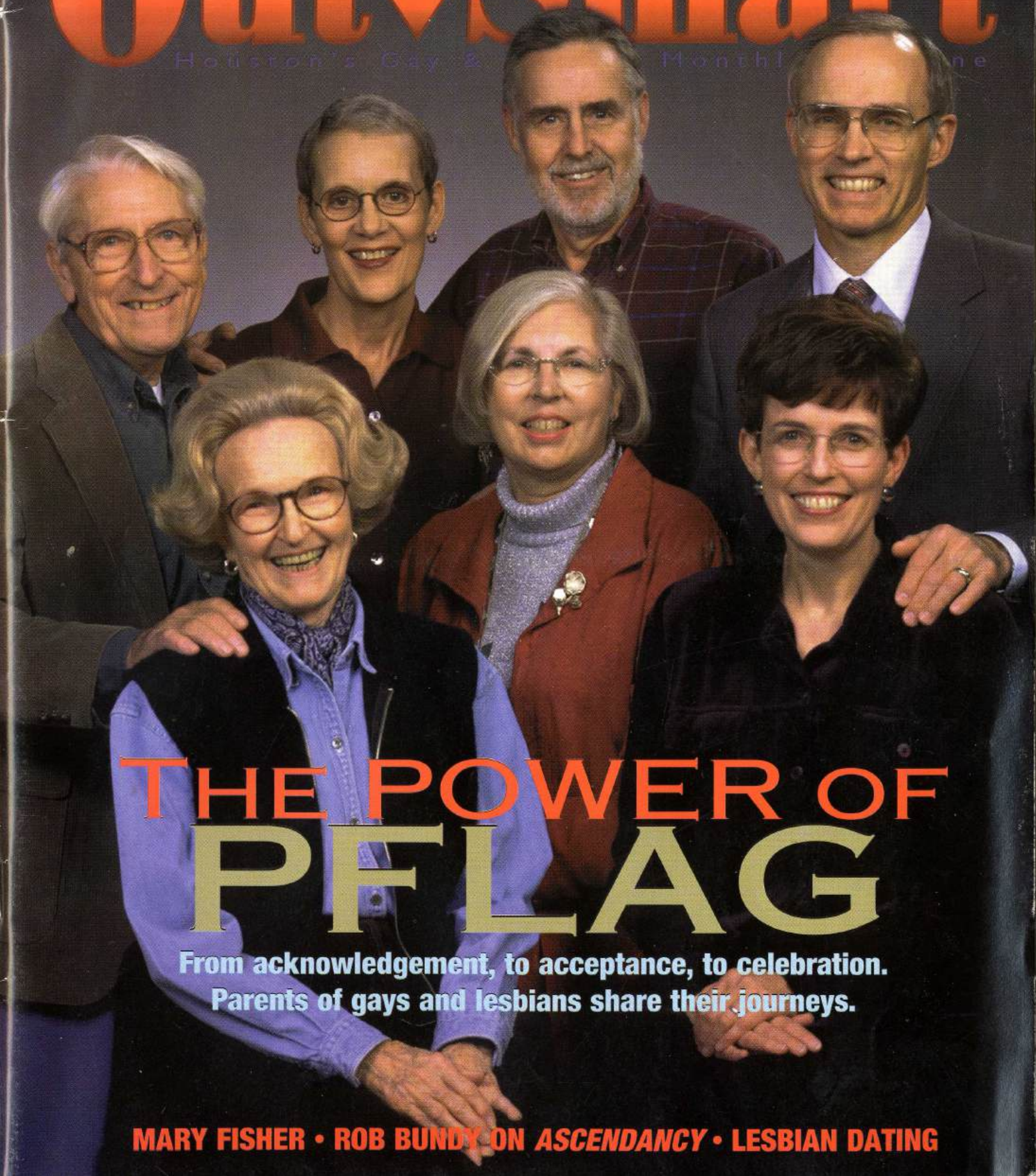


OutSmart

Complimentary • February 1998
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine



THE POWER OF PFLAG

From acknowledgement, to acceptance, to celebration.
Parents of gays and lesbians share their journeys.

MARY FISHER • ROB BUNDY ON ASCENDANCY • LESBIAN DATING

SWILLEY-HUDSON'S #1 SELLING AGENT



RICHARD HILL

QUALITY STANDS OUT!



FOR OVER 12 YEARS I HAVE BEEN
HELPING OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS
BUY AND SELL HOMES!

CALL ME! I CAN HELP YOU!

Swilley & Hudson
& ASSOCIATES INC. - REALTORS

713.768.3095

Office: 713.869.6142

www.RichardHill.com • E-mail: rick@iah.com

NEW



Fabulous new construction by Reid McMillian. Double wrap around front porches. High ceilings, great kitchen and family room. Upstairs master opens to balcony/porch. Alley access to large 2 car garage \$314,900.

NEW



Norhill, updated 2 bedroom, 2 bath cottage, refinished hardwoods, recent centrals, wrought iron fence, deed restricted neighborhood. \$129,900

SALE PENDING



Houston Heights, huge Galveston-style home, over 5,000 sq. ft. Originally built in 1897, now expanded with separate quarters on first floor. Main floor has pine floors, high ceilings, original staircase. \$275,000



West Houston, Pretty Brick 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car attached garage. Hardwoods in entrance and den, nice landscaping, pool and tennis courts in subdivision. \$84,900

NEW



Cute Woodland Heights cottage. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath very open living, dining, kitchen area. Centrals. Deed restricted neighborhood! \$109,900.

SALE PENDING



Heights classic bungalow, 3 bedroom, 1 bath, centrals, updated, high ceilings. Great front porch. \$110,000

NEW



Montrose Patio Home, 2-2 1/2-2, plus den, plus study. New construction! Brick exterior, hardwoods, zoned air and heat, high ceilings, light and bright! \$224,900



Woodland Heights, 2 story, BIG! 3-2 1/2-4, Over 2500 sq. ft., renovated throughout, hardwoods, tile, double front porches, corner lot, big garage. \$259,900

NEW



EASTWOOD!! Up and coming neighborhood east of downtown, just minutes from UofH or downtown. All renovated. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, only \$119,900

FINALLY!

A REAL ESTATE BROKER
WHO PUTS HIS MONEY
WHERE HIS MOUTH IS!

100% SATISFACTION, OR
MY COMMISSION BACK!

CARY RUSSELL
713.777.8773

Prudential
Premier Properties



REAL ESTATE, REAL EASY™



"I went to work for Coldwell Banker United, Realtors because I felt they could help me serve my clients better than any other Real Estate company in Houston. Coldwell Banker's enhanced services meet the needs of today's real estate consumers and shorten the time to buy or sell a home. Placing myself in the shoes of my clients helps them reach their Real Estate goals and plan for their future."

Steve Louis
Senior Broker Associate

713 623-8899 ext.3018
louis@coldwellbanker.com

MAKING REAL ESTATE REAL EASY.™



Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

GREAT HAPPY HOUR!

Open Late Until 4 a.m.
Thursday/Friday/Saturday

Bayou Place
Downtown
510 Texas Ave.
713/626-9432

dreams are romantic

valentines
and special moment
reservations

XOXO

(kiss) (hug) (kiss) (hug)

and \$1.25 martinis
all night every wednesday
(single or with a sweetheart)

mo mong
VIETNAMESE
restaurant lounge bar

1201 westheimer #b
(next to hollywood video)
713 524 5664

VOL. 5, NO. 2

contents

FEBRUARY 1998

features

20 AIDS on Stage
New Stages production offers hope.

26 HIV HMOs
Medicaid's managed care, Part 2.

30 Survival Skills
Gay resilience, Part 1.

35 Remarkable Mary
AIDS activist Mary Fisher returns to Houston.

38 The PFLAG Journey
Parents who embrace their gay kids.

44 Fem 2 Fem
The Dating Game.

columns

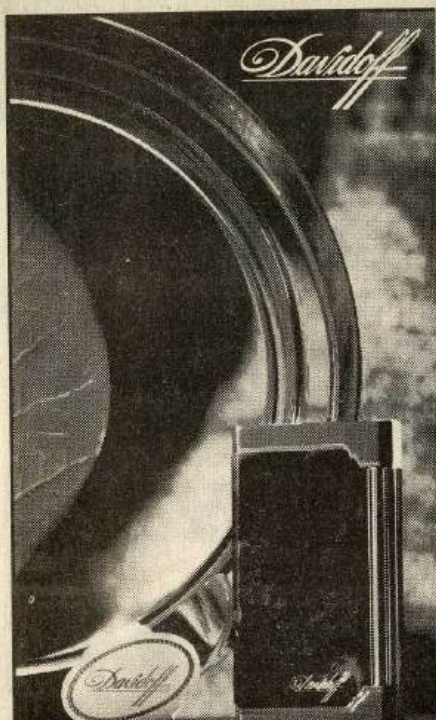
LeftOut/Bill Agosto	16
OutRight/Dale Carpenter	17
Queer Science/Simon LeVay	22
OutLaw/Debra Hunt	24
TravelOut/Sandra Wilkins	64
WorkOut/John Aaron	66
SignOut/Madilyn Stein	74

departments

Letters	6
National Briefs	9
Local Briefs	12
Queer Quotes	32
Q-Tips	48
GrooveOut	50
Calendar	52
The Source	59
Marketplace	68
Classifieds	70
OutSmart Advertisers	72
SceneOut	76

The Cover PFLAG's Gordon Weiser, Barbara Winston, Lee Smith, Dick Grunz, Blake Weiser, Jane Smith and Norma Grunz. Photo by Alan Montgomery—page 38
This Page Rozalla's new album is featured in our new music section, GrooveOut. Photo uncredited—page 50

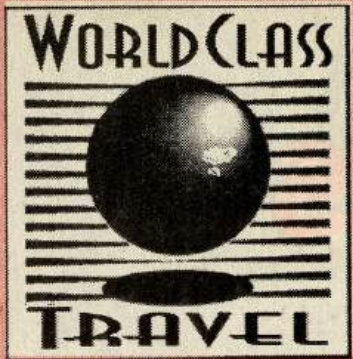
Davidoff



Jeffrey Stone, Ltd.
Houston's Finest Cigars and Writing Instruments Since 1978.

5000 Westheimer • 713-621-2812
9694 Westheimer • 713-783-3555

WORLD CLASS TRAVEL



WHERE QUALITY SERVICE
COUNTS THE MOST

JIM JADLOSKI
Independent Travel Agent

713/682-3362
Member of IGTA

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

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



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

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

1-800-422-1314
www.med-escrow.com

Member of the VAA *Se Habla Español*
© The Medical Escrow Society 1997

OutSmart
Publisher Greg Jeu

Editorial
Managing Editor Kyle Young
Production Coordinator/Copy Editor Blase DiStefano

Contributing Writers
Doug Anderson, Steven Foster, Joyce Gales,
Shane Hennessey, Richard King, Harry Livesay,
Chris Sill

Columnists John Aaron, Bill Agosto, Rob Bundy,
Dale Carpenter, Debra Hunt, Simon LeVay,
Madilyn Stein, Sandra Wilkins

Advertising
Account Executives
Ken Burd, Dani Hurley

Administration
Accounting Daniel Impastato
Circulation & Distribution Miriam Orihuela
Support Staff Martha Bowman, Mari Chow,
Karyn McGinley

UP&OUT COMMUNICATIONS

OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place
Houston, Texas 77006
713/520-7237
713/522-3275 Fax
E-mail address:
letters@outsmartmagazine.com
Web site address:
http://www.outsmartmagazine.com

OutSmart is published monthly. Over 15,000 complimentary copies are distributed in Houston and surrounding areas. Annual subscription: \$16. Up&Out Communications is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. The opinions and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or management of OutSmart. Inclusion in OutSmart does not imply sexual orientation. ©1998 by Up&Out Communications. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. Unsolicited material is accepted. No manuscript returned without SASE.

A FOUNDED MEMBER OF
HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

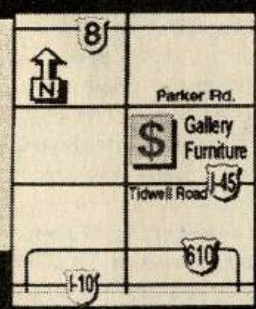
IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TONIGHT *Se Habla Español*

Respect for every customer!
Immediate Delivery!

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

We sincerely appreciate your business!

GALLERY FURNITURE
SAVES YOU MONEY!



6006 I-45 North (between Tidwell & Parker) 713/ 694-5570

Letters

THE 'L' WORD

When I entered the "gay world" a few years ago, I imagined I'd be accepted with open, loving arms by both gays and lesbians and transsexuals and bisexuals, butches and dykes and everything else nice. Unfortunately, I feel like I'm in the same continuous struggle of trying to figure out what exactly is right in this community as I did as a confused heterosexual.

The January issue of *OutSmart* featured the big "L" word issue. I have hated that issue since I was corrected by an older "sister" that I am a lesbian, not a gay woman. Embarrassed by my "lack of knowledge," I did some research on the term lesbian. A lesbian, according to Webster, is a homosexual woman; from the homosexuality attributed to Sappho and her followers in Lesbos. We all know this. However, many of us do not know that in the early 19th century, the British used the term to describe a mental illness—all homosexual women, just like homosexual men, were labeled crazy or insane.

It amazes me that so many lesbians have this rigid and often bitter attitude toward other gay women (I am not alone) who choose not to be called something that referred to a mental disorder. Maybe if we, lesbians and gay women, did not focus on the significance of a label so much, we would be able to tackle some of the more important issues in our lives.

I have always enjoyed reading *OutSmart*. It is the only magazine in Houston that I read from beginning to end. The other gay newspapers and magazines do not amount to much, while *OutSmart* has high journalism standards. However, I would have appreciated the January cover story more if it had addressed gender issues we can change. The lesbian versus gay woman struggle is a never-ending battle.

I also want to say thank you to Tom Sena for his guest editorial on pro-life gays. I have repeatedly had to defend my pro-life position to "lesbians" and often felt I was getting nowhere. His editorial was informative and rewarding.

—Melissa Valenzuela
Houston

WHAT WORD?

Accolades to *OutSmart* for providing a forum for discussion about what word or words are appropriate to describe homosexual women [The "L" Word, January 1998]. Many of us are unsure how to collectively refer to the community. Should we say "the gay community" or "gay women and men" or "gay and lesbian

community" or what? The published discussion was helpful and educational and pointed out the diversity of opinions on this issue.

—Clarence Bagby
President, HGLPC
Houston

THE RICE WORD

As a lesbian I found "The 'L' Word" article interesting at times. It reaffirms what should be obvious, namely that no one—not Suzanne Anderson, Dale Carpenter or any one of the women in the "lesbian" discussion—can speak for the whole homosexual community. Fine.

As a faculty member at Rice University, however, I was angered that the *OutSmart* editorial staff did not insert a corrective statement to Lisa Lavelle's erroneous and potentially slanderous claim that "... some putz at Rice University said the Holocaust never happened..." The recent events at Rice involve a national anti-Holocaust propaganda group that managed to get an ad published in the *Rice Thresher*, the school's student newspaper. While these events have caused great concern in the Rice community at large, no Rice "putz" has claimed that the Holocaust never happened. That Lavelle would make such a claim is not too surprising; people skim the news, misread and misinterpret all the time. The *OutSmart* staff members, however, are held to a higher standard of factuality. To not have corrected this error by an editor's note or some such insert was blatantly irresponsible.

—Jill Carroll
Lecturer in Humanities, Rice University
Houston

Editor's Note: You're absolutely correct—some putz at the Rice Thresher accepted an ad which alleged the Holocaust never happened. Thanks for the clarification.

THE PRESSING WORD

Compliments on another wonderful issue. I always keep *OutSmart* on my coffee table, with the exception of the famous "naked Cary Russell" edition.

For starters I am a 31-year-old gay male. I was reading your issue while having my hair cut by a lesbian hairstylist and discussing my season tickets to the WNBA basketball season (always a welcome subject with a lesbian). Then I noticed the cover story. As a gay male who is often told, "You are such a lesbian," I took an interest. I must admit that I had to read the conversation twice to understand exactly what they were trying to say. I didn't get it. This is proof in itself that I, indeed, am a gay male.

I have many lesbian friends. I refer to them as "lesbian" simply as clarification as to gender. We all fall under the category of gay. Even though we

are a family of gay people, we all have different interests, opinions, political parties, etc.... We are allowed to be pro-life, Republican, pro-choice, Democrat, racist, inclusive, nice, mean, or whatever we may choose. Yes, we have openly gay politicians, partner benefits, media representation, and we can't forget the slew of gay weather-casters.

Who is to be credited with these latest advancements? Lesbians, gays, fags, dykes, queers, transgenders, bisexuals? NO. It was a collective effort we should all be proud of.

Are people still dying of AIDS? Yes. Are teens still being kicked out of the house because of sexual orientation? Yes. Are innocent people still being gay-bashed and, even worse, killed while walking the streets? Yes. So it appears the battle is not over.

But the folks at *OutSmart* believe the subject of whether to refer to a female person who has a relation with another female should be called "lesbian" or "gay" is pressing enough to take on a cover story. Either things have improved immensely while I was not looking or I am just a dumb gay male who doesn't understand the needs of the "lesbian/gay/homosexual."

Let's win some more battles before we start creating others.

—R. Donaghey
Via the Net

Editor's Note: You're just a dumb gay male who doesn't understand the needs of the "lesbian/gay/homosexual." Hey—you handed us that one.

THE PREFERRED WORD

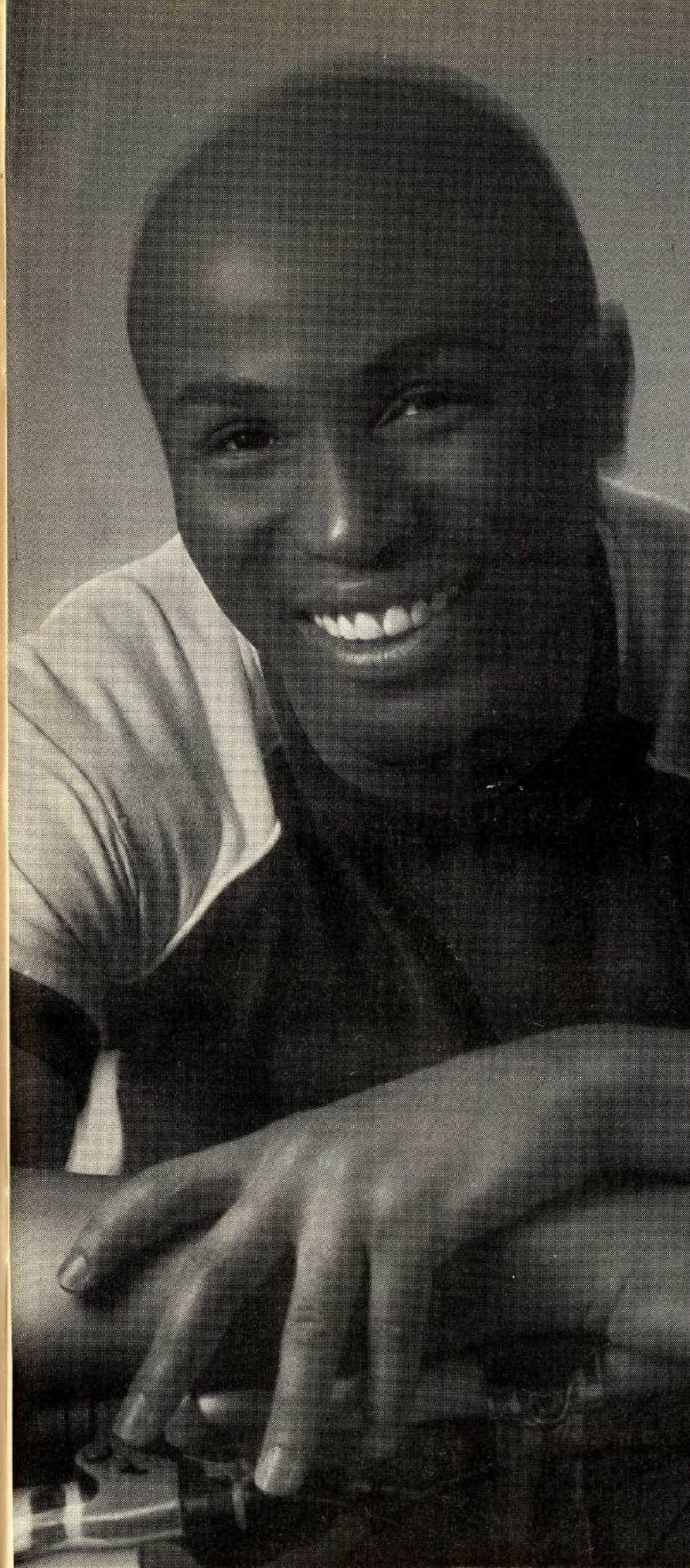
Dale Carpenter did it again! In his "Home for the Holidays" article last month, not only did he use the forbidden term "gay woman" a couple of times, but he wrote about "gay voters," "gay pride," "gay-friendly," "gay political influence," "gay caucus," "gay power," "gay elected official," and "gay support." He could have easily interjected the word "lesbian" in the phrases—"gay and lesbian voters," "gay and lesbian power," etc.

In the interviews with five—what words should I use? homosexual women? (is that better?)—by Steven Foster in his article "The 'L' Word," the women were divided on the use of the "L" word, but the consensus of all was to be included in the Gay Umbrella....

It's "perfectly clear" to Mr. Carpenter what words the majority prefers, and I applaud him for his choices that reflect the views of most of us.

—Charles Bracewell
Twin Lakes, Colorado

Send letters and comments to *OutSmart*, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. Fax: 713/522-3275, or you can e-mail us at Letters@OutSmartMagazine.com. Please include a phone number for verification.



PUT SOME FREEDOM INTO YOUR HIV MEDICATION SCHEDULE

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

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

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

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT

ZERIT®
(stavudine) Capsules
ALSO KNOWN AS d4T

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

CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS DISPENSING WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION.

ZERIT® (stavudine)

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution

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

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy.

The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

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

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

Table 1 -- Incidence of Disease Progression		
	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

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

CONTRAINDICATIONS

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

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,784 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program*. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

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

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients

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

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

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

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

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

Laboratory Tests

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

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

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

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

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

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

Pregnancy

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

Nursing Mothers

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

Pediatric Use

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERSE REACTIONS

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

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

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

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

Table 3 Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials*		
	Study A1455-019*	
Adverse Events	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	31
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	*	*

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

† Includes all clinical complaints.

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

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

Table 4 Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities*		
	Study A1455-019*	
Lab Tests (units)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (≤5.0 x ULN ^c)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (≤5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (>5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	*	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (>1.4 x ULN)	14	13

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

† Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

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

§ ULN = upper limit of normal.

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

OVERDOSAGE

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

HOW SUPPLIED

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

Table 5					
Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.	
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1066	30	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	40	60	0003-1967-01

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

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

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

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB
Immunology

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

F9-B001A-10-96

Adapted from: P4577-04
Revised October 1996

National Briefs

GMHC REVERSES PRIVACY POSITION

NEWYORK (AP)—Tracking people as soon as they become infected with HIV is crucial to "saving thousands of lives," the director of the nation's leading AIDS service agency said in a policy reversal.

The Gay Men's Health Crisis called on New York state to begin monitoring patients who test positive for HIV but who are not yet experiencing symptoms, a major turnaround in agency policy.

Tracking HIV is critical to fighting the spread of AIDS, said Ronald Johnson, the agency's managing director. He said that ignoring HIV-positive cases "gives only the end-stage of the epidemic."

"It doesn't tell us where it's growing and emerging," Johnson said. "You can't fight an epidemic if you don't know where it is."

He said the move would be crucial to "saving thousands of lives."

In its position paper, the nonprofit agency does not address the issue of using patients' names to monitor cases because "too much attention has been given to names and not to a unique identifier system," Johnson said.

While the agency does not oppose using names, it favors privacy protection through the use of coded identification systems, with computerized information about a patient available only to health-care professionals.

Similar systems are used in Maryland and Texas.

COURT REJECTS LESBIAN LAWYER'S APPEAL

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court rejected the appeal of a lesbian lawyer who says Georgia's attorney general denied her a job because of her impending "marriage" to another woman.

Passing up a case closely watched by gay-rights groups, the court let stand a ruling that said Robin Joy Shahar's rights were not violated when former Attorney General Michael Bowers withdrew the job offer.

She contends he violated her rights of association and equal protection by the action he took in 1991.

But Georgia's lawyers said Bowers' action was based on Shahar's "holding herself out as married to another woman and was not precipitated by some generalized animus against homosexuals."

Shahar, now working for the Atlanta city government, said she was very disappointed by the court's action.

"There is often a lag between the public's perception and intolerance of unfairness and the court's willingness to rectify unfairness," she said. "In the future, people will look back on this case with embarrassment."

Matt Coles of the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the groups that helped Shahar with her lawsuit, said he regretted the court's "passing up this opportunity to decide whether lesbians and gay men have the same right to intimate associations that other Americans have."

ELLEN'S MOM: SUPPORT GAY CHILDREN

WASHINGTON (AP)—Every mother likes to brag about her children. Ellen DeGeneres' mother is getting to do it on national television.

Betty DeGeneres stars in a 30-second television ad urging parents to offer loving support to their gay children.

"Hello, my name is Betty DeGeneres and my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen—and she's gay," Mrs. DeGeneres says in the public service announcement as she and a group of children build a huge American flag out of red, white and blue boxes.

"For too long, gay Americans have suffered discrimination," she says. "As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden—as a family."

Ellen DeGeneres made a splash on her television show, *Ellen*, in an episode in which her character declared she was gay.

Mrs. DeGeneres, 67, made the commercial as part of her duties as a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign, one of the nation's largest gay political groups.

She said she is enjoying the job, and believes her appearances and the *Ellen* episode have helped parents accept their gay children more wholeheartedly.

"I'm hearing from young people—especially since Ellen's coming-out episode—that their parents are more accepting," Mrs. DeGeneres said. "They're seeing a positive image for the first time instead of all this negativity," she said.

Elizabeth Birch, the group's executive director, said, "Gay people report that one of the most wrenching things in their lives, among all

the things they have to confront, is being honest and open with their own family members."

"So, what Betty brings to this is this compassionate voice coupled with common sense why everyone should embrace their gay and lesbian children," Birch said.

The 30-second spot will be distributed to television stations nationwide, HRC spokesman David Smith said. It will include special coding that will allow the group to track where and how often it is aired.

'NOTHING SACRED' EPISODE WITHHELD

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A *Nothing Sacred* episode involving a gay Catholic priest afflicted with AIDS is being withheld, a network decision that ranks the show's producers.

The episode has not been scheduled to air, an ABC spokesman said without elaborating.

"ABC's decision to bury it was based on cowardice, cruelty and co-option of the religious right's agenda," Richard Kramer—a consulting producer who co-wrote the episode—said in the *Los Angeles Times*.

In the episode, Father Ray (series star Kevin Anderson) discovers that a fellow priest he knows to be secretly gay is ill with AIDS. Father Ray tries to persuade his despondent friend to stay in the priesthood.

Kramer wrote the script with Father Bill Cain, a Jesuit priest. The episode was filmed in July and had been intended to air as the show's second hour, after the pilot.

David Manson, producer of the first-year series that has drawn critical acclaim as well as attacks from some Catholic groups, said the unaired episode is about religion rather than homosexuality.

"It's not about this man's sexual preferences but about the nature of tolerance and compassion and about trying to get a man who doesn't feel worthy to come back to the table," he said.

ANGELOU BOOK REMOVAL STIRS CONTROVERSY

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—Black activists are protesting a school system's removal of Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* from the ninth-grade curriculum because of its explicit sexual content.

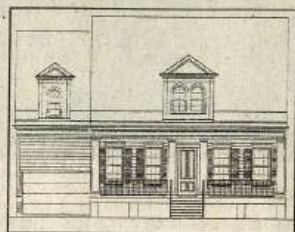
The 1970 book, which won a National Book



BRYAN K. WILLIAMS
ERA® HOME BROKERS



*Service,
Not
Just
Sales*



Entertaining will be a delight in this 3-2.5-2 new Heights home. Wood floors, crown molding, and other amenities will make this a grand home. Ask about the secret bonus room! \$329,000



Heights turn-of-the-century Victorian renovated 2-2-2. High ceilings, wood floors, transoms, beveled glass doors and french doors to the deck, relaxing front porch, picket fence. \$147,500



An island oasis in the Heights. 2-bedroom, 1.5 bath, on oversized corner lot. Heated pool and waterfall, decking with 8-person spa! Tropical landscaping, very private. \$199,500

**Let me
put
your
house
here!**

726 Heights Blvd. **713/880-1400** PAGER 713/813-4490

National Briefs

Award, is the story of the author's childhood in the rural South. It contains descriptions of rape, abuse and sexual anxiety about lesbianism.

Caged Bird will remain optional reading for ninth-graders and is included in the 11th-grade curriculum, said school spokeswoman Jane Doyle.

Angelou is an internationally acclaimed writer, dancer, actress, civil rights activist and educator. She spoke at President Clinton's first inauguration, reading a poem she wrote.

SAILOR'S CAREER IN HANDS OF JUDGE

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge is considering whether to save the career of a veteran sailor facing expulsion for homosexuality based on evidence the Navy gathered from a computer online service.

Arguing the case before U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin, attorneys for the government and for Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh sparred over whether the Navy breached McVeigh's privacy by obtaining confidential information from America Online Inc.

In a statement issued just before the hearing, the Virginia-based online service, which serves millions of subscribers, admitted breaching its policy and said it regrets disclosing McVeigh's identity to a Navy investigator. The Navy used that identification to link McVeigh to statements posted on AOL by a "Tim" who expressed a sexual interest in young men and wrote, under marital status, "gay."

"This was a case of human error under very unusual circumstances," AOL Inc. said in a one-page statement. While criticizing the Navy for the way it sought the information, AOL said of its disclosure: "This clearly should not have happened, and we regret it."

The case is being closely watched by the military and gay rights activists as a possible precedent on the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. It is also being watched by online specialists and privacy advocates concerned about the privacy of computer networks. A key issue is whether the Navy, in getting information from AOL, violated a 1986 electronic privacy law that forbids disclosure of confidential information to government officials without a warrant or court order.

"What the Navy did here is break the law," said McVeigh's attorney, Christopher Wolf.

Justice Department attorney David Glass argued that the 1986 law restricts online services from giving up confidential information but contains no limits on how investigators can go about seeking information.

Sporkin closely questioned Glass about the don't-ask, don't-tell policy.

JAMES CAMPBELL
photography
713.524.0104

If I give my heart ...

**How's your
New Year's
Resolution
going?**

NO SWEAT
Personal Fitness Training & Nutritional Guidance

Call for a free consultation.
713.942.2256

Troy Sams
Jeff Alonzo

Houston Buyers Club

Are you still paying retail?



Everyone is Welcome!

Store Address at the Multi-Service Center

1475 West Gray #165 • Houston TX 77019

Store Hours M - F • 1 - 6 PM

NO MEMBERSHIP FEE REQUIRED

White Lightning
Protein Drink
(40 grams of protein)
\$46.80 case (\$2.34 ea.)

Simply Androstene
from OSMO
\$14.95/bottle
50mg/90 caps

Hormone Test Kits
for DHEA, Testosterone,
Progesterone, & Estradiol
\$35/per Kit



A NON-PROFIT PROGRAM OF THE
MICHAEL MOSLEY FOUNDATION
BENEFITING
PEOPLE WITH HIV

800-350-2392 NATIONWIDE • 713-520-5288 HOUSTON • HBC@NEOSOFT.COM

Houston Briefs



Michael Wilson Moves On

Alley associate director named artistic director of Hartford Stage Company

Michael Wilson, Alley Theatre associate director, has been named artistic director of Hartford Stage Company in Hartford, Conn.

"I am thrilled at the news of Michael's appointment to the artistic directorship of Hartford Stage," said Gregory Boyd, Alley artistic director. Boyd has watched Michael develop from his undergraduate days at North Carolina through his work as an associate director at the Alley. "I am pleased that the rest of the theater world recognizes what Alley audiences already know, that he is a director of real insight and theatricality, and a writer who evidences both gracefulness and depth."

"I am pleased that Michael is taking the reins of one of the most prestigious theaters in the country and look forward not only to his work there, but to rearticulating his relationship with the Alley company in the future."

Wilson, who was featured on the cover of *OutSmart* in April of 1995, began working at the Alley in 1989 when Boyd invited him to join the staff as artistic associate. His career in Houston quickly skyrocketed, leading him



JIM CALDWELL

through various positions at the theater. He was promptly named associate director in 1990. He took a brief leave of absence from the Alley to pursue writing and directing opportunities outside of Houston, including work as the assistant director of *Tommy*, the Who's rock opera on Broadway. He returned to the Alley in July of 1993 as staff director, a resident position that allowed him to direct a number of Alley productions in that season. In July of 1994, he resumed the role of associate director. Until May of 1996, Wilson directed many productions at the Alley as part of his annual contract with the

theater, including the critically acclaimed two-part epic by Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*, which was subsequently presented at the Venice Biennale.

This season Wilson will direct the Alley Theatre production of Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, starring Ellen Burstyn, and the premiere of Tony Kushner's *Hydriotaphia, or the Death of Dr. Browne*. He will also direct a new production of his own adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* for the 1998-1999 season.

program that will feature the gay and lesbian community consistently on the same day and time," said Baker. "There are 286,000 subscribers who can tune in."

Baker is banking on advertising support from gay-owned businesses. Each show will feature 16 commercials.

