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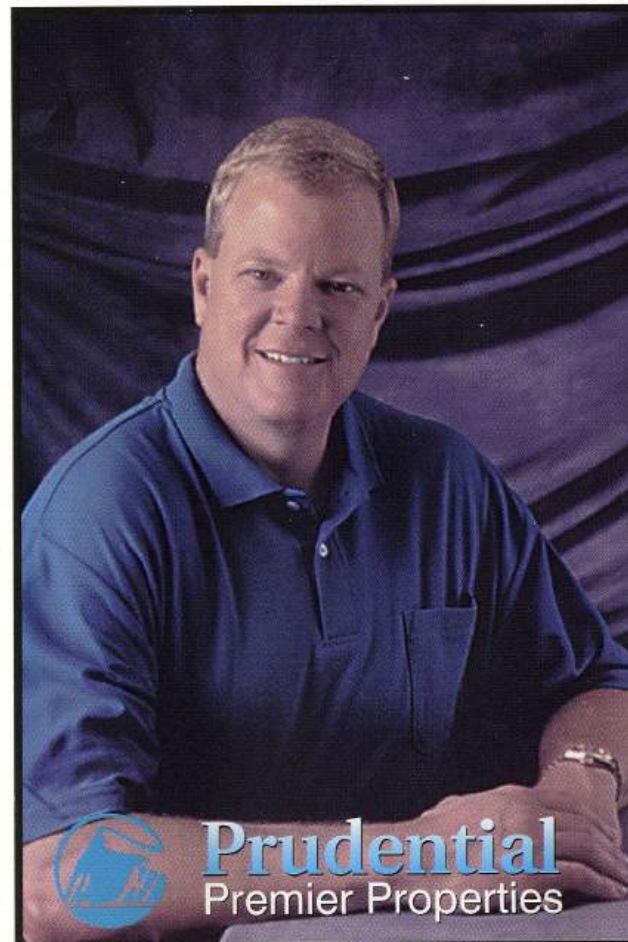
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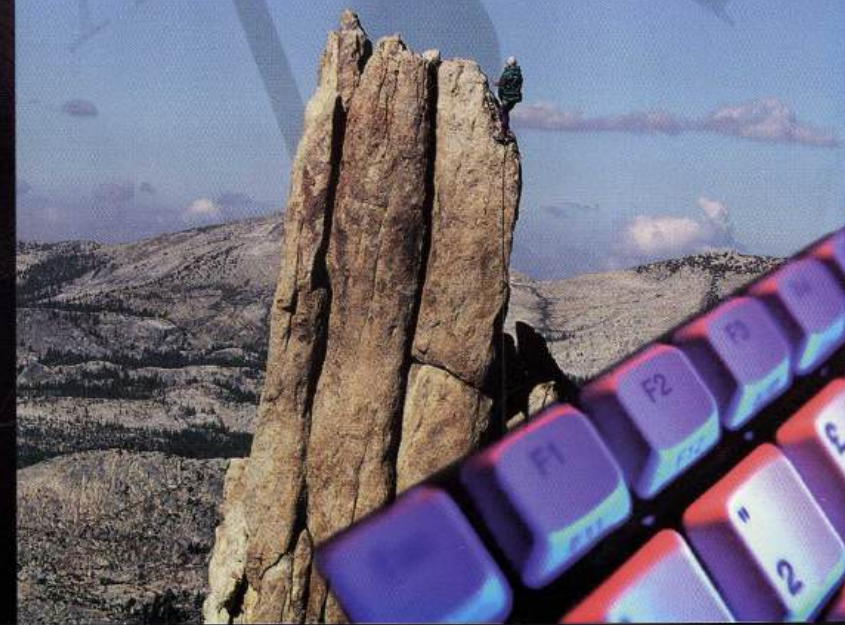
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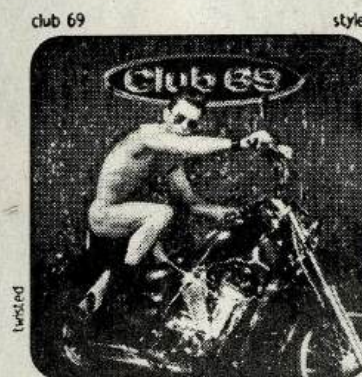
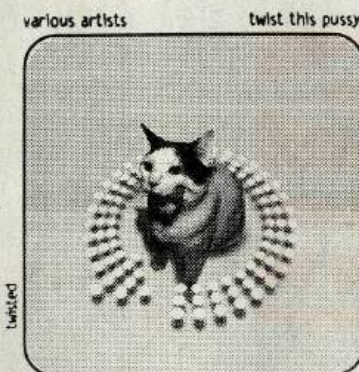
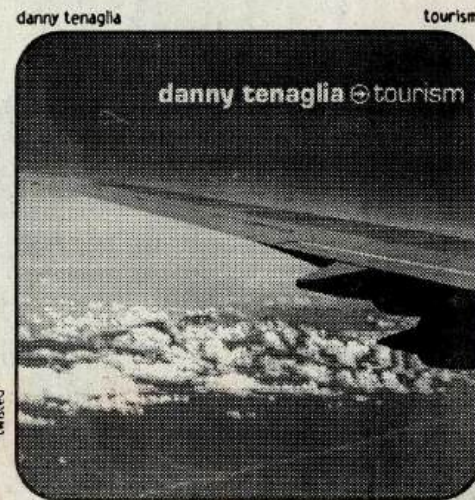
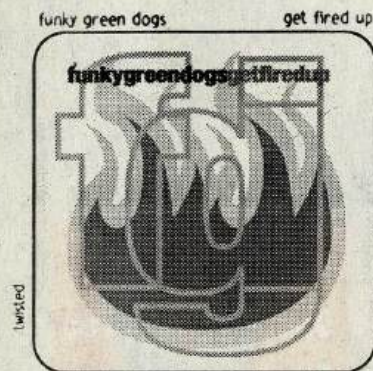


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On the cover (l-r): Vickie Shaw, David Fagan, Gary Wood, Travis Mader, and Rob Nash. Photo by: Woodallen Photography

This page (clockwise from left): Rob Nash, Vickie Shaw, Gary Wood, Travis Mader, and David Fagan. Photo by: Woodallen Photography



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## Letters to the Editor

### PRIDE, RALLY, PRIDE

The June '98 issue of OutSmart was definitely one to be "PROUD" of with its fresh and innovative cover. I loved reading the "Pictures of Pride" and the cleverly constructed questions.

The best was the Lily Tomlin interview, because she holds a very dear place in my heart. She was a role model for me as a young gay woman.

I love the way the magazine is growing, and it seems to be meeting so many different needs in a growing and changing community like ours. We are very fortunate to have a publication such as this one. I have been to other major cities, and there is nothing like OutSmart in any of them. This publication is free for us all to enjoy, and I thank you for that. Looking forward to more...

—Jane Goggan  
Houston

I absolutely adore Alexis Arquette and was thrilled to see the interview in the June issue. It was just enough on the edge without being trashy.

Queer Science ["Nature vs. Nurture"] was especially interesting—a very popular topic of



debate that I am sure many of us have at one time or another engaged in. I myself am the youngest of two children, and both of us are gay! Let Freud toy with that one for a while.

As always the Pride issue was well delivered all the way around. Lily Tomlin is a big favorite, and that was another great interview. I sent this issue to my mom just for that, because she loves Lily Tomlin.

I would like to also say that one of the best things about OutSmart is that it is a publication I feel very comfortable sending home to Mom and Dad. Thanks for keeping it clean and for showing that we are not just a community about sex and sex and sex. I appreciate the context of the magazine as a whole. There are so many negative images and thoughts about the gay community that it's important to have something that reflects the normalcy of it. And OutSmart does just that.

There are places in our community, finally, that are the same way. It's nice to have coffee shops with an atmosphere that feels comfortable and welcoming without having to put out all the energy that goes with the bar scene. It would be nice to see more of this.

Thanks for a great Pride issue.

—Kerry R. Hoskins  
Houston

### HEEDING DANGERS?

I have followed the sciences, such as biochemistry, since about the age of 10. I read with some skepticism and unease Paul Simmonds' continued on page 77

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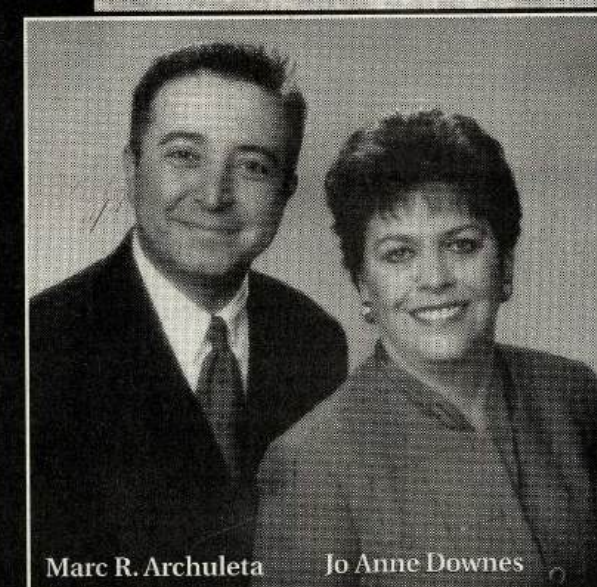
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## National Briefs

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO PROTECT GAY YOUTH

FAYETTEVILLE - An agreement to protect lesbian and gay youth in public schools has been made between the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights and the Fayetteville School District.

The agreement requires the school district to overhaul its current policies and procedures involving forms of sexual harassment, including sexual harassment directed against gay and lesbian students. Staff members and school administrators must also attend harassment sensitivity-training courses.

"I see this as a very powerful tool to help parents, just like us, ensure a safe school environment for our children," said Carolyn Wagner, member of Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

Wagner and her husband, Bill, accused the school system of allowing students to repeatedly harass their gay son, Willi Wagner, who was outed by another student in the ninth grade in 1994. Now 18, Willi said he was physically assaulted in school halls, called derogatory names, and threatened by a gang of students. He was told by the school's principal, Evelyn Marberry, that he was "drawing attention to himself and was asking for it." The principal denies making any such statements.

"A mother has certain dreams for her children, and they always include that they be happy, healthy, and safe," Wagner said. "Now parents of gay and lesbian children have some type of recourse."

The agreement was designed from the newly issued Title IX guidelines of the Education Amendments, which bar sex discrimination. Created last year, the guidelines to protect gays and lesbians from sexual harassment in schools state that any non-compliant school will not receive federal funding.

"We are relieved to hear that the U.S. Department of Education is now making it clear to schools that they have an obligation to protect all of our children," said Kirsten Kingdon, PFLAG executive director.

"It is heartwrenching for me to hear of the abuse that youth like Willi Wagner have to endure from other students, as well as from administrators and teachers, just because of who they are," she added.

PFLAG is a parent- and community-based group that has developed training and assistance programs to make public schools safer for gay and lesbian youth. It also provides scholarships to gay and lesbian students. The Wagner family enlisted the group's help and support in 1996.

### 30 VIAGRA USERS DIE

NEW YORK (AP) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received at least 30 reports of men dying after taking Viagra, the new anti-impotence medication manufactured by Pfizer.

As of mid-June, the FDA has received nearly 100 reports of men suffering serious adverse reactions after taking the drug. According to government reports obtained by the *Wall Street Journal*, most of the men who died were elderly and had other health problems. The reports also showed that seven men had heart attacks, eight men had strokes, four men blacked out, and six had vision problems.

According to the reports, at least 14 men were taking other medications, specifically blood-pressure medication. Recent studies have shown that Viagra can lower blood pressure, and mixing the drug with high blood-pressure medication can cause a patient's pressure to drop.

A spokesperson for the FDA said that potential users were warned about health risks before Viagra was sold and that the number of reports have increased because the number of users has increased.

ABC News reported that more than two million men have used Viagra since it hit the market in April.

### GROUPS PROTEST ANTI-GAY BILLBOARDS

MADISON - Gay and lesbian activists at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-M) are protesting an anti-gay billboard campaign waged by the extreme religious group Wisconsin Christians United.

The UW-M Queer Student Alliance and the UW-M 10% Society lead several peaceful protests against the five billboards which the groups believe attack the self-worth, humanity, and families of the gay and lesbian community. The billboards read, "Homosexuality is not a family value. Homosexuality is a sin."

"In a nation which celebrates the liberty afforded by freedom of speech, it is imperative that we all speak responsibly and respond to those to whom we object," said Jason Rasmussen, co-president of 10% Society.

The activists have called for a boycott of the billboard company, Vivid Outdoor Advertising. The activists asked current advertisers to express their disapproval of the anti-gay billboards to the Janesville-based company.

Local politicians have also expressed their disapproval of the billboards. In a statement released to the city, Mayor Sue Bauman said, "It is unfortunate when a group chooses to use its

freedom of expression to express blatant hostility toward valued members of our community."

Wisconsin State Representative Spencer Black said in a statement released to the 10% Society that the billboards are "harmful to our community and seek to cause hostility toward many of my valued constituents. Their message, while protected by the First Amendment, is one of hate."

Rasmussen said that within the next month the Common Council for Madison will issue a proclamation denouncing the billboards. The activists are planning a protest of the billboards in Madison Capitol Square.

