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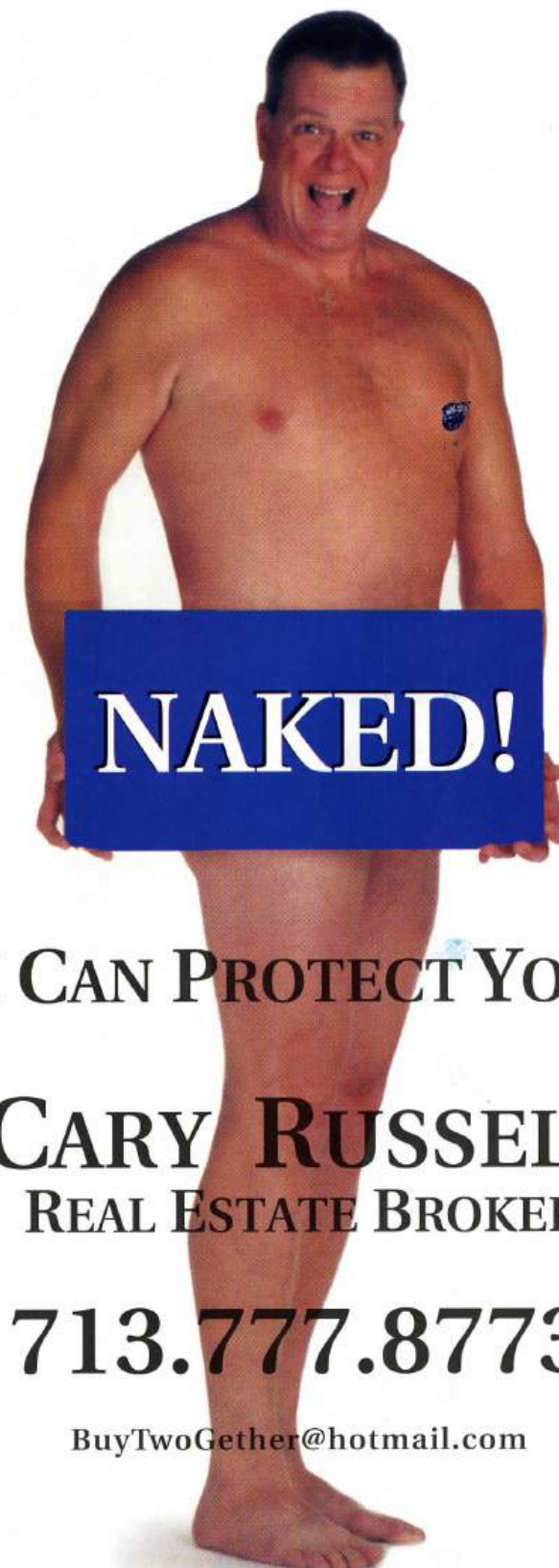


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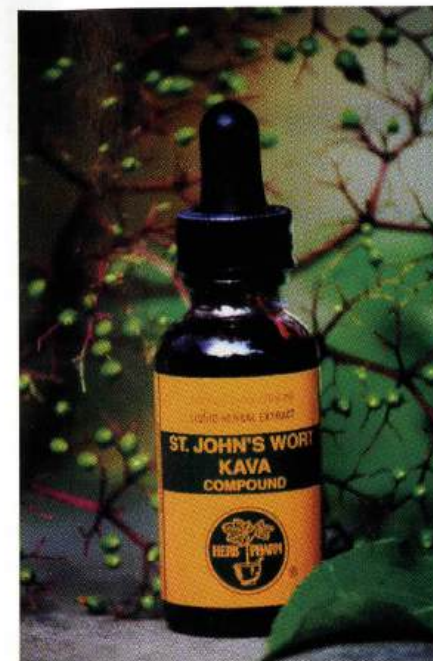


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DECEMBER 1997

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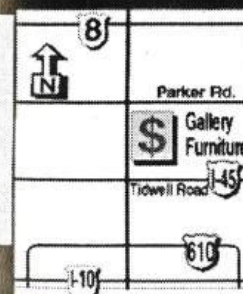
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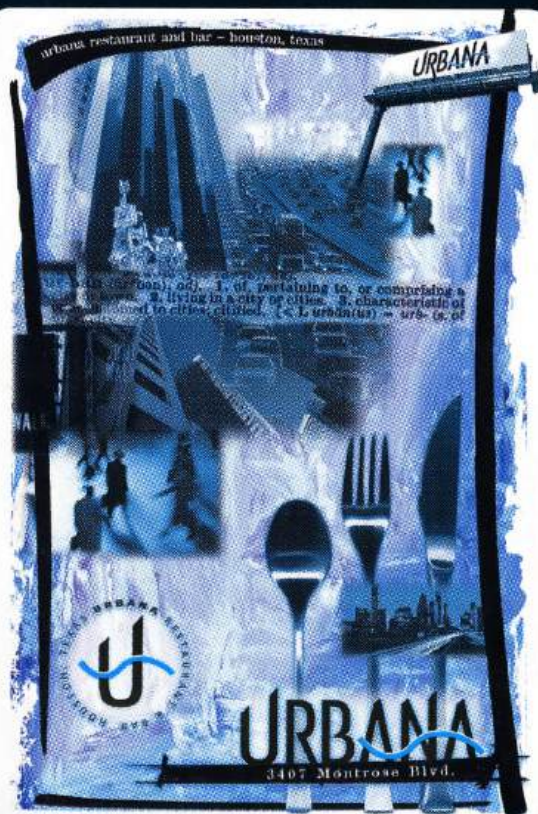
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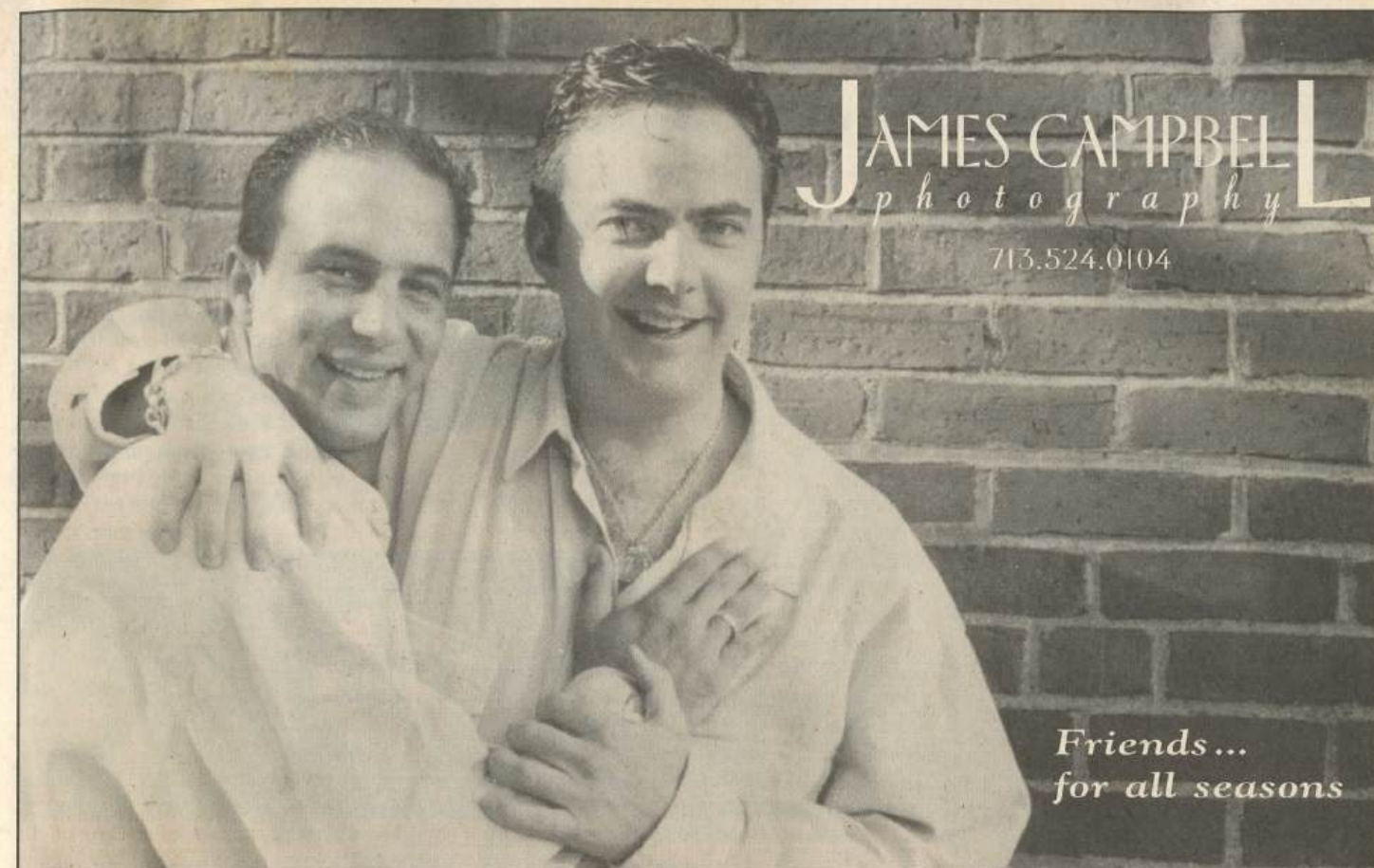
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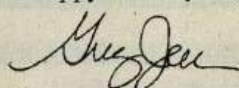
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Publisher's Perspective

Can you believe that it's that time again? Yes, it's the season of holiday gift-giving. How about giving a free but a most generous gift to the city and to the gay community? Simply show up at the polls on Saturday, December 6 and cast your vote for Annise Parker, who really needs your vote in this special runoff election. Your vote will help elect Houston's first openly gay City Councilmember and undoubtedly the most qualified for this position.

See you at the polls.

Happy Holidays.



Greg Jeu
Publisher

Letters to the Editor

THE BAD WITH THE GOOD

I was very disappointed in the October issue. "The Gayest and Greatest" was an issue that informed the community of the results of a recent pole that your magazine had done within the community. Such questions as "Most Homophobic Restaurant," "Service That Sucks," and "Sleaziest Gay Businessperson" were obviously questions that you had presented requesting answers to. The problem is in the way you reported the results of these questions. I think that your magazine took a slide on being honest with these results. I think that if you have the nerve to ask such hard questions, you need to stand up with the balls to answer them in the same straightforward method that you used in reporting the other answers. You did go far enough to give hints as to the answers. Don't hide behind the dollar. If your advertisers are that important to you, then you should not ask the hard questions. Come on OutSmart, I thought better of you. I guess I was wrong.

—Mark (unreadable last-name signature),
Houston

Editor's note: None of the people or places voted in the "Most Homophobic Restaurant," "Service That Sucks," and "Sleaziest Gay Businessperson" categories are advertisers. Maybe that's why they got the votes.



WE'VE GOT PERSONALITY

I sift through every national gay publication around and rarely read every article in it. Out used to be one of my favorites, and now it just rambles on and on and, frankly, tells me a whole lot about stuff I just don't care about and nothing about the stuff I do. OutSmart, on the other hand, is an always refreshing read. Your personality interviews are the first thing I always turn to, and last month's Bob Smith Q&A did not interrupt a long, successful streak of winning articles.

—Richard King
Houston

MISSING OUT

Thank you for your Empower '97 article in your November issue. I find it enormously entertaining when you don't just report community events, but review them. While I didn't attend the event, I will definitely be there next year. And that has everything to do with your take on the subject. It sounds like it was a lot of fun and good business, too. I'm kicking myself that I didn't go this year. Your review made me feel like I really missed something special. I'm sure you're doing a great service to the community. That's great. What I like is that you're doing a great service to me.

—Vincent Gabrels
Houston

THUMBS UP

Your magazine just keeps getting better and better. Love the features, love the scoops, love the columnists (even Dale). Keep up the good work.

—Leslie B.
The Woodlands

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

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National Briefs



CLINTON MAKES HISTORIC SPEECH TO HRC

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a nod to the budding political clout of the gay rights movement, President Clinton addressed a fundraiser for the nation's largest gay and lesbian group. "We have to broaden the imagination of America," he said.

Clinton's sold-out dinner speech to the Human Rights Campaign, which was greeted by a sustained standing ovation inside and pickets outside, made him the first sitting president to publicly address a gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

Keeping to relatively non-controversial territory, he steered clear of TV's *Ellen*, being honored by the group. Instead, he urged Congress to pass legislation protecting homosexuals from job discrimination, and confirm Bill Lann Lee, his nominee as assistant attorney general for civil rights.

"What counts is energy and honesty and talent. No arbitrary distinction should bar the way," Clinton said.

"When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong and it should be illegal."

He told the audience of about 1,500 that people who "aren't comfortable yet with you" need to learn to see lesbians and gays as fellow Americans committed to freedom and equality.

"Should we change the law? You bet. Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely," Clinton said. "But we have to broaden the imagination of America. We are redefining in practical terms the immutable ideals that have guided us from the beginning."

White House officials billed the event as a "community outreach" gesture not unlike his recent participation in the National Italian American Foundation dinner.

"I would just want to put this in the context of all the work the president has done this year to reach out to a variety of communities and bring people together so they can think about what they share in common, as one America," said Mike McCurry, White House press secretary.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of Human Rights Campaign, called Clinton's record "completely in sync" with her group's nondiscrimination agenda. "His presence is a powerful affirmation of the shared dream of equality for every American," she said.

Thanking him for the first-ever White House

conference on hate crimes, Birch added, "You can be absolutely sure, Mr. President, we will ask you to do more."

Christian conservatives voiced disgust at what Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, called "an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the moral left."

The other featured guest at the black-tie dinner—expected to raise \$300,000 for the campaign's political activities—was TV actress Ellen DeGeneres, who was accompanied by her partner, Anne Heche. With great fanfare, DeGeneres revealed last spring that both she and her title character on the ABC sitcom *Ellen* are gay.

While anti-gay demonstrators and AIDS protesters unhappy with Clinton's record picketed the dinner at a downtown Washington hotel, White House officials played down any controversy.

McCurry preemptively quashed speculation that Clinton would follow Vice President Al Gore's lead and embrace TV's *Ellen* for its bold plot line. "That's not an area that he wants to particularly highlight," McCurry said.

Clinton left the dinner before its program turned to DeGeneres, who, along with her mother and Heche, met the president backstage and out of view. News photographers were advised in advance that there would be no opportunity to snap Clinton and DeGeneres together.

Gore rankled conservatives—and surprised even some Democrats—when in a Hollywood speech last month he praised *Ellen* for forcing Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

Both Gore's remarks and the mere fact of Clinton's address underscored the increased visibility and weight of gay rights issues within the Democratic Party agenda.

Human Rights Campaign's Birch claimed an independent exit poll showed that votes from self-identified homosexual voters amounted to 7 percent of Clinton's total support in 1996. "That's the same as the Hispanic vote, and no one would ever fail to make a calculation about the importance of the Hispanic vote," said Birch.

She estimates that gay donors gave \$3.2 million to Democrats last year. The campaign itself wields the power of one of the larger political action committees, which spread \$1.1 million among almost 200 candidates.

When she took over at the Human Rights

Campaign two years ago, she modeled it after the Christian Coalition and the American Association of Retired Persons. Transforming a fringe of dissident outsiders to an inside-the-Beltway player, Birch doubled the campaign's membership to 200,000.

CLINTON URGES HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton urged an expansion of federal hate-crime laws to include more potential victims, stiffer penalties and better reporting.

"Anybody who thinks... that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country is living in a dream world," Clinton said in the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

"Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it."

Chunee Sampson, who started an organization called Students Against Violence Everywhere, told the conference how as a middle-school student she never got used to skinheads regularly pelting her school bus in Brooklyn, N.Y., with rocks, bottles and eggs.

Clinton said some of those young men probably are ashamed today of what they did.

"I wouldn't be surprised if some of them weren't ashamed of it the day they did it," Clinton said. "I'll bet you some of the people were scarred in ways that they never got over."

Clinton said Americans can no longer ignore "what happens when racial or ethnic or religious animosity joins with lawlessness." He announced measures that include 50 extra FBI agents and federal prosecutors assigned to enforcing hate crime laws, a network of federal, state and local officials to share information about enforcing hate crimes, and tougher penalties for housing-related hate crime.

The president also endorsed a plan by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to expand current hate crime laws to make it illegal to injure someone because he or she is gay, disabled or a member of the opposite sex.

"All Americans deserve protection from hate," Clinton said. "We should make our current laws tougher to include all hate crimes that cause physical harm."

According to Justice Department statistics, 8,759 hate crimes were reported in 1996, compared with 7,947 reported in the previous year. White House officials said they are not sure

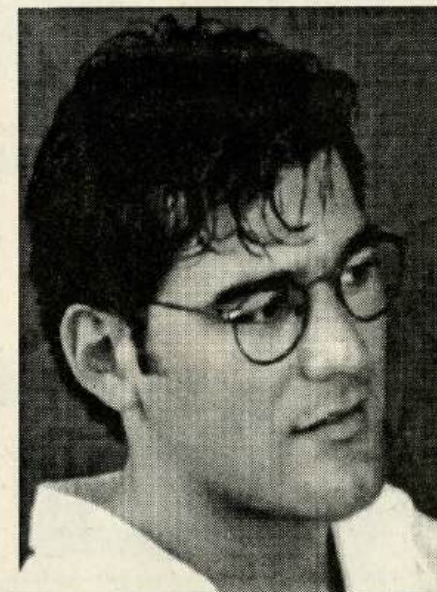
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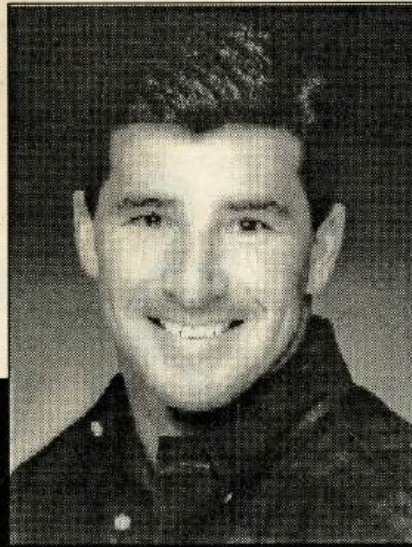
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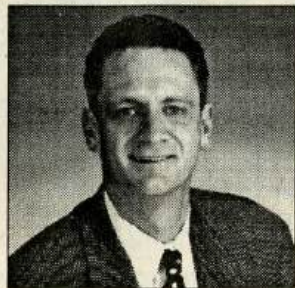
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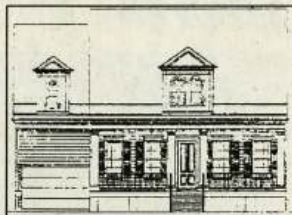
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National Briefs

continued from page 10

whether the increase indicates that hate crimes are up or reporting has improved.

