524-0218 or e-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

• **Houston Women's Festival (HWF)** is a celebration of music, art, culture & commerce featuring performers Jamie Anderson, Cowboy's Nightmare, Diana Jones, Therapy Sisters, Leslie Wood, & Linda Lou. The festival also includes a multi-media art show & a community marketplace. Open to all, Saturday, September 20, 1 pm-midnight @ Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan. For more info: P.O. Box 66604, Houston, TX 77266, 713/868-1910.

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

• **Log Cabin Republicans**, 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 pm (social), 7 pm (meeting), Renata's, 2006 Lexington, 713/529-9100.

• **OutVote**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to registering, educating, and motivating our community to vote. For more info: 713/520-VOTE or 522-9837.

• **People With AIDS Coalition-Houston (PWAC)** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of, by & for people with HIV/AIDS that promotes independence & self-reliance so that they may live with dignity, self-esteem & acceptance. This is achieved by providing short-term crisis intervention & long-term referrals; creating opportunities for active participation as a member of the PWA community; & providing public advocacy for the needs of PWAs. While committed to ending the epidemic, PWAC endeavors to respond with love, caring & compassion to the unmet & changing needs that arise with PWAs. 3400 Montrose Blvd, Ste. 106, 713/522-5428, fax 713/522-2674.

• **Pride Committee of Houston**, executive meeting (7 pm, 1st Tuesday of each month); general meeting (6:30 pm, 3rd Tuesday), 713/529-6979.

• **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 713/528-SAFE (7233).

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

• **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 info: 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.

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, buddy program, Stone Soup garden, helper, or pantry programs, hospital visitation, information & referral, & 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.

• **AWARE**, the Lesbian and Gay Employees Group of Southwestern Bell, is open to both management and non-management lesbian and gay personnel to establish domestic partner benefits and equal compensation within Southwestern Bell Corp. The group is open to current and retired SBC employees and their partners—you do not have to be partnered to be involved. Meets at 6 pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Call 713/235-7929 for info or location of next meeting.

• **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 additions: 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, please call 713/529-1396.

• **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, 713/527-9864.

• **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

HANDS ON PRODUCTIONS

Full Body Swedish Reflexology

A healing, nurturing, and relaxing massage custom-made to the needs of your body.

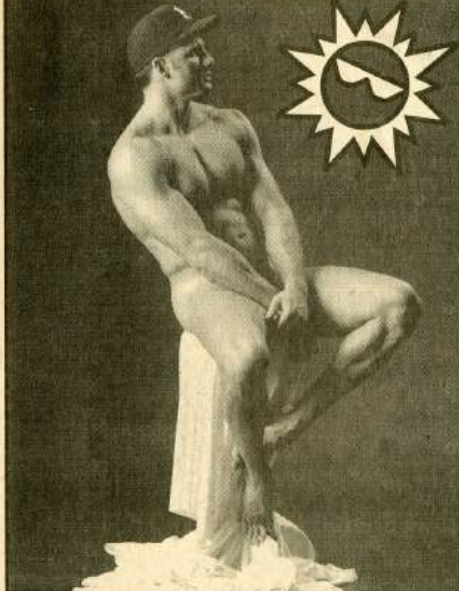
In/Out Calls, Evenings/Weekends



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)

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, 713/529-9615.

• **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.

• **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, call Shane Hennessey at 713/529-0037.

• **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.

• **HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer**, open forum for sharing information. Men's mixer: 3rd Tuesday of each month 7-9 pm. Women's mixer: 4th Wednesday of each month, 6-8 pm. 1407 Hawthorne, 527-8219.

• **Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals** (HATCH) is open to gays and lesbians, ages 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, call 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, 713/528-6798, 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. For more info (24 hrs.): 713/529-0037.

• **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 713/522-3941.

• **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 713/520-7870.

• **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 713/528-6798, 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 @ 713/524-5757.

• **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 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. Paula Andries 216-6961 or Richard Bielec 655-5423.

• **Women for Sobriety** is a self-help recovery group for women addicts & alcoholics. This is a closed meeting for women only. We meet every Wednesday night, 7-8 pm @ 701 Richmond, upstairs in the board room. For more info, call Liz at 281/855-8616.

• **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, 713/529-0037.

Health

• **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 713/521-1613.

• **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, 713/521-4628.

• **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.

• **Bering Community Service Foundation** provides five programs free of charge for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental care (713/524-7933); the Bering Care Center is a licensed adult day care center (713/520-7070); the Bering Financial Assistance provides comprehensive budget planning, financial counseling and financial assistance (713/524-5327); the Bering Support Network provides support groups (713/526-1017); and Bering's Sentry Program for in-home care visits (713/524-9638). Please feel free to call for further details on any of Bering's programs.

• **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: 713/527-8219.

• **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 713/520-9248 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, 713/520-2000.

• **Next Step** is a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Provided by Montrose Clinic. Call 713/520-2000, 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. Joanne at 713/523-7110.

• **Steven's House** provides intermediate care in a homelike environment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Needed: soft drinks, laundry detergent, baking pans, bed pillows (new), basic cleaning supplies, office supplies, a new bicycle, an extension ladder able to reach 2nd story, outdoor furniture & a new umbrella for table, a chest of drawers, small desk & chair, 2 comfortable reading chairs, lamps (table & floor), VCR, cable-ready TV for resident room, bedside tables, steam cleaning service for rugs & furniture, 2 large room rugs, wall hangings, apartment in Montrose area for office/resident's family lodging; volunteers for tasks

WANT A GREAT BODY?