Wisconsin Christians United released a statement praising its efforts to "reclaim the value of the traditional family." However, the group's efforts have the potential to permanently damage the self-esteem of gays and lesbians, specifically of teenagers, said Rasmussen. A candlelight vigil will be held near one of the billboards for gay and lesbian teenagers who have committed suicide, he added.

### PEOPLE WITH HIV PROTECTED BY ADA

WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that all people with HIV are protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), ensuring non-discriminatory health care for infected individuals.

The ruling came after the Supreme Court decided in favor of Sidney Abbott, an HIV-infected woman, who contends that her disease is a disability covered by ADA. She was denied service by her dentist. The dentist, Randon Bragdon, asserts that he did not violate the ADA when he refused to fill Abbott's cavity. The Supreme Court ordered a lower court of appeals to reconsider the case between Abbott and Bragdon.

The Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling also affirms that health-care professionals cannot determine risk based on their own individual judgments and that only objective medical evidence must be used to determine risk.

Writing the decision for the majority, Justice Anthony Kennedy stated that HIV is a physical impairment which drastically affects an individual's life activities such as sexual relations, self-care, and future planning. Kennedy also wrote that HIV "satisfies the statutory and regulatory definition of a physical impairment during every stage of the disease."

AIDS organizations and activists believe the court's decision is a major victory for

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people with HIV. They encourage federal and state officials to enforce anti-discrimination laws to further protect individuals with HIV.

### LESBIAN MOTHER LOSES CUSTODY OF DAUGHTERS

SHREVEPORT - A judge has awarded temporary custody of two children to their grandparents who alleged the children were "harmed" by their lesbian mother.

Caddo Parish District Judge Michael Walker gave no explanation in his ruling, citing a gag order he imposed to the parties' attorneys. He stated, however, that his decision reflected the "best intentions for the children."

Walker granted custody to Joe and Patricia Davis who accused Becky Lynn Davis of engaging in "sexual activity with her partner in the presence of the minor children" and "attempting to influence the minor children as to their sexual orientation." The grandparents stated their former daughter-in-law dressed the children, both girls ages 4 and 8, in "boy's clothes," causing the oldest child to call herself a lesbian. No psychological evaluations were conducted on the children during the hearing.

A hearing is scheduled for Aug. 11 to determine if the grandparents should receive permanent custody.

Walker gave minimum visitation rights to Becky Davis, allowing her to visit the children three times a week under supervision. She is not allowed to visit the children in the presence of her partner. The mother has no direct income and shares an apartment with her partner in Keithville, just outside Shreveport.

Becky Davis' attorney, Claudius E. Whitmeyer, did not respond to calls about the ruling, but stated during a preliminary hearing that the children were in no immediate harm.

"The question is whether a gay/lesbian relationship would cause irreparable and immediate harm. That's a pretty heavy burden," he said. "This woman has been living with her girlfriend for a long time."

Becky Davis threatened the grandparents with loss of visitation if they did not do something about the children's father, Joseph C. Davis. He was sent back to prison for a parole violation, stemming from threats he reportedly made to Becky, Whitmeyer said.

"The family is getting back at her. Those kids have been as normal as can be. It's pure harassment because the son is in jail and they're blaming her," said Whitmeyer.

According to *The Times of Shreveport*, the case has upset some members of the gay and lesbian community, who are concerned about how this may affect the parental rights of other gays and lesbians.

"These grandparents have got to have something very valid to fight with this woman about," said Billy Glover, vice chair of the Homosexual Information Center. "The fact she's a lesbian has got to be left out entirely in this issue."

### CHICAGO HOSTS GLMA SYMPOSIUM

SAN FRANCISCO - The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association's (GLMA) 16th annual symposium will be held in Chicago Aug. 27-29.

The three-day symposium, titled "Prescriptions for Living Well: Medicine's Impact on the LGBT Life Cycle," will be held at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. More than 600 physicians and medical students are expected to attend the event.

The symposium will feature workshops about the medical, mental health, and socio-political issues affecting LGBT people of all ages—from infancy to old age. The workshops include "Hepatitis: Eastern and Western Approaches to Treatment," "Lesbians and Gays Over 60," and "Differences in Breast Cancer for Lesbians and Heterosexual Women."

The medical association will also recognize individuals who have contributed to the gay community with its Achievement Awards. This year's recipients include AIDS specialists David Moore and David Blatt; professors Joanne Hall and Patricia Stevens; and Joan Waitkevich, M.D.

To register, or for more information, call GLMA at 415/255-4547 or visit GLMA's Web site: <http://www.glma.org>.

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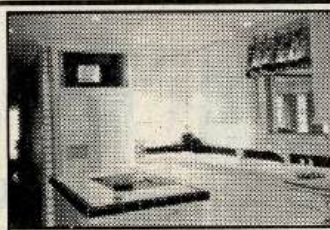


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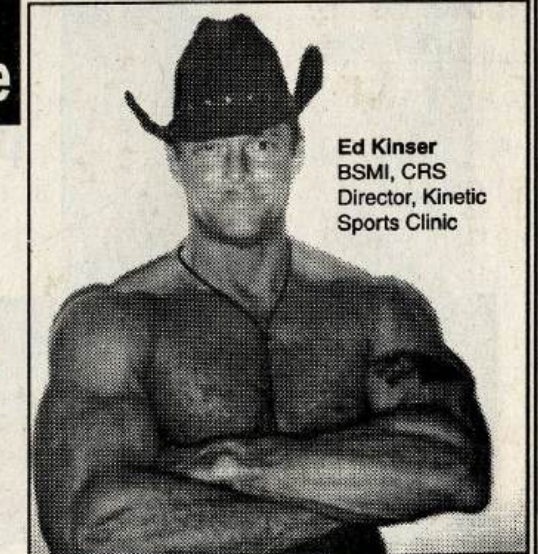
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# INTERNET DEBATE EXPANDS

The debate about Internet filtering software—which can block youths' access to information about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community—continues to expand in several states. In New Mexico, U.S. District Judge C. LeRoy Hansen blocked a law, to criminalize Internet expressions of "nudity" or "sexual conduct." In Utah, the State Records Committee ordered the educational computer network to give an Internet activist its censorship logs, which log online sites Utah students have tried to access. Anti-censorship advocates worry that while filtering softwares sporadically block pornography and hate sites, they also can keep lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth from critical information and resources. Says Jeff Walsh, editor of *Oasis*, the online webzine for gay youth: "There are many online sites that a parent might find inappropriate for their child. But the answer is not blocking all sites with sexual content without regard for context." The ACLU has sued to block the new law in New Mexico. For more information contact Ann Beeson, ACLU attorney at 212/944-9800.

## HEADS-UP FOR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

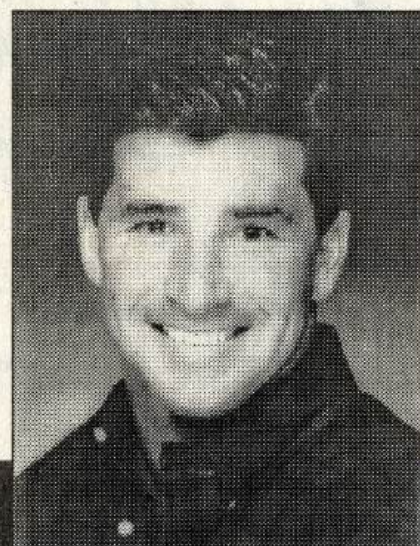
For the first time, the U.S. Department of Education has explicitly extended to lesbians and gays Title IX protections against sexual harassment. Prompting the move: Openly gay student Willi Wagner and his parents, who charged that the Fayetteville, Ark., school system did nothing after other students had beaten him. The district agreed to overhaul its policies, train staff and inform them that lesbian and gay students are covered under Title IX, which bars sexual harassment. Schools must comply with Title IX to obtain federal funding. At issue, said Kate Frankfurt of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), are student safety and, potentially, a lot of local

school district tax money. Courts have awarded significant damages to students targeted for being gay, she said, including Jamie Nabozny's ground-breaking case, which won the Wisconsin high school alum almost \$900,000. Frankfurt said, "The majority of school districts do not have policies in place that specifically mention sexual orientation, like race and gender." For more information contact Kate Frankfurt of GLSEN at 212/727-0135.

## ABC TO AIR "MISSING" ELLEN EPISODES

On July 15 and 22, ABC will air the two "missing" *Ellen* episodes which were initially intended to lead up to the finale. On April 15, ABC decided to not air these two already completed episodes from its May sweeps lineup, opting instead to run episodes of *Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place*. ABC's sudden decision came as a shock to the beleaguered show and for millions of fans. At the time, GLAAD Executive Director Joan M. Garry said, "American viewers deserve and expect to see *Ellen*'s remaining season in its entirety. I am extremely disappointed in the network's decision to deny the viewing public this quality program. For months ABC has claimed that they stand behind the show. If this is how they support their programming, it is certainly a 'unique' approach." Throughout the summer, ABC has been airing *Ellen*, including the episodes featuring the developing relationship between Ellen Morgan and her girlfriend, Laurie. The network has also, unfortunately, continued to place a "parental warning" on the show.

To let ABC know how you feel about the two episodes, and encourage them to have more programs with prominent lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender characters in the future. Contact: Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, LA, CA 90037, e-mail: [netaudr@abc.com](mailto:netaudr@abc.com), or call ABC at: 310/557-7777 and ask to be connected to their audience response line.



Dr. Jeffrey Garcia

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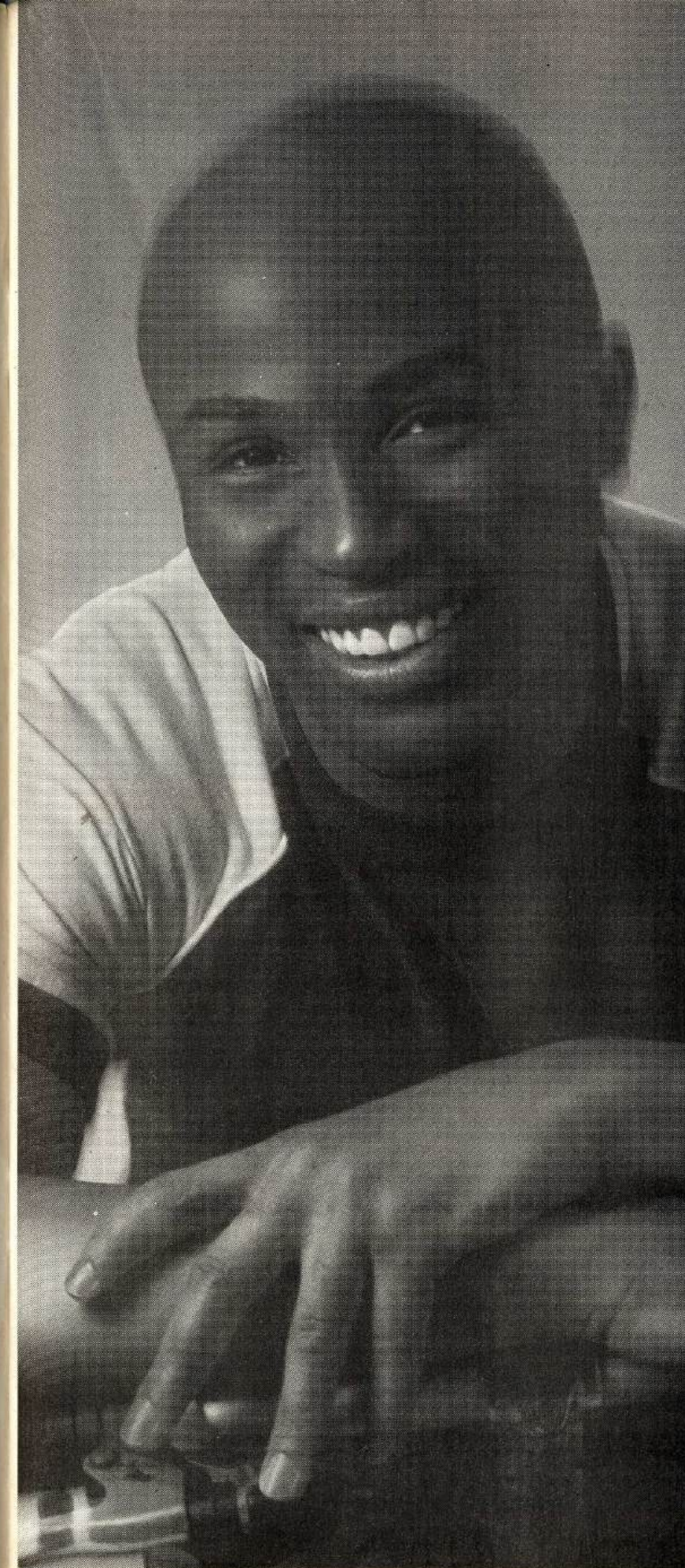
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Most people tolerate ZERIT quite well. You take just one capsule twice a day, with or without food. And you can combine ZERIT with most other medicines you might be taking.

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### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

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

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

### CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A1455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> 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/mm<sup>3</sup> (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>), 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<sup>1</sup>. 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 vitro* 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).