In 1995 Baker produced the video *Always My Kid*, "a family guide to homosexuality." Last year, he edited *Claiming America's Promise*, a video chronicling PFLAG Houston's lobbying trip to Washington, D.C.

NEW ORGANIZATION FIGHTS LESBIAN BREAST CANCER

The Montrose Counseling Center and the Montrose Clinic have announced a joint project designed to conduct outreach efforts to lesbians over 40. The Lesbian Health Outreach Project (LHOP) is funded by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Hollyfield Foundation.

Outreach workers will educate gay women about self-care, risk factors and warning signs of breast cancer.

"Well-woman" exams which include a pap smear, manual breast exam, labwork and referral for mammogram are performed by female physicians and nurse practitioners on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer.

HLI PREPARES FOR LESBIAN HEALTH FAIR

Houston's Lesbian Health Initiative will be holding its annual Health Fair on Saturday, March 7 at the Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fair will offer HIV testing, \$10 mammogram to women over 39, pap smears, informative health sessions and a vendor area.

HRC GALA FEATURES RED WING

Several months ago, The Human Rights Campaign announced that its Winter Gala on Feb. 14 will feature special guests Mitchell Anderson (of television's *Party of Five*) and AIDS activist Mary Fisher.

Now, HRC has added Donna Red Wing to the list of national figures speaking at the Houston fund-raiser.

Red Wing was recently named the national field director for the Human Rights Campaign. Before joining HRC, she was a senior consultant to the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. From 1989 to 1993, she was the executive director of the Lesbian Community Project in Portland, OR. During that time, she helped lead the fight against Measure 9, a virulently anti-gay ballot measure that would have amended Oregon's constitution to declare homosexuality "abnormal and perverse" behavior. *The Advocate* named Red Wing its 1992 Woman of the Year.

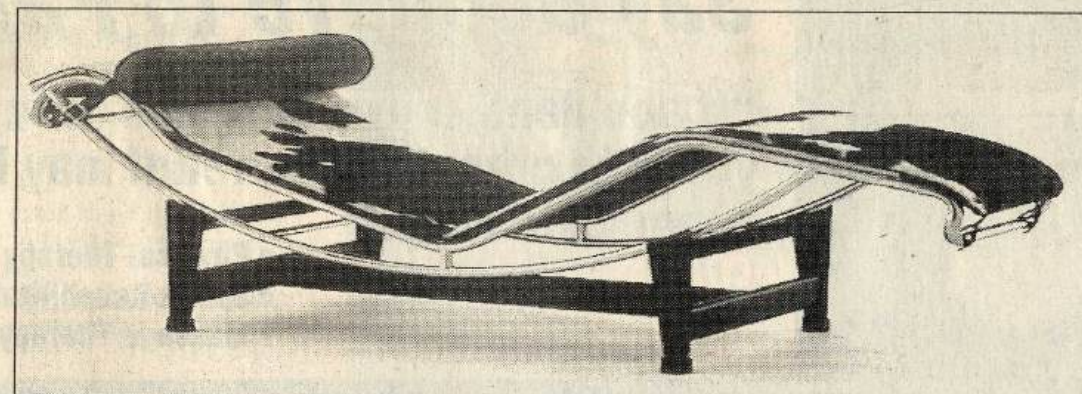
The HRC Winter Gala will be held at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. For tickets, call 800-494-TIXS.

GAY CABLE PROGRAM STARTS NEXT MONTH

A local video production firm has announced plans for a new cable television series directed at Houston's gay community. Steve Baker with Triangle Video Production says *Montrose TV* will premiere on Warner Cable Channel 54 on Monday, March 2 at 8:30 p.m. The same program will re-air the following two nights in the same time slot. A new program will air every week.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time that a broadcaster has agreed to sell air time for a

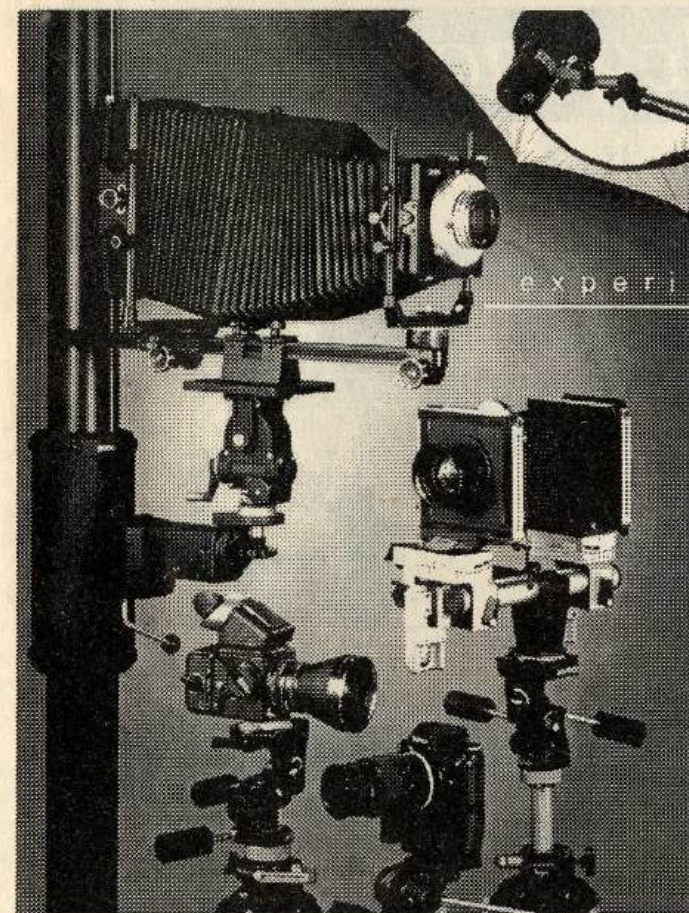
Come Home To The Classics.



KLASSE. SHOWCASING SELECTED DESIGNS AT THE 1998 IDEA HOUSE LOCATED AT THE DECORATIVE CENTER OF HOUSTON. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MARCH 19TH, 1998.

KLASSE
PLUS KLASSE, INC.

5120 WOODWAY, SUITE 3019 HOUSTON, TEXAS 713-626-4249

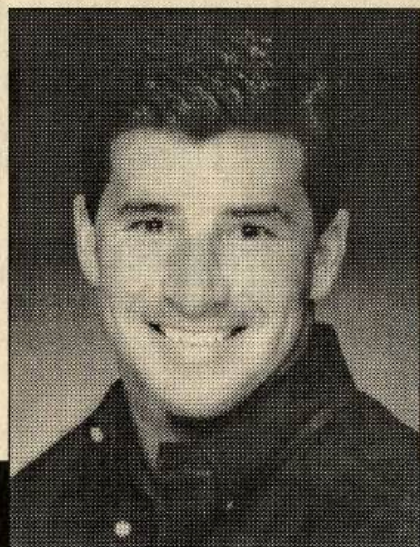


We have the experience
to be your business
photographer

SINCE 1945

WOODALLEN
PHOTOGRAPHY

3505 Louisiana • Houston, Texas 77002
713.526.1747 • www.woodallen.com



Dr. Jeffrey Garcia

Say Goodbye to Pain!

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

- Physical Therapy
- Sports Rehabilitation
- Massage Therapy

Call
960-8575 for a
no-obligation
free evaluation

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

Call Today!

The Joy of Elegance...

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

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



JOY CLAYTON, Owner

Clayton Catering

Full Service Caterers

1701 California St.

713 526-1800

Houston Briefs

PFLAG TO HOST PHOTO EXHIBIT FEATURING GAY PARENTS

PFLAG is sponsoring the Houston premiere of *Love Makes A Family*, a photo exhibit featuring gay and lesbian parents with their children. The exhibit will be displayed in several Houston-area locations during March and April.

"We are very excited about bringing this exhibit to Houston," said PFLAG Houston co-president Susan Upchurch.

PFLAG will make a formal announcement about the exhibit in mid-February.

GAY REPUBLICANS TO HIRE LOBBYIST

The Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, a group of gay Republicans, will hire a lobbyist to reach out to Republican lawmakers during the 1999 legislative session.

"We are excited about the prospect of having a lobbyist working on behalf of gay Texans who are moderate and conservative in their politics," said Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney and Log Cabin state president. "Log Cabin's lobbyist in Austin will try to work with the emerging Republican majority in the state legislature."

Carpenter said the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas has not effectively reached Republican lawmakers.

AFH AWARDED \$25,000 GRANT

AIDS Foundation Houston has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support an innovative approach to addressing the critical issue of patient adherence to highly effective but difficult-to-take HIV drug combinations. The grant was one of nine awarded through a special funding program by Glaxo Wellcome Inc.

"We're delighted to have received this grant," said Sara Speer Selber, AFH executive director. "The grant will allow us to target our services toward helping people with HIV disease understand the importance of taking their medications as prescribed and to offer the support and reinforcement they need to practice what they've learned."

The award of the nine grants recognizes the fact that adherence to HIV antiviral medications and combination therapies is becoming increasingly visible as an important aspect of successful HIV treatment, according to Neil Graham, M.D., principal clinical research physician.

"Overcoming the dosing complexities of new combinations of drugs known to have a potent effect in suppressing HIV is one of the biggest challenges today in the management of patients with HIV infection," Graham said.



**BIG ON SAFETY.
SMALL ON PRICE.**

\$316*
a month for
38 months

1998 VOLVO S70A This Volvo S70A has automatic, AM-FM cassette, alloy wheels, side impact air bags, and all the safety features you would expect from a Volvo. **Just \$4800 down and TT&L is included!!!**

*Requires approved credit through Volvo Financial NA. MSRP \$29,085. 38 monthly payments totaling \$12,008. Final balloon payment of \$16,689.30. 15¢ per mile over 15,000 miles per year. Offer expires January 31, 1998.

**MOMENTUM
VOLVO**

3101 Kirby Drive
in River Oaks
713-730-VOLVO

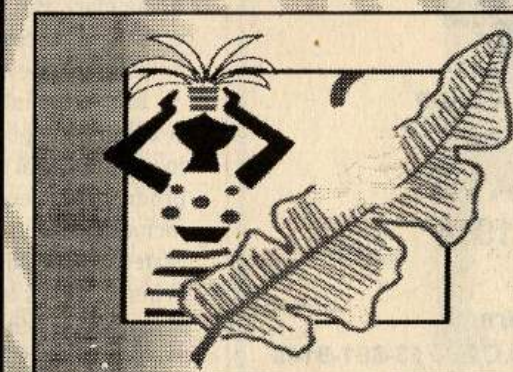
DRIVEN TO PERFECTION.®

Houston's

"Best Cuban"

Restaurant
-Houston Press

**Lunch
Dinner**
7 Days



*Latina
Cafe*

NOW OPEN
7933 Westheimer
@ Stony Brook
with Happy Hour
5-8 pm, Mon-Sun

1972 Fairview near Shepherd
521-2611

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION, INC.*
A Houston Non-profit Organization

PRESENTS
(IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAFF STOP)

AN EVENING OF COMEDY
WITH

VIC HENLEY

Using his Southern "good ol' boy" persona to first charm his audience, Vic Henley wins them over entirely with his home spun humor. Often using his improvisational ability, his quick wit and high energy has earned him the reputation as one of the country's fastest rising comedians. Mr. Henley became a two-time winner on "Star Search" and has had numerous appearances on "Comic Strip Live", A&E's "Evening at the Improv", "Caroline's Comedy Hour", and "Stand-up Spotlight".



Author of:
"Things You'd
Never Expect
A Southerner
To Say"

Co-author of:
"Games
Rednecks
Play"
with comedian
Jeff Foxworthy

AT HOUSTON'S LAFF STOP
1952 A West Gray

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 11, 1998

\$ 20.00 per person
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT M.C.C.R.-713-861-9149
AND THE LAFF STOP- 713-524-2333

Doors open at 7:30 pm, Showtime is at 8:30 pm

*OUR MISSION.....TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP, DIRECTION,
AND FUNDING TO PROGRAMS THAT CREATE
OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION, CULTURAL AWARENESS,
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

MEMBER OF THE FOUNDER'S CLUB FOR THE HOUSTON
LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY CENTER.

LeftOut

The Advantages of Being an Old Queer

by Bill Agosto

It's terribly uncool to be in your mid-60s and to be gay at the same time. But I kind of like it. In fact I brag about it quite a lot, precisely because it's unpopular.

Of course, it's natural for me to champion the unpopular. I've been doing it all my life. After 40 years of taking a clobbering for being gay (homosexuality was very unpopular in my youth, and 40 is young, guys), I came out in a macho engineering firm during the 1970s to fight the Defense Department when they denied me security clearance to work on classified projects. It was the unpopular thing to do at the time. Everybody said I'd be fired and I'd lose. I wasn't and I won.

I've been a lifelong New Deal liberal (very unpopular). I was born into a Republican household the same year FDR took office. My father loved to fume and fulminate against FDR. But I've never ceased to champion him and his policies. I am convinced that the solution to our decaying inner cities is a new WPA (public works) program to renew the local infrastructure (streets, housing, bridges, utilities). It would put the local residents, many of whom are chronically underemployed, to work in jobs they could be proud of. There's nothing like a decent job at decent pay to cultivate the work ethic. And the renewal would attract industry and commercial vitality back to the inner cities. I even think we should raise taxes to do it (very unpopular). But I remain convinced that the returns would vastly outweigh the cost. After all, Europe keeps up its glorious cities on public money, and nobody ever says it's wasteful.

In fact, I think our total tax package in the U.S. is too low (extremely unpopular). We pay the lowest combined national, local, and social service taxes as a percentage of gross domestic product (total economic output) of any of the 24 nations, including Japan, listed in the Statistical Abstract of the United States (115th edition) put out by the Department of Commerce. When it comes to per capita taxes, we are tied with the United Kingdom in 16th place. Only countries like Turkey, Greece, and Portugal collect lower total taxes per individual than we do. And that is true even though we spend more tax money on defense, by far, than any other nation.

With higher and more equitable taxes—75 percent of the tax breaks in last year's congressional tax package went to the top 5 percent income bracket—we could set up a single payer health-care system to cover everybody, including every kid and expectant mother in the country, and avoid paying a hundred to a thousand times more to treat the uninsured when they get sick than it would have cost to maintain their health to begin with. It's

continued on page 18

OutRight

The Limits of Tolerance

by Dale Carpenter

Recently, my partner P.J. and I got a reminder of the difference between tolerance and acceptance. It confirmed for us that gays will never be free until we have progressed beyond the first to reach the second.

Every year, P.J. and I eat Thanksgiving dinner with my dad's side of the family at my grandmother's house near Woodsboro, Texas. It's a traditional feast: turkey, stuffing, green beans, mashed potatoes, biscuits, gravy, and lots of aunts, uncles, cousins, children, spouses, dates, and assorted hangers-on. There's nothing particularly unusual about dad's family. You see there the usual mixture of divorces, graduations, alcoholics, achievements, neuroses, bitterness, happiness, and pathologies that you see in just about every family. They're mostly small-town or suburban Texas folk. They work hard and make their mistakes. They raise their kids as best they can, often disappointed by the results. And they have no comprehension whatsoever of homosexuality.

When I first came out to that side of the family three years ago, I got reactions ranging from mystification to horror. My grandfather said I would "spend eternity in hellfire and damnation." My grandmother speculated that I had not had a sufficiently "masculine" role model growing up. (She was subsequently enlightened on the subject at PFLAG's 1995 Houston conference on homophobia, "Healing the Hurt.") An uncle said he would never accept P.J. as my "lover." An aunt wondered how she could teach her children "right and wrong" if we were treated like everyone else. Another aunt refused even to come to family functions that P.J. and I attended. The rest were silent.

Nevertheless, P.J. and I persevered, pushed in part by a desire to educate the family about gay people. We wanted to show them that gay people could be just like everybody else and that we wouldn't bite them, or contaminate their children, or sprinkle angel dust on the pecan pies. We never held hands or kissed or even touched each other during the gatherings. We knew that the mildest display of affection would make everyone very uncomfortable. We felt constantly on display—continually weighed, measured, and graded by the family. They looked hard for every slip of the tongue, dart of the eye, or motion of the hand that would confirm we were the ravenous monsters of promiscuity and irresponsibility they had always heard gays were.

But still, they didn't say anything overtly hostile to us. Everyone was polite. Over the years, P.J. and I achieved a tacit truce with the family in which little was said about our relationship in exchange for their willingness to allow us to be present. P.J. insisted on taking our pet parrot, Gus, to the family gatherings to

continued on page 69

HOUSTON BALLET

BEN STEVENSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SECOND BEFORE THE GROUND

Music by The Kronos Quartet • Choreography by Trey McIntyre

Musings

Music by W.A. Mozart • Choreography by James Kudelka

Rooster

Music by The Rolling Stones • Choreography by Christopher Bruce

7:30 PM - FEBRUARY 26, 28, MARCH 6, 7
2:00 PM - MARCH 1, 8



BROWN THEATER - WORTHAM CENTER

CALL (713) 227-ARTS

or visit any **TICKETMASTER** location including Foley's Fiesta, Randalls, or Blockbuster Music.

Vinson & Elkins

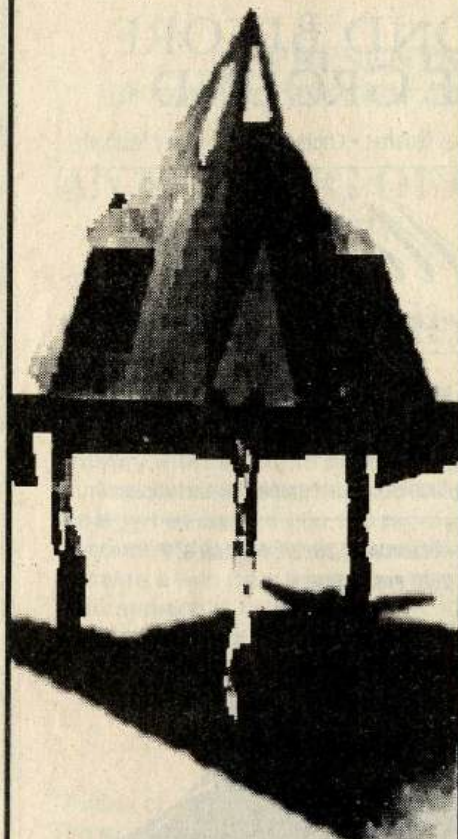
COMPAQ

Continental Airlines

Proud Sponsor of Houston Ballet
Image: Rooster Dancers: Dawn Scannell and Timothy O'Keefe Photo: Drew Donovan

Stealth Web Design

by: Robert Derr



Some of our clients:

OutSmart Magazine

www.OutSmartMagazine.com

Premier Victorian Homes

www.PremierVictorian.com

copydotcom

www.copydotcom.com

Karen Derr Realty

www.KarenDerr.com

Beeper Boutique

www.beeperboutique.com

Houston Hotshots

www.HoustonHotshots.com

House of Guitars

www.house-of-guitars.com

Elvis

www.KarenDerr.com/elvis

Cat Food

The Other White Meat

www.neosoft.com/stealth/catfood

Stealth Web Design

www.neosoft.com/stealth

rcderr@neosoft.com

713-802-2845

LeftOut

continued from page 16

very hard to become a citizen of France. You have to serve in the French military for 20 years to qualify. But every expectant mother who lives in France gets free prenatal care, no matter where she's from. The French, like most Europeans, see it as humanitarian and cost effective. Somehow, we don't.

In our passion for tax cutting, we have recently begun to phase out federal food stamps (very unpopular) for legal immigrants who qualify, on the theory, no doubt, that malnutrition will spur them (many are elderly) to higher productivity and economic efficiency. In a country with strong Christian pretensions and large food surpluses (most of us overeat) that's hard to compute.

Higher and equitable taxes could also be used to fund a good national public education system with strict national standards (very unpopular). I, for one, could never figure how English, mathematics, the Declaration of Independence and our other great national documents are different in Alaska than they are in Mississippi or Hawaii. I think they should be taught by well-paid teachers to the same standards everywhere. But we'd rather fund prisons that can be privatized (very popular) than good public schools. Our new mayor, Lee Brown, recently told me that 82 percent of the people behind bars in this country are high-school dropouts. He ought to know. He's had the law enforcement experience. Yet we spend no more on public education in Texas than we do on prisons. To me, that's wrong.

Lest any of this carping sound "un-American," I hasten to add that I am, and have always been, a federal government lover (extremely unpopular). I absolutely adore the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the letters and writings of the likes of Jefferson, Abigail Adams, Emerson, Lincoln, the Roosevelts, and the Kennedys. I never tire of them and I am perpetually amazed and grateful for their legacy. I'm nuts about NASA. I worked there in the 1980s, and I have never met a more hardworking and brilliant bunch of dedicated people. I have also found the federal government to be efficient. Sometime ago, I walked into a social security office in Houston without an appointment. After waiting an hour, a very pleasant lady

(some conservatives call a bureaucrat) called me in and within 10 minutes she brought up my entire work history and calculated my benefit. I got my first check two weeks later, and it has never failed to arrive on the third or earlier of every subsequent month as promised. I have had good dealings with the IRS. I have been audited twice in the past and found the auditors to be very polite and fair. The same goes for the counter people at all the IRS offices I ever visited. Even though it's scary, I appreciate figuring my tax return every year. It forces me to assess where I am financially. I'm proud to pay my taxes. It's the patriotic thing to do. I think people who don't want to pay their taxes should go to some other country and pay the taxes there.

Conservatives assure me my experiences don't count. The essence of our national government, they say, is waste and corruption. But if that's the case, why was it so unpopular when Congress shut down the federal government in 1996? Perhaps the inefficiencies they refer to are the \$1,000 military hammers and toilet seats of the 1980s and the extra B-1 bombers of the 1990s they forced the government to buy.

You should know that, at heart, I am a conservative. But I have always felt that being a conservative doesn't mean anything unless you clearly state what you want to conserve. It should be clear from the foregoing that I want to conserve the democratic principles on which our federal government is founded. I not only want to conserve them, I'd like to see our system of government spread all over the globe. I think a United States of the World would be one of the best things that could happen to the planet.

I also want to conserve, or rather revive, marriage and family commitment. But, in my view, marriage and family commitment must be extended to gay people (unpopular). Marriage is a two-way street. One side of the street is the personal commitment of the couple. The other side of the street is the commitment of society to support their union and the integrity of the family that results. True gay marriage would subsume all our political goals, such as repeal of the sodomy statutes and gay inclusion in the national civil rights laws. I believe most of our social goals would follow

shortly thereafter.

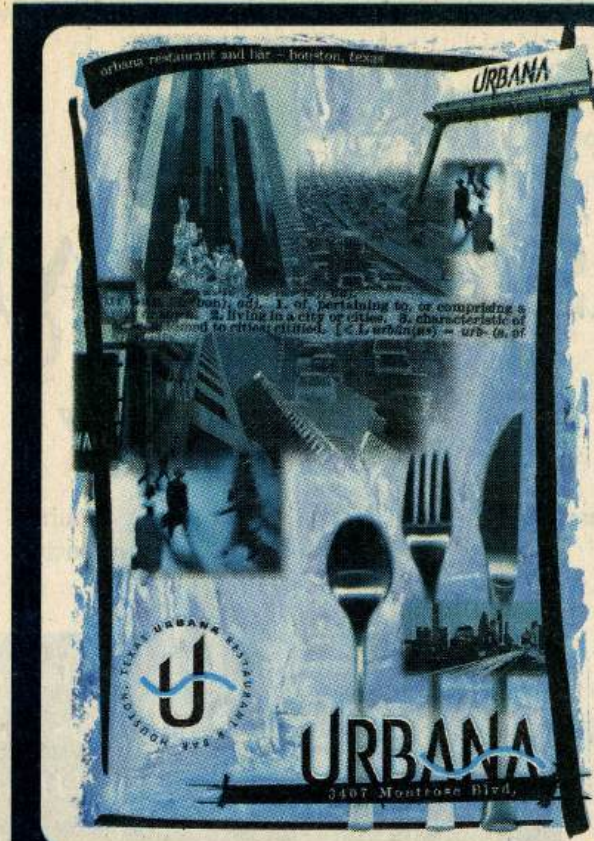
I am a passionate champion of western culture (unpopular) and I'm committed to conserving the great classics of our tradition in literature, the arts, science, philosophy, and politics. I don't care much for sports (uncool) but I have no objection to other people liking them. I just feel uneasy about everybody expecting me to be a fan, the same way I felt uneasy when everybody expected me to date girls when I was a kid. I don't much care for the frenetic animalism of pop culture. I think it's tasteless and tiresome. But I love to play the piano (fewer and fewer people do) and I get some nice compliments when I sit down to play at parties and gatherings. But I don't tell anybody I've been playing Beethoven, Schubert, or Bach. That would be very uncool.

You might ask, What's all this got to do with homosexuality? Well, quite a lot. In 1948 when I was 16, I came out to a psychiatrist and got the full gay cure at its worst—shock treatments, convulsive drugs, you name it. I felt like an outpatient in a concentration camp. By the grace of God, I managed to escape. The scars are indelible, but that experience taught me a great lesson. It taught me to seriously question conventional wisdom, what everybody knows is right. Like my great contemporary, Allen Ginsberg, it freed me up to think for myself, to formulate my own values. It made me something of an original thinker, free to cull the best of our human heritage and to throw out the worst, according to my own lights.

Ginsberg and I took different paths. He got to Nirvana. I got to NASA. But the great thing about being gay is that we can be trailblazers precisely because we don't fit in.

Accordingly, as an old queer, I know exactly what my values are. I'm not confused, and I'm not particularly concerned about what's in. I am a board member of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, and I work hard at it because I believe that we must be active in our own advancement, which is another of my conservative traits. I also believe I know the direction the whole world should be headed. But I'll save that for future articles.

Bill Agosto is on the board of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.



Where good food meets the city.

New Urban Cuisine!



3407 Montrose Blvd.

713.521.1086

Lunch 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Dinner 5 – 10:30 p.m.
Sunday – Wednesday

Dinner 5 – 11 p.m.
Thursday – Saturday

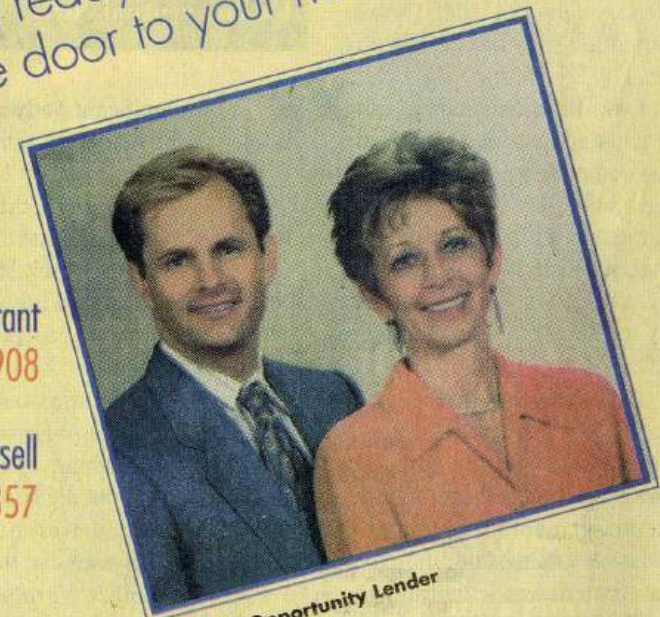
Closed Saturday for Lunch

Sunday Brunch 10:30 – 3 p.m.

Happy Hour 3 – 7 p.m. M – F

Patio Seating Available

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



Tonya Grant

713.908.8908

Keith Russell

713.761.2357

An Equal Opportunity Lender

MOMENTUM
MORTGAGE GROUP

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

ASCENDANCY

Beauty Amidst Chaos

by Rob Bundy

Kate: Where are you? What are you doing?

Robert: These questions you can answer yourself. Look around you. Stop being lazy.

Kate: How?

Robert: Go inside and listen to your heart. Nobody listens to their heart anymore. Find love, and you live forever. That's the deal. Love is life.

These passionate lines were in their infancy three years ago, when playwright Gary Bonasorte invited me to a reading of his newest play at the Manhattan Theatre Club. He said that writing *Ascendancy* had taken over his life; it was something very near to his heart.

I was intrigued and eagerly anticipated hearing the new piece. Still, I was completely unprepared for the impact that this beautiful play would have on me and, ultimately, Stages Repertory Theatre. Even in its earliest form, *Ascendancy* was an eloquent and inspiring cry for hope in this unending war against AIDS.

At first, I was worried Gary had written something that would be dismissed as just another AIDS play. However, the message of hope and encouragement make this work universal and a very special addition to our country's dramatic literature.

The subject of AIDS, and its role in our literary or artistic works, was widely discussed by notable writers and publishing figures last year at the Key West Literary Seminar entitled

"Literature in the Age of AIDS." During the four-day session, there was much debate over whether or not any

today with the advent of protease inhibitors and sparks of hope for an eventual cure.

Certainly such theatrical works have changed over the years to reflect the AIDS issues of the times—be it Larry Kramer's *Normal Heart*, which introduced AIDS to a wider audience in 1984, or Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, which tied the crisis to political and cosmic issues in 1992, or Gary Bonasorte's *Ascendancy*, which coincides today with the advent of protease inhibitors and sparks of hope for an eventual cure.

significant body of literature existed on the epidemic, since its beginnings in 1981.

"However, there was general agreement that drama is a literary form that is well suited to the subject of AIDS, and that the theatre—because of its immediacy, its public forum quality and its dialectical nature—is the place where AIDS writing has most richly flowered," reported *American Theatre* magazine on the seminar.

Certainly such theatrical works have changed over the years to reflect the AIDS issues of the times—be it Larry Kramer's *Normal Heart*, which introduced AIDS to a wider audience in 1984, or Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, which tied the crisis to political and cosmic issues in 1992, or Gary Bonasorte's *Ascendancy*, which coincides

Gary wrote *Ascendancy* as a cry for hope during very troubled times. And he knows from which he speaks as a veteran in the fight against AIDS. Gary co-founded the Community Research Initiative on AIDS in New York City, a research clinic very much like the one in the play. Still, he wrote lovingly of characters as they struggle with not only the effect of AIDS in their lives, but also the other issues which make us human—love, understanding and self-knowledge.

The Hopi, a spiritually advanced Native American tribe, have a term, Koyaanisquatsi, meaning "life out of balance." It seems like an appropriate term not only in this context, but to describe how many of us feel as we near the millennium.

The times we live in certainly have their trouble, but every day we all see wonderful developments, discoveries and miracles. Advancements in science, medicine and technology are often mind-boggling in their speed. As our global society shrinks, we've even begun to understand and dismantle the barriers against different cultures and our society's minorities.

Yet, when an unknown disease decimates segments of our population, we still respond with fear and ignorance much like we did in the Dark Ages with the Black Plague. Koyaanisquatsi. Despite our advancements, we still live out of balance with ourselves.

Ascendancy explores how, as individuals, we struggle against great odds and that, right within ourselves, is the answer. It's about folks like you and me, thrust out of balance, into a struggle we never expected to encounter that has completely taken siege of our lives. And just when the odds seem impossibly stacked against us, that is when the miracles occur. Like life, the miracles tiptoe in and tap us on the shoulder, whispering they were there all along, but we just didn't know how to look for them.

Ascendancy feels like a lesson in recognizing Koyaanisquatsi.

I was moved to produce and premier this inspiring new play because of the message of hope that Gary Bonasorte conveys. It is a simple message: Calm down and look within for strength. Then, good will flow your way. The heroism in *Ascendancy* is not about vanquishing some horrible enemy. Rather it is learning how to simply and quietly find within ourselves the balance to realize the greatest panacea we have or need—love.

From that first introduction in October 1995, *Ascendancy* has developed and made its world premier at Stages Repertory Theatre this month. The company and its board have been so roused by the play's message that we are hosting a series of seminars and activities to share topical AIDS information during the run of the play. We also want to thank and support local organizations which have long dedicated themselves to the AIDS cause.

One of the earliest images of enlightenment in Buddhism is the water lily. Its pure white blossom floats on the surface, flawless and unsullied by the stagnant muddy water from which it sprouted. Such a compelling image of pristine beauty, arising out of rubble and chaos, truly captures the essence of *Ascendancy*.



Rob Bundy, artistic director for Stages Repertory Theatre, directs *Ascendancy* in both Houston and New York. For more information on *Ascendancy*, call 713/52-STAGE.

RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT...

Thinking of selling your home? Know someone who is?
Call me for powerful results!!



KEVIN PITTMAN
713.621.8001
REALTOR® Associate

Get the best price for your property

Shortest period of time

Up to 1% sales commission reduction

KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

3411 Richmond Avenue, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77046
An Independent Member Broker

It's where
you
find
The Look.

Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

The Pavilion • 713-622-4411 • 1800 Post Oak Boulevard

Interest Rates are
Low, Low, Low!

BUYING A
NEW HOME?

REFINANCING
YOUR CURRENT
HOME?

WANT TO SAVE
MONEY?

DON'T
WAIT!

CALL US
FOR YOUR
CONSULTATION
TODAY!

Home Loan
CORPORATION

713.297.8000

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



Marc R. Archuleta



Jo Anne Downes

QueerScience

Butch & Femme

Is there a biological basis?

by Simon LeVay

One of the most enduring perceptions about lesbians is that they come in two types, "butch" and "femme." According to the description given by JoAnn Loulan in her 1990 book *The Lesbian Erotic Dance*, butch lesbians are assertive, athletic and aggressive. They tend to adopt traditionally masculine styles of dress and appearance, and they are often leaders. Femme lesbians are affectionate, sensitive, yielding, childlike and child-loving. They adopt more typically feminine dress and mannerisms.

