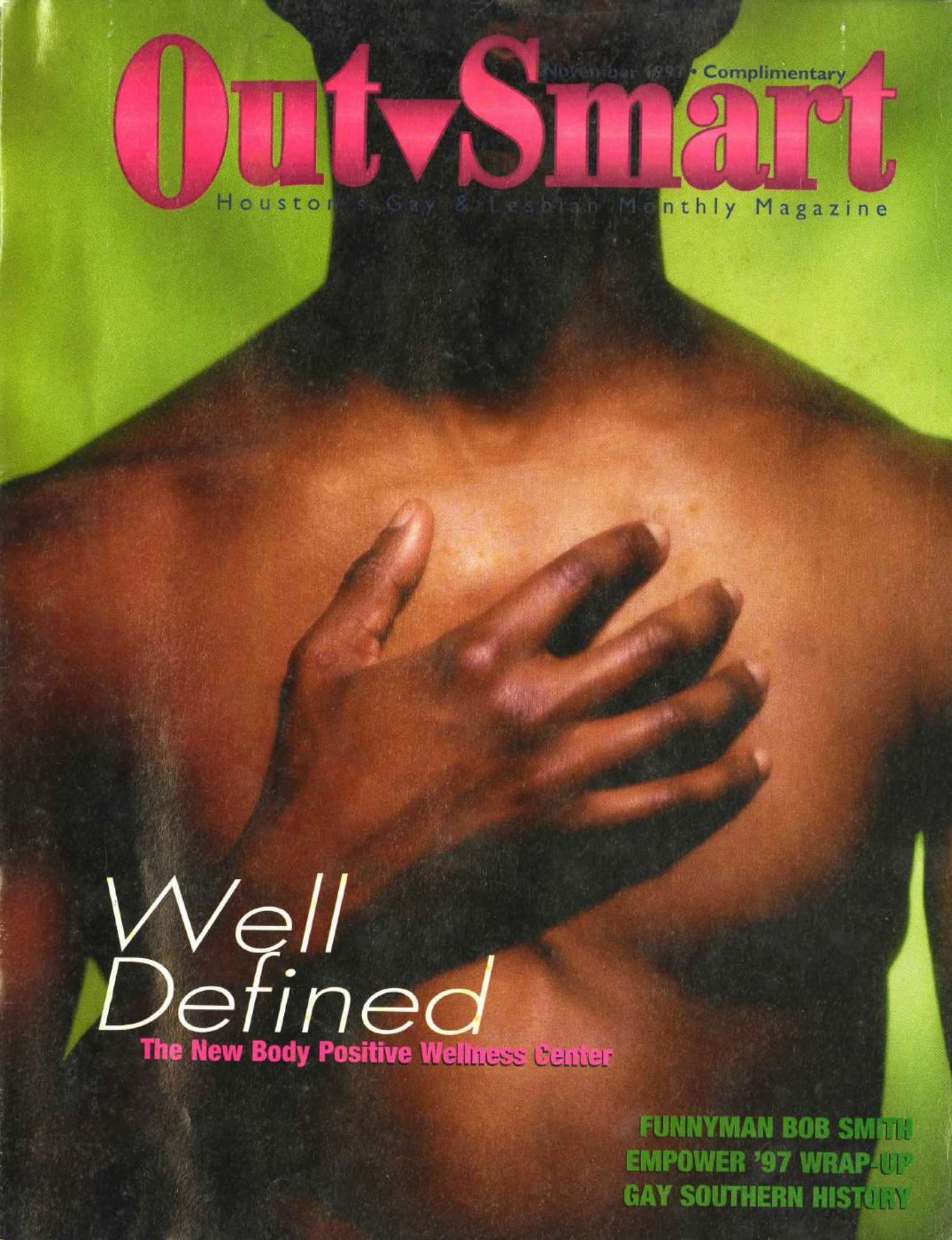




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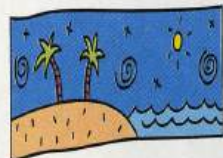
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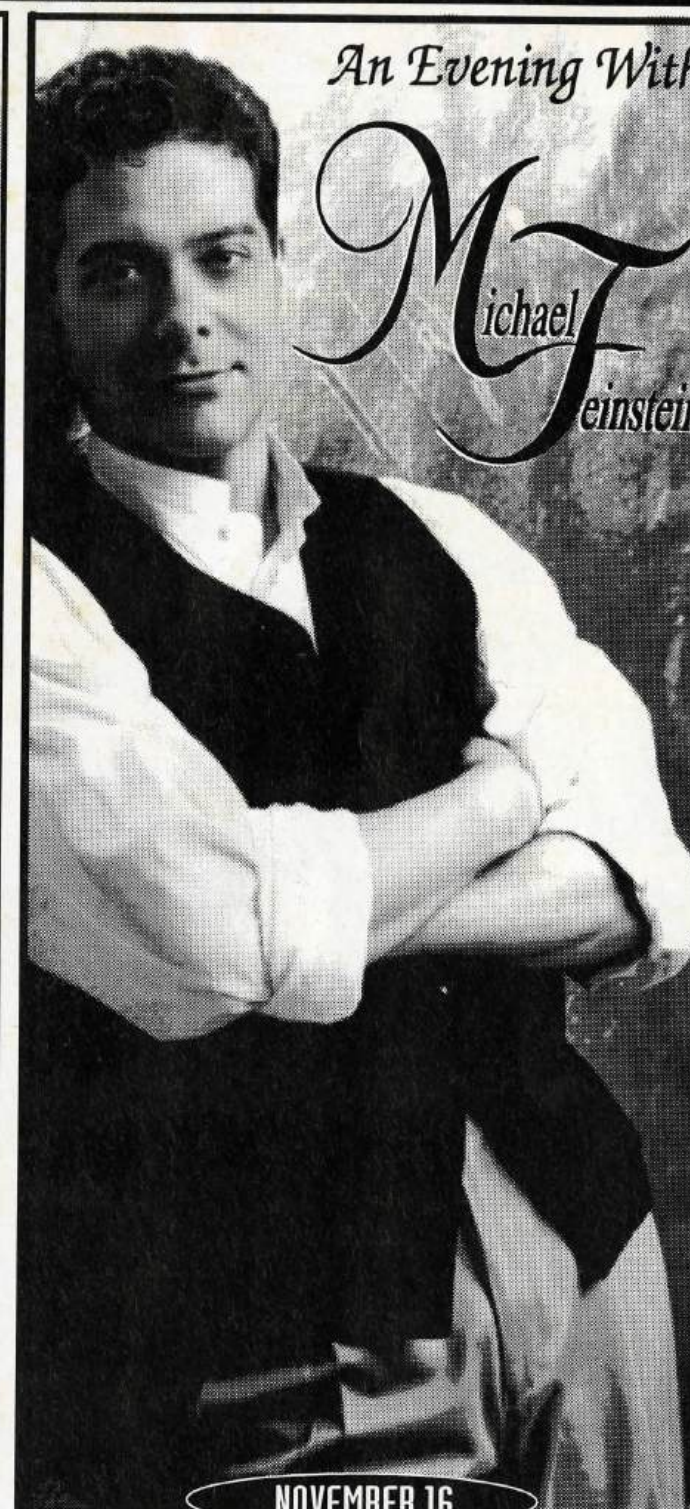
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Publisher Greg Jau

Editorial

Managing Editor Kyle Young

Production Coordinator/Copy Editor

Blase DiStefano

Contributing Writer

Steven Foster, Shannon Schrader

Columnists John Aaron, Dale Carpenter,

Simon LeVay, Daryl Moore, Madilyn Stein,

Sandra Wilkins

Advertising

Account Executives

Ken Burd, Linda Huff, Dani Hurley

Administration

Accounting Daniel Impastato

Circulation & Distribution Miriam Orihuela

Support Staff Martha Bowman, Karyn McGinley



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3406 Audubon Place

Houston, Texas 77006

713/520-7237

713/522-3275 Fax

E-mail address:

letters@outsmartmagazine.com

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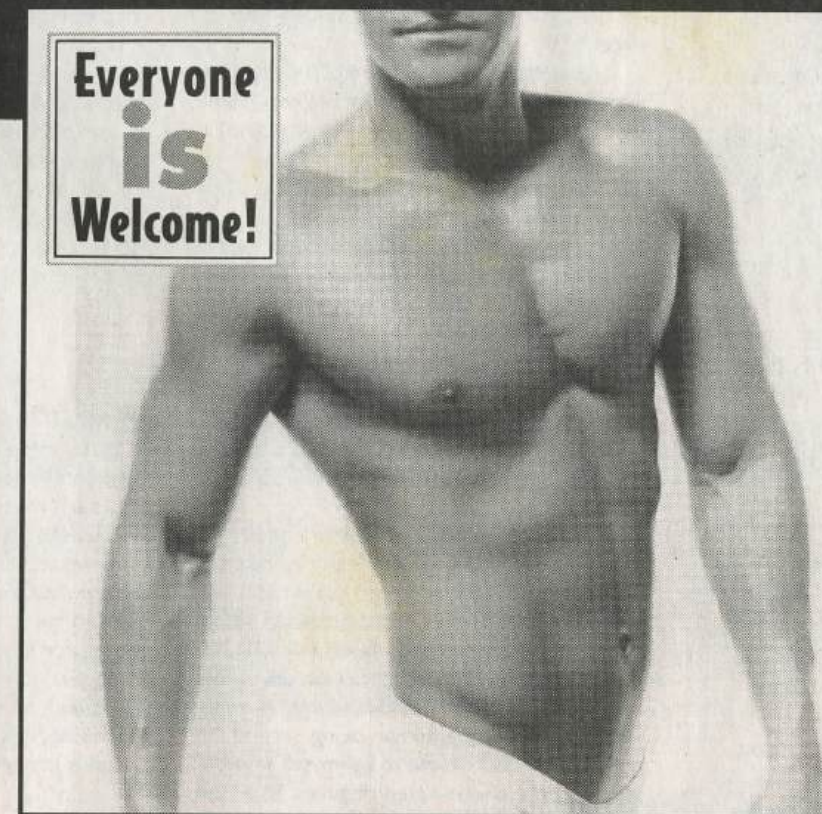
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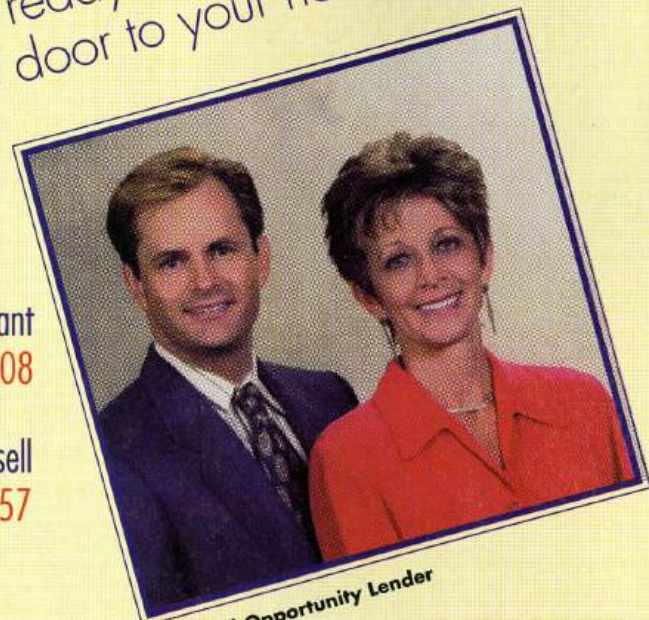
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Publisher's Perspective



Greg Jeu

They say necessity is the mother of invention. This old adage is particularly appropriate for our cover story this month.

While there have been many positive developments in the treatment of AIDS and HIV, the FDA is (woefully) slow in approving vital treatments. That means many brave men and women are taking matters into their own hands—and often those hands are not the medically trained, PhD'd hands of doctors, but people just like you or me.

Nelson Vergel is not a doctor, but rather a passionate health advocate who has helped many PWAs across the country successfully reverse AIDS-related wasting syndrome. Nelson's courage, dedication, and plain-old common sense is a testimony to us all. Though Nelson isn't a physician, his program has been utilized by many to extend life and the quality of life of those living with AIDS. Now physicians and laypeople have taken notice of what Nelson has achieved.

I find that inspiring.

Whether you're striving for better physical health, spiritual progress, emotional happiness, or professional achievement, often the best solutions are found by finding our own pathway—walking our own unique footsteps toward that goal.

Often, it's best not to wait for someone else to do the work for you. Sometimes, you need to take important matters into your own hands.

To your health,

Greg Jeu
Publisher

Letters to the Editor

LESBIAN LESSONS

It surprises me that Suzanne Anderson and others are offended when Dale Carpenter refers to them as "gay women" [September]. Shakespeare said, "What is in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet."

I know many women who are offended by the word "lesbian." During the period of Ellen's "coming-out show," even she expressed her dislike for the word, saying that "it sounds like a disease to me." To me it sounds like an immigrant from some third-world country.

Lesbian just is not a pleasing word to hear. It has a sleazy, pornographic connotation and stands right up there with other hate words like fag, dyke, fairy, lesbo, and queen.

The Gay Rainbow Umbrella is beautiful, big, and all-encompassing, under which all of us can stand together... loud and proud!

—Charles L. Bracewell
Twin Lakes, Colorado

In response to the fury of rhetoric about the use of labels in Dale Carpenter's article. The point is that the society in which we live is racist and sexist. It reaches all of us. We as a minority should realize that sexism is in every facet of daily life. No matter what we choose to call ourselves. We base who we are on what sex we're attracted to. Personally, first I'm a human being, second I'm male, and thirdly I choose to call myself a homosexual. I have always hated disguises. To all the queens, dykes, fruits, lesbians, why must we perpetuate sexism?

—T.G.S.
Houston

I felt compelled to write this letter after reading the one from Suzanne Anderson in the Sept. '97 issue of *OutSmart*.

Suzanne, who are you to speak for all women—gay, lesbian or any other title we choose to identify as? Not a community leader in my eyes! I found your letter offensive, filled with sexism and sounding quite like a separatist. If you are left feeling invisible by use of the phrase "gay women," then I suggest you speak for yourself—not all women suffer from those issues. Words do not render me powerless, take away my identity, or cause me to become invisible. How tragic that would be to feel that insecure with myself.

How are people to know how to refer to each of us in terms of sexual identity? I feel it is my responsibility to let the people in my life know what I prefer. If they don't know, then their innocence in the use of a word or phrase is just that—innocent! Call me anything in a derogatory way and I am offended. If it's not used in an insulting way, then why should I be insulted? Too many

labels are exactly what we work so hard to get away from. Why is it necessary to separate the women and the men in our communities? We have strived so hard for equality and yet cannot seem to find it among ourselves. Until we do, our struggles remain our own.

First, I am a human being who happens to be a woman who happens to be gay. We are all individuals and have every right to identify as we choose (last time I checked anyway). So, Suzanne, you have every right to refer to yourself as a lesbian, but allow the rest of us to think and speak for ourselves. Keep your personal struggles to yourself. Do not assume you have any right to enforce your ideas of self-identity onto me.

—Sara McBride
Houston, Texas

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AFFLICTION

In his article in your October issue, Mr. Dale Carpenter writes that much of the resentment of whites and males—one consequence of Affirmative Action—is overwrought and exaggerated. Many would say it is not. The damage to whites, and to white males in particular, is still unrecognized. When it becomes recognized, it will be grieved, for it is substantial. To those of us who have grown to see the world the way our fathers saw it, and in the way our grandfathers saw it, Affirmative Action, though undeniably well-intentioned, is infinitely naive and stupid.

—Robert Burt
Houston

DUD CATEGORY A DRAG

Ignacio...aka Lindsay Love is a good friend. I think it was very rude to choose a category like that ["Dud Drag Queen," October]. He has definitely done his share of fund-raising for various causes. At least he is still around...look how many entertainers have died from AIDS. I think they would all still be entertaining if they were still alive. I look forward to seeing him soon just to give him a hug.

—Orlin Cullever
via the Internet

CORRECTION

In "The Gayest & the Greatest" feature [October], the third runner-up for Brightest Gay Businessperson, Randy Bell, was incorrectly identified as a Southwestern Bell employee. Mr. Bell is actually with Dimensions Marketing, a niche marketing firm whose clients include Southwestern Bell. *OutSmart* regrets the error.

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National Briefs

QUAYLE SAYS GORE PANDERING TO GAYS

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) - In what may be a preview of presidential election campaigning, former Vice President Dan Quayle accused the man who replaced him of "pandering" to homosexuals.

Quayle was referring to a comment by Vice President Al Gore in a speech to the Hollywood Radio and Television Society last week.

Television can "open hearts and minds," Gore said, citing as an example the episode of *Ellen* in which the title character acknowledged to herself and her friends that she is a lesbian.

"When the character Ellen came out, millions of Americans were forced to look at sexual orientation in a more open light," the vice president said.

In an interview with *The Union Leader* of Manchester, Quayle said, "I think it is wonderful, him pandering to that constituency. Here is the person holding the second highest office in the world talking about a lifestyle such as that in such glowing terms."

Quayle had previously issued a statement criticizing Gore's remark, which was widely compared with his attack on *Murphy Brown* for demeaning the importance of fathers by portraying a single, unmarried career woman giving birth.

Quayle's political action committee, Campaign America, has raised \$1.6 million and he is strongly considering a run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000.

A Gore spokeswoman defended the vice president's remark, saying he simply made "a statement of fact."

Ginny Terzano said critics should read Gore's whole speech, in which he talked about the role of television and its responsibility to society and mixed praise with criticism.

CONGRESS PULLS STRINGS FOR ARMED FORCES

WASHINGTON (AP) - Kenyon College had little to lose when it closed its campus to military recruiters in 1992 to protest Pentagon rules barring homosexuals from the armed forces.

The small, prestigious liberal arts college in Gambier, Ohio, was involved in no Pentagon research projects, so it felt no pinch when Congress voted in 1994 to deny military grants and contracts to colleges that barred recruiters.

Recruiting sergeants are back now, however, at Kenyon and scores of other campuses that

once barred them. Congress quietly raised the ante last year for schools that still kept out the recruiters: they could lose all their federal student aid.

"Eventually, the few remaining schools are going to get the message," Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., instigator of the penalties, said at the time. Solomon, chairman of the House Rules Committee and an ex-Marine, also is the author of a 1982 law that denies student aid to young men who fail to register with the Selective Service System after turning 18, as they are required to do by law.

Kenyon had almost \$250,000 at stake in subsidized loans, grants and work-study funds.

"The impact the cuts would have had on our students was unthinkable," said Donald J. Omahan, Kenyon's dean of students.

Melissa Kravetz, 19, co-president of a Kenyon student group called Allied Sexual Orientations, called it "blackmail" but doesn't fault the college for reversing its stand.

"We had to concede," she said. "There was no other option."

From a high of 138 campuses, only a handful of institutions are left where the Pentagon's recruiters remain persona non grata.

GAY RIGHTS GROUP FORCES CHANGE IN MAINE REFERENDUM

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - Advocates for a new law banning discrimination against homosexuals in Maine say they have filed a court suit to block a referendum vote on the law.

Campaign manager Karen Geraghty for Maine Won't Discriminate said Tuesday her group found at least 15,000 invalid signatures on the petition aimed at forcing the referendum.

The lawsuit filed in Cumberland County Superior Court by three gay-rights advocates asks the court to revoke Maine's secretary of state approval of the referendum.

A court hearing must be held by Nov. 4. The referendum likely would be scheduled between December and next April, if the court challenge fails.

Geraghty said petition signatures were found in duplicate, and names found dated outside of the legal time for gathering them.

Filing the suit against Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky were a Portland school principal, Kathleen Rempel; a Christian ethics professor at Bangor Theological Seminary, Marvin Ellison; and Franklin Brooks of Portland, a licensed clinical

social worker.

Once the referendum petition was submitted Sept. 18 and then validated, the law, approved by the Legislature earlier this year, was stopped from going into force last month.

Those favoring the referendum argue the new gay-rights law provides homosexuals preferential protections.

WINANS TAKE AIM AT GAYS

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (AP) - If Janet Jackson can sing about sex with a woman, Angie and Debbie Winans feel they can sing about homosexuality being a sin.

On their new album *Bold*, the gospel duo has a song called "Not Natural," which takes aim at homosexuality, premarital sex and violence.

Debbie, 26, and Angie, 29—the younger sisters of gospel stars BeBe and CeCe Winans—made the song in response to the *Ellen* coming-out episode on ABC.

"It was a holy anger that came, because if your kids only see that, they're going to mimic that," Angie Winans said Tuesday.

"Janet Jackson is singing about a [sexual relationship with a] young lady on her new project ['Free Xone' on Jackson's *The Velvet Rope* album]," she said. "Why can she say that and we can't say anything?"

Gays have criticized the song, whose album entered the Billboard gospel chart at No. 4 earlier this month.

"It is objectionable when you try to compare the gay lifestyle to violence and murder and general low morality," said Maria Elena-Grant of the Lavender Light Gospel Choir, a gay choir in New York City.

LESBIAN COACH SUES SCHOOL

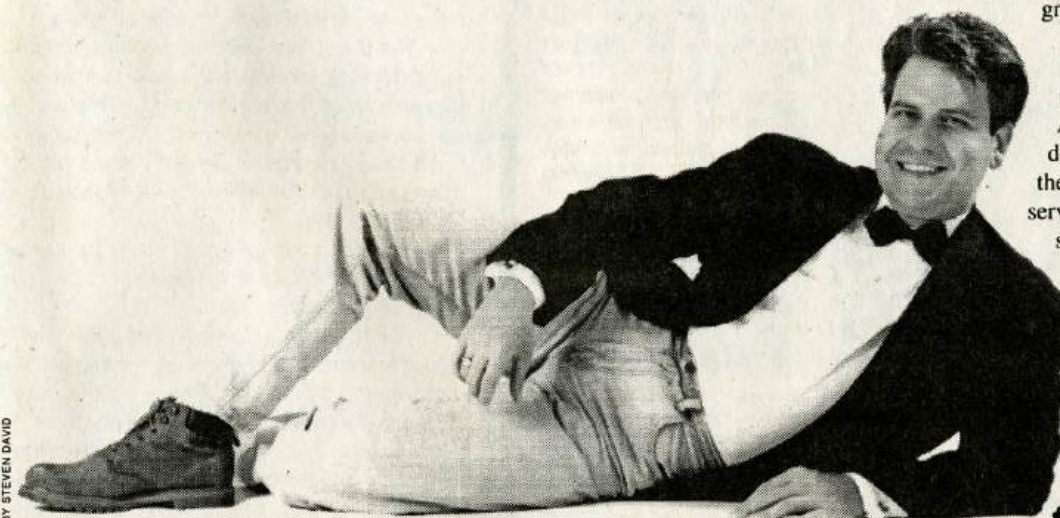
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Gay-rights advocates weren't surprised when high school officials fired Wendy Weaver from her job as volleyball coach after she divorced her husband and moved in with a woman.