Race was a factor in 63 percent of all reported hate crimes, followed by religion, 13.9 percent; sexual orientation, 12 percent; and ethnic origin, 11 percent. The White House did not provide a breakdown by race.

CAMMERMEYER TO RUN FOR CONGRESS

LANGLEY, Wash. (AP) - Margarethe Cammermeyer, who successfully fought the National Guard's attempts to discharge her for being a lesbian, plans to run for Congress.

Cammermeyer, who recently retired from the Washington Army National Guard as a colonel, said she would file to seek the western Washington seat held by two-term Republican Rep. Jack Metcalf.

"As a mother of four, grandmother of five, nurse and soldier, I feel like I understand the issues facing families as they struggle to make ends meet," Cammermeyer, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Cammermeyer, 55, once called herself "one of the most famous lesbians in the country."

The decorated Vietnam veteran was discharged in 1992 after disclosing her sexual orientation in a 1989 interview for a top-secret security clearance. A federal judge ordered her reinstated and the government did not appeal.

Her battle resulted in a best-selling book and a made-for-TV movie starring Glenn Close.

EMORY TRUSTEES OK SOME GAY WEDDINGS

ATLANTA (AP)—Methodist-affiliated Emory University will allow gay couples to say "marriage" or commitment vows in its chapels under strictly limited circumstances that effectively exclude most campus homosexuals, including Methodists.

The policy, recently approved by the Emory board of trustees, requires that a religious leader from one of the 24 religious groups on campus perform such ceremonies, chaplain Susan Henry-Crowe said.

Of those groups, only the Reformed Jewish leader and the United Church of Christ leader now perform ceremonies for gay couples, she said, acknowledging that gays of other faiths who want to use campus chapels are out of luck.

Lindsey G. Davis, bishop of the North Georgia United Methodist Conference, said that he was pleased that Emory's new policy "makes it unlikely that same-sex ceremonies will be conducted in the university chapels."

But Ms. Henry-Crowe, a Methodist minister, denied the new policy is designed to dodge a church-university controversy by making the issue largely moot.



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Houston Briefs

FOCUS ON THE RUNOFF ELECTION

VOTE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 • The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus PAC endorses Lee Brown (Mayor), Annise Parker (At-Large 1), Chris Bell (At-Large 4), Carroll Robinson (At-Large 5), and Dionne Roberts (District F).



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

LEE BROWN IS CLEARLY THE CHOICE FOR HOUSTON'S GAY COMMUNITY.

by Kyle Young

On Saturday, December 6, Houstonians will elect the next mayor for the Bayou City. Mayoral candidate Rob Mosbacher is against an employment non-discrimination ordinance for the city and against partner benefits for city employees. He sights "moral" reasons for his position. Former Houston Police Chief Lee Brown values diversity and has a supportive history of working with the gay community. We recently talked with Brown about his campaign.

You have been endorsed by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus PAC in the runoff election. Originally, George Greanias had that group's endorsement...

He was your councilmember there for a long time, and he did a good job for the community also.

You certainly have a strong record as well. You told the *Houston Chronicle* that you wanted to appoint a liaison to the gay community. What do you have in mind?

My slogan, "A mayor for all of Houston," is something that I really mean. Everyone has to be represented in what we have to offer this city. When I came here in 1982, there was a very serious problem between the police department and the gay community. What I was able to do was to bring about some rather significant changes. We do not have those problems today. One way of doing that was to make sure I had an open door, plus a liaison, to make sure when issues occur, that we can address them. I'll do the same thing as mayor, making sure that we have that open line of communication, so even if I'm not available at some time, there is someone who can have direct access to me to bring the issues and concerns or problems to my attention. If you have a problem and you don't deal with it, they pile up. Then you have a much more serious problem. So that's what I want to do in that context.

Will that be a staff position?

It could be a staff position. I will consult with the community in helping me make that decision.

Do you support an employment non-discrimination ordinance for the community?

I don't believe that anybody should be discriminated against. I will address it. I think we can do it through an executive order.

Are you in favor providing health benefits to same-sex partners of city employees?

We will take a look at that as an issue. I've done some preliminary inquiries on that, and some of the big companies are doing it, some cities are doing it and it's not costing a lot of money. There's not a big economic impact. What I'll do as mayor is look at how we can develop consensus to get something like that done.

When in your career did you really start to become aware of issues important to the gay community?

It started when I was in Atlanta. I was the public safety commissioner there, and as was the case in Houston, there were problems between the gay community and the Atlanta Police Department. So, what I did was to reach out and work with the gay community, and we brought about a fundamental change there. In fact, my coming here was helped by the fact that the gay community in Atlanta called ahead of time and said, "He's alright. You can work with him." It made it a lot easier for me because that trust existed there. So it started there, and as a result, I was able to bring forth my understanding of how to resolve the problems in Houston and make a difference.

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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE IS ON THE VERGE OF MAKING HISTORY

Annise Parker Would Be Houston's First Openly Gay Councilmember

by Kyle Young

After securing her place in the runoff for Houston City Council, Position 1, Annise Parker is positioned to become the first openly gay person ever to sit on Council.

Out of nine candidates, Parker drew 20.25 percent of last month's votes. Her opponent, Don Fitch, took 28.85 percent of the votes cast in the race. Fitch is a lobbyist for garbage company Browning Ferris Industries.

If voters show up at the poles on Saturday, Dec. 6, there is a very real chance Parker will be elected. However, returns from heavily gay polls in the Heights and Montrose showed that the gay community didn't turn out in above-average numbers for November's election.

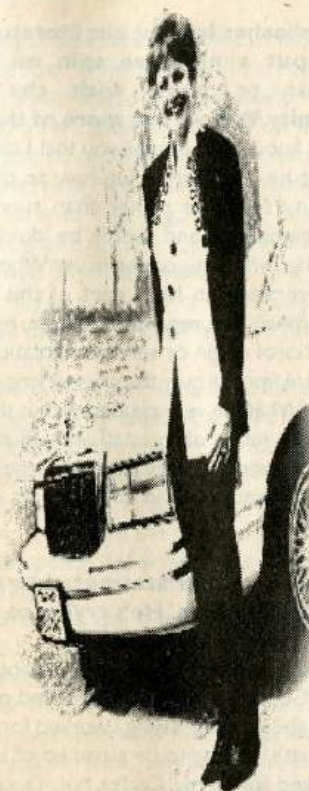
"I think there's some feeling that we can't make a difference with our votes, which is absolutely untrue," says Parker, "but we also can't elect people strictly on our votes. Candidates that get elected who have support from the gay community have to have support from other areas too. You have to be able to cross over and put together a coalition."

She has built a strong base of support, moving well beyond the gay community.

"To have the *Houston Chronicle* endorse me, to have the Houston Police Officers Union endorse me, yes, I've been doing a lot of work," explains Parker. "I have gay groups, black groups, Hispanic groups, police groups—it's wonderful."

Many organizations have been drawn to Parker's extensive community service including

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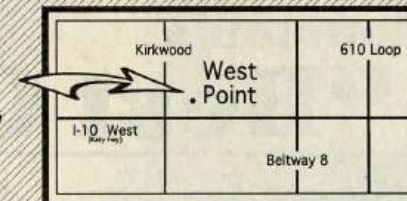
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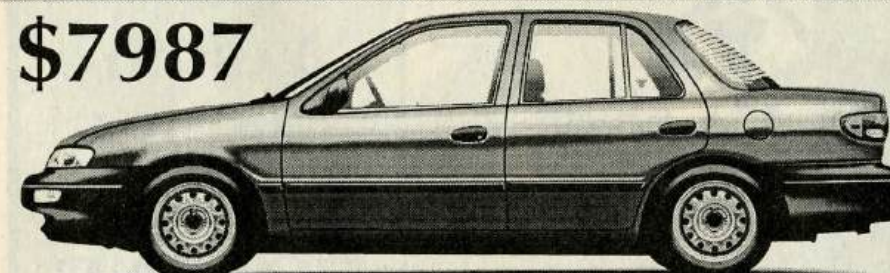
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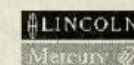
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BROWN from page 14

Rob Mosbacher has put out literature to try to put a negative spin on your openness to work with the gay community. Will we see more of that?

I don't know, but I can tell you that I disagree with what he does. I think we have to pull the community together rather than running a divisive campaign, and won't be doing any mudslinging. I will focus on the issues. When I say I want everyone to be a part of this city, I sincerely mean that, regardless of race, religion, creed, national origin or sexual orientation. We have people from all over this city working for my campaign. What I'm very pleased with is that my campaign, in terms of the staff and volunteers, looks like Houston. It's very pleasing to me to see that excitement exists in all segments of the community.

Your opponent has attempted to make this a partisan race. He's trying to paint you as a "liberal Democrat"...

We've seen that in some of his mailouts. He attacked George Greanias. He attacked me. He even lied about me by saying I worked for Jimmy Carter. That's nothing to be ashamed of. I wish I had worked for Jimmy Carter, but it's just not true. He talked about me working for Bill Clinton, that I worked for that "liberal mayor of New York," David Dinkins, and accused George Greanias of not having family values. I think that's extremely negative and divisive, and I just think Houstonians are better than that. They don't want to see that type of campaign.

Houstonians value the non-partisan nature of local elections...

The non-partisan aspect of the city government has served this city well for so long. I think trying to change that does a disservice to the people.

What happens after election day if you are victorious?

We're going to make sure that we have an open government. I want to implement a new style of government that I call "neighborhood-oriented government." I started neighborhood-oriented policing here, and took it to Neighborhoods-to-Standards and Parks-to-Standards. I want to take it to the next logical level where all the city government will be working in the neighborhoods, forming a partnership with the families and individuals who live there, and solving problems—improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods in our city. I learned a long time ago that the heart of any city is its neighborhoods and the people who live there. So, the people should have a say in the decisions that impact their lives.

For more information about the Brown Campaign, call 713/655-1997.

PARKER from page 14

teaching at the Police Academy, serving as a civic association president and a community development corporation president.

"No other candidate from our community has been able to put together this kind of diverse coalition," says Parker. "No other candidate has been able to really go out to mainstream Houston and lay out a platform that wasn't shadowed by sexual orientation."

Jay Seegers, co-chair of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus PAC, says Parker could make history.

"The momentum is building for the Parker campaign's runoff election, and it's truly exciting to be a part of this chapter of Houston history," says Seegers. "Annise's experience in solving neighborhood and community issues in the numerous positions she has served and her work with the police department make her the best candidate."

Parker says she is upfront on the campaign trail about being gay.

"There are gay people being elected for office all over the country, but very few have been public spokespersons for the gay community. There's a difference," says Parker. "It's one thing to be openly gay. It's another to have been publicly gay and publicly identified with the movement, as I have. So, I go in with the expectation that everyone knows, and my campaign literature certainly references some of the things that I've been involved in the gay community. Beyond that, it's not an issue. City government issues are not particularly gay issues. They're about potholes and crime, sidewalks and having the streetlights working in your neighborhood."

Parker is attempting to raise \$100,000 to run television and radio ads just before the election. She says television commercials in last month's election were key to her making the runoff.

"When people ask why campaigns are always asking for money—this is the fourth-largest city in the country, and I'm trying to reach the same one million registered voters that the mayor's race is targeting. OK, so Rob Mosbacher dropped \$3 million. I spent \$150,000. That's 15 cents-a-voter. That's a very cost-effective campaign. There's really no way to do it for less than that; you just can't get the word out."

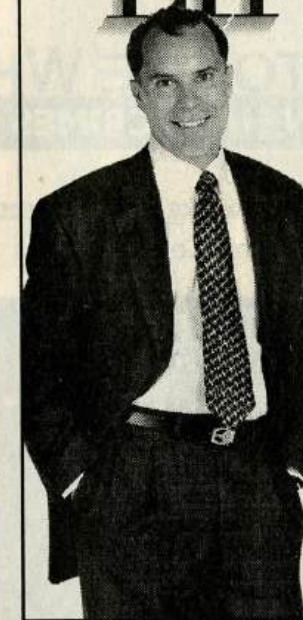
The Parker campaign is also in need of volunteers to display yard signs, staff phone banks and work the polls. If gay Houstonians want a place at the table, Parker says it's going to take a united effort.

"We're going to have to do a better job of getting the gay community aware and committed to showing up," says Parker. "Every vote is going to count this time. It could be extremely close. Our community is going to have to decide if it cares, if it's important enough."

For more information about the Parker Campaign, call 713/521-7338.

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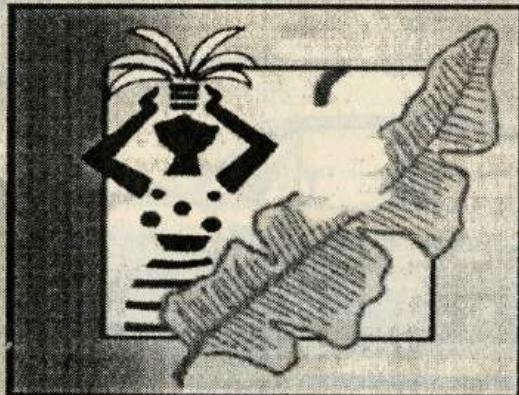
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AN INVITATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE

LGRL REPORTS ON HATE CRIMES SUMMIT

By

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, Executive Director
Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas



DIANNE HARDY-GARCIA

On November 10, 1997, I had the honor of attending President Clinton's White House Conference on Hate Crimes. The conference was the first time a U.S. president has made a conscious effort to address the problem of hate crimes in our country. President Clinton called together a diverse group of Americans to discuss ways to prevent hate crimes and make sure hate-related violence is taken seriously when it happens. After following over 22 anti-gay murders in Texas and fighting diligently for stronger hate crime laws in the Texas Legislature, I was thrilled to have an American president stand up and say this issue is important.

As I walked into the White House, I was struck by the welcoming environment. At every corner someone greeted us or thanked us for our work against hate crimes. We were repeatedly told about the importance of our work and how much our opinions were valued. This was a much different experience from what I have encountered in the Texas Legislature. As I have tried to talk to legislators about hate crimes, many of them have been visibly uncomfortable.

Some have pleaded with me not to press for a vote on such a "controversial" issue. Many legislators have been basically rude and absolutely clear that they would never support any legislation that included protections for gays even from hate crime violence. Of course, there are Texas legislators who have been truly courageous in their attempts

to pass stronger hate crime laws, but unfortunately they are not the norm. It was such a different feeling to be welcomed at the White House—I will never forget what a difference that made to me.

Inside the White House, I saw long-time civil rights leaders, legislators, religious leaders and police officers from every state, representing all races and cultures. We introduced ourselves, talked about our work and shared our hopes for the conference. Just being among these people made me realize I was not alone. President Clinton echoed these sentiments when he thanked the people in the room for their commitment to ending hate crimes.

He spoke of the historic use of hate crimes based on race and religion to terrorize whole groups of people all over the world. He said if we are to lead the world in the struggle against hate-related

violence, we must stand up to hate crimes in our own country. He pointed out that hate crimes are designed to divide and terrorize people because of their differences, and in our increasingly diverse country we cannot allow ourselves to be divided because of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender.

President Clinton and the members of his Cabinet made several commitments to help address the problem of hate crimes. These include:

- The president will support hate crime legislation introduced by senators Kennedy and Spector to expand federal jurisdiction for hate crimes and broaden the classes protected under the current law to include sexual orientation, disability and gender. Current hate crime law covers race, color, religion and national origin;
- Every U.S. attorney's office will establish—or broaden—working groups to better anti-hate crime laws, educate the public and work with local communities to address the problem;
- Assign over 50 more FBI agents and prosecutors to hate crimes work;
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) and FBI's hate crime training curricula will be made available to local law enforcement;

- National Crime Victim's Survey used by the DOJ will include questions about hate crime victimization;
- The DOJ and the U.S. Department of Education will distribute to every school district a hate crime resource guide to teach tolerance in schools;
- The DOJ will establish a website on hate crimes;
- The president will push for the appointment of Bill Lan Lee to be assistant attorney general for the civil rights division at the DOJ—to strongly enforce current laws and new laws when they are adopted.

We all made suggestions of additional ways to handle hate crimes. For example, in Texas, we need formal training of police officers so they can better report hate crimes and support victims of hate crime. Several other states expressed similar concerns. As a result, the issue of law enforcement training will continue to be explored. Many of us will continue to participate in this process by working with the White House and continuing our work within our states. Just hearing these new ideas, sharing our concerns and making new plans to fight hate crimes gave me new and very needed energy.

President Clinton included the term "sexual orientation" several times over the course of this historic day, and each time I felt a little surge of hope. Maybe we will have stronger hate crime laws that we can use to deter this type of crime. Maybe our leaders will stand up to hate crimes. Maybe there will be day when we can hold hands and not look over our shoulders. Maybe the lives of the 22 gay men we lost to hate crimes in Texas do matter. Maybe, just maybe, justice will prevail.

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas is based in Austin. The organization sponsored a march on the State Capitol last spring to encourage the passage of The Texas Hate Crimes Bill. For more information about LGRL, call 512/474-5475



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LeftOut

Slaves to Our Collective Apathy

by Daryl Moore

I grew up with a sign I will always remember. It hung just above our back door. It stated simply: "The man who does not vote is a slave to the man who does."

It was not gender neutral. It was not politically correct. But boy (or girl) was it appropriate and did it serve its purpose. I have not missed voting in an election since I became eligible to vote.

My parents, and that constant reminder, successfully instilled in me the idea that voting is both a privilege and a responsibility, that is to be exercised frequently, but only after becoming well-informed about the candidates and the issues to be voted on.

On November 4, 1997, I voted again. I voted for a mayoral candidate that did not make the runoff (Greanias), against a proposition that failed (Proposition A), and for an incredibly well-qualified candidate (Annise Parker), who has a chance of becoming the first openly gay city council member in Houston.

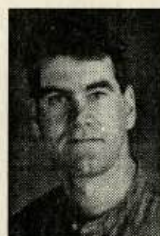
I also ran the election in my precinct, Precinct 0053 in the Heights. I was the election judge, which means I was responsible for opening and closing the polls and making sure that those who wanted to vote, and were eligible to, could.

And vote they did. It was a diverse crowd. Old, young, men, women, straight, gay, childless, and with small children. They all voted. Many had to wait. Some were patient. Some were angry. Some felt privileged. Some felt put-upon. But they voted. All in all, about 900 people, or 35 percent of the folks registered to vote in my precinct, did.

I watched and I helped. I made sure they were registered to vote in Harris County and in my precinct. If they wanted to vote, I wanted them to. If they could vote legally, I made sure they got to. After all, as precinct judge, that was my job.

I watched so many people vote. At 7:00 a.m., it was crowded with the before-work crowd. From 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., the lunch crowd waded through. And, from 5:00 p.m. on, the after-work crowd lined up, waiting up to 45 minutes to select a mayor and to decide whether affirmative action had run its course in America's fourth-largest city.