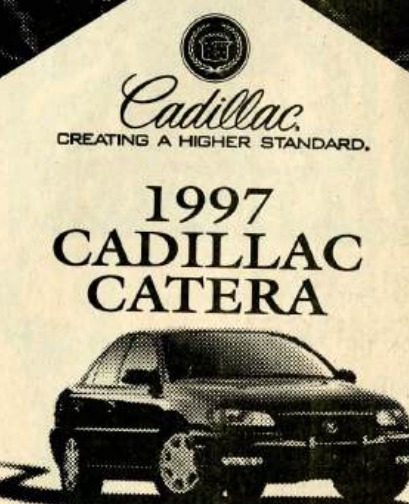
JOIN A GREAT GYM!

ONLY
24.95
per month*

HOUSTON
GYM
880-9191

Near Memorial Park • 233 Birdsall

*Call for details — M-F 6-10 • Sat 10-6



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



MONSIEUR MASSAGE

Premium European Touch
by Roland Nicolaides
713/942-2399
River Oaks & Montrose

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

& services. More info: 713/522-5757.

• **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 DM 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 open to public comment & participation, 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 pm, 3rd floor conference room, 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, 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 Wed-nednesday, 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 713/520-2000.

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, call 315-6786.

• **BiNet Houston** is a social/support/educational group which is open to bisexuals and bi-friendly individuals. For more info: 467-4380. It is best to call from 6-10 pm most evenings; otherwise, leave a message, & 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, and other fun activities. Voice mail is 632-9974 and pager is 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, please call 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 socials. We are not a sex club!! Call 772-5826, noon to 9 pm. No men, please!

• **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. Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 7 pm. For more info: 713/661-6378, 713/520-1066, or 713/869-8245.

Montrose Clinic Continues Outreach in Community

Montrose Clinic is scheduled to continue its HIV testing and counseling outreach program, in which people will have access to free HIV counseling and testing in the following establishments.

August

- 4 BRB - 4-8pm; QT's - 8pm-12am
- 5 CBC - 8pm-12am
- 6 Mary's - 4-8pm; Brick's - 8pm-12am
- 7 Venture-N - 4-8pm
- 8 The Barn - 4-8pm
- 9 Rich's - 10pm-2am
- 11 BRB - 4-8pm; QT's - 8pm-12am
- 12 CBC - 8pm-12am
- 13 Mary's - 4-8pm; Ripcord - 8pm-12am; Midtowne Spa - 9pm-1am
- 14 Venture-N - 4-8pm; 611 - 8pm-12am
- 18 BRB - 4-8pm; QT's - 8pm-12am
- 19 CBC - 8pm-12am
- 20 Mary's - 4-8pm; Brick's - 8pm-12am
- 21 Venture-N - 4-8pm
- 22 The Barn - 4-8pm
- 23 Rich's - 10pm-2am
- 25 BRB - 4-8pm; QT's - 8pm-12am
- 26 CBC - 8pm-12am
- 27 Mary's - 4-8pm; Ripcord - 8pm-12am; Midtowne Spa - 9pm-1am
- 28 Venture-N - 4-8pm; 611 - 8pm-12am

• **Gay Alumni Noon Group (G.A.N.G.)**, Gay men & women who are 40 or older and their friends and other persons who might be interested in addressing the concerns and exploring the interests of older gays are invited to attend the organizational meeting of G.A.N.G. Saturday, July 12, 1 pm-2 pm @ the Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose. For more info: Jim @ 713/622-6918 or Robert @ 713/665-6446.

• **Gay & Lesbian Health Professionals** meets monthly, providing socials, speakers, networking, and practitioner referral line. For information or a referral, call 713/523-4700.

• **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 information, call 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 @ 713/521-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 713/526-7688 (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 information, please call 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 information, please call 713/526-5200.

• **LiB**, a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbi-

ans, jobs, networking and businesses. 3rd Friday of each month, 7:30 pm, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. LiB's hotline: 713/529-0077.

• **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.

• **Outrage, Inc.** is a nonprofit social group raising funds for Houston area HIV/AIDS charities by producing special events including the annual Halloween Party and the Pride Party. We meet at least monthly on the 2nd Tuesday. Other events include beach parties, Austin splash & other socials. For more info: 713/706-2508. Web site: outrage.org/~outrage.

• **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 @ 713/523-6381.

• **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. For more information, call 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 713/801-4254 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

• **Golf.** Annise Parker for City Council Golf Tournament Fundraiser @ Pinecrest Golf Club. \$100 per player, 2-person scramble, men & women welcome. Lots of contests & prizes. Sept. 14. Info: 713/688-3888.

• **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.

• **Lone Star Volleyball Association** is a nonprofit sports organization for persons interested in playing recreational, competitive or tournament volleyball. League play is played at the Univ. of St. Thomas on Sundays, 4:30-9:30pm. First-time visitors play free! For more info about league play, call 281/878-4629.

• **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.

CHANGES?

If your organization has changes or corrections for your listing in The Source, please call 713/520-7237 or fax to 713/522-3275. The deadline is August 18.