Do butch and femme lesbians form couples, thus mimicking the coupling of men and women in stereotypical heterosexual relationships? And if so, why is that? Are butches and femmes biologically different, perhaps as a result of a different genetic endowment, or is it more a matter of culture and role-playing?

The butch/femme distinction has been fairly durable in the history of lesbian culture, although attitudes toward it have changed greatly over time. According to Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline Davis, whose book *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* recounts the lives of working-class lesbians in Buffalo, New York in the 1950s, lesbians of that era were required to declare themselves as butch or femme and to act accordingly, and lesbian relationships could only be between a butch and a femme. With the rise of lesbian-feminism, the butch/femme distinction became politically suspect: butches were too much like men and femmes were too much like men's sex-objects. As described by Lillian Faderman (in her book *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*) the ideal lesbian relationship in the 1970s was one in which the partners "took turns being soft and strong." Nowadays, the butch/femme distinction is very much back in evidence, but it often seems to have a more ironic or playful quality than it did in the 1950s.

In 1996 a group of psychologists at Georgia State University, led by Sharon Pearcey, reported on their study of 28 lesbian couples in the Atlanta area. They first asked all the participants to rate themselves on an 8-point "butch/femme" scale. They found a significant negative correlation between the scores of the two members of the pairs: in other words, the more butch one member rated herself, the more femme the other rated herself.

This finding supports the traditional notion that lesbian relationships tend to be formed across the butch/femme divide. It runs counter to a wide body of literature, based mainly on heterosexual couples, which says that couples are very similar to each other in many characteristics—that "opposites don't attract," in other words. Heterosexual couples, however, are

already "opposite" in the sense of being a male and a female together. Perhaps a portion of that "oppositeness" serves as a glue in many lesbian relationships.

Intrigued to know whether there might be some biological basis for the butch/femme difference, Pearcey and her colleagues went on to measure testosterone levels in the women in the study. Although the differences were not great, they found a significant tendency for the more butch partner in a relationship to have higher testosterone levels (as measured in saliva) than the more femme partner. The authors interpret their findings to mean that pre-existing (possibly innate) endocrinological

**Are butches and
femmes biologically
different, perhaps as
a result of a different
genetic endowment,
or is it more a matter
of culture and
role-playing?**

differences between individual lesbians influence the selection of mates or of gender roles.

While I certainly accept this as an interesting possibility, one should also be aware of another possible interpretation, which is that the differences in testosterone levels result from roles taken in the relationship, rather than causing them. Researchers who have studied monkeys kept in same-sex pairs have found that altering the dominant relationship between the two animals influences their hormonal status, including their testosterone levels. And there is some evidence in humans that changes in circumstances, such as promotions, stress, and so forth, influence hormonal status. To make a strong argument that a woman's hormone levels predispose her to take the butch or femme role in a lesbian relationship, it

would be necessary to make a long-term, perhaps lifelong study of a large cohort of women.

As to the question of whether there is a genetic predisposition to being a butch or femme lesbian, the data aren't yet available. Still, the traits that characterize the butch/femme difference have a substantial genetic basis: according to the long-running University of Minnesota study of twins reared apart, for example, genes account for at least half of the reason why people differ in

aggressiveness and dominance. Thus it is possible that, whatever path leads a woman to a lesbian identity, inborn predisposition may influence her to become a particular kind of lesbian.



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

Getting the Love You Want

A Workshop for Lesbian and Gay Couples

An Intensive 20-hour experience for couples. The unique design of this workshop is appropriate for you if:

- You want to enrich, deepen or revitalize a good relationship.
- You want to nurture a new relationship.
- You are in a difficult relationship and want to end a long-standing impasse.
- You are near break-up and want to decide if the relationship can be saved.

Workshops:

February 20-22, 1998

May 15-17, 1998

August 14-16, 1998

November 6-8, 1998

Enrollment limited!
\$500/couple

(deposit required)

For more information and to reserve a space, call Patrick J. Vachon, (713) 529-1913, voice mail #4



A Personal Experience
for Change and Growth

presented by
Patrick J. Vachon L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.
Certified Imago Relationship Therapist
Houston, Texas



THE GAMES ARE COMING! THE GAMES ARE COMING!



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

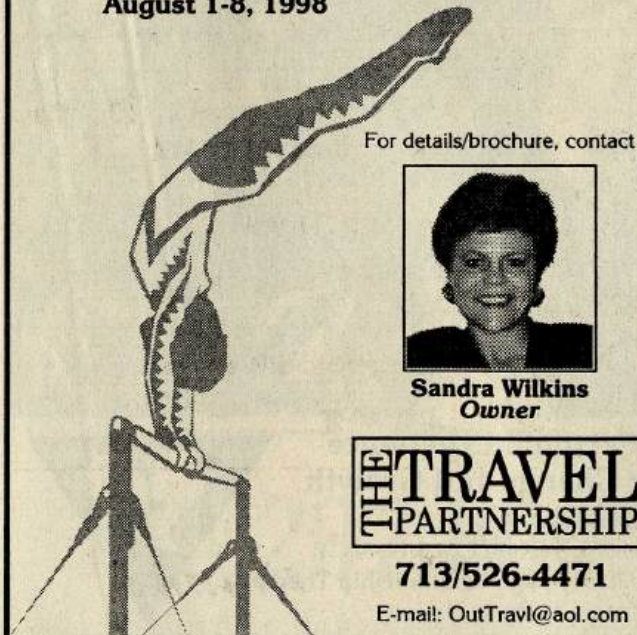
**Gay men and lesbians,
you must not wait!**

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

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

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

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



For details/brochure, contact



**Sandra Wilkins
Owner**

**THE TRAVEL
PARTNERSHIP**

713/526-4471

E-mail: OutTravel@aol.com

OutLaw

Where There's a Will

Simple legal documents make difficult times easier.

by Debra E. Hunt

Here are just a few legal documents worth checking out to make sure your legal affairs are in good shape.

Last Will and Testament

A great number of people have trouble dealing with the concept of their own death. It's a tough thing to think about, let alone plan for. Most people know that a will is a document which contains instructions on what to do with a person's estate when they have died. Some believe that only those with significant wealth need to have a will. Ironically, small estates actually benefit the most from wills because the costs of probate are significantly reduced.

One of the best ways to emphasize the importance of a will is to explain what happens when someone dies without one. Every state has laws of intestacy that determine how property passes upon someone's death if they die without a will. Although the particulars and proportions vary from state to state, every state provides that the first in line to inherit are legal spouses and children. In Texas, if no legal spouse or children exist, parents, siblings and other blood relatives fall next in line.

A will does not have to be complicated. The main purpose of a will is to designate the beneficiaries of your estate. It should also name the person you want to handle your affairs. If you have minor children, your will should designate a guardian for your children and a trustee for their benefit if they are beneficiaries. We always recommend that you name alternates for beneficiaries, executors, guardians, and trustees in case the primary persons named die before you do.

Powers of Attorney

A power of attorney is an authorization for another person to act on your behalf. Powers of attorney come in two flavors: general and special. The general power of attorney gives a person the ability to act for you in virtually all situations. A special power of attorney gives someone the ability to act on your behalf in a specific situation or for a limited purpose. The Texas Legislature has created standardized forms for a variety of powers of attorney which contain all required provisions.

Without a power of attorney you have very little chance of having someone act for you in an emergency. While family members and next of kin generally have the right to make health-care decisions for you, they have no automatic right to use your assets in order to pay the costs for that care. Without a

power of attorney making such a designation, family members faced with taking care of your estate would have to seek an expensive court-ordered guardianship.

Directive to Physicians

A Directive to Physicians (or a Living Will) is a written statement which outlines your desires as to the use or continuation of artificial life support. It tells your attending physician to either avoid using or to terminate the use of life support if you are near death. It only takes effect when the physician certifies in writing that you are suffering from an incurable or irreversible condition that would produce death without the application of life support, and that the use of life support only serves to prolong the moment of death. The physician must either honor the directive, or make reasonable

A great number of people have trouble dealing with the concept of their own death. It's a tough thing to think about, let alone plan for.

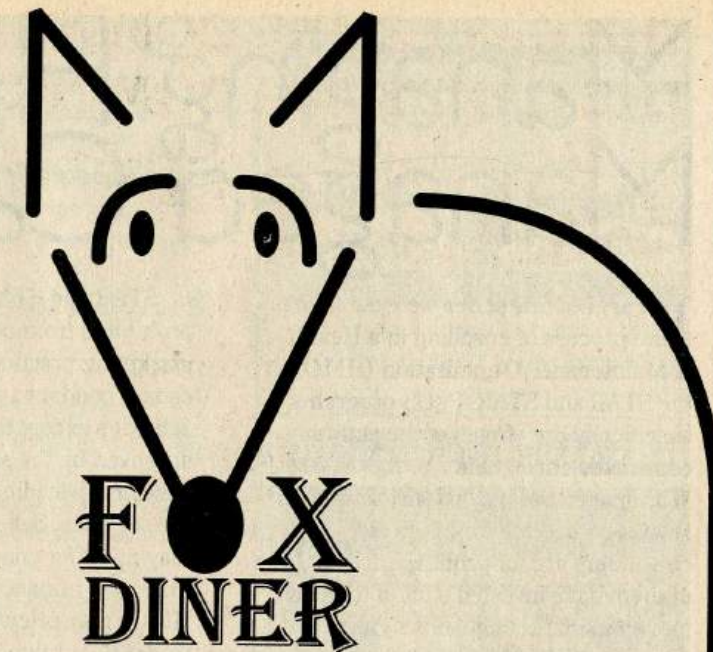
efforts to transfer your care to another doctor who will honor it. In Texas, the directive is a standard form which has been in place since 1977. The Natural Death Act which authorizes the directive has been updated several times since then for clarification, but the statute's overall import remains the same.

Disposition of Remains

Any powers of attorney that you have signed expire upon your death. This means that your health-care agent does not have the legal right to make your funeral arrangements. The right to work with the funeral home following your death will belong to the person you designate in a document called an Appointment of Agent to Control Disposition of Remains. This is another standardized form created a few years ago by the Texas Legislature. If you do not sign this document or otherwise pay for arrangements in advance, then your next of kin have the absolute right to decide what happens to your body.

Most persons desire to maintain control over their own lives as much and for as long as possible. They also do not like paying large legal fees or reporting to a judge in order to take care of a friend or relative. A little advance planning can keep future legal costs low and ease the transition if assistance becomes necessary or death occurs.

Debra E. Hunt is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian / feminist law firm based in Houston.



*Comfort Food Is
What This Vixen's Fixin'*

**"Dining is,
and always was,
a great artistic
opportunity."**

—Frank Lloyd Wright

HOURS:

Sunday Brunch Buffet • 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM
Monday-Thursday • 11 AM to 10 PM
Friday • 11 AM to 11 PM
Saturday • 5:30 PM to 11 PM
BYOB

905 Taft

Between Allen Parkway and West Dallas

713/523-5FOX

*Proudly serving all
hungry Houstonians!*

Managing HIV & Managed Care

Rating the HMOs and Handling Problems

PART 2 • by Harry Livesay

In Part I of this series we examined the process of enrolling in a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) in the STAR and STAR+PLUS programs, specifically the efforts of the state's contracted enrollment agent, MAXIMUS. With one or two exceptions, all of the HMOs competing for Medicaid consumers are for-profit agencies. Many of them have invested a lot of time and money in marketing campaigns to convince Medicaid consumers that their HMO is the best one. As mentioned in the last article, all the HMOs offer a list of "value added" services to their enrollees. Some of these may not be "extra" services but actual requirements of the state and/or federal agencies for all Medicaid HMOs.

Under the terms of their contract with the Texas Department of Health and Human Services, each HMO participating in the STAR and STAR+PLUS programs must offer the following additional services:

- Emergency care (with services to be provided inside or outside the HMO enrollment area)
- 24-hour emergency/crisis hotline
- behavioral/mental health services
- Family planning education and services (including HIV and safer-sex information)
- Perinatal care services
- Services for children at-risk for developmental disabilities
- Primary and specialty care for persons with disabilities/chronic health conditions (including HIV/AIDS)
- Coordination and referral to community-based agencies and services for appropriate support services
- Wellness promotion/health education programs
- Long-term care services (STAR+PLUS HMOs)

STAR and STAR+PLUS HMOs are prohibited from certain types of marketing practices by the state. They cannot conduct any direct enrollment activities except those that have been approved by the state. They cannot make false or misleading statements related to the services, benefits or providers. They may not offer consumers any significant material or financial incentives to enroll. HMOs may offer "free gifts" of no more than \$10 in value and/or free health screens to consumers. However, these must be offered to all consumers.

...Persons with HIV will be able to choose from seven care providers if they are customers of the STAR Plan...

whether or not the consumer enrolls in the HMO. Free health screenings cannot be used to discourage consumers from joining an HMO, and all results from such screening activities must be shared with the consumer's primary care doctor.

CAREFUL CONSIDERATION

As discussed in the last article, persons with HIV will be able to choose from seven care providers if they are customers of the STAR Plan (a Texas Department of Health Program). If they are customers of the STAR+PLUS Plan (a Texas Department of Human Services Program), they will be able to choose from three providers. Listed below are all of the Medicaid HMOs with some comparison information on providers, hospitals and services. Please note that a complete list of providers and hospitals for the HMOs was not available at press time. Additionally, consumers will need to contact the HMO to determine if a provider is listed as a "primary care physician" (providing ongoing care) or a

"specialist" (requiring a referral from a primary care physician). For current information, a consumer helpline number for each HMO is listed below.

ACCESS (STAR and STAR+PLUS) is an HMO product of the Memorial and Sisters of Charity Hospital System and is affiliated with the Texas Universities Health Plan.

Hospitals: 26 hospitals in the network, including St. Joseph, Texas Children's, UTMB-Galveston, Ben Taub, LBJ Hospital, and all Memorial Hospital locations.

Providers: MDs—Carlos Farinas, Roderick Frazier, Joseph Gathe, Patrick McNamara, Jack Nemeck, Patricia Salvato, and Shannon Schrader; Thomas Street Clinic, Northwest Clinic

Value Added Services: 24-hour nurse helpline, Healthy Pregnancy Program, well-baby care with prizes. Other services (upon approval): dentures and tooth extractions, medication dispensers/pill boxes, transportation, adult day care, home-delivered meals and emergency alert system.

Phone Number: 281/652-8500 or 800/310-7500

Americaid (STAR and STAR+PLUS) is an HMO product of Americaid Community Care, a national managed care company.

Hospitals: Over 30 hospitals in the network, including Hermann, St. Joseph, Ben Taub, and LBJ Hospital, Park Plaza, Twelve Oaks and all Memorial Hospital locations.

Providers: Joseph Gathe, MD, and Shannon Schrader, MD.

Value Added Services: 24-hour nurse helpline. Extra services available (upon approval): pest control, financial education, exercise programs, music

therapy, client managed attendant care, transportation assistance, emergency alert system and care giver relief.

Phone Number: 1-800-600-4441

AmeriHealth (STAR Program Only) is an HMO product of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western Pennsylvania.

Hospitals: Over 30 hospitals in the network, including Hermann, St. Joseph, Methodist, Ben Taub, LBJ Hospital, Park Plaza, Twelve Oaks, all Columbia Hospital locations.

Providers: Nancy Ericksen, MD, Joseph Gathe, MD, Andrew Helfgott, MD, Thomas Street Clinic, Northwest Clinic.

Value Added Services: Welcome gift for new members, free voice mailbox for each family, vision benefits for eyeglasses and contacts, 24-hour nurse line. Maternity programs for mother and child.

Phone Number: 1-800-970-1212

Community Health Choice (STAR Program Only) is an HMO product of the Harris County Hospital District.

Hospitals: 26 hospitals in the network, including Hermann, St. Joseph, Methodist, Ben Taub, LBJ, Quetin Mease, Park Plaza, Twelve Oaks, UTMB-Galveston and selected hospitals of the Memorial Hospital System.

Providers: MDs—Nancy Ericksen, Joseph Gathe, Hunter Hammill, Andrew Helfgott, and Shannon Schrader; Thomas Street Clinic, Northwest Clinic.

Value Added Services: Health information line, 24-hour nurse hotline, help with medical expenses not covered by Medicaid.

Phone Number: 1-800-760-2600

HMO Blue (STAR and STAR+PLUS) is an HMO product of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas.

Hospitals: Over 15 hospitals in the network, including St. Joseph, St. Luke's, Ben Taub, LBJ, Quetin Mease, Texas Children's, and selected hospitals of the Memorial Hospital System.

Providers: MDs—Gary Brewton, Gordon Crofoot, Carlos Farinas, Roderick Frazier, Joseph Gathe, Patrick McNamara, Jorge Quesda, Adan Rios,

Patsy Salvato, and Shannon Schrader.

Value Added Services: 24-hour nurse hotline, adult dental care, vision care (eyeglasses). Other services available (upon approval) include: home meal delivery, medical equipment, emergency alert systems and care giver relief.

Phone Number: 1-888-841-3359 or 1-888-887-9003.

Methodist Care (STAR Program Only) is an HMO product of the Methodist Hospital System.

Hospitals: 12 hospitals in the network, including St. Joseph, Ben Taub, LBJ, Quetin Mease, Texas Children's, Diagnostic, Methodist, Park Plaza, Twelve Oaks, UTMB-Galveston and hospitals of the American Transitional Hospital System.

Providers: MDs—Joseph Gathe, Hunter Hammill, Adan Rios, and Edward Stool.

Value Added Services: 24-hour nurse hotline, adult dental care, vision care (eyeglasses). Other services available (upon approval) include: home meal delivery, medical equipment, emergency alert systems and care giver relief.

Phone Number: 1-888-841-3359

TDH STAR Health Plan

(STAR Program Only) is a program of the Texas Department of Health. It is a provider network of physicians and hospitals that contract directly with the Texas Department of Health. This program is not an HMO, but a program that provides a "case manager" to review health-care services and costs of persons enrolled in the plan. There is some discussion that this is a temporary program that will be phased out by the state when all eligible Medicaid clients are enrolled in an HMO.

Hospitals: 38 hospitals in the network, including St. Joseph, St. Luke's, Hermann, Methodist, M.D. Anderson, Park Plaza, Texas Children's, Twelve Oaks and all hospitals of the Columbia and Memorial Systems.

Providers: Nancy Ericksen, MD, and Andrew Helfgott, MD.

Value Added Services: NONE.
Phone Number: 1-800-937-5777

The Center for AIDS

presents

The 1998 Hollyfield Foundation Community Forum

S • E • R • I • E • S

A series of community forums focusing on the latest HIV/AIDS treatment and research issues

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Update on the 5th Conference on RETROVIRUSES & OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS

SPEAKERS:

JOSEPH C. GATHE, JR., M.D.
Infectious Disease Specialist

SPENCER COX

Treatment Action Group, New York

Reception - 6:30 PM

Presentation - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

American Red Cross Building
2700 Southwest Freeway
(north side of the SW Freeway,
between Kirby & Buffalo Speedway)

This program is funded in part by the
Hollyfield Foundation, Pharmacia & Upjohn,
and GlaxoWellcome.

Friday, February 20, 1998

Can HIV Infection Be Cured?

SPEAKER

MARTIN MARKOWITZ, M.D.
Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center
New York City

Presentation - 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Health & Science Museum
1515 Hermann Drive

This program is funded by the HIV
Pharmaceutical Consortium, a group of 15
Pharmaceutical companies working together with
The Center for AIDS to bring leaders in the field
of HIV/AIDS research and information
to the Houston community.

For more information
call 713/527-8219

Continental Airlines



HIV, & HMOs & Mental Health

by Doug Anderson

The HMOs in the STAR and STAR+PLUS programs will contract out their mental health services to Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs). BHOs are private companies that maintain networks of psychotherapists and psychiatrists who provide counseling and related services. Each HMO has its own BHO, so your mental health benefits will depend on which HMO you choose. For the STAR+PLUS program, which covers the majority of persons living with HIV, the BHOs include CNR Health, Value Behavioral Health, and Comprehensive Behavioral Care.

When selecting an HMO, you will also want to ask some questions about mental health benefits available through the BHO. How difficult is it to see a counselor if you wish to do so? How many sessions will you be allowed? Under the old system, there was an annual limit for counseling sessions, and patients could see a provider without preauthorization until that limit was reached. Under the new system, when you go to see a counselor, he or she must call the BHO before any counseling is provided and obtain approval for a certain number of sessions. The number approved and the overall annual limit vary with each BHO.

If you have a particular counselor you've been seeing, make sure you check to see if they are on the plan you select. Montrose Counseling Center therapists are on all three STAR+PLUS BHOs, but not all BHO providers are experienced in HIV issues.

Each month you must bring your letter of authorization to your provider. This will tell him or her how to get approval for your care and ensure your coverage has not changed. If you are not satisfied and want to change your BHO, you must select another HMO, and this can be done every 30 days.

If counseling is something you anticipate using now or in the future, you may want to contact the BHOs to get questions answered or see if your counselor is on the plan. All have toll-free numbers for this purpose.

In the case of mental health care, the services you receive will depend a great deal on the quality and responsiveness of your BHO. That's why, as with medical care, it's best to shop around.

Doug Anderson, LMSW-ACP, LCDC, ADC, is case management program coordinator at Montrose Counseling Center.

ADDRESSING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR HMO

What happens when consumers question and/or disagree with decisions made by their HMO concerning their health-care services? Federal and state guidelines for Medicaid HMOs requirements are provided with an outside "advocate" to help them resolve problems and disputes with their HMO. The Texas Bureau of Managed Care has created two programs to assist Texas Medicaid consumers in solving issues with the HMO:

Starline (713/767-3919) is a regionally based helpline, staffed by four Department of Human Service employees. The helpline is operated Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Starline will offer a basic level of consumer assistance to answer questions about HMO enrollment, make referrals on the client's behalf to the enrollment agency, the HMO, the primary care physician or care coordinator, and to other state and community resources. Starline staff can also answer questions for consumers who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare services and may not understand how the programs work together and separately with managed care.

Advocates are "second level" Starline employees with additional expertise and training to handle consumer problems that are complex and require a longer time to be resolved. Advocates will be required to return consumer phone calls within 24 hours.

Advocates can contact the HMO or care provider on the consumer's behalf and/or negotiate a conference call with all parties to facilitate communication and understanding in resolving a problem. Advocates may schedule face-to-face contacts with consumers and/or can accompany clients on visits to an HMO or care provider if needed.

If a consumer feels that their problem or dispute has not been fully addressed by Starline or the Advocate programs, consumers can file a written complaint directly with the state agency that oversees Medicaid managed care in Texas. Complaints should be addressed to the Bureau Chief, Bureau of Managed

Care-Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756-3168 or faxed to 512/338-6546. For additional information, consumers can contact the bureau at 512/794-6838.

Community-based, legal advocacy programs for persons with HIV may also be a source of help and support when trying to solve disputes and/or problems with HMOs. These include the Houston Volunteer Lawyer Program 713/228-3534, the NAACP 713/630-2637, and the Southeast Texas Legal Clinic 713/523-7852.

MAKING MEDICAID MANAGED CARE WORK

Although STAR and STAR+PLUS are pilot programs and will change over time, there should be no mistaking that Medicaid managed care is here to stay. The rapid movement of national and local welfare reforms and the need of some governmental assistance to offset the expense of new treatments and medications will result in more persons with HIV disease dealing with some form of managed care system. While the overall objective of managed health care is to cut rising health-care costs, this does not mean that persons with HIV and other health-care challenges should not receive quality care. However, quality care will not happen without the ongoing advocacy of managed care consumers and others. Persons with HIV, caregivers, families, all of us, must become knowledgeable of *how* managed care is implemented and delivered. We must work effectively with HMOs, state and federal regulatory agencies, elected officials and others to ensure that all Medicaid consumers living with HIV have access to experienced health-care providers and to life-enhancing medications and therapies. Medicaid managed care can be responsible and compassionate care, but only if consumers, providers and others are informed and active care advocates.

Harry Livesay, LMSW, is the advocacy project director for the Bering Community Service Foundation. He can be reached at 713/529-6071, ext. 102.

**NEW MONTROSE
LOCATION NOW OPEN!**
Come visit our new pharmacy
3407 Montrose (across from Walgreens).

- Community-Minded
- Community-Managed
- Convenient Locations
- Delivery Available

Putting you on the horizon of good health...

Call or Visit a
STATSCRIPT Pharmacy
and feel the difference for yourself.

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

Most insurance plans accepted including Medicaid & Texas HIV Program.
We accept assignments to minimize your up-front costs.

4101 Greenbriar, Suite 235
713/521-1700

3407 Montrose@Hawthorne
713/522-7373

copy.com



www.copydotcom.com



COPY CENTER COMPUTERS INTERNET BAR

Xerox DocuTech Copies
Canon Color Copies
Mac & PC Rental
Binding & Finishing
Canon Color Output
Oversize Color Plotting
Posters & Banners
On-Line Internet Bar
Free Pick-Up & Delivery

1201 Westheimer
713/528-1201

How We Survive An Introduction to Gay Resilience

Part 1
by Shane Hennessey

Welcome. It's good to see you here. I'd like to talk with you about life for a while. Yes, I'm a psychotherapist... wait, don't walk away, don't turn the page. For a change, I'd like to talk with you about what works, about your successes, about where you do well and when you feel good about yourself.

I know it's sometimes hard to look at what is good about ourselves. So often we're told that doing such a thing is prideful and looked down upon. Hmmm, sounds like something we as gay people are accustomed to. What a double whammy! A) We are looked down upon and B) It's not acceptable to pat ourselves on the back for jobs and lives well done. It seems some days it just doesn't pay to be gay.

Have you ever asked yourself how we survive as gay people? After all, popular psychology says that a child raised in a damaging environment becomes mentally unhealthy, and certainly our society is damaging to gay kids. How do we account for those of us who do well in all or parts of our lives? It is true, believe it or not, that we do survive. We do succeed in ways large and small in our lives. If you didn't, you would not be here reading this. After all, we produce some of the greatest art, outstrip others in our professions, make the best humor, walk the best in pumps, and handle some mean power tools.

Don't get me wrong, we do get

bumped, bruised and abused. We sometimes go down the lonely roads of isolation, depression and addiction. Some even stay there forever. What I am suggesting is looking at what qualities help us not go down those paths, or help

It is true, believe it or not, that we do survive. We do succeed in ways large and small in our lives.

us find other, better lit places to travel after being in the dark for a while. There is no "us vs. them" mentality here, merely a shifting of focus onto what we do in our lives that protects, nurtures and energizes us.

Resilience describes those traits and skills which balance out our individual weaknesses so that we can make it through the occasional harshness of life while functioning reasonably well (and yes, I'm understating the fact that for many of us life has been extremely harsh). I hope that in addition to whatever parts of your life are not working the way you might like, that you may begin to become aware of the

balance created by those parts that do. *The Resilient Self* by Drs. Steven and Sybil Wolin and *Resilient Adults* by Dr. Gina O'Connell Higgins are recent works that look at why people survive cruel pasts and are excellent resources for learning more about this topic. They do not write specifically for gay people, but they do provide a language of strength and hope.

The resiliencies are sets of skills that we develop over a lifetime. One of the earliest of these is a primal screening mechanism I'll call insight, or intuition. People experience insight as a "knowing in the bones" about the rightness or wrongness of a situation. Remember when someone sneered and called you a queer, sissy or tomboy?

Remember the twinge in your gut signaling something was not right—even if you weren't old enough to know what those words meant? That gut reaction was your insight kicking in to alert and protect you. As we grow up and learn more about the world, we get to apply our experience to our gut feelings and develop a sense of understanding about what is and is not safe in the world. A client recalled an incident in which he was chastised by his father for making a vaguely feminine gesture with his hand. "I didn't even know what I had done wrong," he said emphatically, "but I knew somehow it was about me and about things not safe to mention. So I didn't

question him, I just hung my head." Insight calls attention to what is wrong, dysfunctional or abusive and paves the way for action.

The next skill of resilience is independence. In a sense, this is what powers the free spirits of the world. People exercising this skill tend to stray away from what they intuitively know to be toxic to them. It allows the resilient to disconnect from a harmful family or situation. By disengaging from poisonous people and places, the independents begin to put boundaries between themselves and what is damaging. Do you remember joining extracurricular activities or developing a circle of friends with others who more closely matched how you felt, with whom it was OK to be different. On the other hand, perhaps people seemed too dangerous to you, and your protective defense was to go within to develop a fantasy life of art, books or poetry. All of these are examples of independence working as buffer and separator. A client recently reported escaping into books of fantasy. "It was so

easy to tell who was good and bad," she said. "In fact, in some books, it was good, even noble to be gay."

Close on the heels of independence is the resilience of reconnection through relationship. Even the most withdrawn can generally find something to connect to, even if it's someone who is more wounded. Sometimes it's even an animal. What safer connection is there than a pet? Survivors tend to be very aware of their surroundings. They pick up on the smallest of details and use this information to connect to support. They seem to be good at recruiting these people if even for a short time. They attach to safe teachers, neighbors or other family members to get vital nurturing. It doesn't take much, but it does take a little—even the idea that someone out there cares can pull a person through. One man reported a single encounter with a step-relative in which it was subtly made known that to be gay was OK. "This sustained me through the next couple of years," he said. "I knew that even though I could not

share my secret yet, someone out there would not reject me once I came out."

Insight, independence and relationships help form a foundation upon which we build other resiliencies. They create a psychological space safe enough for us to live, breathe and grow. Even at less than optimal performance we can carry ourselves forward, ready for the times when we can add to and nurture our gay souls. I hope that you are able to find yourself in here somewhere. If you're still alive, you are a resilient person surviving a society that would rather we didn't exist. What they didn't count on is that you are human, and because of that, you exited the womb with the same biological imperative as everyone else—SURVIVE.

In the next issue, we'll look at the last three sets of skills called initiative, creativity/humor, and morality.

E. Shane Hennessey, MEd, LPC, is the community educator for the Montrose Counseling Center.

"Houston's #1 Tint and Alarm Shop!" 780-8000 "BEST PRICES IN THE COUNTRY" 780-8000 We Guarantee It!

Tint \$75



Best
Tint
Made

ALL CARS

*Rated #1 Tint Shop in Houston
for Clean Work and Quality Service!

FREE Tint Sealant
FREE Micro Edging

FREE Tint Enhancer
FREE Scratch Resistance

ALL TINT JOBS ARE BUBBLE FREE

FOG LIGHTS from \$49.95
BLUE HEADLIGHTS each \$19.95
HEADLIGHT OR TAILLIGHT COVERS \$59.95
CAR STEREOS from \$89.95
HIGH POWER 200 WATT AMP \$129.95
GOLD PLATING Starting at \$139.95
WOOD GRAIN DASH KITS Starting at \$225.00
FRONT & REAR BRUSHGUARDS Installed \$575.00


SPOILERS \$199.95
Starting From

Executive Motoring Boutique

2823 Hillcroft 713-780-8000
Between Richmond & Westheimer on Hillcroft

WHY SETTLE FOR LESS THAN THE BEST!

CODE-ALARM AUDIOFOX JVC AUTO ALARMS SONY VIPER

EXCALIBUR K-9

VEHICLE SECURITY

- Free Backup Battery
- Free Magnetic Shock Sensor
- Free Motion Sensor
- Starter Kill
- Parking Light Flash
- Valet Switch
- Door Protection
- LED Flasher
- Super Loud Horn
- Panic Button
- Custom Installed
- 2 Remote Transmitters

- Anti-scan Technology
- Passive or Active Arming
- Intrusion Alert Memory
- 2 Stage Disarm
- Automatic Rearm

What a Deal!
\$99.99
INSTALLED

Prestige Platinum

- Starter Kill • Valet Override
- Flashing LED
- All Doors Protected
- 2 Remote Transmitters
- Remote Panic Button
- Anti-scan Technology
- Motion Sensor/Towing Sensor
- 6 Tone Siren • Made in USA
- Passive or Active Arming
- Intrusion Alert Memory
- Electromagnetic Shock Sensor
- Flashing Parking Lights
- 2 Button Channel Remote
- Code Learning Remotes

This month only
\$119.99
INSTALLED

Lifetime
Warranty

VPS PLUS

Auto Security

- Starter Kill
- Valet Switch
- 2 Remote Transmitters
- All Doors Protected
- 130 Decibel Siren
- Magnetic Shock Sensor
- Flashing Parking Lights
- Intrusion Alert Memory
- Panic Button
- Passive or Active Arming
- Anti-Scan Technology
- Code Learning Remotes

This month only
\$139.95
INSTALLED

SIDEWINDER DEI'S BEST

- 2 Three Channel Remotes
- Panic Button
- Remote Valet
- Silent Arming
- Stinger™ 6-Tone Siren
- Failsafe® Starter Kill
- Door Protection
- Parking Lights Flash
- 2500 Dollar Theft Protection
- Code Learning Remotes
- Custom Installed
- Much more

\$179.95
INSTALLED

TOP OF
THE LINE

How We Survive An Introduction to Gay Resilience

Part 1
by Shane Hennessey

Welcome. It's good to see you here. I'd like to talk with you about life for a while. Yes, I'm a psychotherapist... wait, don't walk away, don't turn the page. For a change, I'd like to talk with you about what works, about your successes, about where you do well and when you feel good about yourself.

I know it's sometimes hard to look at what is good about ourselves. So often we're told that doing such a thing is prideful and looked down upon. Hmmm, sounds like something we as gay people are accustomed to. What a double whammy! A) We are looked down upon and B) It's not acceptable to pat ourselves on the back for jobs and lives well done. It seems some days it just doesn't pay to be gay.

