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COMPLIMENTARY • APRIL 1998

Houston's Lesbian Monthly Magazine

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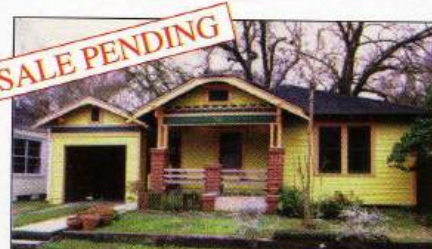
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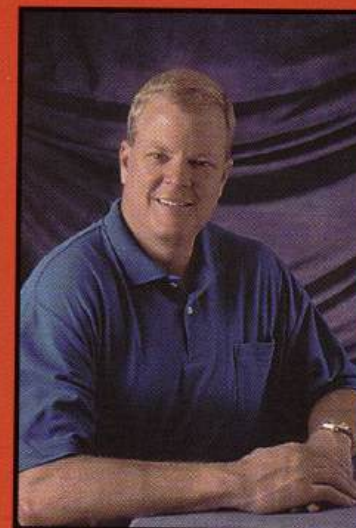


Heights, totally renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bath, custom kitchen, bookshelves, hardwoods, centrals, large master with French doors to deck. Light and bright. \$149,900



Houston Heights, Cute 2 bedroom, 2 bath, plus loft. Renovated home with updated kitchen. Large master bedroom with master bath. Vaulted ceilings, pine floors, large loft overlooks living area. \$169,900

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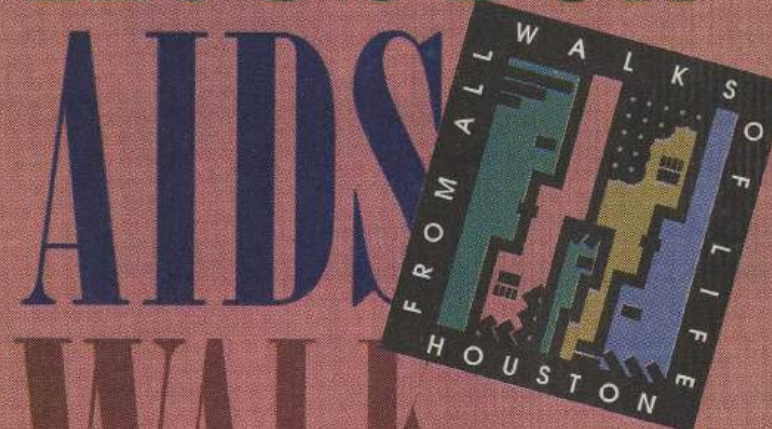
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VOL. 6, NO. 4 April 1998

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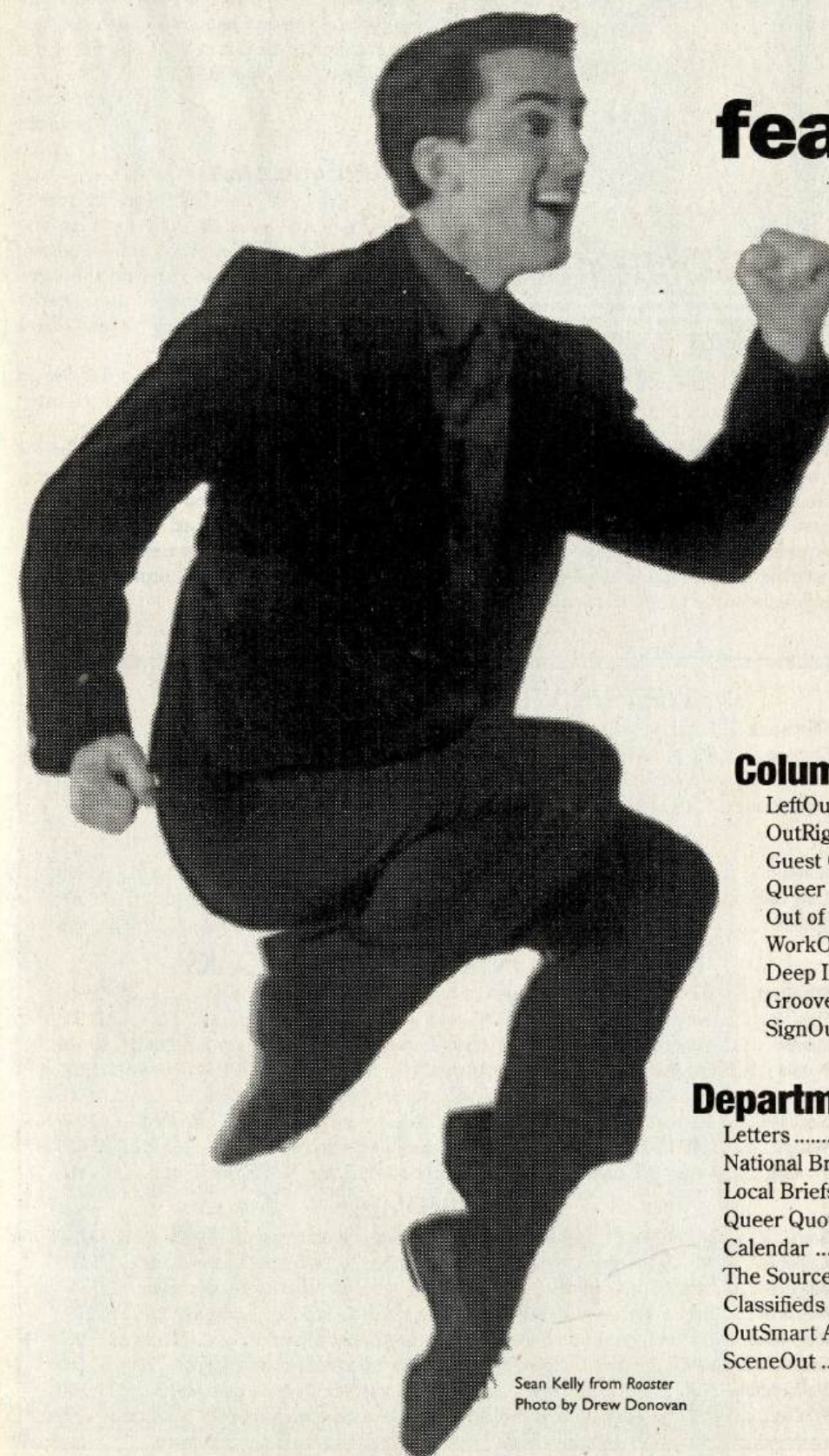
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Sean Kelly from Rooster
Photo by Drew Donovan

Letters

WHAT ABOUT BOB...AND ELLEN?

Thoroughly enjoyed the Robert Rauschenberg article ["What About Bob?" by Steven Foster, March]. But I would feel neglectful if I didn't point out a small error—"corporate sponsor, smoking giant William Morris." I think it's Philip Morris. However, if that's the only problem I could find in your last issue, that's not bad. Well, actually, there is something else—though the interview with Ellen Burstyn was okay, it was too short. I felt like I had been seated in a fine restaurant, ready for a great meal, but not only were the portions too small, I didn't even get to see the dessert menu! But thanks for putting together a classy magazine for Houston's gay population.

Neal Donahue
Houston

I just wanted to thank you for the cover and article on Robert Rauschenberg. I had no idea who or what he was until I read *OutSmart* (maybe that's why your magazine is named *OutSmart*). I went to CAM and The Menil Collection to view his works, and I was amazed at what I saw. His art is what art is meant to be.



work and for being such a positive role model for the gay community. Your magazine continues to inform me and keep me updated. It is a publication to be proud of. Thanks for all the hard work from your staff.

Freda Jacobs
Houston

DARYL AND DALE

Though I think the subject of politics is pretty boring, I love reading your LeftOut and OutRight columns. I just wish Daryl Moore and Dale Carpenter would write on the same issues—that would make the liberal/conservative head-butting even more interesting.

Howard Blakeman
Houston

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Left to right: Mike Spear, Mike Copenhaver, Jeffrey Kuchar and Patrick O'Neil.

Mike Spear297-5614
Mike Copenhaver.....297-5638
Jeffrey Kuchar.....297-5605
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* indicates new construction



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Little LakeWell-maintained 3/2, spacious formals, remodeled kitchen, den, deck189,500
ValkeithRemodeled 4/3, entertaining areas overlook decked pool, move-in ready339,000

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HaroldExquisite 3-4/4+++ custom home, grand foyer w/ marble staircase, cook's kitchen 825,000
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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

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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 AI455-019 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 AI455-900) 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 sternbra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

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

Pediatric Use

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

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

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

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

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

ADVERSE REACTIONS

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

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

Table 2 Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification				
	Study AI455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	ZERIT (20 mg BID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy				
Grade 1-2	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study AI455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Table 3 Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials*			
Adverse Events	Study AI455-019*		
	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 AI455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Controlled Clinical Trials: Incidence of Adult Laboratory Abnormalities*		
Lab Tests (units)	Study AI455-019*	
	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 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01	
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01	

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

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

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

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Adapted from: P4577-04
Revised October 1996

National Briefs

OPPONENTS OF MINISTER HOLD CEREMONY

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - About 300 disgruntled members of a Methodist church held their own service to protest the return of their minister after his acquittal in a church court on charges of performing a lesbian unity ceremony.

The Rev. Jimmy Creech received a standing ovation from about 600 parishioners when he returned to the pulpit of First United Methodist Church on March 15.

Most of Creech's opponents were absent that day, and Sunday, an estimated 300 of them attended a "laity rally" at Westside High School.

Tad Freeburg, 40, said it felt good to reunite with his fellow church members.

"It's kind of nice seeing people that I haven't seen in months because of this situation," Freeburg said. "It gives me hope just seeing that other people feel the same way I do."

Many signed petitions outside the high school asking Nebraska United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez to discontinue Creech's appointment.

Creech had been suspended from his post at Omaha's largest United Methodist church since Nov. 10. On March 13, a jury of Methodist ministers from across Nebraska acquitted him of charges that he broke church rules by performing the lesbian unity ceremony in September.

The case was the first challenge to United Methodist policy on homosexual marriage. The jury's decision could shape how the 9.5 million-member denomination interprets rules governing its treatment of gays.

In the audience Sunday was Marvin Koelling, superintendent of the church's Northeast District in Norfolk, who oversaw the congregation during Creech's suspension.

Koelling said he was there to let members know that the church still cared about them. "I think these people needed a time together, and the message wasn't divisive," he said.

Koelling said he hoped Creech's opponents and supporters will reconcile.

"If they follow the message they heard this morning, they will try to reach out," Koelling said. "They are good people and good United Methodists."

COURT WEIGHS DISABLED LAW FOR HIV

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a major test of disability rights, Supreme Court justices sparred Monday over whether HIV-infected people

should be considered disabled because of dangers involved in sex and childbearing.

The lawyer for Maine dentist Randon Bragdon argued that Bragdon did not illegally discriminate against an HIV-infected woman by refusing to treat her at his office.

The patient, Sidney Abbott, suffers no AIDS symptoms and therefore is not protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act, said attorney John McCarthy.

But Ms. Abbott's lawyer said lower courts correctly found that Bragdon violated the law, which bars discrimination against the disabled in jobs, housing, and public accommodations.

The law—responsible for such aids as wheelchair ramps at countless public places—says people are disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."

HIV-infected people should always be considered disabled because the contagious and fatal nature of acquired immune deficiency syndrome severely limits their ability to have sex and bear children, said Ms. Abbott's attorney, Bennett H. Klein.

Some justices disputed whether HIV infection really creates such a limit.

Justices David H. Souter and Antonin Scalia suggested an HIV-infected person faces a "moral choice" rather than an actual physical limit on her or his ability to have children.

"I'm not sure that's what the statute is talking about," Souter said.

However, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said that if a person with highly infectious tuberculosis stays away from other people, "we don't just call it a moral choice."

Someone with bubonic plague would be considered disabled, added Justice Stephen G. Breyer.

Bragdon's lawyer said the disability law aims to protect people whose disabilities affect their "day-to-day independent living and economic self-sufficiency," not HIV-infected people who suffer no symptoms.

The disability-rights law says disabled people can be treated differently if they pose a "direct threat to the health or safety of others."

"Dr. Bragdon believes that when he provides a service in the face of the risk of death he should be allowed to take additional precautions" such as insisting on filling Ms. Abbott's cavity at a hospital, McCarthy said.

However, Breyer said that "after 15 years and hundreds of thousands of deaths" from AIDS

there appeared to be no documented cases in which a dentist caught the virus from a patient.

"How can we say here that your client exercised reasonable medical judgment?" Breyer asked. McCarthy replied that there were seven possible cases of HIV transmission in dental procedures.

Klein said that unless HIV-infected people have clear protections under the law, many will hide the fact that they carry the virus.

The court never has decided a case involving an HIV-related issue or the disability-bias law, signed in 1990 by President Bush.

A decision is expected by July. The justices' ruling could provide clues as to whether the law covers other kinds of disabilities, such as cases of epilepsy or diabetes that are controlled by medication.

JUDGE: NAVY MUST REINSTATE OFFICER

WASHINGTON (AP) - A federal judge is warning the Navy it must comply with his order reinstating a chief petty officer who won the right to keep managing nuclear attack submarines despite allegations the officer is gay.

U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin recently ordered the Navy by May 1 to justify its decision to assign Timothy R. McVeigh to clerical work rather than returning him to his supervisory post.

Following the court hearing, McVeigh's lawyer accused the Navy of acting in bad faith.

"You refused to provide the reasons ... as to why Mr. McVeigh was not reinstated other than vaguely to refer to the 'notoriety of the case' and the 'confined conditions' aboard a submarine," attorney Christopher Wolf wrote in a letter to the government lawyer in the case.

"The Navy's refusal to reinstate him to the chief of boat (top enlisted man) position ... is a further indication of the Navy's bad faith," he added.

Wolf accused the Navy of dragging its feet and keeping the decorated 17-year veteran from returning to his former duties that would let him advance his career and retire with full benefits after 20 years.

Justice Department attorney David Glass, representing the government, told the judge one chief-of-boat position had opened up, but McVeigh was not deemed the best candidate. He did not provide details.

Sporkin set a June 1 hearing, giving the Navy two months to comply with his January

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order in which he said the Navy wrongly enforced the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

Glass refused to comment after the hearing.

Joe Krovisky, a Justice spokesman, said the government intends to fully reinstate McVeigh.

"He just didn't qualify for this particular chief-of-boat position," Krovisky said. "The Navy felt someone else would do a better job."

McVeigh, who is not related to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber with a similar name, was dismissed in December on charges he is homosexual and engaged in sodomy.

The 36-year-old, stationed at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, has not commented on his sexuality.

Pentagon policy allows dismissal of someone who discloses he is gay, but the military cannot raise the issue without sufficient cause.

Sporkin said the Navy went too far in investigating McVeigh, who was linked to an anonymous America Online Inc. computer profile page that suggested he had a sexual interest in young men.

The judge also said the Navy violated the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act by obtaining confidential information about McVeigh from AOL without a warrant or court order.

The Navy is appealing, while McVeigh is pursuing a lawsuit against the military, seeking unspecified damages.

CALIF. COURT: SCOUTS CAN BAN GAYS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The Boy Scouts are not a business covered by California's anti-discrimination laws and can exclude homosexuals and boys who don't believe in God, the state Supreme Court recently ruled unanimously.

One ruling could allow the Scouts to expel 16-year-old twin brothers. They were barred by a Cub Scout den at 9 because they refused to profess a belief in God, were admitted by court order and recently qualified to become Eagle Scouts. A second ruling upheld the Scouts' rejection of an 18-year-old Eagle Scout's application to become a Scout leader after he disclosed his homosexuality in a newspaper interview.

The opinion by Chief Justice Ronald George stressed that the court was not judging the wisdom of the Scouts' policies, and carefully avoided the question of whether the Scouts, if

covered by civil rights laws, would have the constitutional right to exclude gays and atheists.

"This is the sort of victory that the Boy Scouts should be ashamed of," said Timothy Curran, 36, whose application to be an assistant scoutmaster in Contra Costa County in 1981 was the subject of one ruling.

Taylor Flynn, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer for Orange County teen-agers Michael and William Randall, urged charities and governments to withdraw financial support from the Boy Scouts, following the lead of Levi Strauss, United Way of San Francisco, and the city of Chicago.

GAY ORGANIZATIONS RESPOND TO REGGIE WHITE'S ATTACK

Following Green Bay Packers star Reggie White's anti-gay and ethnically stereotyping comments on March 25, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations have responded. White accused the U.S. of "going away from God" by allowing homosexuality to "run rampant," adding, "Homosexuality is a decision. People from all different ethnic backgrounds live in this lifestyle. But people from all different ethnic backgrounds also are liars and cheaters and malicious and back-stabbing." He then went on to stereotype various ethnic groups, ostensibly calling these stereotypes the "gifts" of each race.

GLAAD, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership, LLEGO (Latino/a Gay and Lesbian Organization) and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) have all called upon Campbell's Soup, for whom White is a spokesperson, to sever ties with him. In addition, GLAAD and HRC urge the National Football League to distance themselves from White's divisive comments. "White's stardom gives him influence over millions of youth and adult fans. I am shocked that he would irresponsibly use his voice in such a damaging manner. White's assertion that being lesbian or gay is a malicious 'lifestyle' akin to dishonesty and cruelty is bizarre, wrong-headed, and factually inaccurate," said Joan M. Garry, GLAAD's executive director. "GLAAD calls upon him to apologize for his divisive and hurtful comments and asks the National Football League (NFL) and the Green Bay Packers to separate themselves from White's prejudicial views." GLAAD has also encouraged CBS Sports, who is currently considering hiring White as a sports commentator, to reject him.

SATURN JOINS OTHERS EXPOSING HAWAIIAN RADICAL RELIGIOUS WRONGDOINGS

Saturn has joined the chorus of companies and organizations aiding the Hawaii State Campaign Spending Commission investigation of deception by the anti-gay group Save Traditional Marriage (STM) related to a November 20 fundraising event

featuring a workshop and dinner with Stephen Covey, author of *Seven Habits of Highly Successful People*. The fees paid by attendees, ranging from \$110-\$1,000, all went directly to STM, making attendees public supporters of the group, despite the fact that an October 22 solicitation received by Saturn of Honolulu for the event, claimed its host was "Hawaii's Future Today," a nonpolitical nonprofit group. After a number of companies and organizations, including the Australian Consulate, protested their inadvertent support for STM, the anti-gay political group claimed its deception was just an accident. However, the group has put forth an October 24 letter which indicates the event beneficiary as STM as its letter of solicitation, failing to mention the letter sent out two days previous which does not. According to Michael Johnson, vice president and general manager of Saturn of Honolulu, "Along with many others, we did not realize the education workshop was a political fundraiser. We believe in including, not excluding, people....We are considering legal remedies with 'class action' on the groups on misrepresentation."

MEDIA GROUP SUSPENDS DISNEY BOYCOTT

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A Hispanic media group says it will continue to monitor the Walt Disney Co. despite suspending its yearlong boycott of the entertainment giant.

The National Hispanic Media Coalition announced Friday that it was suspending the boycott against Disney and ABC-TV, which Disney owns, for making strides in minority hiring.

"It has to be very clear to Disney/ABC, if it slides back to its old discriminatory ways, we will quickly reinstate our action against it," Alex Nogales, the coalition's national chair, said in a statement.

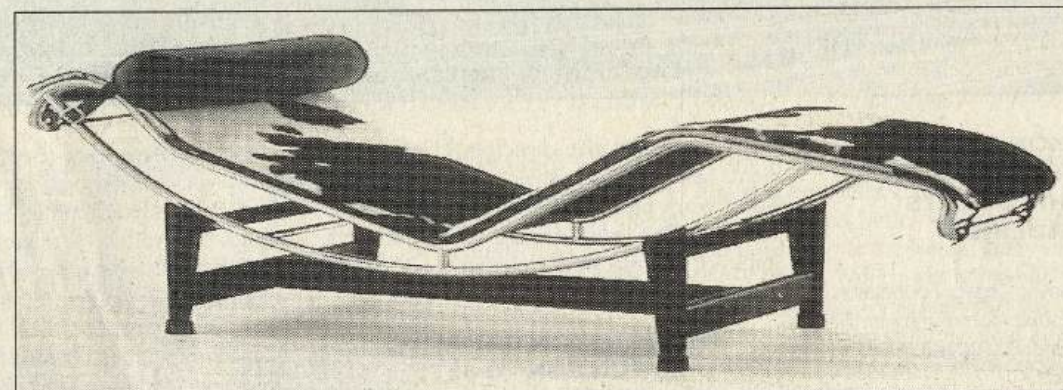
Disney has hired or promoted eight Hispanics into directorships or vice presidencies and has contracted more extensively with Hispanic-owned companies since the boycott began last April, Nogales said.

Disney also has launched an "unprecedented philanthropic campaign making millions of dollars in pledges to Hispanic-American organizations in the business, entertainment, and civil rights sectors," Nogales said.

Disney is the target of several other boycotts. The Southern Baptist Convention and several other conservative religious groups oppose Disney's granting of benefits to partners of gay employees and contend some of its movies and TV shows promote nontraditional values.

Such boycotts appear to have had little impact on Disney, however. The company earned \$755 million in the fiscal first quarter that ended Dec. 31—a jump of 18 percent over the same period in 1997. Revenue rose 6 percent to \$6.34 billion.

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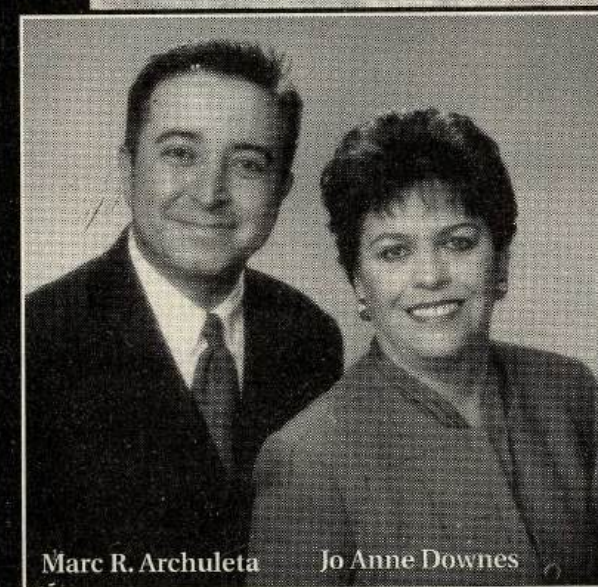
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AN UNCOMMON LEGACY FOUNDATION, INC. ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS AND DEADLINES

Each year, An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc. gives back to the lesbian community in the form of scholarships to individuals and grants to organizations and projects.

By reaching out to the educational community, Legacy awards outstanding lesbian students with \$1,000 scholarships. Applicants must be undergraduate or graduate students of an accredited college or university. According to past recipient Carolyn Hunt, "The scholarship was a tremendous boost financially in helping me through a semester of graduate work. More importantly, it was a tremendous personal boost to be honored as a lesbian—a component of my life that is rarely recognized, let alone celebrated, in my professional and academic worlds."