But when Weaver received a written order not to discuss her "homosexual lifestyle" with parents, students or staff members at Spanish Fork High School, gay-rights groups and the American Civil Liberties Union got involved.

The ACLU on Tuesday filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on Weaver's behalf against Principal Robert Wadley, Nebo School District and three

Continued on page 12

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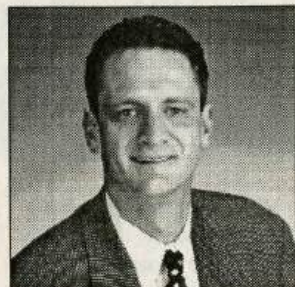
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National Briefs

continued from page 10

of its officers. The suit contends Weaver was illegally fired as coach for being a lesbian and that even though she still has her teaching job, the district's gag order violates her right to freedom of expression.

Gay teachers around the country deal with similar treatment, gay-rights advocates said.

"But the school authorities in Spanish Fork, Utah, had the temerity to put these rules in writing and demand that Wendy sign away her constitutional rights if she wished to keep her job," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network in New York.

Weaver's girl's volleyball teams have won four state championships and she was Utah coach of the year in 1994.

"For 18 years, I've been a good coach and a good teacher. I've never done anything that has infringed on anybody," Weaver, fighting back tears, said with her partner at her side. "Then, all of a sudden, I was not living the lifestyle they wanted me to live or being the role model I had always been."

MAN GETS DEATH IN LESBIAN MURDER

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) - When police arrested Robert Acremant for murdering a lesbian couple in a botched robbery, he asked police if they would help him get the death penalty.

Attorneys for Acremant, 29, said he had changed his mind after six months in prison and was hoping for life in prison. But a unanimous jury sentenced him to die by injection.

The former trucking company efficiency expert looking for money to win back a stripper who had spurned him had pleaded guilty to killing Roxanne Ellis, 53, and Michelle Abdill, 42, in December 1995.

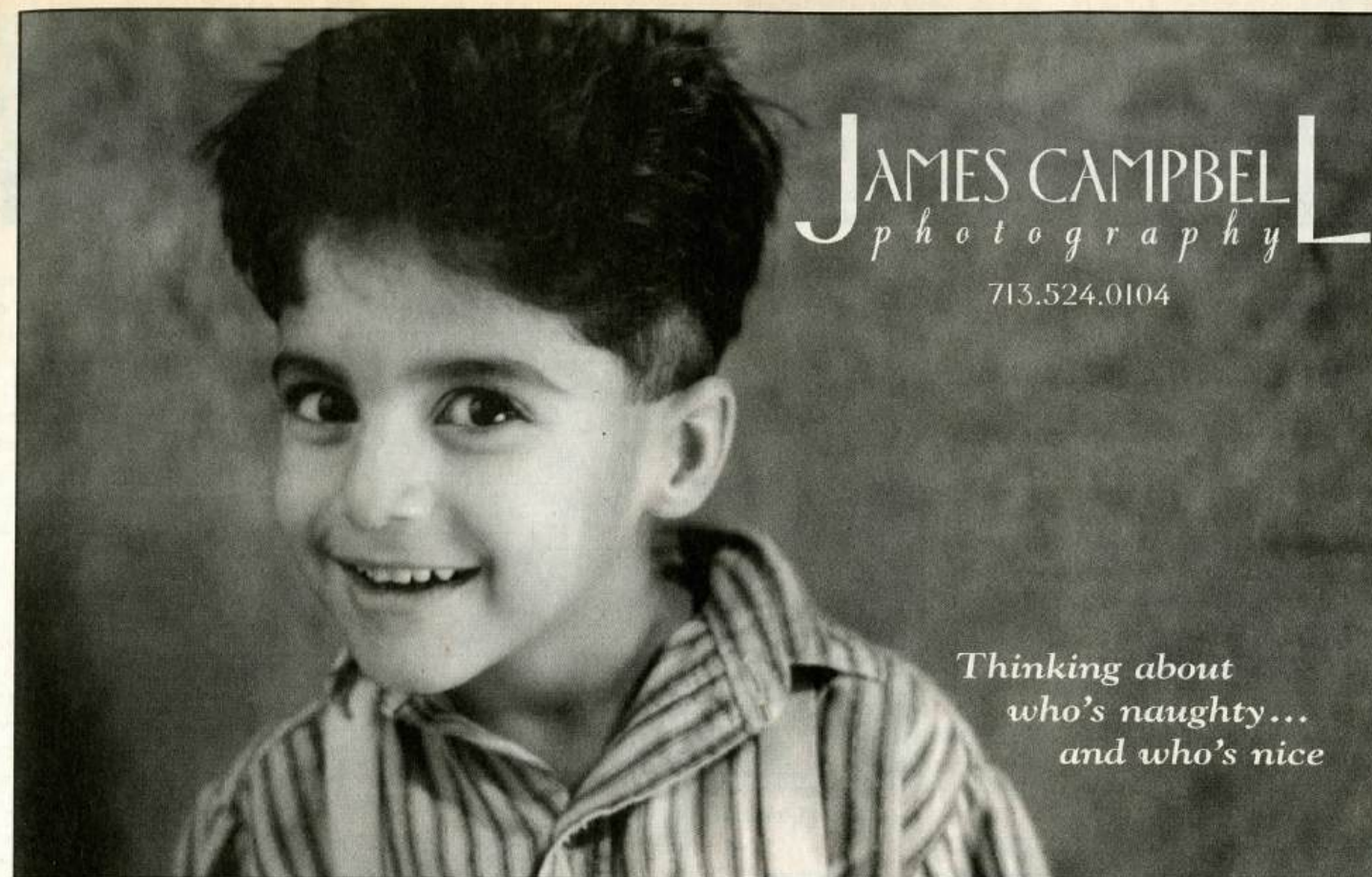
After luring them to an apartment, he tried to force them to write him \$50,000 in checks from their property management business.

When they refused, he bound and gagged them with duct tape and forced them to lie in the back of a pickup truck next to boxes containing a Christmas tree and a present for Ellis' granddaughter. Each was shot.

The gay community of southern Oregon reeled from the deaths, fearing the couple had been targeted because of their efforts to defeat a statewide measure to limit the rights of homosexuals.

Instead, his trial brought out evidence that showed he had become obsessed with winning back the stripper.

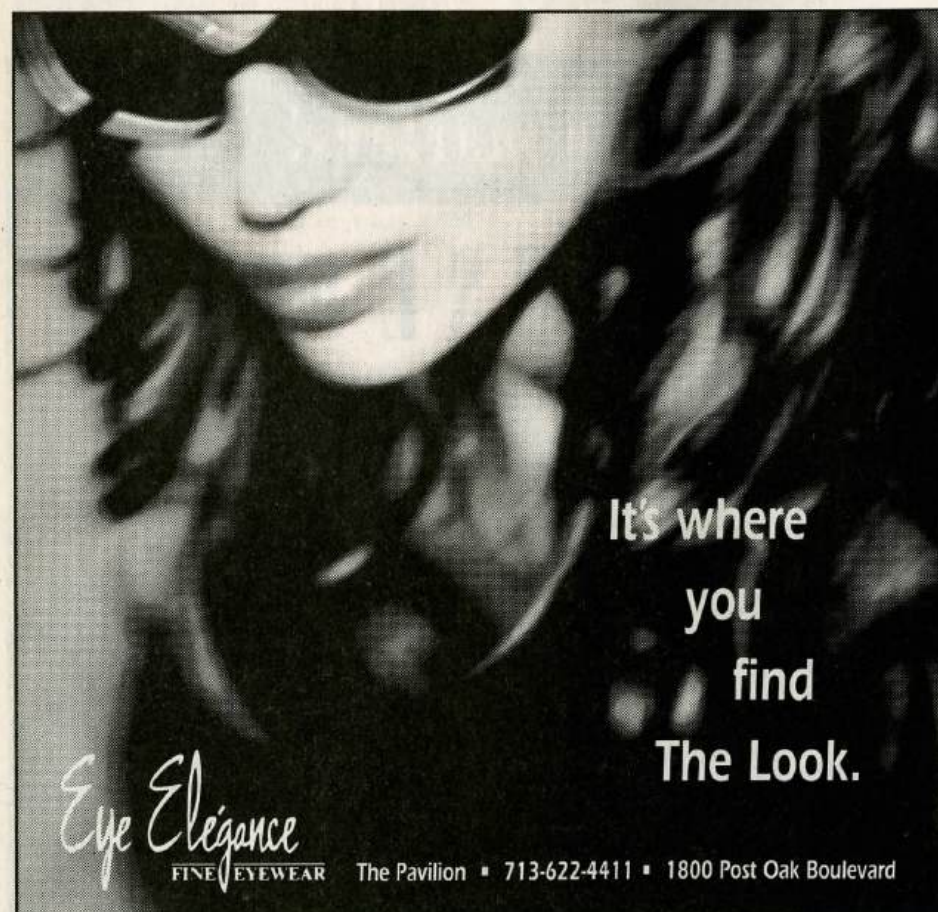
Testimony last year revealed Acremant believed lesbians were easier to rob and wouldn't have families that would miss them.



JAMES CAMPBELL
photography

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Houston Briefs

Mamas, Please Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys

Time to get out your Levi's and your Justins, it's the 14th Annual TGRA Rodeo. From Thursday, November 6, to Sunday, November 9, you can ride tall in the saddle (even if it's just vicariously). Thursday, the Royalty Competition starts at 7:00 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom. Friday, the Renaissance Hotel will host the Kick-Off Dance from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Saturday, competition starts at 9:00 a.m. at the Great SW Equestrian Center, with opening ceremonies at noon. The dance finals are at the Renaissance at 7:00 p.m. that evening. On Sunday, the rodeo starts at 9:00 a.m., with the awards ceremony back at the Renaissance Hotel at 8 in the evening. Call 713/777-1444 for more information.

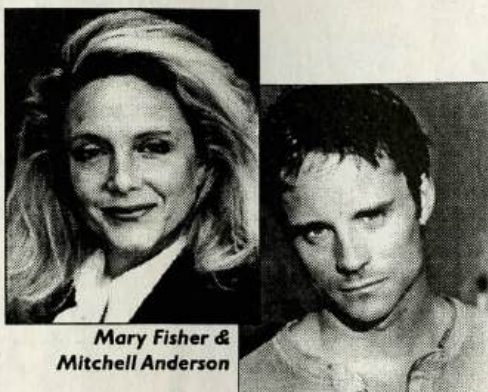
Praising Arizona

Openly gay GOP Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona), one of two openly gay members of the U.S. Congress, will be the featured speaker at the annual Log Cabin Republicans of Houston dinner. "Jim is exactly the kind of Republican we want to see elected," said Ben Whittle, Log Cabin-Houston president. "A conservative on fiscal issues who believes deeply in equality for all, including gay women and men," the Arizona Republican helped lead the fight for NAFTA, the balanced budget amendment, and the line-item veto. The dinner will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, November 14, at the Houston Center Club. Tickets may be purchased for \$50 at Crossroads, Lobo, Basic Brothers, or by calling Log Cabin at 713/529-9100.

She's Grand (Actually 100 Grand)

The Annise Parker Campaign announced that it had raised over \$100,000 since the beginning of the campaign in February, leading all other candidates in council races. "I am very enthusiastic about this race," said Parker, "and especially gratified by the broad base of support that is demonstrated in our report." In fact, Parker's raised more money than all of her opponents combined. Sure, Parker's been endorsed or supported by the Harris County AFL-CIO, HGLPC, Log Cabin, mayoral candidate George Greanias, Eleanor Tinsley, Constable Jack Abercia, and State Reps Garnet Coleman, Debra Danburg,

Sylvester Turner, and Ken Yarborough. What we want is her to be endorsed by her own community. So help her prove we've got a voice and hit the polls to show your support. (The police union and the *Houston Chronicle* have just given her their votes, shouldn't you?) Election day is Tuesday, Nov. 4.



Mary Fisher & Mitchell Anderson

Be My Valentine

While most of us haven't started our holiday shopping, the local steering committee for the Human Rights Campaign is already preparing for Valentine's Day. Once again, HRC will host the annual Winter Gala (formerly known as the Red Tie Ball) on February 14. This year's event promises to be a first-class affair. The keynote speaker speakers are "Party of Five" actor Mitchell Anderson and Mary Fisher, founder of the Family AIDS Network. Fisher's plea for compassion towards people with AIDS touched the nation when she addressed the otherwise-nasty 1992 Republican National Convention at the Astrodome. Event organizers said Fisher made a point to return to Houston for this event. It is the only speaking engagement she has agreed to for 1998. HRC executive director Elizabeth Birch will also be on hand for the evening of romance and dancing. The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest gay political lobby, with over 200,000 members. For more information call Brad Smith at 713/529-9712.

Sparkling Julie and A Great Guy

At the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators' (IALGPC) annual conference, Interpride 1997, two of Houston's own were elected as 1998 officers. Julie Siska was elected co-president (with San Francisco's Teddy

Witherington), while Guy Burns was elected to represent Region Three as regional director. The conference was attended by 73 Pride organizations representing nations from Argentina to Zimbabwe. Houston sent a delegation of 11. Anyone interested in volunteering to help these 11 make Pride Week 1998 a success, call the Pride Line at 713/529-7969, or attend the monthly general meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Multi-Service complex at 1475 West Gray.

Beam Us Up, Rev

Reverend J. Dwayne Johnson has, as part of MCCR's plans "to go where no South Texas church has ever gone before," named Reverend Ralph Lasher as assistant pastor. "We have been searching literally worldwide for several months for the right person to become our assistant pastor. We believe that our own Reverend Ralph Lasher meets all of our qualifications." Lasher will be responsible for developing a home-based ministry at MCCR called Homes Open for Ministry and Encouragement (HOME Groups) which will minister to all segments of the community. MCCR has also launched a campaign called "Share The Miracle" to raise \$100,000 by Christmas Eve to help enable MCCR to obtain new facilities. Participants are being asked to contribute \$3 (that's one decaf non-fat double latté for you cafffiends) a day to make it possible for MCCR to "go where no church in South Texas has ever gone before," which, compared to most churches in South Texas, may not be that far a trip.

Gay Teens Feather AFH's Nest

AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) recently received quite a feather in its cap from the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals when HATCH named AFH the recipient for the John Kellett Award for their work in the area of AIDS/HIV education, care, and prevention. Mike Mizwa, AFH's director of education, stated that "it's an honor to have been chosen to receive the John Kellett Award from HATCH. They do such terrific work, and we are proud to be a part of it." In addition to the education programs at HATCH, AFH currently educates roughly 30,000 men, women, and children throughout Houston and surrounding areas.

continued on page 17

AS SEEN ON HBO

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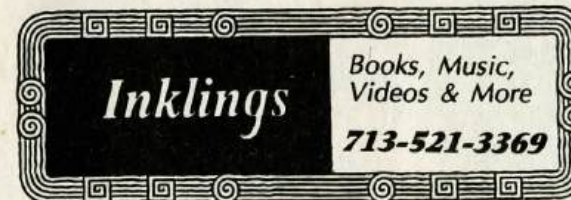


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LOVE

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March 28, 1998, 7pm

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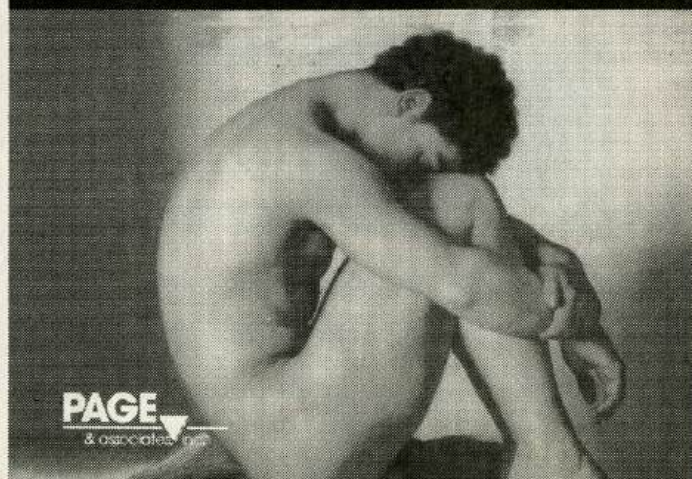
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PAGE

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Briefs continued from page 14

Outrage-ous Fortunes

Outrage is gearing up for another season of lavish parties to benefit local HIV service organizations. Non-profits who would like a piece of the 1998 pie should contact these party boys now. Applications for potential financial beneficiaries will be accepted through February 28. The group is also planning a "rush" party in January to recruit new members. Outrage's "Decadance" Halloween party raised \$15,000 for Steven's House, the Kolbe Project and the Body Positive Wellness Center. Over the last several years, Outrage has donated over \$90,000 to local groups. For more information about Outrage, call at 713/706-2508.

Sorry, Tina, But We Do Need Another Hero

In honor of DIFFA's 10th Anniversary and in an effort to bring the HIV/AIDS community together, 10 organizations will honor "Houston Heroes" who have provided significant financial or other leadership to their group. Some of the honorees include DIFFA/Houston's Ken and Linda Lay and Bob and Jane Cizik, AmFar's Maxine Mesinger, Bering's Carolyn Farb, Body Positive's BCBC and Stephen Stein, and others.



The Houston Symphony's Stephen Stein

The DIFFA event is always one of the year's hippest black-tie happenings. Don't miss it November 13 at the Cullen Theater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$25 to \$250. Call DIFFA/Houston at 713/522-9445 for more information.

Get Activated

The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus encourages members of the community who want to get active to be at the December meeting. Self-nominations will be accepted for the 1998 board. Elections will take place in January. Caucus membership is \$30 for individuals and \$18.50 for students and senior citizens. The group meets Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m. at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett. For more information, call 713/521-1000.

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Empowerful

by Steven Foster

After the bloodshed and the bellyachin', the headaches and the hassles, the much-ballyhooed Empower '97 is over. And despite the scary spectre of Spectrum, the Chamber's expo became a landmark event that succeeded on '90s spin-doctoring and good old-fashioned hard work. Here's the shakedown.

WE'RE BEHIND YA! (REAL, REAL FAR BEHIND YA, BUT WE'RE STILL BEHIND YA, DAMMIT!)

True to form, everyone was 100% behind Empower '97. Likewise, true to form, that regimen fell real far back as time—and co-chairs Debbie Phinney and Anita Renteria—marched bravely onward. To the bitter end, Phinney and Renteria plundered on, despite incredible odds and an ever-dwindling support group. Sure, everybody wound up rallying 'round in the end, but there were some true heroes who gave Empower a much-needed boost every step of the way—Richard (he's anything but basic, brother) Wiederholdt, Marion (House of Cool, man) Coleman, Coy (Travelin' man) Tow, and Judy Tenuta's very own hand-picked lovepig, Dan (oink! oink!) DiDanato.

MIX, NIXED.

The sponsor that promised on-air PSAs, dj mentions, and more, KMIX did *nada*, all the while riding on the benefits of Empower's advertising coattails. So when MIX decided to show up and take their place at their given-for-trade booth, a certain fiery, redheaded stranger rode right on up to them and told them to get outta town. Not since Calamity Jane was a lady so full of gunpowder and well-aimed lead.

STRAIGHT TO HELL.

While the marketing program for Empower had a few mis-steps (Stone Soup's got more beans than Fiesta now), one ad in particular fell under almost Falwellian scrutiny. The event, held on National Coming Out Day and the simultaneous Yom Kippur, featured a comedienne who talks about herself as a goddess, so an ad referencing Judyism seemed pretty damn appropriate. Alas, it gave a few prudes the heebie-jeebies. And, naturally, most of those offended didn't even know the difference between a yarmulke and a menorah. But in an effort to be an equal-opportunity offender, next year's Empower ad campaign will feature Jesus Christ in RuPaul drag. You go, God!

SHAW 'NUFF.

And here's another reason gay men had better start being nicer to their sexually similar siblings—the ladies know a good joke when they see one. Opening act and best-kept secret Vicki Shaw was an out-and-out howl in her stint, outshining all comedy acts who were unfortunate enough to follow her. Insider-gay, yet straight-friendly, Shaw should be bucking national fame or there is no god. (I mean, if they can give Tom Arnold a show, what the hell?) Don't know where this Beaumont native (see? the town was good for something!) plays next in town, but run to see her. She's hysterical.

THE WORLD ACCORDION TO JUDY.

Well, those who thought Tenuta was a controversial choice were sure not disappointed. Funny thing is, she was pretty damn hysterical anyway. Savvy, straight business-woman Jacqueline Ingersoll leaped her tiny, dynamic frame third row and giggled like a schoolgirl at even the most objectionable jokes—and she wasn't alone. Though the set went on way too long (perhaps too many pre-show shots were slammed?), and comedy bits careened from inspired (her opening Roseanne impersonation was dead-on) to degenerate (buttshots), she was a huge hit. Her nutty persona was delightfully self-indulgent, and her audience duly appreciative—though more than a few women at the event thought the lesbian humor wasn't as gay-friendly as the humor aimed at the guys, which was a fair point.

WHAT, NO BLIND PARAPLEGIC TRANSSEXUALS FOR JESUS?

So there are all these gay people running around on the lower level. On the second level, there's the African-American business people. Level three held Hispanic men and women dressed up like they were at the senior prom. Seems that October 11 was

George R. Brown's minority day, which made for some wonderful people-watching. A black couple escorting their walker-assisted mother through the gay expo was a hysterical exercise—anybody who says people with walkers can't move fast is a big fat liar! And, knowing a good thing when they see it, some of the Hispanic attendees tried to storm in and grab a seat at the Tenuta show, leaving their Selena-clone girlfriends to wander the halls alone.



DON'T LIKE COPS? WELL, YOU DON'T KNOW JACK!

Blue angel Jack Abercia not only provided top-notch security for the event, but, in the end, wound up donating all the constables who worked Empower. As usual, the officers were nice, friendly, professional, polite and, well, frankly, they looked damn dapper in their uniforms. Thanks, guys.

THE SECRET OF THEIR SUCCESS.

And, lest anyone forget, Empower '97 was to benefit AFH's Stone Soup Pantry. Did it? Yes, thank you very much. To the tune of over 1,500 pounds of donated food items and about \$400 in donations.