Have you ever asked yourself how we survive as gay people? After all, popular psychology says that a child raised in a damaging environment becomes mentally unhealthy, and certainly our society is damaging to gay kids. How do we account for those of us who do well in all or parts of our lives? It is true, believe it or not, that we do survive. We do succeed in ways large and small in our lives. If you didn't, you would not be here reading this. After all, we produce some of the greatest art, outstrip others in our professions, make the best humor, walk the best in pumps, and handle some mean power tools.

Don't get me wrong, we do get

bumped, bruised and abused. We sometimes go down the lonely roads of isolation, depression and addiction. Some even stay there forever. What I am suggesting is looking at what qualities help us not go down those paths, or help

It is true, believe it or not, that we do survive. We do succeed in ways large and small in our lives.

us find other, better lit places to travel after being in the dark for a while. There is no "us vs. them" mentality here, merely a shifting of focus onto what we do in our lives that protects, nurtures and energizes us.

Resilience describes those traits and skills which balance out our individual weaknesses so that we can make it through the occasional harshness of life while functioning reasonably well (and yes, I'm understating the fact that for many of us life has been extremely harsh). I hope that in addition to whatever parts of your life are not working the way you might like, that you may begin to become aware of the

balance created by those parts that do. *The Resilient Self* by Drs. Steven and Sybil Wolin and *Resilient Adults* by Dr. Gina O'Connell Higgins are recent works that look at why people survive cruel pasts and are excellent resources for learning more about this topic. They do not write specifically for gay people, but they do provide a language of strength and hope.

The resiliencies are sets of skills that we develop over a lifetime. One of the earliest of these is a primal screening mechanism I'll call **insight**, or intuition. People experience insight as a "knowing in the bones" about the rightness or wrongness of a situation. Remember when someone sneered and called you a queer, sissy or tomboy?

Remember the twinge in your gut signaling something was not right—even if you weren't old enough to know what those words meant? That gut reaction was your insight kicking in to alert and protect you. As we grow up and learn more about the world, we get to apply our experience to our gut feelings and develop a sense of understanding about what is and is not safe in the world. A client recalled an incident in which he was chastised by his father for making a vaguely feminine gesture with his hand. "I didn't even know what I had done wrong," he said emphatically, "but I knew somehow it was about me and about things not safe to mention. So I didn't

question him, I just hung my head." Insight calls attention to what is wrong, dysfunctional or abusive and paves the way for action.

The next skill of resilience is **independence**. In a sense, this is what powers the free spirits of the world. People exercising this skill tend to stray away from what they intuitively know to be toxic to them. It allows the resilient to disconnect from a harmful family or situation. By disengaging from poisonous people and places, the independents begin to put boundaries between themselves and what is damaging. Do you remember joining extracurricular activities or developing a circle of friends with others who more closely matched how you felt, with whom it was OK to be different. On the other hand, perhaps people seemed too dangerous to you, and your protective defense was to go within to develop a fantasy life of art, books or poetry. All of these are examples of independence working as buffer and separator. A client recently reported escaping into books of fantasy. "It was so

easy to tell who was good and bad," she said. "In fact, in some books, it was good, even noble to be gay."

Close on the heels of independence is the resilience of reconnection through **relationship**. Even the most withdrawn can generally find something to connect to, even if it's someone who is more wounded. Sometimes it's even an animal. What safer connection is there than a pet? Survivors tend to be very aware of their surroundings. They pick up on the smallest of details and use this information to connect to support. They seem to be good at recruiting these people if even for a short time. They attach to safe teachers, neighbors or other family members to get vital nurturing. It doesn't take much, but it does take a little—even the idea that someone out there cares can pull a person through. One man reported a single encounter with a step-relative in which it was subtly made known that to be gay was OK. "This sustained me through the next couple of years," he said. "I knew that even though I could not

share my secret yet, someone out there would not reject me once I came out."

Insight, independence and relationships help form a foundation upon which we build other resiliencies. They create a psychological space safe enough for us to live, breathe and grow. Even at less than optimal performance we can carry ourselves forward, ready for the times when we can add to and nurture our gay souls. I hope that you are able to find yourself in here somewhere. If you're still alive, you are a resilient person surviving a society that would rather we didn't exist. What they didn't count on is that you are human, and because of that, you exited the womb with the same biological imperative as everyone else—**SURVIVE**.

In the next issue, we'll look at the last three sets of skills called initiative, creativity/humor, and morality.

E. Shane Hennessey, MEd, LPC, is the community educator for the Montrose Counseling Center.

"Houston's #1 Tint and Alarm Shop!" 780-8000 "BEST PRICES IN THE COUNTRY" 780-8000 We Guarantee It!

Tint \$75



Best
Tint
Made

ALL CARS
*Rated #1 Tint Shop in Houston
for Clean Work and Quality Service!

FREE Tint Sealant
FREE Micro Edging

FREE Tint Enhancer
FREE Scratch Resistance

ALL TINT JOBS ARE BUBBLE FREE

CODE-ALARM

AUDIOFOX

AUTO

ALARMS

SONY

VIPER



K-9

VEHICLE SECURITY

- Free Backup Battery
- Free Magnetic Shock Sensor
- Free Motion Sensor
- Starter Kill
- Parking Light Flash
- Valet Switch
- Door Protection
- LED Flasher
- Super Loud Horn
- Panic Button
- Custom Installed
- 2 Remote Transmitters

- Anti-scan Technology
- Passive or Active Arming
- Intrusion Alert Memory
- 2 Stage Disarm
- Automatic Rearm

What a Deal!
\$99.99
INSTALLED

Prestige Platinum

• Starter Kill • Valet Override

- Flashing LED
- All Doors Protected
- 2 Remote Transmitters
- Remote Panic Button
- Anti-scan Technology
- Motion Sensor/Towing Sensor
- 6 Tone Siren • Made in USA
- Passive or Active Arming
- Intrusion Alert Memory
- Electromagnetic Shock Sensor
- Flashing Parking Lights
- 2 Button Channel Remote
- Code Learning Remotes

This month only

\$119.99
INSTALLED
Lifetime Warranty
While Supplies Last

VPS PLUS

Auto Security

- Starter Kill
- Valet Switch
- 2 Remote Transmitters
- All Doors Protected
- 130 Decibel Siren
- Magnetic Shock Sensor

- Flashing Parking Lights
- Intrusion Alert Memory
- Panic Button
- Passive or Active Arming
- Anti-scan Technology
- Code Learning Remotes

This month only
\$139.95
INSTALLED

SIDEWINDER DEI'S BEST

• 2 Three Channel Remotes

- Panic Button
- Remote Valet
- Silent Arming
- Stinger™ 6-Tone Siren
- Failsafe® Starter Kill
- Door Protection
- Parking Lights Flash
- 2500 Dollar Theft Protection
- Code Learning Remotes
- Custom Installed
- Much more

\$179.95
INSTALLED

TOP OF THE LINE

ALLEY THEATRE

Long day's journey into Night

by Eugene O'Neill

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see Oscar-winning actress Ellen Burstyn in the intimate Neuhaus Arena Stage. Many performances are already sold out. Get your tickets now!

February 20 - March 29, 1998

sponsored by:

Continental Airlines

For tickets call 713-228-8421. Groups: 713-228-9341, ext. 350; TTY: 713-220-5710. Visit our website at <http://www.alleytheatre.com> Design by: VANNEVAR newmedia

Introducing "Pooh & Friends"

A new line of hand-crafted porcelain figurines celebrates the joy of Winnie the Pooh and his friends. Each hand-painted sculpture brings to life a whimsical, wonderful Hundred Acre moment and gives you a perfect way to share special thoughts and wishes for all the occasions of your heart.

 \$35.00

FINE TOON ANIMATION ART

Fine Toon™ Cartoon Art Gallery, Inc.

2427 Bissonnet between Kirby & Greenbriar
713/522-6499 • 800/636-9393
Hours: Mon-Sat 10:00 - 6:00, Sun 12:00 - 5:00
Visit our award-winning web site! <http://www.finetoon.com>

Madeleine Stowe (Actress, 12 Monkeys)
(Movieline, 2/98, Martha Frankel)

"My best friend and I [Martha Frankel, the interviewer] used to go to my house after school because both my parents worked. I was dying to kiss boys, but no one was volunteering, so she and I would stand in front of the mirror and kiss it. And after we got tired of that, we'd switch places and kiss the spot where the other one had kissed."

"Really?" says Stowe. "Wow. But you never kissed each other?"

"No, but years later, I ran into her and we went for a drink and were talking about the mirror and she says, 'I always wanted to kiss you.'"

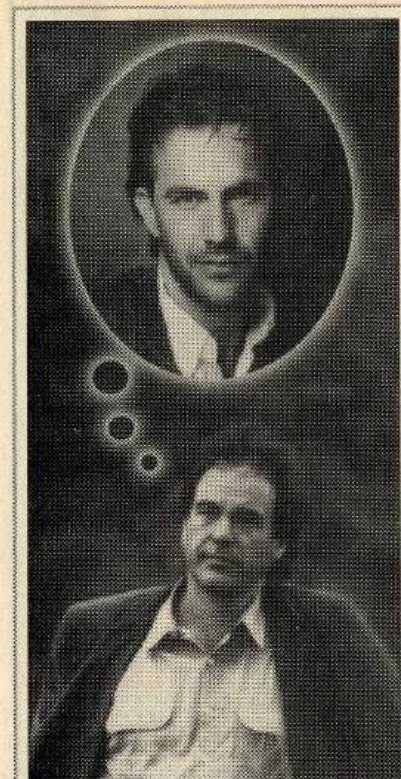
"My best friend when I was a kid was a girl named Mary," says Stowe. "She was about a year older than me and I was just in awe of her. I loved her. One day she started talking about lesbians, and I didn't know what that was. And she said, 'Lesbians are when two women grow up, they get to marry each other.' And I went home and said, 'Mom, Mary said when we grow up we can marry each other!' I was elated. It wasn't sexualized in any way, but my mother, needless to say, was speechless."

Mr. Blackwell (Fashion Designer)
Mr. Blackwell named his choices for the top 10 worst-dressed people of 1997. Depending on one's view of fashion, these people could be the best-dressed people of '97. Included in Blackwell's list are Ellen DeGeneres, Madonna, and Emma Thompson. DeGeneres, who came out in 1997 at the same time as her sitcom character, received the 2nd-place honor: "Just come out and say it. Comedy Queen Ellen needs to make an overdue wardrobe change, and throw those baggy fashion bombs back in the closet." Madonna, who received a Golden Globe Award for her role in *Evita*, was the 3rd-place recipient: "Let's be blunt. Yesterday's *Evita* is today's *Velveeta*. She runs the gamut from a Style Snore to a Bumpy Bore." Academy Award-winning actress Emma Thompson, who starred in *The Remains of the Day* and who recently appeared with 2nd-place DeGeneres on *Ellen*, won 7th place; she was honored with wearing "The Remains of Yesterday." • Not that your life will be enhanced with this info, but the others in the top 10 are: 1) Spice Girls (British pop group), 4) Pamela Lee (former *Baywatch* star), 5) Jennifer Tilly (*Bound* actress), 6) Sigourney Weaver (*Alien Resurrection* actress), 8) Alicia Silverstone (*Batgirl* in *Batman and Robin*), 9) Francis Fisher (*Titanic* actress), and 10) Marilyn Manson (cross-dressing rocker).

Nathan Lane
(Us, 2/98, Brantley Harkin)

"... Look, I'm 40, I'm single and I work in the musical theater— you do the math. What do you need, flashcards?"

Lane in *The Birdcage*, '96



Did Oliver Stone (bottom) dream of doing more than just directing Kevin Costner in 1991's *JFK*?

Oliver Stone & Kevin Costner
(Premiere, 1/98, Holly Millea)

"[Kevin Costner] doesn't have perfect features, but he's extraordinarily handsome. He's got something very, very sweet. You'd want to go to bed with him, you know?" director Oliver Stone says. "He's got the right blend of masculine, feminine. Those long eyelashes..."

Rosie O'Donnell
(Us, 2/98, Johanna Schneller)

"So, I ask, 'why don't we know anything about O'Donnell's personal life?'"

"O'Donnell hedges. Everyone's allowed to have a private life, she says. She's too busy to date right now, she says...."

"Any child can look at me and draw whatever conclusion they want to inspire them in their life," says O'Donnell. "I do not mind being used that way. But I don't have a desire to do that for adults. I don't want to have some adjective preceding my name for the rest of my life, whatever it may be, however people want to pigeon-hole me. Is that mildly vague enough?"

[Plenty vague enough, Rosie.]

(Details, 2/98, Rob Tannenbaum)

"Somebody said to me, 'Okay, how many beers would it take for you to sleep with Kathie Lee Gifford?' I said, 'I'd pass out.' I'm not attracted to women. There's another game, Would You Do It for World Peace? And yes, I would sleep with Kathie Lee Gifford for world peace."

Tannenbaum: Would you sleep with Kathie Lee Gifford to save a baby's life?

Fonda: (firmly) Yes. That's kind of sinister, that you came up with that.

Would you sleep with Kathie Lee Gifford to stop someone you don't know from losing a leg?

(less firmly) Yeah. That's horrible. As it suddenly dawns on you, "She's attracted to Kathie Lee..."

Would you sleep with Muammar Gaddafi to save somebody's leg?

Shit. You're sick. First I would say, "Is this a trick?" I would want a guarantee—I'd want to see the person. But I think I would have to.

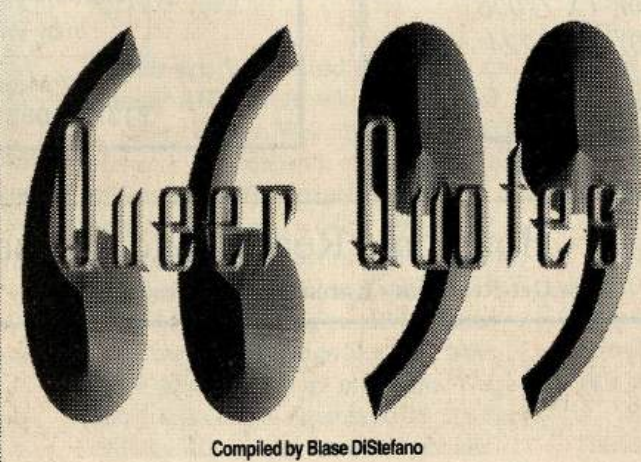
You'd also have to perform oral sex.

God, you're just... (shrugs) Oh, okay.

Bridget Fonda & Kathie Lee Gifford



Bridget Fonda, seen here in the recent *Touch*. For world peace, would she more than touch Kathie Lee Gifford? How far would she go?



Compiled by Blaise DiStefano

Edna St. Vincent Millay
(Today's Out Look Calendar, Published by Pomegranate Calendars & Books)

"Bisexual poet and dramatist Edna St. Vincent Millay was born on February 22, 1892. Once, when she asked a psychologist's advice about her recurring headaches, the doctor inquired into her relations with women. Millay replied, 'Oh, you mean I'm homosexual! Of course, I am, and heterosexual, too, but what's that got to do with my headache?'"

Anne Heche & Parents

(Us, 2/98, Al Weisel)

"When Heche was 13, her family discovered that her devoutly religious father, the church choir director, was not only gay but dying of a relatively unknown disease at the time—AIDS. 'He never admitted anything, even on his deathbed,' says Heche...."

"If it weren't for my father, I don't think I would be so open.... I think it's somehow beautiful that because he died, [and] because he was so unwilling to tell the truth, I got at a very young age, 'Just tell the truth, be who you are, there's nothing more important.'"

"Of her committed relationship with [Ellen] DeGeneres, Heche's mother told her: 'I don't accept your love affair with Ellen the same way you don't accept my love affair with Jesus Christ.'"



Anne Heche: Does her "love affair" with Ellen DeGeneres make her mother proud? (Heche, seen here in *Wag the Dog*, recently won the National Board of Review Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in this film. Is Oscar next?)

THE LOVETT INN

Distinctive Lodging and Catering Accommodations



Historic Accommodations • Corporate Meeting Rooms
• Banquet Facilities • Jacuzzi Suites • Pool/Hot Tub
• Near Downtown, Museums and Medical Center

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

Fax (713) 528-6708 Lovettinn.com
YOU'LL LOVE IT!

NEW IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



IMAGE CLEANERS

ALL WORK DONE ON SITE

- Alterations
- Shoe Repair
- Leather & Suede

Mon-Fri 7am-7pm • Sat 8am-5pm

One-day service available Mon-Sat
In by 9:30, ready by 4:30

3407 Montrose Blvd., Ste. B4
713.527.0880 • Fax 713.527.0119

Houston's Real Estate Connection

www.Get-Real.com - Karen Derr & Associates Realty - 713-862-1600

Karen Derr Introduces Bill Baldwin

Bill Specializes in The Heights, Montrose & Beyond!



HEIGHTS CHARMER WITH 3 BEDS 2 BATHS! - what appeal for the charm of a bungalow with room enough for a modern life. 2 living areas too. Huge covered deck, cute country-style kitchen has room for eating. Formal dining too. Home Warranty. \$139,000. Call Karen or Bill 713-862-1600

TIMBERGROVE AREA - inside the loop but loads of space for the money. Nice large den with fireplace. 3 bedrooms 2 baths. Home Warranty. Call Roseanna at 713-862-6181.

NEAR LAKE CONROE - and a private golf club. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, red brick, only 3 years old. Country life with Country Club living. Large master suite with split plan. \$115,000. Call Bill - 281-731-8314

GITTY-UP - room for horses this pretty pink country cottage is a 3 bedroom 2-1/2 bath, 1 story with in-ground pool and over 2 acres. Sparkles like new with ceramic tile. Plush master. Just north of Kingwood. \$119,000. Call Bill - 281-731-8314

HIGH RISE LIVING DOWNTOWN - leave it to Karen Derr to bring you beautiful downtown condo's built in 1911. Lots of marble & granite. Working wall safe. 2 units plus quarters available on the same floor of this famous historic building. 24 hour concierge. Call Karen Derr - 713-862-1600.

Hiring Computer Savvy Agents - Must be on-line!

Speaking Out

Mary Fisher Continues the Crusade.

by Kyle Young



"We have killed each other with our ignorance, our prejudice and our silence. We may take refuge in the our stereotypes, but we cannot hide there long. Because HIV asks only one thing of those it attacks: Are you human?"

Mary Fisher

1992 Republican National Convention

When Mary Fisher speaks at the Human Rights Campaign Winter Gala this month, it will be her first time to return to Houston since her historic address at the 1992 Republican National Convention. That August night, Fisher silenced the bubbling, political crowd at the Astrodome as she forced the nation to look into the face of AIDS. Fisher's message of compassion touched millions around the world.

A former television producer and an assistant to President Ford, Fisher's diagnosis in 1991 fueled a passionate activism that continues today. In 1992, she formed the Family AIDS Network, a national nonprofit organization working to heighten awareness and compassion in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Her work takes her to more than 100 speaking engagements annually, and she has authored several books including *My Name Is Mary*, *Sleep With the Angels* and *I'll Not Go Quietly*. Her latest book, *Angels in Our Midst*, chronicles the lives of AIDS

caregivers through photos and interviews.

In 1995, an exhibit of Fisher's photography and sculpture was invited to display in the United States Senate building, but was banned before it could be installed because a few senators objected to AIDS-related art depicting death. The "Messages" exhibit later drew large crowds at the Nixon Library and the Ford Museum.

Fisher is the mother of 9-year-old Max and 7-year-old Zack. Her husband died of AIDS in 1993.

OutSmart: What kind of work is the Family AIDS Network involved in?

Mary Fisher: Well, the Family AIDS Network is a nonprofit organization that I founded in 1992. We have several programs that we're doing now, but it started out to support my going around the country and speaking, raising awareness and trying to call for some compassion and things like that. Now we're doing a lot more programs. We're doing this Gospel Against AIDS. It's very exciting. It's a program that I partner with the Winans. We go to different cities—we've had a couple of them now—where we try to get into the minority communities through the church. It's pretty powerful, and hopefully it will do some good. I think that it has already in Detroit, and Mississippi worked very well. We're hopeful that it will get legs of its own.

Another program we're doing is a homeless women's center as a model program in Washington, D.C. And I'm still going around the country and speaking. We're calling on research for women. There isn't really any, hasn't really been any.

In your work, calling for compassion and raising awareness, you're also

dealing with issues of homophobia and how that ties in with the stigma that all HIV-positive people face...

No question. I try desperately to take religion, judgment, all of that out of the issue of AIDS. What my conversations are all about is that we are all the same. It doesn't make any difference. It doesn't matter how you get this disease.

If I can get a church to understand that they need to be what the church was meant to be, and it works for them, there's something else that happens. They start finding that they can serve their own community with the compassion and love that the church was meant to have. That's really my goal. I'm not there to tell people what they should believe or not believe. I can't change a religion. I can't do that, as much as I'd like to.

Sometimes it's very difficult for the gay community to understand that these people just don't understand, sometimes it's just a lack of knowledge.

It's about [urging them] to be more inclusive. In order to do that, you have to sort of go through the window before you can open the door. It's a matter of getting people together.

It's just having the opportunity to talk with someone. Many times I find that people in a community don't realize they know people who are gay. It's a silly thing; it shouldn't be that way. I also think that it's important that the gay community doesn't try to segregate itself from the [larger] community. That's part of the problem that I fight because I find that in many places. Some gay people are trying to say they're different, and the truth is, none of us are. If you say you're different, then everybody is going to think that. We've got to do something that's going to make it better, not harder. It's hard though, because there's been so

much struggle. I can understand why it is difficult, but many times we've got to swallow what we believe in order to get people to listen. It's difficult.

Many gay people feel so much pain from their experience with family and the general community that they have a real need to segregate themselves.

See, that's where the church can come in. That's my point. My point is, OK, I get it. Your family's left you, your family's not around, but we need to grow up here. It's difficult with family. It's the hardest thing, I think.

It may be because I'm getting older or something, but I just realize that it's not going to change as easily as I always thought it would. I had no idea that there was as much discrimination and as many judgments as there are. I am just hopeful that young gay people can build on what the generation before them have done and give themselves an opportunity to see that it can be great. If we keep segregating ourselves, then it's never going to work.

There has been more education around HIV. Are families better prepared today when they find out a relative has HIV?

What I find is that no matter who you are, you believe that's it's never going to happen to you. So, yes there's a lot more awareness, truly a lot more. I still think people would rather believe that it's not going to happen to them. As aware as all of the families are getting, I think that we have a long way to go.

Are you still active in trying to create change in the Republican Party?

I'll talk to anybody. The Republicans this year have been pretty good. I focus on the people I know. Some are Republicans, some are Democrats. I really do think that they've been better, and I think that we've made headway where I don't think we thought we would. I think we still have a long way to go.

When you made the speech at the Republican Convention in '92, it was

just a year after your diagnosis. Did you have any idea at the time of how powerful your message would be?

No, I had no clue. It still amazes me the numbers of people who say *I remember that*. I am still amazed by it. I really didn't do it to create that. I did it because I felt it was the right thing to do, and I had to. At some point you say, *This is what I have to do*, but I had no idea it was going to do what it did.

Many service providers are alarmed by the general public's belief that there is a cure for AIDS. In your work, are you finding that?

I have to tell you, that's one of my biggest fears. That's one of our biggest problems, the fact that the disease isn't over, and mainstream society wants to believe it is. I talk about that all the time, the fact that the epidemic is not over. We can be lax. We can't just let down. Funding stops. It's a very scary thing. To hear people say, "But you have all of these medications." Well, yes, but most people don't have access to them. Even if

they do get access, they may not be able to tolerate the medicine. That's very frightening to me, that we as a country want to do that.

It's more comfortable to believe it's over.

I understand that. Certainly. I think Americans don't have a very high tolerance for something they have no answer for, and here we are in the middle of one of those. It truly is the middle. It's not over. I wish I could report something else.

We recently featured Houston's Body Positive Wellness Center in OutSmart [November, '97]. The mostly gay board is really trying to reach out and meet the needs of women and people of color with HIV.

That's great to hear.

Are other HIV organizations that were originally created by the gay community adapting to the changing face of AIDS?

No. But I think [what Body Positive is doing is] a wonderful thing. It's a great model. That's what I talk about all the time—don't leave us. Women are such a diverse group, there is no community. We need to benefit from the experience of our brothers, of those who have gone before us. It's a very quiet group. I think people can understand why. Women usually are facing more than one problem. They usually have children. Their husbands may have gone.

It's been really difficult to get women to focus on themselves, especially when the medications are so devastating physically and when they can't get access and when doctors refuse to treat. A lot of that has been going on and it's frightening.

As a woman I can say that if I didn't have the kind of access I have myself—and I think I'm really blessed—it would be a terrible place for me to be, just terrible. It's been hard, and I try to encourage the gay community to stay with us. We need them. So, to hear that from you is wonderful.

What message will you be bringing to the HRC event in Houston?

Recently, when I've done dinners like this, I try to let people know how wonderful I think the gay community is, because they are incredible. That's a major part of what I talk about because it's important for people to get patted on the back, as well as to let them know that it's not working.

Did you have connections with the gay community before you started this work?

Oh yes, and I have a lot of friends who have fallen to this disease. I have many friends in the gay community. To me it's not a separate community. We have to stop seeing it like that.

Mary Fisher will be a feature speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's Winter Gala on Feb. 14. For more information about the Family AIDS Network, call 703/243-8242.



THINKING ABOUT BUYING FUR? THINK AGAIN!

PETA PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS 501 FRONT ST., NORFOLK, VA 23510 757-622-PETA www.peta-online.org

STAGES
REPERTORY THEATRE

HOPE in the age of AIDS.

ascendancy
by Gary Bonasorte

Through February 15

FOR TICKETS CALL (713) 52-STAGE

Taking Vitamins Minerals?

You could be doing more harm than good!

Guessing what your body needs could cause toxic levels of certain minerals or throw out the delicate balance of others causing **more** health problems!

Hair Mineral Analysis
-a scientific way to find out what your body needs!

Andy Vorster, N.D., C.N.C.
Naturopathic Nutritionist
Mineral deficiencies are responsible for many health problems. Dr. Vorster is trained in hair mineral analysis and nutritional counseling and can help you safely rebalance your body for greater health and vitality

713 • 960 • 8882





by Richard King

They say even the longest of journeys begins with a single step. Maybe some of the hardest journeys are born from a single admission. An admission, from a child to a parent, of being gay. For many parents, a child's coming out can be undeniably devastating. And, ironically, often causes many parents to charge "into the closet." Yet others choose a different path. A path that leads them from first acknowledgment to acceptance, and finally toward celebration. Paved with tears and guilt, confusion, feelings of failure, fears, and lost dreams, it is a choice that tests even the most enduring parents. But with it comes a precious

healing effect. Divisive barriers are finally identified, family relationships are repaired and strengthened, and prejudices are shed—it is truly a new beginning.

I recently sat down at the dinner table of Norma and Dick Graves to discuss the various factors that push some parents into the closet in shame and others to the microphone in celebration. Around me sat a group of eight active PFLAG (Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) members. As I looked around the room, I asked myself, "What allowed these parents to step out of their closets and crusade?"

To my left sat Jane and Irv Smith,

whose son Paul had come out by way of an abrupt letter mailed from Austin. Next sat Blake and Gordon Weisser. Blake's daughter Valerie was 40, married, and a mother of three when she came out unexpectedly over the phone. Dick and Norma Graves, and her mother, have taken a double dose, with children Rick and Julie both coming out in their 20s. And finally Barbara Winston, whose son Philip, one of 11 children, came out only after denial was no longer an option.

We gathered on a Sunday afternoon, a day reserved for celebration, to talk about their lives since their children first came out.

OutSmart: Before your children came out, what were your impressions of the "gay lifestyle"?

Jane: I thought it was caused by problems in the family.

Blake: I hadn't given it much thought. I accepted those I knew, but dismissed it beyond that.

Norma: I was indifferent. I didn't really think about it much. It was over there, and we're over here. So that's it. But now I'm offended by the word "lifestyle" since there is no one gay lifestyle.

Irv: I didn't know one gay person.

Barbara: I can go way back, to high school, and remember there was a gay club downtown, and the thing to do was drive around the block and look at those strange people. And I'm not even sure what gay meant. I just knew it meant weird.

OutSmart: Did any of you suspect your child was gay?

Jane: Never, no, just shy.

Irv: Yes, well, two reasons. Our son came out at 29. He had been a head lifeguard at Water World, with all these cute girls who chased him. But he never had a girlfriend.

Jane: I assumed he was just shy.

Irv: Boys overcome shyness when they like girls. And what cemented it for me, one time I was cleaning out his old car, we were going to sell it, and I found a gay newspaper under the seat. I can't remember the name of it now. I never told Jane about that. And this was several years before he came out. So for me it was not a big surprise.

Barbara: I think that I did, or that I suspected. I actually asked him a year before he came out. He chose not to say yes. I only asked when the elephant was

so clearly in the middle of the room and one of my daughters voiced to me, "Do you think Philip is gay?" At that point I thought, *This has got to be talked about.* I'm there, and she's there, no telling how many other family members are there. But I was still afraid to ask, afraid to insult him in some way or do damage by asking him.

When your child came out, what were the first words out of your mouth?

Blake: I ended the call by saying, "I love you no less, but don't ever expect me to carry a banner or march in a parade."

Barbara: Famous last words.

Dick: In Rick's case, he was always very creative. He never did the things I did. He was always different.

Barbara: That word "different" is one most of us have felt. For me it came in the form of a child who was lonely in some way. I kept looking for an explanation of his loneliness. He even said, "Mom, I'm different from the others."

Jane: I used to lie awake because I thought Paul was suicidal and I couldn't figure out why. Now, looking back, I think he was suicidal.

Blake: Not only did I not know, neither did my daughter, who is lesbian. She was a popular teenager, lots of boyfriends, lots of heartache. She was married with three children, and was 40 before she came out.

OutSmart: What caused her to come out at 40?

Blake: She met a lesbian at work, the chemistry was there. She felt those feelings for the first time.

OutSmart: When your child came out, what were the first words out of your mouth?

Blake: I ended the call by saying, "I love you no less, but don't ever [Blake's voice rises] expect me to carry a banner or march in a parade."

Barbara: Famous last words.

Norma: We've all said those words.

Jane: Our son wrote us a letter from Austin to tell us he was gay. It was our anniversary, and my husband Irv read the letter, and didn't show me until after we had celebrated. Later, we came home from dinner and there was the letter waiting for me. And I cried and cried and cried.

Irv: He wrote it abruptly, "I'm moving into my one-bedroom apartment with a friend, Gary. You can like him or not."

Jane: I cried and cried and cried.

Norma: Jane, did you cry after you found PFLAG?

Jane: Oh yes, I cried through all the meetings for six months. It took me so long. I have come tremendously far.

Irv: It took us six months to find PFLAG.

Blake: It took me 11 years.

Irv: That's why, as PFLAG speakers, our standard advice to different groups is before you come out, find out where the nearest PFLAG chapter is and give your parents the number. Tell your parents this is an organization that can help them.

Jane: Paula came out to us the very week Paul Broussard was murdered. I was so afraid our son was going to be gay-bashed.

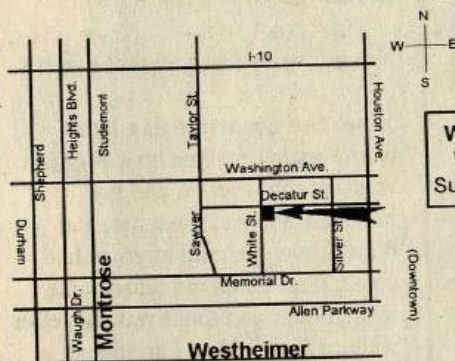
Blake: Each story is unique. There is simply no pattern, how it all unfolds.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

MCCR's Gospel Ensemble Invites

You To A Black Heritage Concert!

Sunday, February 22nd,
from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Worship Services:
Wednesdays 7pm
Sundays 9am & 11am

1919 Decatur St., Houston, TX 77007

For more information, call (713) 861-9149

"An affordable
mechanic you
can trust"—OutSmart



Montrose

AUTO REPAIR

1511 1/2 TAFT AT WEST GRAY

REASONABLE RATES ★ HONEST & RELIABLE
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AUTO ★ SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

CALL JOHN FOWLER AT 713/524-3068

\$19⁹⁵
plus tax

**FLUSH COOLING
SYSTEM**

One coupon per visit. Not valid with
any other offer. Expires 2/28/98.

**SAVE
20% OFF**

TOTAL COST OF REPAIR
(Parts and Labor)

One coupon per visit. Not valid with
any other offer. Expires 2/28/98.

- Eye Exams •
for glasses and contact lenses
- Medical & Surgical Treatment •
for diseases of the eye
- Cosmetic Eyelid Surgery •
including laser skin resurfacing



Stewart Zuckerbrod, M.D.

Asst. Professor Ophthalmology
University of Texas - Houston Medical School

HERMANN
CENTER

713.704.1777 • Fax 713.704.0617
6411 Fannin St.
7th Floor • Jones Pavillion

MANY INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED
Evening Hours Available by Appointment
Proudly Serving the Community!

Are you ready
for a
CHANGE?

- in health
- lifestyle/creating what you want
- general outlook • relationship(s)
- job/profession



Dr. Joseph Paxton uses energy
work, NLP (belief-changing tech-
niques) and other holistic tools to
bring focus, clarity and under-
standing to your life. He is a gifted
psychic known for his highly ac-
curate intuitive readings.

A new perspective
can often make the
difference between
failure & success —
difficulty need not
be any part of your
picture. And "getting
there" can be easy,
fun, and enjoyable.