Grants are awarded to 501 (c) (3) organizations and projects which address social, cultural, health, and educational needs and which promote the civil rights and well-being of all lesbians in today's society and for future generations. Grants awarded generally range in amount from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Past recipients include Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents, Montrose Counseling Center, AssistHers Care Team, and Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC). Susan Turell, co-chair of the 1997 Texas Lesbian Conference, stated, "Last year's grant helped TLC with publicity efforts as well as to underwrite costs which made the event accessible to more women."

Deadline for submitting applications for scholarships or grants is May 15, 1998. Recipients will be announced at a June 28 brunch which will feature Margarethe Cammermeyer as the keynote speaker.

NUTRITIONAL THERAPIES FOR HIV COMPLICATIONS

The Houston Buyer's Club has compiled a comprehensive brochure of nutritional therapies for HIV. Peripheral neuropathy, diarrhea, protease belly, elevated triglycerides, low energy, high liver enzymes, muscle loss, thrush, bloating, and decreases in glutathione are complications that can occur from the disease itself or from the HIV/AIDS drugs.

"Many of these complications could be the result of certain nutritional deficiencies," said Fred

Walters Jr., executive director. "Many of our clients see changes in their body and in their blood work by following certain nutritional protocols." The brochures are available at both StatScript pharmacies in Houston.

1998 HOUSTON GAY PRIDE 5K FUN RUN TO SET PRIDE WEEK IN MOTION

Dig out those running shoes and start getting ready for the 1998 Houston Gay Pride 5K Fun Run. This inaugural 5K Fun Run will take place Saturday, June 13, 1998, at 7:45 a.m. with an emphasis on health, fitness, and AIDS awareness. The Fun Run is an official event of the Pride Week Celebrations and will be the kickoff event for the Pride Week Jamboree Weekend. The Fun Run will benefit the Body Positive Houston, Inc. Wellness Center. A 5K walk and wheelchair race will be included as part of the Fun Run. This Fun Run is not only for the gay and lesbian community, but for the whole community. So come on out June 13.

Application forms can be found in the Fellowship Hall at MCCR, Memorial Park Tennis Center, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, the University of Houston gym, and other locations throughout the community. We also have sponsorship and volunteer opportunities for those who are interested. For more information, please check out the following Web site: <http://freeweb.pdq.net/sideout1/FunRun.html>. Or contact one of the following: Carl "Carlo" Deason, 713/631-1468 (home) or 713/743-4060 (work); Edwin Kelly, 713/680-9959 (side-out1@pdq.net); Steve Ruimveld, 713/868-8904 (sruimveld@pdq.net); or Albert Mendoza 713/697-6510.

SOUTHWESTERN BELL HOUSTON AIDS WALK NAMES BENEFICIARIES—17 LOCAL AGENCIES TO BENEFIT FROM WALK 'N' ROLL

AIDS Foundation Houston, producers of The Southwestern Bell Houston AIDS Walk, announced today that 17 local HIV/AIDS service organizations will benefit from this year's Walk, slated for May 17. The following agencies will receive a portion of the Walk proceeds: AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area, Inc. (AABA); AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, Inc.; AIDS Foundation Houston; The Association for the Advancement

of Mexican Americans (AAMA); The B.L.O.C.K. (Building Lives Offering Community Knowledge); Body Positive Houston Wellness Center; Casa, A Special Hospital; Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR); Milam House; Montrose Clinic; Mother's Voices of Texas Gulf Coast Chapter; New Hope Counseling Center, Inc.; Omega House; People With AIDS Coalition—Houston; The Southeast Texas Legal Clinic; Steven's House; and The Assistance Fund.

Sara Speer Selber, executive director of AIDS Foundation Houston, stated: "HIV/AIDS has no prejudice. It affects individuals from all walks of life. The frightening fact is that one in 90 Houstonians is HIV positive—men, women, and children." Houston ranks seventh in the nation in cases of AIDS and it is estimated that by the year 2000, 40 million persons worldwide will be infected with HIV/AIDS. Selber continued, "Great strides have been made, but there is still no cure."

1997's walk raised \$200,000 and attracted 3,000 participants. 1998's walk hopes to see a dramatic increase in these numbers. Harold T. Shultz III, walk chairman, stated, "While the walk has been growing steadily, we are nowhere near the numbers other cities raise [AIDS Walk Atlanta: 15,000 walkers, \$1.46 million raised; AIDS Walk Colorado: 13,000 walkers, \$1.4 million raised], and we need the entire Houston community to stand behind this effort and make a difference." In an attempt to raise involvement, awareness, and funds, the walk committee unanimously agreed to create new community representative seats. The task of these "community liaisons" is to personally visit and invite the entire Houston community to participate.

The walk is sponsored (to date) by: Southwestern Bell, Chase Bank of Texas, Walgreen's, Duke Energy, Fiesta, HEB Pantry Foods, Weingarten Realty Investors, MacGregor Medical, Supercuts, and the Houston Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages. Media sponsors are: KRIV-Fox 26, 107.5 The Buzz, Sunny 99.1, Houston Chronicle, and OutSmart magazine.

POWER ANNOUNCES \$5,000 GRANT FROM THE ROTHEUDT-DIZINGER FOUNDATION TO EDUCATE THE HOUSTON HIV+ COMMUNITY

Recognizing the importance of educating and empowering all HIV+ people in Houston about

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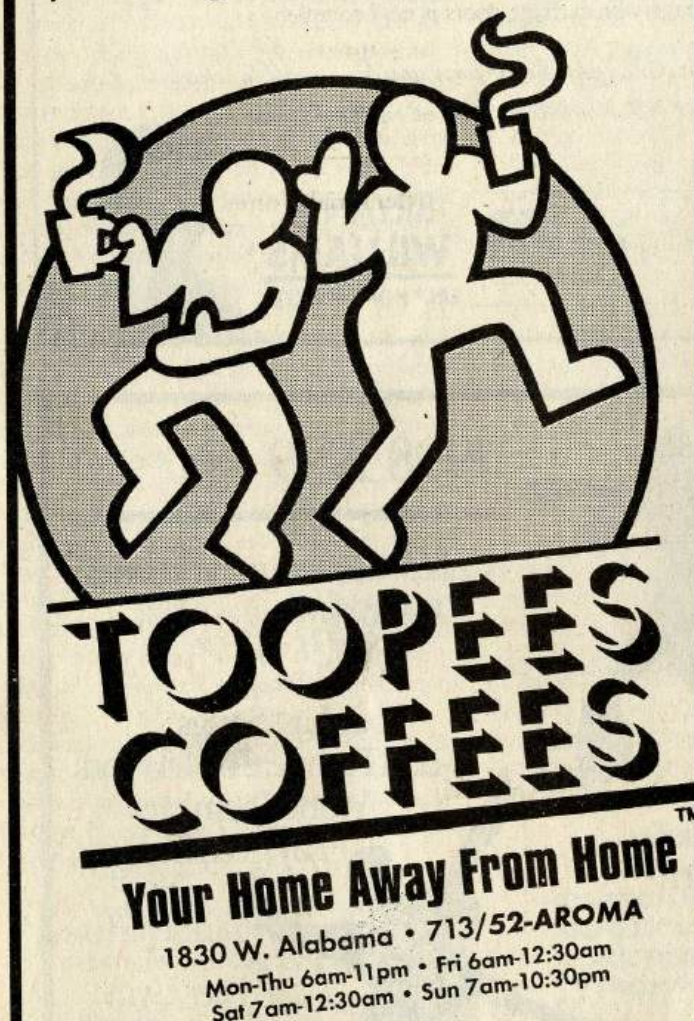
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DANCERS: PHILLIP BROOMHEAD AND KATHRYN WARAKOMSKY PHOTO: GEOFF WINNINGHAM DANCERS: TIEKKA SCHOFIELD AND SEAN KELLEY PHOTO: JACK MITCHELL DANCERS: LAUREN ANDERSON AND CARLOS ACOSTA PHOTO: DREW DONOVAN

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Local Briefs

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the way to stay healthy, The Rotheudt-Dizinger Foundation has provided a \$5,000 educational grant to PoWer, Program for Wellness Restoration.

"We are very excited because this money will help to fund seminars through the year in Houston to educate patients about nutrition, exercise, and anabolic therapies for HIV-related loss of lean body mass (LBM)," said Nelson Vergel, executive director of PoWer. "Preserving LBM is key to survival and good quality of life in HIV/AIDS, and most patients with HIV do not know how to prevent or revert wasting," added Vergel.

"PoWer's work is desperately needed by the HIV+ community of Houston. We are pleased to help PoWer to accomplish its mission of empowering HIV+ people to lead healthier lives," said Hans-Willi Rotheudt, founder of the Rotheudt-Dizinger Foundation.

The Rotheudt-Dizinger Foundation was created in 1990 by Hans-Willi Rotheudt and Peter Dizinger (who died of AIDS in 1991) to provide compassionate assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS to make their dreams a reality and to let them know they are neither alone nor forgotten.

PEOPLE WITH AIDS (PWA) COALITION WAREHOUSE PROGRAM NEED DONATIONS

The Warehouse Program at the People With Aids (PWA) Coalition needs used furniture and household items for distribution to indigent individuals and families with AIDS.

Items in short supply include sheets, towels, dishes, pots and pans, small appliances, and flatware. Also desperately needed are furniture items, including dressers, tables, chairs, and lamps.

All of the donated items are distributed free of charge to eligible clients of the program. It is a needs-based program: requirements are that the client have income below the federal poverty level (\$600 per month), reside in the Houston area, and have HIV/AIDS.

Donations may be dropped off at the main offices of the coalition, 3400 Montrose, Suite 106, at the corner of Montrose and Hawthorne. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Program staff can also pick up donated items, particularly furniture. Donations are tax deductible, and tax receipts will be provided upon request. To schedule a pickup, please call Dora Lomeli, program director, at 713/522-5428.

BERING MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO HOLD 48TH ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church will hold its 48th annual Spring Festival on Saturday, April 18, beginning at 7 a.m. A pancake breakfast will kick off the festivities—always a feast for only \$5.00. This year's menu features buttermilk pancakes with rich maple syrup, hickory-smoked bacon, seasoned country pork sausage, hash-browned potatoes, scrambled eggs, and assorted fresh fruits, with coffee, orange juice, and milk for beverages.

Other events at the Spring Festival include a garage/estate sale; a plant sale featuring live plants, cut flowers, and native Texas plants not readily available from nurseries; a silent auction; a health fair with screenings for prescription drug compatibility, blood pressure, cholesterol, and body fat analysis; and live entertainment will continue until 2 p.m. Additionally, several vacation drawings (including a trip for two to London or Paris) will be given away.

All proceeds will be used to support the various ministries and programs of the church. Bering is located at 1440 Harold Street at Mulberry in the Montrose District. For further information, please call 713/ 526-1017.

PRIDE T-SHIRTS NOW ON SALE

The 1998 official "Lesbian and Gay Pride" T-shirts are now on sale. You can purchase them for \$15 at Lobo, Basic Brothers, or by calling the Houston Pride Committee at 713/529-6979.

The theme for Pride 1998 is "Unified - Diversified - Electrified." T-shirts are available in white or black in multiple sizes.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding on Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, 1998, announced pastor Rev. Dwayne Johnson.

Johnson said that on Saturday, there will be a banquet at the Red Lion Hotel at which the keynote speaker will be Troy D. Perry, founder of the denomination and world-renown pioneer leader in the battle for justice and equal rights for persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered.

On Sunday, former pastor Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey will preach at the 9 a.m. service, and former pastor Rev. Elder John Gill will preach at the 11 a.m. service.

Tickets for the banquet, which are \$35 for general seating and \$50 for reserved seating, are available through the church office.

Entertainment at the banquet will be provided by singer Joyce Langston. Rev. Perry, who has recently been invited to the White House twice by President Clinton, will sign copies of his books, which will be sold on Saturday and Sunday.

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BERING FOUNDATION, THE CENTER FOR AIDS, AND TREATMENT ACTION GROUP SPONSOR HOUSTON TREATMENT ADVOCACY FORUM— PRESIDENTIAL AIDS ADVISOR TO SERVE AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Bering Advocacy Project and the Center for AIDS will sponsor the Houston Treatment Advocacy Forum on Friday, April 17, 1998 in Houston from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 222 West Loop South. This one-day event will focus on the mechanisms and institutions that provide treatments and therapies to people living with HIV, as well as providing information on how HIV consumers, care providers, and others can become HIV treatment advocates.

The forum will also include special guest speakers from around the nation and the state of Texas, including R. Scott Hitt, MD, member of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, who will serve as keynote speaker for the event. Other speakers will include representatives from the Texas AIDS Network and the nationally known Treatment Advocacy Group. The forum will include workshops on federal and state funding for HIV treatments and therapies, new information from the National Institutes of Health, and an overview of the Texas Department of Health's AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the newly created HOPE Program.

Registration for the Houston Treatment Advocacy Forum is free, but enrollment is limited. For additional information, contact Harry Livesay, LMSW-Bering Advocacy Project at 713/529-6017 or Michael Peranteau at The Center for AIDS 713/527-8219.

JOHN STEVEN KELLETT FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 1997 GRANTS

The John Steven Kellett Foundation has announced that their major grants in 1997 were made to the following organizations for financial support of the indicated activities:

- Houston Lesbian/Gay Community Center, Inc., as a challenge grant for developing such a center.
- Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in support of showings and public discussion of the Arthur Dong anti-hate-crime documentary *Licensed to Kill*.
- OutYouth Austin, for establishing a community gay and lesbian print and video lending library.
- Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP), for support of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festivals in 1997 and 1998.
- Texas Lesbian Conference, Inc., for their 1998 statewide conference in San Antonio.

Smaller grants were also awarded to: Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation/Working Group on G/L Funding, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

"It's really gratifying to see the growth of organizations supporting and educating for equal rights in the Houston area," commented John Kellett, founder, president, and executive director, "and equally gratifying to see more Houston foundations being formed to support them financially." He added, "One of the reasons our foundation was formed was to provide seed money to launch a Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. The first such festival last year was a big success, and plans are well under way for this year's festival to start May 22."

HRC HOUSTON WINTER GALA SWEEPS NATIONAL AWARDS IN WASHINGTON

The 1998 Human Rights Campaign—Houston Winter Gala, held on February 14, received six achievement awards at the Annual Human Rights Campaign Leadership Conference and semi-annual board of governors meeting in Washington.

The HRC Houston Winter Gala was recognized for their outstanding fundraising achievements with awards for New Membership Goal 1998, Doubling Budgeted Net Corporate Revenue 1998, Doubling Net Silent Auction Revenue 1998, Achieving Budgeted Net Fund Raising Goals 1998, Century Club Status at the \$50,000+ Level 1998, and Comeback of the Year 1998.

Representing Houston at this event were Federal Club co-chairs Dr. Rod Frazier and S. Hall, Winter Gala co-chair George Hawkins, and underwriting co-chair John Walzel.



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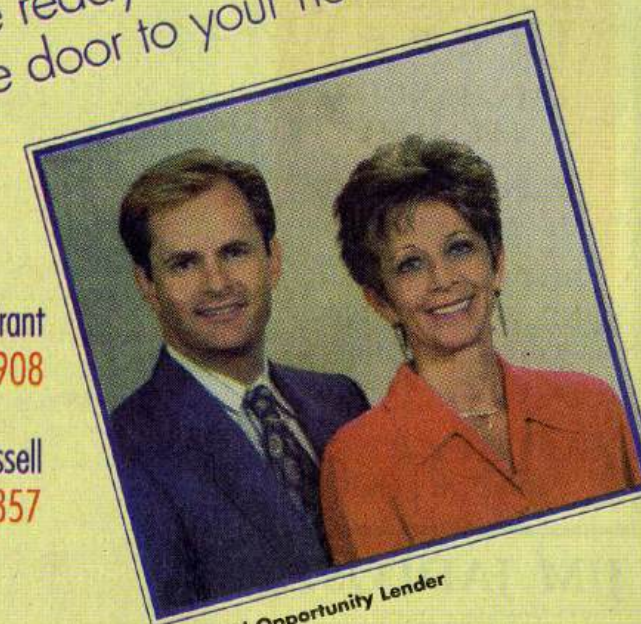
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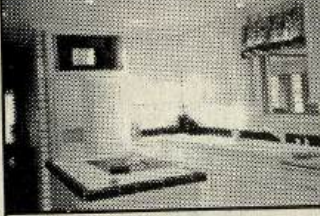
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LeftOut

TWO TYPES OF "CHRISTIANS" —Two Different Gods!

by Daryl Moore

When two Christian women in the pacific northwest decided to have a ceremonial union in a Methodist church, they asked Jimmy Creech to preside. Creech—after all—is, if nothing else, a progressive Methodist minister. Indeed, he was transferred from his last church in Virginia for openly advocating gay and lesbian rights. To the Rev. Creech, it didn't seem like a religious stretch that two women wanted him to perform a ceremony uniting them. After all, they wanted to exchange vows before God, and before their friends, in a "United" Methodist Church. Creech agreed and performed a church ceremony that "recognized God's grace as reflected in the commitment of these two women to one another."

As a result of his actions, Methodist leaders temporarily removed Creech from his church until they could conduct a "trial" to determine whether he was guilty of breaking his vows and violating Methodist doctrine regarding same-sex marriages. A group of Creech's fellow ministers were selected to serve as the jury and to determine his guilt.

It was a full-blown trial, held in the informal setting of a school gymnasium. Each side was allowed to call witnesses in support of its case.

The church called several United Methodist ministers, each of whom testified that Creech's decision to recognize a same-sex commitment was an express violation of Methodist doctrine. It did not matter, they said, that he did not "marry" the couple. His recognition of their commitment alone was sufficient cause to find him guilty and to subject him to punishment up to and including his removal from the ministry.

Creech called his own witnesses and testified on his own behalf. He called the minister of the United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., near DuPont Circle (the same church that Hillary attends and the one that Bob and Liddy Dole left when the minister openly welcomed gay and lesbian congregants). This minister—a well-known religious ethicist with a Ph.D. in theology who taught seminary for years before returning to the pulpit—testified that Creech violated no Methodist doctrine. He also testified that



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

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OutRight

AFTER THE DECISION: The Dark Cloud in the Silver Lining in the Dark Cloud

by Dale Carpenter

When a judge recently ruled at the request of the anti-gay Hotze family and the anti-gay city councilman Rob Todd that Mayor Lee Brown couldn't ban discrimination against gay city employees, Houston's brief experiment with equality ended. It wasn't a very ambitious experiment anyway, protecting the rights of no more than 2,000 gay city employees and leaving those in private employment (most of us) with nothing. Decreed by executive order, the policy could have been revoked by any future mayor at any time without a single vote of the city council or the people. As a political matter, Mayor Brown's executive order was less a first-round knockout of homophobia than a TKO. The executive order was satisfying, but not very.

Nevertheless, the result stings. Spotty protection was better than none; fragile better than nonexistent. I'll leave to others the task of dissecting the merits of the judge's decision, of insinuating the possible political motives behind the order of a Republican judge for the result desired by the single most powerful political family in Harris County GOP politics. I'll leave to others a subtle psychoanalysis of the sexual dragons hiding behind councilman Todd's statement praising the judge's decision because "there are some behaviors you don't want a Parks Department soccer coach engaging in."

I'm concerned here about the future. What do we do now? Some of my friends saw a silver lining in the judge's decision to overturn the nondiscrimination order. The judge left open the possibility that the city council could implement the mayor's executive order by adopting a city ordinance through a simple majority vote. A strong majority of our council supports a ban on anti-gay discrimination. If everyone voted as expected, such an ordinance would probably get 10 of the 15 council members' votes, including the votes of two council conservatives. Our allies on council, including the mayor, would call for such a vote if we asked them to. If city council did convincingly pass an ordinance, it would potentially be a victory far more politically significant and long-lasting than a single mayor's command not to discriminate. Perhaps, by forcing us to



Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney, is a Republican precinct chairman and a national regional director of Log Cabin Republicans. The views expressed in this column are his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Log Cabin or any of its members.



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achieve our goals more democratically, the judge unwittingly did us a favor.

But as we know from painful experience, "democracy" in Houston has a trump card called referendum. In the summer of 1984, by a bare 8-7 vote, our city council passed an ordinance barring discrimination based on sexual orientation in city employment. Within a short time a campaign led by then-newcomer Dr. Steven Hotze secured enough

signatures to put the issue to the voters in the form of a referendum to repeal the ordinance.

In the ensuing months, Hotze's "Campaign for Houston" raised \$500,000 to fight the ordinance. (An old Campaign for Houston sign was dusted off for the press conference announcing the legal challenge to the mayor's order.) Hotze built a political machine on the strength of his campaign, gaining a valuable political mailing and fundraising list. On

Saturday, January 19, 1985, the few citizens who bothered to go to the polls voted 4-to-1 to repeal the ordinance. Gay political clout in Houston did not fully recover for more than a decade (if it has even now). Politicians shunned endorsements from gay political organizations for years, and a cohesive religious conservative political movement in Houston was born.

I recite that familiar history for the benefit of anyone eager to march on City Hall and demand that city council pass an anti-discrimination ordinance now. As the night follows the day, a referendum will follow passage of such an ordinance and religious conservative political machine will move full-steam to support it. Are we ready to fight and win that battle?

To be sure, 1998 is not 1985. Attitudes toward gays have improved. More of us are out to our families, friends, and co-workers. Opinion polls repeatedly show that Houstonians oppose discrimination on the job. Campaigns based on anti-gay messages have fared poorly in city politics recently. Just ask the vanquished opponents of gay-friendly city councilman Chris Bell. Or call the city controller's office and ask to speak to Lloyd Kelley. Then, of course, there's the recent election of our first openly gay city council member, Annise Parker.

On the other hand, the religious right is far more experienced and organized now than in 1985. It's not just Hotze anymore; it's a whole pack. Especially in low-turnout special elections like a referendum, religious conservatives tend to represent a disproportionately large share of the vote. As for more mainstream voters, if they are less inclined to favor outright discrimination now than they were in 1985, they are also more apt to reject formal legal protections for minorities as "special rights."

The much-touted "progressive coalition" of minority and gay voters will splinter in the event of a referendum directly on gay issues. Many of the minority voters who supported affirmative action in last November's referendum on the issue are themselves socially conservative on matters like homosexuality and will likely desert us

just as they did in 1985. Heavily gay areas of the city, on the other hand, have an increasingly poor turnout of late.

Money, as usual, will be the key in a referendum fight. And that is where we would likely be buried. Affirmative action narrowly survived in the November vote only because then-Mayor Bob Lanier coaxed his wealthy friends who had been feeding at the public trough to donate tens of thousands of dollars to save his program. No such effort will be repeated by Lanier or anyone else with his fundraising clout for us in the event of an anti-gay referendum, I assure you.

On the anti-gay side of the ledger, Hotze and his allies will be good for at least another \$500,000 this time around, probably much more. Experience with similar referenda in other cities and states shows that our side has to outspend the anti-gay side by at least 2-1 in order to be competitive. Are we ready to raise more than \$1,000,000 in the space of six months to fight a ballot initiative protecting the jobs of gay city workers? Annise Parker's recent city council campaign begged and pleaded in a successful drive to raise a fourth of that amount from gay-friendly voters, and that was considered a milestone for us.

Lord knows that, as a gay Republican, I do not shy away from a tough fight. But we must pick our battles carefully. We will have our hands full, I predict, just re-electing Parker in 1999. We have not even begun to lay the fundraising groundwork that a successful referendum fight would take. And a defeat would leave us demoralized and politically "untouchable" in this city well into the next century, sending us right back under the dark cloud from which we recently emerged. We cannot risk it now. •

LeftOut

continued from page 20

Creech's recognition of a same-sex commitment is not inconsistent with Christian doctrine.