<sup>1</sup> The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-900) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm<sup>3</sup> 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<sub>max</sub>) 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<sub>max</sub>) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

#### Nursing Mothers

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

#### Pediatric Use

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

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C<sub>max</sub>) 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/m<sup>2</sup>. 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 ± 84 mL/min/m<sup>2</sup>. The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m<sup>2</sup>. 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<br>Peripheral Neuropathy Leading to Dose Modification |                                 |                                       |                                  |                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                                               | Study A1455-019                 |                                       | Parallel Track Program           |                                       |
|                                                               | ZERIT<br>(40 mg BID)<br>(n=412) | zidovudine<br>(200 mg TID)<br>(n=402) | ZERIT<br>(40 mg BID)<br>(n=5905) | zidovudine<br>(20 mg BID)<br>(n=5879) |
| Peripheral Neuropathy                                         |                                 |                                       |                                  |                                       |
| Grade 1-2                                                     | 11                              | 3                                     | 20                               | 17                                    |
| Grade 3-4                                                     | 2                               | 1                                     | 4                                | 2                                     |
| Total                                                         | 13                              | 4                                     | 24                               | 19                                    |

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

| Table 3<br>Selected Clinical Adverse Events in the Phase 3 Controlled Clinical Trials <sup>1</sup> |                                 |                                       |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                                                                                    | Study A1455-019 <sup>2</sup>    |                                       |  |
| Adverse Events                                                                                     | ZERIT<br>(40 mg BID)<br>(n=412) | zidovudine<br>(200 mg TID)<br>(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.

<sup>1</sup> Includes all clinical complaints.

<sup>2</sup> Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

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

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

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

<sup>a</sup> Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

<sup>b</sup> Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

<sup>c</sup> 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).

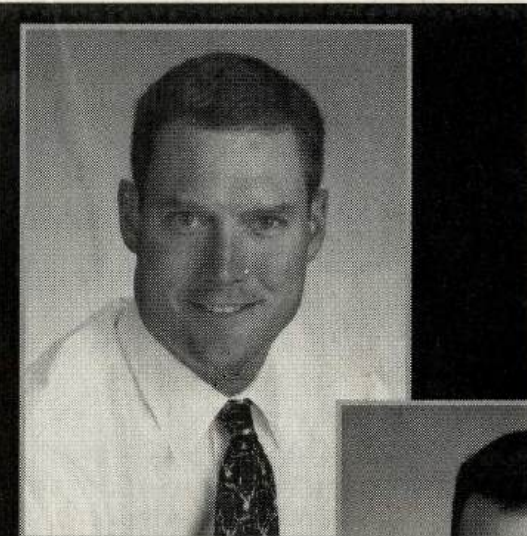
ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any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

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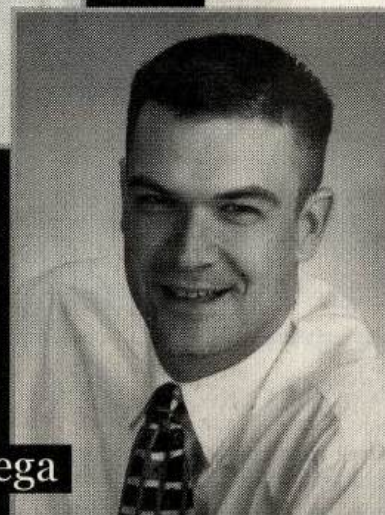
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Chad Pratka



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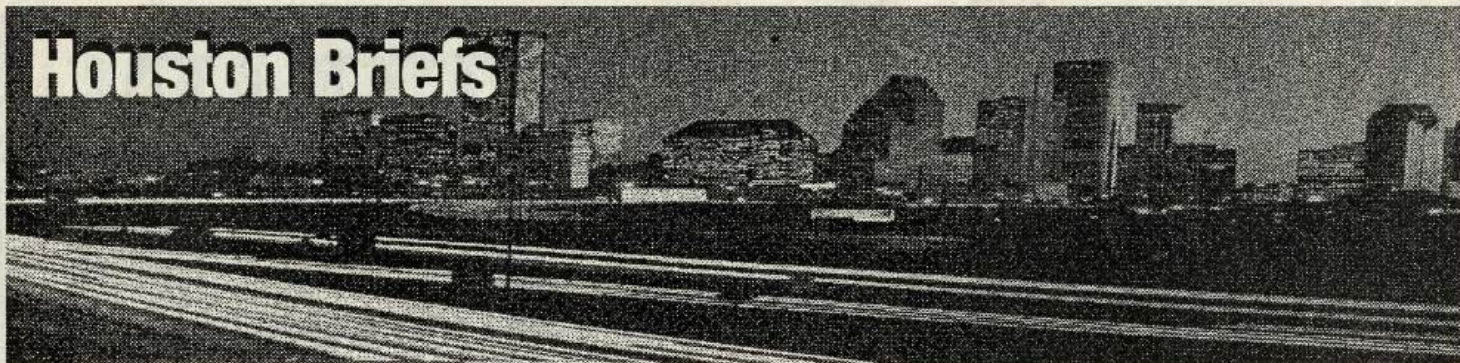
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## Houston Briefs



### HOLLYFIELD CENTER OFFERING FREE MEETING SPACE

HOUSTON - The recently opened Hollyfield Conference Center is offering free conference and meeting space to qualifying nonprofit organizations.

Once a month, nonprofit organizations that work to prevent discrimination, to secure equal rights for gays and lesbians, or to educate

"When people come to see the center, they know that this is a nice place. And the gay and lesbian community deserves to meet in a nice and safe facility," said Alan Cranfill, executive director for the Hollyfield Foundation.

At its grand opening celebration, the Hollyfield Foundation greeted nearly 300 guests, including Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, City Council member Annise Parker, and City Controller Sylvia Garcia. Cranfill invites people to visit the center for individual or group tours.

The center was designed to fulfill the needs of the community, Cranfill said. The foundation distributed a needs assessment survey to local organizations and foundation members to determine exactly what the community needed. Most organizations responded that they needed affordable meeting and conference space. The foundation teamed with the Elliott H. Matthews Foundation to renovate the building which now houses the center.

Organizations that have or are currently registered to use the center include GoldPAC, a gay and lesbian political action committee; Sisters; and An Uncommon Legacy. Cranfill said other organizations continue to register for space.

"We're quickly starting to book for the next couple of months, and that's a good sign," he added.

Cranfill sees some comparison in size between the foundation's facility and the new Lesbian and Gay

Community Center, but quickly adds their purposes are different.

"[The community center] is more of a place for people to get information, to find things out, and we're more of a place to meet and hold meetings. And certainly if people come to us and we can't help them, we would direct them to the center. Both organizations seem to be very open to that," he said.

To register for a room or to schedule a tour, call Cranfill at 713/523-6900.

### OPEN FORUM TO ADDRESS NEW HIV TREATMENTS

HOUSTON - With the recent advances in HIV treatment and the growing number of medications, physicians and patients are facing more complicated decisions about proper treatments. To combat the confusion, the Center for AIDS and AmFAR are sponsoring an open community forum about HIV treatments on July 16.

National and local AIDS experts will discuss new HIV-treatment information obtained from the recent international conference on AIDS in Geneva, Switzerland. The forum, titled "The Geneva Update," will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel located at 2222 West Loop South from 7-9 p.m.

Topics at the forum will include potential HIV vaccines and state-of-the-art antiretroviral therapy, including new combinations of medication. At the conference, the HIV treatments were assessed for their safety and effectiveness by medical professionals from throughout the world.

Featured speakers include Calvin Cohen, M.D., of the Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston; Theo Smart, editor of AmFAR Clinical Trials Directory, New York; and Joseph C. Gathe Jr., M.D., Houston. The forum is co-sponsored by the Montrose Clinic, Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service, and WAM, Inc.

### PWA COALITION PROVIDES EMERGENCY FUNDS

HOUSTON - The PWA Coalition was awarded funding by Harris County to provide financial assistance to people with HIV/AIDS.

Through the coalition's Direct Emergency Assistance Fund, people with HIV/AIDS can apply for a maximum of \$500 to pay for rent or utility bills. Applicants must meet specific income requirements and prove they have a valuable need. Funds can only be used once a year.

"We assess if a person qualifies on an individual basis," said Dora Lomeli, spokesperson for PWA Coalition. "Sometimes



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For more information call 1-800-848-0120



(l-r) Dalton Dehart, Sylvia Garcia, Larry Lingle, Sheila Jackson Lee, and Annise Parker at the grand opening of the Hollyfield Conference Center.

and assist with HIV/AIDS treatment can apply for one of two free conference rooms. Organizations meeting these requirements can also register for rooms at a reduced rate after the initial free usage.

The 3,000-square-foot conference center, which opened on June 7, is located at 2700 Albany in a historic three-story building. It's also decorated by a 2,000 square-foot garden for outdoor activities.



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## Local Briefs

*continued from page 16*

report to receive funding. After an approval, the coalition has two days to issue a check.

"If a client comes in and we can't help them, we will refer them to another organization that can," said Lomeli. "There are some people who need more continuous help, and that's not something we can do."

The funds were awarded through the Ryan White Title I, and are available to residents in Harris, Montgomery, Fort Bend, Waller, Chambers, and Liberty counties.

To make an appointment with an intake staff member, contact Lomeli at 713/919-0312 or Bell Crain at 713/522-5428. Residents outside of Houston should call 800/999-0325.

## LOG CABIN SUPPORTERS RALLY FOR LIBERTY

FORT WORTH - A clear line has been drawn between the Republican Party and a gay political group, the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas (LCRT).

Barred from the party's state convention, about 100 supporters and delegates staged a "Rally for Liberty" on June 13 just outside the hall where the GOP convention was being held. The controversy began when the group was denied a booth at the convention.

The protesters were confronted by extreme religious conservatives who held up placards with anti-gay slurs and shouted out attacks while the rally took place. Some counter-demonstrators jumped on stage screaming derogatory epithets while Log Cabin members were speaking.

screaming derogatory epithets while Log Cabin members were speaking.

But the demonstration also challenged the issues of a greater inner-party war between moderate Republicans and Republicans who pander to the far right.

During his speech, Richard Tafel, executive director of the National Log Cabin Republicans, said, "They may have people here to shout us down, but we will win because our cause is just, because a movement founded on honesty and love and a movement for the voiceless cannot be defeated."

"We must never forget that moral force will beat the numeric forces every time," he added.

Log Cabin members also directed their anger and frustration to state party's spokesman, Robert Black, who compared the group to the Ku Klux Klan and pedophiles when he announced that the party was denying the group a booth. His name calling was quickly condemned by Log Cabin State President Steve Labinski and Gov. George W. Bush.

Labinski held a press conference at the state capitol in Austin, calling on Gov. Bush to speak out against Black's comments. Through a spokeswoman the governor said gays and lesbians deserve to be "treated with dignity

and respect." He urged all Republicans to focus on "a common goal of electing Republicans based on [the party's] conservative philosophy."

Several party leaders showed their support for LCRT through statements read at the rally. They included openly gay Rep. Jim Kolbe of Arizona; Rep. Connie Morella of Maryland; Rep. Christopher Shays of Connecticut; and Rep. Brian Bilbray of California.

Rep. Jim Greenwood of Pennsylvania also expressed his support in a statement that read, "The strength of the Republican Party and our democratic system of government lies in our diversity of opinion and our tolerance for those with experiences and views different from our own."

LCRT was denied booth space in 1996 as well. Log Cabin sued, but the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the Republican Party was a private organization, therefore, allowing it to exclude any group it chooses. Tafel said this year's protest is "a wake-up call" to the party's senior leadership that LCRT will not tolerate any injustice.

"This is only the beginning for Log Cabin in Texas, and it's a warning to Republicans everywhere that those who pander to the far right will pay a price from inside the Republican Party," Tafel added.

## CREDIT UNION PROJECT NEEDS SURVEYS

Since there are no existing credit union services for the city's gay and lesbian community, Cheryl Merritt has decided to organize one. With 12 years of credit union experience, she is heading the Credit Union Project.

The project is Merritt's sole effort to create a credit union that serves as the primary financial institution for members, volunteers, and employees of nonprofit organizations in the gay and lesbian community.

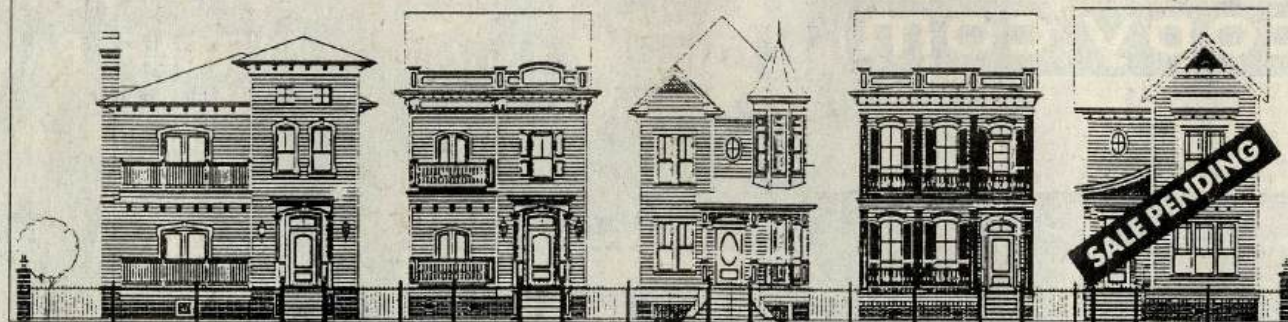
"This is a tool for empowerment. We need to gain visibility, help each other," said Merritt. "We can pool our money together and give back to the community."