To schedule a psychic
reading, energy session,
or for more information,
please call

713/523-1627

body/energy work • NLP/nutritional counseling • psychic counseling

Sometimes we hear parents say, "We wish they'd tell us." Sometimes the gay child says, "I wish they would ask." At some point they reach an impasse.

Jane: People ask, "Is it harder on the mother or the father?" You can't say, because each person is so different.

Barbara: Philip had three factors help him come out. I had already asked him the question a year earlier, and he had had two frightening illnesses that forced him to face his life and how he was living it. He was living a lie. The elephant had grown immensely. I called him and said, "Philip, come home. I think you have something to tell us." And at that point he gave in. He walked in the door and poured out his heart and soul. A major transformation for him, for me, for our family. I consider it the beginning of a new life.

Jane: Paul and I are so close, now that he has come out. It helped our family. We had been growing apart, now we are closer than ever. And it helped us all to be better people. I had to examine every facet of my life and my beliefs. I had to examine all of my prejudices, my religion, and God, and the Bible. We used to be Methodist, now we're Unitarian. A big change.

Dick: When Rick came out at 27, he called a family counsel. It was one of those dreaded things you don't want to hear. Like a big cloud was coming. You knew something was going to happen. I didn't want to hear it, I didn't believe it. It was like a bad dream, or a fantasy. Like a chasm opened up. I asked myself, "How could this happen?" All of these years he'd been hiding who he really was. Of course, I guess I didn't want to know who he was. I think we had some suspicions before. It's hard not to notice that he was different ever since he was a little tyke. We had always told him he was special, different, and that was fine. It was implied, "You're okay, but you are not

gay." I was homophobic. I still struggle as a recovering homophobic. At first we thought we could take him to a psychiatrist. Later, we said, "It's okay, but we aren't sure we want your friends coming here." He replied, "But Dad, they've been coming over here all along."

**I still struggle as a
recovering homophobic. At
first we thought we could take
him to a psychiatrist. Later, we
said, "It's okay, but we aren't
sure we want your friends
coming here." He replied, "But
Dad, they've been coming over
here all along."**
Dick

Everyone: Laughter.

Dick: It was a pretty silent night. I still loved him, but it was hard to fathom. It was a hard struggle for five years.

Norma: We have suffered over our response to Rick. We were sitting in the living room in stunned silence. We didn't cry, or scream, or tell him to get out. But there were some loving things we wished we would have done. It was almost like we were outside, observing the proceedings. Rick had books, and telephone numbers of neighborhood parents we knew, but didn't know they had gay children. In some respects, I think we moved quickly with Rick. He told us in November of '87, and we had Easter dinner with he and his partner a few months later. In other ways it moved slowly. I had bought into the word "lifestyle." He knew it would take a long time, it had taken him a long time. Dick really didn't want to deal with it.

Barbara: My reaction was different. I was prepared for it. Our journey has been his internalized homophobia, his healing. In fact, before he came out, I knew Philip was depressed, I could feel it in a room. When

he came out it was a relief. I thought, "Aha! At least we've got the problem now." It was such a mixture of feelings. I can remember Philip crying and sobbing and rocking. He kept sobbing, "I always wanted to be a dad." It's seared on my brain. His sisters were saying, "We love you. We love you." Everyone was crying. You never forget the moment.

OutSmart: What sets all of you apart from other parents who cannot accept their children, or even disown their children?

Blake: It's important to mention that everyone at this table has very loving relationships with their children. There are parents who deny their children exist, tear their name out of the Bible, tear up every snapshot of their kids.

Irv: One word—PFLAG.

Norma: In our family, telling the truth is valued.

Barbara: Intimacy in my family.

OutSmart: How did each of you discover PFLAG?

Norma: Eventually Rick brought PFLAG letterhead to me with the national phone number on it.

Jane: A friend saw PFLAG on TV and called me. So I called.

Barbara: I think a lesbian friend told me about it.

Blake: I heard about it from a group who came to our church. I was very eager to call.

OutSmart: What advice do you have for parents who suspect their children are gay, but don't know how to approach the issue?

Blake: Create the opportunity for the child to feel comfortable with who they are.

Your Kroger Signature store on Montrose offers one-stop-shopping convenience

- ❖ Meal Center
- ❖ Nutrition Center
- ❖ Organic Produce
- ❖ Wine Chiller
- ❖ Floral Shoppe
- ❖ FTD Worldwide Floral Delivery
- ❖ Pharmacy
- ❖ Deli/Pastry Shoppe
- ❖ Self Service Seafood
- ❖ Sara Lee Sandwich Shoppe
- ❖ Rotisserie Chicken
- ❖ Flame Grilling



What's Not To Like?



"What your best friend would never tell you, given with a voluptuous sense of humor."

Madilyn Stein
(713) 622-7232

Psychic Readings

Voted best
 Psychic by
 OutSmart readers

- ★ Astrological Profiles
- ★ Tarot
- ★ Numerology
- ★ Psychometry
- ★ Partner Compatibility Charts: Personal / Professional
- ★ Private Parties and Corporate Events
- ★ Match Making "What A Catch"

Dick: Let the children know you love and accept them no matter what.

Jane: Give them the right atmosphere.

Irv: In the right atmosphere, the obvious thing is to quit saying homophobic remarks around the house.

Dick: It seems the greatest fear of children we've spoken to is rejection by their parents.

Everyone: Yes.

OutSmart: What are some of the specific things PFLAG does to help parents overcome homophobia?

Blake: Speak its name.

Barbara: Many parents fear what they'll find at a PFLAG meeting. Many are afraid to come. They are surprised to find people just like themselves.

Norma: PFLAG responds to parents with love and affirmation. But every parent finds their own way. We never tell them where they should be on their journey.

Jane: We have a helpline that is always answered by a mother, and who will send literature out immediately.

Norma: PFLAG has a wonderful lending library, and some parents prefer to sit quietly with written word.

Blake: We have mentors who will follow up with parents by phone after their first meeting.

Jane: Our small groups help people talk.

Gordon: A loving environment that accepts people.

Blake: Acceptance. And our small groups allow parents to converse with gay and lesbian PFLAG members. That really seems to help.

It is so important for someone to be with someone else with similar experiences. You can tell your best friend, but she'll never totally understand, not like the other PFLAG parents will.
jane

Jane: It is so important for someone to be with someone else with similar experiences. You can tell your best friend, but she'll never totally understand, not like the other PFLAG parents will.

Dick: I had a tremendous anxiety when I went to my first meeting. But when you sit in a small group and you talk and you listen to other parents, it's reaffirming. I thought, "They're a lot like us. Someone else is on their journey."

OutSmart: What books would you recommend for a child to give his or her parents when they come out?

Norma: *The Family Heart*. It is wonderful.

Barbara: For African Americans, there's *All God's Children*.

Norma: *But Lord, They're Gay* is a good book. It's about a woman who went to San Francisco to convert the heathen homosexuals; instead she fell in love with them. Also, for religious purposes, I think *Stranger at the Gate* is very good.

OutSmart: One thing that seems to be consistent with all of you is your acceptance, the ability to accept the curve ball you've been thrown, and simply move on.

Barbara: Giving up your original dreams and creating new ones.

Norma: One of the things that helped me was a friend, in an entirely different setting, who had been to a workshop about the "Death of Dreams." And creating new ones. And I thought, "Ah, that's what's happened in my life. I've had dreams die and now I can make new ones." It was like a window opened up and light came in.

Though every journey is walked alone, there are definite, almost tangible commonalities between these eight parents who have sent them on the path toward celebration. A steadfast refusal to allow society to spoon-feed them, a preference to think liberally no matter how conservative their background, and an inherent strength drawn from their PFLAG membership. Above all, however, the common thread is an unconditional love for their children. A love stronger than generation gaps, stronger than society's conditionings and pressures, stronger than the dreams they nurtured for decades. And though each journey never truly ends, new dreams are born along the way. These parents are living proof.

PFLAG meets the first Sunday of every month at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas Ave., from 2 to 4:30 p.m. For more information call the PFLAG Helpline at 713/867-9020. Find out more about PFLAG Houston at www.pflaghtx.org.

Realtor Appraiser



Sam Ferreri, RAA

281-485-3200

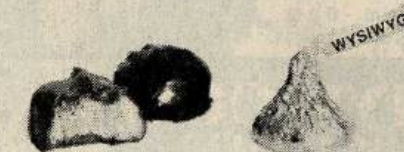
From the Heights & Montrose to Pearland & Alvin, I am the **Appraiser & Realtor of Choice!**

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

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

"22 years experience"

Life May Be A Box of Chocolates.



Don't Expect Any Disappointments From Us!

* what you see is what you get
 If you are coping with financial pressures, you know best what you need: the highest amount for your Life Insurance... Plain and Simple. Our name says it all. We care about the individual. As an independent resource, we charge no fees while we negotiate for you the greatest possible benefits.

We specialize in Federal Government and Veteran's Policies.
 Call now regarding your eligibility for tax-exempt status.

1(800)800-3264
Individual Benefits

<http://www.viatical.com> or Email: info@ibenefit.com

Viatical Association of America member
 Licensed & Registered

All applicants will receive a Free copy of Paul Hampton Crockett's **HIV LAW: A Survival Guide to the Legal System for People Living with HIV**. Protect yourself with the knowledge you cannot afford to be without!

Call Now!



MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC

Magnify God's Grace
Fulfill God's Will
Mirror God's Love
Celebrate God's Glory
Communicate God's Word



Come join us for powerful praise and worship, teachings on the Word of God, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We offer an exciting way to worship the Lord and become part of a great family of believers. It's a great way to spend a Sunday!

WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICE • 11 AM

Current Bible Study Topic: Achieving Financial Success

Adult & Children's Bible Studies • 10 AM • Nursery Provided • Sunday Service: 11 AM
Weekly home groups on Tuesday/Wednesday

3400 MONTROSE, SUITE 600 • PH. 713-528-6756

If you haven't got a Devil Girl living with you, how about this one?

This Devil Girl won't talk back and won't leave her ray gun lying around the house. Why? 'Cause she's a photograph (from the 1955 film, *Devil Girl From Mars*). Many others available; also celebrity autographs, posters; custom framing.

Open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.,
M-F, till 8 on Thursdays.



Hollywood
FRAME GALLERY

Celebrity Autographs
Custom Framing • Movie Collectibles
2431 Bissonnet
713/942-8885

Counseling for Evolution and Revolution



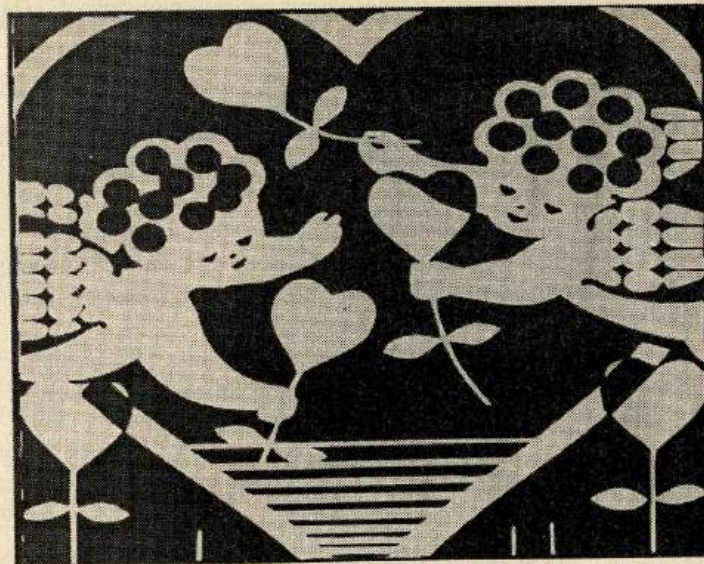
COLLEEN R. LOGAN, PH.D., LPC

As We Evolve Personally,
We Create an Environment for
Social Revolution and Acceptance

- Individual • Groups
- Couples • Training
- Clinical Supervision

713.523.4567

811 Westheimer, Suite 110A Houston, Texas 77006



The Dance of Dating by Joyce Gayles

Whether you define yourself as lesbian, bisexual or don't define yourself at all, the idea of dating another woman is a newly available experience in our culture—born from the increased freedom, in spite of homophobia, to express who you are and make connection with other women for romance, expanding social networks, attracting a partner and fun.

What is dating and how do you know when you are doing it? Dating activities include everything from inviting someone to have lunch or dinner, to working out together, to long talks, to having sex with someone. These are also activities (with the exception of sex) that women commonly do with their close and casual friends. They are also typical activities that women share "in relationship." So, the question that almost always arises is what distinguishes dating from friendship, from being "in relationship."

Dating is a process in which attraction energy, emotions, shared interests, values, experiences and passion combine with your intention to explore a romantic involvement with another woman. Romance is a much-maligned experience in our culture. However, in its truest sense, romance brings forth your fullest capacity to connect and relate to another human being. Romance is a *passionate spiritual-emotional-sexual involvement...that reflects a high regard for the value of each other's person* (Braden, 1980), and dating is the matrix in which romantic involvement begins. Within the dating matrix, you are involved in an ongoing process of gathering and processing information about each other and creating meaning from the process.

It's true that many women see dating as a way to meet new

friends and expand their social networks. In fact, the energy of romance frequently evolves out of the friendships in women's lives. The primary purpose of dating, however, is not the development of friendships. Dating is a process that immerses you in the energy of romance.

Your Dating Paradigm

Paradigms are extremely powerful because they form the foundation of your thoughts, feelings and behaviors. What you believe becomes your reality. You can be/do/have no more than you believe is possible.

Your ideas about dating and relating are your paradigm that determines your experience of dating. Got you thinking yet? So where do your ideas about dating and relating come from? The same place as all your other ideas about yourself, others, and the world—the institutions of our social structure and the specific life situations you've experienced.

Here are three prevalent beliefs shared by people in our society, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race or ethnicity. Such beliefs shape all your experiences of yourself, of other people and of how the world works:

- **Life is a struggle.** You've got to work hard to make it. Things may be going well now, but they won't be for long. I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop.
- **Scarcity.** There's not enough of what I want (love, money, time, jobs, pleasure). Therefore, I have to do without it, grab whatever of it comes, grab more than I need for later when it's gone.
- **I'm inadequate.** There's something wrong with me. I'm not good enough, talented enough, rich enough, smart enough, young enough.

Here are a couple of other beliefs that strongly influence women in our culture, regardless of sexual orientation:

- **I'm not complete without a relationship.** This belief is a reflection of the way women are conditioned to seek a sense of adequacy as opposed to men whose quest for adequacy most often comes through achievement.
- **Sex is dirty, bad, wrong,** and you shouldn't do it unless you're married.

Growing up female in our society means that you received many overt and covert messages about sexuality that were harsh, confusing and shame-based. Most certainly, the religious messages you received about sex declared it as inherently "evil" or at best, mysterious and only sanctioned within the bond of matrimony. Any experience of sexual abuse most definitely contributed to distorted beliefs about sexual feelings and expression. In addition to heterosexually based messages, your emotio-sexual feelings toward same-gender peers weren't inhibited by negative messages about homosexuality that prevented or distorted same-gender sexual exploration.

Put together, these influences create an old paradigm or belief system that causes women to be denied (and to deny themselves) the experience of romantic dating. Women relating to women are often forced into premature and frequently ill-



robert
snellgrove,
lmsw-acp

counselor &
psychotherapist

713-522-7014

4200 MONTROSE • SUITE 540



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



Saturn of Houston

Southwest Frwy @ Beltway 8, exit Bissonnet

713/777-6100

10050 SW Freeway Houston, TX 77074

You've got the car, bought the house,
your clothes are to die for, and your jewelry's fab.

Just ask yourself one question:
Is it insured?

JEFFREY T. BULES
Your Insurance Specialist

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

713.661.7700



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

RANDY MITCHMORE, D.D.S.

LIFE SMILES



Your Smile is Unique

And your smile is important! It turns away wrath, welcomes a friend. It relaxes you and it gives your face a signature.

Randy Mitchmore, D.D.S., welcomes you to his practice family at LifeSmiles—a dental practice of care, of service, of relationship.

General Dentistry • Diagnostics • Preventive and
Cosmetic Dentistry • Computer Imaging
Restorative Dentistry • Implantation • Hospital Care

713.592.9300

2617 WEST HOLCOMBE BOULEVARD @ KIRBY, SUITE E
HOUSTON, TX 77025

Improve Your Look!



We feature:
**Polo • Giorgio Armani
Moschino • Alain Mikli
Donna Karan**
plus many more new
and exciting collections!

OPTIMAX

EYEWEAR SHOWROOM

2427 Rice Blvd.

(in Rice Village)

713.995.9300

\$50 Gift Certificate

Good on purchase of Frame & RX Lenses • Not valid with any other offer exp. 2/28/98
Must present at time of purchase.

suited matches because of beliefs about scarcity, inadequacy, shame about sexual feelings and because of the secrecy perpetuated in a homophobic society. Or women are forced to simply deny or sublimate their emotio-sexual interests in other women. This can lead to intense, and sometimes conflictual, friendships when romantic feelings are present and denied. Even women who comfortably identify as lesbian or bisexual will tend to be uncomfortable with sexual feelings and expressions of romantic interest.

New Paradigm for Dating

There is a new paradigm that can offer you, as a woman, a different experience of dating. This paradigm is a process-oriented system that will support you to have dating experiences that are comfortable and enjoyable and will encourage you to be present to your experiences of meeting, dating and relating. It encourages you to know your definitions of and expectations for dating. In other words, identify your particular reasons for dating. For example, are you dating now because you're ready to attract a partner? Or are you dating to explore romantic involvement, but you're not yet ready to move toward partnering? Or are you seeing dating as an arena in which you can practice new skills of self-expression and relating? Harville Hendrix, in *Keeping the Love You Find* (1992), calls the latter purpose "utilitarian dating."

• Redefine successful dating.

Learn to see dating as a process rather than a specific outcome. Your process of dating is influenced by your particular purpose for dating and is an experience that unfolds over time with each specific romantic involvement. In this process, you are learning about yourself and developing your self-expression and interpersonal skills.

• Undo your cultural conditioning.

Identify and shift your limiting beliefs about yourself, other people and how the world works. Your beliefs are powerful and determine what you are able to be, do and have in your life

- **Stay curious.** When you are able to see dating as a process and you are no longer dominated by limiting beliefs, then you are able to stay in a space of curiosity about yourself, the other person, and the experiences you are having together. Curiosity supports you to be open to getting to know the other person, to remain open to be known and to be present to your experiences.
- **Challenge the scarcity mentality.** Beliefs about scarcity are a significant aspect of cultural conditioning. Beliefs about scarcity are a leading cause of premature partnering and commitment. Challenging the scarcity mentality is a major part of undoing your cultural conditioning
- **Do your personal healing/growth work.** Your sense of health and well-being is the bedrock of your dating experiences. You are much more likely to have enjoyable dating experiences when your sense of yourself is characterized by self-awareness and feelings of high self-worth, inner peace and balance, joy, etc. Feelings of this sort typically result from processes of healing and personal growth.
- **Practice clear communication skills.** Positive dating experiences go hand in hand with your ability to communicate your thoughts, feelings, needs and intentions.
- **Be supported by your community.** Don't be a lone ranger about your dating. Seek support for having positive dating experiences from the people in your life.

This article is excerpted from The Dating Dance: A Guide for Women Dating Women by Joyce M. Gayles, Ph.D. The Dating Dance is due to be published in Spring 1998 by Transformation Works Publishing. Dr. Joyce Gayles is a Houston-based clinical psychologist and professional small-business coach.

Start your new year off right
with a clean home!



MAID IN THE SHADE

Residential & Commercial Cleaning Service

713/665-Maid

713/665-6243

Making People Happy Since 1988
Satisfaction Guaranteed!

- Free Estimates
- Dependable & Professional
- Bonded for Your Protection
- Regular Repeat Cleaning
- One-time Cleaning
- "Custom" Cleaning
- Move-in/Move-out Cleaning
- Realtor Make-Ready Cleaning
- Office Clearing
- Gift Certificates Available

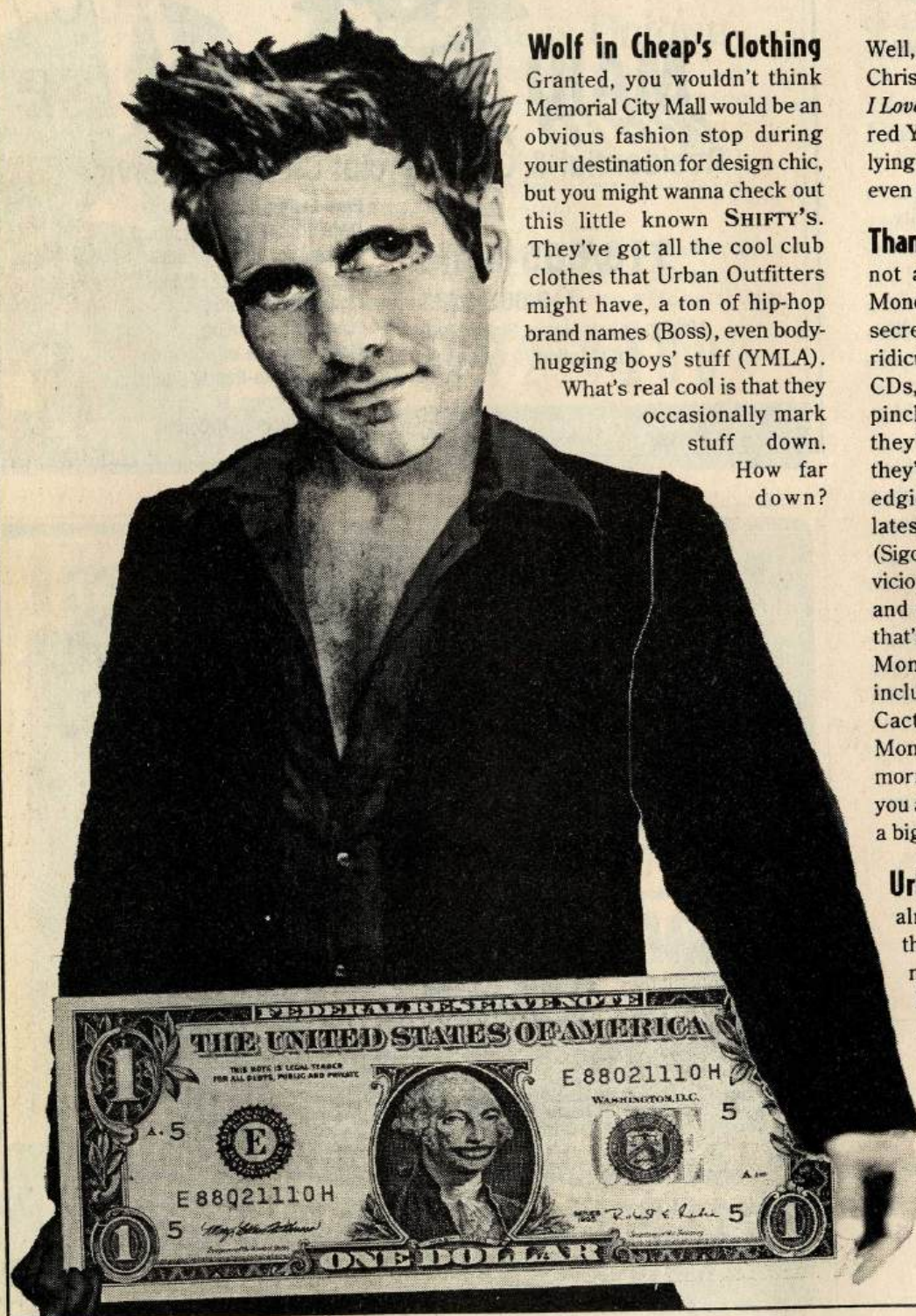


Theresa DiMenno
Photography
713/464-4471

Valentine
Specials

Q Tips

Hip tips for the queers.
Listen up. by Steven Foster



Wolf in Cheap's Clothing

Granted, you wouldn't think Memorial City Mall would be an obvious fashion stop during your destination for design chic, but you might wanna check out this little known SHIFTY's. They've got all the cool club clothes that Urban Outfitters might have, a ton of hip-hop brand names (Boss), even body-hugging boys' stuff (YMLA).

What's real cool is that they occasionally mark stuff down. How far down?

Well, just before Christmas, there were vintage *I Love Lucy* T-shirts, Slip pants, and a zesty red YMLA shirt on a rack for (we're not lying here) \$1. At those prices, you don't even need to try on the stuff.

Thank God It's Monday Okay, so there's not a big reason to be excited about Mondays. But Mondays are the best-kept secret at CACTUS VIDEO. While Cactus is ridiculously overpriced when it comes to CDs, their video department is a penny-pinching moviehead's dream. Because they're located in evercool Montrose, they've always got multiple copies of the edgiest releases (Araki's *Nowhere*, the latest Parker Posey flick), hard-to-finds (Sigourney Weaver as the evil queen in the vicious *Showtime* retelling of *Snow White*), and they've got a Lavender film section that's unmatched. The great news is that Monday movies are two-for-one (that includes new releases). Bonus points to Cactus for letting you drop off those Monday flicks before 10 a.m. Wednesday morning. So indulge the Siskel & Ebert in you and still have enough cash left over for a big box of Raisinettes.

Urban, Urbane We admit it. We're almost topped-out of the U word, but there are still two Ultra cool places that make us forgive the overused adjective. For food, it's URBANA. Food-o-phile Allison Cook was caught there recently gushing over the food—and every glowing accolade was justified. With a sprightly new-wave art-deco interior and food to match, Urbana's a welcome addition to the 'hood. Service rarely stumbles and the atmosphere has a keen, edgy



charge that bristles with excitement. This one's gonna be famous. • With their "goods for urban living" tag line, CITIES is also begging the inner-loop trendspeak. But, luckily, Cities delivers those goods. Tucked comfortably in the restoration-looking brick mini-mall on Westheimer between Deitrich's and Quatrone, Cities features an array of charming tchotchkes for hearth and home. Crushed velvet throws in forest green, iridescent rose, caramel and dark chocolate are two-toned, sensual winter delights (and a steal at \$159). Leopard's in again and they've got trendy velvet leopard-print buckwheat pillows for just \$55 to satisfy your animal urges to decorate your den. Star-shaped and flower-formed tuffets are cute enough for the kid's room and elegant enough for the living room. And their line of retro clocks and toys are sublimely swoony in their hip-kitsch factor. With these two fine inner-loop haunts, Montrose ain't suburban, it's superburban.

Ear Candy It's Valentine's month. Time to get romantic on the musical front. Here are our top seduction picks, three different, but equally delicious flavors. **ERYKAH BADU LIVE.** Every critic on the planet went berserk with her *Baduism* CD with an Erika-credible sexy groove, simultaneously earthy and ethereal, and hip in its spirited hop. But it's her live album that really shines. They used to say if you couldn't get laid to Barry White, you were hopeless. They'll say the same thing about Badu. The rock instrumentalists **PELL MELL** have a new CD coming out, but we prefer their last release, *INTERSTATE*. It's great driving music (and that trip doesn't need to be taken in a car, if you catch our drift). The rolls, ebbs, flows, thrusts, and drives make this disc a must for any sensual traveler. But if you like your romance a little more rowdy, check out **CURVE's COME CLEAN.** Toni Halliday was doing Garbage before Shirley Manson ever dug through the musical trash, and after an extended vacation, Toni and Curve are back—with a vengeance. Their words are almost demonically dark, with distorted guitars and feedback that dig into your back with all the nasty aggression of a lover's fingernails. It's sexy, sexy stuff (if you go for that sort of thing).

Stop

feeling guilty about

EXERCISE VIDEOS

you don't use

& diets

you can't follow.

We believe when it comes to exercise and healthy eating, one thing holds true—if you don't enjoy it, you won't do it. That's why we go out of our way to make sure you have a good time at Muscle Mechanics.

You see, Muscle Mechanics isn't your typical health club. We're not some exclusive hangout for fashion models and professional athletes. We're a private, friendly, non-intimidating place where you'll feel comfortable exercising. Our staff gives you all the support you need.

And because exercise and healthy eating go hand in hand, we also give you a lowfat living plan you can actually live with.

So stop feeling guilty and start feeling good at Muscle Mechanics. Call 713-523-5330 today!



MUSCLE MECHANICS
713•523•5330
4316 YUPON

You Deserve a Health Care Provider Who Understands Your Needs

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

**GAY
+ LESBIAN
HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS**

Referral Line 713-523-4700

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

A LAWYER WHO MAKES THINGS HAPPEN.



Board
Certified in
Personal
Injury Trial
Law by Texas
Board of Legal
Specialization

**SHANNON T. WARREN
& ASSOCIATES**

- In practice for 21 years
- Taught law at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law
- Handles ALL your legal needs

1210 HAWTHORNE • HOUSTON 77006

(713) 523-0420

FAX (713) 522-8992

GrooveOut

by Chris Sill

PURE CATIE CURTIS

Critically acclaimed singer/songwriter Catie Curtis is making waves in the folk music arena. With her self-titled second release she deservedly stands on the brink of major stardom, which is no news to her lesbian and gay fans. The album has been nominated for Album of the Year by the Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards, to be held March 9 in New York.

Born and raised in the small town of Saco, Maine, Curtis purchased her first drum set with a \$50 loan from her father. She later picked up the acoustic guitar and began performing in local clubs.

After graduating from Brown University she played the grassroots folk circuit for five years before her big break came. In 1996, Guardian Records released her debut album, *Truth From Lies*. The album received widespread acclaim from both gay and straight press.

Curtis is often called a story collector. Her new material intimately recounts stories about people and places from her past. "I Don't Cry Anymore" recalls youthful memories of first love at 16, while "River Winding" is a tour through a dying New England mill town. The album's first single, "Soulfully," describes that all-too-familiar and awkward phase of early romance: "I woke up at 5 o'clock and I couldn't get back to sleep. I kept myself from calling you by watching the TV, but all the faces that I saw, they just turned into this, the gentle of your hands and the tender of your kiss." Her vocal delivery is pure and honest, like her songwriting.

Curtis was joined by a number of musicians on the new album, most notably Roy Bittan, the piano player for Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band. Bittan produced the album as well as providing keyboards.

REVIEWS

ARIA *Aria* (Astor Place Recordings)—Opera meets Enigma? Well not quite, but you may think so upon first listen. Paul Schwartz and Mario Grigorov have beautifully fused two drastically different genres of music into one. They have taken the works of Verdi, Puccini and Mozart (among others) and set them to contemporary downtempo beats. What's really refreshing here, and what makes this interpretation work, is the minimal

use of electronic instrumentation. Live orchestral arrangements accompany two flawless vocalists, Rebecca Luker and Michelle Ivey. Some of opera's greats are represented here; *Otello*, *The Magic Flute*, *Carmen*, *L'Elisir D'Amore*. So you never knew the words to "Un Bel Di" from *Madame Butterfly*? Not to worry, now you can sing along in four different languages. *Aria* is a must. Perfect for that stuffy dinner party.



ROBERT MILES

23am (Arista) —In the complex world of dance music where more and more DJs are producing their own music, it's rare to see a major label back the efforts of a DJ/artist through two albums. America gets a second chance to visit Robert Miles' world of "dream music" with his latest vision *23am*. Penned the father of the dream music movement due to the worldwide success of *Children* in 1996, Miles delves deeper into his dream on this outing, creating a conceptual album that can hardly be categorized as dance. "Full Moon" is the strongest contender for club play and fortunately will be the first single released in America in early spring. Other highlights include guest vocalist Kathy Sledge (Sister Sledge) on two songs and some amazing saxophone solos by Michel Gaucher. *23am* won't have you dancing all night, but it will chill you out when you come home. Sweet dreams.



VARIOUS ARTISTS—*Jackie Brown* (Maverick) Regardless if you've seen the film, you must listen to this savvy collection of '70s soul from the soundtrack. Mixed between some graphic dialogue (it is a Quentin Tarantino film) are classics like Brothers Johnson's "Strawberry Letter 23," Bill Withers' "Who Is He (And What Is He to You)," and Minnie Riperton's

"Inside My Love." Of course it's not all a soul story here—rounding out the bill is the big bad "Tennessee Stud" by Johnny Cash and the silky smooth Randy Crawford gem "Streetlife." Good music is timeless; take a trip back to when soul was cool. What are you waiting for?



ROZALLA *Coming Home* (Popular)—A fitting title for the former Queen of Rave's new album. It marks her return to the U.S. on a new label (Popular Records) and her second creative collaboration with the songwriting/production team Band of Gypsies, the duo responsible for her early hits "Everybody's Free" and "Are You Ready to Fly." The album is full of pop/dance material sure to please fans anticipating new songs from the Zambian-born singer. A spring release date means you may have to wait for the full CD,

IN MY CD PLAYER:

BLONDIE
Essential Blondie: Picture This Live (EMI)

DIMITRI FROM PARIS
Deluxe House of Funk (Mixmag US)

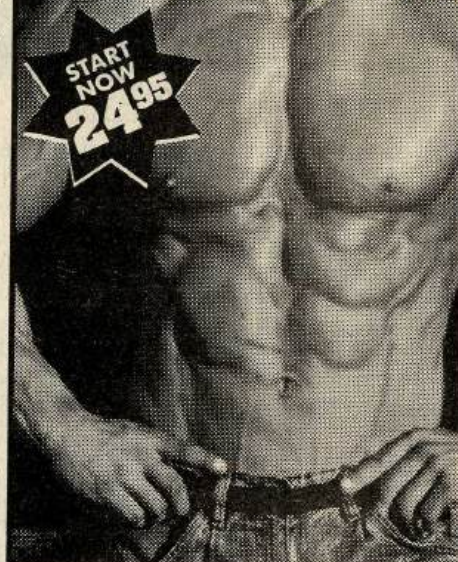
GLADYS KNIGHT & THE PIPS
The Best of Gladys Knight & the Pips (Capitol)

RANDY CRAWFORD
Every Kind of Mood (Atlantic)

Chris Sill spins tunes at Rich's and pushes dance records on club kids at Atomic Music.