MOTHER'S OLD FENCEPOST

Garden Items made from Recycled Fenceposts

(Mainly from the streets of Montrose & the Heights)

Birdhouses • Bird Feeders
Benches • Cabinets
Mailboxes • Whatever!

Kiki Neumann
P.O. Box 66815 • Houston, TX 77266-6815
713-289-2893
Free Catalog Available!

Being Raised In An Alcoholic or Drug Addicted Family can cause problems with.....

SADNESS ANGER
FEAR DEPRESSION
SEXUALITY OVEREATING
GRIEF ANXIETY
DRINKING DRUGS
SPENDING

Sharon Stone, LCDC
Counseling Office

713-771-7668

Emergency 713-771-4743



You Deserve a Health Care Provider Who Understands Your Needs

If you need a physician, psychotherapist, chiropractor, dentist, or other health care professional, we can help you out quickly and confidentially.

GAY + LESBIAN

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Referral Line 713-523-4700

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC

Magnify God's Grace
Fulfill God's Will

Mirror God's Love

Celebrate God's Glory

Communicate God's Word

NEW SERMON SERIES TO BEGIN AUGUST 10TH through
SEPTEMBER 14TH: "CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISE"

Addressing Homosexuality and the Bible,
Interpretation, Tradition and God's Inclusive
Message to All. Join our Home Groups each week to
discuss and give feedback from the sermons and
learn God's truth about YOU!

3400 Montrose, Suite 600 • Sunday Service: 11 AM
Ph. 713-528-6756

Weekly home groups on Tuesday/Wednesday

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

NeoSoft™ NeoSoft™ NeoSoft™

Houston's Premiere Internet Service Provider

Call today about our
ISDN Sale

NeoSoft Inc. 1-888-NeoSoft
1770 St. James Place, Suite 500

Sign Out by Madilyn Stein

Your Horoscope For August

NEPTUNE—the veil and higher octave of Venus—feels more deeply, sacrifices more willingly and dedicates itself more freely. Sounds good, doesn't it? Neptune, to this earthly evolution also means the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. It's the hidden part of our personalities lurking in the background, waiting for the right aspects to energize and expose it. It takes 16 years to complete one cycle of the zodiac. This year is very important, for it is the last year for Neptune to be conjugal Capricorn influence. Neptune went into Capricorn on January 13, 1994 and will change to Aquarius on January 13, 1998. In this segment of time, we have seen walls come down, religions reevaluate and struggle with greed, and lies become the challenged reality. Generations of beliefs and disbelief are all truths of light and dark. Here's how it effects each Sun sign:

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22), Neptune in Capricorn has caused your head to adjust to acid indigestion. Normally you think, and the result is final. Not so for the last 13 years. You are frustrated, as the gods will allow, so give away your beastly attitude and move to the next level of reality. Since your royal hindsight hasn't brought you the results you've asked for, lift your head and move to the bright side of the street. In 1998, when Neptune moves into Aquarius, you will see the results of all the fruit you've hoarded in the last few years. Remember, your motto is "I will."

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22), with Neptune in Capricorn, you've at least had the opportunity to express all sides of your motto, "I analyze." This has been good for your career and investments, but not so good for your personal growth. When Neptune moves into Aquarius, you will feel like a cloud has lifted, and you don't know which way to go. Seek help so you will be prepared for a swift evolution. You will find that the real objective of life is truth in yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22), take a deep breath and know Neptune in Aquarius is the truth you well understand. You say what is true because you want to avoid hurting others—or is it a cover-up to make things go your way? Buy a year's supply of bleach and get on with it. Everyone already knows you lie when you want to run away with the hired help. Follow your motto, "I balance."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22), if you've learned your lessons and practiced them well, Neptune in Aquarius will give you the freedom you've been waiting for. This long-term aspect will show you the path and keep your high standards worthy of respect. The fixed influence of Neptune will allow erotic dreams to become a reality. Your motto, "I desire," will benefit you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 20), you can now claim your birthright. "I understand" is your motto. Not only does Pluto seem favorable, but Neptune in Aquarius speaks your language. Aquarius allows your quick mind to run through the field of rosemary and thyme without a thorn to be found. 'Tis the season to be open, selective and frustrated without fondling the local five-and-dime.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19), Neptune has been in Capricorn since January of '84. You have had to face losses, truths, and find your spiritual life path. You have resolved professional problems, and your intuition has refined itself. Now what? Neptune in Aquarius will help you continue your quest, but you won't have to work so hard. Trust your gut and find a great vacation to rest your brain. Let the rest of the world run in circles. Your motto is "I use," so just do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb. 18), in the '60s, they sang, "This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius." Who were they? You Aquarians have always been dawning, but now you can predict the time of the sunrise and the sunset. Neptune can tune your insight and change what's bad into something good. Now, don't get carried away. Reflect on Neptune for the last 15 years and the changes you've made. The next several years will claim your destiny and complete the search for the true you. Follow your motto, "I know."