According to Texas Credit Union League guidelines, Merritt must first establish if there is a need for credit union services in the community. She is distributing a survey to determine the community's interest and support of a credit union in the area.

"So far there's been a very good response, but I still need more surveys," said Merritt, former assistant manager of Houston Association of Realtors Credit Union.

To fill out a survey or for more information about the project, contact Merritt at 713/523-4510, or visit her Web site at [www.creditunionproject.saimin.net](http://www.creditunionproject.saimin.net).

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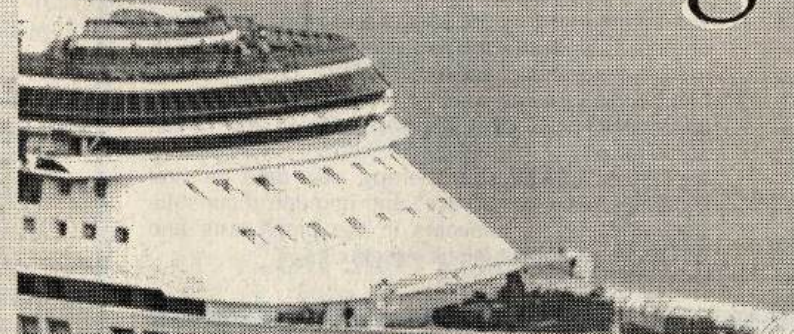
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The purpose of this program is to provide an update on the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva to medical providers, allied healthcare professionals, and people affected by HIV. This program will include information on recent developments in the understanding of HIV pathogenesis; current strategies for the use of antiretroviral therapy; new data on viral dynamics, drug resistance, and immune reconstitution; and current concepts in the prophylaxis and treatment of opportunistic infections.

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## LeftOut

### No More Room in the Big Tent

by Daryl Moore

Many gay Republicans (my "OutRight" counterpart, Mr. Dale Carpenter, included), continue to assure us gays and lesbians that our political future lies within the Republican Party. Both the words and deeds, however, of the Republican leadership of late, reflect that when it comes to gays and lesbians, there really is no more room in the Republican's "Big Tent."

Within the last few weeks, alone, the Republican majority leader of the United States Senate went on national television comparing homosexuality to kleptomania. Our congressman, Dick Armey (R-Texas), supported him. And the Texas Republican Party convened in Fort Worth for its semi-annual political hate-fest in which it shut out the Log Cabin Republicans, again, and then justified doing so by comparing them to the Ku Klux Klan.

Nevertheless, hope springs eternal. So, when moderate Republicans pitch their party, with the promise that "the party of Lincoln" includes us, I would like to believe them. But, when I pulled up the Republican Party platform to see whether the moderates have a basis for their promise, it became instantly apparent. They don't.

To those who are tempted by the Republican mantra that there's plenty of room in the Republican's "Big Tent," consider the following language, taken directly from the Republican Party platform, before you check in.

#### Homosexuality

*"The Republican Party of Texas believes that the practice of sodomy, which is illegal in Texas, tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit, and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases. Homosexual behavior is contrary to the fundamental, unchanging truths that have been ordained by God, recognized by our country's founders, and shared by the majority of Texans. Accordingly, homosexuality should not be presented as an acceptable and alternative lifestyle in our public policy. We are opposed to any granting of special legal entitlements, recognition, or privileges including, but not limited to, marriage between persons of the same sex, custody or adoption of*

*continued on page 22*



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

## OutRight

### The Myth of a Gay Civil Rights

by Dale Carpenter

Is there a gay civil rights movement?

Two months ago on this page, I criticized the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, and by implication other gay political groups, for wasting our resources on liberal political battles that have nothing directly to do with gay civil rights. I argued that, in an age of Republican-dominated state politics, it was counterproductive to identify our movement with non-gay issues favored by liberals.

Last month, Houston City Councilmember Annise Parker challenged parts of my analysis in a thoughtful letter to the editor of this magazine. Parker responded that, although some liberal causes are clearly outside the realm of gay civil rights, others "are central to core tenets of our movement." Parker argued, for example, that belief in a right to privacy is a natural "core tenet" of the gay civil rights movement, which seeks to protect the individual's "intimate personal decision" of whom to love. She defended gay groups' focus on abortion rights as an analogous defense of a woman's "intimate personal decision" of whether to bear a child. Parker's general approach dominates most gay political circles. I believe it is also flawed at every step and has crystallized my conviction that the idea of a single gay movement is a myth.

The structure of Parker's argument is this: (1) a belief in gay civil rights necessarily entails a commitment to a set of more abstract principles, or as Parker puts it, "core tenets" (e.g., a right to privacy); (2) from each of these core tenets, a series of policy preferences naturally flows (e.g., if you believe in a right to privacy you must support abortion rights); and (3) it is proper and even necessary for gay political groups to fight for these liberal "non-gay" policy preferences in order to build coalitions by which other progressive groups will support us on purely gay causes.

Let's take Parker's analysis one step at a time. First, I share Parker's view that a good gay civil libertarian will embrace some "core tenets" more abstract than a narrow belief in gay equality. Gay civil rights makes little sense as an isolated dot on a page. Where people often differ is on the important question of what those "core tenets" are and how they should be

*continued on page 23*



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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## LeftOut

continued from page 20

*children, spousal (partner) insurance or retirement benefits. We also believe that no homosexual or any individual convicted of child abuse or molestation should have the right to custody or adoption of a minor child, and that visitation with minor children by such persons should be limited to supervised periods."*

Are we not to take offense that the Republican Party has deemed our orientation responsible for society's ills, the breakdown of the family, and the spread of disease? Should we not take it personally that in the tent to which we have just been formally invited, we will be sharing space with child abusers and pedophiles? And, for those of us who are gay or lesbian parents, are we to be happy that although we won't get to have custody of our children, we will get to spend time with them—if someone is watching?

Before anyone disregards the Republican invitation as insincere, or too

hastily concludes that our future might not lie within the Republican Party, let's look at the Democratic Party platform for a comparison.

Well, first, there is no sub-heading in the Democratic platform called "Homosexuality." How depressing, we've become so blasé in the Democratic Party that we don't even merit our own section. Instead, we're relegated to a section called "Civil and Voting Rights." And, it doesn't even really address us any differently than it does others. It simply states that "Full protection under the law is a bedrock of the Democratic Party, reflecting our core values of opportunity and fairness. To that end, we pledge to ensure that all Texans, without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin...are protected from discrimination." How offensive. No reference to pedophilia, the breakdown of the American family, or an edict that we tender our kids to some non-gay/non-lesbian parents to raise.

Well, compared with what the Democrats are offering, that Republican

invitation is mighty tempting. And, maybe Mr. Carpenter and his fellow Republicans are right. Maybe our future *really* does lie in the Republican Party.

Indeed, in light of the open arms with which I am being recruited; knowing I have so little at stake; and faced with an offer that Trent Lott could be my party spokesperson the next time he likens me to a kleptomaniac, I may have to rethink my democratic credentials.

Maybe I'll give up my position as democratic precinct chair for precinct 0053 in the Heights. Maybe I'll start voting in the Republican primary and going to Republican precinct conventions so I can surround myself with folks who are convinced that I am personally responsible for society's ills. Maybe I'll endorse, give money to, and openly campaign for the Trent Lotts of the world.

Yeah, right. And maybe George Bush Jr. will have the intestinal fortitude to repudiate his party's platform on gay and lesbian issues while he's running for reelection, and possibly for the presidency. Maybe Phil Gramm will

sponsor a "National Gay Day" and fly the diversity flag at his office. And maybe the Southern Baptists' Convention will hold its next meeting at DisneyWorld.

In the meantime, I plan on pitching my tent with the Democrats. Because, as a gay man, all I ever wanted from any

party was the promise of equal rights under the law. That concept, however, tears at the very fabric of the Republican's "Big Tent." So, although I almost never pass up a party, the Republican Party is one I can do without, or that can do without me. •

## OutRight

continued from page 21

applied in policy terms. The truth is that gay civil libertarians arrive at a commitment to gay equality through a wide variety of experiences and belief systems. Parker, for example, thinks one "core tenet" of the gay civil rights movement is belief in the right to privacy (and thus we should support abortion rights). Many people think the broader principle at stake is sexual freedom (and thus we should eliminate age of consent laws). Others think that the larger principle is the rejection of traditional gender roles (and thus we are really a "transgendered" movement).

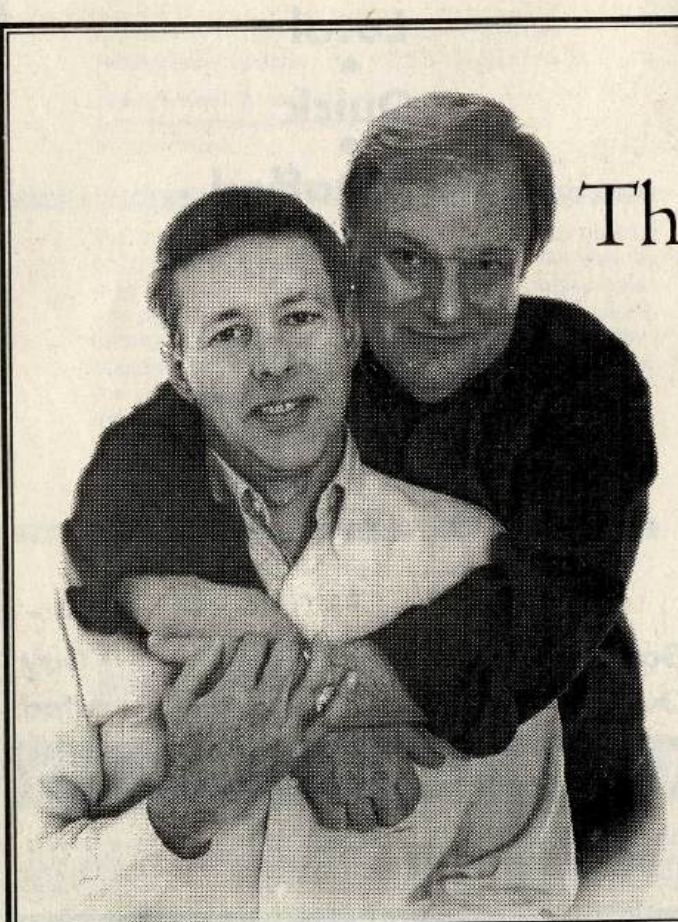
To many gay conservatives like me, gay civil rights makes sense only as an

extension of a larger commitment to individual autonomy against the intrusion of coercive government. Government has been the legal instrument of anti-gay social stigma. It has both reflected and reinforced anti-gay bias in our culture. A commitment to individual autonomy against state intrusion certainly includes some notion of a right to "privacy," but it also entails a good many other things: a belief in strictly limited government, economic freedom, less regulation on business, low taxes, opposition to government preferences based on race, and the like. (It might also mean support for abortion rights, depending on how one weighs competing values, such as

the right to life.) In fact, I could characterize this individual autonomy "core tenet" of the gay civil rights movement in such a way that it would oppose many policy preferences of gay liberals and thus define out of the gay movement much of the gay left. That is, in fact, what the gay left does to gay conservatives when it calls gay Republicans "oxymorons" and dismisses us as assimilationists. In truth, it appears that the only commitment gay civil rights advocates share is our commitment to equality for gays. Beyond that, everything—and I mean everything—is up for grabs.