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—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

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We're not just about HIV. We're about being gay in Houston today—from workshops that deal with real-life issues to up-to-date outreach and cutting-edge education . . . Project CAESAR is your source for the information you need.

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Real Life: Dating & relationships, '90s style.

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We bring you the world. Okay, we give you condoms. But we give you so many condoms, most of you don't know what to do with them all. We also bring you the most up-to-date information, stats and education—we're more than just the "Condom Guys." We've gotcha covered.

The Legion

Our volunteer force of dedicated gay and lesbian Houstonians. From bars to bathhouses, clubs & more—wherever there is a glimmer of gayness, we'll be there. Come join The Legion, and make a difference in your community. You get a cool shirt, and hey, you meet a lot of interesting people. The Legion—we're everywhere you want to be.

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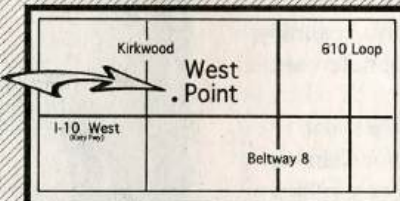
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OutRight

continued from page 20

sexuality since the first cavewoman bashed the first caveman over the head with a coconut for acting like a Neanderthal.

What's new about Promise Keepers is the group's desire to appear tender and sensitive in going about the business of subjugating others. They ask God's forgiveness for their "transgressions," including wife-beating and adultery. They seek "atonement" for their racism, which they've just learned exists in our society, much as the Southern Baptists recently got around to apologizing for their support of slavery in the 19th century. They pledge to go back to their homes and be compassionate and courteous for a change. I even heard one of them say that gay men are welcome at their rallies, since "we don't ask about that sort of thing." Don't ask, don't tell. It's fundamentalism with a kindly face.

Then there's their method of going about all this atoning and pledging and forgiving. They gather in circles of five or six or more, hold hands, speak softly, sob, hug, and kiss one another. It's the damndest sight. They tell each other how valuable and important they are, how much they love each other no matter what they've done, how they need reconciliation, how they must get in touch with their innermost feelings, how they must acknowledge their deep pain and hurt and "woundedness." It's Jerry Falwell meets "I'm OK, You're OK."

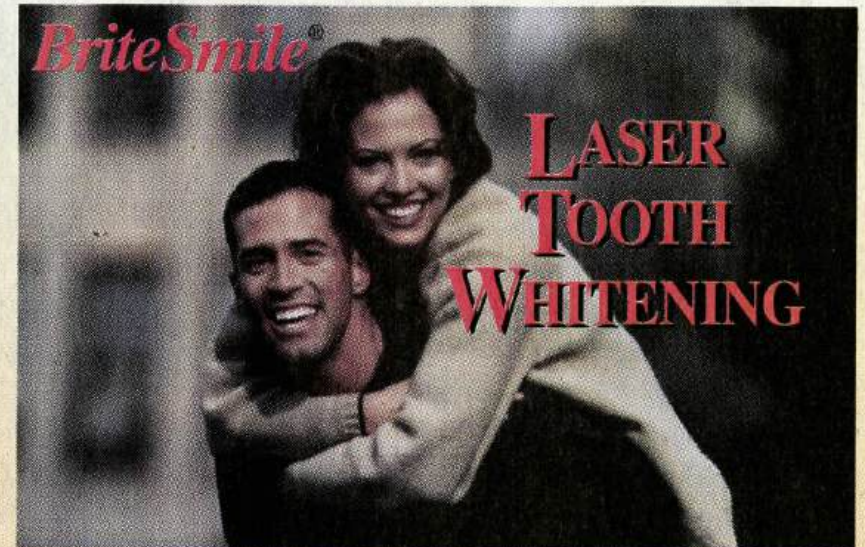
Desperate for something good to say about the religious right so they can appear "balanced," the media have been falling all over themselves to praise these teary-eyed throwbacks. Even usually liberal commentators, perhaps eager to show that they have morals too, have applauded Promise Keepers for professing a desire to improve their families.

Personally, I prefer my fundamentalists snarling and vindictive, like the Family Research Council's Gary Bauer, our own Phil Arms, and San Antonio's John Hagee. These guys think you're going to Hell and they'll tell you so to your face. I like religious fanaticism straight up: no mixer, no chaser, no ice, not even a swizzle stick. I

fancy evangelicals who wear their theocratic fascism on their sleeves, the ones who smile with quiet satisfaction when you call them hateful. They would never, ever be seen crying publicly about their own "woundedness." And they wouldn't even think of weeping about the pain of others. There's a twisted consistency to their ideology and their public image that I can perversely respect. Those people I understand.

These new whimpering crypto-fundamentalists, on the other hand, just confuse the neat line between the modern age and the evangelicals. Give me that old time religion, not these Promise Weepers.

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.



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"Right now, I feel great. If I get sick, then I'll start taking the medicine."

If this is what you believe, then here's something new to consider.

You feel fine and take good care of yourself. That's why you might think it makes sense to start therapy only after you're sick—when you'll need it the most.

Not anymore. We now know that even if you look good and feel healthy, the virus is fighting every day against your immune system—a fight it may someday win.

VIRACEPT is a powerful new protease inhibitor now available for the treatment of HIV infection when anti-HIV drug therapy is warranted. VIRACEPT is generally well-tolerated, is taken three times a day with your normal meals or light snacks, and requires no special dietary restrictions.

Most importantly, VIRACEPT is effective. In many people, VIRACEPT lowered the amount of HIV in the blood to levels below the limit of detection of the test used, and substantially increased CD4 cell counts after 24 weeks of triple combination therapy. And in laboratory studies, HIV obtained from five patients that became resistant to VIRACEPT was not resistant to other protease inhibitors. (The clinical significance of laboratory studies of

protease inhibitor resistance and changes in viral RNA levels in blood has not been established for VIRACEPT. The virus may still be present in other organ systems.)

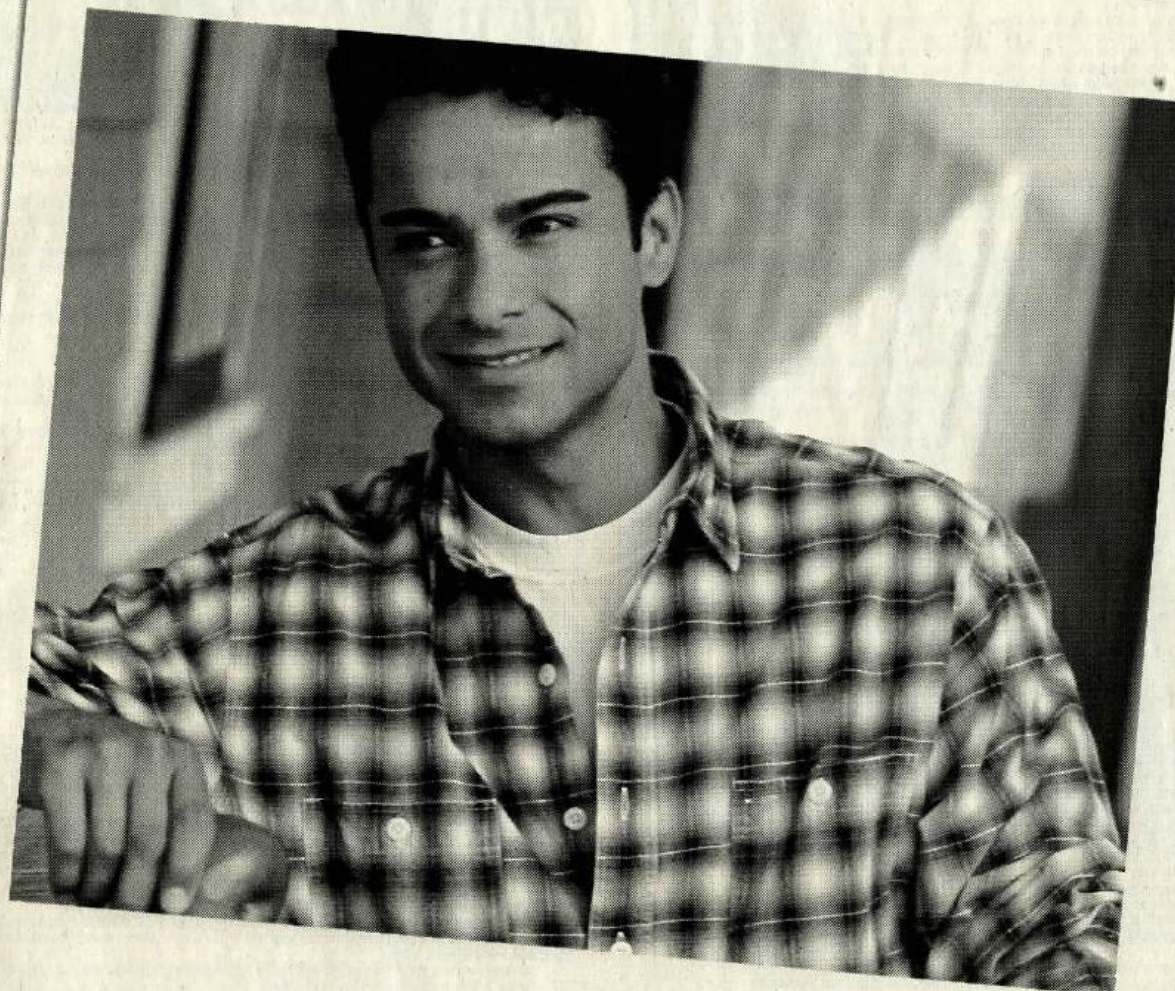
People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications that you are taking.

We still can't make any long-term promises, since it is not yet known whether taking VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that can occur with HIV. But we can tell you that yesterday's HIV beliefs are quickly becoming today's myths.

Talk to your doctor about VIRACEPT, and begin to consider something new. Or for more details, call toll free **1-888-VIRACEPT** or visit **www.agouron.com**.

VIRACEPT
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Refer to the important information on the next page.



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VIRACEPT

nelfinavir mesylate

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Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Zidovudine (ZDV), Zalcitabine (ddC), or Zalcitabine (ddC). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismantol® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute® Cardioquin® Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafegot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.

Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)
- These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

- Viramune® (nevirapine)
- The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir® (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Inivase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do not have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight		Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons*	Number of Tablets
Kg	Lb			
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

* 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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Issued 10/7/97

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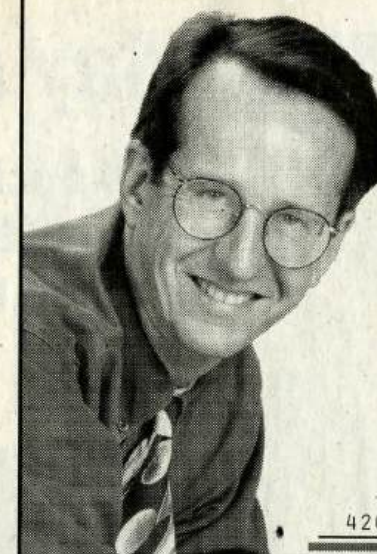
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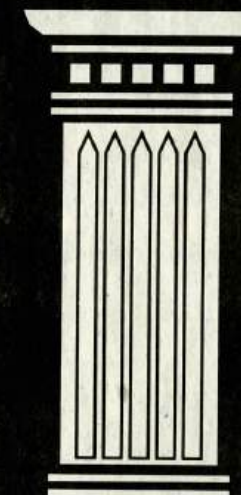


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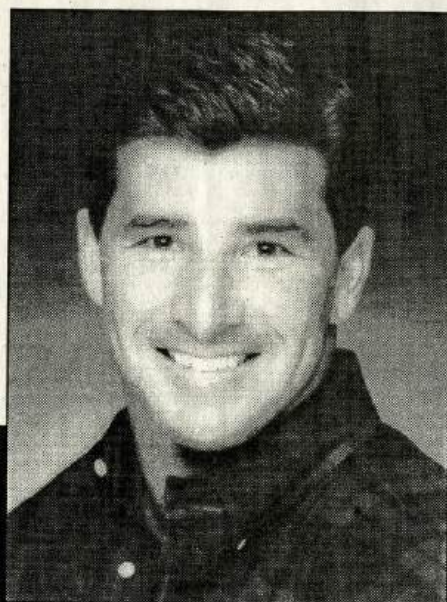
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OutLeft
continued from page 20

about political points. He's worried about the next election and whether he can shore up his so-called conservative support by grabbing headlines under the guise of moral and fiscal responsibility.

Surely, Mr. Todd would have to acquiesce if the City spends \$15,000 on condoms, it might prevent at least one case of HIV transmission. That would save Houston taxpayers \$85,000. If it prevented two cases, that would save them \$185,000. And so on.

There's nothing responsible about Mr. Todd's behavior. So, while we're out promoting safer sex, we ought to be promoting safer government. And that would be a city council full of individuals who understand that it's more fiscally and morally responsible to spend a few pennies to prevent someone from getting HIV, than it is to spend a \$100,000 treating them after they get it.

But people like Mr. Todd either know this and ignore it for political gain. Or they just don't know it. Either way, we deserve better.

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Kevin Spacey I

(Esquire, 10/97, Tom Junod)

[From an article about Kevin Spacey written by journalist Tom Junod, in which Junod basically outed Spacey:]

"I mean, my mother knows. Or thinks she knows. Or supposes. Or suspects. I told her I was writing a story on Kevin Spacey, and she said, 'Well, I hear he's gay.'"

"I say, 'Kevin, my mother thinks...' and he puts his forearms on the table and pushes his face close to mine and says, 'More power to you, Mom.' Then he says, 'Look, I don't see anything wrong with it. I don't see anything wrong with sexuality. And so I'll put it to you this way. I live in a world in which I work with many different people all day long. They're my friends, and I love them. And many of those are gay or homosexual. And I can't imagine feeling the need to jump up and say, 'I'm not one of them.' If anyone wants to think that, they're absolutely free to think that. I have no interest in confirming or denying that at all. It's just of no interest to me. So what? So... what.'"

Kevin Spacey II

(The Advocate, 10/28/97, Anne Stockwell)

[See Kevin Spacey I]

"In the gay press the practice of outing—revealing without permission that someone is gay—is strictly taboo. But when writer Tom Junod interviewed actor Kevin Spacey for Esquire, no one thought to place gay topics off limits. . . . The article never says Spacey is homosexual, but the actor's Hollywood reps treated it as a full-blown outing. . . . Speaking to The Advocate, Junod insists he meant no harm. . . ."

Anne Stockwell [of The Advocate]: Your editor in chief [at Esquire] says the actor's reps are "really out of line for saying that Spacey was blindsided."

Tom Junod: They are. . . . There's a quote I didn't use, when he says, "I always laugh when publicists jump out of their bag when something is said about someone." That whole conversation was in the context of gay rumors. . . . [W]hen I went out [to Los Angeles], I did not expect to out Kevin, because I thought he was out. 'Cause I had heard so many people say, "You know he's gay"—as the first or second thing that they said. Then I go out there, and suddenly it's a completely different thing.

Did anybody tell you, "Don't write that he's gay?"

No.



Kevin Spacey: You can call him "out" . . . well, maybe, maybe not.

Kevin Spacey III

(Us, 11/97, Ann Powers)

Ann Powers: Speaking of men, is there anyone in Hollywood who you think is really cute?

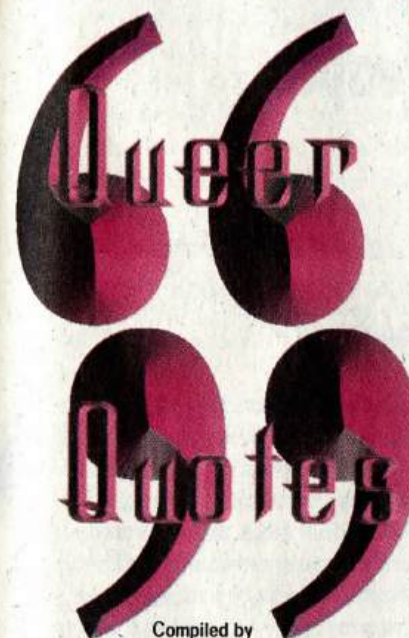
Courtney Love: I have a huge crush on Kevin Spacey. I'd chase Kevin Spacey around a room. I can't stay away from him. I just want to sit on his lap.

Janet Jackson

(Entertainment Weekly, 10/10/97, Joe Rhodes)

"... [T]he listeners most likely to be upset by [Jackson's new The Velvet Rope] album will doubtless worry less about its degree of explicitness than the kind of sex Jackson is exploring. In 'Free Xone,' for instance, Jackson translates the usual boy-meets-girl scenario as 'Girl meets boy/Girl loses boy/Girl gets cute girl back,' summing it up with the phrase 'Free to be/Who you really are.' Then there's her cover of Rod Stewart's loss-of-virginity epic, 'Tonight's the Night'—never have the lyrics 'Cause I love you girl/Ain't nobody gonna stop us now' seemed so brazen. . . . In the end, the most daring thing about The Velvet Rope isn't its sex talk but its honesty. . . . That's because the most revealing moments here have to do with loneliness and vulnerability, not sexual preference."

Janet Jackson's The Velvet Rope: She knows how to tie one on.



Compiled by
Blaise DiStefano

Andy Dick

(TV Guide, 10/11/97, Joe Rhodes)

"... [M]any people who don't know him automatically assume he's gay. 'Oh, I know that,' he says. 'I act gay, I look gay, I move gay. There are times when I'm playing Matthew [the character on NewsRadio] that I know I'm doing my mom. For years, my friends would tell me, 'Look, you've got to talk this way and walk this way and don't make so many movements with your hands when you talk.' Finally, I just said, 'The hell with it. I'm not gonna try to cover up just to please other people.'"

"And really, they're not that far off," continues Dick. 'I mean, I have been with men. I like sex. I like beautiful people, men and women. And I'm not ashamed of it. Besides, a lot of women love that because they like to see a man in touch with his feminine side, and that's like having the ultimate feminine side—to be able to be with men and not be embarrassed about it.'"

(E! Online, 10/4/97)

"Discerning Brady Bunch viewers have long recognized that all was not as innocent as it appeared in the sunny sitcom. It was, after all, the swingin' '70s—and the Bradys swung. Mike pawed Carol. Alice coveted Sam the butcher's loins. Greg dated around, but always seemed to like Marcia best. But not even the most revisionist fan could have imagined this coupling: Marcia and . . . Jan?!?! Actress Maureen McCormick, she of Marcia fame, sent the jaws of Brady faithful dropping to the shag rug with a series of coy, lipstick-smudged remarks about co-star Eve Plumb, she of Jan fame, on a [recent] broadcast of the late-night talk show Vibe. McCormick, now 41, and star of the new ABC sitcom Teen Angel, admitted to having a crush on her TV sibling, adding that the two were 'close.' When host Chris Spencer pressed McCormick—asking if she

meant they were sister-like close or—you know—close close—the former teen queen teased: 'We had really good times together.' (Sort of puts a new spin on Jan's exasperated rant of yore—'Marcia! Marcia! Marcia!') But wait, there's more: Spencer asked McCormick if the two had ever kissed. The erstwhile Marcia paused, and then allowed: 'Yeah, we've kissed.' Before we rock your world further, let it be noted that McCormick's publicist swears the kiss was a 'kiss on the cheek.' The actress also reportedly pointed to her cheek (the facial kind) when explaining the smooch on Vibe. . . ."

Andy Dick: You can call him "someone in touch with his feminine side."



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Queer Science

Taking A Look At The Beautiful People

by Simon LeVay

Some early studies indicated that, contrary to our intuition, beautiful faces are those whose features are closest to average.

Looksism. That's the ugly word that describes an obsession with beauty—with who has it, and who doesn't. Gay men, we hear all the time, are the most looksist people on the planet.

Beauty, especially of physical appearance, is something society is very ambivalent about. Partly because it's something that unleashes primitive urges that threaten to disrupt the social order. And partly because beauty is unfair—some people seem to have been born with more of it than others. So a kind of denial has built up. In the solemn hours after Princess Diana died, for example, most people chose to speak of her good works, or at most of her "glamour"—qualities that can be chosen, learned, or applied skillfully like make-up. Diana, you'd think, was a Mother Teresa who remembered to use Oil of Olay.

We do beauty an injustice, I think, when we say that it can be learned, or that it's in the eye of the beholder. Of course, no two people will agree exactly on who is "the fairest of them all." Yet when beauty is hauled into the laboratory and put under the microscope, it turns out that there is something universal about it.

Some early studies indicated that, contrary to our intuition, beautiful faces are those whose features are closest to average. Indeed, computer-generated images of faces, made by averaging the facial features of many real people of the same sex, are judged to be more beautiful than any

real individual face. But a British-Japanese study, published in 1994, reported that it's possible to produce even more beautiful faces, simply by computer-averaging a subset of individual faces that are rated more beautiful than the remainder. This suggests that closeness to average is not the only criterion of beauty, but that a minority of people have facial characteristics that depart from average and are especially attractive.

As a further test, the researchers attempted to make faces that would be rated more beautiful still, by telling the computer to measure and then exaggerate the features which distinguished the "average of the beautiful faces" from the "average of all faces." Indeed, the resulting face was rated as even more attractive than the earlier versions.

What features did the computer exaggerate to make the ultra-beautiful face? In the case of women's faces, the computer reduced the size of the lower part of the face, bringing the mouth closer to the nose and the chin closer to the mouth. It also gave the face higher cheekbones, a thinner jaw and larger eyes. Interestingly, the computer made almost the same changes, whether Britons were judging British faces, Japanese were judging Japanese faces, or Britons were judging Japanese faces, and regardless of whether it was men or women doing the rating. Thus there seem to be rather constant attributes of faces that people consider beautiful, at least across the racial and cultural divide between Britain and Japan.

Why is this particular set of facial features perceived as beautiful? One hypothesis that's been put forward is that these features are "child-like," and that they are perceived as beautiful because they unconsciously elicit the same positive feelings that children elicit in adults, especially in parents. A kind of mimicry, if you like.

Why then, in the evolutionary struggle to reproduce, don't all women develop these attractive features? The researchers speculate that these features, when taken to an extreme, bring countervailing handicaps, such as less efficient chewing or breathing. Thus real women's faces may express a variety of compromises in an evolutionary tug-of-war. Of course, in these days of preprocessed food, women don't have to have such strong jaws as their ancestors, so perhaps with time the "average" woman's face will drift toward the more beautiful end of the spectrum.

Since time immemorial, gay men have been castigated for their "shallow" obsession with physical beauty. That's one message of Plato's Symposium, for example. And Christianity made things worse, by promoting the concealment or degradation of the body in favor of an ideal of moral beauty. Until a gay guy called Michelangelo gave the Sistine Chapel a makeover.