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20), since Neptune rules your sign, you will look at Neptune in Aquarius as a gift from the gods. You've always been interested in history and the outer world, but with this aspect you will find that your dreams have backed up to the tidy dumpster if you don't make some decisions. "I believe" is your motto, so prove it—stop talking and take action. Then the next several years will prove to be amazing.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) always pushes the timeline, but with Neptune in Aquarius there is no line. This is a great time to use your humanitarian desires to discover new ways of helping each other. It will pay off in the best ways if you stop chewing your cud and drink a lot of water to cleanse your ego. Invent an easy way to let others run their own lives, and make your own dreams come true. "I am" is your motto.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20), it's time to let your heart rest and put your soul to a search. Neptune in Aquarius won't allow others to have power over you. It's time to play all your cards in whatever order seems appropriate, because your values have been stretched from corset size to minivan proportions. As they say in *The Wiz*, "Ease on down the road." "I have" is your motto.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20), put the pedal to the metal because when Neptune moves into Aquarius, you will feel like you're on speed. I suggest you roll up the carpet, fill the cabinets with dried foods and keep a bag packed. "I think" is your motto. Now, focusing will take top priority. That's great, because you've laid the groundwork and you will reap the benefits.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22), you always say "I feel," and that couldn't be a better mantra unless you just want to do and see and go and be. Neptune in Aquarius will start a new life for your old vision. Get your eyes examined. See the dentist and get a checkup, because 1998 will be the beginning of a reality check.



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.

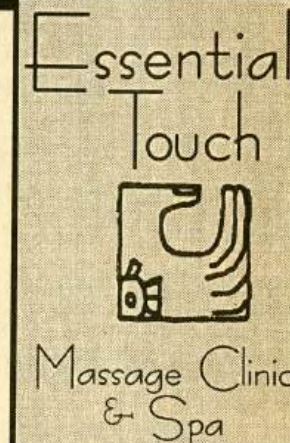
If you don't have time to smell the roses, at least take time to relax and enjoy our soothing Aromatherapy Treatments.

Swedish Massage*
and Aromatherapy Facial
\$110 (2 hrs)

Steam, Seaweed Body
Mask, Aromatherapy Bath,
Swedish Massage* & Facial
\$244 (4 hrs)

Spa Reflexology & Swedish
Massage*, Foot Soaks, Scrubs and
Paraffin, Reflexology Massage
\$85 (1 1/2 hrs)

*For deep tissue massage, add \$15



Here's what they say about Alan Davidson's Essential Touch Massage Clinic

"One of the best inner-beauty specialists in America."

—Self Magazine, January 1996

3100 Richmond Avenue • Suite 204 • Houston, TX 77098
CALL 713-942-0923

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



Sandra Nicholas

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

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

OutSmart Advertisers

ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Hubbard Financial Services • 2615 Montrose 522-9000
Sean Yarborough 862-3266

ADVERTISING/MARKETING

OutSmart Magazine • 3406 Audubon Place 520-7237
Rocketboy Communications 526-6753
Uptown Health & Spirit Magazine • 3406 Audubon Place 520-7237

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 REPAIR

Montrose Auto Care • 1511 1/2 Taft 524-3068

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Bland Cadillac • 2100 Bagby 527-6600
Momentum Volvo • 3101 Kirby Dr. 526-3147

CATERING

Clayton Catering • 1701 California 526-1800

CLEANING

Custom Valet Cleaners • 1900 S. Shepherd 529-3366
Maid in the Shade 665-6243
Man Maid Cleaning Service/Tony Akin 993-9737

COMMUNITY/NONPROFITS

Gay & Lesbian Health Professionals 523-4700
Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
Information Line: 523-7576 • Business Expo Line: 462-1354
Houston Pride Band 524-0218
PFLAG 867-9020

COMPUTERS

SERVICES/TRAINING/WEB DESIGN

Computer Factory • 13147 NW Frwy., #155 462-3453
Computer RX Pgr. 713/289-0295 or 281/240-8438
Stealth Web Design/Bob Derr 802-2845

INTERNET PROVIDERS

Insync • 3400 Montrose, Suite 903 961-4242
Neosoft • 1770 St. James Place 1-888-NEOSOFT

CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING

Payless Insulation 868-1021
U.S. Construction 526-7679

EMPLOYMENT

Adoue & Associates 523-8334
Jobs Houston 984-1837

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHTLIFE

CHORUSES

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston 521-SING

THEATER/FILM

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion 281/363-3300
Greater Tuna 800/821-1894
Laff Stop • 1952-A W. Gray 524-2333
Miss Camp America Pageant 940-STAR

FEED STORES

Quality Feed • 4428 N. Main 862-2323

FINANCIAL SERVICES

BANKS

Texas Commerce Bank 216-7000

FINANCIAL ADVISORS

Bill Green, CPA, CFP • 1225 N. Loop W., Suite 216... 869-1144

John M. Faulk, MBA/American Express Financial • 400 N. Sam
Houston Pkwy. E. # 600 281/931-1900
Hubbard Financial • 2615 Montrose 522-9000

MORTGAGE BROKERS

Home Loan Corp • 1717 St. James Place, #200 297-8000
Mortgage Associates of Texas 524-1850
Pride Mortgage • 4200 Montrose Blvd, Suite 300 529-4488

FITNESS/HEALTH CLUBS/ PERSONAL TRAINING

The Art of Fitness 938-BODY
Fitness Exchange • 4040 Millam 524-9932
Houston Gym • 233 Birdsall 880-9191
Muscle Mechanics • 4316 Yupon 523-5330