Scattered throughout these 900 voters were the elderly—the folks who had been voting in my precinct for 50 years and knew when to vote without having to



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

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OutRight

Some Pain, Some Gain

by Dale Carpenter

Here with a rundown of some of the more intriguing results of the 1997 city elections: Annise Parker, an openly gay woman, actually made it into a runoff for a city council seat. This is the first time in Houston's history that an openly gay person has gotten so close to winning a council seat. How did she get so far? Parker realizes that the mother's milk of politics is money. She raised more money than anyone else, starting her campaign more than six months ago. Money buys advertising. Advertising earns name recognition. Name recognition gets votes. Votes win elections. There is no mystery to the formula.

Now Parker must face an opponent in the runoff who will have more money than she. Although Parker is easily more qualified and more experienced in city affairs, it will be an uphill battle. One thing she will need is a better turnout from the city's heavily gay neighborhoods, Montrose and the Heights, relative to other areas of Houston. Montrose finished 17th out of 27 geographic areas in voter turnout in the November 4 election. The Heights finished 14th. But whatever happens in the December 6 runoff, Parker has already made history.

The race for City Controller between Sylvia Garcia and incumbent Lloyd Kelley demonstrated that even a lot of money can't save a candidate hell-bent on self-destruction. As everyone knows, two months before the election Kelley told a meeting of the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) that Garcia is gay. Garcia denied it, threatening to have her brothers beat Kelley up and saying that she resented the "lie" as much as if Kelley had called her a thief or a murderer. Many of us took exception to the vehemence of Garcia's reaction, especially her comparison of being called gay to being called a violent criminal. The lady doth protest too much.

On the other hand, although Kelley says that he meant only to "describe" Garcia in his speech by calling her gay, something more was going on. I know the members of the SREC. I know firsthand how they feel about gays. They hate us. Telling them your opponent is gay is like telling the NAACP that your opponent is in the KKK: no further comment needed. Kelley knows that too. He would not have felt it relevant to "describe" his opponent as gay to a meeting of, say,



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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wait in line. They were impressive to me, shuffling in on legs too frail to wait long. When they needed to, they would sit and wait for the next available booth. If they appeared too frail to wait, I would take the ballot to them so they could sit and vote.

While I watched them and admired their commitment to participating in the political process, I thought about what it would be like to vote in the next 50 elections. And while I was caught up in that thought, someone came in who made me appreciate the slogan I had walked under every day of my young life as I entered our back door. "The man who does not vote is a slave to the man who does."

But the person who came in to vote was no man. And, she did not walk underneath anything on the way to the polls. She rolled in in a wheelchair—a quadriplegic who was unable to move anything other than her head.

I greeted her and asked her how I could help. She directed me to take out her voter registration. And I did. She told me to sign her in so she could vote. And I did. Then I placed a ballot in her lap while she made her selections for the candidates and the issues. She read every word on a very long ballot. She voted deliberately, as if every decision she made would affect her individually.

And while she voted from her wheelchair, I thought about all the gays and lesbians who would not vote. Those who would have to have gotten up early, taken a long lunch, or gotten home late, to do easily what this individual could not do alone.

I wondered why it was so important to her that she vote, and why it seemed so unimportant to so many gays and lesbians that they did not.

At that moment, that sign I grew up with came back to me. I realized that the gays and lesbians who do not vote are slaves to all those who do. And I thought about Annise Parker. And how qualified she is. And how we have an opportunity to elect someone really qualified to represent us.

But mostly, I realized how important it is that we go vote in the December 6 runoff. For Annise. For ourselves. And to end the apathy that enslaves us.



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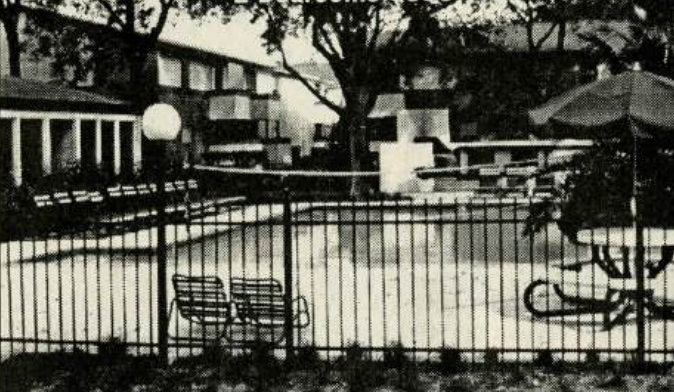
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Queer Science

The "Unnatural" Argument

by Simon LeVay

"It's Not Natural" is the title of an anti-gay song in a recent album from the gospel-singing sisters Angie and Debbie Winans. The Winans' idea is hardly original: Two thousand years ago, Saint Paul condemned gay sex as "against nature," and his viewpoint has been taken as justification for centuries of persecution of gay people. On the other hand, most of us who are gay or lesbian feel we are acting naturally when we give expression to same-sex desire. So it's worth asking what "natural" and "unnatural" mean in the context of sexuality, and whether science has anything to contribute to resolving the question.

A common use of the word natural is to mean "untouched by human agency." Very often, this use carries the implicit message that what is natural is also best: Honey is better than Sweet'n Low, Yosemite is better than Hollywood. This meaning of "natural" is behind the long tradition of denouncing homosexuality on the grounds that it doesn't occur among non-human animals.

Science easily disposes of this kind of argument: Sex between two male or female animals is widespread. I have previously written columns about same-sex sexual behavior in seagulls, bonobo chimpanzees, and sheep, and I could write about hundreds of other species where similar behavior has been documented. Furthermore, there are some human attributes, such as the use of syntax-based language or the possession of a conscious moral sense, that don't seem to be undesirable just because they are unique to our species. And there are some behavioral traits shared by animals and humans, such as violent aggression, that seem undesirable in spite of their naturalness. "Natural" and "unnatural," used in this sense, are simply not congruent with "good" and "bad."

Another form of the "unnatural" argument is to say that each species of animal has its own natural behaviors, and that gay sex is not among the natural behaviors of human beings. This line of thinking goes back to the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who attributed different natural behaviors to different elements (e.g. the natural behavior of fire is to move upward, while that of earth is to move downward). Science has largely abandoned this style of thought. Thus, when people use this kind of argument today they are usually speaking in a strictly moral or theological framework where science can make no contribution. Certainly that's true in the case of the Winans sisters, whose song includes the words, "It's not natural/No, that's not the way God planned."

Some gay people counter this kind of argument by saying that if there are different natural behaviors for different species, there may also be different natural behaviors for different individuals within a single species—for gay and straight humans, for example. To some extent, science supports this view: There's

plenty of biological research, including my own research on the "gay brain," that suggests that gay and straight people have different genetic endowments and different prenatal developmental histories. These differences could be said to give gay and straight people natural predispositions to engage in different kinds of sex. To my mind, however, such arguments bear mainly on the social and legal respect that should be accorded to gay people as a distinct class of individuals, and less compellingly on the rightness or wrongness of gay sex. Are gay people who engage in straight sex (perhaps because they want children) or straight people who engage in gay sex (perhaps because they are in a single-sex environment) acting unnaturally and therefore wrongly? I don't think so.

Yet another kind of argument derives from the supposedly self-evident purpose of body parts and bodily functions: The anus is obviously for excretion, sex is obviously for reproduction, therefore anal penetration and gay sex are unnatural and wrong. Again, we are dealing with a style of thought that science has largely abandoned—specifically, the metaphysical doctrine of final causes. Science cannot speak to the ultimate purpose, if any, of the existence of human beings or their anuses. But one can counter the specific examples by analogy: The penis too plays a role in excretion, and heterosexual sex also commonly takes place in a non-reproductive context, both in humans and some non-human primates.

In my view, the use of the "unnatural" argument, in any of its forms, is really an attempt to lend a flavor of universality to a point of view that otherwise would seem too individual to serve as a basis for public policy: a point of view that may be based in religious or moral beliefs or in a personal aversion to gay people or the idea of gay sex. With Nature on your side, these beliefs or feelings suddenly take on the stature of absolute truth—or so it is hoped.



Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of the biomedical thriller *Albion's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997).

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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.)

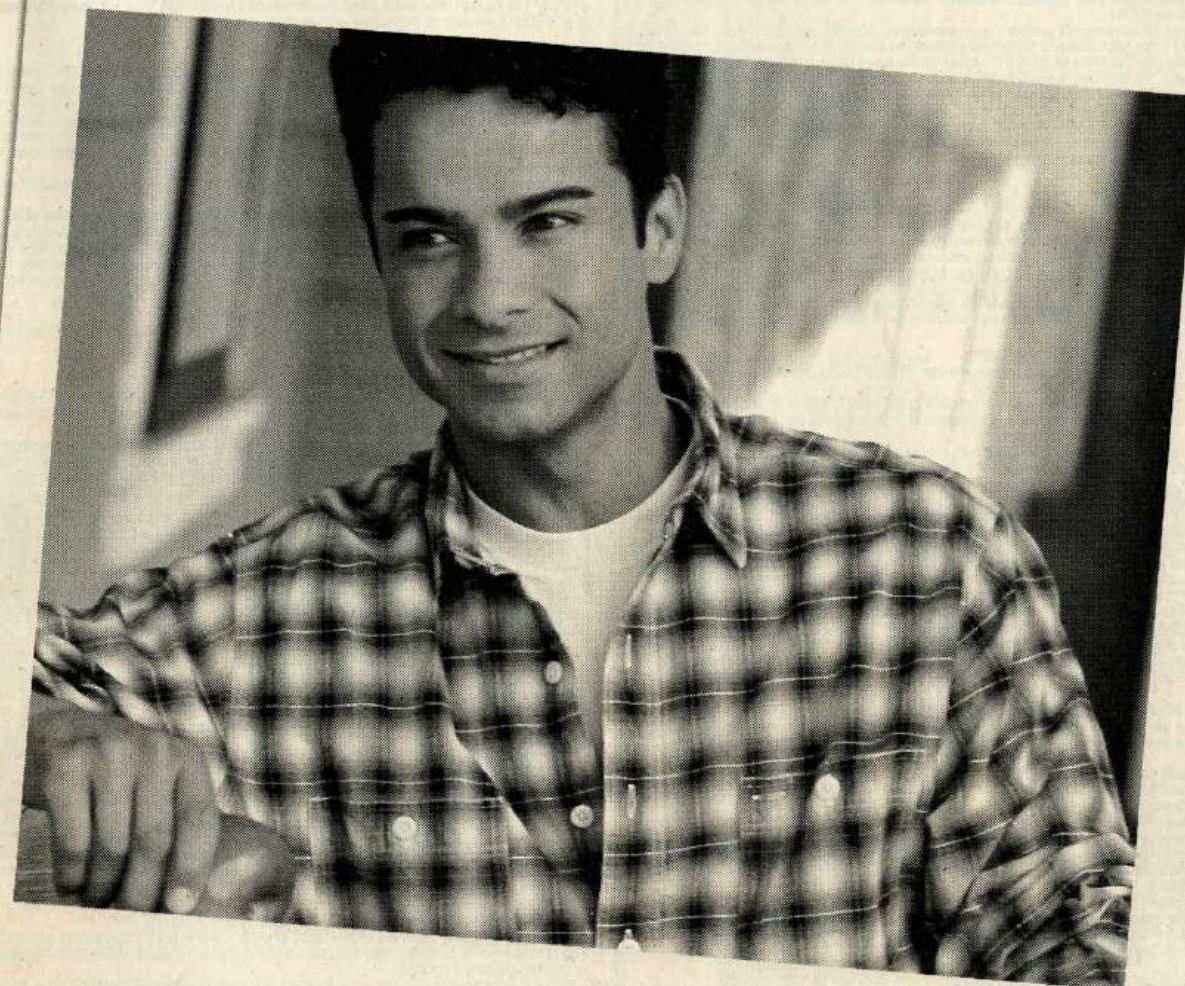
People treated with VIRACEPT may experience some side effects; the most common is diarrhea in approximately 20% of people in clinical trials. There are some common medications and some AIDS-related medications you should not take with VIRACEPT. It is important to discuss with your doctor all other medications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

Refer to the important information on the next page.



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VIRACEPT[®]

nelfinavir mesylate

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT[®] (VI-ra-cept)
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 Retrovir[®] (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir[®] (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit[®] (stavudine, d4T). 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)
- Hismanal[®] (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 (Cafergot[®] 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[®] (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.
- Invirase[®] (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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Holiday Tips

by Steven Foster

Hip tips for the queerest of holidays. Listen up.

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If you're one of the legion that believes Starbucks is part of some diabolical alien plot for world domination, you're gonna love the decidedly earthly alternative provided by the **THANKSGIVING COFFEE COMPANY**. Celebrating their 25th anniversary this year, the company continues to offer rich, royally roasted shade-grown coffees. We suggest the **MILLENNIUM** blend (14 oz. for \$9.50), with its full, yet mellow and smooth character, complete with a nifty little days-'til-it-all-ends counter; and the **ZIP** blend (\$8.95 for 14 ounces), which has more caffeine than should be legal. To order, call 1-800-648-6491.



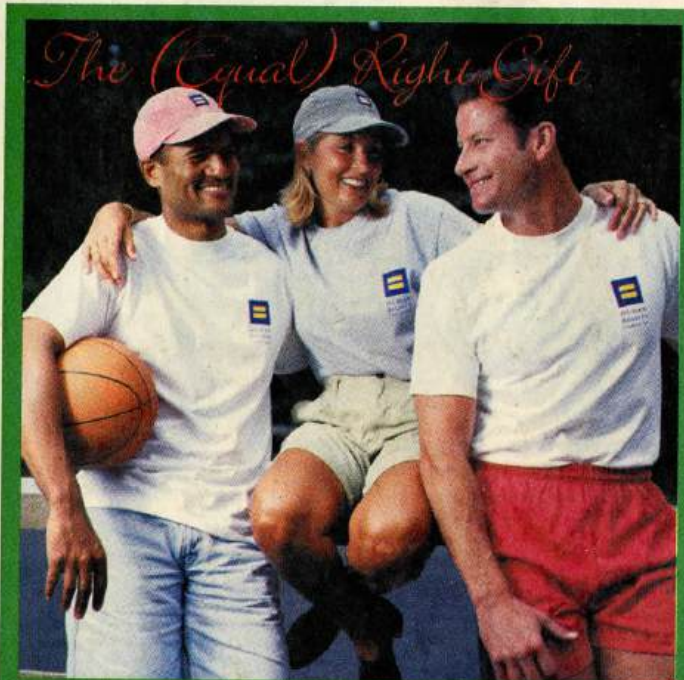
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With one of the coolest, most easily recognizable contemporary logos ever designed for a nonprofit, the **HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN** equal sign is the very symbol of politically correct cool, and it's hands-down hipper than that ubiquitous Nike swoosh. On a **CAMPAIGN TEE** (\$16 in white or gray), **EQUALITY CAP** (\$15 in poppy, moss, plum, or khaki with washed blue trim), or on **EQUALITY GYM SHORTS** (\$21 in iris, moss, poppy, or nearly navy), you can express yourself quite fashionably. Our pick for you club kids is the **EQUALITY PENDANT**, with its 8-inch cord and distressed gunmetal finish. One side's the logo, the other side brandishes the simple, powerful word "Equality," and it's a steal at just eight bucks. Snag yours by calling 1-888-WEAR-HRC.

Oh, Holy Light



While some **POTTERY BARN** items can be vainly overpriced, these **BEADED VOTIVE HOLDERS** are a steal at just \$55 a set. In luminous amber, white, ruby, plum, and lapis beads, these silver-plated brass babies offer a rich, warm, romantic glow in your holiday home. Drop by the Barn in either Town & Country Village or Highland Village and grab a set. If you want to order by phone, give them a buzz at 1-800-922-5507.

Not a Creature Was Stir-Frying

CRATE & BARREL has two exclusive gift items that can't be beat. The **TASTE OF ASIA SET**, with three charming bottles of Thai dipping oil, sesame chili oil, and a specially seasoned rice vinegar, already gift-boxed with chopsticks, are a perfect way to spice up the holidays for the very tasty price of \$29.95.

Another steal is C&B's **SILVER CONE ORNAMENTS**. Three various-sized

silverplate cones, with their smooth, clean lines, have a satiny sheen, and their \$9.95 price means you can fill them with little surprise gifts, either in the box or on the tree.



The Music of the (Silent) Night

by Kyle Young

There's a sleigh full of new holiday music for you to choose from. Do you feel overwhelmed when you start to browse the Christmas isle at Cactus or Soundwaves? Here's a guide to this year's releases.



POP/R&B

JIM BRICKMAN • The Gift (Windham Hill)

Pianist Jim Brickman has had recent success crossing-over to "adult contemporary" radio stations. Brickman understands the beauty of a simple melody. Most of this album features bright, straightforward arrangements of traditional carols like "Oh Christmas Tree" and "Joy to the World." Brickman also shines on moving original pieces performed with guest vocalists. Susan Ashton and country music star Collin Raye sing the endearing title

track, "The Gift." Other featured performers include Kenny Loggins and gospel group Point of Grace.

RU PAUL • Ho Ho Ho (Rhino)

It doesn't get any gayer than this! This is the album that's sure to get the most airplay at gay holiday parties this year. There are guaranteed laughs in "RuPaul the Red-Nosed Drag Queen" and "All I Want For Christmas" (is liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck). There's also a festive mix of "You're a Mean One, Mister Grinch" and a cover of "Hard Candy Christmas," a song recorded by Dolly Parton for the film *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. The attempt to marry house dance beats with traditional carols on "Christmas Train" is pretty scary. Look for a RuPaul Christmas special on VH1 this month.



TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA • Christmas Eve and Other Stories (Lava)

It's Meatloaf meets Rent. This album, which plays out like a Broadway rock opera, was an East Coast phenomenon last year, selling 150,000 copies in just a few weeks. Picked up for nationwide distribution by Lava Records, Trans-Siberian is available across the nation this holiday. The brainchild of Paul O'Neill—who has produced two Aerosmith albums, been the guitarist in Broadway productions of *Hair* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and is a writer/producer of the rock band Savatage—Trans-Siberian Orchestra brings together top talents from the hard rock world, the Broadway musical stage and classical arenas. The CD blends original songs with modern symphonic rock interpretations of holiday classics. With the assistance of accompanying liner notes, the songs tell the story of an angel in search of the meaning of Christmas.

continued on p. 33

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Holiday Tips

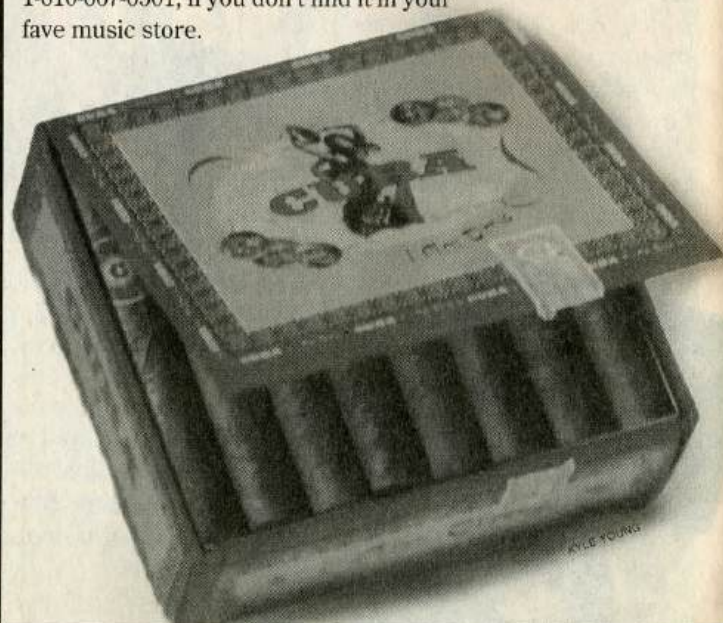
Sleigh Me

If expense is no object, knock your lover over with an original work from **ROJAS GALLERY**. Located in the old Crossroads location, Rojas features original works of wall art, table art, and art that's, well, a table. Prices vary, but we found this hammered metal, Christmas-red velvet **SETÉE** to die for. If you've been good this year (really good), ask your sexy Santa for this baby.



Holiday in Havana

If you thought Cuba was only famous for Castro and cigars, think again. The music of Cuba is flawlessly showcased and handsomely packaged in Blue Jackel Entertainment's box set **CUBA: I AM TIME**. The four discs capture the schizophrenic serenade that makes Cuban music so multifaceted. The religious drama of *Invocations* (think pre-Delerium, pre-peyote); the sexy Ricky Ricardo-esque dance of *Cantar and Bailar*; and the cinema verite of *Jazz*, which transports you to the '40s-era Palladium, which was infamous for Tito Puente bringing the diverse likes of Kim Novak, Allen Ginsberg, Sammy Davis Jr., and Marlene Dietrich together on the dance floor. The fabulous cigar box packaging, accompanying discs, and 112-page history book works on all levels—sounds good, looks good, and makes you feel good. This one's übersexy to give and receive. Sells retail for \$55.98 and it's available by calling 1-610-667-0501, if you don't find it in your fave music store.



Just in Time for the Holidays

If your intended has the intention of making it to your pad on time, but can never seem to get there, drop a beautiful hint with the **SKAGEN WATCH**, also available from **TZABACO**. Big, graphic, with a face reminiscent of Swiss railway stations, this precise and prestigious little timepiece features quartz movement, a perfectly flat crystal that sits flush with the brushed stainless steel bezel, and a classy black leather strap. Own it or give it away for just \$90.

Have Yourself a Macho Little Christmas

MUSCLE MECHANICS and **BERING COMMUNITY SERVICE FOUNDATION** have teamed up to offer **CELEBRATE LIFE!** For a minimum donation of \$15, you get a gift package containing a heart-healthy holiday recipe pack with 60 tasty low-fat recipes and menus for every holiday occasion, plus tips on how to keep you physically fit during this chaotic time of year. The big bonus is there's a Celebrate Life game-card enclosed where you have the chance to win free massages, wellness packages, romantic dinners, gym memberships, personal training, even hairdos from the fabulous (and gorgeous) Rhoda Morin. Call 713/523-5330 to get your package.

holiday music

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VARIOUS • A Very Special Christmas 3 (A&M)

This CD is the third volume of the Special Olympics benefit album that premiered in 1987. The *Special Christmas* albums draw some of today's top talent, providing a diverse mix of music. Where else could you find Mary J. Blige, Enya and The Smashing Pumpkins on the same album? Other artists include Sting, Sheryl Crow, Blues Traveler, Hootie & the Blowfish, and Steve Winwood. Dave Matthews' live recording of the moving "Christmas Song" is a highlight, as well as Natalie Merchant's "Children Go Where I Send Thee," which was recorded with the Metropolitan New Testament Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, N.Y.

NEW AGE

DAVID ARKENSTONE • Enchantment (Narada)

This song-weaver is into drama, but you can't help getting caught into his spell. *Enchantment* is an appropriate title for this collection of mystical joyrides through well-loved holiday classics. Arkenstone is a master at mixing the traditional instruments with the latest synthesizer technology. Many of the songs here are collected from works Arkenstone has done for past Narada Christmas compilations. New recordings include "Do You Hear What I Hear," "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and the "Coventry Carol."



DORDÁN • The Night Before... A Celtic Christmas (Narada)

For those who yearn for an Irish Christmas, light a candle in the window and invite Dordán to share a holiday evening with you. These four women from County Galway offer a distinctive combination of Irish traditional and baroque forms. The CD features classic carols like "Ding Dong Merrily On High" and "Oíche Chiún (Silent Night)." Most of the songs, however, are arrangements of lesser-known melodies or original pieces.

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER • Christmas Live (American Gramophone)

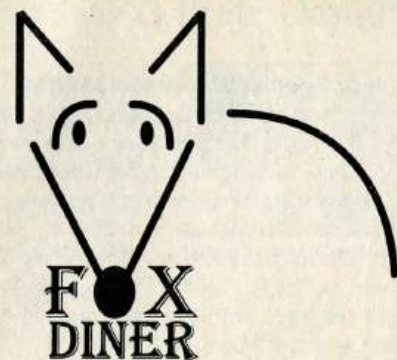
If you like the flashy electronic fireworks of past Mannheim Steamroller Christmas albums, you'll love *Christmas Live*. Chip Davis brought down the house in this performance last year in Omaha. With the help of a symphony orchestra, Mannheim Steamroller recreates many of the arrangements that made their past CDs some of the biggest-selling Christmas albums in history. If you have a surround stereo system, you are really in for a treat. A recreation of a 16th-century Renaissance Christmas feast is an auditory delight, and Davis' rendition of "Silent Night" still tugs on the heart strings.

THOMAS MOORE • The Soul of Christmas: A Celtic Music Celebration with Thomas Moore (Upaya)

Best-selling author Thomas Moore (*Care of the Soul*, *Soul Mates*) has not taken up a singing career—but Upaya thinks his name may sell some albums. They may be right. This double CD includes a 72-page book with Moore's reflections about the essence of Christmas. One disc features Moore's reading of the poignant text, and the other disc is a lovely collection of Celtic Christmas songs under the direction of legendary producer and fiddle player Johnny Cunningham. Guest



continued on p. 35



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learn geography facts, the Talking Globe doubles as an educational tool and a game. It's available at **TRAVELFEST SUPERSTORES** (gad, not another superstore) for just under a hundred bucks. TravelFest is at 1953 West Gray in the River Oaks Shopping Center.



Ginkgo Bells The natural herb that's all the rage can make a really thoughtful gift—literally. Especially if they're these **THINK! HEALTH BARS**. The natural herb that increases blood flow to the brain, ginkgo biloba aids in concentration and memory. For an added boost, these chewy little brain bars are chock full of B-12 to reduce stress (it's the holidays, you need it), and vitamin E, which increases stamina (yesss!). Get a box of twenty 2-oz. bars for \$36, in either chocolate, almond, coconut, and raisin, or chocolate and peanut butter by calling 1-800-556-5715. That's **WIRELESS**, so this is a gift that's doubly thoughtful, since you're also helping support public radio.

holiday music

continued from p. 33

performers include Seamus Egan, Susan McKeown and Kathy Mattea. A television special of the same name will air on PBS on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

VARIOUS • The Carols of Christmas II (Windham Hill)

Occasionally, there are holiday albums which shine in their simplicity. As with its predecessor, the second volume of *The Carols of Christmas* is a warm collection of songs that don't overdo it. Instead, Windham Hill artists, including Liz Story, Janis Ian and Loreena McKennitt, gently remind the listener to cherish the quiet moments of the season. Don't get confused with George Winston's rendition of "The Christmas Song." Winston, a well-known pianist, performs this holiday favorite on an 8-string guitar.

VARIOUS • Celtic Christmas III (Windham Hill)

This is the third of Windham Hill's *Celtic Christmas* albums. As with past volumes, the quality of music is top-notch. Produced by Nightnoise founder Mícheál Ó Domhnaill, the CD includes Nightnoise, Brian Dunning & Jeff Johnson, Lisa Lynnem, Patrick Cassidy, Snuffy Walden and David Arkenstone. Highlights include David Agnew and David Downes' majestic performance of "The Wexford Carol," as well as Paddy Glackin and Mícheál Ó Domhnaill's warm rendering of "The South Wind." Most of the songs are original compositions by the artists.

VARIOUS • A Very Green Christmas (Seventh Wave)

This benefit album has the right idea with \$1 from every CD sold going to the Trees Foundation, which works to protect the forests and rivers in California's north coast region. It's not, however, the strongest album of its genre. Too many of the artists including Suzanne Ciani, James Asher and Michael Manning rely heavily on dated synthesizers. Bright spots on the CD include flutist Matt Eakle's lovely performance of "Sheep May Safely Graze" and harpist Georgia Kelly's rendition of "What Child Is This."

VARIOUS • A Winter's Solstice VI (Windham Hill)

One of Windham Hill's finest traditions of the holiday season returns this year with the release of *Winter Solstice VI*, a bracing collection of original instrumental compositions for a cross-section of premier performers. Among those contributing to the album are long-time Windham Hill veterans Michael Hedges, George Winston, Will Ackerman and Liz Story. Since this project is not exclusively focused on Christmas, this is one holiday CD you can continue to play after you take down the tree.

JAZZ

LOUIS ARMSTRONG & FRIENDS •

What A Wonderful Christmas (Hip-O/Universal)

OK, so only half of the 14 songs on this new compilation CD feature dear old Satchmo—hence the name *Louis Armstrong & Friends*. Some pretty nifty friends indeed, including Lena Horne, Peggy Lee, Duke Ellington and Eartha Kitt singing her immortal "Santa Baby." A live recording of Mel Tormé in 1954 offers a unique opportunity to hear Tormé performing "The Christmas Song" which he wrote with Bob Wells in '45 but didn't actually record himself until '92. And, of course, Armstrong brings his endearing warmth to holiday tunes like "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," and the zany "Zat You, Santa Claus." Hang the bubble lights on the tree and enjoy this Yuletide swing.



GROVER WASHINGTON, JR. • Breath of Heaven (Columbia)

Saxophonist Grover Washington has created a sophisticated, soulful Christmas album which will make any holiday gathering a special event. The cosmopolitan funk of "Away in a Manger" gives a whole new feel to the traditional carol—the Christ Child trades in the stable for a downtown warehouse loft apartment. All songs are instrumental except for Lisa Fisher's moving remake of Amy Grant's "Breath of Heaven." Other highlights are "Christmas Time Is Here," "Jesu (Joy of Man's Desire)" and "The Christmas Waltz."

PETER WHITE • Songs of the Season (Columbia)

With a nice mix of light jazz and rich orchestrations, guitarist Peter White offers up classics like "The First Noel," "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night." A smooth contemporary version of "Greensleeves" features Houstonian saxophonist Kirk Whalum. All tracks are instrumental except for Kenny Lattimore's "quiet storm-esqe" remake of Joni Mitchell's "River." This CD is perfect for a quiet holiday evening at home. Chill a bottle of wine, light some candles and snuggle with the one you love.

COUNTRY



ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL • Merry Texas Christmas, Y'all (High Street)

Hang the electric jalapenos on the tree, serve up the tamales and put on this new holiday treat from Asleep at the Wheel. Ray Benson and gang give a Texas swing to some Christmas favorites and provide some original songs of their own—just try sitting still for "Jingle Bell Boogie" or "Swingin' Drummer Boy." Guest artists include Tish Henojosa, Don Walser and Willie Nelson.

NOVELTY

THE GO-GO BOYS • Gay Apparel (RingRecords)

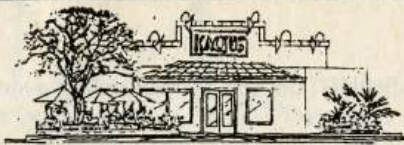
Here's a pathetic attempt at gay humor: A few queens with a keyboard had too much spare time on their hands and came up with some gay-themed tunes that are more degrading than witty. "Chicken Hawk Is Coming to Town," "I Came Upon a Midnight Queer" and "Away With a Stranger" are just a few of the painful selections. The album also features a short greeting from Judy Tenuta.

BOB RIVERS • More Twisted Christmas (Atlantic)

This is the Christmas music that chatty morning radio shows long for—who really likes those morning shows anyway? The parodies kick off with "It's the Most Fattening Time of the Year" featuring wacky comments from Richard Simmons. There's also the "Buttcracker Suite" and B-52-esqe "Toy Sack" (just like "Love Shack," get it?). It's hard to imagine anyone actually playing this CD more than once, although it might make for some interesting hold music on the office phone.

VARIOUS • Christmas Cocktails 2 (Ultra Lounge)

In full stereophonic fidelity, this second volume of holiday lounge music is a must for any gay Christmas party. With classic crooners like Lena Horne, Dean Martin, Peggy Lee and Lou Rawles, how can you go wrong? Nancy Wilson's "The Christmas Waltz" and Nat King Cole's "All I Want For Christmas" add a touch of class. Bob Atcher's "Christmas Island" and Jimmy McGriff's electro-organ rendition of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" top it off with a smattering of kitsch. Martinis and Cuban cigars not included.



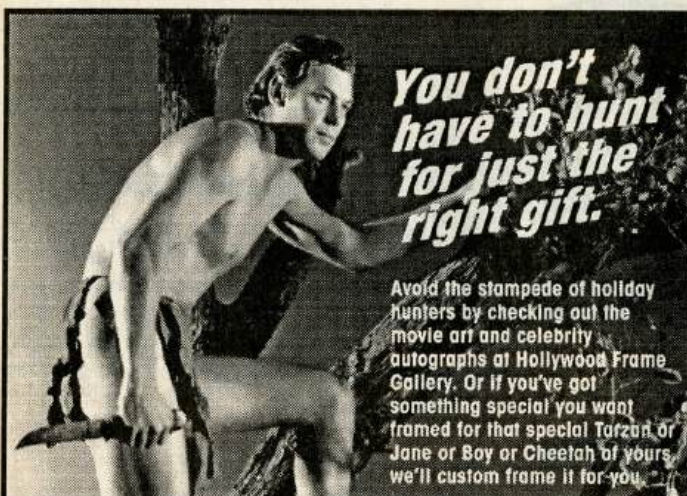
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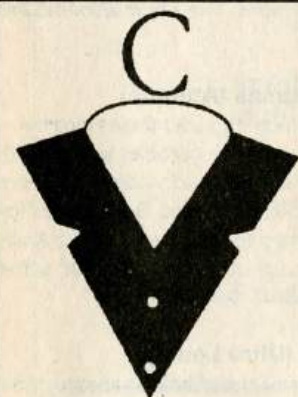
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"Valley of the Dolls"

In "honor" of the 30-year anniversary of the release of the film version of *Valley of the Dolls* (VOD), *Queer Quotes* is setting aside this section for some "pertinent" info on the ridiculously trashy film and on Jacqueline Susann—the author of the ridiculously trashy novel which sold 19 million copies! Hey, even k.d. lang sings the VOD film theme song on her recent drag CD.

Lypsinka

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 9/19/97, Alexandra Jacobs)

"[A] trash can is precisely where John Epperson's first copy of *VOD* landed—after he surreptitiously devoured it at age 15. 'I threw it away so that I wouldn't be caught with it,' he says. 'I was forbidden to read it.'"

"Epperson, now 42, counts [Jacqueline] Susann among his favorite subjects. As female impersonator Lypsinka, he belongs to an adoring, mostly gay subculture that has helped drag—emphasis on *drag*—the scribbler back into the limelight with readings and *Rocky Horror Picture Show*-like screenings of *VOD*'s 1967 film version, which starred Sharon Tate, Susan Hayward, and Patty Duke."

Lypsinka & Susann

(Interview, 10/97, Lypsinka)

"Ingrid Sischy, the editor in chief of [*Interview* magazine], calls to get a story out of me. . . . 'Lyppy, baby,' Ingrid says to me, 'I need you to do a story about this Jacqueline Susann broad. Grove Press is reissuing her novel *Valley of the Dolls* this month [October], and the movie version's gonna be thirty years old in December. . . ."

"But how can I get a new slant on [Susann's] story? Then it comes to me: I will communicate with her—on the other side! . . ."

"No time is wasted in commencing the séance. We join hands, and before I know it, the husky voice of Jacqueline Susann is demanding, 'Who the hell is it?' . . ."

Lypsinka: You may have invented the contemporary model for marketing and promoting books. Some people in the book trade called you Jackpot Susann!

Susann: Baby, I knocked myself out to promote my books. . . . And remember, I was probably the first lady novelist to pen the words *shit*, *fuck*, and *goddamn*. And *faggot*.

Yeah, one of my faves. Look, I had lots of gay friends, and homosexuals know the truth. People do say *faggot*.

Now when Truman Capote—

That *faggot*! He called me a truck driver in drag on *The Tonight Show*. . . . I almost sued him. Then Johnny Carson had me on, and when he asked me, "What about Truman?" I replied, "Truman was a very fine president," and that was the end of it. Anyway, I don't see a Truman Capote revival happening now, do you? . . .

Illeana Douglas (actress, *Grace of My Heart*)

(*Movieline*, 11/97)

"I listen to the theme from *Valley of the Dolls* again and again. That's what keeps me sane. And Bette Davis movie soundtracks."



In this scene in *Valley of the Dolls*, Patty Duke (left) pulls off Susan Hayward's wig and, in true trash form, flushes it down the toilet!



Compiled by
Blase DiStefano

Harvey & Anne & Rupert

(*Movieline*, Dec/Jan/98)

Movieline magazine printed "The 100 Smartest Things Hollywood's Done Lately." Here's three of 'em.

#29: ABC decided to edit portions of a "Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher" episode in which guest Harvey Fierstein said to fellow guest Mike Reagan [son of Ronald Reagan], "Fuck you and fuck your father." . . .

#57: Anne Heche signed for the romantic lead opposite Harrison Ford in *Six Days, Seven Nights* before announcing she was dating Ellen DeGeneres.

#58: The casting of Rupert Everett in *My Best Friend's Wedding*.

Lady Chablis

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 11/21/97, Jeff Gordinier)

"Lady Chablis [presently co-starring in the Clint Eastwood-directed film, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*] is driving to the doctor's office when she picks up her mobile phone. 'It's just one of those little feminine things, that's all, baby,' she purrs over the line. 'The girl's just gotta make sure that all her parts are ready for the big premiere [of *Midnight in the Garden*. . .]!' There are so many questions afoot. What to wear to the premiere. How to cope with the press. ('You tell *Entertainment Tonight* to stop calling me a transvestite!' she snaps.) What to do if Oscar calls. The prospect is not as far-fetched as it sounds; Chablis' producer is already gunning for a nomination. . . . There is only one hitch. Which category? 'Baby, it wouldn't matter, honey,' Chablis demurs, like a mother calming a child. 'Best Supporting Actress or Actor, it doesn't matter. Because I'm gonna win both.'"