At the conclusion of the testimony and after hearing from both sides, the jury (in a split decision) found Creech "not guilty" and said he could return to his church.

When Creech returned to his church, however, he did so in the face of picketers who carried signs that said "God hates faggots" and "Queer Priest."

So, while some conflicted Christians debate whether Creech should have acknowledged a same-sex union, others unhappy with the verdict argue that because God hates faggots, the jury was simply wrong.

Well, maybe their God does hate faggots. And maybe their God thinks that a jury of Methodist ministers was just flat wrong in absolving Creech.

But then, their God isn't the same one I learned about in vacation bible school. Apparently, it's also not the same God that Creech believed would bless a commitment between members of the same sex.

Well, maybe there are two types of "Christians"—those who promote love and commitment in one God's name, and those who promote hate in another's. •

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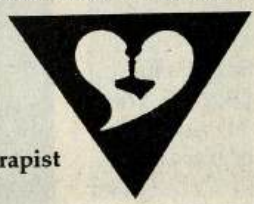
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Guest Opinion

by Bill Agosto

Whitewater Waves

What I find most distressing about the Kenneth Starr style of investigation is the relentless battering of the Clintons for four years at taxpayer expense (some \$40 million) on matters from Whitewater to Travel to Suicide to Sex, with nothing to show for it.

It looks a lot more like persecution than prosecution to me. As a matter of fact, the latest wall of Whitewater waves resembles nothing so much as death by gay baiting of the recent past. Not so long ago, all you had to do to bring down somebody professionally and socially was to relentlessly stoke the rumor mill that they were gay or lesbian.

Now, it's Clinton's alleged dalliances that are being broadcast to bring down his presidency. I feel sure that Starr's unsuccessful attempt to put a wire on Monica Lewinski to capture Bill's orgasmic grunts and his successful attempt to drag an unwilling Kathleen Willey into the fray have prompted smiles of recognition on the lips of Saddam Hussein. To say nothing of forcing Marcia Lewis, Monica's mother, to recount her daughter's sexual misadventures to the grand jury for days on end. If this is American jurisprudence, I don't recognize it. The Nazis, on the other hand, had the cute twist of setting up the kids to testify against their parents, after which the whole family was frequently sent to a concentration camp to learn how to behave properly.

A lot of people say it's the press that's the problem. But it wasn't the press that bugged Tripp to trap Lewinski. It's not the press that took the poop to Janet Reno. Nor is it the press that's been interrogating White House staff before the grand jury about what they told the press. It's all the Starr team's doing. And to what purpose? A frankly political one that is frankly totalitarian! The media may be going overboard, but how can anybody expect them not to report this stuff?

When I was a kid, we were taught that Americans fight fair. I guess I'm most outraged that more people don't appear outraged at these appalling and almost certainly unconstitutional prosecutorial tactics. Some Republican friends of mine tell me it's just American politics as usual. But that's not true. Democrats don't dredge up private presidential slander for political gain. Nothing like this happened in the Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, Reagan, or Bush Republican administrations, all of which I was around to watch, and all of which had a Democratic majority in Congress that bent over backward to avoid personal embarrassment of the president. During the Iran Contra scandal in the late 1980s, Daniel Inouye, the Democrat from Hawaii who chaired the Iran Contra congressional investigating committee, stopped short of investigating President

Reagan, not because he thought Reagan was in the clear, but to avoid triggering impeachment proceedings which he felt would be bad for the country.

And again, President Bush was publicly accused of an extramarital affair toward the end of his administration. He denied it. No Democrat bugged anybody to dig dirt, and nobody invoked the independent counsel statute, which has been on the books since Watergate, to investigate Bush's sexual credibility. You don't do that to the president.

But what about Watergate? Wasn't that a case of Democrats going after a Republican president? No, it wasn't. President Nixon ordered, carried out, and attempted to conceal break-ins and burglaries at the private offices of a rival political party and the private office of Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers about policy deceptions in the Vietnam War. He also ordered break-ins to think tanks like the Brookings Institute which, fortunately, were never carried out. This is not speculation. It's all very well documented on Nixon's own tapes. Nobody bugged him. And no allegations about his private life ever entered the picture.

However, unlike Whitewater slander, the Watergate crimes were crimes against the body politic, against our system of government, against the public weal that President Nixon was sworn to uphold. There was nothing private about them except for the premises Nixon broke into.

But perhaps the most significant difference between the two political dramas is that Watergate was a completely nonpartisan investigation. John Dean, Nixon's private attorney and a Republican, was the first to report the Watergate matter to the justice department because he was afraid he would be implicated. It was a wise move. A lot of Nixon's staff ultimately went to prison. And Howard Baker, one of the most prominent Republicans of the century, was a chairman of the Watergate congressional investigating committee. Democrats, of course, took part in the investigation—Barbara Jordan of Texas and Sam Irvin of North Carolina, for example. But Democratic vendetta had nothing to do with it.

A lot of people say that Watergate was unfortunate. But I never felt that way. Watergate made me feel very proud, because it showed that our system of government worked so well that even the most powerful person in the world could not escape the consequences of the crimes he committed against the body politic. As our founding fathers said in the Federalist Papers that urged the adoption of our Constitution, "men are not angels." The wonder of the system they crafted is that it does not require angels to wield fair government. For God's sake, let's keep it that way.

Bill Agosto is on the board of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily the opinions of the HGLPC.

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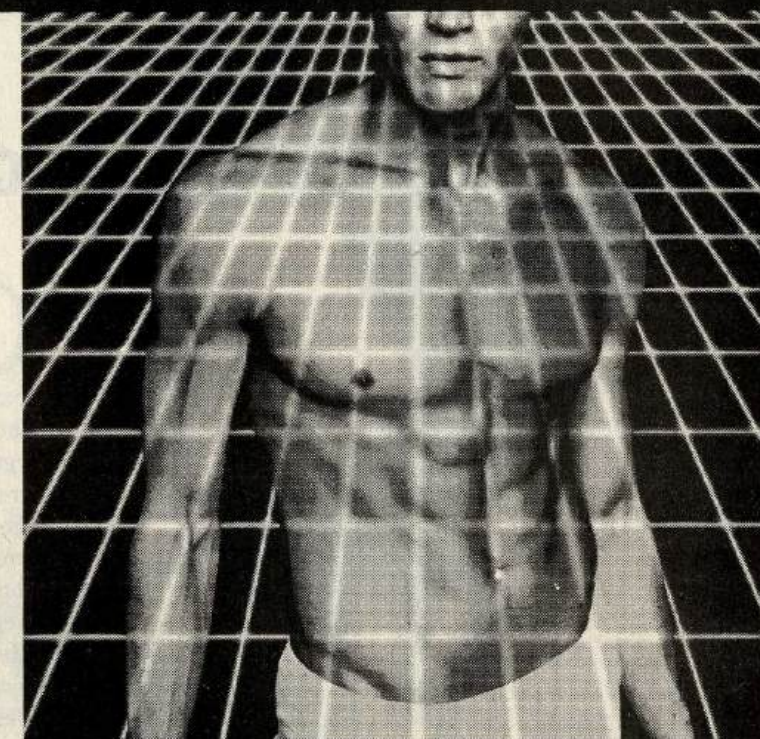


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Queer Science

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Homosexuality Caused by Mom's Stress?!

CAUTION: MAY CAUSE FETAL HOMOSEXUALITY!" This is the warning label that should accompany all stress-inducing products, violent TV programs, roller-coaster rides, and so forth, if we're to take seriously the work of Guenther Doerner, M.D. The German endocrinologist has been arguing for decades that pregnant women who are exposed to stress are more likely to have gay sons. At one point, 20 years ago, he even proposed a program to eliminate male homosexuality by reducing pregnant women's exposure to stress, or by giving them hormones to counteract the effect of stress on their endocrine systems.

Now wait a minute! We like homosexuality, don't we? And we'd like to see more of it in the next generation, right? So shouldn't we be encouraging women to get into more stressful situations? Shouldn't we be telling our pregnant sisters to provoke road-rage incidents on the freeways, or to slug it out on *The Jerry Springer Show*?

Actually, according to Doerner, homosexuality is caused not so much by everyday-type stresses as by truly disastrous events: rape, death of a spouse, war, losing one's home. Not things we would wish on anyone. So this doesn't seem like a practical means of promoting queerness.

Doerner's theory is based on three kinds of evidence. First, there's an "animal model," developed originally by Ingeborg Ward of Villanova University. If pregnant rats are exposed to severe stress during the last few days of pregnancy, the level of testosterone in the male fetuses drops, and this leads to atypical development of the rats' brains. Thus, when they are adult, they are more than usually willing to be mounted by other males. The animal research is pretty good, but its relevance to human brain development is very uncertain.

Another kind of evidence is based on epidemiological research. Doerner claims to have evidence that the prevalence of homosexuality is much greater among German men born during the second World War than among men born before or

At one point, 20 years ago, he even proposed a program to eliminate male homosexuality by reducing pregnant women's exposure to stress, or by giving them hormones to counteract the effect of stress on their endocrine systems.

after the war. Two German psychologists attempted to replicate this observation, however, and failed to find any such correlation. "Homosexual men can go on loving peace and getting involved in the peace movement," they concluded ironically.

Doerner's third line of evidence is based on case histories. He claims to have interviewed a large number of gay and straight men about their mother's experiences during pregnancy. He says that many of the gay men, but almost none of the straight men, told him that their mother experienced severe stress. The difference was so striking that, if Doerner's data are correct, he could fairly claim to have found the main factor influencing men's sexual orientation.

But they're not correct. A second German study, from the University of Kiel, tested Doerner's theory by checking the medical records of a large number of women who were pregnant in the 1960s, and then locating and interviewing the male offspring of those pregnancies. The men whose mothers experienced severe stress during pregnancy were no more likely to be gay than the others. Then, in 1991, Michael Bailey (of Northwestern University) and two colleagues carried out another test of Doerner's theory. They interviewed a sample of women who had adult sons, both homosexual and heterosexual. They found that the pregnancies that gave rise to gay sons were no more likely to be accompanied by stressful events than the pregnancies that gave rise to straight sons.

Bailey and his colleagues did make one unexpected observation. They carried out a companion study of women: in this study, they found that mothers reported more stressful events during pregnancies that

continued on page 69

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

(Richard Kasak Books, 1997).

He may be reached at SLeVay@aol.com.

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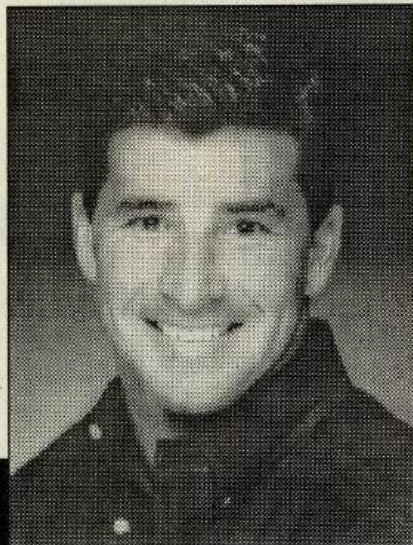
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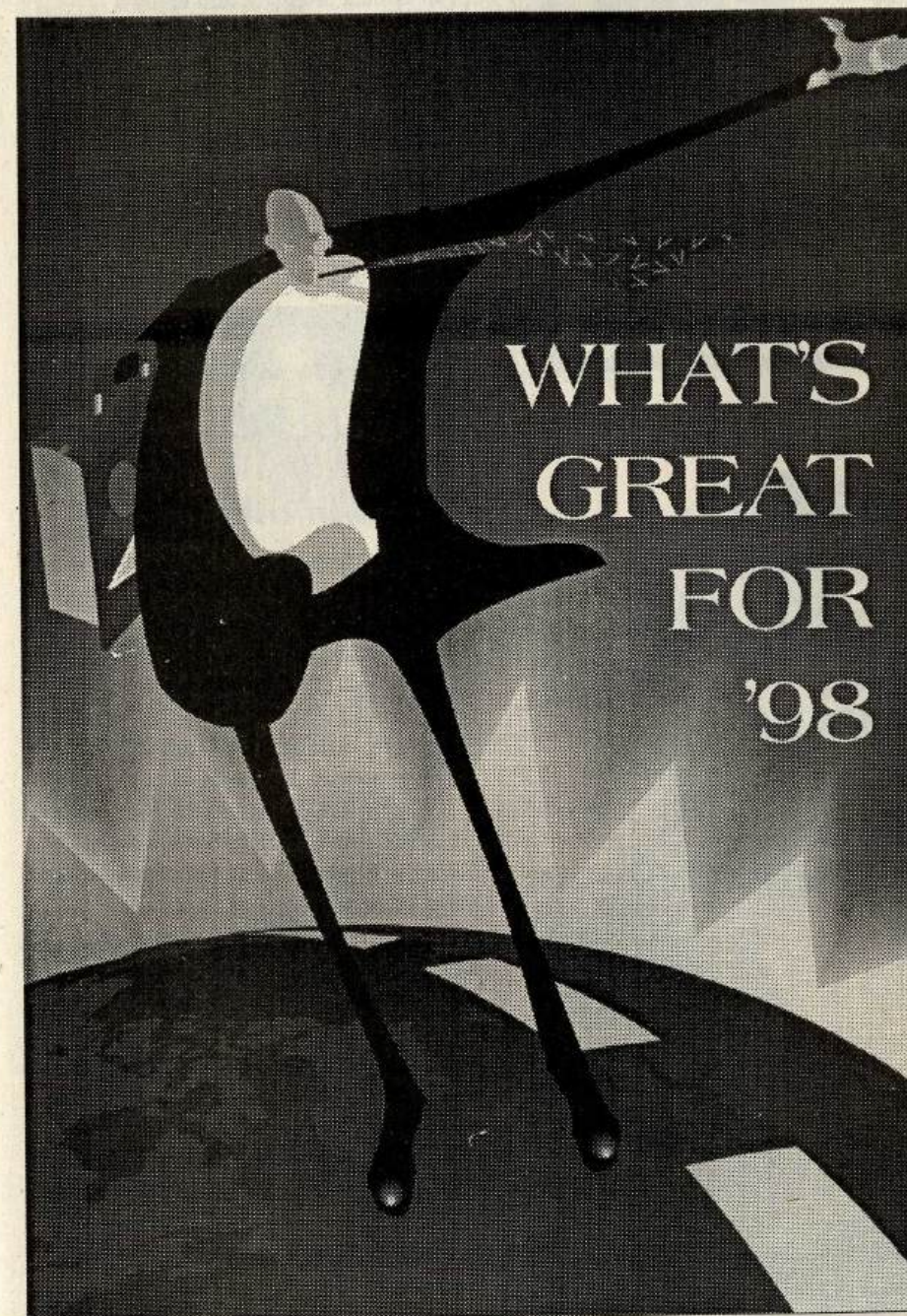
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GAY TRAVEL

by Sandra Wilkins



WHAT'S
GREAT
FOR
'98

The world of gay travel gets bigger and better every year as new players join the growing list of quality tour operators. Many of you are rigorous individuals, who obsessively plan your own vacations; but if you ever have a yen to meet lots of great new people, let someone else do the planning and execution of the trip, then you should consider joining an established gay tour. The range of possibilities is enormous, from wildly exotic trekking in the Himalayas to sophisticated cooking classes in Italy, and everything in between.

It's good to keep in mind, as Billy Kolber-Stuart, editor of *Out and About*, suggests: "So much of your experience, good or bad, will be based on your enjoyment of your fellow tour members. During down-time and travel time, they are your entertainment. While actually touring, sightseeing, or engaging in other activities, they are the ones you'll be sharing your excitement and discoveries with. If you really like a good percentage of your fellow tour members, you'll have a great time, even if the tour is not very good. But even the best tour can be ruined if you don't get along with your fellow travelers. This is the crux of group travel, and often the reason why one hears such different

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opinions from different travelers. After choosing a trip that best reflects your personal style, the best way to insure you'll like your fellow participants is to book your travel with a friend or group of friends. Many experienced gay vacationers end up planning future trips with people they've met on past travels."

So, whether you're an old hand at gay tour vacations, or considering one for the first time, let's have a look at some options for 1998. All of the following tour operators have established a good track record, are reliable and possess professional integrity, and enjoy a growing reputation for quality, professional operation.

FOR THE GALS

OLIVIA CRUISES & RESORTS is the dowager queen of all lesbian-specific travel. They've been around for a very long time, and receive high marks



from their clientele. Although they are on the high end of the cost scale, most women who travel with them

come away claiming an almost spiritual transformation. "Alaska Cruise," Aug. 18-25, aboard the Norwegian Dynasty; inside cabins from \$1,095, outside cabins from \$2,195 plus air. "Thanksgiving Southern Caribbean Cruise," Nov. 22-29, aboard the Seabreeze; inside cabins from \$895, outside cabins from \$1,650 plus air.

MARIAH WILDERNESS EXPEDITIONS is a women-owned whitewater rafting and adventure travel company, has been around for 16 years, and is providing 10 women-only departures in 1998. Owners say we "desire to see women of all ages pursue their love of the wilderness in a supportive environment." Due to all the heavy rain in California this year, expect some pretty exciting rafting along her rivers! In June and August, two night rafting trips start at \$250, including meals at the campsites. An annual event for Mariah's Women Only trips is sea kayaking in the Sea of Cortez, Baja,

Mexico, set for Dec. 26, '98-Jan. 6, '99, priced at \$1,195 plus air. What a way to bring in the new year!

SKYLINK TRAVEL enjoys a good reputation and puts on first-rate "packages" to popular women's events like Dinah Shore Weekend and Women's Week in Provincetown. A little further flung this year is Skylink's River Boating in France, set for July 16-26, where the trip begins in Paris, then down south to the Saone River and board your cabin cruiser, which sleeps up to 10. The trip will meander down the river, offering plenty of time for exploring, cycling, and shopping at the lovely villages along the route. This trip costs \$2,295 and includes airfare and all meals on the river! High rollers might want to consider the spectacular Photo Safari of Kenya, Aug. 1-15, which includes air from New York, hotels/lodges, most meals, for \$3,995.

FOR THE GUYS

Is there a gay man walking who hasn't heard of RSVP TRAVEL PRODUCTIONS? This formidable company consistently provides quality tour experiences with big-name entertainment and incredible devotion to customer service and satisfaction. They are so good at what they do, their entire 1997 cruise season is "sold out," but the land-based Club RSVP is still available for the Club Med at Sonora Bay week, Oct. 24-31. This all-inclusive week is a steal at prices starting at \$699 per person! RSVP's 1999 Cruise season is already in full swing for booking, and new destinations include a nine-day Costa Rica and Panama Canal cruise, plus a one-week Thailand & Far East Asia Cruise!

Club HOMMES is a relative newcomer, but is already gathering a devoted following of upscale, sophisticated travelers. Their byline is "indulgent vacations for men" and they mean it. Their idea of adequate

accommodations during the Gay Games in Amsterdam is a privately chartered, deluxe Rhine River Cruise Ship, appropriately named "The Rhine Princess." This remarkable two-week experience includes a one-week cruise from Basel, Switzerland, through the Black Forest to the Netherlands, docking



in Amsterdam on Aug. 1, in time for the opening ceremonies for Gay Games V and remaining docked in Amsterdam for the entire week of the games, where participants use the ship as their hotel! Prices per person are from \$1,599 to \$2,499, air additional.

DESTINATION DISCOVERY provides "Wellness Vacations" for HIV-positive men, primarily in Maui, Hawaii. A week's vacation includes an a la carte menu of relaxation, stress management, meditation,

communication, and healing activities. Prices range from \$995 to \$3,000.

FOR THE GUYS&GALS

OUTWEST ADVENTURES has pioneered a unique concept for the latent cowboy/cowgirl. Based in Red Lodge, Montana, president Aaron Kampfe's family has owned and operated a 15,000-acre cattle ranch for nearly 100 years, living in the Yellowstone National Park region of Montana. Two trips for 1998 are especially enticing. "BackCountry Bliss" features serious backpacking in the Beartooth Mountains of Yellowstone. You'll hike, climb rugged Alpine peaks, camp and sleep under the stars. Tour dates are July 27-Aug. 2, Aug. 15-21, and a Women's Week Aug. 3-9. The cost is \$775 and includes most meals. "Montana Big Sky Adventure" gives the outdoor enthusiast the whole enchilada—hiking, camping, rafting, and mountain biking in the spectacular Montana wilderness. This "self-paced" trip includes three nights camping, one night in a Yellowstone hotel, and three

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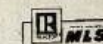
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WorkOut

by John Aaron

Exercise on the Road

So you've got your suitcase packed, ticket in hand, and regardless of whether it's for work or pleasure, you're ready to head out of town. Do you wonder what will happen to all the progress you've made in the gym? Well, don't worry. Your increase in frequent flyer miles doesn't have to coincide with an increase in your waistline. With a bit of planning, you can fit short exercise sessions into your traveling plans with no problem. Even small amounts of physical activity can help reduce the stress of a hectic travel and/or work schedule—and might even lead to a more enjoyable vacation or productive business trip.

Local Health Clubs

Smaller hotels may not have fitness centers on-site, but they often have agreements with local health clubs to allow guest privileges. Even if your hotel has no arrangements with a local club, you may be able to use a facility for a nominal guest fee, usually called a "day pass." Check the local phone book, or ask the hotel concierge so you will be aware of your options. If you belong to a health club, you may also want to ask if your club participates in a program that grants visiting privileges at sister facilities in other locations. The

YMCA and some other clubs offer this service.

In-room Workouts

Gyms are all fine and well; however, exercising at your convenience in your hotel room may be more appealing to you. Maybe you can exercise with a video you have brought from home or have rented from the hotel. Pack collapsible hand weights and fill them with water for an in-room strength training workout. Elastic exercise bands are also easy to pack and available in varying degrees of resistance. Check your local

sporting goods store for collapsible dumbbells, elastic bands, and other exercise equipment made specifically for travel. Your trainer can also design a workout you can do on your own using these simple pieces of equipment.

Throughout the Day

If your time is so tightly scheduled that you cannot fit in an entire exercise session, look for opportunities for physical activity throughout the day. Walk to nearby locations, and use stairs instead of the elevator. When dining, you don't have to go "fat free," but perhaps you can seek out lower-fat, higher-fiber dishes and avoid the less nutritious food that is often readily available.

Safety Tips

Regardless of where you will be exercising, always take the following safety precautions.

- Carry identification with your name and address, as well as the name and telephone number of the place where you will be staying.
- Dress for the climate, and keep yourself properly hydrated.
- Monitor your heart rate and exertion level during exercise

to be sure you aren't exceeding your physical limitations.

- As always, exercise safely and within your fitness level. Remember, travel can take its toll on the body as a result of stressors like changes in time zones, climate, and daily schedules. While exercise may help some people cope with these changes, other people may need to slow down a bit.

...

The primary fitness goals during your trip should be to maintain your current level of fitness and to keep your healthy lifestyle intact. So, have a great time, and remember that fitness—even on the road—can be fun.