The second step in Parker's argument is even more dubious. Suppose we could agree on a set of "core tenets" for our movement. Would that solve the question of what policy preferences we, as a movement, should have on non-gay issues? Hardly. Policy preferences are the product of a complex weighing of a number of core tenets that often conflict. Abortion is a perfect example of this. Parker thinks that

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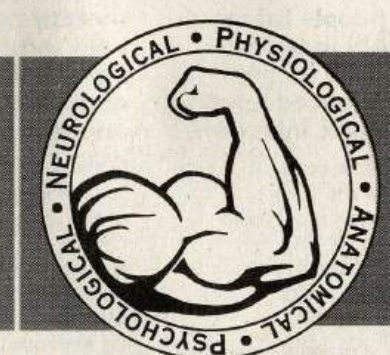
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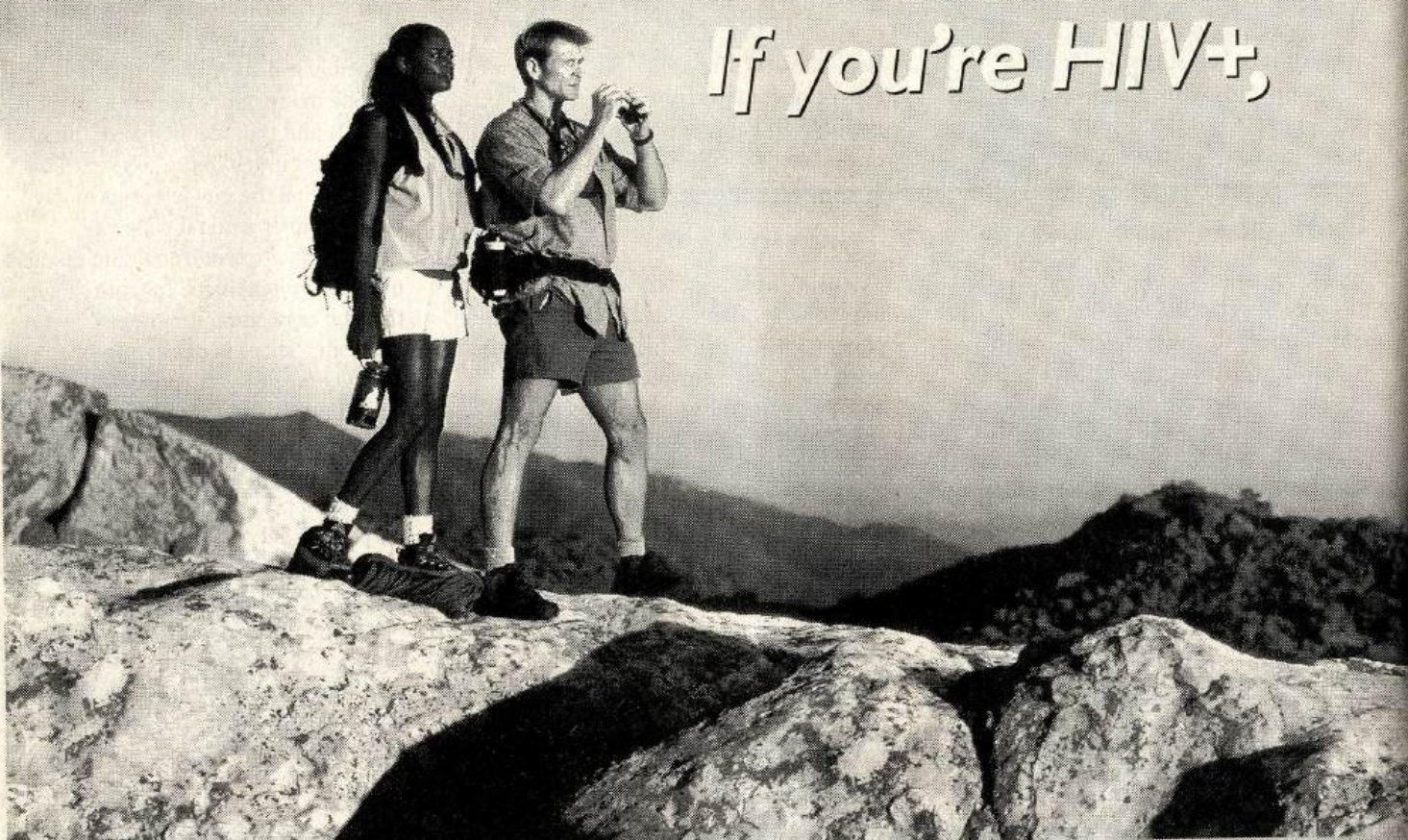
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It's a daily challenge that can take all you've got. It helps to have an advantage — to lighten your load and keep you going. Federal healthcare guidelines now call for including a potent protease inhibitor as part of combination treatments to fight HIV. Consider these reasons to make the protease inhibitor CRIXIVAN the foundation of your treatment regimen. CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

**New NIH research  
showed people taking  
CRIVAN in triple  
therapy lived longer  
and experienced fewer  
opportunistic infections.**

Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.

The group of patients receiving CRIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIVAN on survival.

**CRIVAN in triple  
therapy continues to  
hold serum viral load  
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of detection at the  
one year mark.**

In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).

Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

**CRIVAN is generally  
well tolerated.**

CRIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.

As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

**CRIVAN is the  
number one choice  
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CRIVAN is prescribed for more patients than any other protease inhibitor. With this commitment to CRIVAN comes a commitment to product improvements and further research in the battle against HIV. CRIVAN is being studied in a broad range of patients and in many different combinations. Ask your doctor for the latest news and developments.

\* IMS America; 3/96 - 2/98.

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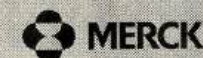
Learn all you can about HIV therapy. Talk with your doctor. Stay informed and stay the course. With viral load below the limit of detection and an increase in CD4 T-cells, it's easier to look forward to the future with confidence.

*Please read the following page  
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# CRIXIVAN<sup>®</sup>

(indinavir sulfate)  
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## Patient Information about CRIXIVAN<sup>®</sup> (KRIK-sih-van)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection  
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

### What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

### How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

### How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
  - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
  - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

### Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

### Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

### Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

### What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
  - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
  - Problems with your kidneys.
  - Diabetes
  - Hemophilia

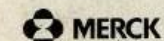
Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

**This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

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

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### Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?\*

#### Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

|                                    |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SELDANE <sup>®</sup> (terfenadine) | HISMANAL <sup>®</sup> (astemizole)                                         |
| VERSED <sup>®</sup> (midazolam)    | HALCION <sup>®</sup> (triazolam)                                           |
| PROPULSID <sup>®</sup> (cisapride) | Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine <sup>®</sup> and Cafergot <sup>®</sup> ) |

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN<sup>®</sup>, RIFAMATE<sup>®</sup>, RIFATER<sup>®</sup>, or RIMACTANE<sup>®</sup>.

#### Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

|                                                                          |                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| RETROVIR <sup>®</sup> (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT)                  | BIAXIN <sup>®</sup> (clarithromycin)               |
| TAGAMET <sup>®</sup> (cimetidine)                                        | isoniazid (INH)                                    |
| DIFLUCAN <sup>®</sup> (fluconazole)                                      | ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35 <sup>®</sup> (oral contraceptive) |
| EPIVIR <sup>®</sup> (lamivudine, 3TC)                                    | ZERIT <sup>®</sup> (stavudine, d4T)                |
| BACTRIM <sup>®</sup> /SEPTA <sup>®</sup> (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole) |                                                    |

VIDEX<sup>®</sup> (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX<sup>®</sup>, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN<sup>®</sup> (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN<sup>®</sup>, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL<sup>®</sup> (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL<sup>®</sup>, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

### What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems. Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

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

#### Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

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#### Marketing Experience

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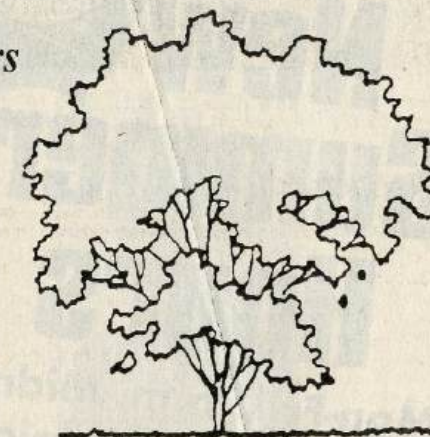
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## OutLaw

### Landlord Legalities

by Debra E. Hunt

In one of my previous articles I discussed many of the rights that residential tenants have in Texas. This month I focus on some of the rights landlords have.

If you were to sit down and read Texas Property Code sections governing landlords and tenants, it would be easy to presume that landlords have few rights and many responsibilities. Indeed, the code is written from a reactionary point of view to protect tenants against evil acts of landlords. It really says little about the rights that a landlord has when operating rental property.

For instance, the code says nothing about the amount of rent that may be charged for a particular leasehold. Landlords are free to set the rent amount at whatever a tenant is willing to pay. Except for restrictions imposed by a written lease agreement, a landlord is not prevented from changing the amount of rent at the end of the lease period. Likewise, there is no prohibition against charging a separate fee for late rental payments, and there is no restriction on how much that fee can be.

In a lease agreement a landlord may reasonably restrict a tenant's use of the property, and can set conditions for terminating the lease for behavior other than just nonpayment of rent. In screening prospective tenants a landlord may ask for credit references and income verification. A landlord can keep pets off the property or charge an extra pet deposit, can require the tenant to pay some or all utilities, and can restrict the number of occupants of the premises and/or the number of vehicles parked on the premises.

The Property Code does outline a few rights extended to landlords, so it is not entirely one-sided. Here are some examples of what landlords can do per the code:

- A landlord may accept cash payments of rent as long as receipts are given to tenants and the landlord keeps a log of all payments.
- A residential landlord may terminate any lease if the tenant is convicted of public indecency and the tenant has exhausted all appeal efforts of the conviction.
- A landlord has the right to lock out a tenant who is delinquent on paying rent. In order to do this the landlord must give the tenant at least five-days mailed or three-days hand-delivered notice of the intent to do so, and the landlord or an agent of

the landlord must remain available for several days after a lockout to give the tenant a key and accept delinquent rent.

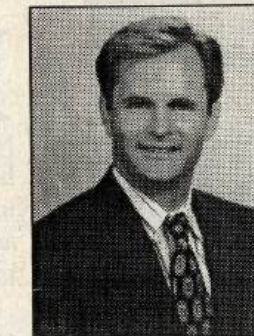
- A landlord has the right to inspect and enter the leased premises at reasonable hours in order to make repairs. Likewise, a landlord has the right to receive reasonable notice from a tenant of the need for repairs and a reasonable time (presumed to be seven days if not an emergency) in which to make such repairs.
- In addition to charging rent, a landlord has the right to require a tenant to pay a security deposit. A landlord may apply the security deposit against damages and charges outlined in the lease, but not for normal wear and tear. In order to retain part or all of the security deposit, however, the landlord must give the tenant a written account of expenses applied against the security deposit.
- A landlord may obtain a judgment against a defaulting tenant who withholds payment of the last month's rent in lieu of the security deposit in an amount equal to three times the wrongfully withheld rent plus attorney's fees.

Although a landlord may lease property to a tenant for less than one year without a written lease agreement, most prudent landlords will obtain some sort of written agreement so that the rights of both parties are understood and agreed to in advance. Several types of form leases may be obtained from attorneys or real estate associations.

The restrictions and responsibilities that the law places on landlords focus primarily on ensuring tenant health and safety. Overall, landlords in Texas have much more freedom in setting specific terms of lease agreements than do landlords in several other states.

*Debra E. Hunt is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian/feminist law firm based in Houston. Debbie concentrates on issues important to the gay and lesbian community, including personal and estate planning, relationship dissolution disputes, real estate and contract problems, and business organization for profit and not-for-profit entities.*

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## Queer Science

# Gay Dance

by Simon LeVay

If ever there was a "stereotypical" occupation for gay men, it's dance. But is the stereotype true, and if so, why? Michael Bailey, a heterosexual but gay-curious psychologist at Northwestern University, set out to find the answers. With the help of a dancer-turned-researcher, Michael Oberschneider, he interviewed 136 professional dancers—gay and straight, male and female—about the prevalence of gay people in the profession.

All the dancers agreed that gay men are phenomenally over-represented. The lowest estimate was that 25 percent of male dancers are gay, and the highest estimate was 98 percent. The average estimate was 58 percent—at least 10 times higher than the prevalence of gay men in the general male population. Lesbian dancers, on the other hand, are not very common: the average estimate was that only 3 percent of female dancers are lesbian.

The finding was expected, of course. Some of the most famous male dancers, such as Rudolf Nureyev, have been gay. And anyone who has read the AIDS obituaries over the past 15 years knows the terrible ravages that the disease has made in the fields of dance, ballet, and figure-skating. Sometimes one wonders how there can be anyone left to dance. The only reasonable explanation for such a high incidence of AIDS in the profession is that large numbers of male dancers are gay.

So what's the reason? There are three basic alternatives. One is that engaging in dance promotes homosexuality. Another is that gay men gravitate to dance because it's a gay-friendly profession. And the third is that gay men have an inborn affinity for dance.

As to the first possibility, it's true that joining a dance company opens a wealth of gay options. Of the straight male dancers in the study, 90 percent said that gay colleagues had come on to them. (The other 10 percent must have been butt-ugly!) Even so, the rich opportunities didn't seem to lure these men into homosexuality: rather, they enjoyed their own sought-after heterosexual status among the female dancers. Besides, the gay male dancers said that they became aware of same-sex attraction years before they entered the dance world. Many of the gay dancers had been romantically involved with other gay dancers, but none felt that they had been initiated into homosexuality by their partners or by the gay-friendly atmosphere.

Do gay men go into dance because it is a gay-friendly profession? All the dancers agreed that the profession is indeed very gay-friendly, and that is no doubt an attraction. But if that was the major factor in drawing gay people to the field, why are

*In Bailey and Oberschneider's study, the gay dancers had a childhood history of gender-nonconformity that was significantly more marked than that of gay men in general—they commonly reported having had shown feminine interests and behavior as children.*

lesbians not well-represented? It seems more likely that there's something about being a gay man that is conducive to being a good professional dancer.

Some support for this idea comes from studies of different cultures. According to sociologist Fred Whitam of Arizona State University, male homosexuality and dance are widely associated in both western and nonwestern societies. One example is that of the mahu of pre-western Polynesia: gender-variant homosexual men who danced in sacred rituals. Another example is that of the hijras of northern India: homosexual transsexual men who perform dances celebrating marriage and childbirth.