Paige Turco

(Actress, *NYPD Blue* & *Party of Five*)

(*TV Guide*, 11/8/97)

"Cheers to contemporary characters. We love the balancing act that actress Paige Turco is pulling off as a recurring guest star. . . . On ABC's *NYPD Blue*, she plays Abby, the policewoman with a special claim on the affections of Detective Medavoy (Gordon Clapp). On Fox's *Party of Five* she plays Annie, the tenant in Bailey's apartment building who has just become intimately involved with her sensitive super (Scott Wolf). That means Turco is simultaneously playing a lesbian pregnant by artificial insemination and a single mother who finds romance at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. What a thoroughly '90s combo!"



In *NYPD Blue*, is the character played by Lisa Darr (far left), Paige Turco (center), or Gordon Clapp a pregnant lesbian? Hint: It's not Gordon Clapp.

Nell Carter

(*Poz*, 12/97, Phil Geoffrey Bond)

Phil G. Bond: And your brother [had AIDS]?

Nell Carter: In September of 1988, as soon as he found out, he flew to California and lied. He said, "Sis, I have cancer," and I just looked at him and I knew. . . .

When did he die?

In the summer of '89. The doctor called and said, "Your brother needs you to come down." I got off the plane . . . and my sister meets me and says, "Nell, Bernard's gone." The last thing I wanted to do was hug her—because that would mean it was true. That son of a bitch couldn't have waited 'til I got there. I went to the morgue and they pulled back the sheet. I started hugging him, and the guard pulled me away and I started fighting with him. Mean. That was the last time I was gonna touch my brother. The bourgeois side of my family had already decided what the death certificate was going to say: Cancer! A lot of people in Birmingham, Alabama hate me because I'm the one who made it publicly known that he died of AIDS. And if they get this magazine, good.



Lady Chablis in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*: Will she win an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress . . . or Actor?

Joy Clayton, Greg Martin,
Tom Williams, and Lisa Biggerstaff.



by Steven Foster
Photos by Theresa DiMenno

Houston's notorious for our self-indulgent, deliciously diverse, often adventurous tastes. So it's no surprise that there are restaurants of every palate-pleasing persuasion to meet our gastronomic desires. And a lot of the chefs who are sating our craving are gay. While we at *OutSmart* couldn't get every gay chef of note (you know the saying about too many cooks in the kitchen...), we did assemble a pretty impressive menu of personalities. Joining us on a gray November evening in the warm, hearth-like atmosphere of Dacapo's on the Parkway were Tom Williams, Joy Clayton, Greg Martin, and Lisa Biggerstaff.

Williams is the owner of Fox Diner, the trendy neighborhood bistro specializing in, for lack of a better term, nouveau comfort food. Williams' diner has been praised by everyone from the *Chronicle* to the *Press*. Clayton is one of Houston's busiest, most sought-after caterers. If you're at a big holiday bash this year, chances are you're dining on Joy's delicious delicacies. Greg Martin works for Augusta Foods, which is better known as the flawless trinity of restaurants Cafe Express, the new Taco Milagro, and the internationally acclaimed Café Annie. And Biggerstaff is one of the partners of Dacapo's. After creating the to-die-for bakery in the heights, Biggerstaff and her associates opened a full-service, tony little restaurant without missing a step. Soon, they will open a downtown haunt, Staccato's.

What's more, each of our celeb chefs was kind enough to give us one of their top-secret recipes for a delicious holiday dinner, which we are, of course, passing on to you.

So pour yourself a nice glass of something spectacular, turn on the Food Channel for background ambiance, and find out what's cooking beneath the talented toques of these stellar superchefs.

Bon appetit!

OUTSMART: So, why did you get into the kitchen?

JOY CLAYTON: The real estate market in 1985. [laughs] I was a broker for 18 years. Actually, I started catering for all my wealthy real estate friends. So that's kinda how I got started. I used the kitchen at my church for awhile, outgrew that, and then moved into the building on Albany, and then I moved where I am now. It's been 11 years and three months and four days and 25 minutes. [laughs]

LISA BIGGERSTAFF: My first "cheffing" experience was at the hotel, the Inn on the Park, now the Omni. I went to school for cooking, but I started in the pastry shop because that's where the [job] opening was. Then I just started growing and growing and growing and got burned out. But I learned a lot. They used me! But I used them just as much...to gather all the information I needed and how to do things the best way possible.

We started Dacapo's bakery back in 1993. We have a restaurant now—Dacapo's on the Parkway has been open a little over a year, and now we have a third place downtown on Main Street, Staccato. Dacapo is a music symbol that's at the end of a music line that means go back to the beginning, start over. And staccato means abrupt and loud, exciting.

GREG MARTIN: I'd say my biggest influences were my maternal grandmother and my mother. They always cooked very wholesome, from-scratch food.

TOM WILLIAMS: Unlike the others, I didn't come up through the kitchen. I went to cooking school at LaVarenne in France, but as a hobby. Then I moved back to the states, and I worked in hotels as the director of catering at the Hyatt and the Omni. And about a year ago, I decided I'd had enough of them and wanted to open up my own place. So I find myself strangely in the kitchen, but by passion, not necessarily by training.

The ultimate dinner party, three guests. Who?

TOM: Marco Polo, Leonardo DaVinci, and Bette Midler...someone to make you laugh.

JOY: Barbra Streisand...without James Brolin; Liza Minnelli; and surely there must be some guy I like...well, if I lost 30 pounds, I'd invite Paul Prudhomme and make him cook.

GREG: Andrew Bell, Neil Tennant, and David Bowie.

LISA: One would be my great grandfather. He had two bakeries and I never got to share any information. I'd like to steal some of his recipes from him now. And my girlfriend, of course. Maybe somebody I don't know. I'm not big on movies and all that stuff, maybe someone from history? Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, maybe Moses.

Have you ever come up with a recipe that went terribly, terribly wrong?

TOM: Mustard green soup. Bad idea.

LISA: What have I screwed up lately? [laughs] When it starts out bad and it tastes really bad—what makes a chef a good chef is you make it into something very delicious. And you keep messing with it and messing with it and turning it around until finally you go, *Ooh, that's it!*

JOY: I was at home and I was trying to blend some fresh herbs and spices together in a sauce and it was not edible when I got through. And then I couldn't fix it.

GREG: I made javelina cannelloni at home one time and it was pretty tough to eat. It wasn't very tasty.

What's your recipe for a really good mud pie?

LISA: Chocolate with some grand marnier, mix it up like a mousse and the crust would be your hands.

JOY: I like it with bourbon and lots of chocolate and whipped cream.

TOM: Lots of chocolate, lots of cream. I'd probably put nuts in it.

GREG: That's a tough one. I've never

made a mud pie. When I think of mud, I also think of catty things that gossip columnists say, you know, slinging mud. So if it was something that was meant to be revenge, it would be venomous and spiteful and hateful and it wouldn't taste very good.

Fast food fave.

JOY: Taco Bell. A burrito supreme.

TOM: Schlotzky's. Extra mustard.

LISA: I like Whataburger. What's the big one?

GREG: Jack in the Box. Sourdough breakfast sandwich. It's salty. It's really greasy.

Did you ever have an Easy Bake Oven?

JOY: Yes, I did. And by the time I was nine years old, my parents bought me my own real oven because I wouldn't stay out of my mother's.

GREG: No. My little sister did, and I took her Barbie and baked it into a cake. Took the head of the Barbie, poured the batter over it, and put it in her Easy Bake Oven and showed it to her. She screamed.

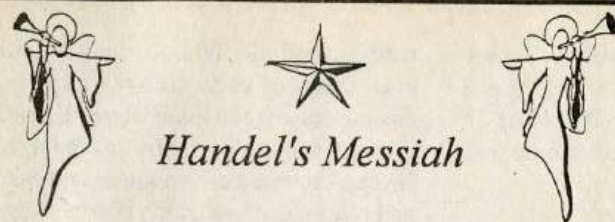
How is food like sex?

JOY: [Laughs, blushes] Oh, well, I'll never be able to come up with something else than what I just conjured up in my head!

GREG: Sex is about passion, and food is about passion. It's a very aesthetic thing. It's there and then it's gone. It's something that happens and it's gone forever. We've all been in situations where we're remembering this great meal we've had and it's like that. You can almost sense it, smell it, taste it, touch it. I think making love is like that.

LISA: I think it's very exciting. And you have to have it every day. And if you don't, look how weak you get.

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HOLIDAY recipes!



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OutSmart's Magical Holiday Menu



An Awesome
Appetizer

Stuffed Pork Tenderloin

from CLAYTON CATERING'S JOY CLAYTON

- 1 Package Pork Tenderloins (2/pkg.)
- 1 Package Frozen Chopped Spinach (thawed, with all water removed)
- Sun-dried Tomatoes (in oil)
- 1/4 to 1/2 Cup Roasted Pine Nuts or Sliced Almonds
- Goat Cheese (about 15 oz.)
- Butcher String or Twine
- Season Salt, Pepper, Onion Powder, Garlic Powder

Lay tenderloins on a cutting board and make a cut lengthwise through the meat almost completely through. Fold that edge back. Then make a lengthwise cut off to the left, then to the right (making sure not to cut completely through the meat each time, and fold each cut back and continue doing this until the tenderloin is lying flat on the cutting board). With a meat mallet, pound the tenderloin to about 1/4-inch thickness and in a rollable shape. Season the inside of the tenderloin with a combination of season salt, pepper, onion powder, and a little garlic powder.

Then spread half of the goat cheese nearest the edge where you will begin your roll. Place spinach next, then the sun-dried tomatoes, then spread the nuts throughout the whole tenderloin. Take the edge and begin a very tight roll. Place the seam down and begin tying the roll with butcher string with about 2-inch intervals. String can be tight. Cut off ends.

Placed rolled tenderloins on a baking sheet, lightly sprinkle with black pepper, and place in a 350° oven for approximately 45 minutes. Chill for several hours or overnight. When chilled, cut and remove the string. Cut the rolled tenderloin into individual rounds and neatly place on serving tray with edges overlapping. Serve with a sweet sauce, i.e. raspberry chipotle, honey mustard, or any sauce of your choosing, acquired from your favorite grocer.

A Spectacular Salad

Southwestern Salad

with Red Jalapeño Vinaigrette, Fried Tortilla Strips, Pico de Gallo, and Greens
from CAFE ANNIE'S GREG MARTIN

Red Jalapeño Vinaigrette

- 2 Red Jalapeños (1.5 oz.)
- 1 Shallot
- 1 Clove Garlic
- 1/4 Bunch Cilantro
- 3 T Lime Juice
- 2 T Rice Wine Vinegar
- 1/4 Cup Olive Oil
- 1/4 Cup Grape Seed Oil
- 1/4 Walnut Oil
- 1 T Dijon Mustard
- 1 Egg Yolk
- 1 t Maple Syrup
- 1/2 t Salt
- 1 T Ancho Powder



Mince jalapeños, shallot, garlic, and cilantro. Combine in a bowl and set aside. Combine the egg yolk and Dijon mustard. Whisk them together and add ancho powder. Slowly incorporate the lime and vinegar. Emulsify the oils into this mixture. Season with the salt and maple syrup. Add the minced vegetables. This vinaigrette is best when chilled for 2-3 hours before serving. Yields 1 1/2 cups.

Fried Tortilla Strips

- Peanut Oil
- 10 Thin Tortillas
- Salt

In a low-sided pan, heat 1 inch peanut oil to 350°. Cut tortillas into 1/4-inch strips. In two separate batches, fry strips for approximately 1 minute each. Drain on a plate lined with paper towels. Season with salt.

Pico de Gallo

- 3 Ripe Roma Tomatoes
- 1 Green Jalapeño
- 1/4 Red Onion
- 1/4 Bunch Cilantro
- 1/2 T Lime
- Pinch of Salt

Chop tomatoes, and mince the jalapeño, onion, and cilantro. Mix together and season with the lime and salt. Chill.

Salad

- 1/2 pound Mesculin Mix (Baby Lettuces)
- 5 oz. Queso Blanco (Greg's personal favorite is Dallas Mozzarella Co.'s Queso Blanco with Serrano Chiles and Epazote)
- 1 oz. Grated Queso Anejo

In a large mixing bowl, combine lettuces, tortillas, pico de gallo, salt, pepper, and 2/3 cup vinaigrette. Mix thoroughly. Arrange on a large serving platter. Garnish with crumbled queso blanco and anejo. Serve immediately.

An Elating Entrée

Chervil and Pepper Crusted Rack of Lamb

by FOX DINER'S TOM WILLIAMS

- 2 Racks of Lamb, 8 Chops per Rack
- 6 Cloves Garlic
- 4 T Green Peppercorns, Crushed
- 2 T Sea Salt
- 4 T Fresh Chopped Chervil

Chervil Butter:

- 1 8-oz. Stick of Butter
- 2 T Green Peppercorns
- 4 Cloves Chopped Garlic
- 4 T Chopped Chervil
- 2 T Cognac or Brandy

Slice lamb into double chops. In a mortar, mash garlic with the salt until you have a paste. Add peppercorns and chervil and mix. Spread the paste on all sides of the lamb and let it rest for about 1-2 hours.

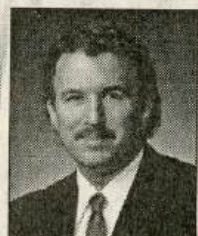
In a food processor, add all of the ingredients for the compound butter and mix until thoroughly processed. Roll into a log and store in plastic wrap in the refrigerator. (May be made several days in advance.)

Heat a sauté pan with a little bit of olive oil. Sear the lamb chops on both sides until nicely crusted, about two minutes on both sides. Place in an oven at 350° and finish cooking, about 5 minutes for medium rare. Let the lamb rest for about 5 minutes in the pan outside of the oven before serving.

Slice the chervil butter and place a piece on top of each lamb chop, serving two double chops per person. Serve with a simple sautéed vegetable and potatoes. Serves 4.



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A Divine Dessert

Grand Marnier Truffles

by DACAP0'S LISA BIGGERSTAFF

- 1 Cup Heavy Cream
- 24 oz. Dark Chocolate (chopped)
- 2 T Grand Marnier
- 1 Cup Sifted, Unsweetened Cocoa Powder

Bring heavy cream to a quick boil and immediately pour over the chopped chocolate, stirring until smooth. Add the Grand Marnier, stirring again. Chill 2 hours. After chilling, bring out and roll into 1-inch balls. Toss gently into cocoa powder. Lisa suggests you then place on a tray, or your lips. "Mmmm mmm mmm."



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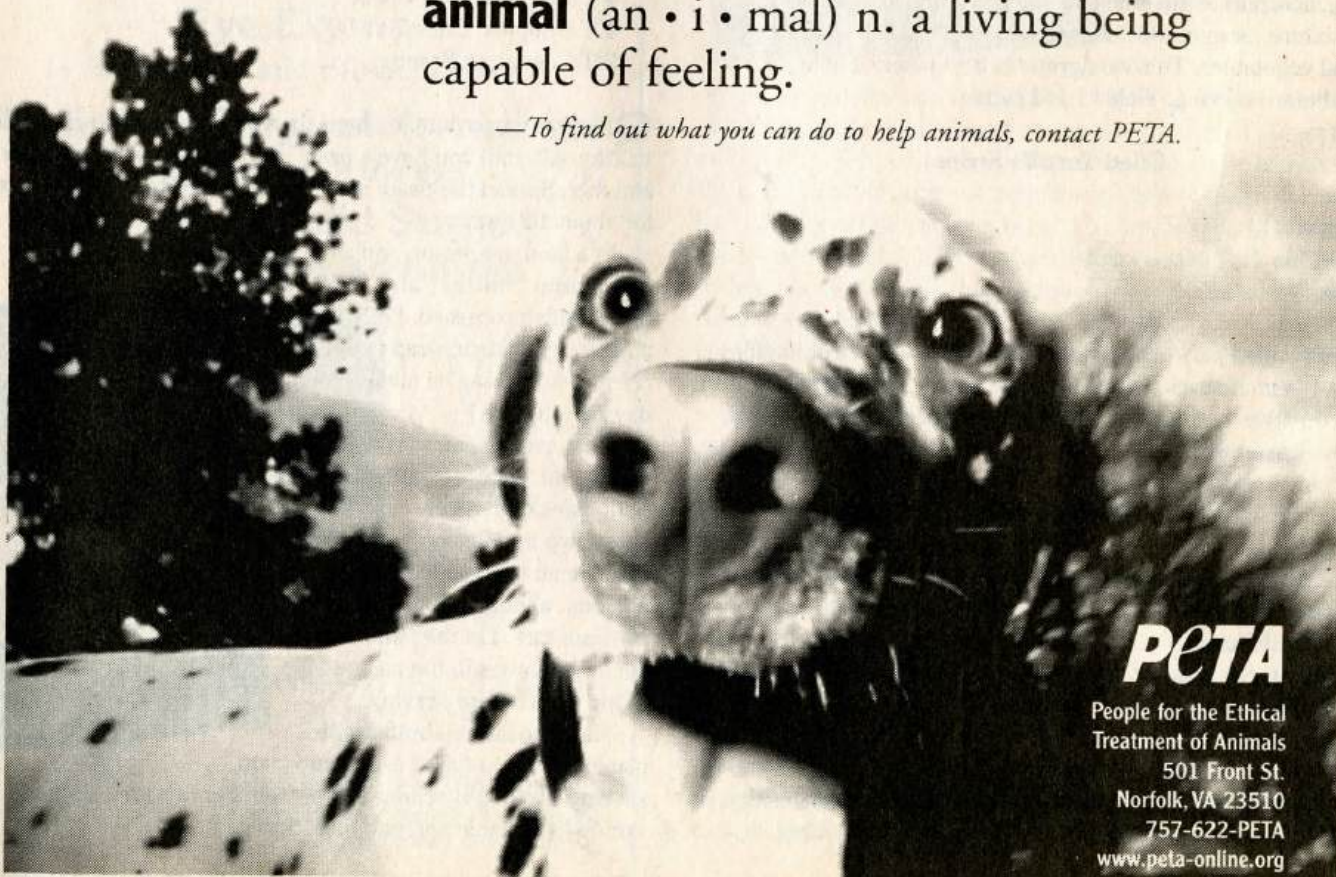
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Cyndi Lauper

The Mother & The Drag Queen
talks about her gay sister, her baby,
her new CD, getting sued, &, of course, drag.