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



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Queen Pen

(Interview, 2/98, Dimitri Ehrlich)

Dimitri Ehrlich: Your album includes a song called "Girlfriend," a duet with Me'Shell Ndegéocello. I'm assuming that makes you the first female rapper—if not the only rapper—to be open about bisexuality. Tell me about the song.

Queen Pen: I don't have homophobic feelings. I go to girl clubs. I throw girl parties with a friend: I put my name on the flier, a lot of people come.

Are you saying it's not you personally who has these lesbian experiences, but you just want to be open to anybody—

Would you like to know if I'm a lesbian?

Well, you also talk about being with men, so I'm assuming you're bisexual.

In the song, I say I was sitting on the corner and this girl came up to me—it's the truth, at [Manhattan's] Buddha Bar—a Chinese-Jamaican girl, I was waiting for my sister...

And she gave you her number?

Yes. She tried to score with me. Girls often give me their numbers. But who I sleep with is who I sleep with.

Why do you think it's taken so long for a rapper to talk about homosexuality?

Everybody does things for their own reasons. Me personally, I just felt like doing a song like that. If I couldn't have worked with Me'Shell Ndegéocello, I wouldn't have done it. Anybody who knows me will just accept the song. What's the problem?

Volker Schlöndorff

Director, *Palmetto* and *The Tin Drum*

(Entertainment Weekly, 3/13/98)

"I'm against all censorship, especially in the field of sexuality....

We are sexual beings, and the more we know about sexuality, ours as well as that of people who may have so-called weird components, it's important because it's part of our lives. It's very worrisome, this kind of intolerance setting in. That's really what's behind it, intolerance. It's not to protect anybody."

Dick Sargent & Pat Boone

(Today's Out Look Calendar, Published by Pomegranate Calendars & Books)

"Born on April 19, 1930, actor Dick Sargent is best known for his role of Darrin on the television series *Bewitched*. Sargent came out as gay in 1991 when he was sixty years old."



Dick Sargent (left) with Pat Boone in 1957's *Bernadine*. Could Boone be vocalizing this quote attributed to him (Boone) in 1986: "So much homosexuality is traced back to some lack in the relationship with the father. It often seems that the male is looking for that male affection that he lacked while growing up. A guy can really feel that his dad abandoned him and rejected him and hardly ever vocalize it."

Sandra Bernhard

(Movieline, 4/98)

[Re: *Midnight Cowboy* soundtrack]
"I always love *Midnight Cowboy*. It's just kind of introspective, sexy, thrashy mood-type music that makes you want to go to New York and be a street hustler."

Christina Ricci

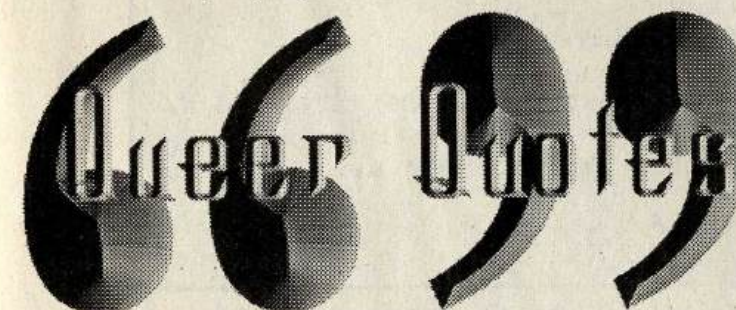
(Movieline, 4/98, Stephen Rebello)

Stephen Rebello: Are you lucky in love?

Christina Ricci: I'm pretty sensible, but I always end up going out with guys who later tell me that they're gay. Isn't that weird? [Laughing]



Is Ellen DeGeneres (l) giving Anne Heche a reason to mope?



Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Anne Heche on Ellen

(Paper, 2/98, Michael Musto)

"I don't think I'm insecure. . . . [Ellen and I] know we'll be together. If she left me, I won't stay on this earth. I'll tell you that. My life is so complete with her that if I didn't have her in it, it would be a very sad state of affairs. I'd be the mopey doll. We'd have to come up with another Muppet called Mope. It's the first time in my life I've thought that if this person leaves me, I won't know what to do with myself. I've always been on the opposite side. I guess there is an element of insecurity in that. I really feel I have something to lose now."

Bill Maher

(Politically Incorrect, 3/4/98)

"Big ruling from the Supreme Court today [3/4/98]—they said there is such a thing as same-sex harassment. (Are you having a problem with that on the job?) Well, this involved a male who was bothered by other males. And it got all the way to the Supreme Court, because they were teasing him, [and] they exposed themselves to him, all sorts of lurid things. And he said this is same-sex harassment—that's what they're calling it. When I was a kid, we just called it pledging a fraternity."

Was Politically Incorrect host Bill Maher ever involved in same-sex harassment issues?

Andrew Dice Clay

• Interviewed by Whoopi Goldberg in 1992 •

Andrew Dice Clay: When *Ford Fairlane* came out, there was a lot of, uh, problems with the studio with, uh, being threatened by the uh, the uh, the Queer Nation thing, the uh, women's, you know, groups—everybody, the whole world was coming after me at the same time.

Whoopi Goldberg: Do you get a sense of what was outraging people?

Well, you know, the gays were really going crazy and the women's rights groups, you know, so I basically got blackballed in Hollywood, you know, I couldn't get a job. I mean, as far as the road, I mean, my drawing power never ended. But as far as the acting stuff—the movie and the TV people were afraid.



Did, uh, Andrew Dice Clay get balled, uh, blackballed in, uh, Hollywood?

COMMUNITY REPORT CARD

Compiled by  Steven Foster
Photos by Samuel Roman

Okay, sit down. Get out your No. 2 pencil. No talking.
Be sure to fill out every answer correctly.
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And, no, you may not go to the bathroom.

Here's the ones who made the grade on our totally unscientific, completely random progress report. Sorry we couldn't get to everyone. (Bet some of you are real glad about that.)

Name: THE LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

Born: March 1998

What It Wants To Be: A vital community asset, a beacon in the night.

What It Is: So far, just a concept, a flicker of a flame in an *El Niño*-like wind of controversy (mostly from nay-saying blowhards who miss the good old days of a quiet gay Mafia with money).

Gay Enough?: We shall see.

Head of the Class: Vision. Every other major met has one. Houston, once again, fights to keep up with the big boys.

Stay After School: Do something to squash those critical voices. Either tell them to shut up or do something so impressive it makes them do it themselves.

Most Likely To: Succeed. There are enough of the Montrose powerful and passionate, this thing could be big.

Extra Credit: For being one of the precious few to avoid the "we're-just-doin'-it-alphabetically" line and putting

ladies first in the title. (Though rumor has it they did it because otherwise it would have the same initials as the gay Chamber, but let's not grouse.)

Teacher's Comments: Getting executive director Kevin Davidson was a great move. Now, let's let him do his job, shall we?

Name: LANDMARK GREENWAY III

Born: May 1972

What It Wants To Be: The premier purveyor of art house films.

What It Is: The bandleader (who started the Houston art-house bandwagon).

Gay Enough?: Perfect.

Head of the Class: For being ahead of the class. Back when every other Houston movie house was still mired in cinema muck moneychangers like *Dumb & Dumber*, city manager Sarah Gish kept pushing Landmark's envelope (many of which held Oscar nods) toward more eclectic, often electric, cinema. Everyone

from trendmaker Angelika to that Walmart of movie theatres, AMC's "gourmet cinema," has caught the Indie gold rush, years after Greenway saw the light of Sundance.

Stay After School: For making us stay after school and studying too hard. Sometimes Greenway's flicks can be so *avante* they catch even us off *garde*.

Most Likely To: Triumph.

Extra Credit: Though not as prom-queen pretty as sister River Oaks, there's something sublime about walking through the atmosphere-heavy parking garage with its eerily-muffled city sounds, clicking on the mall-like tiles of the building, and slinking down the red rum-colored carpet. After a wonderfully distorting trip down the runway lights, it's time to become one with the chair in the movie theatre that doesn't just show good film *noir*, it feels like it's in one. Style to spare.

Teacher's Comments: Keep up the good work.

Name: THE HOUSTON VOICE

Born: January 1974

What It Wants To Be: A credible, respected news source.

What It Is: A credible, respected news source. Maybe news *force*.

Gay Enough?: Just right. (Except for the 1-900 ads in the back, but, hey, they gotta go *somewhere* and those companies do pay their bills on time.)

Head of the Class: Great follow-through. Under associate publisher J.C. Michelak's capable hands, the *Voice* has maintained a steady rep. A rep good enough, by the way, to be tempting enough for Atlanta entrepreneurs Chris Crain and Rick Ellsasser to pony up an undisclosed sum to get their hands on the pub.

Stay After School: For the less-than-humbling habit of putting "exclusive" on every front-page news item and then, further back-patting with numerous references to "the *Voice* has learned" or "the *Voice* has discovered" or "only the

Voice could have gotten their hands on"...you get the idea. So do we. Enough already.

Most Likely To: Continue its steady course. But beware ice cube *Texas Triangle*. If somebody over there ever gets a clue as to what they *could* have on their hands, they just might morph into your iceberg. And we all know the one about the iceberg and a certain boat.

Teacher's Comments: Investors Crain and Ellsasser seem to have just the right touch (somewhere between hands-on and hands-off). Can they keep it up?

Name: MAYOR LEE BROWN

Born: October 1937

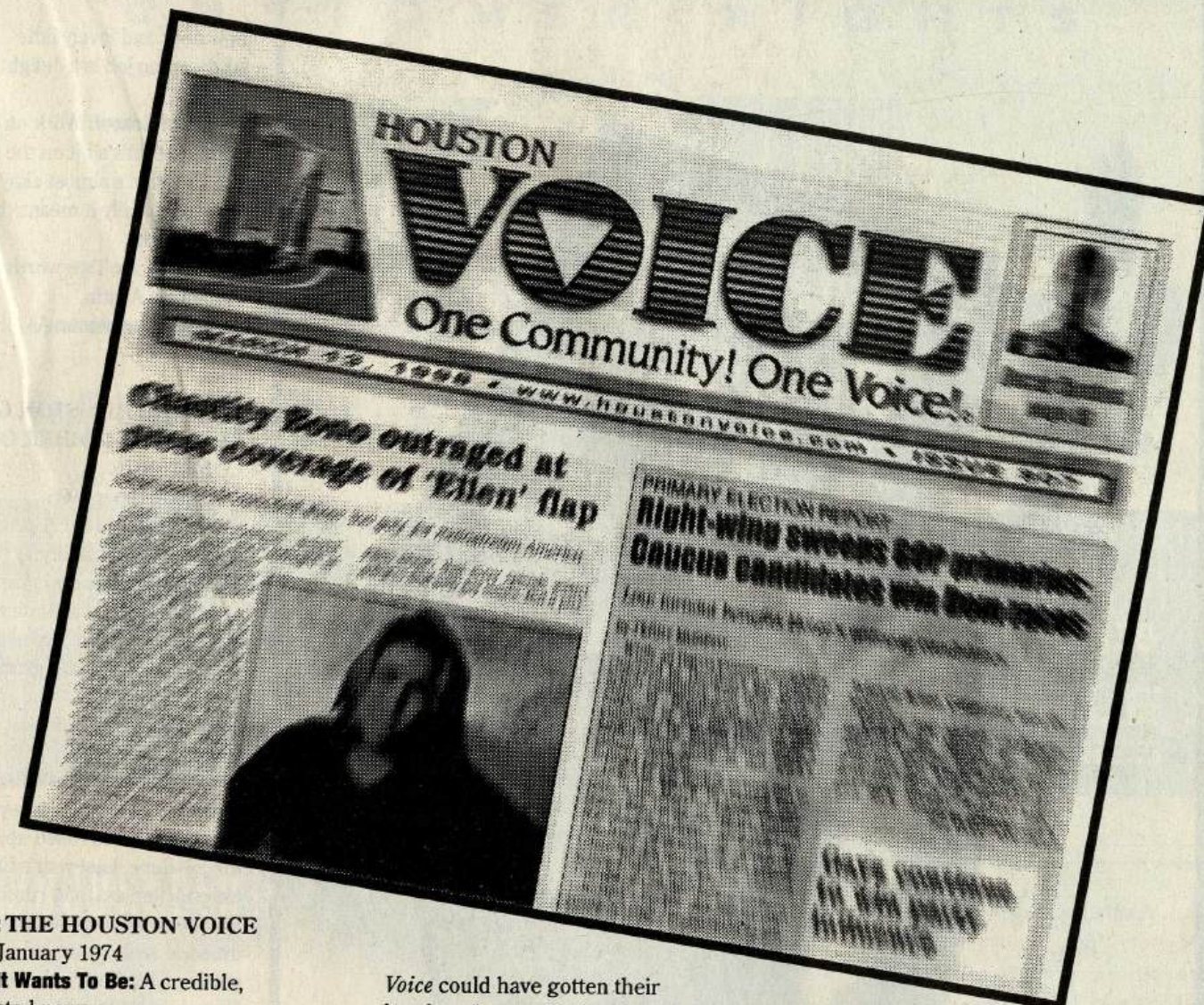
What It Wants To Be: The honorary color in our rainbow.

What He Is: Our Great African-American Hope.

Gay Enough?: Looks like it.

Head of the Class: The Honor Student. A politician who's actually keeping some of his campaign promises. We've got a liaison, just like he promised. (So Matthew Eastus is inexperienced. Log Cabin has to have something to bitch about.) And he's standing up to featherweight below-the-belters, born again bully Richard Hotze and Robbin' Rob Todd. (Note to Richard: Hey, *Dick*, go feed the poor and quit trying to steal what precious little political crumbs get thrown our way. Note to Rob: Your good looks can't make over the fact that you're still a jerk.)

Stay After School: Shoulda had the suits check the books on the executive order bit. Aren't you supposed to have people to point these things out? And work on your public speaking. Diction's poor, and





when the *Daily Show* came to dis Houston, you should have never talked to them on camera. Even model moron Kathy Ireland came off better than you did.

Most Likely To: Wise up. He can't be all things to all people, but he's doing alright by us.

Teacher's Comments: We like you much better than your rival.

Name: TOOPEES

Born: October 1994

What It Wants To Be: A friendly, neighborhood coffee house.

What It Is: Mecca.

Gay Enough?: Perfect.

Head of the Class: Teacher's Pet. Owner Caroline Burnum really pleases.

The kitchen's tasty, the coffee inspirational, the inside's both cozy and crazy, and the

new deck and lovely little landscaping job is a delight. You spoil us!

Stay After School: Work on service. Sometimes it's a bit on the slow side, but that's almost okay, because usually it means they're talking to us.

Most Likely To: Two words: Franchise. Austin.

Teacher's Comments: A+.

Name: THE HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Born: November 1995

What It Wants To Be: A powerful business organization.

What It Is: Good networking opportunity at best. At its worse, this house divided can be as agonizingly catty as a group of gay *Heathers*.

Gay Enough?: Sometimes yes, sometimes no.

Head of the Class: Best Test Crammer. When a few key people get their sleeves rolled up, they get the job done. Last year's Empower expo kicked ass, and rumor has it, Empower '98 is poised to beat the dreaded sophomore slump by getting a hip little makeover. If Empower '97 was Matthew McConaughey, think of the new one as Matt Damon. Girl analogy? Was Gwyneth Paltrow, is Cameron Diaz. We can't wait.

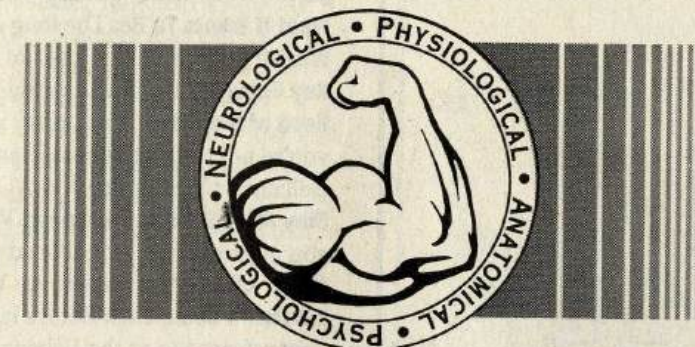
Stay After School: Stop the divide-and-conquer mentality. What we want to see on your next report card is the phrase "plays well with others."

Most Likely To: Make it. There are too many talented people running

this show. And every time they go out to straight business Houston, they are well received. Shell just asked to see board member bios before they signed on. That's alright because the bios hold up. Need to keep up a nice, polished appearance and they do. Meeting locale Wyndham Warwick is *cool*.

Teacher's Comments: Study hard. Quit cutting class.

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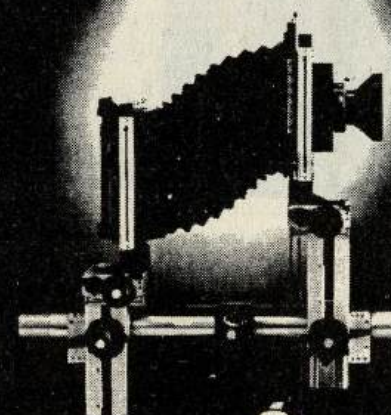
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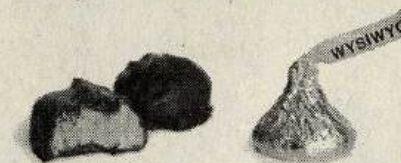


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Name: HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Born: As old as the (Houston) hills.

What It Wants To Be: The long arm of the law.

What It Is: The fickle finger of fate.

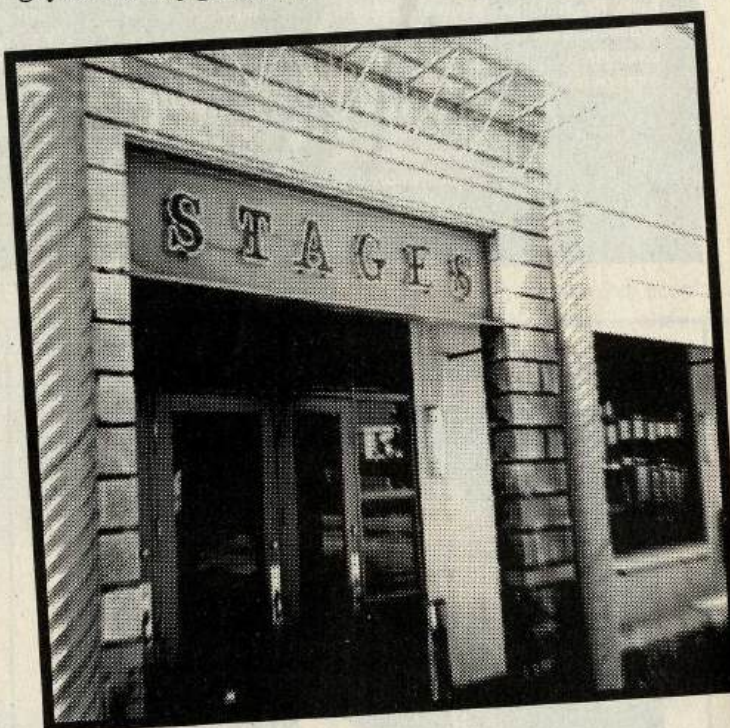
Gay Enough?: Are you kidding?

Head of the Class: For trying. You were great at the parade. And you're not the one-mile-over-and-you're-mine ticket-happy fiends Bellaire or West U are.

Stay After School: Tardiness. Why are we always reading about you guys *after* the horrible crime has been committed?

Most Likely To: Improve With Study.

Teacher's Comments: Before laying blame to HPD for what is now referred to as the Urbana Incident, check your local stalking laws. Until the press kicks into post-hype gear, we may find out there's not a helluva lot old blue could do. We're going with our gut on this one and say that the Montrose cops are not gonna take this lying down. They're a tough bunch. And you know they're not thrilled some lunatic (gay or not) got to some guy before they got to him.



Name: STAGES REPERTORY THEATRE

Born: February 1978

What It Wants To Be: Houston's classy-but-still-alternative theatre company.

What It Is: Another classy theatre company alternative.

Gay Enough?: Yes.

Head of the Class: Quality control. Artistic director Rob Bundy's smartly sticking with what works—community involvement, benefits, Albee, kid's theatre. Now with the Alley's Michael Wilson out of town, Bundy's poised to be Houston's next cute boy with talent.

Stay After School: For not being more in touch. (Albee is *so* last year.) But word is this summer's line-up has got some real teeth—off-Broadway hit *Below the Belt*, the Nicky Silver vehicle *Fit*

To Be Tied, and the deliciously dysfunctional Rob Nash's latest. This keeps up and Bundy can take center stage in Bayou City. **Extra Credit:** Groovy new patio, which features a terrific view of downtown makes us forget we're not walking distance from Angelika—and thankful for the great (read: free) parking.

Most Likely To: Take The Crown. If they get the word out on the gems of next season, there'll be no stopping them. And Stages' new marketing man (and ex *OutSmart* editor) Kyle Young should help immensely. Young knows how to work the media.

Teacher's Comments: Go for it.



Name: HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN YELLOW PAGES

Born: May 1990

What It Wants To Be: Houston's only gay and lesbian yellow pages.

What It Is: Actually, they're practically everyone's only gay and lesbian yellow pages.

Gay Enough?: Yes.

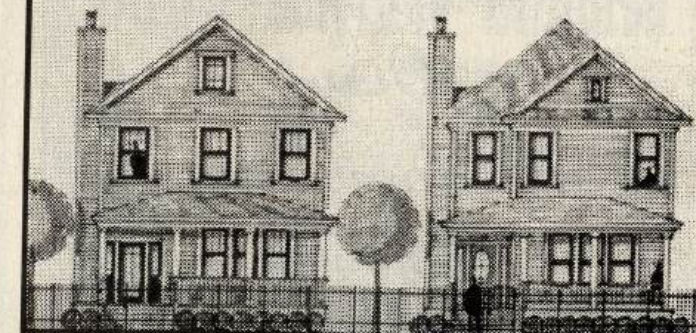
Head of the Class: Another biz-brain. *Queso grande* Laura Villagran snagged a copyright on the words "gay and lesbian yellow pages" and trademarked the lambda-on-the-book logo that flawlessly harkens to the national let-your-fingers-do-the-walking icon. A genius move that blocked all other imitators in the land.

Stay After School: Temper, temper. Has been known to piss people off with her aggressive tactics. But she mends fences with the appeal and silky sweetness of a seasoned L.A. press agent. And that's her saving grace: Villagran mends fences like no other.

Most Likely To: Oh, come on. She'll have estates in other countries in a few years.

Teacher's Comments: Great spot that aired on *TV Montrose*. Polished, professional, and, word is, she got a lot of business off it. And that means Steve Baker's risky video venture just might be paying off for the brave advertisers who are getting there first.

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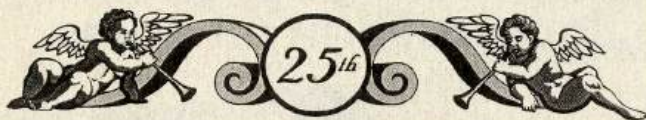
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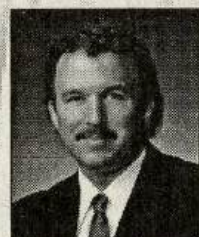


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Name: BODY POSITIVE

Born: December 1997

What It Wants To Be: A life saver.

What It Is: Goes one better: it's a life *enhancer*.

Gay Enough?: Yes, not that it matters in the least.