FLORISTS

Casa de Flores • 7502 Galveston Rd. 310-1225
Flower Mart at Hyde Park • 1700 Waugh Drive 529-2300

FRAMING

Hollywood Frame Gallery • 2431 Bissonnet 942-8885

FUNERAL/MORTUARY SERVICES

Earthman Funeral Directors • 465-8900 659-3000

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Graphic Ink 522-7050
Preferred Graphics • 4200 Montrose 528-7654
Up&Out Graphics • 3406 Audubon Place 520-7237
Larry Knapp Graphic Design • 1418 Heights 869-1064

HEALTH CARE/MENTAL HEALTH

CHIROPRACTORS

Daniel Boudreaux, DC/Today's Health Center • 506 Heights Blvd.
..... 880-4444
Jeffrey Garcia, DC/Yorktown Chiropractic • 2301 Yorktown, Ste.
209 960-8575

COLONIC HYGIENE

Healthy Colon Center • 3838 Hillcroft, Ste. 430 281/549-0711

COUNSELING /PSYCHOTHERAPY

Brad Brager, MA, LPC • 3033 Chimney Rock, Ste. 440 318-4788
Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP 522-3045
Cybele Gillis, LMSW 281/685-9220
Barbara Levinson, PhD/Center for Healthy Sexuality 785-2600
Denise O'Doherty, LPC • 3415 Graustark 529-1913
Bob Snellgrove, LMSW • 4200 Montrose, #540 522-7014
Southwest Recovery Place 942-7181
Sharon Stone, LCDC • 7723 Del Rey 771-7668

DENTISTS

Richard Gervais, DDS. • 8527 W. Belfort 772-2111
Bruce W. Smith, DDS. • 1006 Missouri 529-4364

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Altruistic Touches/James Burke 523-9153
M. Dan DeLeon 990-5102
Essential Touch/Alan Davidson • 3100 Richmond 942-0923
Monsieur Massage/Roland Nicolaidis 942-2399

OPTOMETRISTS

Dr. Sue Moss • 1428-A West Alabama 524-2525

PHARMACEUTICAL /PRESCRIPTIONS

Crixivan www.merck.com
STATSCRIPT Pharmacy • 4101 Greenbriar, Suite 235 521-1700

PHYSICIANS

Gay&Lesbian Health Professionals Referral Line 523-4700
Nellie Grose, MD • 2201 W. Holcombe, Ste. 305 860-6620

INSURANCE

Jeffrey T. Bules 661-7700
Ferriulo & Associates 800/834-4252

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

James Campbell Photography 524-0104
Theresa DiMenno 464-4471
Gabriel Tran Photography • 3311 Richmond, Ste. 315 582-7779
WOODALLEN Photography • 3505 Louisiana 526-1747

PLUMBING

U-Plumb-It • 1424 Montrose 942-2277

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

PSYCHIC/INTUITIVE READERS

Sandra Nicholas 522-0990
Joe Paxton 523-1627

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Karen Derr 862-1600
Sam Ferreri/ReMax/Appraiser 281/485-3200
Richard Hill/Swiley-Hudson • 1505 Heights 869-0456
Cary Russell/Prudential Premier Properties 721-9175
Suzanne Anderson Properties • 239 Westheimer 529-8484
Bryan Williams/ERA Home Brokers 880-1400
Sean Yarborough/ReMax • 12649F Memorial Dr. 763-5688

RELIGIOUS GROUPS/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
Kim Son • 4 locations 222-2461
Lattinia Café • 1972 Fairview 521-2611
Ming's Cafe • 2703 Montrose 529-7888
Prince Street Market Coffee Delivery 880-2338
Riva's Italian Restaurant • 1117 Missouri 529-3450

RETAIL

ART GALLERIES

Fine Toon Cartoon Art Gallery • 2427 Bissonnet 522-6499

BOOKS, CARDS & PERIODICALS

Inklings • 1846 Richmond Avenue 521-3369

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Basic Brothers • 1232 Westheimer 522-1626
Eye Elegance • 1800 Post Oak Blvd. 622-4411
Leather Forever • 711 Fairview 526-6940

GARDENING

In With Nature/Nature Helpers • 912 W 11th 869-8245

GIFTS

Fine Toon • 2431 Bissonnet 522-6499
Hollywood Frame Gallery • 2431 Bissonnet 942-8885
Silver Moon Candles 888/697-6563
Jeffrey Stone, Ltd. • 9694 Westheimer 783-3555

GROCERIES, SUPPLIES & LIQUOR

Kroger • 3300 Montrose 526-7865

HAIR/SKIN CARE

Beauty Warehouse • 2421 Rice Blvd. 526-2553 (call for other
locations)
Metropolis Salon • 4317 Montrose Blvd. 526-2900

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 & Wireless 281/575-8500

VITAMINS/HERBS/MINERALS

Houston Buyers Club 520-5288

SALONS

Debbie's Style Shop • 2726 White Oak Drive 869-8977
Metropolis Salon • 4317 Montrose Blvd. 526-2900

TEST PREP

The Princeton Review 688-5500

TRAVEL

HOTELS/RESORTS/B&B'S

The Lovett Inn • 501 Lovett, Houston 522-5224
The Rainbow Lodge • 115 Frost Rd, Albuquerque, NM 87047
..... 505/281-7100

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Travel Partnership/Sandra Wilkins 526-4471
UNIGLOBE First Choice Travel/Coy Tow 800/856-1835
..... 667-0580
World Class Travel/Jim Jadoski 682-3362

VIATICAL SERVICES

Medical Escrow Society 800/422-1314
NVR 800-932-0050
Page & Associates • 2810 E. Oakland Park Blvd., #300
..... 800/572-4346
Viatical Benefits Foundation 800-871-9440

VOICE MAIL

Premier Paging & Wireless 281/575-8500

Rediscover the joy...