Cyndi Lauper is the mother of a baby boy, as of November 19, 1997. Cyndi Lauper is also a drag queen. She's been one since she was a kid. While her sister wanted to play "boyish games," Lauper wanted to play dress-up. And she's been playing dress-up ever since. Now she's writing and singing about it. On her latest CD, *Sisters of Avalon*, she sings the "Ballad of Cleo & Joe," where "the working boy [Joe] becomes a dancing queen [Cleo]." It's not just a great dancing tune, it's also a great listen. And so is Lauper. • During the day of my interview with Lauper, she was *very* pregnant, so it was rescheduled a couple of times. It seems that she had put in some very long hours the night before . . . but let her tell you the story. She's good at it.

OutSmart: Are you and the baby doing okay?

Cyndi Lauper: Yeah, I thought my water was breaking. I pulled a long night last night—that wasn't very smart. I guess while I'm in this condition, I can't work like that.

So you were working.

I was editing, yeah.

Till the last second!

Well, no, you know what? I wanted to get this tape done for the "Cleo and Joe" song. I wasn't really sure we were gonna do a video, so we were doing the promos because I couldn't fly to go see anybody. I wanted to do something kinda special, and then I said, *just get the boombox and let's get a turntable*, so we did something like in 1980 when people used tape...it was kinda cheesy great. I thought it would be fun.

So it's finished?

Yeah, I did it in two nights. I wish I had one more night to look back. Maybe it's not as good because I should have done more edits, but I think it's fun and it's nutty. We put little tiny mirrors on my stomach to make it look like a big dance floor. I'm still trying to make myself look good, even though I'm a very large pregnant woman. So it's wild. You know I'm a big old drag queen anyway.

[laughter] I know. It's real obvious you don't have problems with other people doing drag. But what if your little boy or little girl grows up to be a drag queen or drag king?

You know, listen. Everybody's different. Your kid is who

by Blase DiStefano photo by Joann Toy



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your kid is. As long as he's not a serial murderer—I think I'd have a problem with that.

Do you think it's gonna be a little boy or a little girl? It's a little boy. He's been working with me all the way through. We worked on the Tina Turner concert [in Houston]. He did this shoot with me. He went to the Halloween ball with me—we went as a belly dancer. We raised money for AMFAR. RuPaul came this year, so that was good. It's getting bigger and better.

Speaking of bigger and better, I listened to your CD night before last. It's wonderful.

Thank you. Not everyone feels that way, but thank you very much. I love it. I wouldn't have put it out if I didn't.

How did "The Ballad of Cleo and Joe" come about? I wrote that because I was on tour in '94 and '95. I worked with drag performers from all around the world. I know people who perform in drag, but when you travel and you work shoulder to shoulder, you see things—the same things you see all the time, you see them differently. It really changed my perspective. It was quite wonderful. I wanted to write something for them.

"Say a Prayer" was especially beautiful. You sang about people who you've lost.

I wrote that because my best friend was really ill. That was before the cocktails came out. Still, everybody struggles, but the cocktails have made it easier. And then there are people who are still trying to find out which ones don't work. And that's been really tough for a few of my friends. I've been really excited about my buddies, but when I wrote that song, I had just come back from his house, and he wasn't doing good. I love this person very much, and it was the first time I really had to consider what was going on. It was really tough.

I hope you don't mind if I change the subject, but is this your parents' first grandchild?

Yeah, my mother's ecstatic. My stepfather passed away in the spring, and that was pretty traumatic and sad. But I told him before he died that I was pregnant, which was kinda good. I wasn't gonna tell my mother because it was so early, but I told her anyway because I wanted her to have something to look forward to. This baby'll probably teach us all a lot of things. I feel like I'll be pregnant forever, but when I see the cradle, I think *Oh, my God, the baby's really coming*. Today I went through a little fright, but it'll be fine.

I'm making an assumption that your parents know that your sister is gay.

Well, she's a big girl now. I've been fortunate enough to have her as a role model in a lot of ways. She's very heroic. She's always wanted to help people. She's a wonderful acupuncturist and herbalist. She works a lot out of a clinic because she wants to help people, and she works with HIV-positive people who have no money. And she has her own practice, but I know the clinic is where her heart is. She's a really incredible gal. And my brother is a remarkable fellow. He's not talkative about what he does, but he also does a lot of charity stuff.

My mom somehow had the wisdom to raise three very individual people, despite the fact that [in those days] they never really promoted freedom of thought in women, and Italian immigrant families never nurtured the women. She wanted us to be able to grow up and think and be able to do something in the world.

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Also, when we were growing up, that's when Kennedy got shot. That left a big impression on us—knowing what goes on behind the scenes. But what we got out of it was what you could do for people, what you could offer to the world as opposed to what you could take. So I think that all of us wanted to do something. I feel fortunate to have those kind of siblings.

What are the ages of the three of you?

She's a year and a half older than me, and my brother's five years younger than me. But I always felt like wherever my sister went I would go. If she had other friends, I would be very jealous. When she played with other kids, I would chase her down the block all the time. I told her she had to play with me because I was born to be her friend.

That's rather sweet.

Well, it was annoying. Everything she did, I did. And then when she graduated high school and I was left, I was so heartbroken. Everything was gone. I was devastated.

So you stayed that close even till then.

Oh yeah. It was like, [said very fast, almost without a breath] "Ellen, Ellen, Ellen, Ellen, Ellen, Ellen, Ellen, what are we doing today, what are we doing tomorrow, what are you wearing, I'll wear this, I'll wear that, stay out my drawer, now! I'm drawing a line down the middle of the room. You can't use the door." Hopefully, my son will not be anything like me.

[laughter] Have you thought of a name yet?

Oh I don't know, whatever he answers to. We're trying to figure it out.

Speaking of names, here at OutSmart we've been having an ongoing discussion about using the words "gay woman" or "lesbian."

Now, my sister told me a long time ago, there's a difference between gay and lesbian. Gay is referred to male, and lesbian is referred to women. But now things are changing again, language is changing. So I don't know.

When my sister first came out 10 years ago, maybe eight years, I'd go visit her. Sometimes she'd have a group of angry women with her. And boy oh boy, no matter what I did, I was always wrong.

But you know, watching my sister develop, all I ever wanted was to see her be happy and be a normal well-adjusted lesbian woman, which has happened. But before [being lesbian] was really chic, you always had your heart in your mouth. I mean, I did. I would get angry for her, you know? We'd go to a wedding and they'd go, *Oh your sister is the . . .* and I'd say "photographer."

Yeah, but it's still hard for a lot of people, depending on where they're at.

It's very hard for a kid. There are all kinds of circumstances. But when we were growing up, my sister always wanted to play with guns—see, she was even angry then. . . just kidding—and play boyish games. She wasn't into the doll action at all. And my mother kept trying to make her wear the frilly clothes and give her the perms, and she was absolutely miserable.

Me, I was just so ecstatic once I learned how to set my hair. I wanted the nylons, the jewelry, the purses, the hats. I was into it—I wanted the whole nine yards. At a very early age, I was into that drag thing.

But she wasn't, and I saw that struggle going on, and that was kinda tough. I think a parent knows sometimes

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that a kid has to develop and be who they are, they can't be who you want them to be. But you have to understand and be fair that this is a person, and you're born with certain genes—it's in your genes.

That's how I feel, and the Jerry Falwells of the world, they piss me off. He has a right to be who he is, but sometimes when people are that vehement, I always think they have a swing set in the closet.

[laughter] Let's just say, for some unknown reason, that you were chosen to be the one to decide who would be elected president and vice president in the next election, who would they be?

I don't know. Somebody open-minded, really qualified and somebody really good with figures—like accounting, not female figures, which this president seems to be good at. No, I don't know.

One thing you gotta keep in mind—every time you hear about these different lawsuits and stuff, anybody can sue anybody in this country and anybody can accuse anybody of anything. A lot of times it's a nuisance suit. I was sued once, and that's when I learned.

What were you sued for?

"Change of Heart." The woman lied to me. I paid for her administration to publish the song, and then some past deal that she made came back, and the guy sued me and accused me of the wildest things, and then even made it sound like I didn't write any of my own things. For a minute I started to believe it myself. And then I said "Hey, hello, wake up. You're not in *The Rose Tattoo* with Anna Magnani, you know, this is not a movie. This is real life, this is what they do. Get over yourself."



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Calendar of Events

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. For more information, call 713/623-6796.

5-6 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

A family tradition with an exuberant ensemble of singers and dancers, spectacular costumes, sets and special effects, will ensure that no one leaves with a "Bah Humbug" attitude. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston, 409/765-1894. These performances are on the weekend of Dickens on the Strand. And speaking of Dickens on the Strand...

6 The Houston Pride Band

is among more than 60 performing groups and solo acts that will entertain during Galveston Historical Foundation's Dickens on the Strand Victorian Christmas celebration. 1-2 pm @ the Frogmore Pond entertainment area, 23rd and Strand. For more info: 409/765-7851.

7 B'nai B'rith Schlepp Sunday.

The joint effort of The Jewish Community Center and Houston Interfaith Ministries are asking for donations of food, clothing and toys. These will be given to the Interfaith

Ministries of Houston Hunger Coalition and will be distributed among the less fortunate. 8 am-sundown at the Jewish Community Center, 5601 South Braeswood. For more info: 713/629-1040.

9 Healthy Holiday Open House.

Join Drs. Daniel Boudreaux and Darla Thompson, chiropractors, and massage therapist Dan DeLeon in helping them celebrate the opening of their new offices and learn how you can enjoy the Christmas holidays in a healthy fashion. 2-6 pm @ 5225 Katy Freeway, Ste. 460. For more info, call Dr. Daniel at 713/880-4444 or Dr. Darla at 713/880-1555.

9 Sex and Intimacy.

The Men's Network discusses the sex we want and the sex we get. Also answers to questions about how we value sex and how we discuss sex with our friends and partner(s). The Men's Network is for gay and 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. 7:15-9 pm @ Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

11 Rock Out

with Suzanne Anderson Properties & The SAPettes & Kelli Jean, Priscilla, Billy Bob, Murt & Elvis. Celebrate the holidays with entertainment by Puppets Pizzaz' Sugar Plum Fairies. 6:30-9 pm @ 239

Westheimer (parking two doors east). For more information, call 713/529-8484.

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

13 Rudolph, Frosty & Friends

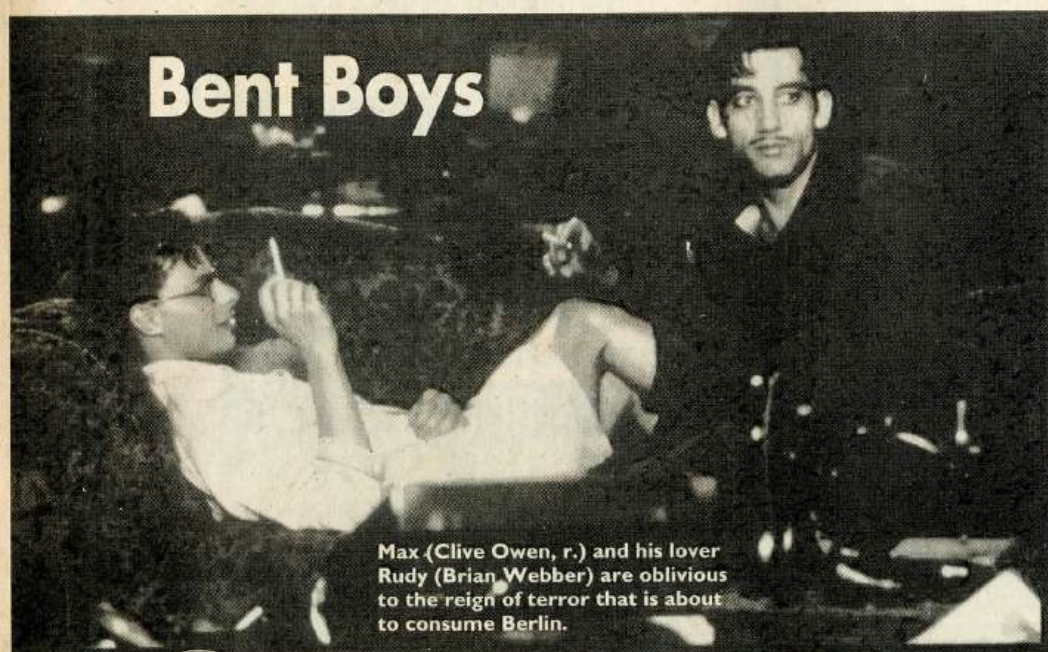
—an annual holiday tradition for children, ages 4-12, and their families—is a one-hour concert of musical favorites led by Stephen Stein, Houston Symphony's conductor-in-residence. Tickets are \$14 adults/\$8 children (10:30 am) and \$10 adults/\$5 children (12:15 pm). Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, 713/227-ARTS.

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 lightning-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 Snatch-

solidified. Then in 1995, Sherman was approached to adapt the play for the screen. Sherman had one condition: The director would have to be Sean Mathias. That condition was met. • "The holocaust has been examined many times in the latter half of this century, but it deserves and demands to be continually re-examined," says Mathias. "The film throws a different perspective on these events, and that is very healthy. *Bent* also shows the genesis of a gay relationship in a very accessible and quite new light, and I think that is very relevant. At a time when we are politically, emotionally and spiritually re-considering our gender roles in society, I think it is very topical to see two men in a very intense and deeply felt relationship that is all too understandable." • Also topical is seeing The Rolling Stones' Mick Jagger in drag. Jagger plays the androgynous Greta, who burns all her dresses and begins a new life as "George." • *Bent* is scheduled to start December 19 at Houston's Greenway Theatre in Greenway Plaza. For showtimes, please call 713/626-0402.

Bent Boys



Max (Clive Owen, r.) and his lover Rudy (Brian Webber) are oblivious to the reign of terror that is about to consume Berlin.

Bent is adapted by Martin Sherman from his worldwide hit play, which took London by storm in 1979. Ian McKellen played Max, the character originally written with McKellen in mind. In the movie, he now, as it were, plays his own uncle! • The play

itself caused an uproar. "It educated the world about the pink triangle," writer Sherman says. • After the 1980 Broadway production of *Bent*, starring Richard Gere and later Michael York, the film rights were optioned with a number of directors attached temporarily to the project. But for 17 years, the film deal never quite

ers 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: 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.

31 Ring in the New Year

with music, laughter, & style with *Lady Be Good* by George and Ira Gershwin. The musical, a 1924 romantic comedy, should be familiar to many from the film featuring Fred Astaire and the song "Fascinating Rhythms." The New Year's Eve event unfolds with a champagne reception at 8:30 pm, the performance at 9 pm, and dessert & dancing following the performance. December 31 @ Main Street Theatre at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd., 713/524-6706. Tickets are \$50. If you can't make it for the New Year's event, additional performances at a cost of \$13-\$17 will be held January 3-11.

Dec. The Nutcracker

is the perfect way to ring in the holiday season and to introduce young children to the power & beauty of ballet. A little girl named Clara receives a magical nutcracker on Christmas Eve and sets off on a wondrous journey to the Land of Snow & the Kingdom of Sweets, which is presided over by the Sugar Plum Fairy who commands her subjects to entertain Clara. After the festivities are over, Clara wakes with a start to find herself holding her nutcracker doll. It'll cost you only \$10-\$60 to find out if it was a dream or if it was real. Thru December 28 @ Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas @ Smith streets. Call 713/227-ARTS.

Dec./Jan. The IMAX Nutcracker in 3D.

A new family holiday tradition begins with sugar-plum visions in 3D! Larger than life, richly costumed characters seem to jump in your lap. Set in contemporary London, this *Nutcracker* is a non-balletic retelling of the classic tale. Tickets \$6 (adults), \$5 (children ages 4-12 & seniors), and children under 3 admitted free. Through January 18 @ Moody Gardens, One Hope Boulevard, Galveston, 800/582-4673.

Planning Ahead Jan. & June

Jan. 2-4 Crystal Gayle

, country-pop star with over 20 number-one hits, including *Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue*, makes her Houston Symphony debut. Grammy Award winner, three-time Academy of Country Music Female Vocalist of the Year, & two-time Country Music Academy Female Vocalist of the Year, Gayle brings her crossover talents to the stage with music from pop to blues to gospel and country. Tickets range from \$19-\$59 and can be purchased at the Houston Ticket Center in Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, and at all Ticketmaster outlets. Charge by phone at 713/227-ARTS.

Jan. 24-31 Aspen Gay and Lesbian Ski Week.

Blue skies, deep powder & fresh tracks! Zip up the Descender and get ready to make some turns! Aspen Gay and Lesbian Ski Week—the largest and longest-running gay and lesbian winter event in the world—is celebrating its 21st year in Aspen, Colorado. Nearly 5,000 gays and lesbians will descend on the mountain town of Aspen for an unforgettable week of partying, socializing, skiing, boarding and events! For brochures,

Continued on page 55

Last Rites

Inspired by an Age of Amway, Scientology and Heaven's Gate



Brian Jucha

Left: Lisa Welti and Jucha in Jucha's 1995 work, *i fell off the mountain and stubbed my toe on the thorny prick of your cold cold heart [or] bashing my head against a brick wall until i can taste blood*

Dr. Judy thinks he's "brilliant." The *Houston Chronicle* thinks they're "funky and demented." It must be a match made at Heaven's Gate! Brian Jucha (artistic director of New York's Via Theater) and Infernal Bridegroom Productions (Houston's own high-energy, cutting-edge theater troupe) team up to create an original, movement-based production inspired by the age of the cult—from Amway to Scientology. In this chaotic journey, all that unites the players are a sorrowful madness and a beguiling search for the truth. Jucha draws on the early sacrificial ritual depicted in Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* for *Last Rites*, an entertaining attempt to make sense of the world at the end of the millenium. Happy Holidays! • Sculptural, caustic, clever, aggressive, entrancing, are all words used to describe the work of Via Theater's artistic director Brian Jucha. *The New York Times* says, "[A]s always with Jucha, the range of references are vast and the pace breathless—it may take audiences hours to puzzle out all the fun." He is known for his dark and sarcastic sense of humor, exuberant performances, and delicate and elegant staging of bleak—and at times pessimistic—subject matter. • *Last Rites* runs from December 4-20 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 E. Freeway, 713/223-8346. 24-hour ticket reservation line is 713/228-0914.