Head of the Class: For being a class act. The brainchild of charm-meister Nelson Vergel is doing quite nicely, thank you very much. And Body Pos is a smart thing getting smarter—they've got such elder statesmen as Marion Coleman and Richard Wiederholt on their board.

Stay After School: Only to help clean the erasers. And we only ask that because we like you so much.

Most Likely To: Graduate with Honors.

Teacher's Comments: Good idea. Expertly executed. Nice and noble without being sentimental.



Name: HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN - HOUSTON

What It Wants To Be: January 1997 (prior to '97, not all funds raised went to Washington)

What It Wants To Be: A PAC (Political Action Committee).

What It Is: Our missionary.

Gay Enough?: Yes.

Head of the Class: Hardest worker. Demands top donations, rewards donors with meeting their demands. Vital inside-the-beltway mover and shaker—and we're not talking Beltway 8, by the way. HRC's got smarts *and* soul. Brave combo. And we *love* the logo. Winter Gala was a classy affair.

Stay After School: If, for anything, failing to somehow drip this fervor for political action down to the gay and lesbian masses who don't vote. But will anything achieve *that* monumental goal? It's our second deadliest sin.

Most Likely To: Succeed. Until that grand and glorious day we don't need to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to get a fair shake.

Teacher's Comments: You have our blessing.

Name: TV MONTROSE

Born: March 1998

What It Wants To Be: *ET*, *Daily Show*, and *On the Road With Charles Kuralt* all in one.

What It Is: Not really any of those.

Gay Enough?: Actually, yes. It's an excellent mix.

Head of the Class: Content. With every installment, the covered stories are dead-on. Rauschenberg, Winter Gala, PFLAG Fotofest exhibit at Stages, excellent choices all.

Stay After School: Execution. Let's polish it all up. Penmanship is poor, which is bad for TV.

Most Likely To: Any more desperate pleas for assistance like the La Strada debacle, and don't go looking for syndication parties any time soon. Then, again, under-the-gun producer Steve Baker does show that he knows what he's doing so far. But getting a director would help—a lot.

Teacher's Comments: Edit, edit, edit. Segments go on way too long. And watch the attempts at comedy—only *South Park* can get away with poo skits, and Nancy Ford's reliance on reading her script sabotages her terse wit and snappy delivery, two Ford facets that are needed to make her shine on the small screen. Suzanne Anderson and Kim Sevier are surprisingly good. Reporters seem more and more comfortable with the camera. But watch that camera! Sometimes the video's crisp and clean, other times, the lighting makes us feel like we're on acid—not that we know what that feels like.

Name: THE HOUSTON IMAGE GROUP

Born: Yesterday.

What It Wants To Be: MVPR.

What It Is: The heat used to be the worst thing about Houston. Not anymore.

Gay Enough?: Hardly.

Head of the Class: In front, with the dunce's cap on. Didja hear the one about the full-page ad in *Time* (yeah, that's right, the one that goes all over the country)? The ad gave away an all-expense paid trip to haute Houston. All you have to do is fill out this form and you, too, could win. Who won? The *one person* to actually fill out the form. (That's why the *Daily Show* was here.)

Stay After School: Just who, exactly, were those quad-color "Expect the unexpected" ads talking to? When they first started sprouting up (like weeds), *we* thought they were the new NRA campaign.

Most Likely To: This one'll fold faster than a brewpub. Or has it already? Nobody's heard.

Teacher's Comments: Believe it or not, gay people actually like Houston. Get together with the Pride Committee and advertise our night parade in gay pubs and you'll get those.

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Name: CROSSROADS AND LOBO, THE BOOKSTORE BOYS

Born: (New) Crossroads, July 1997; Lobo (Houston), September 1986

What It Wants To Be: Similar goals: a classy coffee bar and bookstore in one.

What They Are: Crossroads, JR's with words. Lobo, a Blue Blockbuster disguised as bookstore.

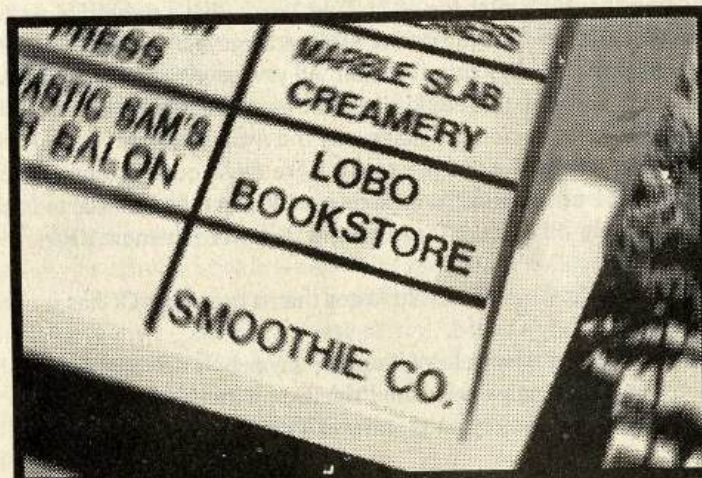
Gay Enough?: Oh, yeah. Lobo's there. Crossroads is off the scale.

Head of the Class: Crossroads nails it for gifts and cards. Books are pleasantly witty, sometimes unique, and always have a nice accent toward *NY Times* list. Lobo can be as touristy-fun as anything the Castro's got and their new coffee bar (gee, where'd they get that idea?) beats Crossroads on the comfort factor.

Stay After School: Crossroads for being too cruisy, which is funny because you'd think Lobo, with their movie section, would take that dubious achievement. Lobo, on the other hand, can just be so weirdly silent sometimes. Feels like you're being watched, but maybe we've just seen too many *X-Files*.

Most Likely To: Battle it in the schoolyard forever. That is, until The Next Big Thing comes along.

Teacher's Comments: Despite some unpleasant behavior in class, we would miss you if you weren't around. We miss Inklings.



Name: THE ART CAR PARADE

Born: April 1987

What It Wants To Be: Art Valedictorian meets Class Clown.

What It Is: Freaky Genius.

Gay Enough?: In a word: fabulous.

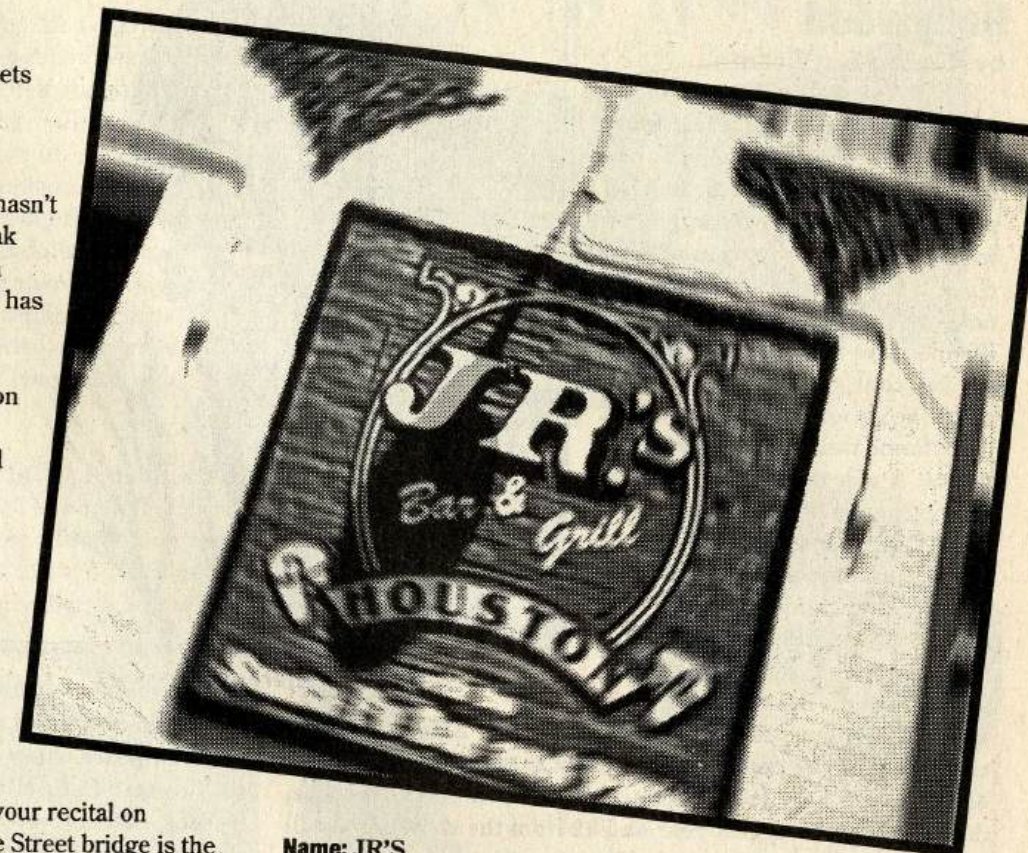
Head of the Class: *NY Times*, CNN—who hasn't covered this most wonderful of Texas freak shows? It's a show that transcends its own unique genre into legitimate folk art. ACP has pedigree, too: it's the child prodigy of the Orange Show.

Stay After School: Too nice. Letting Houston International Festival look at your paper! Shame on you! Let HIF get their own good grades. You're the original. Don't let this wannabe steal your shine.

Most Likely To: Wine gets better with age, too.

Extra Credit: The ball (Thursday, April 16) on the roof of a downtown parking garage may be one of the most suave soirees in town. This shindig boasts the best of both worlds—everyone from River Oaks ritz to trippy Montrose glitz show up.

Teacher's Comments: A+. Can't wait to see your recital on Saturday the 18th. (Word heard: the Sabine Street bridge is the view with the vistas; the gleaming cars turning the corner, sweeping down, titan structures of downtown standing tall in the setting sun. Surreal.



Name: JR'S

Born: [undetermined, which is so Hollywood, don't ya think?]

What It Wants To Be: The hip, fun Twister!

What It Is: More like the terrifying Monopoly.

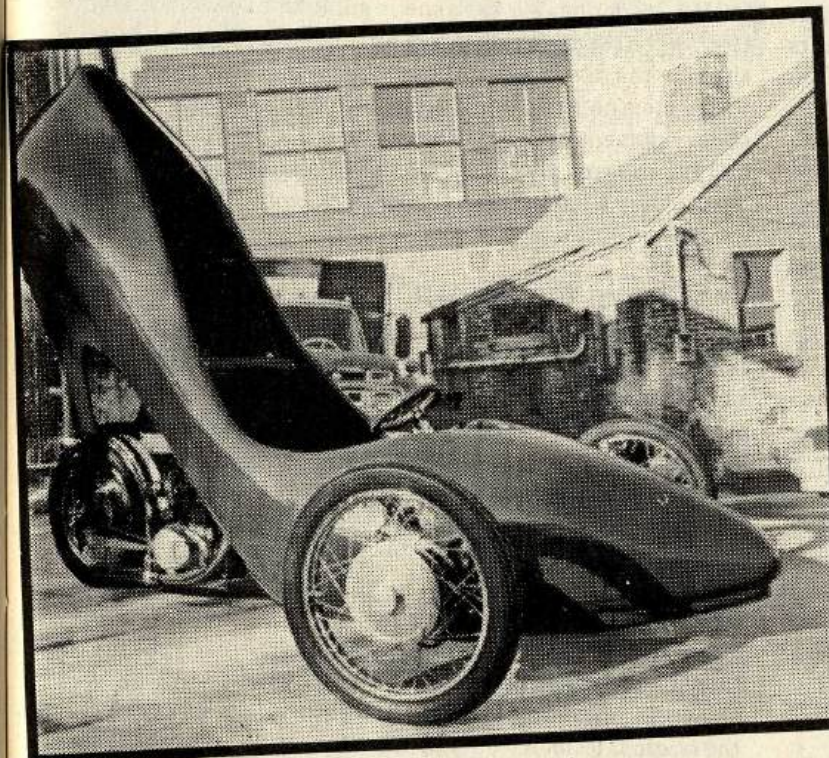
Gay Enough?: Please.

Head of the Class: Cum laude in finance. Occasional Gekko-like, yes, but a lot of hard work and entrepreneurial smarts went into making this gymbot-filled juggernaut what it is today. And last Sunday when we were there, the place was crawling with beautiful women on the back patio. The best gay/les mix we've seen in ages.

Stay After School: Playground bully. Tends to rule those around with iron fists. And, hey, isn't that the Ripcord's job?

Extra Credit: If you, just once, charged a \$1 cover for the night, and gave all that money to, say, the community center, we would all raise our glasses to you. *A lot.*

Teacher's Comments: Nearly every Houston gay bar is stuck in *Boogie Nights*-era fern bars (except Rich's, still stuck circa Studio 54, which is gonna be hip again thanks to the upcoming Neve Campbell flick). So, Junior, why stop with just renovating the entryway? Though it eased the audition-like atmosphere of the entryway guy gauntlet, it'd be nice if you'd put all that hard-earned money into something different. Think like Zimm's on a grand scale. Take a peek at Spy.



Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

ABC ORDERS OUT . . . FOR PIZZA?

Want to know in advance whether *Ellen* will be back on ABC next season? Then you might be wise to follow the ratings of *Two Guys, a Girl and a Pizza Place*, the network's replacement for *Ellen* on Wednesdays through April. Insiders say that show is poised to replace the groundbreaking sitcom if it performs well during a six-week tryout. If not, then *Ellen* stands a better chance of returning in the fall. • This despite DeGeneres' claim that her show is history, based on indications from ABC execs. Of course, Ellen said the same thing last year, but ratings were stronger then. Before making any knee-jerk judgments that would likely follow *Ellen*'s cancellation, it should be noted that the show is steadily losing viewers. Through Feb. 25, *Ellen* was ranked 45th in the Nielsens, down 15 spots from last year and 32 from the show's first full season (1994-5). And it's not holding onto the audience from its lead-in, *The Drew Carey Show*, which in the most recent Nielsens finished 28th for the week. *Ellen* was 63rd. • To be fair, *Ellen*'s audience is much different from the one *Drew Carey* attracts. And the network's ratings are down overall this year. One thing's for certain: if Ellen does return, ABC execs will insist she



Ellen DeGeneres: Farewell?

tone down this season's emphasis on Ellen Morgan's love life. • If this is *Ellen*'s last hurrah, there are no plans as of yet for a "farewell" episode. All that's known about this season's last show is that several WNBA players, such as the Los Angeles Sparks' Lisa Leslie, will be appearing. • On the personal front, Ellen's mom Betty DeGeneres is reportedly charging that Anne Heche's mom is selling false stories to the tabloids in an effort to break the couple up. Heche has indicated in past interviews that she grew up in a very religious

Drew Barrymore: Male?



household, so it's no surprise that her mother would object to a lesbian relationship. One of those allegedly fabricated stories claimed that Heche was carrying on with one of her co-stars in an upcoming film, *Swingers* stud Vince Vaughn (who also appeared in last year's *The Lost World*).

PLAYING GAY Pretending to be queer has become a hot new celluloid trend. The latest actor to "switch teams" is *Friends* star Matthew Perry, who will play an architect assumed to be gay by a powerful businessman who seeks to employ him in *Three to Tango*. Perry's character is not gay, however, and falls in love with the businessman's mistress, Neve Campbell, who is having it both

ways in her own new movie, *Wild Things*. The thriller, now in limited release, shows Campbell sharing some steamy scenes with co-star Denise Richards (late of *Starship Troopers*), including the red-hot *Party of Five* star's first same-sex, on-screen kiss. • Incidentally audiences also get a glimpse of Kevin Bacon's penis in the film, leading to all sorts of new spins on the "Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon" game.

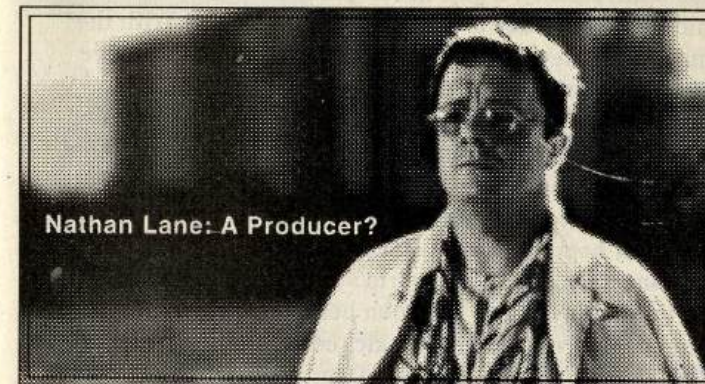
MOMS Madonna, 39, says she is going to have another baby. How, when, and with whom (if anyone) is not known, but considering the diva's age, it'll probably happen quickly. • Meanwhile, mom-to-be Jodie Foster is bringing *The Baby Dance* out of development hell. Past Oscar nominees Stockard Channing and Laura Dern play a lesbian upper-middle-class couple who want to buy a baby from a trailer park mom. Foster's Egg Productions will produce.

SPRINGTIME FOR NATHAN The ubiquitous Nathan Lane is returning to Broadway in a musical produced by gay entertainment mogul David Geffen. Lane will co-star with Martin Short in the show based on Mel Brooks' 1967 film *The Producers*, which won Brooks a well-deserved best screenplay Oscar. The role marks the second time Lane has stepped into Zero Mostel's oversized trousers, following a 1996 Tony-winning turn as Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Could *Fiddler on the Roof* be next?

DYKE ICONS *Xena: Warrior Princess*' large lesbian viewership apparently includes k.d. lang, who, according to series star Lucy Lawless, has expressed interest in guest-starring on the show. An upcoming episode will feature Lawless portraying the original lesbian icon, Sappho—the Greek writer who wrote love poems to women.

MICKEY GETS NAKED Disney has hired *Men in Black* director Barry Sonnenfeld to direct a film about the rise and fall of Chippendales founder Steve Banerjee. Their goal is to turn the project into the *Casino* of male dancing. • Banerjee was an Indian immigrant who made his fortune in Los Angeles gas stations. After losing money on a backgammon club, he learned of a Canadian nightspot where the guys did the "half monty," and brought the concept south. Chippendales became an immediate hit, of course, but Banerjee's success dragged him down, as he associated with organized crime and developed a serious drug problem. Banerjee hung himself in prison after being jailed for engaging hit men to do away with some of his business associates.

THE TRAGICALLY TRUE STORY OF TEENA A documentary probing the untimely death of transsexual Brandon Teena now in limited release is the first of three films due this year examining Teena's life. • For those of you not already familiar with this saga, Brandon Teena was born a girl, Teena Brandon, in



Nathan Lane: A Producer?

Lincoln, Nebraska. After deciding she was male, Teena reversed her name and had her breasts surgically removed. Assuming his new identity, Brandon started dating girls. At age 20, he moved to nearby Falls City, Neb., where he embarked on a relationship with a young local woman. After being arrested for passing a forged check, Brandon was charged under his real name, revealing his true gender to the town. Enraged by the discovery, a couple of macho thugs who knew Brandon beat and raped him on Christmas Eve, 1993. After filing a complaint, he was found dead on New Year's Eve along with two other people in the house where he was staying. The rapists were convicted of the killings (one is on death row while the other serves a life sentence). • Besides this documentary, Teena's story will be told in an independent adaptation *Take It Like a Man* and Fine Line's *All She Wanted*, which stars the sexually adventurous Drew Barrymore.

Romeo San Vicente, who's still enraged that his Oscar-nominated boyfriend chose to take his mother to the ceremonies instead of him, can be reached care of this publication or at RSVicente@aol.com. For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit www.gay.net.

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Take dance music's leading producers, DJs, artists, record labels, publicists, promoters, and just basic fans, mix them together with a circuit party and squeeze them all onto South Beach, and what do you get? For starters, how about three days without sleep! Every year in March, thousands of dance enthusiasts from around the globe flock to Miami's sunny shores for the Winter Music Conference, a "schmooze-fest" of who's who in clubland and the dance music industry.

What's it all about? Networking, deal making, discussing the future of dance, exposing new talent... oh, and of course PARTYING! What's a girl to do when there's at least six parties to attend each night? And we're not talking cute cocktail parties either, although there were plenty of those. We're talking thousands of people at each party!

This year's conference just happened to coincide with the Winter Party, a gay circuit party on the beach in the middle of a Sunday afternoon. Only in Miami! With the surplus of a few thousand studs, one of the conference highlights proved to be Sunday night at Liquid. DJ/remixer Victor Calderone, currently riding high on the success of his dance remix of Madonna's "Frozen," kept the crowd near the boiling point with his trademark hardhouse sound. Everyone was soaked with sweat! Twisted, home of House Heroe's "Magic Orgasm," showed why they are one of the world's top dance labels with their party Monday night. The man behind Club 69 and Sizequeen, Peter Rauhofer, kicked off the festivities with a blazing set of fierce grooves. Danny Tenaglia took over about 2 a.m. and turned out another legendary set that ended sometime well after sunrise.

Perhaps the best highlight of WMC '98 was how well Houston was represented. DJs and club & business owners from Rich's, Spy, Some, and Atomic Music, were all in attendance championing the cause for Houston's nightlife and club scene. Much respect to those who went and promoted the Bayou City. See you in Miami next year!

2nd Annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards

Winners of this year's GLAM Awards include Me'Shell Ndegécello (Female Artist - "Leviticus: Faggot"), Tom Robinson (Male Artist - "Blood Brother"), The Indigo Girls (Duo/Group - "It's Alright"), Anthony Rapp (Music in a Dramatic Setting - "Rent"), Joi Cardwell (Dance - "You Got to Pray"), Catie Curtis (Album of the Year - *Catie Curtis*), and k.d. lang (Michael Callen Medal of Achievement for being a "quiet activist leading an openly gay life with grace, integrity, and purpose"). RuPaul, who won the Outmusic Award for his commitment to speaking openly & specifically to the lesbian/gay experience through music, said, "It's a very masculine world, where we give a lot of credibility to things that are dark and sort of brooding. And things that are light and airy and fun and sunshiny don't get the heat they deserve. I think it's very ballsy of GLAMA to give this award to me as I am of the 'light' ilk, shall we say."

R E V I E W S

Little Plastic Castle - Ani DiFranco (Righteous Babe)

Here's what critics are saying about Ani DiFranco:
"A self-made phenomenon" - *The New York Times*
"Rock's most unlikely superstar" - *Spin*
"A woman who has punched a big hole in the wall separating the conscious from the subconscious and who makes the crossing at will." -



People

If you haven't heard of her by now, please check the lock on your closet door! She is a bisexual singer/songwriter who is quickly rising to the top of alternative music, and even more impressive, she's doing it her own unique way. Instead of signing a lucrative major label deal, DiFranco decided she wanted to call the shots so she formed her own label, Righteous Babe.

The new album, *Little Plastic Castle*, has met with widespread acclaim, but has this changed her? It appears not—most notably in the album's title track where she attacks critics for over-analyzing her image. Sounds like the same Ani.

For loyal fans *Castle* is the next stop on DiFranco's ride to the top of alternative music. For first-timers it's like jumping on a fast-moving train not knowing where it's headed. One thing is for sure, DiFranco will have all of us wondering where she's going next.

Northern Exposure 2 - Sasha and John Digweed (Ultra)

No, it's not the soundtrack to the popular television show, but calling it a soundtrack isn't far off the mark. *Exposure* is the divine collaboration of two of the world's best DJs doing what they do best—taking listeners on a journey through endless sonic beats and lush melodic rhythms, experiencing music that captures powerful emotions.