For my part, I think we should acknowledge physical beauty as something that Nature hands out with unequal bounty, and that commands our obedience. My favorite photo of Diana is the one at a reception with Henry Kissinger, where the ex-Secretary of State is staring at her bosom like a rabbit mesmerized by a cobra. "For in the end," as a gay poet once wrote, "the wise must bow down to the fair."



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 biomedical thriller *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997).

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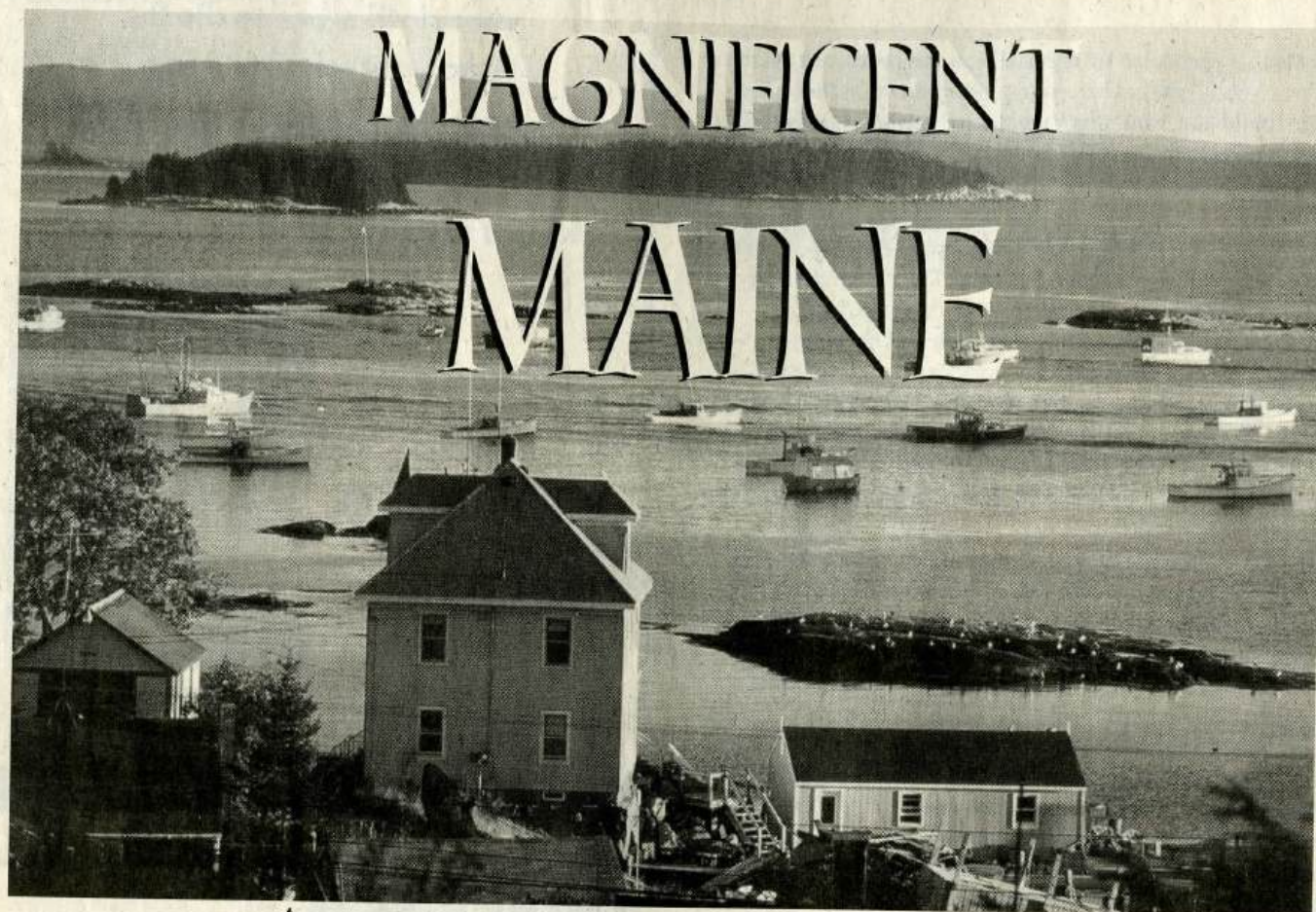
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STEP 1

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A vacation for catching your breath, and having it taken away.

by Sandra Wilkins

Until a couple of months ago, wearing "Old Maine Trotters" during rush week at UT was the closest I'd ever come to that extraordinary state. Now, thanks to the generous sharing of a house in Boothbay Harbor, I truly know what it's like to "summer in Maine."

Maine is not an easy place to get to. Maybe that's why many of us from below the Mason-Dixon Line know little about it. There are no non-stops into Portland, nor Bangor, the two closest cities to begin any exploration of the coast or inland forests and national parks. However, a decent change of planes in Newark or Boston will get you to Maine in roughly six hours. This of course will not lend itself to a brief weekend getaway. Indeed, you'll want to allow at least a week to explore all of the wonders of this beautiful part of New England.

My partner and I flew into Portland, rented a car and began the circuitous journey toward Boothbay Harbor, the largest boating harbor north of Boston. Boothbay Harbor was discovered by English fisher-

men in the 17th century, and fishing, ice cutting and ship-building were the local industries until the 19th century, when visitors started coming to the area. Our friends have rented "Gifford House" for the entire month of September for 14 years. It's located about four miles from town center on Southport Island. This was an incredible treat: a refurbished former home of a sea captain. It has a large, cozy sitting room with fireplace, huge kitchen, and four bedrooms upstairs that would sleep 10 guests.

Each morning, after carefully navigating the narrow stairs down to the kitchen for coffee, one would stroll out onto the large front porch, have a seat, and watch the fog rise over the horizon, revealing hundreds of lobster traps 50 feet from the front door. Walk out toward the water, look to your right and see "The Cuckolds," one of Maine's 64 operational lighthouses. In 1789 the ninth law enacted by the First Congress (signed by President George Washington) was to establish Light-house Service in America. For over 200 years New



by Sandra Wilkins

England's lighthouses have been symbols of strength, safety and security to seamen.

Situated in the extreme northeastern corner of the U.S., Maine is bordered by the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick to the north, New Hampshire to the west, and the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast and south. Though a small state compared to Texas, Maine constitutes over half of what we know as "New England." The only national park in New England, The Acadia National Park, is located at Bar Harbor. Almost 90 percent of the state is covered with forests. Maine boasts 5,000 rivers and streams, with 2,500 lakes and ponds. As if these weren't enough natural wonders, the northernmost part of the Appalachian Mountains, known as "Longfellow Mountains," hugs the western border of the state. The rocky coastline provides few beaches, and the water is so cold year-round that hardly anyone swims in the Atlantic. But it does produce the most favorable conditions for bountiful and famous Maine lobsters.

So, just what did four gay women (and one straight sister) do for their week in Maine? Remember the scene in *Forest Gump* where Bubba is doing the shrimp soliloquy? "Shrimp is the food of the sea. You can bar-b-que it, boil it, broil it, bake it, sauté it." Well if you think lobster instead of shrimp, you'll have the picture. It's true that Maine lobsters are cheaper than pork chops, so we literally ate this up, taking advantage of our large, well-equipped kitchen. Renting a house to vacation in is such a wonderful experience, whether it's in Maine, or Sedona or Italy. It's cost effective too, since you can have as many meals at home as you desire. Our house rented for \$9,000 per month, and you had to take it for a full month. This fee produces serious sticker shock at first glance, but consider the house sleeps 10, and that works out at \$30 per night, per person. Our friends routinely rotate guests in and out all month for one- or two-week visits.

We did manage to get out of our home away from home on a number of occasions and enjoyed some fantastic meals in the picturesque town of Boothbay. Shopping was another source of great pleasure, with outstanding galleries and shops, not only in Boothbay, but nearby towns as well. One great treat was the famous L.L. Bean outlet shop in Freeport, 45 miles north of Boothbay.

Outdoor adventures are plentiful in this remarkable state. We looked in the local phone book, found a husband and wife team who owned a beautiful 45-foot sailboat, and spent one afternoon sailing. It was a lazy Monday, and as we watched the Boothbay coastline quietly slide by, there was just enough breeze to fill the windjammer's sails. We were lulled by the constant slap of water against the bow as we made our way through a virtual sea of lobster buoys, painted in all combinations and permutations of colors, to identify which traps belonged to which boats. Our captains, Larry and Susan, were natives of Maine and knew the lore and history of every nook and cranny we explored that memorable afternoon.

It seems that the natural beauty and solitude of rural Maine have attracted many creative souls to call it home. One of America's most prominent artists, Andrew Wyeth, painted many

continued on page 67

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Q Tips

Hip tips for queers. Listen up

by Steven Foster

Speed Queens While it may seem like an extravagance, by the time you add detergent, Downy, the bleach and the Bounce and enough quarters to make you a master at Mortal Kombat, you might come off cheaper airing your dirty laundry at **GRAUSTARK CLEANERS**. Drop it off before your a.m. gym session, and it's washed, dried, fabulously folded and spectacularly separated for you by the time you're ready for happy hour—for just 59¢ a pound. 4506 Graustark (off Richmond). 713/529-9028.

Kiss and Makeup Wanna help your drag queen friend one-up the competition? Just wanna pretty yourself up? Grab

Kevyn Aucoin's **MAKING FACES** (160 pages). Little, Brown. \$29.95). With its beautifully illustrated how-to's, *Faces* is a really functional coffee-table book. But for true beauty devotees, the book's a sensual, startling, visual feast. Aucoin's put Hollywood's heartbreaking beauties through some freaky '40s fantasy machine, casting each as a contemporary vision of a nostalgic cinematic archetype. There's Gwyneth Paltrow as a new wave Monica Vitti strung out on heroin love chic. Drew Barrymore (whose blood pedigree makes the image even more poignant) claws her way over a velvet movie theatre seat, cast as Myrna Loy by way of *The Bride of Frankenstein*. And if you can see Andie MacDowell through the Mata Hari/Suzy Wong getup, or Courtney Love as Jean Harlow, you're a decoding genius. Since Aucoin's "family", there's even a few drag queens dolled up to equally gorgeous visage. And just about every lustrous color plate is shot by some great gay shooter (from Herb Ritts to Eric Sakas). Think beauty's only skin deep? Maybe, and if so, this book's beautiful to about a thousand fathoms. Available at Crossroads, Bookstop, Barnes, and beyond.

Breaking the News If you've been scanning the tube, you might have stumbled upon a freakishly evil, insult-everybody-

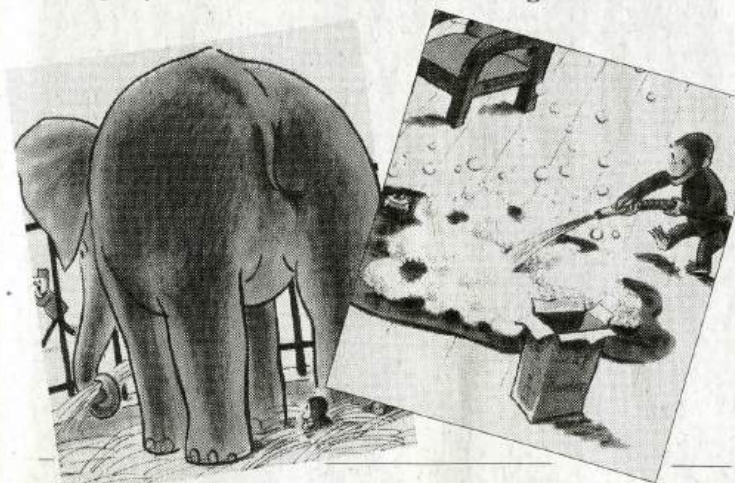
making faces

KEVYN AUCOIN



but-do-it-well little news program. No, you weren't stoned, it was Craig Kilborne's delightfully wicked **THE DAILY SHOW**. It's like a mean-spirited news show (think *Spy* magazine and *Saturday Night Live* before both started sucking), complete with absolutely wacked news teams covering unbelievably stupid stories with such a straight face they make Bryant Gumbel seem as giddy as a *Today*-show Urkel. *The Daily* (as the hipsters call it) features some of the best comedic writing on television, and their sublimely Satanic wit is heavenly apparent in the celebrity hotseat segment "5 Questions." Watch pitching stars sweat bullets trying to come up with answers to such subjects as geography (Where's the Liberty Bell?), recipes (What's in a mai tai?), personal info (to he-sure-looks-gay himbo Joey Lawrence: Who's more inspirational—Leif Garrett or David Cassidy?), even personal prejudice (to celebrated new age celibate John Tesh: Who'd you wanna punch—Zamfir or Yanni?). It's riotous, evil fun, and there's always something gay being skewered, most often deservedly so. Don't miss it. Comedy Central, check local listings.

Queer Product Predictions Gay Billy? Yeah, yeah, so what. He's yesterday's news. *OutSmart*'s gift pick this holiday season? **BI-CURIOUS GEORGE**. Yep, that inquisitive little simian scamp finally questions his own sexuality (he *was* created by the French, you know). Check out his Bi-Curious George: Monkeying Around calendar. See Georgie-girl contemplating copulating with an elephant at the zoo! Go at it with a goat! Make his own foam party! And more! He's the ultimate swinger.



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Body Positive's Nelson Vergel and Anthony Bianchi. Photo by Kyle Young.



THE NEW BODY POSITIVE WELLNESS CENTER

BY KYLE YOUNG

At the age of 26, Nelson Vergel was diagnosed with HIV. He didn't expect to see his 30th birthday. That was 13 years ago. Today, the muscular Houstonian has become the international posterboy for the use of anabolic steroids and growth hormone in the prevention of wasting, one of the top killers of people with AIDS. By increasing muscle mass, Vergel says PWAs will be better prepared to endure the harsh effects of wasting associated with many opportunistic infections.

"With most opportunistic infections like PCP, you lose easily 30 pounds in one to two months," says Vergel. "That's an average. So let's say I'm at a normal weight of 160. Thirty pounds would put me in a critical situation where I could die. What I'm doing is trying to build up reserve in case I need it."

In 1994, Vergel quit his job as a chemical engineer to direct his energies toward preaching the steroid gospel. To

date he has lead over 77 workshops around the country. At the beginning of his pilgrimage, recreational steroid use was getting negative press. The medical field was fearful to prescribe the stigmatized hormonal intervention.

"Doctors and clinicians and people in the care-giving field were not really addressing wasting syndrome at all. The cop-out was, 'You have AIDS and you're going to die in bones,'" says Vergel. "I had a lover who lost 100 pounds and died. Four years ago I said that's bullshit. Wasting is another opportunistic illness like any other, like PCP, like CMV, like all the other ones that hit people with AIDS, but nothing was being done—no treatments, no FDA-approved drugs for it—nothing."

Dr. Patricia Salvato was one of a handful of physicians who took interest in the material that Vergel was compiling.

"He taught me a lot," recalls Dr. Salvato. "Nelson was persistent about

using the anabolic steroids and testosterone. As doctors, we kind of shy away from that—'Oh, that's a controlled substance, and we shouldn't use steroids'—but he kept giving me good data that looked like it was sound and we started using it. I was delighted with my patient's response. What I worried about was side effects; in fact I don't see any of the liver toxicity and things that you might think we would see. Most people feel so much better and gain so much lean muscle mass, they just feel great."

As Vergel brought his traveling soapbox to cities across the U.S., more and more doctors started to endorse the use of steroids with HIV-positive patients. Today over 148 physicians around the country espouse his "Program for Wellness Restoration," better known at "PoWeR." Through the use of weight training, a protein-heavy diet, nutritional supplements and anabolic steroids, Vergel's program has assisted over 4,000

patients in increasing lean body mass and staying healthy.

Very few HIV patients, however, have the financial resources for expensive gym memberships, personal trainers, nutritional supplements and anabolic steroids. The program is out of reach for most people who would benefit from it. Vergel wants to change that.

"This is really a great program," explains Vergel, "but it's kind of an elitist program for white middle-class gay men or people like me that are professionals on disability. We need a facility where all these services can be provided for those who have no money or insurance."

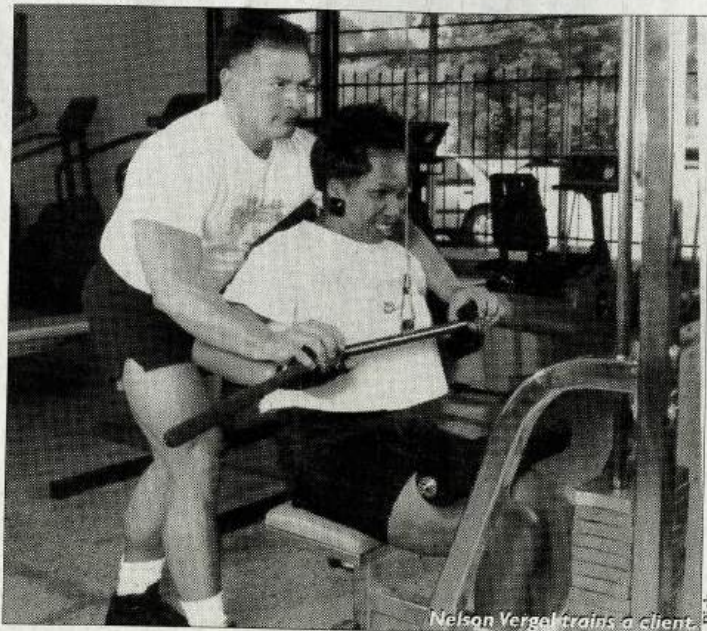
Next month, with the assistance of Vergel, Body Positive/Houston plans to open the first HIV Wellness Center in the United States. Based on the principles of Vergel's PoWeR program, the Body Positive Wellness Center will offer a comprehensive program to those who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it.

"We want to help the ones who need the help the most," says Anthony Bianchi, chairman of the Wellness Center executive committee. "The gay white community is in much better shape than its ever been in. The ones who aren't getting the education and the help are minorities and women, so that's who we're going to target here."

Angela Mora says she is one of the Wellness Center's biggest supporters. Mora is executive director of AVES, an HIV agency that primarily serves Latino and African-American clients. Mora says, wasting is still a big issue for her clients,

especially women.

"We are very excited about the Wellness Center," says Mora. "Our clients are disenfranchised people. The type of services that will be offered would be considered luxuries for them. There is



Nelson Vergel trains a client.

"THE GAY WHITE COMMUNITY IS IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE THAN IT'S EVER BEEN IN. THE ONES WHO AREN'T GETTING THE EDUCATION AND THE HELP ARE MINORITIES AND WOMEN, SO THAT'S WHO WE'RE GOING TO TARGET HERE."

—ANTHONY BIANCHI

especially a need for women. We have been pushing for nutritional counseling for years."

With a 4,000-square-foot gym on the sixth floor of a Montrose-area office building and a full-time staff of five people, the Wellness Center will be able to start out with 48 clients in the four-month program. For 60 percent of clients, services will be free of charge, while the remaining will pay on a sliding scale. Participants will commit to a regime of

three weekly workouts with a personal trainer, a weekly massage, a monthly consultation with a staff nutritionist, and a monthly body composition analysis. The facility will also be the home of the Buyer's Club, a nonprofit group which

provides access to wholesale vitamins, anti-oxidants and protein supplements. Additionally, free courses in yoga, meditation, nutrition and medication will be offered.

With over 150,000 HIV-positive people in Houston, Vergel says the difficult part will be screening potential clients. There is already a waiting list, and local HIV-services agencies like AVES, the Montrose Clinic and the PWA Coalition have shown strong interest in encouraging clients to go through the program. Participants must be referred by a doctor who is willing to prescribe steroids if necessary.

"If you saw our intake book, you would go crazy," laughs Vergel. "There are like 27 forms. People are going to hate us for that."

Clients allowed on the program must have their basic needs met—food, a place to

live, transportation—before they can enroll. The Wellness Center will not take clients with opportunistic infections. During intake, clients will be asked to give specifics about nutritional habits, past experience with exercise, and even their sex lives.

"Once people—men and women—have a declining sexual function, there's something wrong," explains Vergel. "Most doctors don't ask you, 'How's your sex life? Are you getting a woody every

morning?' They think it's too personal. But that's very important for wasting. Sexual function is tied to testosterone levels, a hormone that is anabolic, and it keeps your muscles from deteriorating."

Once a client completes the program, they will be able to continue using the gym facility at little or no charge. Vergel says the ability to continue using the Wellness Center gym will be attractive to many clients.

"This is a safe atmosphere where everyone at that gym is HIV positive, everyone is trained for that purpose and you can be skinny, you can have KS on your face, and you won't be looked at like you're weird," says Vergel. "It's a safe environment. It's not World's Gym or Bally's where everyone is pretty, wearing Spandex. Many people don't go exercise, not because they don't want to, because they are really intimidated."

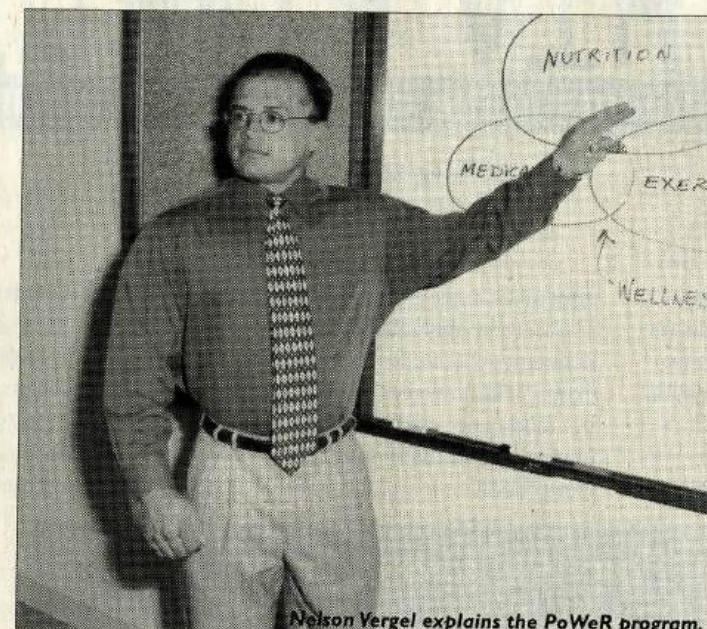
Body Positive hopes the Wellness Center concept will spread beyond Houston.

"This is the maiden project, so to speak," says Bianchi, "so we're hoping that others will see the impact it will have and start similar programs in other communities across the nation."