This Year...

THIS GYM



START
NOW
24.95

HOUSTON GYM
880-9191

233 Birdsall Near Memorial Park and Downtown

M-F 6-10 • Sat 10-6 • Sun 12-5

NOW OPEN

We Cure Baldness



Replace
your hair
for as little as
\$2
per day

**Apollo Chambers
Hair Clinic**

Texas' Only
TOTAL Hair Restoration Clinic

713.669.0031

ASK FOR LENNY

3843 N. Braesword, Houston 77025

Calendar of Events

Please note the Calendar deadline for OutSmart's March issue is 5 p.m., Friday, February 13.

February

- 4 The Politics of AIDS.** A discussion of current political issues surrounding the HIV/AIDS crisis featuring John Michael Gonzalez (trustee, AIDS Action Foundation, Washington, D.C.), Harry Livesay (director, Bering Advocacy Project), and facilitated by Gary Eixera (The Houston Black-Tie Dinner). 6:15 pm @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. A performance of the play *Ascendancy* will follow at 8 pm; a percentage of the ticket sales will benefit a designated beneficiary of The Houston Black-Tie Dinner, Inc. More info: 713/52-STAGE.
- 4 Car Wash** to benefit the charities of Outrage, Inc. 10 am-3 pm @ Gentry, 2303 Richmond. Rain date is Feb. 21.
- 7 The Strange Demise of Jim Crow.** This film is the remarkable story of the civil rights movement in Houston, home to the South's largest African-American community. Seen through the eyes of the participants, the documentary reveals the secret agreements and controversial news blackouts that facilitated the desegregation of lunch counters, hotels, restaurants, and theaters in the 1960s. The film is emblematic of the quiet, almost stealthy way many southern cities un-

timately desegregated. Directed by David Berman (USA, 1997, 57 min.). \$5 general admission. 7:30 pm @ The Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. 713/639-7515.

7 Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents (HGLP) get together for a family activity—Valentine's Dance/Party! Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr. Call for time: 713/284-4939.

7&8 "Tales from a Bitch Girl" & "Peeling the Onion." "Tales" is a new solo performance work by Los Angeles-based performer Danielle Brazelle. This piece is filled with adult perversions, shattered illusions of purity & twisted journeys of childhood memories. It is a hard-hitting portrait of what it really means to grow up as a queer little girl in America. In addition to her performance, Brazelle will also lead "Peeling the Onion," a performance & writing workshop for lesbian, bisexual & questioning women. "Tales" is Saturday @ 8 pm. Tickets are \$12, \$10 (members), \$7 (students & seniors). "Onion" is Sunday @ 1 pm. Admission is \$10. Both will be @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. For 24-hour reservations, call 713/228-0914.

7-9 Barber and Bell. Young violinist Joshua Bell came to national attention at age 14, when he won the Seventeen Magazine/General Motors Competition.

Today, at age 29, Bell has earned a reputation as a dynamic performer as well as a dedicated and thoughtful musician who has successfully bridged the gap from child prodigy to mature artist. In these concerts, he will perform the Barber Violin Concerto; also on the program are Weber's rousing Overture to *Oberon* and the popular Dvorak Symphony No. 7. Sat. and Mon. at 8 pm, Sun. at 2:30 pm @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets range from \$13-\$59 and may be purchased at the Houston Ticket Center in Jones Hall, at all Ticketmaster outlets, or charged by phone at 713/227-ARTS.

11 Interfaith Tu B'shvat Seder. Spirituality, Ethics, & the Environment with Rabbi Arthur Waskow, author of *Wrestling With God I and II* and director of the Shalom Center. \$5 and bring raw fruits or nuts. 7 pm @ the Jewish Community Center Auditorium, 5601 South Braeswood. For reservations/information, call Gary at 713/729-8786.

11 Adolescents and AIDS. A discussion of changing attitudes and the increase of infection among adolescents. Basic HIV-transmission information will also be provided. Led by Amy Dolph and Mike Mizwa (AIDS Foundation Houston). 6:15 pm @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. A performance of the play *Ascendancy* will follow at 8 pm; a percentage of the ticket sales will benefit AIDS Foundation Houston. More info: 713/52-STAGE.

14 Valentine's Day Bash. It's an evening with Girls With Guitars, Brian, and Kat Drake. So join 'em for a music-filled night starting at 7 pm, with only a \$5 cover, at Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Need more information? Call 713/52-AROMA.

14 Winter Gala. The 1998 Human Rights Campaign Winter Gala will feature special guests Mitchell Anderson (TV's *Party of Five*), Mary Fisher (may best be remembered for her appearance before the delegation of the Republican National Convention in August of 1992) and Donna Red Wing (national field director for the Human Rights Campaign). (See interview with Mary Fisher on page 35.) The gala evening kicks off at 6:30 pm with a VIP cocktail reception & silent auction. Dinner seating will begin at 7:30 pm followed by the program featuring the special guests. The evening, which concludes with dancing to live music, will take place at the elegant Wyndham Warwick Hotel. Tickets are \$150 and include the pre-dinner cocktail reception, silent auction & dinner. Tickets for the VIP cocktail party with Fisher, Anderson and Red Wing, plus dinner are \$200. Tickets can be ordered through Box Office Tickets at 1-800-494-TIXS. To purchase a table for 10, call 713/520-5153.

22 Judy Nelson (Martina Navratilova's ex and Rita Mae Brown's ex) will be the featured speaker for LiB, a women's empowerment group. Women only. 7 pm. Call 713/529-0077 for location/more info.

21 ComedySportz-Houston and celebrities improvise to benefit Gilda's Club, a cancer wellness support center named for Gilda Radner. Gilda's Club is the official national charity of ComedySportz, and similar benefits are happening nationwide in February. ComedySportz believes in the healing power of humor, having performed more than 1,000 benefits nationwide. It was this common bond and the inspiration of Radner's comedic work that brought ComedySportz to Gilda's Club. 8 pm @ DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, I-10 at North Main. Tickets \$10, and all ticket proceeds benefit Gilda's Club. For tickets or for more information, call 713/521-2226.

22 Between Travesty and Transfiguration is a new work by photographer Joel-Peter Witkin, who will speak about his work at the first annual Christopher Kalil Memorial Lecture Series. Witkin has achieved notoriety for photographing mutilated bodies, corpses, skeletons and stuffed animals, as well as dwarves, hunchbacks, freaks and hermaphrodites in tableaux filled with references to religious icons and images from art history. His images alternately attract and repulse. 2 pm @ The Museum of Fine Arts' Brown Auditorium, 1001 Bissonnet. A reception follows the lecture at the Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose. The lecture and reception are free and open to the public, on a first-come, first-served basis. Some material may not be suited for younger audiences. For more information, call 713/639-7500.

25-Mar. 1 Ski Weekend presented by IGLOO (International Gay and Lesbian Outdoor Organizations). For \$55 plus your airfare and accommodations, you can enjoy a welcome wine and cheese party, a T-shirt, two evenings of entertainment (comedy acts, live music, dancing), a pajama party, ski races, ski pass discounts and activities for all levels of skiers. Accommodations for four nights range from \$100-\$260 based on double occupancy. If this sounds like fun, you can call your local organization, Houston Outdoor Group (HOG), at 713/KAMP-OUT, or direct your e-mail to IGLOO@tiac.net for more info.

28 Deadline to submit applications to be a '98 financial beneficiary of Outrage. (See page 59 for details.)

Planning Ahead Mar/Apr

Mar. 3-15 Rent, the play that has singlehandedly reinvigorated Broadway, makes its Houston debut. It is a joyous, heartbreaking and often breathtaking musical that celebrates a community of artists as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world. The success of *Rent* is tempered by the death of its creator, Jonathan Larson, who died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on the morning of January 25, 1996, just hours after *Rent*'s final dress rehearsal Off-Broadway and 10 days before his 36th birthday. *Rent* has become the most honored musical since *A Chorus Line* in 1976, winning the 1996 Tony Award for Best Musical and Best Musical citations from the New York Drama Critics Circle, the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle. *Rent* is only the seventh musical to win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Tickets \$35.50 to \$55. More info: 713/629-3700.

Mar. 6 Getting to Know You. Outrage, a non-profit fund-raising organization for HIV/AIDS, will be hosting a "Getting to Know You" party for prospective members & sponsors. 7-9 pm @ Cafe Artiste, 1601 West Main. Free light buffet. To RSVP: 713/706-2508.

Mar. 13&15 Little Women. Adapted many times for stage and screen, Louisa May Alcott's classic novel now comes to the opera house, where it will be sung

Continued on page 55

The Boy Who Knew He Was a Girl

Ma Vie en Rose (My Life in Pink) recounts the story of a child who understands that what is normal for him is not for other people.



Director Alain Berliner with Georges du Fresno in *Ma Vie en Rose*, which starts Feb. 13 at Greenway Theatre.

Near the beginning of the film *Ma Vie en Rose*, seven-year-old Ludovic has made a friend at school. When Ludovic is picked up from school by his grandmother, she asks, "Isn't he your dad's boss' son?" Ludovic nods. "Are you pals?" He answers yes, then adds, "We're going to marry when I'm not a boy." Somewhat confused, Granny asks, "Not a boy?" To Ludovic's affirmative reply, Granny says, "You have a lot to teach me." • And teach he does. Only problem is that, though Granny is willing to learn, Ludovic's parents are not. His mother does try at first but becomes overwhelmed with Ludovic's dressing in women's clothing; the father is an ignorant jerk—they reverse sentiments later in the film. • Ludovic tries to please his parents by playing sports, but he is simply way out of his league. He even tries to commit suicide by laying in the garage freezer with the lid closed. When he's found, the entire family is eager to please him. His father gives him one wish, anything he wants. Ludovic wants to wear a skirt to a neighbor's party. You'll have to see the film to see the results. • Though Ludovic often dresses up in women's clothing during the film, he is not a transvestite. Through it all, it is made very clear that he *knows* he's supposed to be a girl. Doesn't matter if you're transgendered, gay, bisexual, straight, or anywhere in between—if you've ever felt different, outside the norm, you'll be able to identify with Ludovic's struggle to be who he is. • Golden Globe winner of this year's Best Foreign Film, *Ma Vie en Rose* is beautifully acted and written, intricately laced with humor, and sensitively directed by Alain Berliner.

INTERVIEW WITH ALAIN BERLINER, DIRECTOR OF MA VIE EN ROSE

OutSmart: Where did the idea for the movie come from?
Alain Berliner: The screenwriter, Chris Vander Stappen, brought me the idea because she's a woman who thought from a very early age that she was a man. She wrote it but reversing it.

Was it difficult working with a child with such a role?

No, not really. I was very lucky to find him because he's so mature, and he's older than he is in the movie. When we were shooting, he was 11 years old. It's an age when you're able to understand a lot of things. He comes from

Queers Do It on Video!

QuAC, Houston's Queer Artist Collective, is currently seeking submissions of queer experimental video for "Mix-up Video," an evening of new video works, part of the 1998 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Artists are encouraged to submit queer videos from every imaginable genre. (But keep those "home movies" to yourselves!) The only rules: **1. Keep it short!** Preferred video length: 20 minutes or less. **2. Keep it VHS!** QuAC is unable to screen any other format. **3. Keep it Queer!** This is part of a gay and lesbian film festival, after all. • Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 1998. Selected videos will screen on Saturday, May 30, 1998, as part of the 1998 Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Submissions can be sent to QuAC Mix-up Video, P.O. Box 66333, Houston, TX 77266. For entry forms, visit QuAC on the Web at www.neosoft.com/~travism/quac.htm or e-mail to dwl@diverseworks.org to have one sent to you. For more info: 713/527-0304.



Members of QuAC.

Continued from previous page

an actor's family, his mother being an actress; he has a twin sister, so he knows what happens with girls; and he knows what it's like to be an actor—he was on stage for the first time when he was five. Did you have any problems because of the subject matter of the movie?

We had a lot of problems during the shooting in France. The administration has to give you authorization to shoot with young kids, and they didn't want to give it to us. We asked them, "What's the problem with the script?" And they said, "It's not with the script, it's the subject."

Do you think they felt that it's not possible that a child can think that?

Absolutely not. It was just that the subject was disturbing to them. But when the movie was finished, it didn't create any controversy. It was just during the shooting.

Do you think that Europeans are more open about this subject matter?

I don't know because I haven't been in the U.S. very long. But I am surprised how much the gay community is accepted here. It's absolutely not the case in Europe. It seems that Americans are much more open-minded than we are in Europe.

Do you feel that Europeans are accepting of gay people?

I think maybe gay people are more accepted here [in the States], maybe it's just the big city [L.A.].

I assumed that Europeans are more open, at least about sex in general or at least nudity.

France is a very conservative country. People say the grass is greener on the other side—it's very green in the U.S.

—Blase DiStefano



Former lesbian Norma McCorvey—she was the "Jane Roe" in the 1973 Roe vs. Wade case—is now a born-again Christian. Though that landmark case made abortion legal, McCorvey never had an abortion and is now an anti-abortion activist! See it all in *Roe vs. Roe: Baptism by Fire* on Cinemax, February 10 and 19.

PATRICK HARRISON/CINEMAX

Continued from page 53

in English. *Little Women* is a charming chronicle of the coming of age of the four March sisters—Jo, Beth, Meg and Amy—in 19th-century England. This is Houston Opera Studio's world premiere presented by Houston Grand Opera @ Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith St. Tickets range from \$15-\$25; by phone at 713/227-ARTS or in person at both Houston Ticket Center locations (Wortham Theater Center & Jones Hall) & all Ticketmaster outlets.

Mar. 28 The Diana Awards. The Diana Foundation, founded in 1952, has been active in the community supporting many organizations through their fund-raising efforts. This annual awards show will benefit The Assistance Fund; a community service award will be given; and there will be the traditional toast of members and friends of the foundation. It will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel. Ticket prices begin at \$95. For more information, call 713/639-2000.

Apr. 24-26 Enchanted Rock. The Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) has already booked three sites at Enchanted Rock, and since this is always a popular trip, it's important to reserve your space early. Call the Hogline at 713/KAMP-OUT.

Theater

• **Ascendancy.** Thrust together by deperate circumstances, a group of strangers in a New York AIDS clinic first become friends, then family. When on the brink of despair, a glimmer of hope from the most unlikely of sources rekindles their commitment to continue their struggle. Through February 15 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh. Tickets range from \$10-\$28 and may be purchased by calling Advantix at 1-800-776-6048.

• **Bang the Drum Slowly** is a new adaptation of the novel and the 1973 film that has been called the greatest baseball movie of all time. It's an unlikely story of two very different teammates, Henry "Author" Wiggins and Bruce Pearson, whose journey to the World Series becomes a test of human dignity. More than the game is at stake as Author learns that Bruce is hiding a fatal disease. Their friendship allows Bruce the dignity he deserves and leaves the audience exalted. February 25-March 29 @ Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. For tickets/more info: 713/868-7516.

• **Distant Voices**, a work in progress by Houston playwright Celeste Bedford-Walker, is a play with music based on the memories of the lives of the people buried in College Memorial Park, a long-forgotten cemetery in Fourth Ward, Houston, Texas. February 19-March 1 @ The Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street, 713/520-0055.

• **Four Dogs and a Bone** is an adult comedy by John Patrick Shanley that mixes a middle-aged movie producer, a seemingly guileless actress in need of that one big part, a scheming ingenue and a naive young writer

with a hit, then turns them loose on each other. The beautiful people are at it with enough lies and backbiting for a cast of thousands as these four dogs go after their bone. Through February 15 @ Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. For tickets/more info: 713/868-7516.

• **Long Day's Journey Into Night.** In a new production featuring Oscar-winning actress Ellen Burstyn, this play by Eugene O'Neill strips away layers of secrets and half-truths to arrive at the core of one family's dysfunction. Considered to be O'Neill's masterpiece—and one of the greatest works of the American theater—*Long Day's Journey Into Night* explores the American landscape in 1912, centering on issues of drug addiction, illness, and alcoholism and their effect on the Tyrone family. February 20-March 15 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$31-\$46) are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

• **Madame Butterfly.** Houston Grand Opera begins its winter repertory with acclaimed director Francesca Zambello's new production of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. This elegant and richly symbolic presentation of the classic stars Russian sensation Lyuba Kazamovskaya as the naive young geisha. It will be sung in Italian with English surtitles. Tickets (\$21-\$176) are available at both Houston Ticket Center locations and at all Ticketmaster locations, or by phone at 713/227-ARTS. Through February 15 @ Wortham Theater Center's Brown Theater, Texas Avenue @ Smith Street.

• **Pterodactyls** offers a hysterical though sometimes dark look at a family that takes dysfunction to new lows. The play is populated by the Duncan family, an upper-crust, East-Coast set who live in a protected, false world of their own creation. Emma, the Duncans' young daughter, is a hypochondriac who forgets things. Tommy, her fiancé, wears a dress and works as a maid. The family matron, Grace, drinks, shops, drinks, plans parties, drinks, ignores her daughter and drinks a lot.

Arthur, the man of the house, lives in a world of abstractions and loves his daughter a bit too much. When the prodigal son Todd returns and announces he has AIDS, their illusionary pretenses are slowly destroyed, leaving them exposed to and unprepared for reality. Tickets are \$15 (adults) and \$12 (seniors & students). The play is not appropriate for children. 8 pm, Fridays & Saturdays, through February 28 @ Masquerade Theatre, 720 West 11th, 713/861-7045.

• **Seven Guitars** centers around Floyd "Schoolboy" Barton, a blues guitarist from Pittsburgh with a chance at a recording contract in 1948 Chicago. Agents beckon Floyd to Chicago to keep on turning out the vinyl but Floyd's priority is to reassemble his life in the Steel City. He has to win his sweetheart back, get his band together and settle the score with a white pawnshop owner. Audiences should be riveted by this man's quest for a dream that seems just within reach. February 13-March 14 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue. Tickets (\$31-\$46) are available at the Alley box office or by calling 713/228-8421.

• **The Sisters Rosensweig** is a captivating portrait of

three very different sisters reuniting after a lengthy separation. We see them coming to terms with their differences while finding respect and love for one another. This Pulitzer Prize-winning author—Wendy Wasserstein—has given us a play that is both funny and observant. In this gem of a comedy, the laughter is all but continuous. Tickets \$5-\$10. Through March 7 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **That's the Spirit** is billed as escapist fun, a spooky puzzle and an entertaining whodunit. This cockeyed mystery spoof runs from February 27-March 28 @ Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd, 713/682-3525.

• **The Witlings.** When Frances Burney's first novel, *Evelina* (1778), was such a popular success, her admirers urged her to turn her genius for comedy into a work for the theater. She obliged with *The Witlings*. Perhaps Burney was a little too successful, however, with this hilarious send-up of the "Bluestocking" society, the women of high social position who saw themselves as literary arbiters. Her advisors (her own father) felt that the comedy's raucous tone was unsuitable for a woman's pen. More important, they worried that the play would make powerful enemies among the influential women who had supported Frances' (and Dr. Burney's) career. Although a theater was ready to produce the work, Burney bowed to the wishes of her father and withdrew the comedy. The play languished in manuscript until it was published in the early 1990s in an anthology of 17th and 18th century plays by women. This world premiere will play February 5-March 15 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets (\$12-\$17) or more info, call 713/524-6706.

• **Young and Fertile**, an all-new comedy about the adventures of The Singing Fertle Family from Dumpster, Texas, flashes back to the 1970s when a class reunion has everybody reliving favorite moments from their senior year. Admission is \$14; reservations are required, and tickets must be purchased in advance. Through May 9 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

Theater Young People

• **African Delight** originated in the 1993-94 season, and it has been delighting audiences ever since. More than 100,00 children (and a few adults) have clapped their hands and stomped their feet to the singing, drumming, dancing, and storytelling of Africa. Now in its fifth incarnation, this year the show celebrates the stories and rhythms of Egypt, Botswana, Kenya, and South Africa with new songs, dances and more. Through February 22 @ The Children's Museum, 1500 Binz. Tickets \$5 (\$4 for Children's Museum members). Ticket info or reservations: 713/529-1314.

• **Cinderella in Spain ~ Cinderella en España** is a bilingual one-act opera of the Cinderella story set in 18th-century Spain to be performed for children. This production is a collaboration between Houston Grand Opera and Opera to Go!, a local professional touring company which presents fully staged portable operas for children in grades K-7. Tickets \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for students. 11 am, February 28 & March 7 @ Heinen Theater, Houston Community College campus, 3517 Austin. Tickets: 713/227-ARTS. For more information, call 713/546-0230.

• **The Crowning Glory, The Story of Esther** is the tale of a young girl's courage and sacrifice for her people. It recounts the story of Queen Esther during the Jewish exile in Persia. When Esther's uncle, Mor-



Girls With

Valentine's Day Bash!

Kat Drake @ 7pm,
Carpet Dog @ 8pm and

Guitars @ 9pm

\$5 cover at door



Your Home Away From Home

1830 W. Alabama • 713/52-AROMA
Mon-Thu 6am-11pm • Fri 6am-12:30am • Sat 7am-10:30pm

Don't forget
we've got burgers,
salads, pizzas,
& breakfast all day.
And, of course, coffee.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Come and
have a
unique and
exciting dining
experience
with your
Sweetheart
at Riva's!

No Reservations
required



Pierre-Yves Lumbruso and Michael & Joseph Siboyeh

Riva's

Italian Restaurant • Since 1977

1117 Missouri St.

713/529-3450

One block north of Westheimer off Montrose

Garden Patio

Sunday Brunch

Sometimes All You Need Is Someone
To Talk With. To Listen to You.
To Applaud Your Victories. Someone
Who Really Cares About You.



Together, we'll create paths to
maximize your full potential in life.

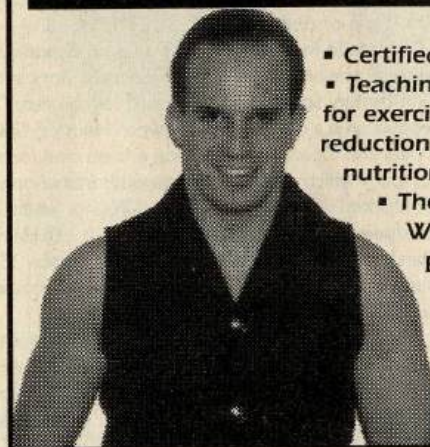
CHARLES JUNKIN

M.A.L.P.C.

6300 WEST LOOP SOUTH, SUITE 110, BELLAIRE, TX 77401
TEL 281.820.8787 • FAX 713.667.6039
INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, FAMILIES & CHILD COUNSELING

Christopher Graham, CPFT

..... A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU!



- Certified: ACE, BSMI
- Teaching lifetime skills
for exercise, weight
reduction, and proper
nutrition

▪ The gym of your choice:
World's, Bally's, Fitness
Exchange

713/942-0634

Email:
TXTOOLTIME@AOL.COM

Free Initial Consultation

decay, receives word that Haman, the king's advisor, is plotting a mass slaughter of the Jews. Esther must risk her life to foil his plans. The A.D. Players children's theater brings this story to life through February 21 @ the Nancy Calhoun Paulson Children's Theater located at St. Luke's United Methodist Church Rotunda Theater, 3471 Westheimer. Tickets \$5 children, \$7 adults. Call 713/526-2721 for more information.

• **A Midsummer Night's Dream** has been adapted for elementary-aged kids! Shakespeare's *Dream* comes to life with splashes of action that help clarify the text. Through February 20, Tuesday-Friday (9 am & 11 am)/Saturdays (11 am), @ Inter-Active Theater Company, Lambert Hall Performing Arts Center, 17th & Heights Blvd. For cost/more information, call 713/682-1397.

• **The Mischief Makers.** Myth & magic combine in this multi-cultural story of three mischief makers—Raven from North America, Anansi the Spider from Africa, and Reynard the Fox from Europe. These tricksters meet for the first time after causing mischief for centuries in their different parts of the world. Amazed to discover they share common pursuits, each insists he is the master mischief-maker. The three use storytelling, totem poles, masks, and disguises to compete for the title of The World's Greatest Trickster. Through February 28 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh Dr. Tuesday-Friday 9:30 am & 11:30 am, Saturday & Sunday 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased by calling 713/527-8243.

• **The Sorcerer's Other Apprentice.** Chip wants to be a real wizard... not just an apprentice! Merwyn, the sorcerer, sends him on a quest where he meets a captive prince, a one-of-a-kind princess, and a hungry dragon, then finally discovers that he is a real wizard after all. Full of laughs and songs, this play helps us to discover the child in all of us. Tickets \$5. Saturdays, 11 am & 1:30 pm, through February 14 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **Tuck Everlasting.** Winnie Foster had no idea who was living in the woods next to her grandmother's house until the day she stumbled on the Tuck family and heard the amazing tale of the enchanted spring water that made them immortal. Learn what Winnie discovered at this Main Street Theater's Young People's Theater production, which is most suitable for children in grades 4 thru 8. Tickets \$5. Saturdays at 2 pm, through February 14 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. Tickets: 713/524-6706.

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. 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.

• **Auschwitz Eyewitness: The Artwork of Jan Komski.** More than 50 pen and ink drawings and 18 paintings, seen now for the first time, comprise only a portion of Komski's substantial body of work. As a Polish Catholic political prisoner twice incarcerated in Auschwitz-Birkenau, Komski awakens the memories of inhumane conditions of camp life and resurrects them in these vibrant watercolor and oil paintings, as well as in contrasting dark pen and ink drawings. Through March 31 @ the Holocaust Museum, 5401 Caroline. The museum is open to the public seven days a week, free of charge. For more information, call 713/942-8000.

• **Black Comedies and Night Music** includes paintings and works on paper made in 1996-1997 and marks David McGee's first one-person museum exhibition. This new series of work reflects McGee's ongoing interest in autobiographical and cultural issues and his growing interest in the grand history of painting and African-American culture and heritage. Through March 1 @ the Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250.

• **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. Through 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. Through March 29 @ The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9404.

• **Classical Sensibilities: Images by Alain Gerard Clement and George Dureau** explores each artist's unique work from the like context of classicism. Both artists use classicism as a springboard for contemporary photography—classical themes ground Clement's experimentation with an alternative photographic process, while Dureau's male subjects become idealized figures of classical beauty. Through March 8 @ The Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose. More info: 713/639-7500.

• **Dofia Provi's Garden** (a cardboard fantasy). This luxurious, tropical, gorgeously unpredictable and delightfully disorganized cardboard garden is work in progress open to the public through Feb. 15 @ Rice University Art Gallery, 6100 Main St. in Sewall Hall. For more information, call 713/527-6069.

• **First Person Plural.** This current body of work by Beth Secor is influenced by her exposure to numerous religions as a young girl. The obsessively detailed paintings (all gouache on paper) draw on classical religious paintings, as well as Persian and Indian miniatures, from which she appropriates backgrounds and gestures. The conditions of human relationships are explored from all angles in these intimate, complex, and often humorous jewels. Through Feb. 13 @ Inman Gallery, 1114 Barkdull, 713/529-9676.

• **Michael Howell** exhibits recent work developed from his extensive use of metal. His sculpture consists of abstracted figurative shapes of welded steel which stand guard in the Art League Sculpture Court. Referencing the sentry/centurian totems of earlier civilizations, Howell's work celebrates the onset of the Art League's 50th-anniversary year and heralds the approach of the millenium. Through Feb. 27 @ the Art League of Houston, 1953 Montrose Blvd., 713/523-4053.

• **Houston Women's Caucus for Art** is celebrating "FotoFest 98" with an art show displaying members' photographs of personal relationships that are transformed into another art medium situated next to the photograph. Through March 15 @ The Firehouse Gallery, 1413 Westheimer, 713/520-7840.

• **Michael Kenna's** new photographic work is an homage to childhood and a paean to the imaginative potential of children's play. The images are from the kindergarten his own daughter attended, and in their simplicity and directness, one experiences a kind of communion with the sanctity of childhood. Through February 14 @ John Cleary Gallery, 2635 Colquitt, 713/524-5070.

• **Robert Rauschenberg: A Retrospective**, which contains nearly 400 works of art spanning Rauschenberg's 50-year career, is the artist's most comprehensive exhibition to date and features many of this Texas native's greatest accomplishments in painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography, and performance, including newly created work. This is his first retrospective since 1976 and one of the largest exhibitions ever held of work by a living artist. Feb. 13-May 17 @ The Menil Collection (1515 Sul Ross, 713/525-9400), the Contemporary Arts Museum (5216 Montrose, 713/284-8250), and The Museum of Fine Arts (1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300 or 713/639-7379[Spanish]).

• **Three Artists:** Tracy Gilmore, Enrique Machorro, and Thomas Whalen. Their works include acrylic on canvas, pen/ink/acrylics on paper, and Chinese tissue watercolor. A reception for the artists, which will be held on Sunday, Feb. 8, from 4-8 pm, and the exhibit, which runs through February, will take place @ Machorro Gallery, 1804 Travis. For more information, call 713/223-2725.

**Calendar deadline
for OutSmart's March issue
is 5 p.m., Friday, February 13.**

Sean Yarbrough



BUYING,
SELLING & LEASING

RE/MAX

HOME OFFICE
713/862-3266

MAIN OFFICE
713/467-1166

Sales & Service

We Build Systems to Your Specifications!

- Customized Systems • Upgrades
- Custom Software • Supplies
- Accessories • Diagnostic Check

Personal and Corporate

Major Credit Cards Accepted

KAD

computers inc.

713.522.KAD8

http://www.kadcomputers.com • email: kad@kadcomputers.com
MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 9AM-6PM

1437 WEST ALABAMA • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006



HOWARD L. GLASS
ATTORNEY AT LAW

- Injuries & Auto Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Business & Contracts
- Wills & Probate
- Consumer Disputes

Free Initial Consultation

For All Your Legal Needs
(281) 787-2000

Member, Houston Bar Association • Licensed by the State Bar of Texas
Not Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Your FIRST CHOICE Travel Experts...

**BEST
VALUE FARES***

Roundtrip fares as of 1/24/98

Amsterdam	\$425.00
Boston	\$296.00
Key West	\$270.00
London	\$338.00
New Orleans	\$98.00
New York	\$296.00
Palm Springs	\$420.00
Paris	\$373.00
Provincetown	\$569.00
San Francisco	\$198.00
Seattle	\$198.00



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

Dates to Remember...

AMSTERDAM GAY GAMES

JULY 31 - AUG. 9, 1998

from \$1,899 per person. Space going fast!
The only way to get a hotel in Ams!

WINDJAMMER'S 1998 GAY CRUISE

**SEPT. 5-12,
1998**

Sail Grenada to Margarita
from \$850.



Coy Tow, Owner

UNIGLOBE
First Choice Travel

2236 W. Holcombe at Greenbriar

713/667-0580 • 1-800/856-1835

e-mail: uniglobe.fc@worldnet.att.net

<http://www.uniglobe.com/sc.firstchoice>

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

Feng Shui

Having a hard time with your career?
Would you like more out of
your relationships?

Feng Shui creates harmony in all areas
of your life at your home and office.

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



Sandra Nicholas

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

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

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

the journey continues...

"conform and be dull" ...Dobie

"time ripens all things" ...Cervantes

you came to live **OUT LOUD** ...Zola

OCTOBER
GALLERY PAVILION
NATIONAL ART PARK

(formerly Heights Pavilion & October Gallery...)

built its new castle in the clouds

Please come review, renew, & re-experience why sanctuaries
are rare & remarkable places & why even cloud castles do not
last without a great foundation...

713-861-7475

Re-open February Thridish

"Imagination rules the world" ...Napoleon

"strip malls suck" ...J. Law

IE; YOU GUYS!!

Reinvented, reborn, returned solely to 244 W. 19th St.

The Source

Community

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

• **AIDS Equity League.** a nonprofit organization dedicated to insuring equitable treatment of the gay and lesbian community in local HIV/AIDS decision-making. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 713/524-9966.

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

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

• **The Center for AIDS (CFA)** is a storefront information center that provides the latest treatment information on HIV & AIDS. CFA produces the treatment information newsletter *Research Initiative/Treatment Action* or *RITA*; the *RITA* Fax Newsletter that goes weekly to doctors & researchers; & community forums that focus on treatment issues. CFA acts as a voice for Houston's HIV community in the national dialogue about research & clinical trials. For info: 713/527-8219. Web site: <http://www.neosoft.com/~hailrita>.

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

• **EXXON Gay & Lesbian Employees (EGLE)** meets monthly at the Montrose Library to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For more information, 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.aids-houston.org>.

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

• **Centergy** — Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Reclaim your emotions. Identify & verbalize your feelings & desires. Face & release your blocks to living freely. Create the life you want. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face addictions: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Groups meet weekly: Women —

Tuesdays or Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm; Mixed — Wednesdays, 7-9:30 pm. Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D., @ 942-7181.

• **Chase Bank of Texas' 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 employee networking group. Our mission is to support the inclusion of all Chase bankers—regardless of sexual orientation and gender identification—as valued employees of the bank & to encourage an environment of equality that celebrates the individuality & diversity of everyone. The Team typically meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 pm. Contact

Richard Bielec at 713/655-5423 or Paula Andries at 713/216-6961 for more information.