Penned the godfathers of epic house—Sasha (Welsh) and Digweed (British)—have taken the dance world by storm with their infamous 10-hour DJ sets. They recently brought their show to American clubgoers and succeeded in converting them into loyal followers. In fact they now have a residency at New York's Twilo Club once a month on Friday nights.

What makes these boys so darn good? They bring most DJs to tears with their immaculate mixing. This is the journey. Listeners never know when one song ends and the next begins. There are no stops, just one long seamless mix, carrying listeners from one place to the next.

The U.S. version of *Exposure* has been split into two editions, east and west coast. This seems a little confusing to some, so save yourself the confusion and buy both!

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

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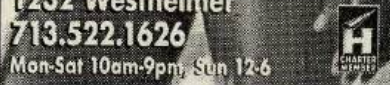
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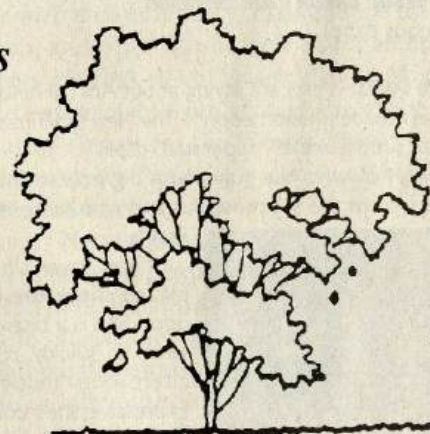
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Holding Patterns

Houston Ballet's Sean Kelly's straight-on course to success.

by Steven Foster

It's a standard fact that the business of ballet is largely successful due to the "war horses" of a company—the Sleeping Beauties, the Cinderellas, and the round-like-clockwork of holiday standards like the *Nutcracker*. Those tried and true crowd pleasers mean a ballet company can afford (and, sometimes, just barely) to showcase hot, young talent and a more exciting repertoire. These mixed reps, as they are called, feature dance that is less like Balanchine and more like Twyla Tharp, with music more funk than fugue. The internationally acclaimed Houston Ballet is no stranger to this duality of dance and, some would say, they inhabit both realms beautifully. The company's diversity will be showcased once again this month in the critically lauded

Cullen Contemporary Series.

This new trilogy will consist of Dominic Walsh's *Flames of Eros*, an intense treatise on romantic relationships scored to the music of film composer Ennio Di Berardo; Jan de Miranda's *A Picnic Pulcinella*, a bawdy comedy set to classical compositions; and *Patterns*, an exuberant workout to the electronic violin solos of Scottish Highland rocker Ashley MacIsaac, choreographed by Houston Ballet principal Sean Kelly. Kelly's last outing for the ballet, *Sinuosity*, was one of Houston's hot tickets. The piece, set to the music of Enya before she became some sort of obnoxious New Age version of titanic ham Celine Dion, brilliantly showcased the music's moodiness, spirituality, and ethereal elegance while simultaneously proving, once again, that Houston Ballet's company is talented enough, strong enough, and lithe enough to

continued on page 55



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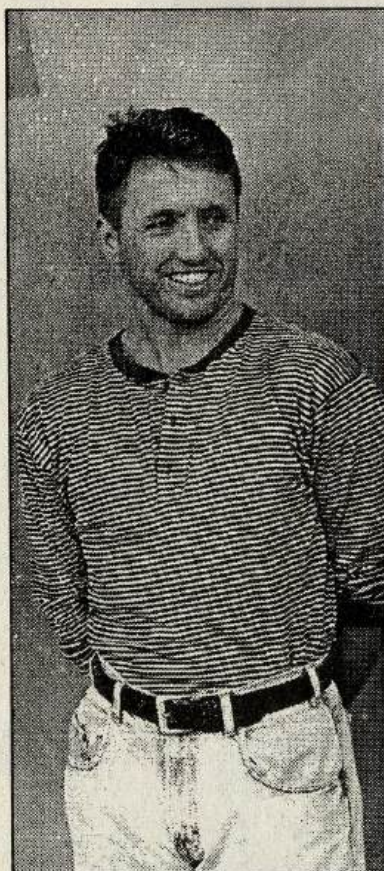
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continued from page 53

stand point to *en pointe* to other companies in their ability to tackle riskier reps.

And HB's been known to discover and discipline a lot of talent.

Distant Houston Ballet cousins Trey McIntyre, Christopher Bruce, and Mark Arvin are among some of America's finest contemporary choreographers. Kelly's *Sinuosity* was a grand Houston debut, that showed, among other things, that he knows how to bend HB's megatalents to his choreographic will. And he knows how to make dancers shine.

Lauren Anderson, the powerhouse principal that promptly took up the star mantle left by prima ballerina Janie Parker, was given a staggering pas de deux with the passionate Carlos Acosta that had balletomanes tearing at their tutus. The featherlight Barbara Bears, the closest thing ballet has to a living porcelain doll, was coupled with the dark, vampiric Phillip Broomhead. Kelly's every pairing went as flawlessly as the pirhouettes did. And his gift was and is complimentary—you notice the dancer who's performing the moves and the one who has created them.

"I think now, the last few years, after I've gained more experience, I guess one gains a bit more confidence," Kelly says during a short hour break during his merciless schedule. At first his tone is pleasant, measured, and mature, but then turns on a dime to giddy honesty and pre-show jitters. "But you always feel very vulnerable until the ballet opens."

His vocal turns are as stunningly executed and quick as his physical ones, which, if you think about it, makes his music choice pretty apropos.

"Ashley MacIsaac. He's this wonderkid violinist, an outrageous character," explains Kelly. "It's this kind of interesting mix of rock with these electronic violins mixing in, and some of it has a very Scottish highland kind of feel, very pleasant sounding."

Think Waterdance—but on acid and without the headband. Or maybe Mel Gibson's hearty *Braveheart* by way of Shirley Manson's rude Garbage. The Scots are a wondrously wicked bunch. This is a country, as you well know, where the men where plaid skirts. It's a fact not lost on Kelly, who designed the costumes.

"The guys are in bare-legged kilts with these snug-fitting muscle shirts. The women are in leotards and tights, but sections of it are very sheer, like the legs and the arms of the costume are very sheer, and then they have a band that matches the fabric on their partner's kilt," Kelly says.

But *Patterns* isn't exactly talking about color-coordinated fabric swatches wrapped around muscled dancers. Each of the couples of Kelly's piece represents couples at various evolutions of romantic relationships. True to the complexity of the music, the dancers morph and shapeshift like slender, elegant werewolves. The one couple who seem to be the most well-adjusted are later revealed to be more psychologically screwed up than their counterparts.

"Their relationship is the most dysfunctional," he analyzes matter-of-factly. Despite this, Kelly claims of the three on the bill that evening, *Patterns* is "the most upbeat and energetic piece of the three."

Sure beats *Two Guys, A Girl, and a Pizza Place*.

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Calendar of Events

Please note the Calendar deadline for OutSmart's May issue is 5 p.m., Monday, April 13.

April

3-5 The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston (GLSH) will be conducting training for new phone staff volunteers. GLSH is a nonprofit, information, and referral service providing information on organizations, services, events, & matters of interest to and about the gay & lesbian community in the Houston area. To volunteer or for more info, call 713/529-3211 or leave a message at 713/529-9615.

9-12 10th Annual Gulf Coast Womyn's Festival. It's a down-home feminist celebration featuring Jamie Anderson, Diana Jones, Judith Sloan, Lynn Thomas, Alice Di Miele, Shelley Graff, Dorothy Hirsch, Finger Rhythmn Good, & Bonnie Morris. For more info, call 601/344-1411. E-mail: sisterspir@aol.com.

10&11 The Lone Star Volleyball Classic X tournament committee is looking for volunteers who want to meet athletic men from Texas & across the U.S. These volunteers will assist the facility manager at each gym by monitoring the volleyball courts during the tournament and will be provided a T-shirt; volunteers who provide 8 or more hours may attend the dinner banquet. Interested volunteers may call the Lone Star Volleyball Association at 281/878-4629 or e-mail

VPTOURNEYS@aol.com or visit the Web page at www.neosoft.com/~lsva.

11 AssistHers volunteers & friends can learn more about health issues which affect women-identified women with "Letting Go and Embracing Something New," a presentation by Lisa Weaver, PhD, licensed psychologist & family therapist, MBA. 10:30 am-noon. Questions/location: 713/521-4628.

11 Jungle Lust VI is a tropical-themed dance party with open bar & nonstop music. This fund-raiser will benefit AVES, Body Positive's Wellness Center, and The Assistance Fund. Tickets, which are \$35 in advance & \$45 at the door (if available), can be purchased at Basic Brothers, Custom Valet, Giovanni Salon, and Lobo's. 10 pm till ? @ The Spencer Company, 1609 Ennis at Leeland. For more info: Jaymes Alexander 713/526-2065 or Charles Krenzler 713/862-2692.

13 Health Insurance Update is the 2nd of a series of free HIV-information seminars, held by Montrose Clinic and attorney Mitchell Katine. This workshop takes place from 7-9 pm @ Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer. For more info: 713/830-3000.

14 The Therapy Sisters. Are you ready for an attitude adjustment to get you through the week? Maybe it's time you spent an evening with The Therapy

Sisters. Lisa Rogers and Maurine McLean have entertained at clubs, theaters, and conferences from coast to coast, and now they're here in Houston to inspire you to laugh and think about the age we live in, and to remember that if you're not part of the problem, you're not part of the family. 8:30 pm @ McGonigel's Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk, 713/528-5999. Tickets \$8.

16-18 Art Car Weekend is a nonstop 3-day celebration of personal artistic expression—a parade of 200 art cars, a Texas-sized Art Car Ball, a Main Street Drag, and even a symposium. The parade is Saturday and begins on Allen Parkway at 1 pm, rain or shine. For info on the other events, call 713/926-CARS.

16, etc. Dialogue: Racism. Issues of racism are explored; the principle followed is that misinformation caused by prejudice can be corrected, the wounds healed, and a community developed based on a deeper understanding & appreciation of differences & commonalities. Asian, Black, Jewish, Latino, & Native American participants begin to understand more about their own hurt feelings and dispel some of the mistrust of whites & other racial groups they have experienced. White participants report increased sensitivity & awareness of more subtle forms of racism which occur daily. This 8-session program promotes personal transformation, a sense of dedication in "letting racism end with me," a greater understanding of the experiences & feelings of others, and the development of interracial bonds of friendship. Sponsored by the Center for the Healing of Racism, this free series will be held tonight and every Thursday thru June 18, from 7-9 pm @ Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. For more info, call 713/520-8226.

17 Violent Machines Perform Acts of Love. In their 15-year history, the Seemen—a group of art dropouts from San Francisco—have performed over 500 shows ranging from abandoned buildings, freeway underpasses, & rock clubs to fine art galleries, festivals, and even a bar mitzvah. They will present a body of work that will allow audiences a chance to interact, mingle, conspire, & control robots! Powered by compressed air, the Seemen offer an experience lacking in other machine art shows—you can actually listen & speak with the artist & your co-attendees at the event. There are no loud diesel engines rumbling & emitting nauseating smoke. The Seemen have even been known to play soothing classical music whilst their robots tear through physical & psychological boundaries. The show is presented in an exhibit style & allows for the artist to introduce each monster to the audience. 9 pm @ Templo, 5223 Feagan, \$5. Info: John at 415/695-2884 or e-mail at chickenjohn@hotmail.com.

18 48th Annual Spring Festival. A pancake breakfast at 7 am will kick off the festivities—always a feast for only \$5! A rummage/plant sale, health fair, silent auction, & drawing for a trip for two to London or Paris, along with live entertainment, will continue until 2 pm. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold at Mulberry. For more info, call 713/526-1017.

18 Diana Jones' CD Release Party celebrates "The One That Got Away," the follow-up to her acclaimed debut. Diana is an award-winning songwriter who has been showcased at music festivals across the country. A Houston favorite, she engages audiences with her beautiful alto voice, her impassioned lyrics, and her admirable guitar skills. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. 8 pm @ Lambert Hall, 1703 Heights Blvd. More info: 713/861-3316.

19 Peggy Utecht, LMSW, will lead an experiential exercise & discussion on Radix concepts, a direct body approach to freeing blocked emotions, for The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women. 10:45 am @ First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. Info: Iris 713/529-8571 or Laura 713/529-1886.

19 Fabulosos Cadillacs rang in 1998 with a Grammy in the newly created "Best Latin Rock/Alternative" category for their recent release *Fabulosos Cadillacs* (*Fabulous Skull*). The Buenos Aires group's music is a potent mix of rock, Latin ska, punk, tropical, funk, & reggae. Los Fabulosos Cadillacs will headline with Cherry Poppin' Daddies @ 6:30 pm at the International Ballroom, 14035 S. Main. Tickets (\$15): at all Ticketmaster locations; charge by phone 713/629-3700.

20 Messiah. Houston Masterworks Chorus, directed by Robert Brewer, will perform Handel's *Messiah* in its entirety, the first time the complete *Messiah* is performed in Houston by a major choral organization in 25 years. One performance only at 7:30 pm @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. For tickets: 713/529-8900.

23 Barbara DeAngelis—best-selling author, TV personality, & renowned relationship expert—discusses "The 100 Most-Asked Questions About Love, Sex, and Relationships." 7:30 pm @ Unity Church of Christianity, 2929 Unity Drive. Call 713/787-3490 for tickets (\$25).

24-26 Campout. Join the Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents for a Spring Campout at the Rainbow Ranch. For more information: 713/284-4939.

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.

26 Deborah Bell (Lesbian Health Outreach Project, Montrose Counseling Center) will answer questions on hot topics in lesbian health for The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women. 10:45 am @ First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. Info: Iris 713/529-8571 or Laura 713/529-1886.

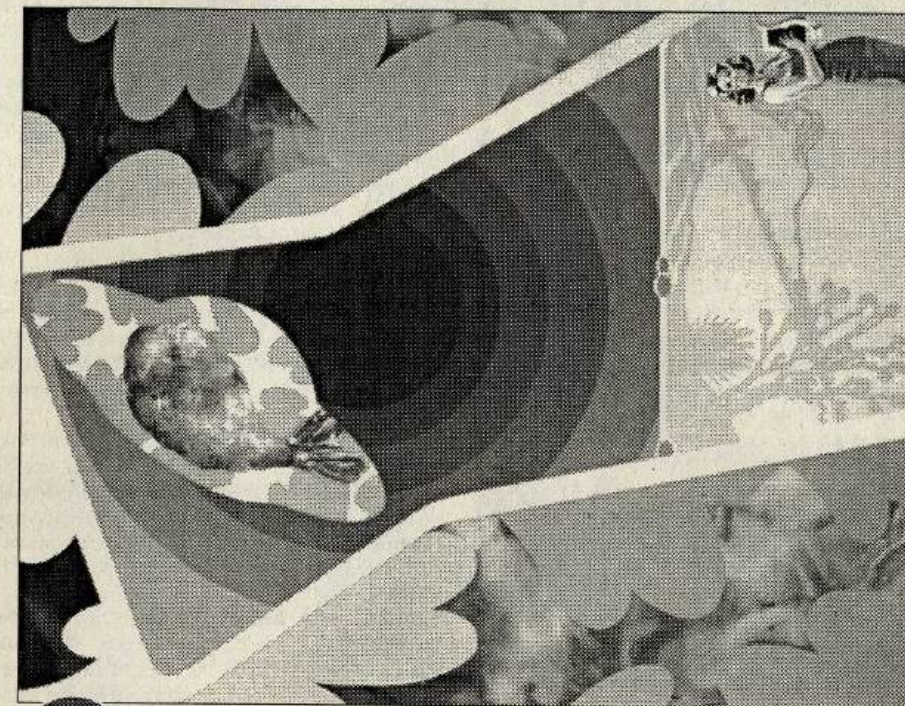
30 Green Day. Dookie and *Insomniac* have sold a combined 14 million copies in the U.S., but Green Day wasn't about to try and recreate those albums just to sell more records. Their new one, *Nimrod*, is very much a punk rock record, but it branches out into different areas. "Playing songs for people sends energy to the crowd," says Tré Cool. "And then they send it right back to you, and it's a blast. Playing new songs is always really fun, and we haven't played the old ones in so long, so they'll have a whole new feeling to them." 7 pm @ Aerial Theater at Bayou Place, \$20 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$21): Aerial box office and Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

Planning Ahead May/June

May 2-3 10th Annual Workout for Hope benefits HIV/AIDS & related cancer research at the City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute. Held in conjunction with Sports, Health and Fitness Expo '98, Workout for Hope features two days of fitness programming including aerobics, step, yoga &

Ultralounge:

The Return of Social Space (with cocktails)



Philip Argent's *Crash*, along with a variety of art, awaits you at DiverseWorks throughout May. The opening reception is April 30.

Cruise on over, shimmy on in, kick back, and become part of the show. Experience art in a hip new environment. Dispensing with the white cube/institutional/religio-educated overtones of a traditional gallery space, DiverseWorks announces the opening of *Ultralounge: The Return of Social Space (with cocktails)*. With the help of Vegas technology and the creative stylings of curator Dave Hickey, DiverseWorks will be transformed into a place where people might actually enjoy being and being together. *Ultralounge* refers to post hip-hop lounge culture with its accoutrement of raves, clubs, bands, Net sites, and 'zines. Although the culture is nationwide, its true hard copy exists principally in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Hickey and his group of west coast/Vegas artists have pulled together in an effort to redeem the lounge, to intensify "lounginess" rather than to critique it. • *Ultralounge* features the work of Phil Argent, Aaron Baker, Tim Bavington, Jane Callister, Cynthia Chan, Jack Hallberg, Wayne Littlejohn, Christine Siemens, Jennifer Steinkamp, Mary Warner, and Yek Wong. • The title comes from a series of CD compilations that feature the likes of Martin Denny, Tony Mottolla, Stan Getz, and Errol Garner—music which will play throughout the exhibition. The installation promises to be a multi-sensory experience featuring large-scale video projection; decorative objects in sculpey, plaster, and resin; and paintings, some on velvet, others under black light, surrounded by palm trees, neon, and billowing fog. The atmosphere swings to a vibe of cool. So round up your friends, grab a seat, and enter the glamorous world of *Ultralounge*. • The opening reception takes place from 6-8 p.m. on **Thursday, April 30**. The installation runs from **May 1-June 20 @ DiverseWorks**, 1117 East Freeway (off N. Main @ Naylor). For more information, call: 713/223-8346, or e-mail: info@diverseworks.org.

Don't Let Her Get Away . . . Without Seeing Her



Diana Jones is an award-winning songwriter from Austin who has been showcased at music festivals across the country. A Houston favorite, Jones engages audiences with her beautiful alto voice, impassioned lyrics, and admirable guitar skills. Celebrate *The One That Got Away*, the followup to her acclaimed debut, at Diana Jones' CD Release Party, **Wednesday, April 18, 8 p.m.** @ Lambert Hall Performing Arts Center, 1703 Heights Blvd. Tickets are \$8 in advance, and \$10 at the door. For more information, please contact the Athena Art Project at 713/861-3316.



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May 5 Fashion and Opera. Houston Grand Opera (HGO) & Neiman Marcus will present a fashion show & dinner benefitting HGO and featuring fashion designer Oscar de la Renta, who will present his Fall 1998 collection in a formal runway show. Tickets are \$200; tables are \$2,000-\$5,000. 7 pm @ Double Tree Hotel at Post Oak, 2001 Post Oak Blvd. For ticket info: Tom Becker 713/546-0242.

May 12 Amy Grant's career has spanned 18 years, five Grammys, & over 22 million in album sales. Her latest album, *Behind the Eyes*, has been called "her most personal and best to date." This is her first theater tour in over a decade. Tickets (\$29.50-\$60) are available at all Ticketmaster outlets, or charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

May 16 Michael Crawford. The original Phantom of the Opera will perform Broadway smashes with a full orchestra. This is the Tony Award-winner's opening night of the tour! 8 pm @ the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Tickets (\$27.50-\$67.50) are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations, or charge by phone 713/629-3700.

June 4-7 15th Annual Women in Medicine Conference. The four-day conference—"Promoting Women: Giving Wings to Our Dreams, Personally and Professionally"—will feature nationally known lesbian physicians & health advocates, including breast cancer expert Susan Love, MD; Gay and Lesbian Medical Association past-president & oncologist Kate O'Hanlan; and the author of *Stone Butch Blues*, Leslie Feinberg. Women in Medicine '98 will be held in Northampton, Mass. @ The Inn at Northampton. For registration materials or additional info, call 415/255-4547 or visit the website at www.glna.org/w.html.

June 21&24 Pride Week Deep Sea Fishing Trips. The Rainbow Fishing Club has made reservations on the 85-foot New Buccaneer, the largest party fishing boat in Galveston. The 12-hour trips include all fishing tackle & bait, and the boat has food & drink at reasonable prices. Total cost is \$60 (Sunday) & \$55 (Wednesday). Kids 12 & under and people not fishing are \$30. Reservation deposits of \$20 can be sent to the Rainbow Fishing Club, P.O. Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266. Cancellation refunds are available up to 24 hours before the trips. More info: 713/523-6381.

Theater

• **Animal Farm.** George Orwell's nightmarish allegory about a host of newly liberated barnyard creatures and their brutal struggle for power was written over 50 years ago. But with today's headlines the characters will look all too familiar. Disillusionment leads to disaster, as the animals realize their newfound freedom has led them to a fate much worse—complete powerlessness at the feet of the greedy, cunning pigs. Specifically geared for young adults and their families, *Animal Farm* plays from Through April 12 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets (\$11 & \$13) or more info, call 713/524-6706.

• **Arabella.** set in 19th-century Vienna, is a tale of mis-

taken identities in the pursuit of love. Acclaimed American soprano Renée Fleming sings her first *Arabella* in Houston Grand Opera's spring repertory opening. April 17-May 3 @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith. Tickets (\$20-\$175); phone at 713/227-ARTS or in person at both Houston Ticket Center locations & all TicketMaster outlets.

• **Below the Belt** is a hilarious comedy about three accountants stationed in the wilderness by their ecologically unconcerned company. As they try to climb the corporate ladder, survival of the fittest gives way to survival by memo and meeting, proving once again that the business world is a jungle. April 16-May 10 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. Tickets (\$15-\$28) are on sale at Stages' box office or by calling 713/52-STAGES.