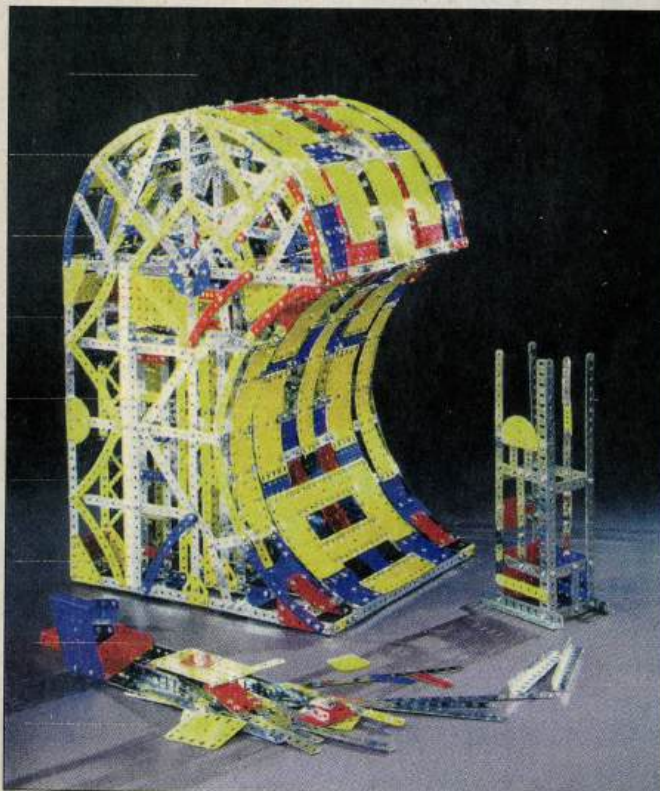
Hellfire & Brimstone

So you thought India was just royalty and poverty. Forget it. • *Fire* shows us contemporary India, where there is a daily battle between traditional values and hope for a new kind of independence and freedom. Specifically, *Fire* shows us only one family and its confusion about which way to go. • All's going traditionally until the unmarried brother, who has a mistress, brings home a wife. Her presence slowly begins to change the rigid and blind adherence to outdated traditions, especially in the case of her sister-in-law. After enough time without their husbands' affections, the two women become closer, and the story truly opens up. • When *Fire*—in English, by the way—was screened at the International Film Festival of India, the director, Deepa Mehta, received threats. "I had never seen so many explosive males and so many jubilant females in one place," she says. • "Men would not even say the word 'lesbian,'" she continues. "Instead, they would say, 'This' is not in our Indian culture. When I would give examples, I would be accused of fabrication." • Let this *Fire* spread . . . please. —Blase DiStefano



Shabana Azmi (left) and Nandita Das share more than lack of love from their husbands in the film *Fire*, scheduled to run through early December at Houston's Greenway Theatre.

Where the Toys Are



Houston artist H.J. Bott unveils his latest work, an apt assemblage oh-so appropriate for the holidays—the wonderful, whimsical *TOYZENUS*. Bott uses Play Doh, bubble gum, plush collectibles, and K'nex and Erector sets to create structures of childlike beauty that hide a seriously adult complexity. Some of the work is derivative (*Plush Ark* is more toy store display than serious sculpture), but *Shrine: Gestalten Konnectus*, created from nearly 17,000 pieces from K'nex kits, is a dense, kaleidoscopic marvel. *Platform: Offshore Erectus* (shown here, as a work in progress) creates a contrasting world of playful color and environmental terror. The work appears to be merely a marvel of childlike construction, but look closer and reach a disturbing conclusion, where the huge candy-colored wave takes on a menacing, marauding presence coming toward the tiny offshore platform. The multi-layered work is perfect for kids and the kid in you, yet holds many very adult treats. *TOYZENUS* runs from December 4 through early January at New Gallery, 2639 Colquitt, 713/520-7053. —Steven Foster

FIRE PHOTO BY DILIP MEHTA, TOYS PHOTO BY HANS STAARTJES

Continued from page 53

lodging and transportation, call 800/444-0680. **June/July The Phantom of the Opera**, directed by Harold Prince, will begin a five-week engagement starting on June 10, 1998 and running through July 12, 1998 @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets are now on sale, and charge orders will be accepted by calling TicketMaster at 713/629-3700.

Theater

• **Absurd Person Singular**. Why is it that everyone ends up in the kitchen during parties? This wild comedy of behind-the-scenes disasters at Christmas parties should answer this question with plenty of laughs. We visit three couples in their three kitchens on the Christmas Eves of three successive years. In this play, Alan Ayckbourn, one of Britain's most successful playwrights, walks the line between comedy and farce with uproarious hilarity. December 5-January 17, @ The Company Onstage Theatre, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219. No performances December 26 & 27. • **Bah, Humbug!** is an irreverent look at holiday traditions with some beautiful carols included. December 12-27 @ The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury (south of Town and Country Mall), 713/467-4497. • **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 through December 6 @ Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury, 713/467-4497. • **Cakewalk** recounts the laughter & passion that exists between two people attracted to each other—especially if one of them is 20 years younger & the other is a famous femme fatale. Lillian Hellman, the legendary, outspoken & inscrutable playwright, comes to life again in this highly personal love story. Tickets \$18. Through 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. Through December 28 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue. • **Cold, Frankinsense and Brrr**. Perfect for families,

school groups & holiday-cold sufferers, this comedy should awaken your senses to the true meaning of Christmas. Come explore the sights & sounds of the yuletide season through the eyes, ears & stopped-up nose of Franklin, a young boy with a bad holiday cold. Follow Franklin through his day as he meets an assortment of characters ranging from a lost wise man to a set of singing bakers who all try to help him find Christmas. This A.D. Players production runs through December 20 @ the Nancy Calhoun Paulson Children's Theater at St. Luke's United Methodist Church Rotunda Theater, 3471 Westheimer, 713/526-2721.

• **Das Barbecü** is a hilarious tongue-in-cheek rendition of Wagner's "Ring Cycle." Whether an audience has a cultured appreciation for opera or knowledge limited to Elmer Fudd warbling "Kill the Wabbit" in *What's Opera, Doc?*, they are sure to love *Das Barbecü*. It opens with a musical prologue explaining the history of two families, an evil narcoleptic dwarf and a cursed gold ring. Five actors portray a boisterous cast of 30 characters amidst the off-kilter country-western lyrics. Through January 4 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh. Tickets range from \$10-\$28 and may be purchased by calling 713/527-8243.

• **A Fertle Holiday** is the 13th annual production of this holiday comedy about the Fertle Family's trouble-ridden reunion in Dumpster, Texas. Champagnes, wines, beers, cappuccino & munchies are available throughout the show. Admission is \$14. Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

• **Holiday**. This fast-paced comedy explores the fate & fortune of a perfectly wonderful young man engaged to a perfectly wealthy New York socialite. The problem is that he doesn't care about money and social standing—she and her father won't accept that. Despite this, he chooses to live his life as one big *Holiday*. The resolution of this charming dilemma makes for a delightful *Holiday*-season diversion. December 11-21 @ Strand Street Theatre, 2317 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston, 1-800-54-SHOWS or 409/737-3440.

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

• **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. Through December 21 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. For advance tickets, call 713/524-



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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. Through December 28 (plus a special New Year's Eve performance) @ Grace Theater, 2710 W. Alabama. More info: 713/526-2721.

• **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. Through December 6 @ New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th. Reservations: 713/869-8927.

• **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 through December 23 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh Dr. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased by calling 713/527-8243.

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.

• **The Body of Christ in the Art of Europe and New Spain, 1150-1800** assembles works by such acclaimed artists as Giovanni Bellini, Sandro Botticelli, Albrecht Durer, Peter Paul Rubens, Jacopo Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese and Francisco de Zurbaran and by less well-known masters and anonymous craftsmen. The exhibition brings together approximately 75 objects in diverse media—paintings, sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, prints, metalwork, textiles, that address the meaning and devotional function of the image of Christ. December 21-April 12 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

• **Théophile Bra** was a renowned Romantic sculptor in 19th-century France. Unknown to most, he also created thousands of visionary drawings that expressed his dreams and mystical experiences. These drawings were discovered by Jacques de Caso, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, in the municipal library of Douai, the city in northeastern France where Bra was born. The exhibition is the first to show Bra's drawings and will feature approximately 40 of these remarkable works of art. December 12-March 29 @ The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9404.

• **Joseph Cornell.** Among the many treasures in the Menil Collection are more than 20 works by the American artist Joseph Cornell. A close follower of Surrealism, Cornell assembled exquisite boxes containing small toys, mementos, and unusual objects that preserved his personal reflections. Drawing heavily from the Menil Collection and private holdings, this exhibition will feature 75 of Cornell's celebrated collages and boxes as well as a selection of films made by the artist. Through January 4 @ The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9404.

• **The Dark Mirror: Picasso and Photography.** The Museum of Fine Arts is the only city in the United States to showcase the rarely seen photographic works of

Pablo Picasso. The Houston exhibition combines three separate presentations of these works. This is the first time these works have been displayed together and the first time many of the works have been seen outside of Paris. Through February 1 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

• **Deck the Walls** is John Cleary Gallery's annual holiday exhibition presenting some of their favorite photographs, as well as photographs from their inventory that have had limited exposure in the gallery. December 4-January 10 @ John Cleary Gallery, 2635 Colquitt, 713/524-5070.

• **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. Through December 13 @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main @ Naylor), 713/223-8346.

• **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.

• **To the absent friend** is a series of drawings by Charles Howard. This is Howard's inscription on the first of 54 drawings he sent daily to his friend and mentor Douglas Macagy, during a period when Macagy was hospitalized for tuberculosis. Through December 21 @ Rice University Art Gallery in Sewall Hall, 6100 Main Street, 713/527-6069.

• **Toyzenus** is sculpture by H.J. Bott, made from children's toys—everything from Play Doh and bubble gum to plush collectibles like Beanie Babies and sheared rabbit fur to diverse construction kits like K'nex and Erector. It is serious art colliding with the plentitude of playfulness. December 4-January 1998 @ The New Gallery, 2639 Colquitt, 713/520-7053.

• **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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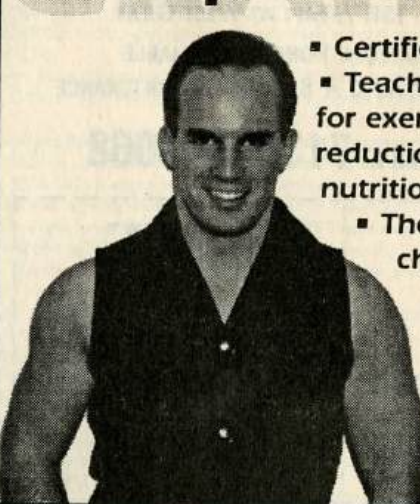
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Community

• **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 Educators Network (GLSEN).** The goal of GLSEN 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 GLSEN-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 772254-0548.

• **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: HousTxBand@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: 713/861-1800.

• **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 3,500 clients. Choose from over 14 direct and indirect client volunteer programs. You'll join a pool of more than 450 talented volunteers in Hotline, Information & Referral, Buddy, Helper, Art Therapy, Stone Soup & many other programs. Whether you can commit to 4 hours a month or 40 hours a week, AFH needs your time and talent. Volunteer department: 713/623-6796. Website: <http://www.aidshelp.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 Raine, 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 Hennessey at 713/529-0037.

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

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

• **Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH)** is open to gays and lesbians, 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 survivors of sexual assault. Groups meet weekly & are free. More info/meeting times: 713/528-6798, ext. 256. *The Family Violence*

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Program offers a support group to female teens involved in violent dating relationships. 6 pm, Tuesdays at 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, 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.
- **Project CAESAR** is the Gay Men's Health Initiative at AIDS Foundation Houston. By providing the latest information & education to the gay community, Project CAESAR intends to slow HIV infection rates among gay & bisexual men in Houston. Through self-esteem, motivational & relationship topics, the program helps uncover healthy paths buried under the pressure of everyday life. It also reaches over 20,000 men a year in the Houston area through its outreach team, The Legion. To attend a workshop, volunteer for The Legion or find out more info, call the Project CAESAR staff at 713/623-6796. E-mail: education@ids.houston.org.
- **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. Info: Becky @ 713/245-1960 or Rick @ 281/544-7098.
- **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: "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 Bielek 655-5423.
- **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.

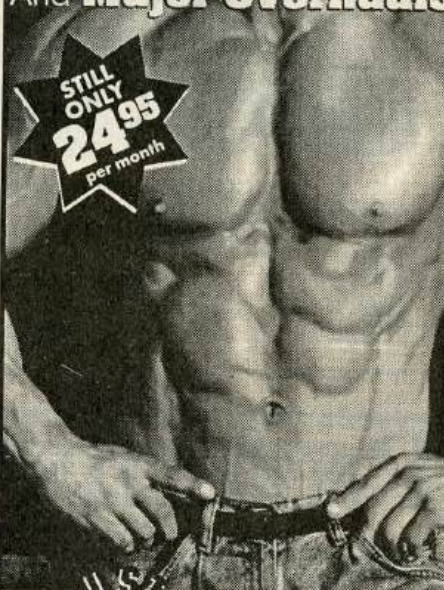
grams free of charge for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental care (713/524-7933); the Bering Care Center is a licensed adult day-care center (713/520-7070); the Bering Financial Assistance provides comprehensive budget planning, financial counseling & financial 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: Mele 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 and staff strive to address residents' physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. As a home for people who are moderately ill and no longer able to provide housing for themselves, Milam House provides a safety net of assistance when needed. Most of our volunteers prefer one-on-one work with the residents—like lending a helping hand, a listening ear, and a companionship to count on. However, some volunteers provide clerical and general office assistance as well as planning and execution of fund-raising events. More info, call 713/520-9248 or e-mail ahvlntr@neosoftware.com. You can also visit at <http://www.neosoftware.com/~ahvlntr/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

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 & willing to commit at least 2 hours a week; 5) able to staff the hotline during office hours; & 6) willing to make at least a 6-months commitment. 4126 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 1717, 626-2837 or 1-800-981-2837.
- **Bering Community Service Foundation** provides five pro-

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through the reduction of youth access to tobacco & promotion of 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 offers a women's health clinic. Visits include complete examination by gynecologist, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. Fee \$40; but no one turned away. Wednesdays, 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 & bi-friendly individuals. More info: 467-4380. It is best to call 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. 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 (HOGS)** is a social group for gay men & lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. Activities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. We have day trips, weekend trips (typically a 2- to 4-hour drive from Houston), usually in state parks or private campgrounds. Local social events include Saturday morning breakfasts & once-a-month social potluck dinners. Call 713/KAMPOUT for info or your complimentary newsletter, 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 on December 19 @ 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 & the Pride Party. Meets 2nd Tuesday. Other events include beach parties, Austin splash & other socials. More info: 713/706-2508. Web site: outrage.org/~outrage.
- **Prime Timers Houston** promotes social activities for the older gay and bisexual male. Some of the activities they participate in are theater, dining out, movies, potluck dinners, card games, and weekend daytrips. For more information, call 867-3903.
- **Rainbow Fishing Club.** To get on the free mailing list for the new fishing club for gays and lesbians, call John @ 713/523-6381.
- **Rainbow Ranglers.** a gay country & western dance club, teaches beginning level dance every Thursday at 8:30 pm & advanced level dance every Wednesday at 8 pm at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. Dance classes are free & open to the public. For more information, call 880-0670.
- **Rainbow Riders** is a bicycling club for womyn. Meets every Sunday morning. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability & experience. More info: 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, 7-9pm, 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

- **Good Sports.** College football/basketball fans. 713/523-9000.
- **Houston Tennis Club,** an affiliate member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, welcomes men and women of all ages and skill levels. They meet Wednesdays & Fridays from 7:30-9 pm & Sundays from 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join, call 713/692-2703.
- **Houston Women's Flag Football League (HWFFL)** is a nonprofit 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 (HWSL)** is a nonprofit organization for women who enjoy the sport of softball. For more info, call Trish Jarvis at 713/688-9468 or write to P.O. Box 70666, Houston, TX 77270.
- **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.

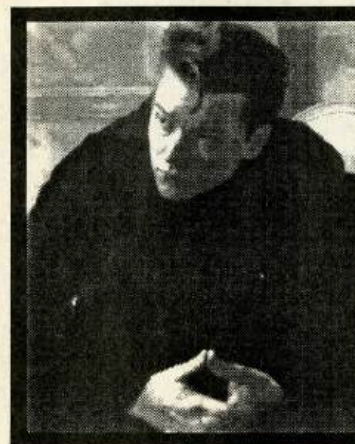
CHANGES? If your organization has changes for The Source, call 713/520-7237 or fax 713/522-3275. DEADLINE: Dec. 15.

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Frequent Flyers

Getting the most out of your travel dollar.

by Sandra Wilkins



You know the old saying, "Never pay retail"? I say, "Never fly coach when you can fly first class and pay lowest-fare coach."

For years I've been judiciously managing frequent flyer mileage points, which results in upgrading to first class on domestic flights and BusinessFirst on international flights. It takes a mere 20,000 points to upgrade a \$325 ticket to Los Angeles from coach to first class. It will cost you 40,000 points to bump up on international flights, but considering a BusinessFirst ticket from Houston to London costs \$4,300, spending around \$800 and flying up front is well worth using those points.

How to do this? First, you need to sign up as a "frequent flyer" with all the airlines you travel with most often. For Houstonians, this would certainly mean Continental and Southwest. Many folks still use gay-friendly American Airlines, but their only nonstops out of Houston are to Miami and Chicago. All other flights require a change of plane in Dallas. Delta is good for Atlanta and other east coast destinations, and United is good for Denver and San Francisco.

It is important to try and concentrate your flights with one airline so as not to spread out your accumulated points. Continental serves more nonstop destinations from Houston than all other major carriers combined, so becoming a member of OnePass (their frequent flyer program) is a must. It's painless and free to join—just call them at 713/952-1630 and obtain an account number. Then, each time you make a reservation, make absolutely sure that you advise this number to your travel agent or Continental. Flight points are credited within three days of travel, and you can access your balance over the phone.

So, now you're flying for business or pleasure, accruing the actual miles between point A and point B (you always earn a minimum of 500 points, regardless of the flight distance). The clever traveler now kicks in the legitimate "double dip" maneuver, using a credit card to charge the ticket that will also earn miles for each dollar spent. Let's say you fly Houston to Los Angeles roundtrip for a long weekend, and the ticket costs \$325. Not only will you earn the 2,770 miles flown on this journey but an additional 325 points from the credit-card charge. On arrival at

LAX, it's likely that you'll rent a car, averaging \$35 per day. You'll also put your pretty head down at a gay hotel in West Hollywood, averaging \$90 per day. Most probably you'll want to eat while in the land of Oz, and maybe do a little shopping on Rodeo Drive. USE

THE CARD for all of these expenses too, and watch those points soar. Car for three days, 105 points; hotel for three nights, another 270 points; \$75 per day on food and drink, 225 points; shopping spree for \$350 nets you an additional 350 points. Total these points and voila, 3,720 total miles!

When you get home, you shop at Randall's and Kroger's, put gas in your car, do your dry cleaning, eat out at restaurants, buy shaving cream at Walgreen's, pay for internet access, and the list goes on and on. There is only one reason not to use the credit card for every single thing you purchase: you get in financial trouble when you use credit cards. If this is the case, then disregard all of the above. However, if you are a disciplined credit-card user and pay your bill each month, you can rack up enough points each year to fly free or first class every time you travel. These are the best programs in my opinion:

American Express • Membership Rewards



The green card costs \$55 per year, but the beauty of AX is twofold—first you have to pay your balance each month, which will help keep you disciplined, and next, every dollar spent on the card equals one frequent flyer mile, which can be applied to ANY airline of your choice, or used for merchandise or hotels or car rentals.