It's not just homosexuality but gender-variant homosexuality that is tied to dancing talent. In Bailey and Oberschneider's study, the gay dancers had a childhood history of gender-nonconformity that was significantly more marked than that of gay men in general—they commonly reported having had shown feminine interests and behavior as children.

This raises the question: is gay men's dancing ability a feminine trait? In contemporary American culture both men and women dance, and they dance in roughly similar style. There

have been some cultures in which only women and gender-variant gay men dance, such as among the Zapotec Indians of Mexico. More commonly, both sexes dance but in different styles, and in these cultures gender-variant gay men dance with and in the style of women.

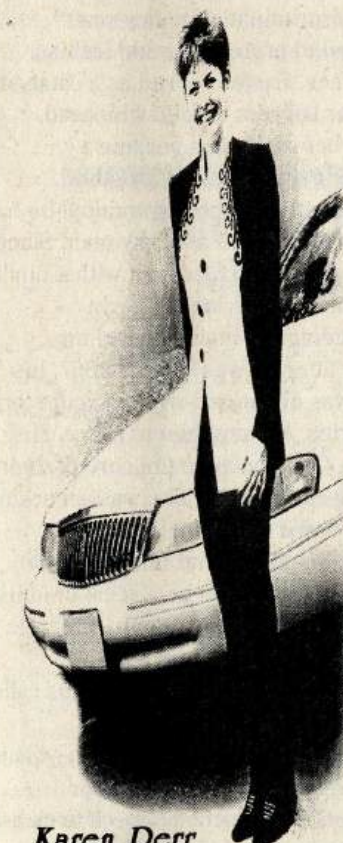
So perhaps the style of dancing that is admired in the U.S. today is basically a feminine dance style, at which only women and gay men are naturally adept. In line with this notion, several of Bailey and Oberschneider's interviewees said that lesbians were found more commonly in modern-dance troupes, where a more athletic and less traditionally graceful style of dance is practiced. If we could reintroduce the old-fashioned war-stomp, perhaps we'd see heterosexual men dominating the profession.

*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 SLLeVay@aol.com. For more Queer Science, visit www.gay.net.*

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# The Mayor's Middle Man

Matthew Eastus, the City's Liaison for the Gay Community

by Melissa Valenzuela

Any great mayor of this town knows that Houstonians can become very bitter, especially when political leaders perform less than favorably. So when Mayor Lee P. Brown appointed the city's first-ever liaison for the gay community in March, he patted himself on the back, ensuring that he was still a family favorite. But his appointee was basically living in obscurity. Some critics say he still is.

It may be true that Brown's appointee, Matthew Eastus, is still unknown. He's not recognized solely by his name like other gays and lesbians in the political spotlight who might thrive for the attention. But he prefers it that way, standing on the sidelines calling the shots to the city's main player rather than taking center stage, his only glory coming from knowing he made something happen.

Since his appointment, he's made several things happen, from encouraging the mayor to attend the annual AIDS walk, consequently getting free use of the George R. Brown Convention Center because of the city's unhealthy haze alert in May, to firmly suggesting that Police Chief C.O. Bradford address the community about Marc D. Kajs, a gay man stalked and murdered by his estranged lover. Eastus' name never appeared on a flier or in a headline related to these events; he played the invisible role. And being able to follow is what makes him a leader.

"This is a great opportunity for me, but it is not going to happen overnight. Coalition building and working behind the scenes can be just as productive in the end as standing behind a podium," he said.

Eastus doesn't think his new volunteer position makes him different from anyone else. Rather than submit to the verbal criticism about his inability to "know" the community, he thinks it's preposterous. In such a short time, he has managed to build a trusting alliance with some of the gay community's leading organizations.

"I know that one person ... said that I was going to be a quiet liaison. I just think that's a misconception. Just because [people] didn't know me does not mean that I've been walking around like a vegetable or a zombie. I'm probably as up on the issues as anyone else.

"I think I'm doing what I am supposed to be doing. But you know, I'm making things up while I go along, I'll frankly admit that, because no one has ever done this before. No one who says they would do this or that knows really what they would do, because there has never been a gay liaison," he added.

Eastus also seems like he had to make things up while he's gone along in life, excelling in academia to achieve as a lawyer and painfully hiding the secrets of a good son. He has garnered his own triumphs, both personal and professional, and without cameras rolling.

His career has blossomed since 1992 when he joined the local firm Baker & Botts, which specializes in labor and employment lawsuits. Ironically, he represents defendants in discrimination cases. His deftness at aggressively succeeding at the firm is historic; aside from winning tough cases, he was the first associate to come out after the firm's discrimination policy was amended to protect gay and lesbian employees. Eastus served as a catalyst for other lawyers to follow his lead.

But before Eastus became a promising attorney and a visible representative of the community, he had to discover himself as a gay man. Since his childhood, he has dealt with a duality that transferred from his early surroundings to his inner feelings. Shortly after he was born in 1967, his father was diagnosed with an acute form of arthritis, causing him to retire. His mother, Glyn, became the core of their working-class family. She was a working woman and a traditional, religious mother, but also found time to join a women's club and to be a vocal unionist. Her job with Western Union Telegram required the family to move from Abilene to Arlington, where Eastus calls his native home.

While growing up in Arlington's bland suburbia, Eastus received a "good education." He attached himself to clubs and organizations in high school,

surrounding himself with different social outlets. No one knew, though, that he was having romantic urgings for the same sex.

"I was very 'normal,' well-adjusted, but I knew something was going on. I wasn't dating, but I had these attractions and didn't know what to do with them," he said.

As he struggled with his sexuality, he also struggled with his ambitions. The Southern Methodist University alumnus wanted to be a professional, have an exceeding income, have a family, but he worried that as a homosexual he would be denied such pleasures. Perhaps the most troublesome for Eastus was losing the love of his parents.

"They weren't homophobic or anything. I think they just thought something like this wouldn't possibly touch their lives," he added.

During Spring Break in his first year at law school, Eastus buried himself in books and journal writings; he became lost in self-contemplation. His secret was consuming him. Tired of his evasive living, Eastus sat in the quiet of his room, phoned his parents, and told them the truth.

"It was an emotional call. We were all crying, and they just said they didn't understand, but that they loved me and wouldn't stop loving me. I was lucky; I was fortunate. I remember dad making jokes about gay people when I was younger, before he knew, and he just apologized, said he was sorry for hurting me. He had such shame," said Eastus.

**"I don't have a problem telling the mayor that I think this or that is not an appropriate policy. I don't have a problem telling him you ought to do this or you ought not to do that. And I think so far he's been very respectful about what I have to say."**

Now Eastus can only laugh at his relationship with his parents, the newshounds that blast Pat Robertson and the like, the progressive, self-proclaimed liberals who offer their young son advice on the rituals of dating or nurture his wounds from past breakups. They only worry about the recent mass attention flooding his life. Even Eastus thinks it's a little daunting.

In the past three months, Eastus has appeared at fund-raising dinners, delivered speeches and presentations at community

meetings, all while corresponding regularly with the mayor. Eastus is having to make judgment calls, picking and choosing what the mayor does and doesn't need to do to show support for the community, educating him about issues that he would be otherwise oblivious to. The mayor has basically been reliant on Eastus' words, which were powerful

enough to even lead to the recent appointment of his friend, fellow lawyer Andres Pereira, as Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's gay liaison.

"I don't have a problem telling the mayor that I think this or

that is not an appropriate policy. I don't have a problem telling him you ought to do this or you ought not to do that. And I think so far he's been very respectful about what I have to say," Eastus said.

Eastus believes the mayor appointed him because of their immediate ability to connect with each other. During his interview with the mayor, Eastus affirmed his dedication to his career rather than political activism. His intentions were simple: do good for the community and the mayor, and not for any particular politics. After interviewing several other leaders in the gay community, the mayor narrowed his decision to two.

"I read in the *Houston Press* that it had come down to me and [Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus member] Lane Lewis, and somehow it turned into a campaign. People were endorsing him, and then people were endorsing me. I didn't want it to be a competition, but I guess it just turned in to that," he said. "I think it just came down to who the mayor felt comfortable with."

And now, he's trying to make the gay community feel comfortable. Clearly, a man who can push and encourage the mayor to mix with the gay locals deserves more than a few gurgles from skeptical critics, whether people know his name or not. He's been given the reigns to lead, to insightfully represent the community, and he's doing that without making a fuss. He's making sure the mayor keeps up, nudging him along from behind.

## Brown to speak at the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

Sometimes it seems like Matthew Eastus has the mayor wrapped around his finger. Not so much that the mayor can't think independently, but enough to make him pop his head in at some of the gay and lesbian community's finer functions, including the monthly meeting of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

With a little bit of encouragement from Eastus, Mayor Lee P. Brown has agreed to be the keynote speaker for the chamber's August meeting. The mayor will address business issues that directly affect the gay community, including employment non-discrimination and domestic partner benefits, two topics Eastus discussed at the chamber's June meeting.

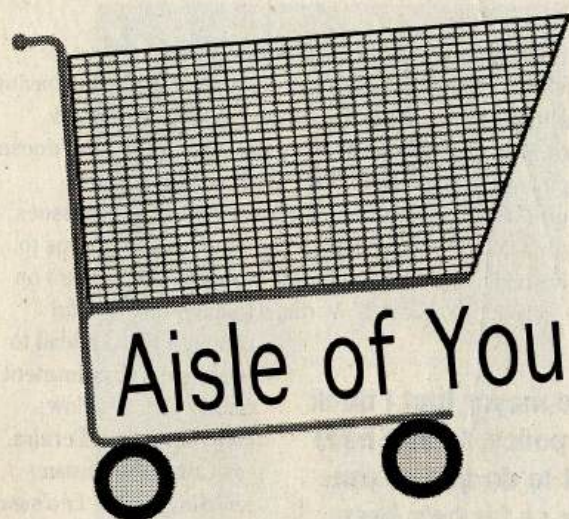
Brown, who is the city's first African-American mayor, has become a positive figure for the gay and lesbian community by supporting gay equality and rights. One of his first tasks as mayor was issuing an executive order protecting gay and lesbian city employees from discrimination.

Prior to his position as mayor, Brown was the city's police chief from 1982 to 1990. He left Houston for a position in New York.

The chamber meeting will be held on Aug. 3 at 6 p.m. at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St. For more information or to make a reservation, call 713/523-7576.



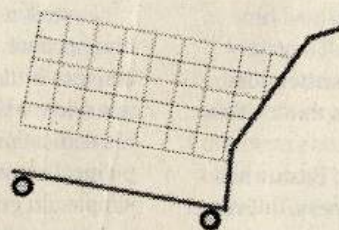




Aisle of You

# HEB's Courtship of Montrose

by Steven Foster



Ask the average (if there is any such thing) gay person where they prefer to purchase their produce and they're not gonna readily spit out the words "HEB Pantry."

For the bohemian groove, there will always be Whole Foods, with their rootsy-cool, politico-organic agenda, and pricey but funky atmosphere. Randall's will always be one step behind Rice Epicurean in the glamour factor, but one giant leap ahead by their sheer Starbuck's-like everywhere-ness. Kroger, despite their foray into the "Signature" league, will continue to occupy that special place in our hearts only because of their historic location and underground "disco Kroger" heritage. Fiesta's more like the neighbor we borrow a cup of cilantro from.

HEB's place in the foodstore chain?

A year ago, if you would have mentioned HEB in the pantheon of grocery giants, you'd be hard pressed to find any self-respecting gay cruising HEB's aggressively low-budget lanes in search of the most piquant aspic or an eligible gay consumer to swap recipes with.

Nope, HEB conjured up images of heavyset *hausfrau*s with Roseanne's pre-celebrity wardrobe, or Brett Butler types with none of her wit but all of the substance abuse. There might have been a Mr. Dad type wandering around looking for charcoal, but the only similarity he had to Tim Allen was the monkey grunt and the jail

time. In Austin, the San Antonio-based HEB was on par with Whole Foods with their concept store Central Market. But Montrose is not going to be blessed with a Central Market. The party girls and pretty boys of Gaytown are getting a Pantry.

That said, HEB had the smarts (guts, if you prefer) to put hotshot Southern charmer Gary Wood in charge.

The 32-year-old Wood has a sunburned ranchhand face that blasts an obscenely good-old-boy high-watt smile, and his lanky frame moves with a swagger that'd serve him well anywhere, whether he's riding the range or the boardroom. He greets everyone like they were the best new folk he's ever met. When he starts spilling the standard company line, "It's really an extraordinary company," he brags, he's so damn earnest, you can't even consider he's full of bull. And why shouldn't he like the company? He's an out gay man in charge of his first store, and HEB's been pretty damn supportive every step of the way. Wood's only been with the company five years, but he's been in the grocery business before. He had a stint with a Houston grocery giant that treated him and other employees so badly, he walked out of a promising career and, for the most part, the grocery life in general. But then HEB came calling and he answered. Soon he was an assistant manager at the less-than-chic Antoine/Tidwell store. Then came the offer to move to Montrose. Whether it was ribald self-expressionism or the ability to judge coming out as a good career move, Wood saw an opportunity and jumped at it.