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



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.

GREENWHITE

ADVISORS



See Our Booth at
EMPOWER '97

Bill Green, CPA, CFP Sandy White, CFP, CFS

1225 N. Loop West, Ste. 1030, Houston, TX 77008 • Fax (713) 868-3101

FINANCIAL PLANNING
INVESTMENTS
RETIREMENT PLANNING
ESTATE PLANNING

Bill Green was selected
by *Worth Magazine* as
"...one of the best
financial advisors
in the country."



713.869.1144

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



CRITTERS NEED TENDIN'?

GARDEN NEED MENDIN'?



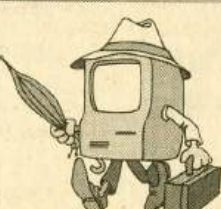
- Livestock Chows
- Food for Any Pet
- Wildlife Seeds
- Hay & Shavings

- Bulk Garden Seeds
- Easy Gro Fertilizers
- Organic Garden Products
- Rodent & Insect Killers

4428 N. Main St. (Heights) ▼ 713/862-2323
Present this ad to receive \$2 off purchase
(Limit one per household)

COMPUTER RX

- ✓ Home or Office
- ✓ Hardware Setup
- ✓ Crash Recovery
- ✓ Win95 Prep / Setup
- ✓ Problem Solving
- ✓ Software Help
- ✓ Custom Systems
- ✓ Computer Optimization



- ✓ New Hard Drive Installation & Data Transfer
- ✓ Motherboard, Memory & General Hardware Diagnostics
- ✓ CorelDraw & Pagemaker Instruction

281-236-6614

OutSmart MARKETPLACE


A dog can
have as many
as 500 mates
in one year.
(So much for being loyal)



**SPAY and
NEUTER
CLINIC**

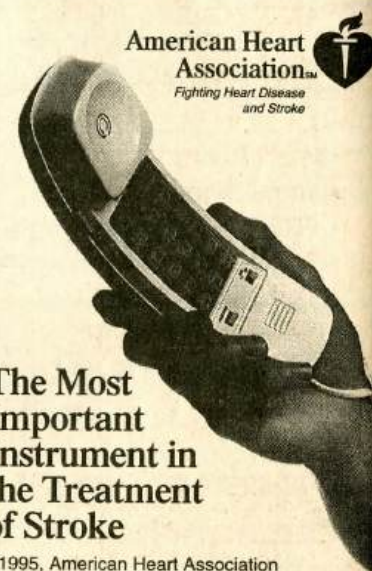
THE FUND FOR ANIMALS
Low-cost sterilization
1603 Shepherd Drive (713) 863-0010



Cuisine of the Orient

Proudly Serving the Community

713/529-7888
fax 713/529-8687
2703 Montrose @ Westheimer
Houston, TX 77006



The Most
Important
Instrument in
the Treatment
of Stroke

©1995, American Heart Association

Employment Services
for people on
DISABILITY

Ask about:

- State-funded vocational rehabilitation
- Return to work without losing current benefits
- Job placement

Adoue & Associates
employment consultants

713.523.8334

**"Mom, Dad,
I'm Gay."**

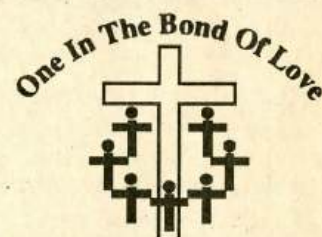
Suddenly your whole life has changed. Who can you talk to? Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) is dedicated to keeping families together. To begin your journey of reconciliation, call our help line at 713-867-9020.



www.pflagtx.org

Come Visit
Your Family in the Community

**HOUSTON MISSION
CHURCH**



Service: Sundays at 10:30 am

1505 Nevada at Commonwealth

713/529-8225

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

**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!

**YOUR
FULL-SERVICE FLORIST**

*Special Occasions
or Anytime*



713-529-2300

1700 Waugh Dr.

"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

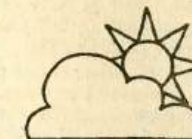
Get Insync!

Call Now! 961-4242

INSYNC
INTERNET SERVICES, INC.

<http://www.insync.net>
Connecting Houston to the World

Get off the Misery Train!



Discover what makes you tick.

Gain freedom from the past
& take control of your life.

Learn to build a better future
with confidential counseling.

281-685-9220

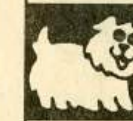
Cybele Gillis LMSW

*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 BISSENET

OutSmart MARKETPLACE

THINK YOU CAN'T AFFORD ADVERTISING?
YOU CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO.