• **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 -



Dr. Joyce Gayles
Author: The Dating Dance

DatingWorks™ Is A Venture of
TransformationWorks™
©1997 All Rights Reserved

DatingWorks

THE SOLUTION TO DATING IN THE GAY 90s

LEARN KEYS TO DATING SUCCESS

- Learn to Communicate Effectively
- Learn the Art of the First Date
- Learn to Have Fun & Enjoyable Dates
- Passion, Intimacy & Commitment

Individual Coaching for
Successful Dating for Gays & Lesbians

Register for the exciting Dating Dance Seminar.

Limited Space Available—Call Today!

713 667-6047

Fine European Antique Furniture,

Valentines Sale...Save 20%

3 Lt. Tulip \$59.



Register For a Free
Tiffany Lamp*

*no
purchase
necessary
\$200
Value

MEMORIES of OLD ANTIQUES

1550 Westheimer (at Mandell) (713)520-8744

Country French, European Accents, Gifts, Cased Crystal



Baba Vega
Restaurant

Baba Vega's Jasmine Room which overlooks our herb garden & waterfall offers a beautiful atmosphere for weddings, holy unions, birthdays, anniversaries or your own special gathering. Make your plans with us now.

A Montrose Tradition Since 1975
2607 Grant St. * (713) 522-0042

OutSmart is Expanding!

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS...

OutSmart magazine seeks seasoned advertising sales professionals to join our sales team. If you're knowledgeable, dependable, self-motivated and desire to be involved in the community, we'd like to talk to you. Call Greg Jew/Publisher at 713/520-7237, ext. 11. Fax résumé to: 713/522-3275.

negative support program and potluck supper, Tuesdays, 6 pm. MCCR, 1919 Decatur. For more information, call 861-9149.

• **Gay & Lesbian National Hotline (GLNH)** is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, providing information, referrals and peer-counseling to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities. Information is also available for those concerned with gay-related issues. The services are free and anonymous. The hours are 5-9 pm (M-F) and 11 am-4 pm (Saturdays). The toll-free number is 1-888-THE-GLNH (1-888-843-4564).

• **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 info. Men's mixer: 3rd Tuesday of the month 7-9 pm. Women's mixer: 4th Wednesday of the 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 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. Child-care provided. Meets at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr., 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. 713/284-4939.

• **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 janetexas@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 & relationships 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@aids help.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 at 409/856-6759.

• **Texas Association for Transsexual Support (TATS)** is a peer support group devoted to serving the emotional, social, & educational needs of transgendered persons, their partners, families, & friends. For more info, call 827-5913 or write to TATS, P.O. Box 142, Bellaire, TX 77401.

• **The Women's Network** is a support group established to serve the lesbian & bisexual women's community of Houston; any woman who is sensitive to & comfortable with lesbians is welcome. The network provides an opportunity to discuss women's issues in a safe environment, network with other women and socialize with old & new friends. A donation of \$3-\$5 is requested; however, any woman is welcome regardless of her ability to pay. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, 7-9 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, 713/529-0037.

Health

• **AIDS Housing Coalition Houston** runs the nonprofit TLC House program, a 90-day, gay-positive, emergency house for PWAs in transition. For more info about joining, call 713/521-1613.

• **AssistHers** tries to help women live as normally as possible while coping with a life-threatening or debilitating illness. Eligible for service are women whose emotional, social, or sexual relationships are primarily with other women who have a debilitating or life-challenging disease, illness, or condition. Assistance may extend to a woman's partner, caregiver, or family. Services are provided regardless of ability to pay, & regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or economic status. Volunteers are trained & supervised in the provision of direct care such as emotional support, meal preparation, shopping, hospital & home visits, pet care, plant & lawn maintenance, transportation, & other assistance. Volunteers work as members of a Care Team, which is assigned one client, so it is realistic to expect 2 visits/week from volunteers. PO Box 131605, Houston, TX 77219-1605, 713/521-4628.

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

• **Camp Hope**, for children living with HIV/AIDS, needs sleeping bags, snacks, suntan lotions, insect repellents, toiletries, minor medical equipment (e.g. thermometer), toilet paper, toiletry kits, camper duffel bags, bed linen, fruit juices, soft drinks, and so forth. For more info: Mecie Hardin or Mike Mizwa, 623-6796.

• **Casa de Esperanza** needs clothes, shoes 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@neosoft.com. You can also visit at <http://www.neosoft.com/~ahvlntr/MilamHouse/>.

• **Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network** is a community-based, nonprofit agency that provides low- or no-cost



MONSIEUR
MASSAGE

Premium European Touch
by Roland Nicolaides

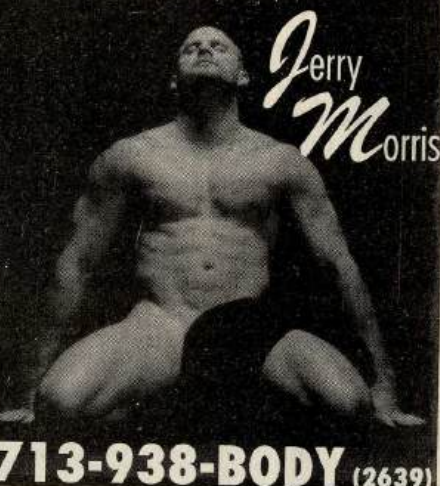
• 713/942-2399 •

Weekdays, Weekends & Evenings
River Oaks & Montrose

THE ART OF FITNESS
Certified Personal Fitness Consultant

SPRING has SPRUNG!

- * Weight reduction, body shaping, muscle toning
- * Beginner to advanced levels
- * personalized-balanced programs
- * 14 years experience in physical fitness
- * results oriented programs
- * excellent references upon request



713-938-BODY (2639)

Rediscover the joy...

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



Experience the joy of releasing the energy at your center.

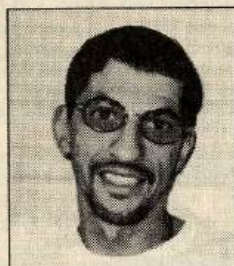
Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D.
Southwest Recovery Place
4726 Yoakum
Houston, Texas 77008
(713) 942-7181

Weekly programs for pairs,
individuals, families & groups.

Corporate consulting available.

Stressed Out?

A Relaxing Massage
is the Answer



John Dascoulas

Registered Massage Therapist

Serving
Montrose, the Heights,
& River Oaks

Call for an appointment today.
713/520-5206

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 campaigns; volunteer time from general and specialty physicians or lay persons interested in HIV counseling/office support. 215 Westheimer, 713/520-2000.

- **Next Step** is a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Provided by Montrose Clinic. Call 713/520-2000 for schedule and to register.
- **Omega House** provides a homelike environment for persons with AIDS needing hospice care. We do not charge a fee for our services, thus we serve persons primarily who do not have traditional medical resources. Omega House is always in need of volunteers in all areas of our program. Also: donations of soda, bleach, laundry detergent, kitchen serving utensils, universal remote controls, talented musicians to share their talent with our residents, general office supplies. Financial gifts are also always welcome. Joanne at 713/523-7110.
- **Steven's House** provides intermediate care in a homelike environment for people living with HIV/AIDS. Needed: soft drinks, laundry detergent, baking pans, bed pillows (new), basic cleaning supplies, office supplies, a new bicycle, an extension ladder able to reach 2nd story, outdoor furniture & a new umbrella for table, a chest of drawers, small desk & chair, 2 comfortable reading chairs, lamps (table & floor), VCR, cable-ready TV for resident room, bedside tables, steam cleaning service for rugs & furniture, 2 large room rugs, wall hangings, apartment in Montrose area for office/resident's family lodging; volunteers for tasks & services. For more information, call 713/522-5757.
- **Tobacco-Free Greater Houston** provides a list of smoke-free restaurants in the Houston area and works to promote health through the reduction of youth access to tobacco & promotion of a smoke-free environment. For free guide, send SASE to Tobacco-Free Greater Houston, P.O.B. 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 @ 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/KAMP0UT 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 Thurs. at 8:30 pm & advanced level dance every Wed. at 8 pm at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. Dance classes free & open to the public. More info: 880-0670.
- **Rainbow Riders** is a bicycling club for women. Meets every Sunday morning. All women 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, 7-9 pm, at The Ranch, Plaza 9200, 9200 Buffalo Speedway. Call 713/226-2228 or write to P.O. Box 1502, Houston, TX 77252-1502.
- **Texas Medical Center Lambda** is an association of bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered, & gay-friendly faculty, staff, & students at Texas Medical Center. One community service or social event per month plus meetings the second Monday of each month, 7:30 pm @ Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Info: page @ 284-7206.

Sports

- **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 (HWFLL)** 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 information, call Trish Jarvis, 713/688-9468 or write 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.
- **The Montrose Softball League (MSL)** is a nonprofit adult softball league serving the greater Houston gay community since 1980. Open to both men and women of all skill levels. The spring season begins in late March. For further information: league voice-mail 713/867-3913; or write to MSL, P.O. Box 541954, Houston TX 77254-1954; or e-mail ggano@gmail.com.
- **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?

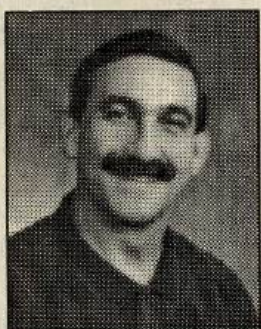
If your organization has changes for The Source, call 713/520-7237 or fax 713/522-3275.
The DEADLINE for the March issue is 5 p.m., Friday, February 13.

Alternatives for your Animal Companion



Homeopathy
Nutritional Therapy

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



John Arabie
Certified Hypnotherapist
Member IMDHA

Depression • Self-Esteem • Guided Healing
Stress Management • Meditation Training
Spiritual Counseling • Past Life Regression
Prosperity Empowerment

Ph: 713/686-7764 • Pgr: 281/725-2402

Change Your Life Thru the Power of Your Mind
<http://members@aol.com/john50>

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



Visit our
website
www.earthmanfunerals.com



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

Hands on productions

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

full body
swedish
reflexology

713.990.5102
all major credit cards accepted



m. dan deleon, RMT
Registered Massage Therapist

in/out calls
days/evenings
weekends

Center for Healthy Sexuality

Treatment of:

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

Individual, Couple and Group Therapies Available

Dr. Barbara Levinson • (713) 785-7111

TravelOut by Sandra Wilkins

CAPITALIZE ON WASHINGTON

Washington, D.C., is our nation's capital and one of my favorite cities in the world, in spite of the "Wag the Dog" crowd that runs the place. Clean, efficient and rather regal in her bearing, D.C. is one of those places that offers something for everyone, and plenty to interest our community.

I've visited Washington five or six times, the last visit in 1993 for the March on Washington, which provided me with one of my most memorable life events. Returning this time, I admit I missed being surrounded by hundreds of thousands of gay folks, but strolling through the Dupont Circle area, and lunching at Trios on 17th Street made me feel right at home.

The city of Washington is impressive, and deliberately designed to serve as the international showcase of our country. The quality of her cityscape is apparent when strolling down the Mall, the grand promenade of the Capitol which connects Congress to the Lincoln Memorial by two miles of open park and reflecting pools. It is lined by the incredible Smithsonian museums. The AIDS Quilt has been displayed in this area, and the Mall is the gathering place for most groups wishing to make their presence known to legislators inhabiting the House and Senate.

That Washington glistens as she does today is remarkable, considering her rocky beginnings, which resulted from a band of disgruntled Continental soldiers who marched into Philadelphia in 1783, demanding back pay. A compromise between the North and the South was reached in 1790, when Congress selected a site on the Potomac for the new federal city, to be called the District of Columbia. Our first president, George Washington, supervised the development of the new capitol, and appointed a French engineer, Pierre L'Enfant, to lay out the city.

Mostly as a result of L'Enfant's planning, Washington "feels" good to me—open, spacious and majestic. And though Washington is a fantastic place for gay folks, what I like more is that it feels great being gay in Washington. The rich diversity of her inhabitants and visitors provides a lovely sense of belonging and comfort.

OutSmarties don't need me to tell them where to find the gay scene; we have specific guidebooks for that information! So instead, I'd like to share some new discoveries made during a recent visit, courtesy of my sweet sister, Jamie, who took her travel agent sister by the hand and said, "Now try this."

First off, readers of this column know I love all things French and Italian, so for lunch one day Jamie insisted we try the famous French bistro, Les Halles, located at 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. This tickled my fancy right off because in Paris, the area known as Les Halles is, along with the Marais, the center of gay life. What do you have for lunch in a typical French bistro? Steak, potatoes and salad of course, at a prix fixe (fixed price). A darling, gay of course, waiter whisked us off to a table, where we enjoyed the cacophony of delicious sounds of happy fellow diners. For \$14.95 we savored a delicious frisee (curly lettuce) with raspberry vinaigrette dressing, melt-in-your-mouth bifteck (steak), and only as the French can do, pommes frites (french fries).

After lunch, walk to the Metro station for a ride to explore another museum. Washington's metro system is one of the best in the world. I've ridden on subway systems in London, Paris, Mexico City, San Francisco and New York, and none compare with the cleanliness, efficiency and pleasure of riding D.C.'s Metro. Along the platforms where you wait for the train are eight-inch round lights, spaced six feet apart, embedded in the floor by the platform. When your train is 30 seconds from arriving at your stop, these lights signal its approach by blinking on and off. Everyone seems so very polite everywhere in Washington, and nowhere is this more noticeable than observing how courteous everyone is getting on and off the trains. Since D.C. is so spread out and there is so much to see and do, using the Metro to get around is a plus for time management and the budget too. After 9:30 a.m. you can buy an all-day pass for \$5, which allows unlimited Metro rides until midnight.

The high point of the cultural side of this trip to Washington was my first visit to The National Museum of Women in the Arts. First opened in 1987, this lovely museum houses the largest collection of art by women artists in the world. What a joy to be treated to an exhibit entitled "The Legacy of Generations: Pottery by American Indian Women and Navajo Weaving: A Family Tradition." This unprecedented collection made clear that the ability to produce such beautiful and unique works of art is a skill venerated by the people and passed down through generations. In describing the importance of supporting the arts, this museum's founder, Wilhelmina Holladay, said something that strikes a chord for our community: "The ideas and feelings of all people are needed for the development of our world as a

pluralistic society. When we know each other's beliefs and culture, we can more easily handle the diversity, ambiguity, and conflicts that divide. We can achieve greater sympathy and envision possibilities for tolerance and solutions to conflict."

Located at 1250 New York Avenue, a visit here won't disappoint.

A short nap later, and guess what? It's time for dinner! There's a new area in D.C. getting gentrified, called the Pennsylvania Quarter. In this area at 480 7th St. NW, sits Jaleo—a tapas restaurant extraordinaire. Tapas: the delicious little dishes of Spain, consumed with great gusto at bars and taverns before lunch and again before dinner, have been a tradition in Spain for as long as anyone can remember. Tapas are literally "little bites," or appetizers, so when you frequent a tapas bar, you order up several different small dishes of "little bites." Well, Jaleo gives new meaning to a happy-hour buffet. A delightful haunt, the snappy wait-staff are quick to describe and recommend menu items. For a party of four, you might want six different tapas, which makes for a light but satisfying supper. My favorites were mushrooms stuffed with pork and pine nuts (champinones rellenos), sweet and sour marinated onions (cebollas en adobo), and beef tenderloin tips in garlic sauce. Add fabulous crusty bread, some excellent Spanish wine, and you're set for under \$20 per person.

The last culinary treat took place in beautiful Union Station, perhaps the most impressive train station I've ever seen. This 81-year-old landmark has been lovingly restored to her Beaux Art grandeur, with its marble floors, granite walls, and classic statuary to dazzle visitors. Not only do Amtrak trains come and go as expected, you could easily spend your entire stay at Union Station since it provides ample opportunity to shop, dine and be entertained in this impressive complex. Occupying the east end of the mezzanine level is a restaurant of note, B. Smith's, named after its founder and owner, Barbara Smith, the gorgeous New York model and *Mademoiselle's* first-ever African-American cover girl. Taking over the historic presidential waiting room at Union Station, this restaurant is a sight to behold. B. Smith's is a mood. The entrance has the feel of an art deco supper club, with soft jazz wafting from the lounge. The soaring vaulted ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows make the perfect setting for the wicker furniture and palms that grace the terrace area. The menu reads like a family album of Southern cooking, with interesting '90s twists here and there. The red beans and rice were the best I've ever eaten, and coconut cake for dessert was absolutely sinful. With prices ranging from \$12 to \$19, this is a restaurant I'll visit every time I'm in D.C.

I think when we sit down and want to get out of town and visit another city, we often fail to consider Washington, D.C., opting instead for New York or San Francisco. Let me encourage you to visit this wonderful town for the first time, or as a return visit, and be quick about it. It's very nice to the pocketbook—you can explore for hours and hours for free. It's not crowded, it's friendly,



Sandra Wilkins is the owner of The Travel Partnership.

GRE

**Don't let
the test
sneak up
on you ...**

**Classes start Feb. 21
Call TODAY!**

**THE
PRINCETON
REVIEW**

**For intensive, guaranteed preparation,
No one else comes close.**

713-688-5500

Princeton University and ETS are not affiliated with The Princeton Review.

Tired of increasing your eyeglass prescription every year?

**OUR FOCUS IS SEEING
BETTER THE NATURAL WAY.**

"I became interested in improving vision when my own vision tripled in prescription by the time I was 14 years old. To make sure that improvement techniques really work, I went to work for a preventative optometrist, Dr. Jacob Liberman, for 4 years before attending optometry school. I study vision improvement every day. I look forward to meeting you."

**—Dr. Sue Moss, O.D.
Therapeutic Optometrist**



**Dr. Sue Moss, O.D.
713/524-2525**

SERVICES OFFERED:

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

**Eyes Are Precious
WHOLISTIC EYE CARE**

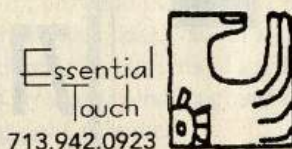
1428-A West Alabama • 713/524-2525

Just 3 blocks west of Montrose Blvd.



Alan Davidson

I am deeply touched.
Thanks
for voting me
"Most Magical Massage"
OutSmart Readers Poll 1997!



WorkOut

Take It to Heart

A practical guide to preventing heart disease.

by John Aaron

Jane's mom died of heart disease at the age of 45. As a result, Jane herself has quit smoking and follows a low-fat eating plan. Her cholesterol level is 180 milligrams per deciliter, and she exercises aerobically at least three days per week. Meanwhile, Jane's lover, Kathy, has no immediate-family history of heart disease; however, she has smoked a pack of cigarettes every day for nearly 10 years. She eats a high-fat diet and doesn't even bother with exercising.

Which of these two women has a higher risk of developing heart disease? How can you lower your own risk? To answer these questions, let's look at the various risk factors that contribute to this major health problem.

Unalterable Risks

Multiple risk factors are responsible for the development of heart disease, and evidence suggests that the number of various risk factors in combination with the length of time these risk factors are allowed to operate will increase their detrimental impact on your health. The bad news is you cannot change the following factors:

- **Family History.** If your father or brother had heart disease before the age of 55, or your mother or sister did before the age of 65, you're at risk. Therefore, you should direct your focus on controlling any alterable risk factors.
- **Gender.** Research has indicated that men have a higher risk of developing heart disease than women. So, men, be aware that you are already at risk simply for being male.
- **Age.** Men 45 years or older and women 55 years or older are at increased risk. Researchers believe that estrogen plays a protective role for women until they reach menopause. Once levels of naturally occurring estrogen decrease, the risk of developing heart disease seems to be as high for women as it is for men.

Alterable Risks

The good news is that the following factors are alterable, thereby giving you an advantage in reducing your own risks for developing heart disease:

- **Hypertension or High Blood Pressure.** Three blood-pressure readings of 140/90 millimeters of mercury or

higher in one month indicates hypertension. You should have your blood pressure checked regularly.

- **Cigarette Smoking.** By now, everyone is probably tired of hearing that smoking is the number-one preventable cause of heart attacks in the United States. But it bears repeating. Smokers have a 70-percent greater risk of developing heart disease than nonsmokers. However, there is hope. If you stop smoking now, your risk level will drop gradually over a period of time to a level close to that of a nonsmoker.
- **Cholesterol.** For most people, a blood cholesterol level of less than 200 mg/dl is desirable, whereas a level of 200 to 239 mg/dl is borderline, and one of 240 mg/dl or greater is high. Several studies currently show a correlation between high serum cholesterol levels and heart disease; compounding this with other risk factors (such as smoking) will further magnify your risk. Dietary factors are thought to be the primary cause of high cholesterol levels. Here, you can reduce your own risk by limiting your fat and cholesterol intake. Increasing daily physical activity helps as well.
- **Obesity.** With rare exceptions, obesity is a result of eating too much and exercising too little. Deaths due to heart disease appear to result primarily from the influence of obesity on high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels and the risk of adult-onset diabetes.
- **Physical Inactivity.** Several studies show that sedentary adults can reduce heart disease risks by increasing their physical activity levels. Some exercise is better than none. So, if you don't exercise, direct your efforts toward becoming more active more often.

Primary risk factors such as family history, cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and physical inactivity have the strongest relationships to heart disease. Secondary risk factors such as obesity are magnified in the presence of primary risk factors. When two or more risk factors are present, the likelihood of heart disease again increases, greatly. It is therefore important to correct all modifiable cardiac risk factors.

Heredity vs. Lifestyle

Now that we understand the risk factors, who is at greater risk of developing heart disease—Jane or Kathy?

While Jane does have a genetic risk because of her mother's death, Jane's lifestyle habits (choosing to not smoke, keeping her blood cholesterol in check, eating a low-fat diet and doing regular aerobic exercise) will work to reduce her risks. Kathy, on the other hand, is headed down a high-risk path. Her high dietary cholesterol intake, the fact that she smokes and lacks regular exercise puts her at a much higher risk than Jane.

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.

MASSAGE AMERICA WANTS YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

SPA TREATMENT WITHOUT THE PRICE

- Qualified, Talented, Registered Massage Therapists
- No Membership Dues
- Swedish, Deep Tissue/Sports, Aromatherapy, Bodywraps

AT YOUR HOME...AT YOUR OFFICE...
OR AT OUR CENTER (N. BRAESWOOD)

**NOTHING FEELS AS GOOD...
AS A GREAT MASSAGE!**

For a Convenient Appointment:

CALL 713-995-8057

(Gift Certificates Available)

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

It's the holidays. Time to get ready for company. And a lot of times that means doing a lot more than dressing the bird—it means cleaning the house. Don't worry. Let Man-Maid come in and clean up for you. They're fast, efficient, and very affordable. So before you grab the broom, or that glass cleaner, call Man-Maid and let them do it. (Talk about a clean sweep.)



call: 993.9737 page: 949.1861

NOW
there are
2 ways
to shop for
the HOTTEST
in men's
UNDERGEAR:
Shop Online
www.basicbrothers.com
or visit us
in the store!



Your Out & Proud
Clothing Store

1232 Westheimer
713.522.1626

Mon-Sat 10am-9pm, Sun 12-6

BROTHERS

OutSmart MARKET PLACE

NEED A DOCTOR?



Memorial Clinical Associates, P.A.

- Most insurance plans accepted
- Evening hours available by request

Lawrence A Mora, MD

Board Certified in Family Practice

713-880-0433

1801 North Loop West
timcare@aol.com

GOLDEN GLOBE AWARD WINNER
BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM

**"DEFT AND WILDLY
COLORFUL!"**

- Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Not to be missed!"

- David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

Ma Vie En Rose
(my life in pink)

A FILM BY ALAIN BERLINER

River Oaks 3 EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT
(713) 524-2175 **STARTS FRIDAY, FEB. 13**

AMPAS and HUPA: your call will admit you and a guest to my performance.

MAC FIRST AID

+ COMPUTER SERVICES +

Specializing in Apple Computers

- Onsite Service
- Repairs
- Peripherals
- Hardware Upgrades
- Software Installation
- Very Reasonable Rates



Proudly Serving the Community

(281)537-2842

HARDWARE RESTORATIONS

*Restoring the hardware on
the doors and windows of your
home or office is our specialty!*

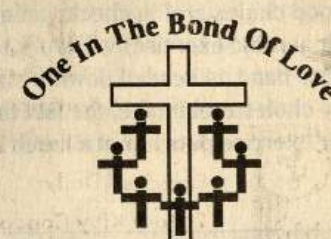
- ODD JOBS • DOOR KNOBS
- FIX-ITS • LOCKS
- DELIVERIES • LATCHES
- ETC.

CURTIS HASSE

713-869-5162

*Come Visit
Your Family in the Community*

**HOUSTON MISSION
CHURCH**



Service: Sundays at 10:30 am

1505 Nevada at Commonwealth

713/529-8225

The Painted Lady
INN ON BROADWAY



- Popular downtown location, 5 blocks from River Walk
- Luxurious suites and guestrooms with 4-star amenities
- Great for business and leisure travelers
- Rates from \$58, w/Continental breakfast

Call for reservations or more information

210-220-1092

620 BROADWAY, SAN ANTONIO, 78215

"Best Internet Provider"

Houston Press—Best of Houston '95

- All 28.8 modems
- ISDN Ready
- 100% Digital Network
- FREE WWW Home Page
- 7-Days-a-Week Tech Support
- Training Available

Get Insync!

Call Now! **713/961-4242**

INSYNC
INTERNET SERVICES, INC.

<http://www.insync.net>

Connecting Houston to the World

Childress & Company

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

*Accounting and Tax Services
for
Individuals and Businesses*

Call for a **FREE** Consultation

713-686-9999

Fax: **713-686-0014**

Adrienne Childress, CPA

1900 N. LOOP WEST, SUITE 210
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018

**Debbie's
Style Shop**



Men, Women, Children

869-8977

2626 White Oak Dr. in the Heights

10 am to 7 pm Tues - Sat

Walk-ins Welcome!

OutRight continued from page 17

help break the ice. (I hate taking the bird because it craps everywhere.) They liked the bird. Everyone dutifully contributed to maintaining the fiction that P.J. and I were just another couple at the family table. We had achieved tolerance.

This Thanksgiving we went to grandma's house as usual. We took Gus. Everyone seemed content. The uneasy bargain we had made with the family's homophobia seemed to hold. We left thinking we had struck another blow for tolerance and, just maybe, a little understanding. No one was offended. We had survived another holiday with the family.

Three weeks later we got a call from one of my aunts that shattered our illusions about the limits of their tolerance. She charged, in high dudgeon, that P.J. had behaved "inappropriately" at Thanksgiving this year and cited several specific examples. I'll relate two of them to give you an idea of the severity of his transgressions.

First, my aunt said that P.J. had made a "sexual gesture" in the presence of her 30-year-old daughter-in-law, who, my aunt noted twice, is "the leader of her church choir." This "sexual gesture" had so upset the choir leader that she would not come to another family event, my aunt complained. What was the offensive "sexual gesture," we asked? It turns out P.J. had placed the parrot's beak in his fist and then moved fist up and down repetitively. "Obviously simulating sex," my aunt observed. P.J. and I were speechless. I'm not sure what bizarre fetishes prevail among suburban church choirs but, sexually speaking, bird-beak-fisting is not my cup of tea. And it isn't P.J.'s, last time I asked.

We patiently explained to my aunt that the "sexual gesture" P.J. had committed is actually a game he plays with Gus in which he attempts to get the parrot to dance by moving the bird's head up and down. (Come to think of it, maybe it's dancing that the choir leader abhors.) In any event, the eagerness of my family to read hidden sexual significance into even the most innocent act by my partner speaks volumes about their stereotyped view of gays as sex-obsessed monsters constantly on the make. My aunt's complaint said far more about her, the church choir leader, and their prejudices, than it will ever say about P.J. or me.

As for the second offense, my aunt charged

that P.J. had improperly commented on the possible sexual orientation of one of my cousins. The offending remark, she said, came after Thanksgiving dinner in the middle of a conversation a group of us were having about our families, jobs, homes, etc. My aunt had noted that her 21-year-old son, a college student, was making good grades, working his way toward a promising career, and so forth. But, she said offhandedly, "he's so busy he doesn't even have a girlfriend!" P.J. picked up on the reference and added, with a smile, "or a boyfriend!" At the time, everyone laughed. But later, several family members apparently decided that P.J. had "insulted" my aunt by hinting that her son might be gay.

"His sexual orientation is his business, not yours, and that's not something you joke about anyway," my aunt told us. Oh really, we said. But it was perfectly appropriate for my aunt to assume he was straight, right? "Well, you are in the minority," she retorted. We've known that all our lives, thank you very much, and homophobia constantly reinforces that knowledge, we responded. "This doesn't have anything to do with disliking gay people," she flatly declared. Then why is it an "insult" to have it thought that your child might be gay, unless you think there's something wrong with being gay? And if you think there's something wrong with being gay then you are by definition a homophobe, we explained to her. She had no reply to that.

So there you have it. At Thanksgiving this year, P.J. and I were not so much "Home for the Holidays" as we were "Home for the Homophobia." We rediscovered in one telephone call that mere tolerance of us is not sufficient. Tolerance stops the name-calling; it stops the physical violence. That's OK as a first step. But tolerance has nothing whatsoever to do with love. If we are to be secure in our families, and by extension in our society, we must also be understood and, ultimately, fully accepted as gay people. Anything less than that will leave us isolated, distrusted, and unhappy—very much the way P.J. and I felt after we hung up the phone with my aunt. Tolerance, with its limits, just grants us limited lives.

Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney, is a national regional director of Log Cabin Republicans. The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily the opinions of Log Cabin or its members.

OutSmart Classifieds

ACCOMMODATIONS

THE LOVETT INN. Affordable luxury in the heart of Montrose. Beautifully appointed rooms for both business and leisure travelers. All rooms have direct dial phones, private bath, breakfast and color TVs. Also available VCR, FAX, jacuzzi suites, pool and spa. Walk to clubs, restaurants, shopping, and public transportation. Convenient to Downtown, Galleria, Medical and Convention Centers. Call today 713/522-5224.

BARTER

ADVERTISING SPACE FOR TRADE
Looking for a good apple. OutSmart is looking for a couple of used Apple Mac computers. Willing to barter for advertising space or services. Not interested in joining a barter club, just business to business bartering. Call Greg at 713/520-7237 ext.11.

COUNSELING & THERAPY

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

ENTERTAINMENT

VIDEO ACE

Your S. Houston, Pasadena, Hobby area full service video rental/sales destination. Free membership/ no deposit. We carry all ratings and classifications. Gulf Freeway at Airport/College exist then east 2 miles. 1418-G Spencer Hwy. 713/910-0220

EMPLOYMENT

Is your business expanding?
Help needed? Try a classified in Houston's most popular gay and lesbian magazine. Classified advertising works! Call 713/520-7237.

We're expanding! OutSmart Magazine seeks seasoned advertising sales professional to join our sales team. Call 713/520-7237. Fax resume to: Publisher/Greg Jeu, 713/522-3275.

FOR SALE

93 Eclipse For Sale
Sporty, clean, fun and reliable. Well-maintained with Montego green exterior and gray interior. 77,000 miles. Automatic. \$6,500.00. Call Ken at 713/660-7746 after 5.

82 Honda Magna 750.
20,000 original miles. Has new plugs, battery, hoses. Has not been running. Make and offer. Call Lee at 713/868-2282.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

The Houston Buyer's Club is a nonprofit program of the Michael Mosley Foundation offering nutritional supplements at reduced prices for people with life threatening illnesses. Specializing in nutritional supplements for people with HIV. No membership is required and our store is open to the general public. Weight Gain Product, Antioxidant Vitamins and Herbs. Call 713/520-5288 for more information.

INTERNET WEB-SITES

Rosie Gaines
"I Surrender" • "Closer Than Closer"
Playing at a club near you.
www.rosiegaines.com

OutSmart Magazine is available at 322 locations around Houston. OutSmart Online is available at 360,000,000 computers worldwide.
www.outsmartmagazine.com

The Net's **CLUB PET** is a gay-owned Internet Wholesale Pet Shop. Pet Stain Solution Products—Specialty Products—Pet Fashions and much more...We ship world-wide. www.petloverz.com.

INSURANCE

**DALE ENGLEFIELD
AGENT**
Farmers Insurance Group of Companies
Workers Comp
Homeowners
Automobiles
Restaurant
Computers
Mortgage
Business
Disability
Renters
Health
Flood
Life

Charter Member Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
In Houston: (713)439-1700
Statewide: 1-888-439-1700

MASSAGE THERAPY

Simply call 281/638-1437 for a simply great, therapeutic massage. Studio with shower in the Houston Heights. T. McLaughlin. MTO12704.

FOR TIME WELL SPENT!

Avoid the madding crowd and enjoy yourself in a quiet and discreet setting.
Available noon for downtowners
Jose: 713-862-6348/RMT 17316

Relax in hands that are comforting, pampering and soothing. Therapeutic massage by Jeff Benavides RMT#13077. P.T. hours 6 pm to 9 pm. Saturday, 10 am to 3 pm. Page at 713/601-7218. Affordable prices.

BODYWORK THERAPY

1998...Time to renew old friendships, start that exercise program and rejuvenate your mind, body and soul. The gift of touch goes beyond all else. Experience pure tranquility and relaxation. Receive your session today.
Jeff D. Salazar, RMT 016074 (713) 524-5865
Gift Certificates IN/OUT calls by Appt

Let Yourself Go!

Experience a full body deep tissue Swedish Massage by Dewayne. Montrose location. 7 days a week. 713/527-0835. RMT#11412.