"They didn't know before," says Wood. "It's just something I neglected to tell them. But it was my time to come out."

It's important to remember that while HEB sells apples, they are not Apple. HEB is not Continental Airlines, neither is it an arts group or a real estate company. This is a grocery store. In

Gary Wood,  
HEB Store Manager



a lot of instances, that's one step above oil rig companies on the homophobe meter. So what'd HEB say when their golden boy turned out to be gay?

"That's great," is what they said, according to Wood. "They said, 'That's extraordinary. Now you can tell us we have a great diversity program.'"

Wood figured if they were looking for him to advise them on their internal policies, they might be open to his opinion on external policies—namely, how he would bring HEB into Montrose. HEB was moving into a location with a newly designed Kroger megamart right behind it. And Kroger has a big parking lot. HEB's drawing card is that they've got other businesses nearby (Blockbuster, Eckerd's, a bookstore, and a copy place) to draw traffic. But that's a double-edged sword

that may bring about the same consumer nightmare that Whole Foods Shepherd shoppers experience. Nobody wants to fight for a parking space just to run in and grab a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs. And, face it, this is a community that's got some pretty diverse, often excruciating, ruthlessly highbrow tastes. Sometimes, this consumer block has decided who lives and who dies economically in Montrose. HEB could use all the input they could get. And Wood would go get it for them.

First, he made sure he corralled some of the movers and shakers in the gay community for their feedback. GHGLCC President Anita Renteria and this magazine's publisher were just a few of the attendees of the first of two input meetings. Next, Wood made certain HEB supported the Pride Committee. Like a seasoned PR pro, Wood worked the backplayers first. Sure, there's a grand opening on July 8 for the masses, a chance for the homeless and the culinarily helpless to feed and elbow with political dignitaries like Gene Green, Sheila Jackson Lee, and beloved Annise Parker. But all that pomp and circumstance isn't gonna keep people coming back. You know, The Pantry Thing again.

"It's gonna be a beautiful store," Wood claims. "It has a kitchen. There's some different designs. HEB operates outside of Houston, Pantry Foods in and around Houston. This is a Pantry kicked up a notch."

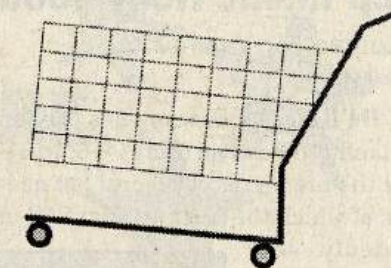
An early tour of the store, still in the final throes of construction labor, bears him out. The store's got a real quaint feel, with the charm of a small-town grocer. Things are tightly packed and real easy to see. Yet the homeliness is topped with a high ceiling of industrial silver and white. The most striking difference is its

**Whether it was ribald self-expressionism or the ability to judge coming out as a good career move, Wood saw an opportunity and jumped at it.**

design—this is a grocery store that actually has the agenda of getting you in and out on *your* time. Grocer Architecture 101 practically writes it in Moses-like tablets that the milk is placed in the far corner in the back of the store, with beer and wine hidden somewhere deep within. It's an evil little game of hide and seek. You may come in just for milk or a bottle of merlot, but you're going to pass cookies, hair spray, toys, hardware, and high-priced summer floaties on the ruthlessly cheery endcaps on your way in which you may, in a burst of consumer passion, decide to purchase *just because it was there!* That's their plan. In just the past year, both *Men's Health* and *Spin* magazines devoted a whole spread each on how to beat this grocery maze game. But HEB's playing by their own rules. They've got salad stuff, wine, beer, and toiletries right up front; a front that surreally plays to both sides of the store, with both the Westheimer face and the Jack-in-the-Box front converging right into the storefront and the goods you need to get.

"We felt that this area, our customers would really like and appreciate that," offers Wood.

"We're definitely trying to meet the needs of all aspects of the community," he



adds. "African American, Hispanic. Not just gay and lesbian."

Yeah, but the Hispanic market didn't get HEB driving a gleaming 18-wheeler screaming down through their parade. Between working the Montrose powerbrokers and prepping for the masses, Wood designed HEB's first coming out party to John & Jane Q. Public with a horn-blaring, steamrolling, meta-ton monstrosity that had people jaw-dropped—no mean feat to a group that audibly swoons over marching PFLAG grandmas, richly praises overweight drag queens, and hoots like a Serengeti stalker when any chest-showing guy or bra-baring girl beckons with the promise of colorful but cheap beads. HEB's impossibly white beast looked like it was almost alive. And the 15 walkers who attended its massive girth looked about as hunky as any of the boys on the bar floats. And there was Wood, right out in front.

"I'm the type of consumer that if I'm looking in my community, I'm asking *Who's advertising? Who's talking to me? Who wants my dollar?* Now, this is me personally. This is how I feel. I look out there and I see an HEB truck go through there...I never see Randall's, I never see Kroger, or anything like that. Whereas here's HEB out there with Chase, a lot of great companies and community organizations, and that meant a lot to me, personally, that HEB did that." Wood slows his pace, breathes, and leans forward just a bit for emphasis.

"That was a decision *they* made. That made me feel good."

Judging from the Montrose buzz, HEB's making a lot of other people feel the same way.



## Deep Inside Hollywood

by Romeo San Vicente

**OUT IN L.A.** The Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (July 9-16) will include the premieres of several hot queer films, of which the most popular will undoubtedly tour the country over the next year. Although Outfest is not the nation's oldest gay film festival, its strategic location in filmland gives it disproportionate impact on the future success of gay movies, performers, and filmmakers. • Outfest '98 kicks off with *Relax... It's Just Sex*, an ensemble comedy set in

star. • *East Palace, West Palace* is the first mainland Chinese film to deal with the covert life of a homosexual man. The international flavor is also represented in the festival by *Pasajes*, a Spanish les-

might play)? None other than Barbra Streisand, who would be a perfect fit. But the producers of *Avon Lady of the Amazon* abandoned the idea and are now said to be considering Whoopi Goldberg for the part. This time around, Keaton plays a meek Avon saleswoman, and Midler plays a haughty plastic surgeon.

### "EVERYWHERE I LOOK, MORE BOOBIES!"

Somewhere out there, superstar author Jacqueline Susann is smiling. Not only is her life getting



Whoopi or Goldie or Barbra: Which will be an Amazon?

L.A. featuring queer favorites Jennifer Tilly (*Bound*), Lori Petty (*Tank Girl*), openly gay actor Mitchell Anderson (*Party of Five*) and (*Tales of the City*) alum Cynda Williams. The Sundance favorite was directed by new wave queer cinema pioneer P.J. Castellaneta (best known for his debut, *Together Alone*). • Another Sundance hit, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, will close the festival. Directed by Tommy O'Haver, the film tells the story of a young photographer who enlists the aid of a gorgeous young musician to pose for his latest project, a series of romantic stills from Hollywood classics. The photographer falls in love with his muse, but is left to figure out the sexual orientation of his object of desire.

• Other highlights include the American premiere of *The Real Ellen Story*, a British production chronicling the historic coming-out episode of the late, lamented Ellen. Another documentary to look for is *The Female Closet*, which examines the history of lesbian cinema. • Another feature generating buzz and sure to hit the rest of the country soon is *Edge of Seventeen*, a coming-of-age/coming-out story set in 1984. Hunky newcomer Chris Stafford and lesbian comic Lea De Laria

bian action-adventure; *Bocage: The Triumph of Love* from Brazil; *Cavafy*, about the life of 19th-century Greek poet Constantine Cavafy; and the German social comedy *Everything Will Be Fine*. •

As usual, American independents form the backbone of the festival. Highlights include *2 By 4*, set among New York's immigrant population; *Out of Season*, a psychological drama; *The Sticky Fingers of Time*, a lesbian romantic thriller; *Hayseed*, about a boy and his dog; *Mob Queen*, a gender-bending gangster yarn; and, finally, *Totally Confused*, a comedy about sexual identity.

**SUPERDIVAS** The planned re-teaming of Bette Midler, Diane Keaton, and Goldie Hawn has met a roadblock due to producers' reluctance to work with the "difficult" Hawn again. And guess who they considered for the role of a bitchy entertainer (the role Goldie still

the biopic treatment (with Bette Midler in the title role) but now Fox is planning an update of her 1967 camp classic *Valley of the Dolls*. The studio is interested in securing Betty Thomas (*Dr. Doolittle*)

to direct, hoping she can add the same satiric spin that made *The Brady Bunch Movie* her first hit.

### GINGER DOES CHARLIE?

Retired Spice Girl Ginger Spice (a.k.a. Geri Halliwell) recently screen-tested for a role in the film version of *Charlie's Angels* in an attempt to launch her acting career, hoping of course to be more convincing than she was as a singer. Meanwhile, a report out of Israel says that country's transsexual diva, Dana International, turned down an offer by the Spice Girls to replace Ginger. Dana says she wishes to go a different di-



Bette Midler: Jacqueline Susann would be proud.

rection musically. Speaking of different directions, a group of Thai transsexuals

has formed a cover band, appropriately entitled Spice Gays. And not to worry. Transsexual Ginger is still in the group.

### MORE TRANSSEXUAL TIDBITS

Danny DeVito's Jersey Shore Films is leading in a bid to acquire the off-Broadway hit *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, described as a post-punk musical. The play focuses on the identity crisis of Hedwig, a German transsexual with a botched sex reassignment who flees to Kansas City, where he becomes a struggling rock star. No word yet on whether John Cameron Mitchell, who wrote the musical and plays the title role on stage, will be able to reprise his duties for the film version. Jersey Shore is a recently formed arthouse studio reportedly vying with at least two other arthouse divisions of major studios to acquire the project.

**UNTOLD HISTORY** Academy Award-winning documentarians Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (*The Celluloid Closet*) have begun production in Europe on *Pink Triangle*, about gay survivors of Nazi Germany. The feature documentary features first-hand interviews with those who lived through the persecution and will include footage from the archives of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, established in 1994 by Steven Spielberg from the proceeds of *Schindler's List*, to record accounts of Holocaust survivors, rescuers, and witnesses. The film goes beyond World War II to document how homosexual men and women were criminalized under sodomy laws even after the Nazis lost the war. During the war, gays and lesbians were imprisoned in concentration camps and forced to wear pink triangles. Epstein and Friedman are also currently working on an alternative sports documentary for HBO and are in development on *Save Me*, a feature for Fox Searchlight.

Romeo San Vicente, who is in negotiations to have his life story brought to the big screen, can be reached care of this publication or at [RSVicente@aol.com](mailto:RSVicente@aol.com). For more Deep Inside Hollywood, visit [www.gay.net](http://www.gay.net).

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### Roxanna Ward

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## Dear Abby

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

"Abigail Van Buren, of 'Dear Abby' fame, has long been clear about her belief that homosexuality should not be viewed as a problem. On this day in 1970 [July 13], in response to being asked whether homosexuality is a disease, she wrote, 'No! It is the inability to love at all which I consider an emotional disease.'"

## Politically Incorrect

To fully appreciate Politically Incorrect's panel discussion below, you might want to read what Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott had to say about homosexuality: "In America now, there's an element that wants to make that alternative lifestyle, you know, acceptable or normal in every respect. Now I want to emphasize [something that's] very important today. . . . You should still love that person, and you should not try to mistreat them or treat them as outcasts. You should try to, you know, show them, you know, a way to deal with that problem. Just like, you know, my father had a problem, as I said, with alcoholism. Other people have sex addiction. Other people, you know, are kleptomaniacs." And other people, you know, like certain Senate Republican Leaders, are ignorant.

(Politically Incorrect, 6/19/98)

**Bill Maher:** Let's start with Trent Lott today. . . . He compared homosexuality to alcoholism, sex addiction—which by the way there is no such thing, unless you mean happy people [audience laughter]—and kleptomaniacs.

**Brad Keena** [host of "Next Revolution" on "America's Voice"]: He was saying that homosexuality is a sin. Quoting the Bible, and he was saying in various scriptures, passages, Leviticus in the Old Testament and in the First Corinthians and in First Timothy that homosexuality—and it does say that.

**Howie Mandell** [actor, comedian, & cartoon character]: How can he compare it to alcoholism? I don't even see the—the only thing I can think of is "Bottoms up." [audience laughter & applause] . . .

**Tim Daly** [one of the stars of *Object of My Affection*, HBO's *From the Earth to the Moon*, and *Wings*]: If it's a sickness, though, that implies that it can be treated.

**Maher:** That's what he's saying.

**Daly:** Maybe the same is true of being a Republican. [audience laughter] Maybe with the proper treatment, he can be cured.

(Politically Incorrect, 6/22/98)

**Bill Maher:** Okay. We're going to return to a subject we talked about last week, which is the Christian right and homosexuality. And people sometimes say to me, "You know, you talk about that a lot on your show." I don't intend to. It's just in the news a lot because the Christian right talks about homosexuality more than they do down at the Ramrod.

## Robert Redford

(Premiere, 6/98, Todd McCarthy)

"The only thing I can think of positively is that this country does have an amazing history of pulling itself up from the brink: We reach some crazy point where you think all is going to be lost, and then at the last minute, suddenly, something turns, and Newt Gingrich isn't as popular as you thought he was, and Jerry Falwell didn't take over. Maybe I have faith in that part of the American character. It's a crazy and pretty wonderful country. It's still the best."