Your customers are **OUT** there.
And they're Very, Very **SMART.**

OUTSMART ADVERTISING: 713/521-7237

OUTSMART CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

COUNSELING & THERAPY

**SUPPORT GROUP
FOR LESBIAN WOMEN**
Tuesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM
For info call 281/264-1671
Diana Thomas, LPC

MULTIDIMENSIONAL HEALING Clear your energy field of negative energy, emotional trauma residue, energetic fragments of others, negative thoughts, past life energy patterns, spirit attachments, extraterrestrial interference, or other energy forms. **DIANA THOMAS, M.A., L.P.C.** 281/264-1671.

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

Massage Clinic needs Licensed Facialist and Manicure/Pedicurist. Commission split - must have some clientele. Greenway Plaza area. Call Mark @ 713-942-0923.

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.

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

COMING SOON! Ernest & Co. - "A Feel Good Fitness Center" by Ernest Perez. Aerobics, Step Aerobics, Cycle Reebok, Weight Training, Yoga and Massage. High energy, motivating and FUN workouts are coming soon! Call 713-862-7466 and get on our mailing list.

Ernest Perez, Personal Trainer & National Aerobic Championship Winner, offers personal training in a very private setting. All levels welcome. Free consultation. To get started, call 713-862-7466.

INSURANCE

**DALE ENGLEFIELD
AGENT**
Farmers Insurance Group of Companies
Workers Comp
Homeowners
Automobiles
Restaurant
Computers
Mortgage
Business
Disability
Renters
Health
Flood
Life
Charter Member Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
In Houston: (713) 439-1700
Statewide: 1-888-439-1700

MASSAGE THERAPY

Rest your mind and nourish your body-Essential Touch Therapies- Reflexology, Polarity, Deep Tissue, Swedish Massage, Facials, Salt Scrubs, Seaweed Wraps. Professional Setting. Gift Certificates. 3100 Richmond #204. 713/942-0923.

Warren Morales, RMT. Tired of being TIRED? Release, Relax, Rejuvenate! Presented by Ernest & Co., "A Feel Good Fitness Center". For a feel good massage, call 713-862-7466.

Massage by a Reiki Master. Swedish massage, Foot Reflexology, Reiki. \$40/Hr. For an appointment, call Sue Hamilton 713/864-7449.

NEW IN TOWN! Swedish massage, out calls only, 7 days a week. Joe TR#12356. Pager # 281/895-1236.

Experience the joy of total relaxation by having a massage from Paul Henington (MT012655). Swedish, Deep Tissue, Shiatsu and Reflexology. Call for an appointment, 713/529-9445.

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.

LET YOURSELF GO- Experience a full body deep tissue Swedish Massage by Dwayne. Montrose location, 7 days a week. 713/527-0835. RMT#11412.

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 281/632-0880.

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. 713/520-5206.

REAL ESTATE/LEASING

HI-RISE-Beautifully renovated 2-2, Hardwoods, Crown Molding, Mirrors. Balcony overlooks Rose Garden & Miller Theater! 10th Fl., 1400 Hermann (\$1.6 ML Renovation Underway). 281-890-0992. Southern Homes, Realtors.

HEIGHTS/NORHILL-REMODELED 2-2-2Det, F/P, Gleaming Hardwoods, Tiled Baths, Gazebo. \$142,500. Hurry! 281-890-0992. Southern Homes, Realtors.

DOWNTOWN \$61,000. (713) 650-3301. Pristine condition. 1 bedroom, corner unit with 2 balconies. Berber carpet, mirrored closets and track lighting. Seller is motivated!

ABSOLUTE LUXURY

1, 2, and 3 BEDROOM CONDOS, TOWNHOMES and APARTMENTS! Varied amenities include Washer/Dryer, Fireplace, JACUZZI BATHTUB, Intrusion Alarm, Computer & Fax Business Center, FREE CABLE, Garden Patios, Spacious Floor Plans, and MORE!!! From \$535/mo. Inner Loop and Houston-Wide. Agent - 7 years experience. A BETTER PLACE 713/686-8189 FREE SERVICE

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 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. \$460 mo. & \$665 mo., \$250 deposit. Agent - 7 years experience. A BETTER PLACE. 713/686-8189 FREE SERVICE

RECOVERY

**Rediscover joy
and 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
713.942.7181

ROMANCE

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.

SERVICES

Ernest & Co., "A Feel Good Fitness Center", welcomes **Kathy Anderson**, certified Personal Trainer. Tired of going nowhere fast? Get on the fast track in our newly remodeled private studio. No Contracts, No Hassles, No Crowds! Free consultation. Want results, call 713-862-7466 NOW!

Caskets, having money problems? We offer you an alternative to the high costs associated with bereavement. Free information*Discount Caskets/Urns, 1217 Stanford, Houston, TX 77019-4308.

LET US FINE TUNE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE...personal and professional, detail oriented cleaning made to order. Large or small jobs. +10 years experience/references. David Young (713) 688-3649

MAID IN THE SHADE

"Making People Happy Since 1988"

HOUSES • APARTMENTS • OFFICES

DEPENDABLE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

6210-A ROYALTON CALL 713/665-6243

TRAVEL

EXPERIENCE THE PLEASURE OF TRAVEL Without the headaches of planning it. Treat yourself to personalized attention and quality care. Call Travel Agent **JIM JADLOSKI** 713/682-3362.