Founded in 1988, Body Positive has been a volunteer organization which provides peer counseling and information about HIV services in Houston. With the creation of the Wellness Center, the small agency will increase its annual budget from \$50,000 to \$350,000. Most income for the Wellness Center has come from fundraising parties hosted by groups like Halloween Magic, Outrage and Bayou City Boys Club. Body Positive still needs \$25,000 before contractors can begin work on the facility. Bianchi is hopeful that this month individual contributors will donate the remaining funds needed.

Vergel says no federal funds are currently available for projects based on "wellness." Now that people are living longer as a result of new treatments, Ryan White funding will have to be reevaluated.

"Wellness isn't something that's been funded because there was nothing like this," says Vergel. "There was money for case management, transportation, food and hospice. People were dying, so why spend money for wellness? So, it's a shift.



Nelson Vergel explains the PoWeR program.

"INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ALL THE MONEYS ON HELPING PEOPLE DIE WITH DIGNITY, NOW WE NEED TO FOCUS THE MONEYS ON HELPING THEM LIVE WITH DIGNITY."

—NELSON VERGEL

Instead of focusing all the moneys on helping people die with dignity, now we need to focus the moneys on helping them live with dignity."

Recent articles in the gay press have drawn attention to the "circuit party" scene in urban areas like Miami and New York. The dance parties have been characterized as a culture of gay white HIV-positive men who spend their days in the gym using abusive levels of steroids and their nights on the dance floor high on recreational drugs. Vergel says he has been careful to show potential funding sources for the Wellness Center that the PoWeR program is based on solid clinical ground.

"This is about being healthy and having a safety zone where you can be assured that if you get hit with something hard you will survive," says Vergel. "This is not a body-building program, but I have to keep that in mind because I have

a few critics of my work, and it always comes to [the criticism] that we're endorsing a lifestyle of the big boys and the circuit queens who party and inject steroids. It's been hard when I get that kind of criticism. What we're doing is

about wellness, about keeping people alive longer and increasing the quality of life."

Vergel admits that getting buff can be a plus in its own right.

"It helps to have a better body-image when it comes to survival," he explains. "If you're looking at yourself in the mirror and saying, 'Oh my God, I look like I'm bones. I'm sunk in,' that makes a big difference to your outlook of life and death. Even though we may get into vanity, feeling good and looking good is also good for your mind, and may keep you alive longer too."

Each client's progress will be well-documented, so the Wellness Center can eventually be eligible for research grants from organizations like AmFar and the NIH. By next year, Vergel hopes to increase the number of clients the program can accept. He says the Body

Positive Wellness Center will be the prototype for many more facilities around the nation.

"When I go around the country to conferences, they say, 'You're doing this in Houston?'" laughs Vergel. "They think we are just riding horses here. In New York, they say, 'How come you guys are doing this? We don't have one here in New York.' We're doing something that no major city has done, including L.A., San Francisco and New York. Once we get this off the ground and get federal funding, it's going to spread like wildfire."

The Body Positive Wellness Center will be located at 3400 Montrose. For information, call 713/523-2374. For details about the PoWeR program, call 310/360-0654 or visit the PoWeR Web site at www.medibolics.com.

WASTING IS DEFINED AS INVOLUNTARY LOSS OF MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF NORMAL BODY WEIGHT. • WASTING IS THE SECOND-LARGEST KILLER OF PEOPLE WITH AIDS IN THE U.S. (SOURCE: CDC 1995) • WASTING IS AMONG THE TOP THREE KILLERS OF PWAS IN THE WORLD. (SOURCE: WHO) • NO EFFECTIVE PROPHYLAXIS TREATMENT HAS BEEN FOUND FOR THIS OPPORTUNISTIC ILLNESS. • DR. DONALD KOTLER HAS FOUND THAT ONCE LEAN BODY MASS (LBM) DECREASES TO 54 PERCENT OF NORMAL, DEATH OCCURS NO MATTER WHAT THE OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTION IS.

THE HIV PIPELINE

Major advancements in the care of HIV do not equal a cure.

by Shannon Schrader

By now, most everyone has heard that Magic Johnson is "cured" of his HIV. For those who believe this, I have a small parcel of land in the Everglades that I would gladly sell. *There is no cure!* HIV is a much more manageable and treatable disease with the appropriate care by a physician who specializes in HIV care. Nonetheless, I am an eternal optimist, and I do feel that one day there will be a cure. It is difficult to care for HIV without having a positive outlook for the future.

Today there are currently 11 approved drugs with which to treat HIV. There are even new guidelines to use when combining these medications. The standard of care is now a combination of three or more drugs in a "cocktail," and these "cocktails" allude to the in-vogue expression of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART). Prescriptions with these new combinations have clearly revolutionized AIDS care. Patients whose disease-fighting T cells were ravaged by HIV have gotten out of bed, regained normal lives and even gone back to work. Hospitalization days, emergency room visits, referrals to specialists and the incidence of opportunistic infections have declined as a result of HAART.

There are many challenges to using and prescribing HAART. One must consider adherence issues; drug-drug interactions; side effects; concurrent

infections; cost; and quality of life issues. The newest obstacle is the issue of drug resistance. As we learn more about these drugs, it is obvious that just prescribing the medications in any two-, three-, or four-drug combinations is not as simple as it may seem.

"For so long, there was a fear of this disease when there were few drugs available to treat HIV. Now there is the belief that since we have better control of the disease, then having HIV is not so bad."

Resistance is the new buzz word among HIV care providers. It appears that once one becomes resistant to one medication, then it may render them resistant to the other available drugs. This is especially true with the protease inhibitors. Consequently, it becomes increasingly important to know the resistance mutations associated with each drug. Proper sequencing of these medications is paramount; yet, there is no algorithm for sequencing these drugs. It is therefore potentially possible to render a patient cross-resistant to the other available drugs after a first combination fails. The problem of what regimens to prescribe for patients who fail HAART is

the focus of intense research.

A new laboratory test that is not FDA-approved but available to treating physicians is a Genotype resistance test. This test actually detects if one is resistant to the most common mutations associated with the currently available

drugs. The cost is approximately \$300. Not every physician is currently utilizing this test. Interpretation of the results must be enacted with caution. The results only depict the mutations at that point in time and do not necessarily show what is going on behind the scenes. That is, there may be other mutations not even identified which may play a role in resistance to a drug. Since the test is not yet FDA-approved, utilization of the test is dependent on each physician's comfort level with

the assay. Two situations in which I have used the test include: 1) when a patient has used all of the currently approved drugs yet continues to have a high viral load and 2) before a patient begins therapy in order to see if there is an initial resistance picture. Again, this information must be interpreted with caution. I do feel that this test will become a standard of care in the future. It is at a stage in development where the viral load was two years ago.

As for new drugs in the pipeline, there are several that will be approved before the end of 1998. First is the new soft gel formulation of Saquinavir (Fortovase) by Roche. It is supposed to

be absorbed to a greater extent in the gut, but it is a total of 18 pills a day. Secondly, a new nucleoside drug from Glaxo Wellcome, 1592 (Abacavir), shows promising results in early trials. A possible pitfall is a mutation pattern very similar to 3TC (Epivir). Next is a new non-nucleoside drug, similar to Nevirapine (Viramune), called DMP-266 (Sustiva), manufactured by Dupont-Merck. This looks very potent in combination with Crixivan (Indinavir) in early studies. Lastly, the next protease inhibitor to be approved will be 141 Glaxo Wellcome. This drug is still in early phase trials but may have a completely different resistance pattern as compared to other protease inhibitors.

Compliance has become an important theme with respect to treatment. It is well documented that if more than 10 percent of a drug cocktail is missed, then resistance ensues. Second-generation drugs are being developed with once-daily dosing, fewer side effects, and even more potency. These features will aid in improving adherence. Recently a combina-

tion pill of AZT (Retrovir) and 3TC (Epivir) at full doses has become available to further aid in compliance to a medical drug regimen. This new combination pill has been named Combivir. In order to prevent some of the resistance issues that have been previously discussed, then compliance must be addressed.

In reviewing where we are today with HIV care, our knowledge base has grown by leaps and bounds. Our armamentarium of drugs has expanded to 11 approved drugs with several others on the way. HIV care has become even more of a challenge, and it is of the utmost importance that physicians keep abreast of all the new developments in care if they are to serve justice to their patients. I personally feel that we are gearing up for a "second wave" of newly diagnosed HIV cases. For so long, there was a fear of this disease when there were few drugs available to treat HIV. Now there is the belief that since we have better control of the disease, then having HIV is not so bad. I dare anyone with those thoughts to speak

with any of my patients whose lives evolve around taking pills on a scheduled basis and who have to live with side effects associated with most of these drugs.

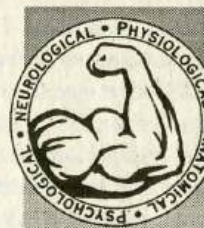
We are missing the boat with education. There has been an increase in the documented cases of sexually transmitted diseases among minorities, teenagers and the heterosexual population. It is proven that the risk of HIV increases when one has a STD. Just because there are some major advancements in the care of HIV, education should not slack off. Education pertaining to HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and safe-sex practices should intensify.

The future looks promising for HIV treatment. Sprinkled with a little "holy water" and with continued research on new drugs and vaccine development, we can beat this virus. We still have a long way to go!

Shannon Schrader, M.D., is a physician with the Southampton Medical Group.

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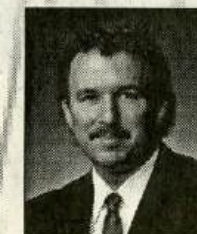
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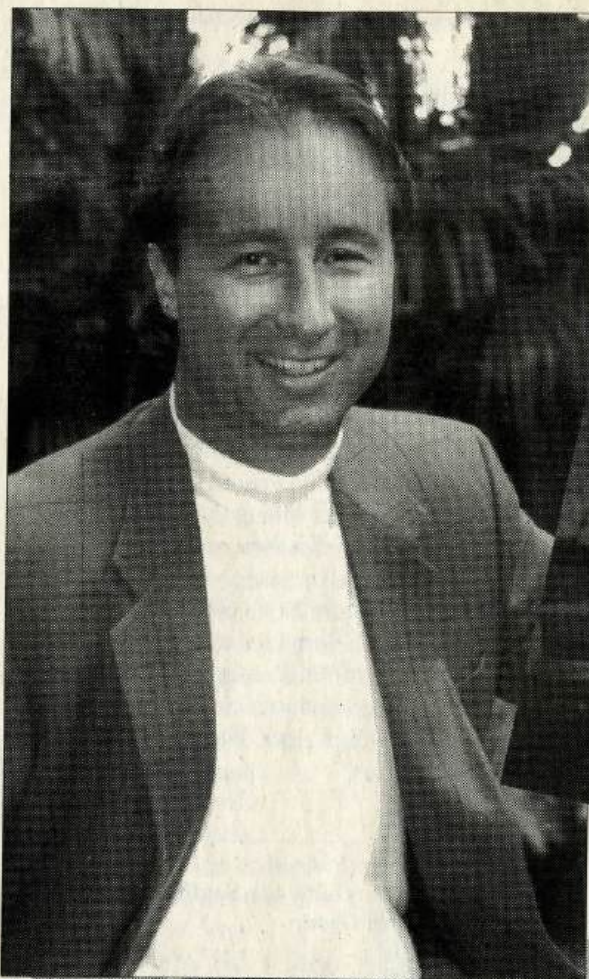
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Lonely Hunters author James Sears

Reclaiming Southern History

James Sears Uncovers Gay Roots in the American South

by Kyle Young

Until now, most knowledge about the history of the gay movement in the United States has been focused on the East and West coasts. James Sears, a professor of curriculum studies and higher education at the University of South Carolina, wants to change that. His new book, *Lonely Hunters: An Oral History of Lesbian and Gay Southern Life, 1948-1968*, tells the stories of Southern gays and lesbians in the 20-year span between the end of World War II and the Stonewall riots.

Lonely Hunters is the first in a series of volumes covering five generations of Southern gays and lesbians from the 1890s to the present.

OS: Will Houston be featured in this series of books?

JS: Originally this was going to be just one book and cut across all five generations in that one book. I spent quite a bit of time in Houston talking with people in the Houston [Gay & Lesbian] Political Caucus, as well as with one of the gentlemen who was in this book under the pseudonym of Arlen Davies. He was one of the professors fired from the University of Florida by the Johns Committee. He grew up in the Houston area. There's a whole section in there talking about his experiences in the 'teens and '20s in Texas—when Gertrude Stein came through and the whole thing about the Roaring '20s and gay life at that time.

OS: So different parts of Arlen's story will show up in several books in the series.

JS: A lot of these people are going to come across again in another book. In an earlier volume covering the period of time from the 'teens and '20s up to the Great Depression, there will be a whole section about East Texas and Arlen's experience and Galveston during that period of time. Lots of other things were going on. In the book that I am working on now which goes from '69 to '83, there's a whole chapter about the Houston Gay Political Caucus. So, from volume to volume it sort of depends what regions of the South are covered. But by the time all five volumes are done, every area of the South will be covered, and lots of different people will be focused on.

OS: Does South Texas really mirror the experience of the rest of the South?

JS: If you're talking about the period of time from the '40s and into the pre-Stonewall period, it certainly mirrored it in terms of being homosexual—it was something that was very clandestine. People were still very concerned about bar arrests and getting their names in the paper, which actually still happens in places like San Antonio. There are anomalies. Galveston is certainly an anomaly in terms of a little bit more laid-back attitude. By and large, even East

Texas or Central Texas is certainly different than the Tidewater area in the Carolinas, in terms of what people are willing to tolerate or *who* they're willing to tolerate. In the Tidewater area, if you come from a family of old stock and the right race, then they'll be more tolerant of your sexual appetite than if you're from the wrong side of the tracks. That's true to a certain degree in Central Texas, but the old name and class does not have that same bearing as it does in a place like Charleston.

OS: Were you able to find many people of color to talk with for the books?

JS: Obviously dealing with issues of color is something that is important in the book, in this volume. Actually, one chapter of this book is devoted completely to the civil rights movement in the South. Who I focus in on is Pat Cusick, who is the great grandson of one of the founders of the KKK in Alabama. The other person is Quinton [Baker], who is the great grandson of a former slave in Eastern North Carolina. The third person is John [Justice], who actually came from the North. That whole chapter focuses on their civil rights activities as gay men principally in Durham and Chapel Hill. In the process of laying out that chapter, and talking through their voices, readers find out about the love relationship that John and Quinton had through the whole one-year period—during the civil rights demonstrations up until the time they went to prison. You also learn how Quinton had to deal with John being white, basically dealing with Racism 101. There are also issues around the civil rights movement in terms of people who supported the concept of "freedom now"—when they had to confront the relationship that John and Quinton had, how they dealt with that. You also learn about Bayard Rustin, Jimmy Baldwin and their interactions with those people as they came through and how they variously dealt with their homosexuality within the black community.

One of the things I find interesting about Quinton's experience is that he talks a lot about growing up in the late '40s and early '50s in a small town in eastern North Carolina. He talks about

how people who were sexually different were considered "funny," but the attitude that blacks had at that time was not the same kind of negative attitude that was particularly evident in the mid-to-late '60s and early '70s. Quinton went to school in Durham, one of the all-black schools. He talks about his whole experience of living on one dorm floor in which many of the people there were gay. So, you learn about that. You learn about a little language they had called the Aga language in terms of how they would talk to each other in sort of a scripted kind of language. There is a greater amount of tolerance that Quinton felt at that period of time, not acceptance, but at least tolerance among the black community for people who were "funny," whereas later on in his experience the degree of toleration changes.

OS: At what point in the South did gay people start to see their issue as a civil rights issue, that there could be change?

JS: There are several things going on in the period of time in the '50s and early '60s. For example, in Texas you had a group call the Circle of Friends. That was in the

Dallas area. You had little pockets of things going on in Houston in the early '60s, but really at that time the greatest activity was going on in Florida where a person I talk about in this book chartered the first state-chartered explicitly gay organization in the South. You had the Mattachine and other small groups that were in places like New York and Philadelphia, Washington and San Francisco. I talk about this a lot through people I interviewed who knew people like Richard Inman. I remember one of the women said they were supportive of Inman's activities, but for them, the people who were closeted homosexuals—and virtually everybody was—the idea that there could actually be any change, to paraphrase this one woman, was like the idea that if you pointed at a tree it would disappear. It was so far beyond the scope of what anybody thought was possible. Again, in

this book I talk a lot about the social and cultural life of gays and lesbians in the South. Here was a period of time where even to go get a drink in a bar you risked harassment or arrest, or where you could be committed into an institution for a long period of time by your parents just because you were lesbian or gay. So, in that period of time, the time of McCarthyism and 2.2 kids and split-level houses and all that, what people did in Texas and Alabama and Florida, they had a small group of friends. Depending on the social class you belonged to, depending on the race you belonged to, that impacted who your circle of friends was. Once you got into that circle, then there was "gayety" and frivolity and companionship, but the concept that anybody would stand up and say "I'm gay" or that anybody would stand up against the police was foreign. If a lesbian was harassed by a police officer—forced to give the guy a blow job and then beat up—she had no recourse, and the concept that you would even have recourse was just inconceivable. I think

"Sometimes you sort of look back at the past and focus on the most horrendous events, and we forget that whatever era you live in, it's always the worst of times."

what's really important here is that [helpless] attitude was really true in the mid-'60s; it changed radically in a scope of about three years, very dramatically.

OS: Certainly things were horrible, but it seems gay people from that period almost feel a loss from not having that secret group. There must have been something exciting about being part of the "underground."

JS: That's one of the major points when you get done reading the book. Sometimes you sort of look back at the past and focus on the most horrendous events, and we forget that whatever era you live in, it's always the worst of times. Certainly people looking back 50 years from now on, people who were living during the AIDS epidemic, will say "How did people make lives? How did people behave as sexual beings? How did people

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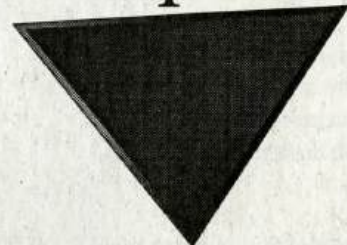
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The Original "Bobsmith"

Comedian Bob Smith talks about being openly gay;
writing for TV; his new book; Ellen; Entertainment Tonight; therapy; and aliens.
You gotta love a guy who's willing to talk about aliens.

by Blase DiStefano

In the dictionary between the words "bobsled" and "bobstay" should be the word "bobsmith," the definition of which would be "any openly gay comic who is funny, kind and cute, and who writes a book that is fun to read, and sprinkles it with loving observations of life, not to mention quotable phrases on almost every page."

Just one of those "bobsmith" phrases: "Our educational system has proved that if a subject is taught in a boring enough manner, Americans will make every effort to avoid it for the rest of their lives. If homosexuality was taught in the same manner as trigonometry, even most gay people would have no use for it after graduation."

In Bob Smith's new book, *Openly Bob*, Smith devotes an entire chapter to other titles that were rejected, some for obvious reasons. A few of those: *Swished at Birth*, *The Man in the Cucumber Masque*, *It's a Wonderful Lifestyle*, *I Wish Someone Would*

Open a Not-Good-at-Sports Bar, *My Hometown Is Sodom*, *A Domineering Mother and Distant Father Caused Me to Be Sarcastic!*, *A Drag Queen Once Kicked Sequins in My Face*.

Smith was the first openly gay comedian to perform on *The Tonight Show*, has had his own HBO special, is the author of *Growing Up Gay* (written with the Funny Gay Males), and has written for numerous TV shows and magazines.

The original bobsmith is busy. How busy? When I talked to him by phone in mid-October, he was in Philadelphia for his book tour. He had already been in eight cities before then (the tour had started October 6), and he was scheduled to be in seven more cities through the end of October. Hey, that's not including November!

But jot this down—he'll be here in Houston on November 9 to do a booksigning at Crossroads and a show at Laff Stop.

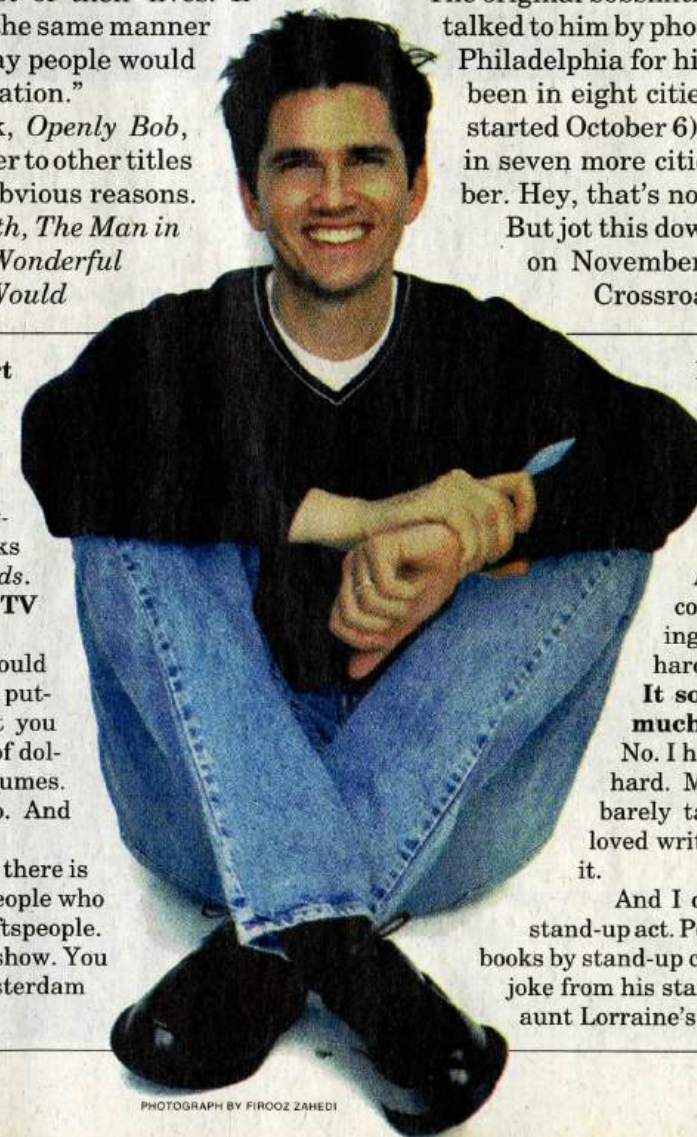
OutSmart: When did you start writing *Openly Bob*?