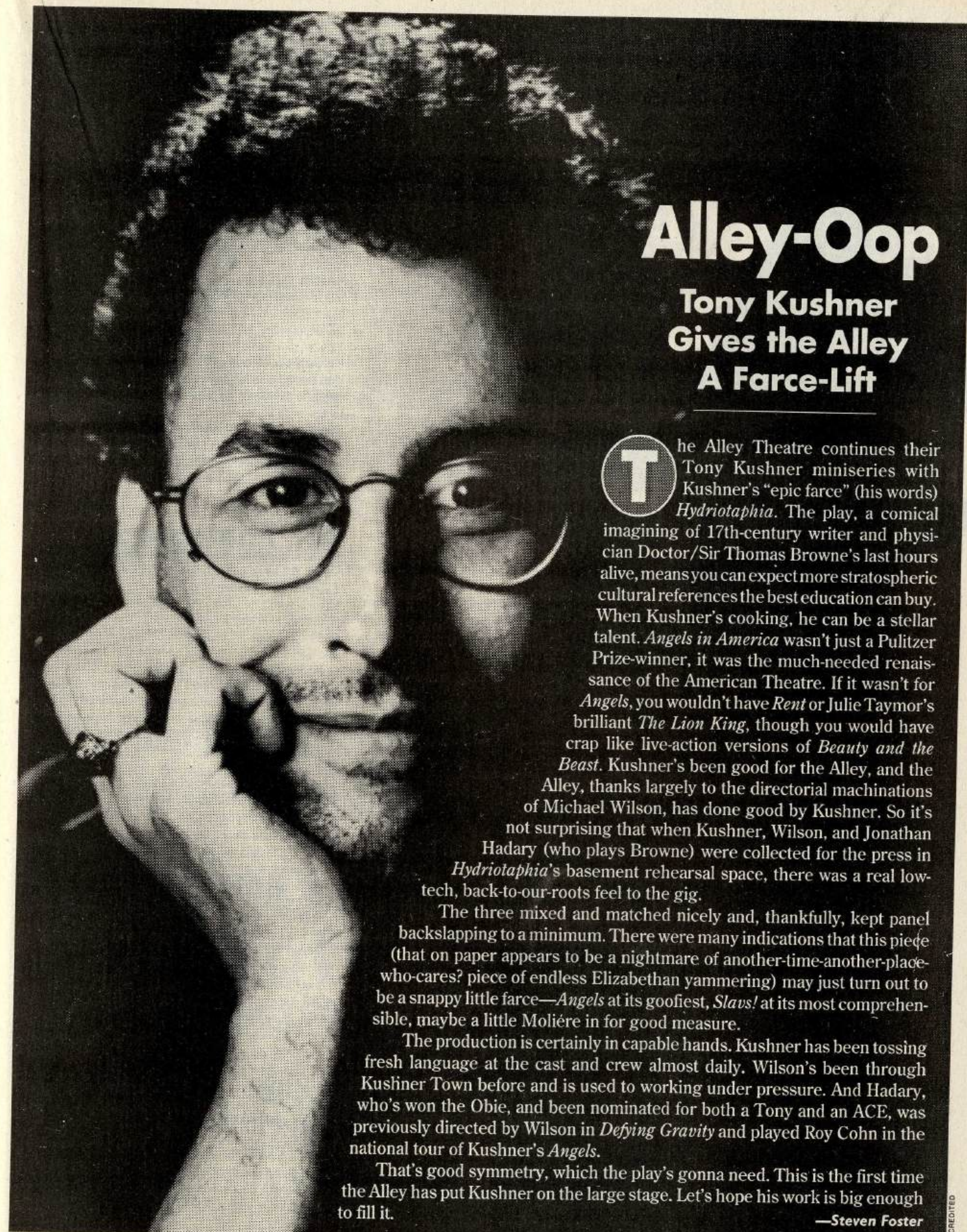
• **Eating Raoul: The Musical.** Based on the 1982 cult classic film, this new musical puts a fresh spin on the Blands, a square and tasteful couple who dream of opening their own restaurant. One thing stands in their way: money! Amid the hip, hedonistic L.A. of the 1970s where swingers rule, the Blands devise a scheme to rid the world of weirdos. Enter their lascivious apartment super, Raoul, with a partnership proposal, and a zany musical romp of murderous proportions ensues that keeps the audience guessing who the main course will be. April 15-May 24 @ Theater LaB, 1706 Alamo. For tickets/more info: 713/868-7516.

• **Happily Hereafter.** She's back! The world premiere of a new musical comedy by one of Houston's most popular and inventive theatrical personalities, *Happily Hereafter* promises to offer all the sharp wit, poignant drama, and thought-provoking observation that Marianne Pendino's loyal following has come to expect. Her last production, *The Attitude Club*, played to packed houses over three extended runs. Now Pendino has teamed up with Jane Seger in creating a three-person, quick-change musical comedy about a new arrival in the afterlife, and the havoc that she leaves behind on Earth. April 30-May 31 @ Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. For more info or tickets, call 713/524-6706.

• **Hydriotaphia, or The Death of Dr. Browne.** By the author of the Tony Award-winning *Angels in America*, Tony Kushner's *Hydriotaphia* chronicles the last hours in the life of the 17th-century author Sir Thomas Browne, a writer & physician considered by his contemporaries to be the greatest mind since William Shakespeare. This new mysterious and funny play—enjoying its first major production—will be directed by Michael Wilson, who directed the Alley's production of *Angels in America*. Through April 25 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets, \$31-\$46, are available at the Alley box office or 713/228-8421. (See *Tony Kushner* on opposite page.)

• **The King and I** is set in the exotic and opulent Far East in the 1860s. This Rodgers & Hammerstein musical tells the story of an Englishwoman who becomes governess to the many children of the autocratic & stubborn King of Siam. Hayley Mills—who played twins in the 1961 film *The Parent Trap* (which is now being remade, starring Dennis Quaid as the father) and who won a special Oscar for her role in 1960's *Pollyanna*—stars as the governess. April 7-12 @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (46-\$52): 713/227-ARTS.

• **Long Day's Journey Into Night.** In a new production featuring Oscar-winning actress Ellen Burstyn (*Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*) and TV/film actor David Selby, 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



Alley-Oop

**Tony Kushner
Gives the Alley
A Farce-Lift**

The Alley Theatre continues their Tony Kushner miniseries with Kushner's "epic farce" (his words) *Hydriotaphia*. The play, a comical imagining of 17th-century writer and physician Doctor/Sir Thomas Browne's last hours alive, means you can expect more stratospheric cultural references the best education can buy. When Kushner's cooking, he can be a stellar talent. *Angels in America* wasn't just a Pulitzer Prize-winner, it was the much-needed renaissance of the American Theatre. If it wasn't for *Angels*, you wouldn't have *Rent* or Julie Taymor's brilliant *The Lion King*, though you would have crap like live-action versions of *Beauty and the Beast*. Kushner's been good for the Alley, and the Alley, thanks largely to the directorial machinations of Michael Wilson, has done good by Kushner. So it's not surprising that when Kushner, Wilson, and Jonathan Hadary (who plays Browne) were collected for the press in *Hydriotaphia*'s basement rehearsal space, there was a real low-tech, back-to-our-roots feel to the gig.

The three mixed and matched nicely and, thankfully, kept panel backslapping to a minimum. There were many indications that this piece (that on paper appears to be a nightmare of another-time-another-place-who-cares? piece of endless Elizabethan yammering) may just turn out to be a snappy little farce—*Angels* at its goofiest, *Slavs!* at its most comprehensible, maybe a little Molière in for good measure.

The production is certainly in capable hands. Kushner has been tossing fresh language at the cast and crew almost daily. Wilson's been through Kushner Town before and is used to working under pressure. And Hadary, who's won the Obie, and been nominated for both a Tony and an ACE, was previously directed by Wilson in *Defying Gravity* and played Roy Cohn in the national tour of Kushner's *Angels*.

That's good symmetry, which the play's gonna need. This is the first time the Alley has put Kushner on the large stage. Let's hope his work is big enough to fill it.

—Steven Foster

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drug addiction, illness, and alcoholism and their effect on the Tyrone family. Held over through early April @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$31-\$46) available at the Alley box office or call 713/228-8421.

• **The Marriage of Figaro.** Revolutionary when it was first performed for its portrayal of clever servants outwitting their aristocratic masters, this quintessential comedy of manners is a timeless look at the relationships of husbands & wives, masters & servants, with hearts both fickle & true. This is the final production of Houston Grand Opera's mainstage season. April 24-May 10 @ Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas Ave. at Smith. Tickets (\$20-\$175); by phone at 713/227-ARTS or in person at both Houston Ticket Center locations & all TicketMaster outlets.

• **The Only Thing Worse You Could Have Told Me...** is a Houston premiere by Dan Butler, who plays "Bulldog" on TV's *Frasier*. Billed as a "whirlwind tour of the gay American landscape," this one-man show juxtaposes 10 predominantly gay characters in 14 vignettes. The characters question, contradict, and challenge one another's credo of what "being gay" really means. Dan Butler, now officially out of the closet, performed the piece himself in the New York production. *The New York Times* called the show "...very funny, very moving..."; *New York Newsday* raved that "Mr. Butler acts up a lavender tempest..."; and *The New York Post* reported, "[Y]ou certainly don't have to be gay to appreciate Butler's people ... most is recognizably life as lived to straight or gay alike." April 10-25 @ The Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet, 'tween Greenbriar & Kirby. Tickets \$10. For reservations: 713/523-0791.

• **Red, White & Tuna** is the final installment of the "Tuna" trilogy, written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard. In this world premiere, they present those eccentric but lovable citizens of Tuna, Texas, as they celebrate the Fourth of July with a Tuna High School class reunion. Tickets \$10-\$39. April 7-19 @ Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, 1-800-821-1894.

• **The Runner Stumbles.** When a young nun dies under mysterious circumstances, a local priest is charged with her murder. The gripping courtroom drama which ensues moves the play toward an explosive and surprising climax. Tickets \$5-\$10. Through April 25 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **The Sisters Rosensweig.** Sibling rivalry, persistent suitors, and shopping—a play so warm you'll want to wrap it up and wear it home. It's a hilarious portrait of three very different sisters who come together after a long separation. April 16-May 17 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets or more info, call 713/524-6706.

Theater Young People

• **Bunnica** is adapted from a popular children's book. A dog and cat tell the story of a vampire bunny that comes to visit, not to frighten, but to be their friend. It's a delightful tale that the whole family should enjoy. April 14-May 29 @ Main Street Theater at Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose. For tickets or more info, call 713/524-6706.

• **Cinderella.** This will be The Company Onstage's 200th production. Help them celebrate Cinderella's transformation and everyone can go the ball together. April 25-June 13 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **The Masque of Beauty and the Beast.** In this adaptation of the classic tale of love and magic, a young

maiden is held captive in a bewitched castle by a scary beast. As time passes, she sees the beast's inner goodness, falls in love with him, and breaks the evil spell that binds him as a beast. Tickets \$5. April 8-May 16 @ EarlyStages Children's Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGES.

Radio/TV

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

• **Lesbian & Gay Voices** (Radio) Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. KPFT 90.1 FM.

• **AIDS Talk Houston** (TV) Access Houston Community Television (AHCT); showtimes are listed in local television guides under AHCT channels (Warner—Ch. 17; TCI—Ch. 41; Phonoscope—Ch. 72; Optel—Ch. 07).

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

Art/Photography

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

• **The Body of Christ in the Art of Europe and New Spain, 1150-1800** assembles works by such acclaimed artists as Giovanni Bellini, Sandro Botticelli, Albrecht Durer, Peter Paul Rubens, Jacopo Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese and Francisco de Zurbarán 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.

• **Except for Memory** is a solo exhibition of color photographs by Laura Pickett Calfee. A criteria for this series of photographs was that the dwelling must have been lived in by the same family or individual for more than 50 years. While there are no people present, these images clearly identify the idiosyncratic lives of the occupants. Through April 19 @ Rudolph Poissant Gallery, 5102 Center St., 713/802-1886.

• **Gary Hill: Reflex Chamber.** Known internationally for his video-based sculptures & installations, in *Reflex Chamber* Hill uses video, sound, text, & light to explore the nature of vision & perception. Visitors will encounter a chamber built within the gallery, which they enter through a sliding door. Within this darkened

environment, which partially replicates the interior of a camera or a human eye, a series of video projections bounce form a mirror to a white tabletop. Flashes of light assault the senses, and a spoken text can be heard. Through April 12 @ Rice University Art Gallery, Sewall Hall, 6100 Main Street. For more info: 713/527-6069.

• **Elmer Wayne Henley.** Yes, that Elmer Wayne Henley is also an artist. This show consists of original works of oils, acrylics, watercolors, and 4 Painted Emu Eggs. Proceeds for the show will be distributed as follows: one-third to The City of Houston Victim's Memorial Monument Fund; one-third to Henley's mother; and one-third for show expense & security. Through April 27 @ Hyde Park Gallery, 711 Hyde Park, 713/526-2744.

• **Love Makes a Family.** The photographs of Gigi Kaeser depict a diverse group of 20 families with gay or lesbian parents, grandparents, or adults. Each photograph in "Love Makes a Family: Living in Lesbian and Gay Families" is accompanied by text edited from interviews with family members. Together, the words and images convey the love present in these families. April 6-27 @ Montrose Library, 4100 Montrose, 713/284-1958.

• **OBJECTIVE FASHION** explores apparel & accessories from the mid to late 20th century that incorporate images of familiar subjects, such as animals & food, into fashion. It examines the relationship between fashion & art movements such as Pop Art, Cubism, & Abstract Expressionism. Through May 24 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300; Spanish 713/639-7379.

• **The Pictures of Texas Monthly: Twenty-Five Years** chronicles life in Texas as seen in the pages of *Texas Monthly* throughout the past 25 years. The images are unabashedly Texan—cheerleaders, Texas Rangers, rugged landscapes, sheriffs, football players, coyotes, beauticians, cowgirls, billionaires. . . . Annie Leibowitz offers a poignant portrait of Ann Richards. There is a Danny Turner image of a woman with "Big Hair" and a Jim Cammack image of a rattlesnake wrangler. The photographs create a visual heritage of Texas and its colorful inhabitants as well as a tribute to the photographers who lent their talent and vision to the magazine. Through May 3 @ the Houston Center for Photography, 1441 W. Alabama, 713/529-4755.

• **Student Exhibition.** This annual exhibition features exemplary student work selected by the faculty from the University of Houston's Department of Art. It includes work by undergraduate and graduate art students in the University's painting, sculpture, photography, digital, graphic, and interior design programs. Through April 19 @ Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, entrance #16 off Cullen Blvd.

• **Years Ending in Nine** is an exhibition that explores 10 decades as represented by photography taken in the final year of each decade. Approximately 145 images from the MFAH photography collection, selected from years ending in nine from 1899-1989, reflect the tenor of the 10 decades. Through April 26 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300 (Spanish 713/639-7379).

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Community

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

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

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

• **AWARE.** See SPECTRUM, this page.

• **BiNet** is a support/social/educational group open to all women & men exploring their sexuality or identifying as bisexual. Confidentiality is maintained within the group, & the use of assumed names is respected. BiNet is an active part of the queer community & is accepting of diverse lifestyles. Meets every Wednesday, 7:30-9 pm @ Toopies, 1830 W. Alabama. More info: 713/467-7031.

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

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

• **EXXON Gay & Lesbian Employees (EGLE)** meets monthly at the Montrose Library to discuss workplace issues, empowerment, social events, etc. For more information, call 713/522-6212.

• **Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston (GLSH)** is a nonprofit all-volunteer organization offering the community information & referrals to businesses, legal and medical professionals, and a variety of organizations. It also provides information on HIV/AIDS, coming out, etc. P.O. Box 66496, Houston, TX 77266-6469, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.

• **Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Educators Network (GLSEN).** The goal of GLSEN is to make schools safe for everyone—straight and gay. All interested persons are invited to attend the meetings every 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore. For updates or more information: write to GLSEN-Houston, P.O. Box 541871, Houston, Texas 77254. Call 713/529-4571 or e-mail: GLSTNHou@aol.com.

• **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC)** fosters & promotes the economic development & vitality of gay, lesbian, & supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information, & networking opportunities for its members. Promoting a positive change of the diversity of gay & lesbian citizens, and to further strengthen our position in society, the chamber provides opportunities for the personal, professional, & social growth of its members. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity. Meets the first Monday of each month. For more info: 713/523-7576.

• **The Homeless Pet Placement League** is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that rescues and rehabilitates stray and abandoned cats and dogs. Volunteering, foster care, or adopting: 862-PETS.

• **HOPE Project** (HIV Outreach, Prevention, and Education) provides HIV/AIDS information to the African-American community. Board meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month. Contact the HOPE line at 713/587-6914 for more info.

• **Houston Area NOW** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 3217 Montrose Blvd. (near Westheimer, in the Interfaith Ministries Bldg.). Free parking accessible from Lovett Blvd. Social time @ 6:30 pm & program/business @ 7 pm. For more info: 713/665-8669 or P.O. Box 540548, Houston 77254-0548.

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

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

• **Houston Pride Band** provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. They are seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. Contact Russell at 713/524-0218 or e-mail: HouTxBand@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.

• **Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (PLGC)** is a national organization of ministers, elders, deacons, & other members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Local chapters of PLGC work within their presbyteries to proclaim the inclusive gospel of Jesus Christ. Membership in PLGC—open to all Presbyterians who care about the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgendered persons—witnesses to the Presbyterian Church (USA) that all people, whatever their sexual affectional orientation, should be able to express their gifts & talents in worshipping God & in serving others through the Church of Jesus Christ. Meets the 1st Monday of each month, 7:30 pm @ Presbytery of New Covenant Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., 713/526-2584.

• **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/for 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.

• **SPECTRUM,** formerly AWARE, is the new name for the employees' group of Southwestern Bell Communications which is open to both management & nonmanagement (active & retired) lesbian, gay, bisexual personnel & those who share their concerns. Partners are encouraged to attend & participate. 3rd Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise scheduled. Call 713/235-7929 to be added to the mailing list & for info on other activities. Info can also be obtained thru the company's Intranet site for those who have access to it: <http://intranet.sbc.com/SBCWIN/corporate/aware/index.html> and via the Internet website: <http://www.webcom/benny/spectrum/spectrum.html>.

• **Texas Human Rights Foundation,** a statewide, not-for-profit legal agency, advocates on behalf of the lesbian, gay, and HIV community and publishes the booklet AIDS and the Law: Know Your Rights. If you feel you have been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation or HIV status and need legal advice or attorney referral, call their toll-free number, 1-800-828-6417.

• **The Women's Group** is a feminist group for all women that meets every Sunday at 10:45 am in the Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd Floor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin @ Southmore (elevator accessible). Info: Ins Greer 713/529-8571 or Laura Reich 713/529-1886. E-mail: HouWmnsGrp@aol.com.

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

The Houston Area Women's Center, a nonprofit organization which provides shelter & support to survivors of family violence & sexual assault, needs hotline volunteers. Extensive training is offered. Orientation is 2nd & 4th Monday of each month. More info: 713/528-6798, ext. 272.

department: 713/623-6796. Website: <http://www.aidshep.org>.

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

• **Centergy** — Rediscover the joy, the joy of releasing the energy at your center. Reclaim your emotions. Identify & verbalize your feelings & desires. Face & release your blocks to living freely. Create the life you want. Centergy offers weekly programs for anyone willing to face additions: individuals, pairs, families, groups, organizations, business relations. Groups meet weekly: Women — Tuesdays or Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm; Mixed — Wednesdays, 7-9:30 pm, Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rains, 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. More info: Richard Bielec at 713/655-5423 or Paula Andries at 713/216-6961.

• **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 get these children into homes that are safe, loving, & permanent: 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

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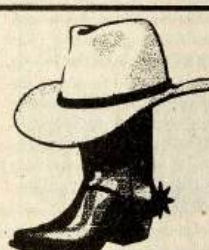


Community Dance Outreach

Steven's of Hollywood
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Day of Dance Saturday
June 20 1-4 PM

A FREE 18 week
C&W dance
course for the gay
community.

This project is sup-
ported in part by
grants from the City
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(713) 880-0670
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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 HIV-
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**. Mon-
trose Counseling Center is offering a therapy group designed to
provide a safe environment for men who share this type of experi-
ence to work together to resolve the impacts of the trauma on
everyday life. Services are provided on a sliding scale basis, and in-
surance is accepted. Certain restrictions apply. For further infor-
mation, 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. For location/info: 942-7002.

• **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 coun-
seling 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 fac-
ing 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. Spon-
sored 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, pro-
vides monthly support groups for adults with neuromuscular dis-
eases, for people with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), for parents of
MDA children, and Spanish-speaking groups. For the most current
info on these ongoing groups, call the MDA office at 713/522-3941.

• **Overeaters Anonymous (OA)**. For information about OA's
70 regular weekly meetings, call 973-6633.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays**
(PFLAG) Houston. General meeting with small group discussions,
1st Sunday of each month, 2-4:30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral,
1117 Texas Ave. PFLAG Houston Helpline: 867-9020.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays**
(PFLAG) Galveston County — 3rd Sunday of each month, 2
pm, @ The Health Merchant, 27th & Broadway, 409/744-3200 or
janettexas@aol.com.

• **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians And Gays**
(PFLAG) Woodlands — 2nd Sunday of each month, 2 pm,
Northwood Unitarian Church, 1370 N. Mill Bend Dr. For more
info: 713/867-9020.

• **Project CAESAR** is the Gay Men's Health Initiative at AIDS
Foundation Houston. By providing the latest information & educa-
tion 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.houston.org.

• **PROTECT** (People Respecting Ourselves Through Establishing
Community and Trust), an HIV-negative support group, provides
a safe place to share experiences, strengths, & 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 an-
swer hotline calls, counsel survivors in hospitals and at the center,
and help with clerical support. The Women's Center offers exten-
sive training for volunteers who work with survivors of sexual as-
sault. Call 713/528-6798, ext. 273.

• **SEA Change** (Support, Educate, and Advocate for Change) is
open to social workers and social work students who are
interested in gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues. For information, please
e-mail to MBECK@bayou.uh.edu.

• **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 manage-
ment, housekeeping, apartment search, nutrition, HIV/STDs, drug
& alcohol awareness, job search, on-site case management, coun-
seling & referrals. After completion of our 6-8 month program, cli-
ents 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, sexual relationships
are primarily with women who have a debilitating or life-challenging
disease, illness, condition. Assistance may extend to woman's
partner, caregiver, family. Services provided regardless of ability to
pay, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, economic status. Volunteers
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. Volun-
teers work as members of a Care Team, which is assigned
one client, so it's 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) com-
fortable 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 Freeway, Ste. 1717, 626-2837 or 1-800-981-2837.

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

• **Camp Hope**, for children living with HIV/AIDS, needs sleeping
bags, snacks, suntan lotions, insect repellents, toiletries, minor medi-
cal equipment (e.g. thermometer), toilet paper, toiletry kits, camper
duffel bags, bed linen, fruit juices, soft drinks, and so forth. For more
info: Mecie Hardin or Mike Mizwa. 623-6796.

• **Casa de Esperanza** needs clothes, sizes birth to 14; shoes;
socks & underwear; children's videos; diapers & diaper wipes; food;
art supplies; & toys for the shelter that serves abused and HIV-in-
fected children. P.O. Box 66581, Houston 77266-6581, 529-0639.

• **The Center for AIDS (CFA)** is an information/advocacy or-
ganization working to accumulate knowledge & to share informa-
tion regarding the latest medical treatments/scientific advances in
the field of HIV/AIDS. CFA advocates locally & nationally for bet-
ter treatments/better access to care for persons living with HIV/
AIDS & strives to keep the Houston medical/affected community
informed, updated, involved in search for a cure. CFA holds
monthly, informal meetings for persons with HIV/AIDS & other
persons to discuss treatment options. 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 com-
prehensive services through our commitment to the highest stan-
dards 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.