OUTSMART CLASSIFIEDS

UNIGLOBE

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 Out Smart!

The Travel Partnership, Inc. Call Sandra Wilkins at 713/526-4471 or pager 903-1247.

VACATION RENTAL

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

USED CREDIT CARD TERMINAL WITH PRINTER WANTED. CALL 713/520-7418.

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:** August 18 for the September 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.

FEATURED HOME

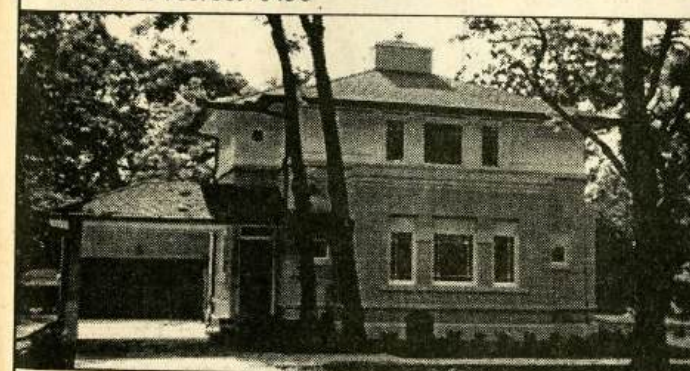
RICHARD HILL
Quality Stands Out!™

713/768-3095

Office: 713/869-0456

Swilley & Hudson

"The Spirit of Excellence"



Fabulous new Prairie-style home by Davis Raley, Architect. 3-2 1/2-2, hardwoods up and down, stained glass, beamed ceilings, fireplace, wonderful kitchen/great room, master with jacuzzi and shower room!\$299,900

In With Nature

The Organic Retail Store

Compost, Garden Mix, Potting Soil & Fertilizers

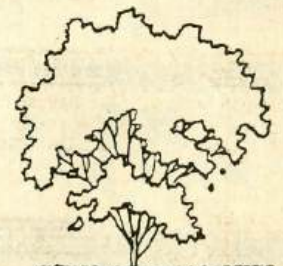
from Garden-Ville, MaestroGro and Rabbit Hill Farms

- Earthworms & Castings
- Organic & Untreated Seeds
- Native Plants

912 W. 11th Street

In the Houston Heights
(713) 869-8245

Tues-Fri: 9-5 • Sat: 9-4



Nature Helpers

The Organic Landscape Company

OUT IN HOUSTON



1 Author Sharon Bridgforth, publisher Lisa Moore and author Shilanda Woolridge at Inklings' *Does Your Mama Know?* signing party.



2 Checking out the family jewels at MFA's "Evening With the Romanovs" are Brian Tognotti, B.J. Futcher and Carl Riedl.

3 Blonde Ambition: Mr. Don Gill and friend at Garden Party.

4 Tony Carroll and Helen Rouse at the Chamber mixer at the Lovett Inn.

5 Noteworthy: MCCR lifts their voices—and everyone else's spirits—higher. Gretta Ott gets into the Spirit of things, and Robert Blake & Carolyn Mobley raise the roof.

6 Debra Danburg (center) hosts Texas Commerce Bank's Pride Team. Also pictured (l-r) are Harold Shultz, Melanie McKittrick, Danburg, Paula Andries and Richard Bielec.

7 Kyle Young gasps while happily drowning in OutSmart's Aqueerium float in June's Gay Ride Parade. On the same float is mermaid Laura Hudman and a sea monkey (makeup by Robert Reninger).

8 Showboat's Anita Gillette (second, from left) is joined by friends and fans at the opening night cast party. And Houston Voice's editor J.C. Michelak and Smyth/Katzen's Kelly Bukolt chat after a trip on Showboat.



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

PROUD TO BE YOUR COMMUNITY PHARMACY!

Putting you
on the horizon
of good health....

- Community-Minded
- Community-Managed
- Convenient Location
- Delivery Available

Crixivan now available!
Opening soon on Montrose!

Let us transfer your prescriptions to Houston's community-based pharmacy...

Call or Visit a

STATSCRIPT Pharmacy

and feel the difference for yourself.

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

OutSmart PRESENTS

THE GAYEST & THE GREATEST

Show us just how smart you are!

Be a part of Houston's first-ever

"gay fave" survey,

OutSmart's Gayest & Greatest.

Just go to the centerfold ballot, pull it out, fill it out, and fax it, mail it or drop it off at our OutSmart office: 3406 Audubon Place.

Or, just drop your survey at one of our ballot boxes around town:

Basic Brothers
Crossroads Market
Inklings
Lobo
Toopees

You and your friends
can also join us at
Toopees
7 - 9pm
Wednesday, August 20.

The Cellular Saga continues...

Ever since getting her lover a pager from Premier, Stephanie would stand poised, ready to leave erotic little messages so steamy they could peel paint off the wall.

FREE
Voice Mail,
Caller ID, Call Waiting
and More
Low Rates on all
PrimeCo Phones



**BUY GAY
FIRST**



Premier
PAGING & WIRELESS

CALL 281/575-8500

FREE DELIVERY

FREE
Activation
3 mo. Airtime &
3 mo. Voice Mail
w/pager purchase

12220 Murphy Road, Suite E

Proud Sponsor of Empower '97 Gay Business Expo!