Bob Smith: About two years ago. I spent almost every day for two years writing it. I was off for 10 weeks writing for Roseanne [on *Saturday Night Special*] and two weeks working for *The MTV Video Awards*. **What's it like writing for a TV show?**

It's fun. It's like the best job you could have. The closest analogy is like putting on a class play, except that you have people spending thousands of dollars to build sets and design costumes. And you're in a huge TV studio. And there's free food.

We tend to put down TV—and there is a lot of bad TV—but at least the people who do it really work hard, all the craftspeople.

There were 13 writers on the show. You felt like Rose Marie and Morey Amsterdam and Rob Petrie.



It was really fun and long, long hours. We worked six and seven days a week because the show was produced live every week and it was on a Saturday. So we had to work Monday through Saturday. And then a lot of times we had to come in on Sunday to start writing for the following show. It was hard work but totally fun.

It sounds like you haven't had much time off.

No. I have been working really, really hard. My boyfriend Tom and I have barely taken a vacation. But I really loved writing the book; I was really into it.

And I didn't want the book to be my stand-up act. People are a little skeptical about books by stand-up comedians. [There was only one joke from his stand-up routine in the book: "My aunt Lorraine's a chain-smoker. She's always

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lighting up. True story: She once saved a man's life by giving him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Six months later, he was dead from emphysema."]

In your book, you said that in the ninth grade you realized and easily accepted that you were gay. Being the good little Catholic boy we know you are, why didn't you feel guilty?

I have two other brothers who were sent to Catholic schools, but I probably didn't feel guilty, in a weird way, because I was sent to public schools. So I feel like I'm a suburban-lite Catholic, even though I joke about it more in my act.

It was weird—I had like an hour of, "Oh my God, I'm gay." But I honestly didn't feel it was wrong. I must have read Ann Landers—this was like the mid-to-early '70s, so I could get some information on it. It didn't feel evil to me. I knew it was nothing I had planned. But coming out was hard 'cause in high school you don't feel comfortable with it.

Are you still doing auditions for movies?

I almost did one for *Spin City* but I missed it. It was for a role as a boyfriend for the gay guy, which would've have been great.

What's coming up?

Showtime is gonna do a gay & lesbian sketch comedy series, and they're gonna shoot the pilot next month [November], and I'm gonna be a performer and the head writer on it. It's got Lea Delaria, Suzanne Westenhoffer, and a lot of other good talent. A friend of mine told me you were on *Entertainment Tonight* last week [early October].

I saw a tape of it the day after, and it was like the cover story, and they promoted the book. They even showed a clip from the coming-out episode of *Ellen*. When Ellen talks to Laura Dern in the bookstore, the *Growing Up Gay* book we wrote is literally right between them. I was with [one of the co-authors of] the book, and we were screaming, "Oh God, that's our book!" And *ET* zeroed in on the book. It was really fun. My boyfriend goes, "It's like a Bob Smith infomercial!"

[laughter] Speaking of Ellen DeGeneres, do most people respect her in L.A.?

I haven't heard anything negative. I think you have to give Ellen a ton of credit. It's like a major landmark.

Like Ellen, you're openly gay and in the public eye. Do you ever feel threatened? Do people ever make fun of you?
Just my parents.

[laughter] So you don't get any...

I knock on wood. You have to be careful though, 'cause you don't want to try to be the spokesperson for the gay community, because we're so diverse. And you have to watch what you say 'cause—not to put down the press—but I have been misquoted. **You said in the book that you and Tom had gone to couples therapy. Are you still doing therapy?**

No, we feel like we've graduated. But it was good, and we would have probably broken up without doing it.

I wanted to put that essay in [the book] because there's a reaction from people when you say you've been together for almost nine years—they go ugh. Which I guess is alright 'cause

it's hard to keep a relationship going, straight or gay. But you don't want people to think it's been one happy honeymoon either.

Just how much do you believe in UFOs and things like that?

Well, I'm a huge fan of *The X-Files*, and I do think the Roswell thing's a coverup, and I don't believe the new thing about that. I've seen interviews with this 85-year-old guy who says he saw three caskets. Why would this 85-year-old guy be lying? He's not making any money off that. There's a big difference between a recovered

flying disk and pieces of a weather balloon.

I'm gonna sound like a total kook in this interview.

No, I find all of that very interesting.

There are a lot of kookie things out there. I'm pretty skeptical, but how can there not be life out there?

There's gotta be. But I hope I'm not talking to an alien right now.

I hope I'm abducted from this hotel room, 'cause I'm at the Comfort Inn in Philadelphia.

On Sunday, November 9, Bob Smith will do a book signing at Crossroads at 3 p.m. and a show at Laff Stop at 8 p.m. For tickets to the show, call Laff Stop at 713/524-2333.



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HOLIDAY HEALTH TIPS

Take control of your eating, your exercise, your life

by John Aaron

Maybe it's impossible to have a white Christmas in Houston, but we can at least plan for a lite one. Statistics tell us that the average weight gain from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day is about seven pounds. If you're like most people, you'd probably plan on burning that excess weight with a New Year's resolution of attacking every piece of equipment in your gym until you're exhausted and/or delusional. However, by making a few minor adjustments and maintaining a flexible attitude, you can breeze through these next two months with your health, sanity and spirituality in tact. And isn't that easier than having to suffer a Spartan exercise regimen on January 2?

FOOD

Most of us have been taught that healthy eating means restraining ourselves from eating too much of the foods we love, especially during this season. However, it's this pattern that sets us up for feelings of deprivation that can lead up to binges of overeating. You do not need to develop a whole new round of attitudes and strategies to help you get through this hectic time of the year. In contrast to the old diet mentality, the new nutritional philosophy embraces the notion that there are times when food and celebration make perfect partners.

This holiday, set a goal to strive for balance. Focus on the bigger picture of your eating. Don't start with a guilt trip over the candy you had at the office, or the cookies you had last night, or even the 3,000-calorie Thanksgiving dinner which only comes around once a year. Guilt is the biggest stumbling block to maintaining balance with healthy eating over the holidays because it leads directly into all-or-nothing thinking: "Well, I blew it by eating that candy, so I might as well eat this pie. In fact, I'll just start over in

January."—Dear Spartan, you already know this pattern doesn't work.

What does work is a balanced eating regimen that may look like this: you had a high-fat meal, so you follow it with a low-fat meal. Or, you had a high-fat day, so you follow it with a low-fat day. Or even, you had a high-fat week, so you follow it with a low-fat week.

If you find yourself out of control with your eating around the holidays, acknowledge that you probably have a good reason to use food as a coping mechanism. The holidays have a tendency to heighten feelings that we carry all year-round, especially loneliness. Remember that, even though the holidays will pass, the feelings will undoubtedly linger. Try to be aware of your feelings and reasons for eating, and seek support from a trusted friend or health professional.

EXERCISE

Of all the gifts that I would most like to receive during the holidays, time would be at the top of the list. Making time for family and friends in between shopping, entertaining and decorating is a challenge. And often a structured exercise program is the first thing to go when people start feeling pressed.

First, acknowledge that you can't do everything. Then, replace those missed workouts with a more playful and spontaneous exercise plan. Join in on the family football game for instance, or take a walk with your mom (or other significant person in your life) after the big meal to enjoy some private time together. You can also make a quick "window shop" of the mall before you buy. I even hear that City Hall is planning to open the public ice-skating rink again this year! When your schedule returns to normal, and you're ready to resume your structured training program, start back refreshed from the holiday break. Soon you'll be right where

you left off before you were consumed by the rush of the season.

STRESS

Next, take a look at what stressors keep coming up for you every year. If your social calendar is too demanding, consider your priorities. Decide with whom you really want to spend your time during the holidays versus who would be just as happy to meet with you in January. (Remember, most of your friends are also trying to squeak out more time for themselves during the holidays.) If you're stressed because you find yourself spending most of your time shopping and wrapping, consider doing one or the other: either order from a catalogue or have the stores do the wrapping for you. If baking cookies is what stresses out your time, cut your work in half by baking mini-breads or cookie samplers instead of trying to feed the entire neighborhood.

Finally, before you get swept up in the activities of the season, take time to reflect on what the holidays mean to you. For some people, it's a sentimental time to celebrate family togetherness—be it immediate or surrogate. Some people celebrate its deeply religious symbolism seeking to spread peace, hope and goodwill. Regardless of your convictions, once you've determined what you truly want and need out of this time of the year, it is much easier to take a firm hold of your own good health and balance while letting go of the stressful need to recreate the perfect, albeit unattainable, Martha Stewart holiday. Furthermore, it frees you up to focus on activities that, for you, truly express the meaning of this holiday season.

John Aaron is a nationally certified personal trainer, member of the International Assoc. of Fitness Professionals, and owner of Muscle Mechanics, a personal fitness training and nutritional guidance facility.

Reclaiming History

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have relationships?" But we know that life goes on, that people ascribe meaning and invest meaning in life irrespective of how horrendous the context is. So, a lot of the book talks about those kind of social experiences. One woman talked about it like everything was a Broadway show. "We sort of danced and laughed our way through the '50s and '60s with *Carousel* and *Oklahoma* and all that stuff." To me, that's one important lesson. Whatever the context, people have to survive and have to make a life even if that context is not the best. Again, people didn't think anything else was possible anyway. There wasn't going to be a change. Probably the two most important events during this period of time really didn't have anything to do with the South, but one was the Kinsey Report and the other was Eleanor Hooker's work. When people started to realize that there were actually more people like them, then all of a sudden you had the beginning of a potential for a social movement.

OS: So, in your next book that's what you will focus on.

JS: Yeah, the next era goes from '69 to about '83. There we are talking about the political radicalization, Stonewall, the impact of feminism, the huge impact the war eventually had on the gay rights movement, the impact the civil rights movement had. In fact, one of the points I'm making in this entire series is a question. Had the South not existed, would gay life or the gay rights movement be any different? And I think it would be substantially different. One of things that bothered me, which is why I started this project, is that up until now you really had no histories of gay Southern communities. We have a growing list of histories, but it's basically East Coast-West Coast kind of history. So, in the next book there will be a much greater focus on women in terms of their contributions. There was an enormous outpouring in terms of women's writing and scholarship and organizing out of the South. You had magazines like *Sinister Wisdom* which became the heir of *The Ladder* which was founded by two lesbian feminists in the

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Calendar of Events

November

8 Art Opening. This annual "Fall Show" includes paintings by Patrick Palmer. On view will be 50 new works, including a selection of ceramic busts. Palmer's works are included in many national and international collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Palmer teaches full time at Houston's Glassell School of Art. 7-10 pm @ his studio, located in the historic Isabella Court Building, 1009 Isabella @ Main St. (His studio will also be opened on Sunday, Nov. 9, 12-4 pm.) For more info or an appointment: 713/526-1118.

9 The Gay Comedy Jam Comedians. Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye (with special guest star Bob Smith), are celebrating the release of their new CD with a performance at 8 p.m. @ Laff Stop, 1952-A W. Gray. For tickets, call 713/524-2333. The afternoon before the show, Bob Smith will be at Crossroads at 3 p.m. to sign his new book *Openly Bob*. [See interview with Bob Smith on page 47.]

11 Gay Spirituality. Bob Schaibly, minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church, will speak on gay spirituality at this Men's Network meeting (for gay & bisexual men). \$3-\$5 requested; however, all men are welcome. 7:15-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713/529-0037.

13 The Platters. the most successful vocal

group of the '50s Golden Era of Rock 'n' Roll, will take center stage for one performance only in Galveston. With such favorites as "Only You," "The Great Pretender," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," and many more, the Platters had four #1 hits on the charts plus accolades & awards too numerous to mention. 7:30 pm @ The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston, 800/821-1894.

13-16 Houston Ballet Guild's 1997 Nutcracker Market. Over 275 vendors from across the country will participate in this annual holiday shopping extravaganza offering unique gift items for the entire family including home decor, food, clothing, & accessories. *Strollers not permitted in the shopping area.* Tickets \$7 each, children under 5 free. Thursday, 11:30 am-8 pm; Friday, 10 am-8 pm; Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-6 pm @ The Astrohall, 8400 Kirby. Info: 713/523-6300.

14-16 The Attitude Club is a one-woman, seven-character, hilarious, musical satire of the self-help movement. It is a funny play in which Marianne Pendino, the central character, recalls her journey for inner peace and the quirky characters who help her realize her desire. The actor/musician/playwright/diva Pendino recovers from a bad attitude by taking her one-woman show to Galveston, Friday & Saturday 8 pm (\$12), Sunday 2 pm (\$10). Her guru character is worth the price of admission to The Strand Theater, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row. *The Attitude Club* will also run November 21-23. For reservations/more info, call 409/763-4591.

14-16 Rio Grande Trip. HOG (Houston Outdoor Group) will visit Texas' only palm jungle, the Audubon Sabal Sanctuary and will also explore the Laguna Atascosa Refuge, full of Gulf beaches & ocelots. There will be side trips to the famous private Porter Zoo for endangered species, and shopping and dining in Mexico. For more information, please call 713/KAMP-OUT.

15 Warner Bros. Presents: That's Art, Folks! will be hosted by animation expert Merrie Lasky, archival manager for Warner Bros. Animation Art, while artist Susan Barrios will give participants a close brush with cel painting. During this free event, Lasky will discuss how cartoons are made—from the first scratch of an animator's pencil to the last credit on the TV screen. Barrios will demonstrate the techniques used to turn pencil drawings into colorful images—including painting on the opposite side of the cel. While Lasky and Barrios will appear only for this show, the exhibit of Warner Bros. art will be on display from Nov. 15- Dec. 7 @ Fine Toon Cartoon Art Gallery, 2427 Bissonnet, 713/522-6499.

15-17 Haydn and Schumann. Japanese conductor Tetsuro Ban and American violinist Pamela Frank make their Houston Symphony debuts in a program offering music from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Tickets \$13-\$59 (student & seniors \$7, subject to availability, 75 minutes prior to the performance). Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, 713/227-ARTS.

19 Free Mammograms to women age 50 and over, who have an income of less than \$15,780 per year, are being offered to help women get necessary screening for detection of breast cancer, which if found early can be successfully treated. Mammography is provided by M.D. Anderson Mobile Mammography Program on this day and December 3 @ Planned Parenthood Fannin Clinic, 3601 Fannin. For more information, call 713/831-6525 or 713/831-6526.

21-23 Houston Met (Houston Metropolitan Dance Center's performing company) presents the excitement, energy and artistic excellence of contemporary dance with a full spectrum of choreography that is innovative and entertaining. This performance features guest choreography from Mario Zambrano of Hubbard Street/Chicago; works by Houston's own Dorrell Martin, Steven Boyd & Sophia Torres; & guest artist Sandra Organ. Tickets \$5-\$15 (reserved seating). Heinen Theater, 3517 Austin @ Holman, 713/522-6375.

21-23 A Tuna Christmas. Now you can forget the traditional feast of ham, turkey, cranberry sauce & mince meat pie, because this year, *Tuna* will be the feast of choice. *A Tuna Christmas* brings back those beloved Texans: Didi Snavey (who runs the used-gun shop); her husband, R.R. (who sees UFOs as his rescue from marriage); Aunt Pearl (who poisons poodles trespassing on her yard); and all their neighbors. They are all on a rampage because a "phantom" is destroying holiday displays before the annual prizes are awarded, they're battling a bad economy, and a local production of *A Christmas Carol* is endangered by bad actors and a Scrooge-ish electric company. Tickets \$28-\$36. The Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston, 800/821-1894.

Continued on page 55

The Payne Truth

To promote his new CD, *Standards for a New Generation*, Mark Payne will be in concert in Houston. He'll sing easy listening, pop, jazz, and cabaret vocals, and his concert will showcase original songs by award-winning songwriters Amanda McBroom ("The Rose" songwriter), Michele Brouman and Chalene Wright (the songs are also featured on his CD). The concert will also feature jazz pianist Claudia Burson and bass player David Kingensmith, as well as Richard Cholakian on drums and Woody Witt on sax. • The CD release will coincide with the national release of the book *Double Take*—Payne is featured on the cover of this photography book on the art of celebrity impersonation by New York photographer Devon Cass and CNN writer John Filoman. • The concert is \$7. 7:30 pm, Sunday, November 16 @ Ovations, 2536 Times at Kirby, 713/522-9801.



Mark Payne

Ani-Maniacs

One of Rock's Most Captivating Performers Blasts Into Town



Ani DiFranco

In this age when Elton John has turned to recycling former hits into funeral ballads and k.d. lang has become a poster child for musical banality, it's as

refreshing as a slap of Skin Bracer that someone like Ani DiFranco is cranking out heavy, heady, hearty music with muscle. The 26-year-old singer/songwriter, guitar player, percussionist, producer, arranger, and chief of her own Righteous Babe record label, DiFranco has become a bona fide cult smash and critical darling without the benefit of commercial radio or heavy rotation during the 14 minutes MTV still plays videos. Her tours regularly haul in millions, a testimony to both her extraordinary talent and the amazing networking ability of her loyal fans. See why she's the rage of everyone who knows what's good for them this month when Ani plays her unique blitzkreig of homorock and feminist roll. And this ain't just noise.

DiFranco's toothy guitar work is matched by her biting precise, painfully open lyrics. From *Dilate*: "And you won't see me surrender/you won't hear me confess/'cuz you've left me with nothing/but I've worked with less." This one's gonna bring down Bayou Place Theater on November 15. Call 713/629-3700 for information.

—Steven Foster

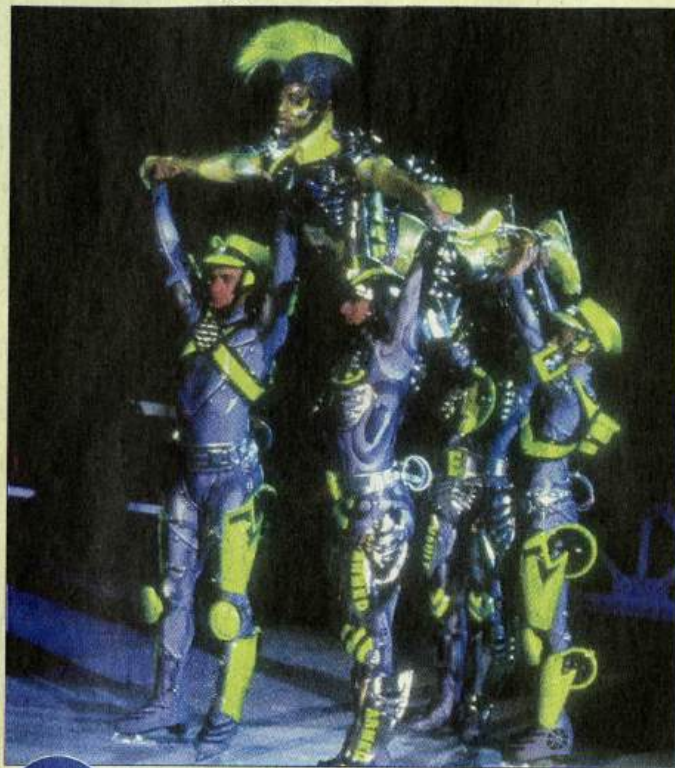
For Whom LaBelle Tolls



Sure, she's a big ol' gay icon. Sure, she's famous for her gay-friendly attitude and generous AIDS charity work. Sorry, kids, but that's all secondary to her talent—and it's a talent as enormous as her loving heart. The perfect pipes of Patti LaBelle are gonna fill the Arena Theatre Friday, November 7 at 8:00 p.m. in support of her latest disc, *Flame*. On it, LaBelle mixes pristinely the time-honored gospel-flavored balladry with decidedly nowadays pop sensibilities. (Hey, this was one of the forces behind the divinely nasty "Lady Marmalade." She *knows* what she's doing.) *Flame* features ace producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis infusing her work with a groovy, hip-hop vibe that's both lovingly sensual and gloriously joyous. Expect all the new hits with the old classics at the show. LaBelle's constant gift has been mixing the spiritual with the sexual, and her concerts are a thrill-charged exercise in personal endurance and audience endearment—this is one lady who knows how to please a crowd. And instead of overblown pop divadom like the moronic Mariah Carey and self-serving Whitney Houston, LaBelle actually feels every note and, more importantly, believes every note. She's one of the most talented vocal stylists working today. Don't miss her. Get tickets through Ticketmaster or call 713/988-1020.

—SF

Starlight on Blades



Infamous for its rollerskating rowdiness, the *Cats*-on-roller-skates Andrew Lloyd Webberfest *Starlight Express* hits the ice for the first time ever on Thanksgiving weekend. The smash Broadway hit is now being performed on blades instead of wheels, giving the once tired musical new life. If you never hit the Great White Way to see the show, now's your chance. The story of a little boy's dream of super-sonic trains comes to glittering, glowing life. The orgy of light, sight, and sound should be even more dazzling when performed on a giant sheet of shimmering, sleek, sexy ice. Olympic Gold Medalist Robin Cousins leads the international cast of venerable favorites—Rusty, the naive steam engine; Electra, the electric engine; and Greaseball, the U.S. champion. Also along for the ride are Dinah the Dining Car, Ashley the Smoking Car, Pearl the Observation Car, and Buffy the Buffet Car. To gain the necessary speed to make the knockout production numbers work, *Express* will use the arena in its full hockey size—the first time ever done in a theatrical production. Should be (pardon the pun) cool. Four shows only at The Summit, November 26-30, except Thanksgiving Day. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster locations including Foley's, Fiesta, and Blockbuster Music, by phone at 713/629-3700, or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com.

—SF

22 "Come Home to Milam House" heralds the theme of this year's annual founders' dinner. A home-style holiday dinner will be served, followed by a musical performance by the Young Artists of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Dessert, speakers program & special recognition of the City of Houston's Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS bring the evening to a close. Silent auction & holiday shopping will be ongoing throughout the event. Tickets \$35 (tables of eight & benefactor tables available). RSVP by November 19, 7 pm @ St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. For more info: 713/649-6035.

22 **Need Some Therapy?** The Therapy Sisters will soothe your soul with their "therapeutic" music. \$5 cover. 8 pm @ Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. 713/52-AROMA.

23 **Deep Sea Fishing.** The Rainbow Fishing Club will be going 60-80 miles out into the Gulf on the 85-foot New Buccaneer. All fishing tackle & bait are supplied. There will be food & drink on board and a sundeck on the second floor. Cost is \$60 (non-fishers & kids 12 and under \$30). Non-club members welcome. The boat leaves Galveston at 7:30 a.m. and returns 12 hours later. Call the club at 713/523-6381 for reservations, info or to get on the mailing list. Or send \$20 deposit to the Rainbow Fishing Club, P.O. Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266.