Diner's Club • Club Rewards

Diner's cards cost \$80 per year but provide two nice benefits in addition to earning points. They allow 60 days to pay the full balance, and of all the credit-card companies, Diner's is the only one that provides primary insurance coverage on rental cars when you decline to take the car company's CDW (collision damage waiver) which runs between \$9 and \$14 per day. Therefore, if you have an accident while driving a rental car, Diner's steps in and becomes your insurance company. Unlike the other companies, they do not first make you apply to your

personal car insurance. This is a tremendous benefit, and provides great peace of mind when you decline CDWs.

Marine Midland Bank MasterCard

This card is directly linked to Continental's OnePass program. It costs \$75 per year, but every single dollar spent on their card instantly becomes a mile with Continental OnePass. This is my least recommended card because it's expensive, and the interest is exorbitant if you don't pay off the balance each month. However, there are still some companies, hotels, tour companies and retail shops that don't accept American Express or Diner's Club, so to maximize each dollar you spend, you need to have a MasterCard or Visa that also earns you points.

Now, let's assume you've mastered the art of credit-card point accrual, and you're ready for a big foreign trip. International travel, while often taxing and frequently difficult, has brought me the most wonderful of pleasures. It has expanded my sensibility, made me humble, reduced my self-centeredness, and has taught me I always have a lot to learn. What can be more civilized than cooking like the French, savoring theatre like the English, emulating the manners of the Spanish, admiring art and architecture like the Italians, taking great joy in small things like the Mexicans, meditating like Tibetans, and generally acquiring beautiful new layers of sensibility with each new culture we experience? To my thinking, nothing is more rewarding.

But to enjoy these gifts, you first have to get out of town, and most international travel deserves homework and requires a

passport. I think everyone should have a passport. It serves as a dandy form of foolproof identification if you lose your driver's license and need to cash checks, or prove you're over 21. Then, you might just win a free weekend to Belize at your next raffle drawing, and you can't get into Belize without a passport. Then there is the possibility that just having a passport will encourage you to use it. Obtaining a passport is a fairly painless exercise with two exceptions: One, you must have an original, raised seal, birth certificate. These can be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics from the state in which you were born. Next, you will be required to appear in person at the U.S. Passport Office for a first-time passport. Once you get the first one, renewals can be done through the mail. Passports are now valid for 10 years, require two identical photographs, an application and \$65. There are a couple of U.S. post offices in the Houston area that process first-time applicants, or you can stand in line at the U.S. Passport Office downtown. It takes a couple of weeks to receive your new passport. This process can be speeded up to 24 hours for an additional fee and proof that you are leaving the country immediately (i.e., an airline ticket to a foreign destination.)

At this point you are a skilled master of swooping up frequent flyer points at every opportunity, and you have your passport neatly tucked away in a safe place. You are ready for a foreign adventure, and next month we'll discuss the do's and don'ts of foreign travel in depth, and how to have fun while doing it. Until then, USE THE CARD!

Sandra Wilkins is the owner of The Travel Partnership.

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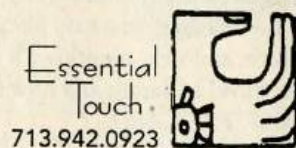


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The Resolution Trap

by John Aaron

I don't know about you, but when I was a child I couldn't wait to tear into all those presents waiting for me underneath the tree. I just knew that within each of those packages, carefully wrapped up in holiday tissue and bright, shiny ribbons, lay something that would change my life completely and for the better. Though apparent to me, I just couldn't get my parents to see how unbelievably unfair it was for them to make me have to wait until December 25 before I could enjoy the benefits of what was obviously intended as a gift for me. To this day they're steadfast to this tradition.

And while some traditions are great, with endearing sentiment and personal meaning, others are extremely restrictive, personally debilitating and in serious need of re-evaluation. Take for example the New Year's resolution of getting "fit." If you are like most people, you probably make most of your major health-change decisions in the form of New Year's resolutions. You pick this one time of the year to commit to stop smoking, stop eating and start exercising. However, like most people who make these resolutions, you are more than likely to give them up without a second thought by the time January 20 rolls around. You're left depressed, frustrated, angry with yourself for failing (again)—and with 345 days of un-healthy living habits ahead before your next New Year's resolution.

My belief is this: If you want to make a change—do it. If there is something you genuinely want to do that has meaningful purpose and lasting benefit to your quality of life then, go ahead—do it. But, by all means, do it now. What written law is there that requires you to wait until the stroke of midnight before giving yourself the opportunity of growth, health and change? There is no reason to deprive yourself of good health or to rely on resolutions to get it. Nor do resolutions hold some magical component that will guarantee your success.

Instead, most people aren't even aware that the approach to health and fitness through "resolutions" is slightly nothing more than a setup for failure. Here are some of the reasons why this approach is generally unreliable:

- **We set impossible deadlines.** If you have spent 30 years being sedentary and have steadily put on weight, you can't expect 30 years of unhealthy living to be erased in 30 days.
- **We tell everyone what our resolutions are. Then they can harass us when we don't keep them.** I think this can safely be called "S&M Motivation," and unless you're into that sort of thing, there is absolutely no reason to believe that peer ridicule and humiliation are good for you.
- **We make our resolutions at midnight after a glass—or two—of champagne.** We all know that alcohol can impair judgment. Enough said.

• **We assume that because we've simply said them out loud, they'll just happen.** This is like the person who has not returned to the gym since he last purchased his membership, yet expects that by merely holding the membership card, he will lose weight. Good health doesn't happen through osmosis. You have to get physical.

• **We only make resolutions once a year.** Which brings us back to the beginning.

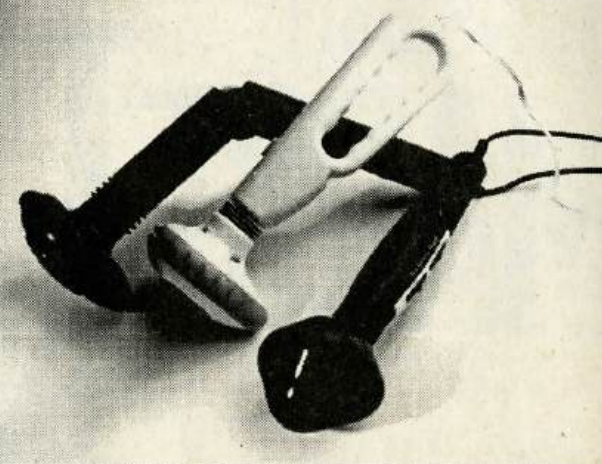
This year, instead of setting ourselves up for failure, why don't we try another approach? A more successful approach. Forget the old tradition of making New Year's resolutions and start a new end-of-the-year tradition. Make this tradition one that acknowledges all the accomplishments you've made and all the learning you've done during the past year. This list should focus on all aspects of your growth and change, both on a professional and personal level. Take a moment to re-live how good those accomplishments made you feel and welcome the New Year with a solid list of qualities, actions and behaviors that you can expand upon in the year to come.

...Most people aren't even aware that the approach to health and fitness through "resolutions" is slightly nothing more than a setup for failure.

Be aware that "resolutions" are not the same as setting goals. Setting goals suggests that you are already on your way to reaching them, while resolutions are only declarations of a want to have some form of change occur. So, with that in mind, don't get caught up in the "waiting" game. I realize that sometimes there are legitimate reasons for putting certain things off. If the holiday season has your schedule stretched to the limit with events, shopping and baking, this probably wouldn't be a good time to start an extremely rigid exercise regimen or quit smoking. But if you find that the benefits of starting one of these programs is exciting to you, there are no apparent limitations, and you find yourself eager to begin, then go ahead and be a kid. Go for it!

Open yourself up to the things that will change your life for the better. New behaviors can be fulfilling if you hang in there and work your way through to reaching your goals—turning them into lifestyle habits. Start now! Then, when January rolls around, you will already be actively engaged in a fitness program or another personal goal.

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.



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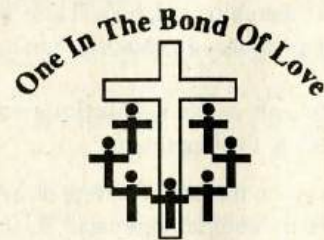
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continued from page 21

the Montrose Civic Association. His was a targeted message that had the desired effect on its intended audience.

Nevertheless, the most interesting aspect of the entire episode is the fact that Kelley felt the need to apologize. Even more, he felt the need to affirm that he opposes discrimination against gays. And even more, late in the campaign he sought the endorsement of a gay political group, Log Cabin-Houston. Not enough to rescue him, perhaps, but 10 years ago none of that would have happened.

In the race for city council in District D, which covers Montrose, gay voters once again rejected Jew Don Boney and once again were overwhelmed by African-American votes for him from outside the neighborhood. You

may remember that Boney originally won the seat in a 1995 runoff against another black candidate. While Boney easily carried the district as a whole in 1995, he lost badly in Montrose, barely winning only one precinct.

This time, Boney faced gay activist Ray Hill, who ran an "unfunded"

campaign, that is, no campaign at all. The gulf between gay voters in Montrose and black voters outside of Montrose was even more pronounced than two years ago. As expected, Boney won in a landslide with 84 percent of the vote. But Hill—with no campaign organization, no money, and no incumbency—easily won in Montrose. In key heavily gay precincts, Hill won by margins of almost two to one.

What explains it? Besides the fact that Hill is well-known to Montrose voters, Hill points out that Boney was an architect of the city's sexually oriented business ordinance that puts tight restrictions on the consensual behavior of adults in private business establishments. Gay voters, says Hill, are basically conservative in that they want government out of all aspects of their

lives. Moreover, although Boney talks a good game, he has done nothing during his tenure on city council to garner political support for a non-discrimination ordinance protecting gays or for domestic partners benefits. Add to that the fact that Boney has proudly trumpeted his support from the viciously anti-gay Nation of Islam and it's understandable that gay voters would be skittish about supporting him. Boney's "progressive coalition" is in well-deserved tatters.

Proposition A, the ballot initiative that would have ended the city's race- and sex-based preferential treatment program, lost by 55 percent to 45 percent. Although local and national media hailed the result as a grand philosophical vindication of

...Although Boney talks a good game, he has done nothing during his tenure on city council to garner political support for a non-discrimination ordinance protecting gays or for domestic partners benefits.

affirmative action, it was nothing of the sort. The vote to keep the city's program was a product of two familiar axioms of all politics: (1) money talks, and (2) ballot language matters. Mayor Lanier, his wealthy friends, and the rich beneficiaries of the program outspent supporters of the initiative by three to one. They

dominated the airwaves. Moreover, opponents made sure that what voters saw on the ballot bore little resemblance to the actual proposal for a change in the law. As one observer noted, the ballot language forced on us by the mayor and his allies on city council basically asked voters if they wanted to drown little puppies. Given that option, voters spared the puppies.

Interestingly, however, the proposal to end preferential treatment did better in Montrose than it did citywide. And the proposal to end set-asides actually won in the Heights. This suggests that gay voters have begun to see the folly of government-sanctioned preferences. Ray Hill—God help me for saying this—is right. We want the government out of our pocketbooks, out of our bedrooms, and out of the race business.

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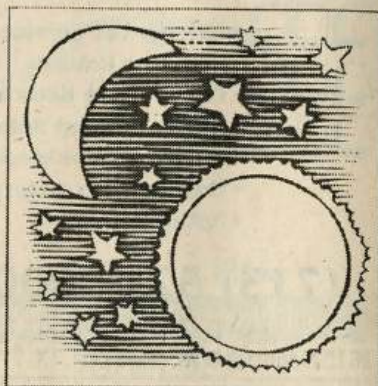
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SignOut

by Madilyn Stein

Your Horoscope For December

Delusional Reality. Do you realize how wonderful it is to have freedom to choose according to your heart's desire? If you're honest and own your emotional pain, instability and detachments from commitment, this coming year will be one of the best. It's normal to desire a sense of completeness or a feeling of filling your cup. Mars, Venus, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto place the pecking order and orchestrate the outcome.



Venus drives us to drink, carouse, and do major damage to our daily routine while Mars has the crazies. Venus suffers a rejection complex when in aspect to Saturn, and we receive a dose of fear of intimacy when interacting with Uranus. When Venus and Neptune have a certain partnership, we become relationship junkies and we can be possessed when Pluto rolls out the crisis carpet. READY?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19)

You'll wonder where your reluctance went this month. Seems as though you've been in this situation of making multiple decisions before. Mars says to make a last ditch effort to let go of your fear of rejection and vacuum your guilt-ridden brain with love dust. Saturn is in Aries, so you'll feel like bubble gum, good only for the moment. Your mind is sharper than ever since Neptune is just finishing up in Capricorn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

This could be the greatest time of your life. Starting this month you can see your way clear to complete all the changes you've initiated. You've said repeatedly, "I'm ready to have the job, resources and love I deserve." You have two out of three. Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune are all in Aquarius before the end of this month. Wake up and stop trying to control what is meant to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20)

Pluto in Sagittarius will make your dreams seem like nightmares. Every one who has experienced the Pisces-idealized love knows that when you're on the rag, nothing seems to eject you to another realm. "I believe" is the motto of your kind, so when five planets are in Aquarius, you'll feel ready to catch the sanity star and collect all the goodies that have eluded your passage. In plain English, dreams can come true.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

Pluto in Sagittarius and Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune in Aquarius will help you help others. You've always wanted to better mankind, even if others think you're always on the lookout for your own interests. Bummer. Now is the time to rectify an old love affair or allow someone special to be your one-and-only. Kick up your heels and put your life on a raft headed for a romantic island.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

Watch out. Your animal instincts tell you that Uranus is not a substitute for the other word so often joked about; on the other hand, a roughing up of your stable edges will probably save the laxative counter from being

cleaned out. Harsh? Not really. This is a fair warning to help you realize people don't change and neither do you.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

Uranus the frantic planet suggests the meaningful past is up for grabs. The push from Uranus might be just what your brain needs while Saturn, in Aries, says don't lose perspective. "Love, Love, Love is all you need." The gods are on your side, so find the perfect squeeze and leave room for human error. Take a trip to an exotic mountainous area and remember to breathe deep.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

For the last several years you have been pushed, squished and mushed by the powers that be, but that's in the past, and you've become the accomplished, impeccable discovering crab. Keep that picture. Know you will receive all the goodies that such a tight, controlled free-loving sign can endure.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

The powers that be want you to know that everything you do could be scrutinized if you stay in your routine and resist change. Seek new venues and express yourself playfully. Saturn in Aries and Pluto in Sagittarius lends creative inspiration to your work, so use it in your personal life. The window of time is short for these lucky aspects, so enjoy the new year and settle back into the professional act after June 9.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Pluto says cut your losses, clean your house and de-flea your friends. You're at the end of a tough last 15 years. If you don't take charge, the higher elements will move that active brain to the next level. Home is the first to see progress, then work is overdue in its transformation. Lift the veil of cement and get ready because Jupiter will help your progress around early February.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Out of the doldrums into the energized bunny suit. Express yourself now and E.F. Hutton will listen. Act on your laurels because Mars, Jupiter, Uranus and soon Neptune will give you the permission to charge, change and reinvent your spokes. The only problem is—if you don't take the initiative, nothing will happen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Look out, world, here come the masters of hiding. Put yourselves out there, and you and others will reap the benefits. It's just the beginning. Pay attention to your inner humility. All your hesitation and offers of assistance move in your direction, with full force. Now you can move into the world with confidence and collect your kudos.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Everyone asks each other, "Who is that?" Since November of '96, your personality has had major surgery. Now you will have to figure out why you are craving Rice Krispies—because they pop and fizzle quickly. It's time to claim your own power and let others know you've got smelly feet. Let Rush Limpole take cover—you're out and over it.

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OUT IN HOUSTON



1 Debbie "Bloodsucker" Beach and Catwoman Kim haunt Lamda's Halloween bash.



2 Janine Brunjes (left) and Annise Parker bring a political sparkle to Black Tie.



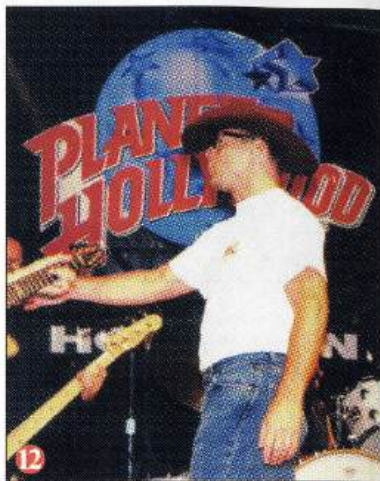
3 The wise and wonderful Dr. Jocelyn Elders was Black Tie's keynote speaker.



4 Comedian Bob Smith reads from his book *Openly Bob* at Crossroads Market.



5 Craig Elmore and Bob Smith, between chapters.



6 Black Tie attendees (l-r): Loris Bradley, Paul Fromberg, Amy Rowland, and Doreen Staller.



7 Our may-he-be-next? mayor, the honorable Lee Brown, at Black Tie.



8 Planet Hollywood attendees Chris Farley plays Rocky in front of the original version, Sylvester Stallone.



9 Former *OutSmart* covergirl Trudy Denny (left), with George Greanias and House of Coleman's Marion Coleman at Black Tie.



10 Black Tie co-chairs Amanda Barhorst and Jason Davis.



11 Charles Justiz (left) and Black Tie emcee Dayna Steele (Justiz).

12 Bruce Willis pushes the pedal to the metal with The Accelerators at the Planet Hollywood opening.

PHOTOS: #1 DANI HURLEY; #2, 3, 6-12 KYLE YOUNG; #4, 5 BLAISE DISTEFANO

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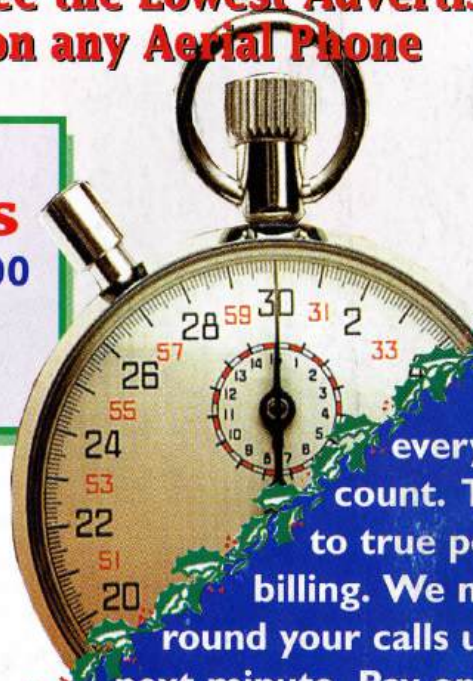
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