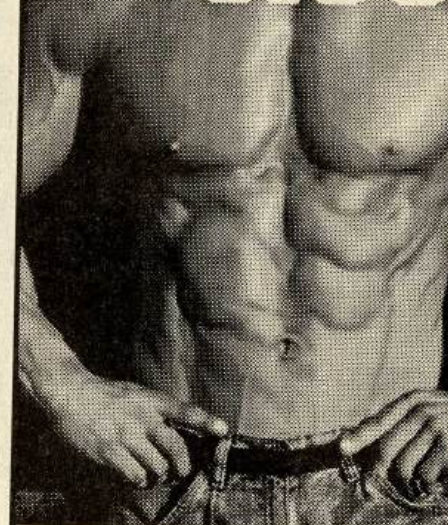
• **Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)** is a nonprofit organization
working to improve the health of lesbians & bisexual women in the
Houston area. 1st Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Montrose Coun-
seling Center, 701 Richmond. Volunteers needed to help with
computer work, fund-raising, direct healthcare services, organizing
projects, phone trees, & publicity/advertising. Info: Pokey Anderson
@ 526-7828 or write LHI, P.O.B. 130158, Houston, TX 77219.

• **Milam House** Volunteers Needed! Reach out, make a differ-
ence, show someone you care. Walk the talk at Milam House, a
residential center for people living with HIV/AIDS. Volunteers work
directly with the residents, providing companionship & emotional
support in a one-on-one setting. More info, call 713/520-9248 or
e-mail ahhvlntr@neosoftware.com. You can also visit the Web site at
http://www.neosoftware.com/~ahhstaf/MilamHouse/.

• **Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network** is
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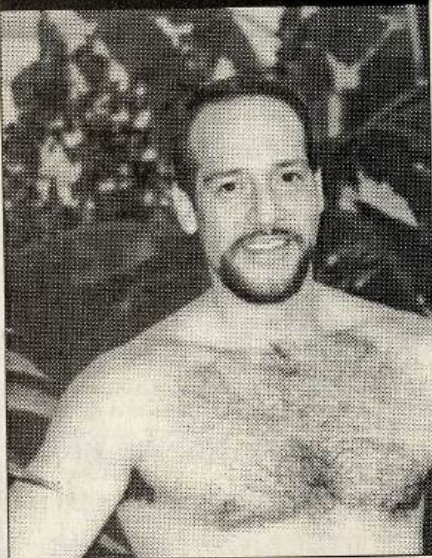


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health, social, educational, and research services; specializes in treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS care. Needed: cash gifts for indigent-patient care and capital campaign; volunteer time from general and specialty physicians or lay persons interested in HIV counseling/office support. 215 Westheimer, 713/520-2000.

- **Next Step** is a free confidential program of information and medical testing for persons who are HIV positive. Provided by Montrose Clinic. Call 713/520-2000 for schedule and to register.
- **Omega House** provides a homelike environment for persons with AIDS needing hospice care. We do not charge for our services, thus we serve persons primarily who do not have traditional medical resources. 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, new bicycle, extension ladder able to reach 2nd story, outdoor furniture & new umbrella for table, 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. Info: 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. Box 890769, Houston, TX 77289-0769.
- **Thomas Street Health Center Council** is an elected advocacy group that advise the hospital district on matters concerning Thomas Street AIDS Clinic. Meetings open to public comment & participation, 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 pm, 3rd floor conference room, 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, 793-4000.
- **Women's Clinic.** Montrose Clinic offers a women's health clinic. Visits include complete examination by gynecologist, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. Fee \$40; but no one turned away. Wednesdays, 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 713/520-2000.
- **Yoga.** Free yoga classes. Yoga benefits the individual by providing stress relief, better health & a clear mind. This is achieved by a combination of physical postures, mental exercises, breathing techniques & improved diet. Free yoga classes are Mondays & Wednesdays at 7 pm and Fridays at 6 pm @ Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 West Loop South, Ste. 21, 713/965-9642.

come. 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 (HAMIS)** is a new lesbian & gay motorcycle club for everyone who owns a motorcycle and wants to go on organized rides with other family members. All rides are free and open to the public. For more info: 713/523-7347 or write P.O. Box 981025, Houston, TX 77098.
- **Houston Outdoor Group (HOGS)** is a social group for gay men & lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. Activities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. We have day trips, weekend trips (typically a 2- to 4-hour drive from Houston), usually in state parks or private campgrounds. Local social events include Saturday morning breakfasts & once-a-month social potluck dinners. Call 713/KAMPOUT for info or your complimentary newsletter, or write to P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.
- **Lambda Rollerskating Club** invites all ages to join in the fun every Wednesday, 8-10 pm, @ Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. @ Beechnut. Admission is \$5 (+ \$1.50 for skates). For information, please call 933-5818.
- **Lesbian & Gay Potluck.** The Lesbian & Gay Unitarian Universalists (LGUU) cordially invite you to bring a dish & join them on December 19 @ 7 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Crane Fireside Room, 5200 Fannin. Info: 713/526-5200.
- **LiB,** a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbians, jobs, networking and businesses. 3rd Friday of each month, 7:30 pm, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. LiB's hotline: 713/529-0077.
- **Life Begins at Forty** is a group for women who might feel out of place at bars where the younger crowd seems to gather. It will provide a safe, warm, non-drinking, non-smoking environment for meeting friends as well as potential partners. Meets @ Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month. 2nd Friday: 6:30-9 pm, potluck & discussion/workshop/speaker. 4th Friday: dance, 8 pm-midnight. More information: Sharon Stone 713/771-7668 or the church office 713/526-1017.
- **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 womyn. Meets every Sunday morning. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability & experience. More info: Cookie Davenport @ 713/869-1686.
- **Scriptwriters/Houston** is a stage-and-screen writers' support and networking group. Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month, 7:30 pm @ Jones Theatre at the University of St. Thomas, Yoakum @ Alabama. Free. For info: 707-5194 or 523-9291.
- **Sisters** is a social/support group for African-American lesbians & friends. Meets 2nd Sunday of the month, 5-8 pm. Call 713/801-4254 for meeting location.
- **Southern Country Houston** provides country and western dance lessons, exhibitions, and charity events to benefit service organizations. Free dance lessons are offered every Friday, 7-9 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.

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-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 wel-

- and skill levels. They meet Wednesdays & Fridays from 7:30-9 pm & Sundays from 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join, call 713/692-2703.
- **Houston Women's Flag Football League (HWFFL)** is a nonprofit sports organization open to all women, ages 18 & over. We have two divisions—competitive & recreational. You can join by bringing in your own team. For more info: 713/981-6753.
- **Houston Women's Softball League (HWSL)** is a nonprofit organization for women who enjoy the sport of softball. For more 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.

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Palm Springs

continued from page 33

are centered upon Arenas Road, hyperbolically dubbed "Little Castro." The low-key friendly joints include the Rainbow Cactus Cafe—a piano bar whose walls are festooned with Christmas lights and Native American art—and Streetbar, a simple video pub with pool, pinball, and a small sidewalk terrace.

In Cathedral City, you'll find the region's hot new disco of the moment, Amnesia, which is set inside the spacious former home of C.C. Construction. This place has two distinct dance areas offering different styles of music, and the management encourages a mixed-gender clientele. Just down the street is long-running Choices, another big dance club with a large video-game and pool-table area and a big but nondescript patio

outside. The desert has been without a full-time dyke bar since Delilah's closed a couple of years ago, but the Sundance Saloon recently christened an adjacent women's hangout, the Love Shack, complete with dancing and plenty of space for mingling. Leather aficionados favor the nearby Wolfs Den, a cousin of the like-named club in San Diego. Forgot your chaps? Fear not, there's a fine leather boutique on premises.

Andrew Collins is the author of the much-expanded second edition of Fodor's Gay Guide to the USA, as well as six gay guides covering the West Coast, New York City, South Florida, and Amsterdam. He can be reached care of this publication or at GayFodors@aol.com. For more Out of Town, visit www.gay.net.

Queer Science

continued from page 27

gave rise to lesbian daughters than during pregnancies that gave rise to heterosexual daughters. The difference was small but it was statistically significant. This finding, however, runs counter to what one would have expected on the basis of Doerner's theory. Lower testosterone levels in female fetuses should if anything make them heterosexual, not lesbian. According to Bailey, the finding may not be a real one: it may simply reflect a tendency for mothers to remember more stressful events during the "lesbian" pregnancies, because they have been searching for a

reason why their daughters became lesbian.

So Doerner's theory is just plain wrong. It seems inspired by the belief that homosexuality is really bad, and therefore that something really bad should cause it. Although Doerner himself hasn't abandoned the theory, he doesn't place so much emphasis on it now as he did a decade ago. And he isn't so enthusiastic about prevention programs. It should be a decision by gay people themselves, he says. That's all well and good, but how are we going to ask fetuses what they want to become? Kick if you want to be straight, wiggle if you want to be gay? Maybe we'd do better to just let Nature take its course.

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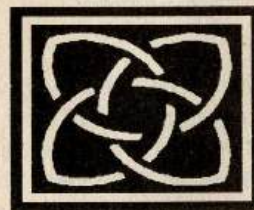
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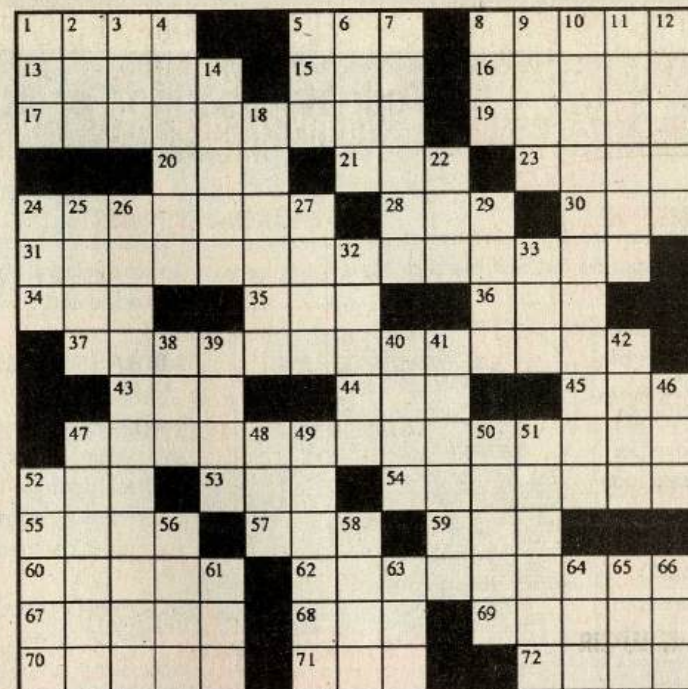
Answers to
OutSmart's
April Puzzles

Alternatives for your Animal Companion



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ACROSS

- 1 Create a cartoon
- 5 Politically incorrect suffix
- 8 Not quite right
- 13 Territory capital in 14-Down
- 15 "I've ___ You Under My Skin"
- 16 December visitor
- 17 "Candle in the Wind" singer
- 19 Icy downpour
- 20 Suffix for lemon or lime
- 21 Lubricant base
- 23 Questionable
- 24 Staying power
- 28 Espionage org.
- 30 Distant
- 31 Richard III star
- 34 One HIV status
- 35 Pencil holder, perhaps
- 36 Nuclear power agcy.
- 37 Recent Julia Roberts co-star
- 43 Debtor's letters
- 44 Misery
- 45 Sands of ___ Jima
- 47 Former editor of *The New Republic*
- 52 Chang's conjoined brother
- 53 It's of miner concern
- 54 Like 52-Across
- 55 Commitment ceremony exchanges
- 57 Ellen network
- 59 *Seinfeld* network
- 60 "Get your rocks off," for one
- 62 Culture Club's front "man"
- 67 Colorful aquarium fish
- 68 World's second-largest bird
- 69 With 49-Down, 52-Down composer
- 70 Pale
- 71 Michael Stipe band
- 72 FDR and JFK, e.g.

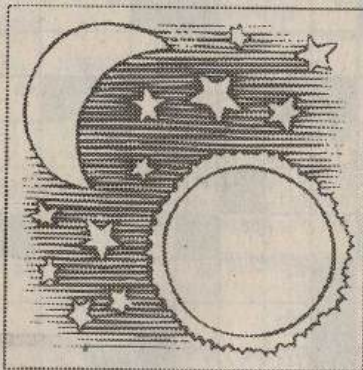
DOWN

- 1 Ike's monogram
- 2 Family mem.
- 3 Supermodel Carol
- 4 Basic existential question
- 5 A drag queen may have a big one
- 6 Where to lunch in London
- 7 Another name for 16-Across
- 8 Word with hard or lard
- 9 West African country
- 10 Like a condom smeared with 21-Across
- 11 Edberg of tennis
- 12 Male nymph
- 14 Urvashi Vaid's birthplace
- 18 Decathlon gold-medalist Bruce
- 22 "I don't masturbate," probably
- 24 Taxpayer's ID
- 25 Opera house feature
- 26 Being contentious toward
- 27 Word learned in Latin I
- 29 Banned apple spray
- 32 Homophone for "cruise"
- 33 *Malcolm X* director Spike
- 38 Group of whales
- 39 Prefix with Disney or dollars
- 40 The "V" of RSVP
- 41 Trapping morays
- 42 First word in a Christmas poem
- 46 A *Chorus Line* finale
- 47 Battery terminals
- 48 Cenozoic or Mesozoic
- 49 See 69-Across
- 50 Stereotype
- 51 "Brrr!"
- 52 Madonna's Golden Globe role
- 56 Feeling the effects of an extended sex session
- 58 Climax
- 61 Lesbian-bar absentee
- 63 "He looks good enough to eat!"
- 64 Norma McCorvey's 1973 court name
- 65 Iron-pumping place
- 66 Koch and Asner

Answers in OutSmart's May issue

Your Horoscope For April

April showers may be flowers, but don't count on the heavens because, in this era, old traditions die fast. Sun, Mercury, Mars, and Saturn are in Aries (fire). Be careful not to overreact or make rash decisions. The best chance of making it to the year 2000 is to become like the elements. Stay steady like the earth, move like the wind, change like the air, and bellow like the fire.



ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20)

What do all these planets in fire do for me? The sun affects your birthing issues. Mercury represents your thinking, so give others a chance to think as fast as you do. Caution is of utmost importance because Mercury retrograde—March 27 through April 20—places trouble on your shoulders if you act irrational. Mars speaks for itself because it rules Aries, and you know you best. Saturn is too long a conversation.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)

You won't be affected as much by all the fire in the universe. Uranus and Neptune in Aquarius will cause you to dance without your pants. This squaring of the planets gives you the I-want-to-change attitude. Do your Taurus stuff, and be careful not to spend the next year figuring out if you did the right thing.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

This is your lucky month. Money flows as Mars pushes your ambition and creativity to an all-time high. Wave the past goodbye. Trust your feelings. Saturn will enable you to make the correct choices, so by saying no to a job just for the money says you're headed in the right direction.

CANCER (June 22- July 23)

"I've seen fire and I've seen rain," but I've never seen such pushy people. Tough. This is not a time for indecision. Keep a steady pace at work and you will reap the benefits. Buy new zippers for your clothes, because the same outfit will label you "stuck in a rut," and no new suitors will pass through your door.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Dust off your pedestal and shine your crown, because this could be some of the most polarized times you've ever experienced. You have the best of both worlds. In astrology talk you have a trine—a major flow—and opposition, which stops you in your tracks. A big heart won't make others appreciate your steamrolling personality.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 24)

Grab your coat and get your bag, because you could have a call any minute to travel or move to another city. Your awareness and compassion are heightened because Neptune is tinkering your strings.

"What is the meaning of life?"—don't expect to get an immediate answer, because your search has just begun. It's a good time to set your ego aside and consider a new way of living.

LIBRA (Sept. 25 - Oct. 23)

This is truly an idealistic time in your life. Keep the scales moving and you'll actualize your dreams. Nothing will be handed to you, so rely on your creative efforts and fast mind to manifest whatever your big heart desires. Neptune functions in the immaterial world and is at its best when dealing with the abstract. Share your increased sensitivity with your lover, partner, or a close friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Fire brings awareness, and anything invalid is likely to fall away. Pay close attention because Saturn is pulling your hair and requiring a great deal of focus. A transfer of energies from negative thoughts will lead you to a more productive life. Don't pick your nose or put your hands in someone's face. Cut your losses, and you will have a successful climax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

Finally your inner energies have the opportunity to work in sync with the ethers. You no longer have the urge to bolt. Saturn and your Sun are trine-ing, so your world will become strong and secure. This is a nine-year period of setting a framework for achievement. Capitalize on earlier success and live up to the obligations and promises you've made to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

Get ready to have your skirt blown over the rainbow. This is a time for great achievement. A minor flow of energy called Saturn-sextile-the-Sun is at work and you now overcome a past crises and achieve many goals that you set for yourself. Patience, discipline, and perseverance will win recognition, and you may even impress yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You've always been hot for the latest trend and blazed new trails for your peers. Hot dam. Build up your strength, reduce those hips, and refine your feyness. You'll need all of the above to achieve those many choices and opportunities. Give up being right, and know others will see your greatness. This is a great time to have everything lifted from your knees up.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)

Jupiter is in your sign. Open all the doors to opportunity and know that you are a free spirit. Your love for others, even though much of it's in your head, will flow into the hearts of all those standing on the street waiting for a bus as you drive by in your new BMW. Take advantage of this time. Life is short.



The unsinkable Madilyn Stein does private readings and parties. Her new adventure, What A Catch, is a matchmaking service.

TURNTABLE CLUB

Sean Carnahan's

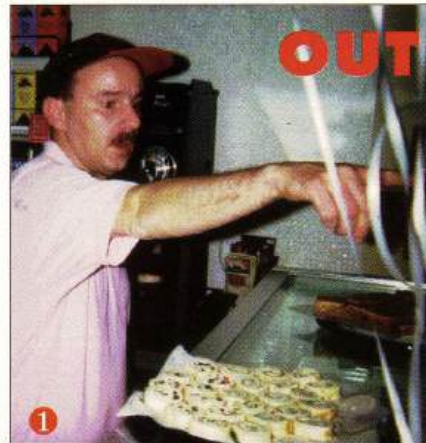
SCOTC

yo quiero mucho beats.

Coming to Bayou Place Spring 1998

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OUT IN HOUSTON



1 John Reilly helps out at Lobo's March 16 grand opening, for which Annise Parker cut the ribbon.

2 Newly elected LiB officers (l-r): Peggy Testa (secretary), Mary Ann Smith (member-at-large), Suzanne Anderson (president), Elyse Meyer (treasurer), and Jackie Doval (vice president).

The spring season opening games of the Montrose Softball League took place on March 29 at Memorial Park:

3 The Cruisers' cheerleaders (clockwise from top left): Art Martine, Kevin Hamby, Bryce House, and Doug Bilgreen.

4 Robert Alexander at bat for The Cruisers.

5 Basic Brothers team players (l-r): Lloyd Haddad, Leo Serrata, Greg Adams (coach), and Bruce Metsker.

6 Heat team players (l-r): Mario, Christian, and Fred.

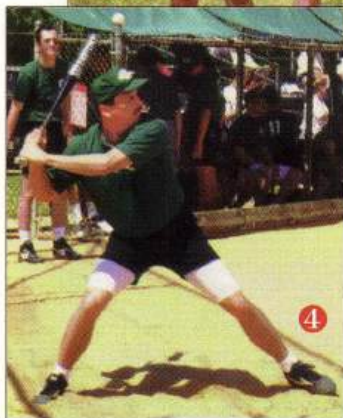
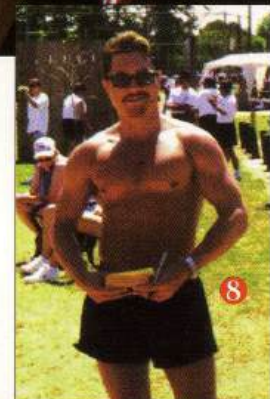
7 Softball watchers Cherry (l) and Mary.

8 Todd Sizer enjoying the sun and sights at the softball games.

The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (HLGCC) fundraiser took place on March 22:

9 L-r: J. R. Futcher (HLGCC board member), Robert Harris (Montrose Activity Center president), and Carl Riedl (HLGCC president).

10 L-r: Debra Phinney (HLGCC board member), Anita Renteria (Greater Houston Lesbian & Gay Chamber of Commerce president), and Stewart Zuckerbrod (HLGCC vice president).



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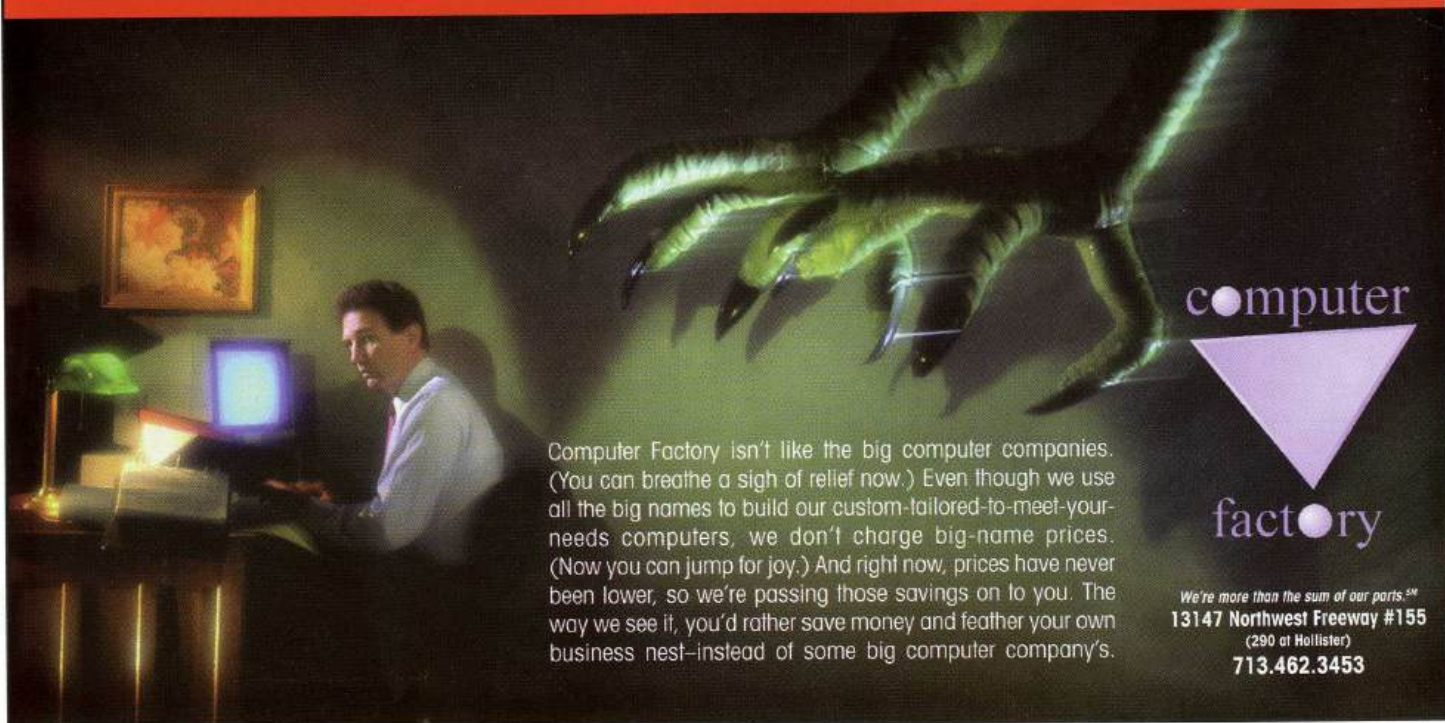
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