24&25 **Free B.I.A.** testing (body fat composition). HIV often causes loss of lean body mass which is then replaced by fats and fluids. To have your body composition measured, call or drop by and make an appointment for the free test. It's painless, quick & simple. Afterward, you'll be given a copy of your results so you can compare them with future or past tests and share them with your health-care team. StatScript Pharmacy, 3407 Montrose, 713/522-7373.

25 **PFLAG Fathers and Sons Panel.** The fathers will discuss their personal experiences in learning of their sons' homosexuality and coming to accept it. The sons will discuss their experience of coming out to Dad at this Men's Network meeting (for gay & bisexual men). \$3-\$5 requested; however, all men are welcome. 7:15-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

26, 28-30 **East Side Story.** directed by Dana Ranga (Germany, 1997, 77min., subtitled), is a humorous documentary about the socialist movie musicals made behind the iron curtain during the height of communist rule. This film will be followed by *American Musicals: Famous Production Numbers*, directed by various individuals (USA, 1929-35, 38 min.), which presents elaborate numbers from five early musicals, including *42nd Street* and two Busby Berkeley films. \$5. Wednesday, Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday at 7 pm @ Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7515.

Planning Ahead December

1-12 **Third Annual Red Ribbon Toy Drive.** AIDS Foundation Houston and Texas Children's Hospital are asking Houstonians to bring new, unwrapped toys to AIDS Foundation Houston between December 1-12. Toys will be distributed to over 500 HIV-positive children, ages birth to 12 years old. More info: 713/623-6796.

12 **Amy Grant's Christmas Show.** Grant has sold over six million Christmas records and has never done a Christmas tour... till now. Grant's annual Christmas concert has become a hometown tradition in Nashville and has raised millions of dollars for their local charities. Tickets to her Summit concert are

Showstoppin' Dancin'

The Robert Henry Johnson Dance Company



DiverseWorks presents a sensational evening of dance featuring two world premieres by the nationally renowned Robert Henry Johnson Dance Company. This energetic and spiritual repertoire ventures from narrative to surreal, and gains inspiration from such diverse sources as *Sunset Boulevard*, traditional pigmy music and bible verse. The program includes *Road to Yellow Carnival*, a piece about three people who meet on a journey through the countryside; *Five Loaves of Bread and Two Fish*, a solo performance based on Jesus'

feeding 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish; *Arc of the Gullah*, a world premiere with spirituals sung in the now extinct language from the Georgia Sea Islands; and the jazzy crowd-pleasing duet *Hot House Flowers*. In world premiere #2, Los Angeles choreographer Winifred Harris will set her mesmerizing solo *Love Letters* on Robert Henry Johnson. \$15 (\$10 students/seniors, \$7 DiverseWorks members). 8 p.m. @ University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall, entrance 1 off Calhoun. For 24-hour reservations, call 713/228-0914.

available at all Ticketmaster Outlets or charge by phone at 713/629-3700. For concert information, you can check out the Amy Grant website at www.AmyGrant.com.

16-21 **A Tuna Christmas.** A sequel to the Off-Broadway hit *Greater Tuna*, which became one of the most often-produced shows in America, *A Tuna Christmas* also features the two actors making lightening-fast costume changes to play 22 townspeople, male & female, young & old, crazy & not-so-crazy, all inhabitants of Tuna, the third smallest burg in Texas. Christmas in Tuna is nothing to sing hymns about: the Smut Snatchers are trying to censor "Silent Night" on the grounds that decent people don't sing about "round young virgins" and the Tuna Little Theater's Christmas show is being artfully staged by a temperamental director who snaps when his artistic vision is challenged, "I'm a professional! I've been to Waco!" *A Tuna Christmas* is the first theatrical production in the all-new Theater at Bayou Place, 520 Texas Avenue. Tickets are \$25-\$35 and are available at all Ticketmaster locations including Fiesta, Blockbuster Music and Foley's. To charge by phone, please call 713/629-3700. The 2 pm matinee on Saturday, December 20, will be a signed performance for the hearing impaired. The TDD# for tickets is 1-800-755-6244.

Theater

• **1040.** a world-premiere musical by noted Broadway composer Jerry Bock (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and playwright Jerry Sterner (*Other People's Money*), is an irreverent look at the income tax code and how to fix it. Tickets \$7-\$9. November 14-23 @ Lyndall Finley Wortham Theatre, UH Main Campus, I-45 & Cullen, entrance #16 off Cullen, 713/743-2929.

• **Arsenic and Old Lace.** Recipe for one well-loved comedy classic: Take two charming and innocent maiden aunts and a series of poor lonely roomers who come to tea. Add one nutty brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt and one sinister brother who appears on the scene. Blend in a nephew who accidentally discovers a surprising family secret. Stir the pot and watch the fun brew. Through November 22 @ The Company OnStage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **Blame It on the Movies** is a musical revue of 75 songs from the silver screen, including "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "The Way We Were" and "Laura." Tickets \$15. This Houston premiere runs from November 7-December 6 @ Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury, 713/467-4497.

• **Cakewalk** recounts the laughter and passion that



BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE Clinical Research

Baylor College of Medicine is currently seeking volunteers for the following study:

HIV-POSITIVE STUDY: HIV-positive volunteers needed for a research study comparing two protease inhibitors (141W94 and CRIVAN):

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- Must have received treatment with other anti-HIV drugs for at least 12 weeks (currently or in the past)
- No active AIDS-defining opportunistic infection
- Must have detectable viral load in the blood

For more information, contact Joan Wilson, P.A.-C.
Houston, TX (713) 798-4720
Department of Medicine/Infectious Diseases Section

For information about other research studies, please call the BCM Volunteer Line at (713) 798-5576 or email volunteer@bcm.tmc.edu (URL: <http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/volunteer>)

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exists between any two people attracted to each other—especially if one of them is 20 years younger and the other is a famous femme fatale. Lillian Hellman, the legendary, outspoken and inscrutable playwright comes to life again in this highly personal love story, written by the man who lived it. Tickets \$18. November 5-December 14 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo, 713/868-7516.

• **A Christmas Carol, A Ghost Story of Christmas.** The heartwarming story of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, where the miserly old Ebenezer Scrooge discovers the true meaning of Christmas, is a classic tale that has been told many times. But you haven't seen *A Christmas Carol* until you've seen this production—a cast of more than 40 actors, eerie special effects and an unquenchable Christmas spirit. Tickets (\$31-\$46) are available at the Alley Theatre box office or by calling 713/228-8421. November 28-December 28 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue.

• **Demystifying Magic** tells the life story of a magician's career from age five to 85. We see his life through his on-stage performances, intricately combining magic and theatre. Bob Gebert portrays the magician at every stage, from young to elderly, from magically challenged to magically distinguished, from lost in love to the loss of a career caused by McCarthyism. Tickets \$8 (\$6 students & groups of 10 or more). Thru November 22 @ Absolute Theatre, 813 Richmond (east of Montrose, by Chapultepec), 713/726-8633.

• **Eat Your Serials** features original comedy in the form of radio serials, bogus commercials, & hilarious musical guests. This new revue features material drawn from Radio Music Theatre's nationally syndicated radio comedy. Tickets are \$14 & reservations are required. Coffees, desserts, snacks, beers, wines & champagnes are available throughout the show. Through November 22 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt. For more info/reservations, call 713/522-7722.

• **Good Housekeeping.** The late 1940s were a moment of transition for American families. Housekeeping is a humorous, familiar and clever rendition of one family's tumultuous attempt to keep up with the changing times. Tickets \$12-\$17. November 13-December 14 @ Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. Info: 713/524-6706.

• **Grand National** is a sparkling new musical with a rich Celtic score that tells the tale of Velvet Brown, a 14-year-old butcher's daughter determined to enter her old piebald horse in the Grand National, England's most celebrated and dangerous race. Tickets \$5 & \$7. November 7-16 @ The Heinen Theatre (HCC Central College), 3517 Austin at Holman, 713/718-6570.

• **Macbeth.** Shakespeare's classic tragedy of power and greed, is set in the early 21st century. Macbeth, provoked to kill the king by his wife, Lady Macbeth, finds that his desire for power is no match for his conscience. Tickets \$7-\$12. Thru November 23 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. For advance tickets: 713/524-6706 or visit the box office at 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are available at Chelsea Market one hour prior to the performance only.

• **Merry Christmas, Strega Nona.** With her spells, charms and infinite wisdom, Strega Nona helps the people of her village recognize the true meaning of Christmas in her own inimitable way. This is a children's favorite for the entire family. Tickets \$5-\$7. November 29-December 21 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. For advance tickets, please call 713/524-6706 or visit the box office at 2540 Times Blvd. Tickets are available at Chelsea Market one hour prior to the performance only.

• **O Little Town of Bagels, Teacakes and Hamburger Buns** from the A.D. Players. You'll never forget the people you'll meet in this hotel bakery & coffee shop on a Christmas Eve. Full of the warm memories & mysteries of strangers & "occasional" friends anywhere. November 21- December 28 (plus a special New Year's Eve performance) @ Grace Theater, 2710 W. Alabama. For more info: 713/526-2721.

• **Quills.** In a bizarre and morbidly fascinating tale, the illustrious Marquis de Sade is imprisoned in an attempt to stifle his lascivious writing. As his keeper's tactics of censorship become progressively twisted and more extreme, the Marquis emerges as an unlikely martyr for freedom of speech. With a dark wit and a ribald sense of humor, this grotesque and alluring play celebrates the indomitable will of the artist. *Quills* contains nudity, profanity and sexual situations and is not intended for those who might be easily offended. No one under 17 will be admitted without an adult. Tickets are \$15-\$21 and may be purchased by calling 713/527-8243. Thru November 16 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh Dr.

• **Scotland Road.** A young woman is discovered floating on an iceberg in the North Atlantic dressed in turn-of-the-century clothing. When asked where she came from, she speaks one word only—"Titanic." She is apparently a survivor of the doomed ship, frozen in time for 80 years. Tickets \$10 & \$15. Thru December 6 @ New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th. Reservations: 713/869-8927.

• **Table Manners** is the story of Annie, a woman caring for her invalid mother in a large vicarage-type house. When her brother and his wife come for a weekend so that Annie can have a rest from the responsibilities for caring for their parent, it becomes clear that no one will get any rest. This play is a masterpiece of English comedy. Thru November 15 @ Theatre Southwest, 8944 Clarkcrest, 713/661-9505.

• **Toys Take Over Christmas** takes place in an old-fashioned toy shop in the early 1900s, an era before batteries, computers, and electronic games—a simpler time

when a child's favorite toy was a doll. This charming, action-filled play runs November 7-December 23 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh Dr. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased by calling 713/527-8243.

• **The Turkey Rebellion** promises to give kids a bellyache, not by eating too much, but by laughing. It's a musical about turkeys who can't wait to be on the plate for Thanksgiving dinner. November 8, 9, 15 & 16 @ The Children's Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz. For more information: 713/522-1138.

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

• **Art Classes for People With HIV: The Art League of Houston** is offering free art classes for people with HIV. The ongoing course meets every Thursday & Friday from 1-4 pm at the Art League, 1953 Montrose. Mixed media projects for the artist and non-artist. Constructive art-making in a relaxed atmosphere. Focus is on the healing power of art. For information, call 713/523-9530. **The Museum of Fine Arts Houston** is offering free art classes for HIV-positive individuals at the Glassell School of Art every Friday from 1-4 pm, 5101 Montrose Blvd. Lunch is provided. For information, call Patrick Palmer at 713/526-1118.

• **Fish & Chips.** Deciding that the "New British Art" that swam with the Brilliant exhibition had been consumed, curators Bill Davenport & Francesca Fuchs spent the summer trolling around the British coastline looking for a fresh catch. What they finally reeled in is a result of dozens of studio visits in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Dundee, & Edinburgh. This exhibition presents us with a basket full of stuff, and although there isn't any strictly defined theme, an interest in decorativeness, the commonplace, odd combinations of materials and playfulness are common threads. November 7-December 13 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main @ Naylor), 713/223-8346.

• **Interiors and Exteriors: A Dialogue** explores the interaction and the separation of interior and exterior space and structure. It's a celebration of facades, environments, living spaces, texture & materials, architecture & design, the country, the city, and the home. The photographs in this exhibition cover a wide range of time and spaces by a variety of photographers. Thru November 30 @ John Cleary Gallery, 2635 Colquitt, 713/524-5070.

• **The Naturalist's Journal: An Exhibition of North American Fauna** is an exhibition of works by renowned nature and wildlife photographer Stephen Kirkpatrick. If it swims, flies, slithers, or runs on four legs, he's probably photographed it. This exhibition features stunning photographs of colorful snakes to ferocious grizzlies, waterfowl to killer whales, white-tailed deer to rare blue frogs. Through January 4 @ Houston Museum of Natural Science, in Hermann Park. For more info: 713/639-4629 (Spanish 639-4603, TDD 639-4687).

• **Surrealism**, a movement that flourished in Europe and America in the 1920s and '30s, explored the irrational world of dreams and produced some of the century's most memorable works of art. This ongoing exhibition features more than 75 works by the Surrealists and their followers, including Salvador Dali, Marcel Duchamp, Max Ernst, René Magritte, Man Ray, Pablo Picasso, and Dorothea Tanning. These Surrealists' works are on exhibition @ The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. For more information, call 713/525-9400.

• **Witness & Legacy: Contemporary Art About the Holocaust** examines the theme through the work of 22 artists. Divided into sections of works by Survivors, Second Generation, & Empathizers, the works are in a full range of media, from painting & sculpture, to video & installation. Through December 14 @ Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston (entrance #16 off Cullen Blvd.), 713/743-9530.

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The Source

Community

• **Adoption.** The Great Wall China Adoption, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) agency dedicated to finding a loving home for the thousands of orphans living in China, will sponsor free monthly workshops on how you can help through adoption. Single men/women and couples from 25-60 years of age can adopt. Please call Barbara at 713/249-5941 (24-hour phone line) for the next free workshop.

• **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.

• **An Uncommon Legacy Foundation** is a nonprofit lesbian foundation established in 1990 to promote lesbian visibility and enhance the well-being of lesbians today and in future generations. Legacy supports the lesbian community by making grants to projects that help meet the social, cultural, health and educational needs of lesbians. For more information: 713/520-1142.

• **AWARE** is a Southwestern Bell Corporation employee organization comprised of current and retired management & nonmanagement employees of SBC Communications who are lesbian, gay, or bisexual & their nongay supporters. AWARE is dedicated to creating a workplace free of harassment & discrimination. It offers support & visibility to its members and serves as the official point of contact between its membership & SBC Communications. Partners are encouraged to attend & participate. 3rd Sunday of every month at 6 pm. Call 713/235-7929 for location/other info or to be added to the mailing list.

• **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/~hailita>.

• **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, 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 info.

• **Houston Area NOW** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 3217 Montrose Blvd. (near Westheimer, in the Interfaith Min-

istries Bldg.). Free parking accessible from Lovett Blvd. Social time @ 6:30 pm & program/business @ 7 pm. For more info: 713/665-8669 or P.O. Box 540548, Houston 77254-0548.

• **Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.** The first-ever festival in 1997 was a great success—over 6,000 people attended, and over \$13,000 in advertising from many sources was donated to the cause. Volunteers are now being sought to help make the 1998 festival even bigger and better. For more information or to volunteer: Sarah Gish at Landmark Theatres 713/850-0217 or Liz Jenkins at Southwest Alternate Media Project 713/522-8592.

• **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 HoustPride@aol.com.

• **Houston Reconstructionist Havurah (HRH)** is an inclusive Jewish community. Core tenets of Reconstructionism are maintaining a supportive community & taking social action to repair an imperfect world. Newcomers describe the remarkable level of acceptance & warmth they encounter, regardless of background or initial level of Jewish education or observance. Info: 713/728-0478.

• **Kolbe Project** is an ecumenical outreach to gays, lesbians, & other sexual minorities modeled after the ministry of St. Francis of Assisi. Potluck & community-concern programs, first Thursdays, 7 pm. Healing Service, second Thursdays, 7 pm. Spiritual Direction by appointment; HIV/AIDS hospital chaplaincy. Info: 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** is an energetic group of people who meet year-round to develop & organize 10 days of Pride Week activities for our community. Meets 7 pm, 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month @ the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. The board of directors meets 7 pm, the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 811 Westheimer. Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1998 is June 19-28; the parade is Sat. June 27 @ 9 pm. For more info/to get involved: 713/529-6979 or fax 713/529-6929.

• **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 information.

• **Roundtable—The Houston Philosophy Forum** is open to anyone interested in civilized & open discussion on topics of the day. 6:30-7 social time, meeting 7 pm, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month @ Café Express, 1422 W. Gray. Info: Jackie @ 779-8620.

• **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 & fund-raising, and adoptive homes. 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.

• **Centergy** — Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Reclaim your emotions. Identify & verbalize your feelings & desires. Face & release your blocks to living freely. Create the life you want. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face addictions: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Groups meet weekly: Women — Tuesdays or Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm; Mixed — Wednesdays, 7-9:30 pm, Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rains, 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 & lesbians who are currently in full-time church work, have been in the past, or are pursuing their calling. Not exclusively for pastors—is open to chaplains, administrators, musicians, or music-, youth-, and educational-directors. 3rd Saturday of each month & 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 Henneseey at 713/529-0037.

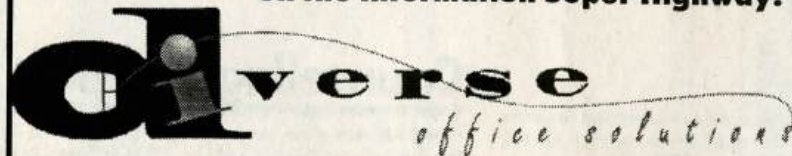
• **Gulf Coast Transgender Community** meets 2nd Saturday of each month (cross dressing required). Open discussion 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month (cross dressing not required). P.O. Box 66643, Houston, TX 77266-6643, 780-4282.

• **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 & lesbians, age 13-20. Fridays, 7:30-10 pm & Sundays, 6:30-9 pm. Call 942-7002 for location and information.

• **Houston Area Women's Center** offers two programs, among others. *The Rape Crisis Program* offers support groups to girls (ages 7-12), female teens (ages 13-18) & family/friends of teen

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survivors of sexual assault. Groups meet weekly & are free. More info/meeting times: 713/528-6798, ext. 256. The Family Violence Program offers a support group to female teens involved in violent dating relationships. Meets 6 pm Tuesdays at the Houston Area Women's Center, 1010 Waugh, & is free. More info: 713/528-6798, ext. 247.

• **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.

• **Jewish Family Service** offers individual, couple & family counseling to individuals of all ages regardless of sexual orientation. Our professional counseling staff have received training in working with gay, lesbian, bisexual & transgender issues and can help individuals deal with interpersonal problems, relationship conflicts, dealing with families, HIV/AIDS-related concerns & other issues frequently facing sexual minorities. Services are offered on a sliding-fee-scale basis. To make an appointment or for more info: 713/667-9336.

• **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.

• **The Men's Network** is for gay & bisexual men to come together in a safe & supportive environment to learn & share about issues that affect them. A donation of \$3-\$5 is requested; however, all men are welcome, regardless of their ability to pay. The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month, 7:15-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

• **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.

• **STEPS** is a transitional living facility for homeless young adults between the ages of 18-21. Services include free housing, GED preparation, independent living skills training in money management, housekeeping, apartment search, nutrition, HIV/STDs, drug

& alcohol awareness, job search, on-site case management, counseling & referrals. After completion of our 6-8 month program, clients will be referred to independent housing. STEPS Program provides culturally competent services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & heterosexual young adults. 40-60% of our clients are HIV positive. HOPE Center, 3118 San Jacinto, 713/524-1992.

• **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 @ 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 Tuesday night, 7-8 pm @ 701 Richmond, upstairs in the board room. For more info, call Liz at 281/855-8616.

• **The Women's Network** is a support group established to serve the lesbian & bisexual women's community of Houston; any woman who is sensitive to & comfortable with lesbians is welcome. The network provides an opportunity to discuss women's issues in a safe environment, network with other women and socialize with old & new friends. A donation of \$3-\$5 is requested; however, any woman is welcome regardless of her ability to pay. 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-threatening 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 & healthcare 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 Den,

tal 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 & 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 call for further details.

• **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 & diaper wipes; food; art supplies; & 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 other activities. To inquire about volunteering, call Kevin Phillips @ 713/290-1746.

• **Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)** is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health of lesbians & 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, fund-raising, direct healthcare services, organizing projects, phone trees, & publicity/advertising. Info: Pokey Anderson @ 526-7828 or write LHI, POB 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 & 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 fund-raising events. More info, call 713/520-9248 or e-mail ahvint@neosoftware.com. You can also visit at <http://www.neosoftware.com/~ahvint/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.

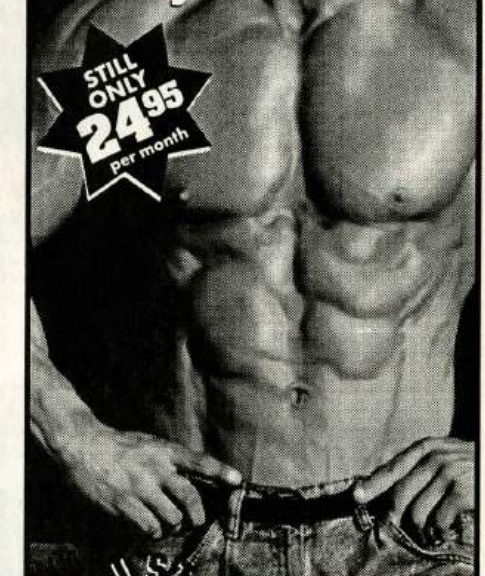
• **Next Step** is a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Provided by Montrose Clinic. Call 713/520-2000 for schedule and to register.

• **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 & services. For more information, call 713/522-5757.

• **Tobacco-Free Greater Houston** provides a list of smoke-free restaurants in the Houston area and works to promote health through the reduction of youth access to tobacco & promotion of

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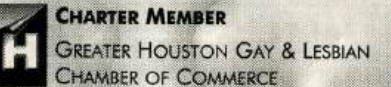
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a smoke-free environment. For free guide, send SASE to Tobacco-Free Greater Houston, P.O. Box 890769, Houston, TX 77289-0769.
• **Thomas Street Health Center Council** is an elected advocacy group that advise the hospital district on matters concerning 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 Wednesday, 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 713/520-2000.
• **Yoga.** Free yoga classes. Yoga benefits the individual by providing stress relief, better health & a clear mind. This is achieved by a combination of physical postures, mental exercises, breathing techniques & improved diet. Free yoga classes are Mondays & Wednesdays at 7 pm and Fridays at 6 pm @ Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 West Loop South, Ste. 21, 713/965-9642.