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

Relieve Stress • Sore Muscles
• Light to deep tissue •
7 days a week • Flexible hours
Paul Rutledge (713)592-0444
(MT#02781)

ART OF MASSAGE: restoring comfort and balance to your mind and body by the caring hands of a skilled therapist. Results can be relaxing, invigorating—even inspiring! RMT#7796. Michael 713/410-7689.

mas•sage™- THE ART OF GIVING PLEASURE. Nice looking body builder, registered massage therapist, incredible 1 hour full body massage, private studio designed for massage, secure setting. Montrose. \$60. Noon to Midnight. Mitchell 713/521-3359.

WHOLENESS AND HEALTH. Healing and caring hands with Swedish, Deep Tissue massage. Balancing your life by restoring flow and energy. Peaceful. Relaxful. Be good to yourself! RMT#2233. Howard Kanelakos 713/528-6174.

PERSONAL TRAINERS

BUILD MUSCLES & BURN FAT
Baylor Sports Medicine Institute Certified
Personal Fitness Trainer

Complete Fitness Center

- Galleria/Memorial location
- Wooded View
- Private Atmosphere
- Shower/Dressing Areas

Program designed to meet your individual goals and needs through Exercise Therapy and Nutritional Guidance.
Call Now 281/685-8746.

REAL ESTATE

House For Sale

Great location, SW Freeway at Bellaire. Brick 3/2/2 with den and formal living room. Huge trees. Privacy. Fenced. New or nearly new central air conditioner, roof, carpet, appliances and paint. One year home buyer warranty. \$75,000. Call any realtor on MLM#83966.

Booming and Blooming
19th Street retail storefront location. Next to Heights Pavillion and October Gallery. Begins Feb. 1998. 2,000+ sq. ft. Call Jeff at 713/861-7475.

HEIGHTS

Terrific Renovation of 2 story, 2 bedroom with study, 2 1/2 bath, 3 car garage with apt. above. Large lot with pecan trees. 179,900. Call Bryan Williams at ERA Home Brokers. 713/880-1400 or 713/813-4490 pgr.

HEIGHTS

Terrific Renovation of 2 story, 2 bedroom with study, 2 1/2 bath, 3 car garage with apt. above. Large lot with pecan trees. 179,900. Call Bryan Williams at ERA Home Brokers. 713/880-1400 or 713/813-4490 pgr.

Montrose

Great cash flow on remodeled two-story brick sixplex with off street parking. One bedroom units rent for \$375 and two bedroom units rent for \$450. There are 4 one-bedroom units and 2 two-bedroom units. \$189,900. Contact Bryan Williams at ERA Home Brokers 713/880-1400 or (pager) 813-4490.

WOW!

Unique 3-story townhomes with washer and dryer connections and garage. Some with ceramic tile and hardwood flooring. Galleria and inner loop area. Agent David Furlong 713/532-4200.

ABSOLUTE LUXURY

1, 2, and 3 BEDROOM CONDOS, TOWNHOMES and APARTMENTS! Varied amenities include Washer/Dryer, Fireplace, JACUZZI BATHTUB, Intrusion Alarm, Computer & Fax Business Center, FREE CABLE, Garden Patios, Spacious Floor Plans, and MORE!!! From \$585/mo. Inner Loop and Houston-Wide. Agent - 7 years experience. A BETTER PLACE 713/592-0505 FREE SERVICE

NEW CONSTRUCTION SPECIALS!!!

Enjoy every modern amenity in your own BRAND NEW Innerloop Luxury Apartment Home! Near Downtown and Montrose including designer white appliances, full size washer/dryer connections, private patio or balcony with storage, resort style pool, modern fitness center, clubhouse and a resident business center with computer and fax! 1 Bdrm/1Bath \$694 mo. • 2 Bdrm/2 Bath \$899 mo. • 3 Bdrm/2 Bath \$1,059 mo. - LOW DEPOSITS! Also available: assigned cover parking and private garages with remote! A BETTER PLACE 713/592-0505 - Agent.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

HOME INSPECTIONS

• Don't Buy Your Home Without One! •

STRUCTURAL - MECHANICAL
RESALE - NEW CONSTRUCTION
SUPRA Equipped -TREC # 4021

Wilburn & Associates-
A Proud Community Supporter 713-667-7183

RECOVERY

Rediscover joy
and create the life you want.

energy
Rediscover the joy

Experience the joy of releasing the energy at your center.

Call Jackalyn Rainosek, Ph.D.
Southwest Recovery Place
713.942.7181

**Support OutSmart
Advertisers...
They Support You.**

SERVICES

Rainbow Maid Company
Sweet Heart Special \$10 OFF this month's cleaning/organizing, moving assistance, pet care assistance. Office-Home. Michael 713/721-5563 or 713/642-4858.

Puppy Love—Professional In Home Pet Care. We provide skillful and compassionate care for your home and pet while you are away. Call 713/681-0696.

MAID

Houston-House or Apartment Cleaning—Are you looking for a maid who speaks English, has own transportation and does a great job? Also enjoys pets.
Call Joe (713) 522-1614

MAID IN THE SHADE

"Making People Happy Since 1988"

Houses • Apartments • Offices.
Dependable Professional Service

6210-A Royalton CALL 713/665-6243

TRAVEL

Understanding Business Travel
Learn how to do travel arrangements from your company. Save your company money. Two Hour Seminar. \$20.00. (713) 529-8093.

UNIGLOBE

First Choice Travel

Corporate or Vacation
Olivia • RSVP • Atlantis • Our World
Customized or Independent
(713) 667-0580

1-800-856-1835 (outside Houston)
2236 W. Holcombe @ Greenbriar

**Travel
Out Smart!**

The Travel Partnership, Inc.
Sandra Wilkins
713/526-4471 pgr. 903-1247

OutSmart
Advertising
works!
Call 713/520-7237.

OUTSMART CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MADE EASY

R A T E S

Basic Classifieds are \$13 for 30 words or less & 25¢ per each word thereafter. Add additional 25¢ per each bold word. Discounts available for 3 or 6 months if ads are prepaid. Three insertions, base rate of \$10 per month. **Boxed ads with text only** are \$23 per vertical column inch (2 3/8" x 1"). **Boxed ads with graphics/logo** are \$46 per vertical column inch. 10% discount granted to advertisers who pre-pay for 3 or more consecutive months. **Deadline:** February 13 for the March issue. Order by phone & pay by VISA, MasterCard, or American Express. Or FAX it to us at 713/522-3275. Sorry, **we do not bill.** Mail your ad and payment to: OutSmart Classifieds, 3406 Audubon, Houston, TX 77006-4412.

Celebrating a decade of
working together for change...

**Moore
& Hunt**
ATTORNEYS



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

Emphasizing family and probate litigation, estate planning, personal disputes, real estate and small business issues.
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

OutSmart Advertisers

ADVERTISING/MARKETING

OutSmart Magazine • 3406 Audubon Place 520-7237
Rocketboy Communications • 4126 Lanark 660-6904
Uptown Health & Spirit Magazine • 3406 Audubon Place 520-7237

ASTROLOGERS

Phil Roddy 529-5842
Marilyn Stein 622-7232

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

Howard T. Glass 281/787-2000
Carol Helms • 405 Main, Suite 607 223-5555
Moore & Hunt • 3608 Audubon Place 522-4282
Shannon T. Warren 523-0420

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR

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

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Momentum Jaguar • 3101 Kirby Dr. 730-2JAG
Saturn of Houston • 10050 SW Freeway 777-6100

CATERING

Clayton Catering • 1701 California 526-1800

CLEANERS/LAUNDRY SERVICES

Custom Valet Cleaners • 1900 S. Shepherd 529-3366
Image Cleaners • 3407 Montrose 527-0880

CLEANING/JANITORIAL SERVICES

Maid in the Shade 665-6243
Man Maid Cleaning Service/Tony Akin 993-9737

COMMUNITY/NONPROFITS

(SEE ADDITIONAL LISTINGS IN THE SOURCE)
AIDS Foundation Houston • 3202 Wesleyan 623-6796
Center for AIDS • 1407 Hawthorne 527-8219
Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce 523-7576
Body Positive • 1475 W. Gray, #176 524-2374
Houston Pride Band 524-0218
Human Rights Campaign 529-9712
People with AIDS Coalition • 3400 Montrose 522-5428
PFLAG 867-9020

COMPUTERS

SERVICES/TRAINING/WEB DESIGN
Computer Factory • 13147 NW Frwy., #155 462-3453
Diverse Office Solutions pgr 912-5217
KAD Computers • 1437 W. Alabama 522-KAD8
Stealth Web Design/Bob Derr 802-2845

INTERNET PROVIDERS

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

CONSTRUCTION/REMODELING

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

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHTLIFE

THEATER/FILM
Alley Theatre 228-8421

FINANCIAL SERVICES

BANKS
Texas Commerce Bank 216-7000

ACCOUNTANTS

Hubbard Financial • 2615 Montrose 522-9000

TAX PREPARATION

Childress & Co. 686-9999

FITNESS CLUBS/ PERSONAL TRAINING

The Art of Fitness 938-BODY
Fitness Exchange • 4040 Millam 524-9932

Houston Gym • 233 Birdsall 880-9191
Muscle Mechanics • 4316 Yupon 523-5330

FRAMING/MOVIE COLLECTIBLES

Fine Toon • 2427 Bissonnet 522-6499
Hollywood Frame Gallery • 2431 Bissonnet 942-8885

FUNERAL/MORTUARY SERVICES

Earthman Funeral Directors 785-3911

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Preferred Graphics • 4200 Montrose 528-7654
House of Coleman • 901 W. Alabama 523-221

HEALTH CARE/MENTAL HEALTH

CHIROPRACTORS

Daniel Boudreaux, DC/Today's Health Center
5225 Katy Frwy, #460 880-4444
Jeffrey Garcia, DC/Yorktown Chiropractic
2301 Yorktown, Ste. 209 960-8575

COUNSELING /PSYCHOTHERAPY

Dr. Joyce Gayles 667-4067
Charles Junken, 6300 W. Loop South, Ste. 110 667-5418
Barbara Levinson, PhD/Center for Healthy Sexuality 785-7111
Bob Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP • 4200 Montrose, #540 522-7014
Southwest Recovery Place 942-7181

DENTISTS

Bruce W. Smith, DDS • 1006 Missouri 529-4364
LifeSmiles/Dr. Randy Mitchmore, DDS
2617 W. Holcombe Blvd., Ste. E 592-9300

HYPNOTHERAPISTS

John Arabie 686-7764 • pgr 281/725-2402

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

John Dascoulias 520-5206
M. Dan DeLeon 990-5102
Essential Touch/Alan Davidson 942-0923
Massage America 995-8057
Monsieur Massage/Roland Nicolaidis 942-2399

NUTRITIONISTS

Andy Vorster • 4100 Westheimer 960-8882

OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD • 6411 Fannin, Jones Pavilion
704-1777

OPTOMETRISTS

Sue Moss, OD • 1428-A West Alabama 524-2525

PHARMACY/DRUG STORES

STATSCRIPT Pharmacy • 4101 Greenbriar, Ste. 235 521-1700
STATSCRIPT Pharmacy • 3407 Montrose, #A-5 522-7373

PHYSICIANS

Gay&Lesbian Health Professionals Referral Line 523-4700
Nellie Grose, MD • 2201 W. Holcombe, Ste. 305 660-6620
Lawrence Mora • 1801 N Loop W 880-0433

INSURANCE AGENCIES/AGENTS

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

PET CARE

Absolutely Fabulous Pet Care • 908 W. Alabama 527-0707
Patricia A. Cooper, DVM 520-5588
Sharon's Pampered Pet Inn • 2411 Bissonnet 522-7387

PHOTOGRAPHY

James Campbell Photography 524-0104
Theresa DiMenno 464-4471
WoodAllen Photography • 3505 Louisiana 526-1747

PRINTING/COPY CENTERS

Copy.Com • 1201 Westheimer 528-1201
House of Coleman • 901 W. Alabama 523-2521

PSYCHIC/INTUITIVE READERS

Sandra Nicholas 522-0990
Joe Paxton 523-1627

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

REALTORS/AGENTS

Karen Derr/Karen Derr Realtors 862-1600
Sam Ferrer/ReMax/Appraiser 281/485-3200
Richard Hill/Swiley-Hudson • 1505 Heights 869-0456
Steve Louis/Caldwell Banker 623-8899, ext. 3018
Morgan Personette Realtors • 3660 Richmond #100 623-4443
Mike Copenhaver/Morgan Personette 297-5638
Parick O'Neil/Morgan Personette 297-5645
Jeffrey Kuchar/Morgan Personette
Kevin Pittman/Keller Williams 621-8001
Cary Russell/Prudential Premier Properties 721-9175
Bryan Williams/ERA Home Brokers 880-1400
Sean Yarbrough/ReMax • 12649F Memorial Dr. 763-5688

MORTGAGE LENDERS

Home Loan Corp • 1717 St. James Place, #200
Mark Archuleta/JoAnne Downes 297-8000
Momentum Mortgage Group
Tonya Grant • 908-8908 Keith Russell • 761-2357
Mortgage Associates of Texas 524-1850

RELIGIOUS GROUPS/SPIRITUALITY

Crossroads 681-9082
Houston Mission Church • 1505 Nevada 529-8225
Maranatha MCC • 3400 Montrose, Suite 600 528-6756
MCCR Houston • 1919 Decatur 861-9149

RESTAURANTS/COFFEE BARS

Fox Diner • 905 Taft 523-5FOX
Latina Cafe • 1972 Fairview 521-2611
7933 Westheimer 668-1444
Mo Mong • 1201 Westheimer (behind Hollywood Video) 524-5664
Riva's Italian Restaurant • 1117 Missouri 529-3450
Toopees • 1830 W. Alabama 52-AROMA
Urbana • 3407 Montrose 521-1086

RETAIL

ANTIQUES

Memories of Old • 1550 Westheimer 520-8744

AUTOMOTIVE ALARMS & TINTING

Executive Motoring Boutique • 2823 Hillcroft. 780-8000

CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

Basic Brothers • 1232 Westheimer 522-1626
Eye Elegance • 1800 Post Oak Blvd 622-4411
Tuxedo Gallery • 5200 West Loop South 592-0114

GARDENING

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

GIFTS/ACCESSORIES

Heights Pavilion - October Gallery • 244 W. 19th 861-3411
Jeffrey Stone, Ltd. • 9694 Westheimer 783-3555

GROCERIES, SUPPLIES & LIQUOR

Kroger • 3300 Montrose 526-7865

HAIR/SKIN CARE/SALONS

Apollo Chambers Hair Maintenance & Replacement 669-0031
Debbie's Style Shop • 2726 White Oak Drive 869-8977
Tracy's Retreat • 549 Studewood 869-2224

HOME FURNISHINGS

Gallery Furniture • 6006 I-45 N 694-5570
Klasse, Plus Klasse • 5120 Woodway, Ste. 3019 626-4249

JEWELERS

Reiner's Jeweler's • 2210 Westheimer 520-1212

PAGERS/VOICE MAIL/CELLULAR TELEPHONES

Premier Paging & Wireless
281/575-8500

**Support OutSmart
Advertisers...
They Support You.**

VITAMINS/HERBS/MINERALS

Houston Buyers Club 520-5288

TEST PREP

The Princeton Review 688-5500

TRAVEL

HOTELS/RESORTS/B&B'S

The Lovett Inn • 501 Lovett, Houston 522-5224
The Painted Lady Inn on Broadway • 620 Broadway, San Antonio. 210/220-1092

TRAVEL AGENCIES

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

VIATICAL SERVICES

Medical Escrow Society 800/422-1314
NVR 800-932-0050

COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

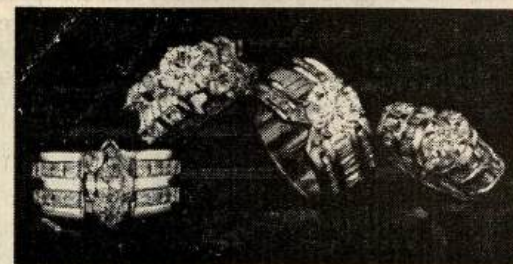
Licensed Professional Counselor
Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
Certified IMAGO Relationship Counselor



DENISE O'DOHERTY

3730 KIRBY DR., STE. 910
HOUSTON, 77098
(713) 524-9525

Holy Union Jewelry Experts



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

REINER'S
Fine Jewelry
Since 1918 Family Owned

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

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

LAW

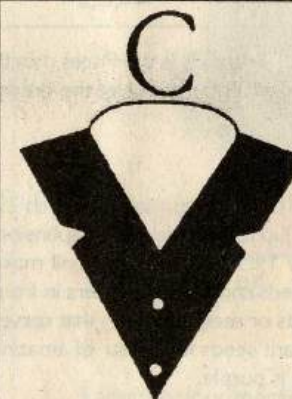
**Practiced with
Principles
and a
Passion**



The Law Offices of Carol S. Helms

405 Main, Suite 607
Scanlan Building
713/223-5555

Not Certified by the Texas Board of Specialization



**Custom
Valet
Cleaners**

*Heirloom
Clothing Restoration
Expert Alterations
Hand-Finished Shirts
Leather & Suede Specialists*

1900 S. Shepherd at San Felipe

529-3366

Proudly serving the community

**NeoSoft™
NeoSoft™
NeoSoft™**

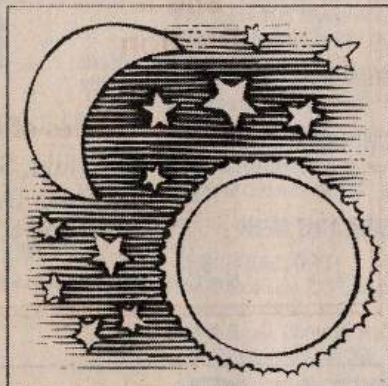
Houston's Premiere Internet Service Provider

**Call today about our
ISDN Sale**

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

Your Horoscope For February

Open up your internal Ziploc bags because the planets have aligned with our desire to push-the-system buttons. Yea, Aquarius. Example: When an organization has struggles with power outages (politics) they will implode and the system will change. If you desire a healthy relationship but you're unwilling to work on yourself, the relationship won't work. The Rolling Stones said it best—"You can't always get what you want, but you get what you need." February is the Pisces month to tighten your waist cincher, pull up those garter belts and let the dream action begin.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20)

Have you felt a slight bit pushed? Thank Mars, in Pisces through March 29, for the burst of energy. Brace yourself for Jupiter, the planet of expansion, starting February 5 and ending February 14. Never fear, you will make decisions and stand up for your desires, needs and fresh stargazers in front of the picture window. Create new projects or seek a position that serves the human side of yourself and others. Plant seeds for a year of amazing grace. Best color undies for your birthday is purple.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

Hang the aggressive side of your energy up, for the month. Tie up loose ends and visualize your future. This is not the best time to initiate new projects. Wait until March to prove a point or set sails for new horizons. Everyone knows you're strong and opinionated, so give goodwill kudos to fellow workers and show your white frilly boxers to your best buddies only.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)

You'll be relieved to know that the problems of the last few months will resolve after the second week in February. Set your sights on creating your dreams and know it's possible to achieve the impossible. That doesn't mean you can Jell-O out. Stand firm with both professional and personal relationships, realizing open communication will buy time. International Male and Victoria's Secret sell paisley silk, so splurge.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)

Go twins. What a special moment to have the carpet rolled out in your favor. This is a great time to rise to new professional heights. I caution you not to ignore your feelings, because your compassion will allow you to work more closely with others and improve overall relationships. Others will offer you support in every way. Let your imagination free itself, and eat lots of dark chocolate. Buy silver llama briefs for that cozy night by the fire.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)

Kick back and do the two-step. This month is the beginning of the big easy. I'm not telling you to become apathetic because the pressure's off, but you can break routine and do something unusual. New feelings about life will

seep in, and you will feel the urge to share and solve nagging problems. It's been 10 years since you've acted like a free spirit. Write "free at last" in red on bright yellow undies.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)

This is an upbeat month so find a cause to march down Westheimer carrying a flaming heart. Just don't go it alone. Choose support that has similar work habits and has the same values. Keep the choices churning so no one gets stale. You'll see a marked improvement in opportunities because the results will come faster. Become the agent of creative change. Wear aqua silk under your best trousers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Speak up this month. You're just as important as others. Boundaries are your prerogative just as much as others. You may feel you're stretching, but escaping won't get you anywhere. The first quarter of the year could be the most important time to grow personally. Change your toothbrush and mouthwash to a less stringent taste and show those pearly whites. Let your private parts wear a silver lining.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

Mars, the planet that rules your opposite sign, is in Pisces and makes you feel dreamy at times. Take that as the green light to build compassion into your work. This can be a great year to achieve the creative ideas that have been floating in your head. A warning thought—exercise vigorously so your body doesn't build unnecessary tension. Pull up green covers to match your conservative outer clothing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Jupiter enters Pisces on the 5th of February making a year-long trine (major flow) to your Sun sign. Used wisely this could afford you some opportunity to relax and let the past work take affect. Do some relaxing every chance you can or dabble in a new adventure. Rejoice, rejoice, you have no choice. Bold plaid will serve you when you want to wear as little as possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

It would be unwise to overextend your time by investing in improvements in your environment. You may get in over your head, so plan wisely. Take long walks and read more. Concentrate your efforts by creating boundaries in every facet of your life. Jupiter and Mars are in Pisces and you want to overextend your high energy. Use that energy wisely and you'll have a great month. Sky blue satin fits your warm nature.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Venus, in your sign, goes direct this month and you feel that social hour is still on a roll. This is a sign of good fortune in relationships and work. Whether you're single or married, romance will bloom if you retire your self-doubt. Don't project others' reluctance as standoffish or distant. Remember, it's a judgment call if you're not direct. Mauve is the perfect color to adorn your private parts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18.)

Peek-a-boo. Earth to Aquarius. Polish your armored outfit and give that air sign energy to mankind. You talk about changes, but never for yourself, so make heart connections and stop the hardass front. Sun, Mercury, Uranus and Neptune are in your sign, no looking back. Pay attention to your spiritual life, and society will reward you for giving of yourself. Choose your favorite color to surprise whoever looks under your skirt.

The unsinkable Madilyn Stein does private readings and parties. Her new adventure, What A Catch, is a matchmaking service.

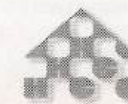
"Dot
by dot
building
up the
image..."

Marion E. Coleman
Your Community Image Inker!



House of Coleman
Fine Printing & Graphics

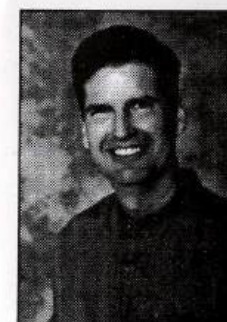
901 WEST ALABAMA
HOUSTON, TX 77006-4693
713.523.2521
FAX 713.524.264



YOUR COMMUNITY CHIROPRACTOR

"When you want a holistic, drugless approach to
headaches, fatigue, weight control, and other
chronic problems, this is the place for you.
And yes, we do necks and backs, too! Call today."

—Dr. Daniel



Dr. Daniel Boudreaux
Chiropractor/Kinesiologist

**TODAY'S
HEALTH CENTER**
BETTER HEALTH NATURALLY

Call 713/880-4444

5225 Katy Freeway near Shepherd

Late Appointments Available

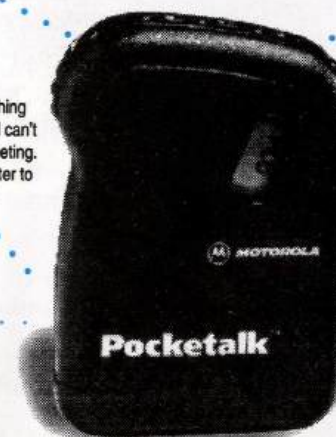
Call for information on our Demonstration/Lecture series.

**Pocketalk
has everyone talking.**

"Joe, this is Charlie. Could you
get some prices together for me
on the Simpson job?"

"Hi honey, I'm going to the Gay and
Lesbian Chamber of Commerce mixer
tonight. Why don't you meet me there?"

"I had something
come up and can't
make our meeting.
I'll call you later to
reschedule."



"Hey, Lea, can you
call me as soon as
you get this
message? I'm
interested in buying
one of your new
talking pagers."

Special
Introductory Price

\$19.95

Listen to your messages right where you are, right
when they come in. With Pocketalk, you're in control,
because you get the whole message in your caller's
voice, so you can decide your next move without
slowing down! Call us or come by today!

- Works just like an answering machine—play, reverse, fast forward, pause, and delete
- No need to use an operator—complete privacy
- Stores messages so you can listen at your convenience
- Assured message delivery means you'll never miss a message
- Up to three minutes of message memory

**Premier
PAGING & WIRELESS**

1220 Murphy Rd. Suite E
281-575-8500

FREE DELIVERY!

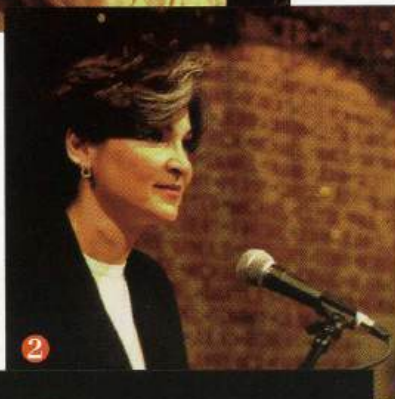
OUT IN HOUSTON



At the Alley Theatre, luminaries from Houston's arts community joined together for the World AIDS Day Ceremony of Remembrance. Artists and administrators memorialized Houstonians from artistic disciplines who have been lost to AIDS:

1 Ensemble Theatre artistic director **Eileen J. Morris** remembers Houston actor **Michael Ballard**.

2 AIDS Foundation Houston executive director **Sara Selber**.



3 Houston Ballet principal dancer **Lauren Anderson** and **Andrew Edmonson**.

4 Houston Symphony conductor-in-residence **Stephen Stein**.

5 (From left) **Clifton Hazelwood** of Artists Management, state representative **Debra Danburg**, and Alley Theatre associate artist **Michael Wilson**.

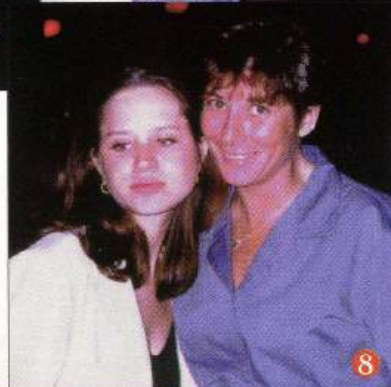
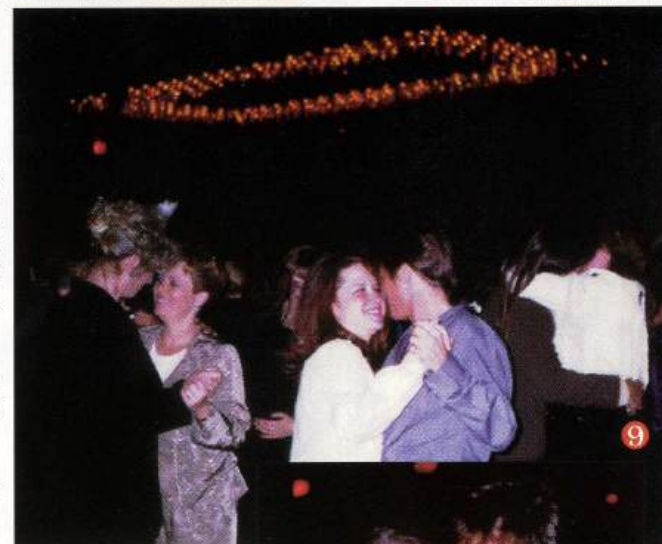
LiB, a women's empowerment group, welcomed 1998 with their annual New Year's party. 725 people celebrated into the wee hours of 1998. Highlights of the night included a gourmet buffet, two ballrooms for dancing, and a champagne toast and balloon drop at midnight:

6 New Year's Kiss: **Beth Johnson** (l) and **Judy Moon**.

7 **Lee Bennett** (l) and **Lynette Ross**.

8 **Tenille Duncan** (l) and **Leslie Daniel**.

9 Dancing into the night at Houston's Renaissance Hotel.



Payle\$\$ Insulation

The **Best for Less.**

Since 1977

Residential

Commercial

Attic

Walls/Floors

Spray-On



We warranty our work!
"The people who care"

713 868-1021

Free Estimates

Lynda M. Kornbleet, Owner



U.S. CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES

Our Capabilities Include:

- Kitchen & Bath Remodeling
- Ceramic Tiling
- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Room Additions and Siding

We are an owner-operated company serving the Houston area for 17 years, specializing in residential and commercial remodeling. We have many satisfied references, both residential and commercial, for your review.

If we can be of assistance, please call. Thank you.

Call for free estimate

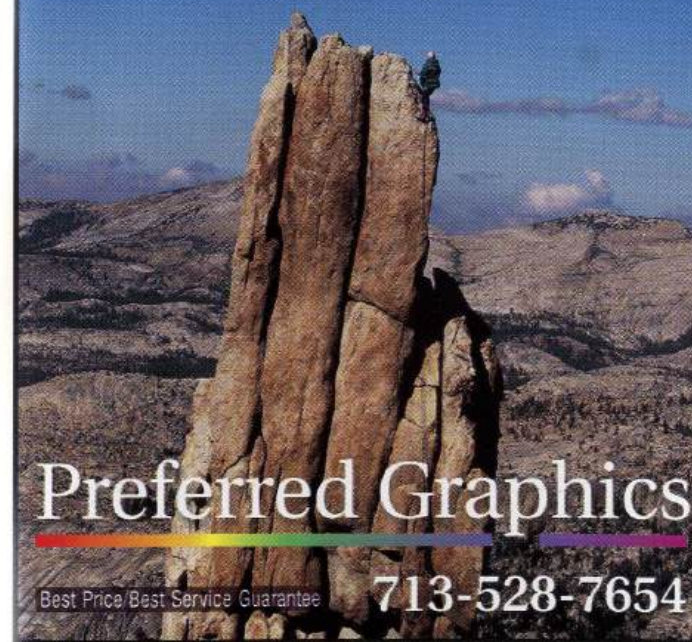
U.S. CONSTRUCTION & SERVICES

526-7679

Pager 698-0103

Making It Happen for You is the Thrill of Our Business!

The Community's Desktop Graphics and Printing Artisan!



Preferred Graphics

Best Price/Best Service Guarantee

713-528-7654

CHASE

The right relationship is everything.™

- ★ Loan by Phone..... 800-221-LEND
- ★ 24 Hour Customer Service..... 713-216-7000
- ★ Chase Mortgages..... 713-216-HOME
- ★ Small Business..... 713-216-1720
- Assistance Center
- ★ Hearing Impaired TDD..... 713-216-7146

Over 140 branches statewide
24-hour ATMs available at over
300 statewide locations

CHASE
P.R.I.D.E.
team

Where people make the difference.

Member FDIC



We LOVE What We Do!

From left to right: Mike Spear, Mike Copenhaver,
Jeffrey Kuchar, and Patrick O'Neil.



2537 ADDISON West U area
4/3.5, '93 construction, Center Hall plan,
thermal windows, formals, pine flooring.
\$419,000



816 HOLTEN Bellaire
4/3.5, beautiful recent construction, court-
yard w/ large gazebo, slate floors down.
\$418,000



2109 HAZARD Summit Place
3/2.5, grand entry w/ marble floors, open
stairwell w/ iron banister, vaulted ceilings.
\$279,500

WEST U • BELLAIRE AREA

- * Albans4-5/4.5, stucco & Austin limestone.....\$949,900
- Graustark2/2.5 TH, Arquitectonica design, 3-levels, formals ..177,500
- * Holcombe3-4/2.5 TH, controlled access communityfrom 219,900
- Laurel4/3++, custom home, pool & spa, corner lot..... 549,900
- McClendon ..2/1, ample rooms, hardwoods, garage apt.....147,000
- Rutgers Pl3/2.5 TH, brick, Jacuzzi tub & separate shower220,000
- Sunset.....3/2, English cottage, large eat-in kitchen247,900
- Robinhood3-4/2.5, open floorplan, lush yard w/pool475,000

MONTROSE • UPPER KIRBY

- FairviewNEW LISTING! 3/3.5 TH, contemporary design \$215,000
- * Castle Ct.3/2.5 TH, by Jewel Custom Homesfrom 228,900
- ConverseNEW LISTING! 2/2.5, loft area, breakfast bar137,500
- Harold4-5/2, study down, gameroom up, great kitchen226,000
- Lovett2/2.5 in New Orleans style condo community84,900
- * Ridgewood2/2.5 TH, residential warehouse, roof decks... from 219,900
- W. Gray3/1, bright brick bungalow, flagstone porches,125,800

RIVER OAKS • GALLERIA

- Briar Hollow..3/2.5 Georgian, huge master w/ study\$425,000
- Haddon2/1 private bungalow, oversized lot133,900
- San Felipe1/1 TH, upstairs corner unit w/ wrap around porch ..49,000
- * West Clay.....3/2.5 TH, oak hardwoods, wood columns.....from 221,900

HEIGHTS AREA • NORTHWEST

- E. 9thBeautifully renovated 2-3/2, formals, den, pool\$163,900
- Cheshire2/1, fresh paint & refinished hardwoods '9769,500
- Highland2/1, front porch w/ swing, Heights original129,900
- Taggart3/2.5 TH, built around private courtyard, gallery249,000

Mike Spear297-5614

Mike Copenhaver297-5638

Jeffrey Kuchar297-5605

Patrick O'Neil.....297-5645



* indicates new construction

3660 RICHMOND AVENUE, SUITE 100

(713) 623-4443

www.morganpersonette.com