Social

• **20 Something** is a caring, informative, social community for lesbian/gay persons & their friends coming together in a safe & positive atmosphere to share, learn, & build friendships. For more information, 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/more info: 863-1860.
• **Classic Chassis Car Club (CCCC)** is a group of gay men and lesbians who enjoy having, talking or being around people who have old classic cars and exchanging ideas about them. We have one eat-out and one happy-hour gathering each month, as well as some impromptu get-togethers. For locations and dates: 713/960-9613 or write P.O. Box 981102, Houston 77098.
• **Garden And Yard Society (G.A.Y.S.)** is a gay gardening club for women & men. Bring your gardening friends and supporting partners. Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 7 pm. (On Nov. 8 there will be an outing to Maas Nursery in Seabrook & on to Moody Gardens in Galveston with lunch somewhere along the way.) More info: 713/661-6378, 713/520-1066, or 713/869-8245.
• **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 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 & former members welcome! Info: 947-1488.
• **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 Area Motorcycle Society (HAMS)** is a new lesbian & gay motorcycle club for everyone who owns a motorcycle and wants to go on organized rides with other family members. All rides are free and open to the public. For more info: 713/523-7347 or write P.O. Box 981025, Houston, TX 77098.
• **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 & join them every 4th Friday of the month, 7 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Crane Fireside Room, 5200 Fannin. Info: 713/526-5200.
• **LIB,** a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbians, 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 Rangers,** 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, please call Cookie Davenport @ 713/869-1686.
• **Scriptwriters/Houston** is a stage-and-screen writers' 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 Friday, 7-9 pm, at The Ranch, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway. Call 713/226-2228 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 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. Info: page @ 284-7206.

Sports

• **Houston Tennis Club,** an affiliate member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, welcomes men and women of all ages and skill levels. They meet Wednesdays & Fridays from 7:30-9 pm & Sundays from 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join, call 713/692-2703.
• **Houston Women's Flag Football League (HWWFL)** is a nonprofit sports organization open to all women, ages 18 & over. We have two divisions—competitive & recreational. You can join by bringing in your own team. For more info: 713/981-6753.
• **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. More info: 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 fund-raising 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.



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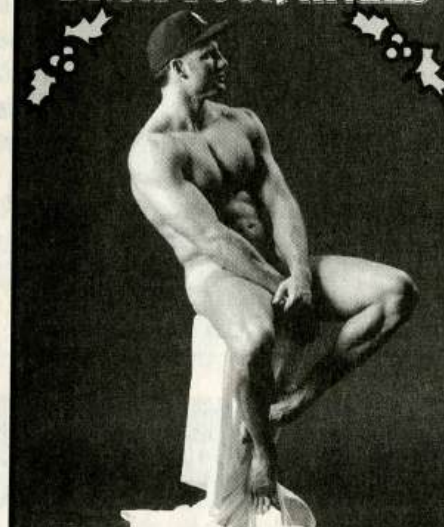


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Sign Out by Madilyn Stein

The sun cycles for 365 1/4 days-a-year. It symbolizes the part of ourselves and what some of us think is our life force. Your sun sign lasts for 30 days regardless of the month or year. It starts in the latter part of one month and lasts until the latter part of the next month. When the Sun returns to its exact degree, minute and second of the sign it was on the day we were born, we experience what is called a solar return. The solar return cycle is what many practitioners refer to as an energy flow and sets the beginning of our new year. The 45 days around our birthday are significant because we unconsciously feel our bodies and minds making changes. The latitude, longitude, month, day and year set our ascendant; thus the exact time of birth is very important. November's sign, Scorpio, influences us from the 24th to the 22nd. Here's how Scorpio and Sagittarius, December's sign, influences each of our signs.



Your Horoscope For November

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22), you are affected this birthday by more choices than most of us because your innermost value structures are being challenged. You have the opportunity to become a free spirit, so your excessive and extreme nature is apparent. Let your hearts open to receive a bundle of nachos or soufflé. "Do anything you want to as long as you don't do it on me" is your motto. Choose intuitively because the right bait is just around the corner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 20) The gods tripled their whammy. The planets have doubled up your sign, so you feel like you're burning the candle at both ends. This month, butter your bread before you toast. Keep everything simple and let others show their hand so you'll benefit professionally, financially and romantically. Plan a trip. The strangers you meet will enhance your future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19) Now that you've cleaned house, the wheeling and dealing can start. The time is ripe for a serendipitous experience. Your antennae are in place, and what you'll begin to experience will suddenly draw you to meaningful people and topics that elevate your spiritual, mystical fate. Keep your pink parts clean.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Lift up your head and shout, "It's my turn." This is a time for a rock-and-roll event, so rearrange close contacts and develop new foundations. Socialize, network and propel yourself into all that you've ever wished for. Your old friends will say it's about time you've become what you used to be. Set your sights on new horizons and let the Mac truck, in you, become your guide.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20) Saddle up and ride your pony in full gallop. Recent lulls in business will become a past life. Expect high

activity, many choices and great opportunity. Choose wisely because an idealistic romantic can regain lost ground and recoup losses. Make hay while the pasture is ripe. They say Pisces are sly. Who are they?

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) Now that you've gotten your dirty laundry in order, you can create positive situations in work and relationship areas. It's not necessarily a good time to slow down. There's lots of fire and air influences for the next several years, and all of the energies will benefit you if you take life one step at a time. Rams are notorious for seeing and believing others are as interested in them as they are in other people's business.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20) You, Sun of Sam, are safe and secure. Don't rest on your laurels even though the ground is solid. November is mostly earth and fire influences with just the right soup mixes for those chilly nights. Put on your old Sadie Hawkins outfit and ask your lover for some exceptional nookie. If you don't have a special someone, then let the good times roll and make Sadie your best friend. Rewards and pleasures go hand in hand.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) The first and last of November could bring renewed love or at least a short-term squeeze. Either way, calm your body, mind and spirit for this new life experience. Someone will ask for a commitment if your big eyes stay focused on your heart's desire. The lyrics "if you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with" is fitting at this time.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) Your usual "I can handle anything" isn't working too well this month. Let work take a hiatus while you gather your energy for holiday fun and entertaining. This is a better time to concentrate your efforts on building new and stronger relationships personally and professionally. Sad and lost feelings have lingered this month; ignoring the situation won't cut the cookie.

LEO (July 21 - Aug. 22) Your congenial nature is powerful! Soul search. What would really make you happy? Your silence may become your downfall. Stay out of the love arena and breathe out heavy, emotional, consuming thoughts. Go to a hip hair salon or buy a new frock. Take a short trip to a nearby hideaway. Chill.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) The themes this month are accomplishments and persistence. It's a great time to seek professional and personal

changes. Start now. Make changes without blinking. If one door closes, open the next one. Press forward, because once the ball starts rolling you're sure to find happiness and monetary success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Time to break old fears and habits. You have support from your peers and loved ones. You'll be facing changes for at least a year beginning with your birthday. Each day will be a new day, so don't count on your last conversation, meeting, interview or encounter. Take a Jell-O bath with a close friend. The jiggle will turn you on. Act now and you'll be pleased with the outcome.



Madilyn Stein does astrological readings for individuals and major corporations, as well as dishing the stars at private parties.

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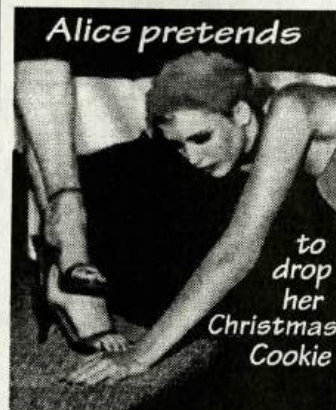
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Travel Out

continued from page 35

of his most famous canvases, including "Christina's World," with Maine's countryside as the backdrop. Writer Stephen King and the poet Edna St. Vincent Millay also call Maine home. Recently some famous Hollywood characters have bought property in Maine, among them Tom Selleck, John Travolta and Kirstie Alley.

Of particular interest to us gay souls was writer, scientist and ecologist Rachel Carson, who was the mother of the "environmental movement" and a lesbian who spent her summers two miles from our house on Southport Island. A remarkable woman, she received her MA in zoology from Johns Hopkins University in 1932, and became chief of publications for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1936. Embedded within all of Carson's writing was the view that human beings

were but one part of nature distinguished primarily by their powers to alter it, in some cases irreversibly. This view led to her powerful, and perhaps best-known book, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962. This brave and lyrical book awakened the world to the dangers of pesticides. Her courageous warning that we are a vulnerable part of the natural world, subject to the terrible harm done to our ecosystem by the use of chemicals, led to her testimony before Congress in 1963, which soon after produced new policies to protect human health and the formation of the EPA.

Always an extremely private figure, during the last 12 years of her life Rachel Carson enjoyed a loving, complex and sustained friendship with Dorothy Freeman. *Always, Rachel: The Letters of Rachel Carson and Dorothy Freeman* was published in 1995. *The Boston Globe* reviewer said, "Perhaps the finest element of these letters is the presence and proof of a great love and a passionate friend-

ship, whose power inspired a lyricism equal to the literary beauty of [Carson's] nature writing." My friends and sister and I all felt in very good company as we walked along the rocky shore around Southport Island.

Maine is a state where gay people maintain a fairly low profile. There will probably never be a gay pride parade in Maine. As one local said, "Many of us are just your average Republicans, except for the time we spend between the sheets."

However, on May 16, 1997, Maine officially became the 10th state to ban discrimination against gay men and lesbians. The new law bans discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. Our group was warmly received everywhere we went; those "Mainers" really didn't much care who we were sleeping with.

There are a couple of gay scenes to speak of in this marvelous state.

One is in Ogunquit, a small town 60 miles north of Boston. It enjoys one of the most beautiful beaches in the state, and is a simpler, quieter gay alternative to Provincetown. There are 10 or so guesthouse accommodations that are gay-owned or gay-friendly, and The Club is the local dance bar. In Portland, a city of over 200,000 residents, there are several bars and restaurants that cater to our community.

If you're looking for an active gay scene, then don't go to Maine. If on the other hand you want to experience some of our country's most spectacular natural beauty, with good people, no dress code and fine food, then go to Maine as soon as possible. Do remember, as you contemplate your trip, many places close their doors and literally turn off the water supply between October 31 and April 1 due to the weather.

Sandra Wilkins is the owner and president of *The Travel Partnership*.

Reclaiming History

continued from page 51

Durham area. You had the formation of publishing houses like Daughters, Inc., and although that was formed in the New England area, it was formed by two Texans. They published a whole host of books, many of them written by Southerners like Bertha Harris and Pat Parker. Particularly in the next volume and even in this volume here, you can't leave after you read the book and say that the South was not important and that Southerners did not make contributions. That's going to strike home even more in the next book.

OS: *There has been so much progress in cities like Houston. It's difficult for those of us who live in large metropolitan areas to realize that many smaller towns in the deep South are still much more negative toward gay people.*

JS: That's really where the significant social and political change is going to occur. In Houston the Gay Political Caucus actually started in the '60s and then really catapulted substantially in the early '70s with the election of [Kathy] Whitmire as mayor. You have the large cities like Houston and Atlanta and Miami and you also have other eddies of social support. There are reasonably good areas to live in like the Research Triangle in North Carolina or the Austin area. Now I think the challenge is precisely what you mentioned. That is why I think a book like this is so important, because I don't think we can do as good a job as we can unless we and other people who are our allies understand the culture and the history from which we came. For example, if you return back from Atlanta or Atlantic City to your small town in East Texas where your family has been for generations, and you come back as an openly gay man or a lesbian—that's where the impact is going to happen.

OS: *Were there a lot of straight allies involved in the gay rights movement during the period covered in the book?*

JS: First, there weren't a lot of people involved, period. The two people I just mentioned, in terms of having a major impact in the '50s, Kinsey and Hooker the

continued on page 69

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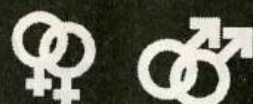


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Reclaiming History

continued from page 67

were straight. But, there's a big discussion throughout this period of time, the homophile era, of who should be our spokespeople. For a lot of the gay activists, it was "we need to have people who are straight, because those people have credibility. We don't have credibility." In the South, you can look at a handful of people—someone like Eddie Sandefer in Jackson, Mississippi, or Phil Johnson in Dallas, Texas, or Jack Nickols in Washington, D.C., or Richard Inman in Florida—these were one-man shows. There weren't even gay allies. Even getting gay people to support the Athenaeum Society in Florida or to help form the Mattachine in Washington, D.C., or to be involved in the Circle of Friends, that was hard to do. I'm not aware of, although I'm sure there were, those kinds of straight allies back then in the South.

OS: It has always been difficult to get different social movements to join together. For example, many blacks are afraid to associate with the gay rights movement, while many gay people don't see racial equality as a connected issue. Do you have a sense that there is any greater sense of connection between human rights movements, or are we all still operating on our own?

JS: I'm white and I'm middle class and I'm gay and I'm a man, and I think that I and people like myself have a responsibility—a political as well as a social and moral responsibility—to cross boundaries with other people, particularly people who are oppressed along lines of class or race, to name two. Although being an openly gay man in the South may be difficult, I'm still a man, I'm still white and I'm still upper-middle class. Those things matter, particularly in the South. So, I can live a reasonably comfortable life even with sodomy statutes and even with all the other draconian kind of actions that many states and cities have. That's very different than someone who's born off of the sea islands [near Charleston] who's lesbian and poor. To go back to your direct question, I don't think, as Audrey Lord talks about, it's not a matter of ranking oppressions. It's a matter of looking at areas of commonality in a Jesse

Jackson kind of sense, in terms of how we are all both victims and also can be victors if we pull together here. To the degree that we borrow extensively from the civil rights movement unthinkingly, I think is a mistake. I think what's more important to understand is there were many people like Pat Cusick and Quinton Baker who happen to be gay but whose number one priority was the civil rights movement. There were lots of people both in the leadership level and in the rank-and-file level of the civil rights movement who were lesbian and gay and bisexual. Conversely there are many people of color who happen to be gay and lesbian who face other kinds of issues of being a person of color in a dominantly Anglo gay world or being a person whose sexually different within a black community or a Latino community which may not respect that. So, my point here is that we have a responsibility. When we allow ourselves to maintain the safety of Montrose or the Castro or Cherry Grove or South Beach, then we only have ourselves to blame when people who are not our friends utilize the fractions that are there in terms of the black civil rights movement and the gay civil rights movement and use them to exploit us.

OS: It seems that fundamentalist Christians in the South become more focused on the gay issue as we become more visible. Has their obsession with fighting gay rights always been there or is this a new phenomenon?

JS: Of course, there are different groups of fundamentalists, and if you go back to the original 12 pamphlets that were produced in 1909 to 1912, the original cause for the fundamentalist was that "we want to have as little to do with the secular world as we can because the secular world is demonic and we need to have our own fortresses of Christianity." To go back, it was really in terms of the Scopes trial that people who were Christian conservatives really began to become social activists in terms of "we need to act on the world and change the world and make the world like Jesus wants it to be."

You can go back and look at the '70s—that's what I'm going to talk about in the

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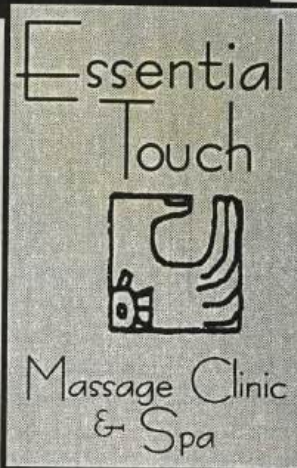
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Reclaiming History continued from page 69

Christian Roundtable, the formation of the Moral Majority. That dovetailed indirectly with the rise of the gay rights movement and dovetails precisely with the Dade County fiasco and all the other things that were going on. In fact, had the gay rights movement not existed, I don't think the Christian evangelical fundamentalist movement would be as strong as it is. One feeds on the other. Conversely, I would say that we would not be, paradoxically, as strong as we are because historically for the gay rights movement we've made our greatest advances in the face of adversity, whether it's the AIDS epidemic or Anita Bryant or the Briggs Amendment. That's when changes have occurred. That's when people got off their couches and out of their discos to actually become involved. There is a bizarre, almost synergistic relationship between Christian conservatives and gays.

Going back to your question about the South, religion is important for many Americans, but particularly in the South. It's not just religion, it's a state of mind, a state of being, and I think that's one reason why there's more MCC chapters in the South than any other region of the country. Religion is a very important aspect of the South. That's why people like Mel White—their work and the books they write and the lectures they give are very, very important because the South is religious in a very conservative way and we are brought up in that context. That's the context in which a lot of the issues have to be worked out.

OS: So, in the next book, are you going to touch on the idea of gays and lesbians reclaiming their spirituality?

JS: Yes, in fact there are two parts of the book—one part will deal with the actual formation of MCC, not so much about Troy Perry. That's pretty well documented, but I'm going to talk about the formation of a couple of MCCs in the South and the importance of religion. The other thing I'm going to talk about is the formation of groups like the Radical Fairies and the Back to the Earth movement, the Pagan and Wicca movements and how that's taken root heavily in the South, which is also a whole spiritual development. For example, the Radical Fairy movement in the South and Midwest is a very different movement than what you find on the West Coast. Part of that is because of the religious overlay here, this deep conservative religious aspect. Spirituality and religious issues will become more common in the next book.

James Sears will be at Crossroads Market, 1111 Westheimer, for a book signing on Wednesday, November 5 from 7 to 8 p.m. Sears will also be a guest on "Gay & Lesbian Voices," KPFT 90.1 FM, on Thursday, November 6 at 7 p.m.

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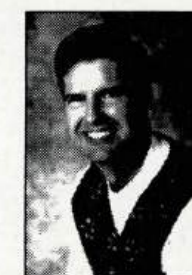


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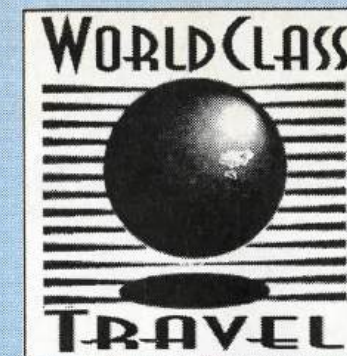
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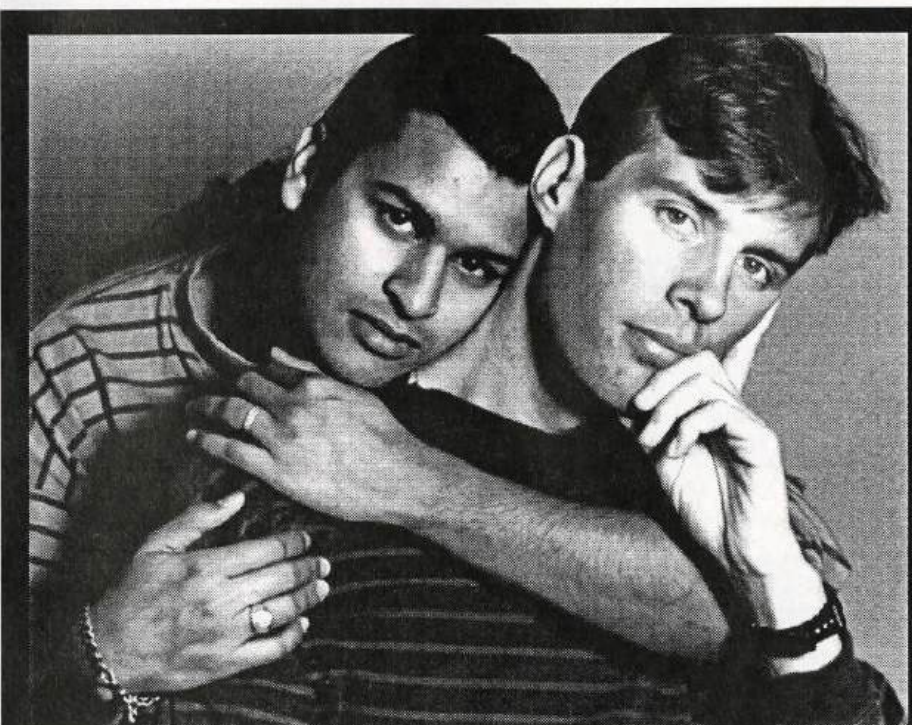
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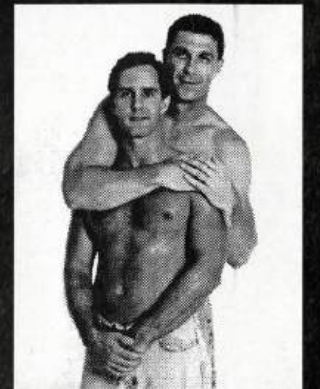
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OUT IN HOUSTON

UniGlobe Travel hosted the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce "Pack Your Bags" Party. Some of the attendees were (1-6):

1 Dr. Stewart Zuckerbrod (left) and John Stockman.

2 William Foster, Mariner Health.

3 Artist Kermit Eisenhut (left) and TCB's Richard Bielec.

4 Acker-Blum's Kevin Pittman.

5 Preferred Graphics guy, Dan DiDonato.

6 UniGlobe agents (l-r): Coy Tow, Jim Krieling, Nancy Kendall, Andrew King, and Dennis Schwartz.

7 Bayou City Boys Club New Year's Kick-off Party, where they announced a donation of \$25,000 to various local charities. Clockwise from left: Susan Molitor, staff coordinator, Casa de Esperanza de los Niños; Matt Kroll, president, Bayou City Boys Club; Michael Peranteau, Center for AIDS; and Buddy Buckley, Houston Buyers Club.

At Lamda's annual dragfest fund-raiser:

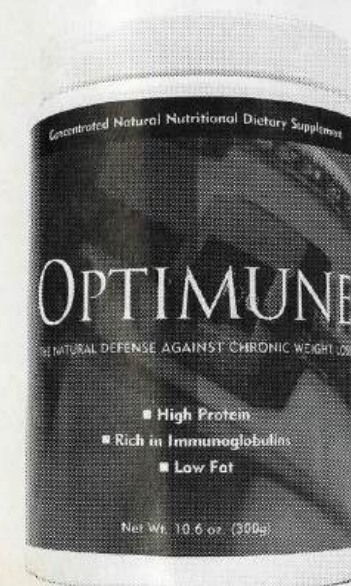
8 Jason Hosch as "Delta Mae Godown."

9 Hostess Kelly Lauren skewers another victim, model Lee M. Bennett.



PHOTOS #1-6 & 9: DANI HURLEY; 7: UNCREDITED

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