## David Garza

(Out, 6/98, Smith Galtney)

"One thing rock 'n' roll has in common with gay culture is that both are so influenced by drugs and death: Drugs teach you how to die, and dying teaches you how to live. And they're both built on taboos. C'mon, every guy in a band is up there whacking on something to get people off. How much more homoerotic can you get?"

## Jon Moss

Culture Club drummer Jon Moss had an affair with Boy George in the '80s.

(The Advocate, 6/23/98)

"When asked if he considered himself bisexual, Moss avoids a straightforward answer. 'With me, it's not a matter of sex,' he says. 'I fell in love with George, and he happened to be a man. When I stopped going out with George, I went out with women, but it doesn't mean I wasn't homosexual when I was with George. I'm not primarily homosexual. I prefer women to men, and now I'm with a woman I hope to be with the rest of my life.'"



Luciano Pavarotti:  
No, Georgio.

Liberace:  
No, Sincerely.



Cyndi Lauper:  
No Vibes.

## Liberace

(Movieline, 7/98, Edward Margulies)

"Quick now, who was the least likely musical talent to ever hoped they'd make it as a star of the silver screen?

If you guessed Luciano Pavarotti in *Yes, Georgio*, or Cyndi Lauper in *Vibes*, then you've never seen Liberace in the 1955 howler *Sincerely Yours*. With his moist eyes, congealed smile and mortician's manners, Las Vegas headliner Liberace was doubly miscast here as a talented concert pianist who is also a practicing heterosexual. . . . Liberace proposes marriage [to Dorothy Malone's character]: 'Did you ever wonder what it would be like spending a lifetime married to a musician?' he queries Malone. Just in case she's been overwhelmed by his charm, he goes on to warn her, 'It's not easy competing with a concerto!' But hey, it's not easy competing with 10 percent of the male population either, right?"



Compiled by Blase DiStefano



Does Ben Affleck (l) have a crush on the long-haired Leo?

## Ben Affleck

(Details, 6/23/98, David A. Keeps)

**David A. Keeps:** Kevin [Smith, director of *Armageddon*] told me, "We all just wanna be Affleck. He is my heterosexual crush."

**Ben Affleck:** Kevin is my homosexual crush. If I were gay, the first guy I would sleep with is Kevin Smith. The second one would be Leo DiCaprio—but only for the long hair he had in *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

## Norm Macdonald

(Details, 6/23/98, Rob Tannenbaum)

**Rob Tannenbaum:** What's the hardest part of being a man?

**Norm Macdonald:** Having a sac. It's this thing, it's not attractive, and it's very vulnerable. Also, if you're a man, people frown upon it when you wear panties and a dress. All of a sudden you're a freak. Meanwhile, if you're a lady it's completely acceptable. It's a double standard.

## Frank Sinatra

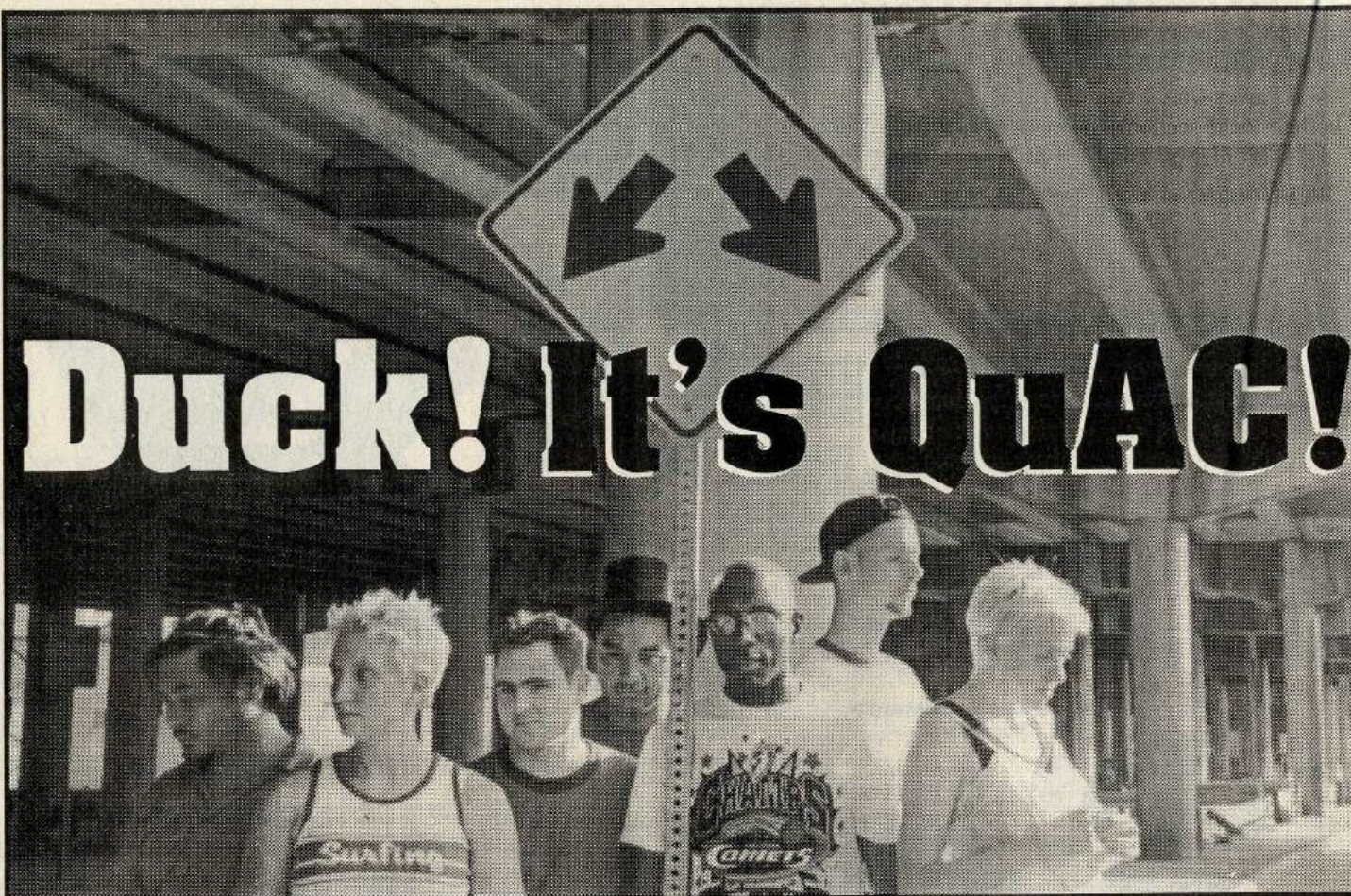
(The Advocate, 6/23/98, Tony Kushner)

"When [Frank] Sinatra married Mia Farrow, she cut her hair extremely short, prompting [actress & former wife of Sinatra] Ava Gardner to say, upon viewing the wedding photos in the papers, 'I always thought Frank would do better with a boy.'"



Frank Sinatra (l) marries a boy . . . oh, wait, that's Mia Farrow!





## The performance art troop is everything it's QuAC'ed up to be.

by Steven Foster

**T**ravis Mader is receiving instructions on the proper way to ride a pool pony. After he is told to bend over more, make his back straighter, and, well, basically stick his butt out, his elfin little-boy face blushes. It's hard to imagine this is the same Travis Mader, member of the Queer Artist Collective (QuAC), who was a standout in their universally well-received show *Closer To The Bone*, the same Travis Mader who moved through the depths of emotional seas, broad-casting poetic verse of gay romance, pain, love, despair, and hope that was heartbreaking in its honest beauty.

"I wouldn't say I'm a poet," Mader says between breaks in pool pony riding lessons for this month's cover shoot. It's hard to tell if he's a rebel urbanite rejecting a label he doesn't approve of, or if he's just demurring the power of his words. But to watch Mader perform his work, one comes to understand that his art is a poem that performs, a perfor-

mance that is unquestionably poetic. His verse is layered by both violence and beauty, the powerful minutiae of their intimate thoughts projected to disarmingly large proportions behind him on a giant screen, a techno soundtrack beating, breathing monotonously throughout.

Taking his solid, yet minute frame to the mic, Mader begins.  
*Why don't you apologize?*  
*What are your archetypes?*  
*How's this rain?*  
 I wish you wouldn't ask me questions like that. I like the easy questions:  
*Does this feel good?*  
*How about this?*  
*Can I stay over?*

In a scant 36 words, Mader's immediately forced the audience into relationships past and present. Viewers are uncomfortably shoved into a couplehood that is both designed and crafted (though not completely) by their own dysfunctional romantic self.

*Do you remember when we first kissed?*  
*Remember your persistence, like you*  
*were trying to express some extreme*  
*emotion with your lips and tongue?*  
*I noticed. I just pretended not to.*  
*Our current mechanical kissing*  
*suit me.*

*You finally got the gist of it.*

Audiences are getting the gist of QuAC as well.

Founded in 1996 by Daaimah Mubashshir and Sixto Wagan, QuAC has succeeded in providing Houston with a young performance art group that manages to be both artistically challenging and publicly accessible—a pretty big accomplishment in a city crowded with noble art projects. Under the hawked guidance of DiverseWorks' Loris Bradley, QuAC has premiered original works at DiverseWorks' artspace, Theater LaB, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and the New York MIX Experimental Film Festival. And

despite honorable mentions in press both gay and straight (the *Houston Press* always gives QuAC a thumbs-up mention in their Picks section), the more seasoned Infernal Bridegroom Productions often manages to steal some of QuAC's young thunder.

"In the latest Artfiles," laments co-founder Sixto Wagan, "IBP was named as the only alternative art performance art group in Houston. We took umbrage at that concept. We're doing something which is completely new. And the fact that we're in Houston, I think, was another major feat for us."

Past shows have been a series of solo vignettes with the occasional ensemble movement: a coupling here, an entire-cast opening segment there. But QuAC's latest show is a true group effort with collaborations created by the entire collective, though Mader and others will get their chance to shine solo as well in the upcoming *Off the Map: QuAC, Texas pop. 7*.

"It's different from the last one," says Mader, sitting with the other cover subjects. "I will say that at one point, I do have a tea party."

"Does the Mad Hatter come by?" asks Gay Games weightlifter David Fagan.

"We're thinking about using images from *Alice in Wonderland*," Mader hopes.

Photographer Alan Montgomery chuckles behind the camera. "That'll kill the budget."

"Well," begins Mader slowly, "we're not gonna actually..." He pauses, searching for the right words, then, quite easily and honestly, finds them. "It'll be illegal."

Thank God for sampling. It's an unspoken industry okay that is rarely brought suit against, which is good for the up-and-comers who need other pieces of media or art. It's good for the entertainment giants too, because it makes them look like charitable big brothers. It'll be nice to see QuAC returning the favor in future years, allowing fledgling artists to borrow from their canon. And with edgy, viable talent like Mader, Wagan and the other QuACers, it's almost a sure thing.

See *Off the Map: QuAC, Texas Pop. 7 at DiverseWorks, July 9-11. 24-hr. reservations: 713/228-0914. For more info: 713/223-8346.*

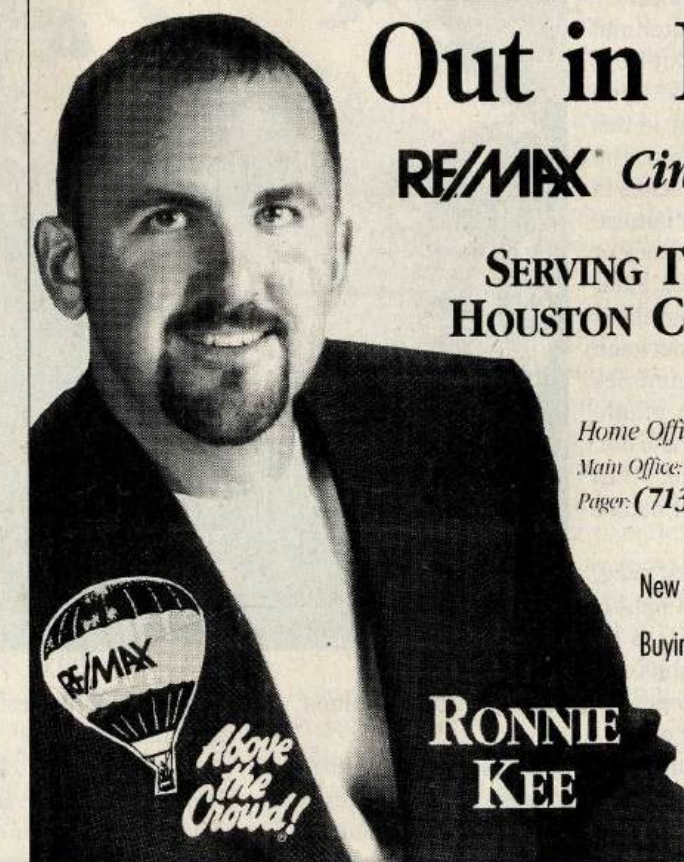
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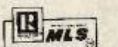
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# Connecting the RED DOTS

An interview with two local artists bringing art to the nation.

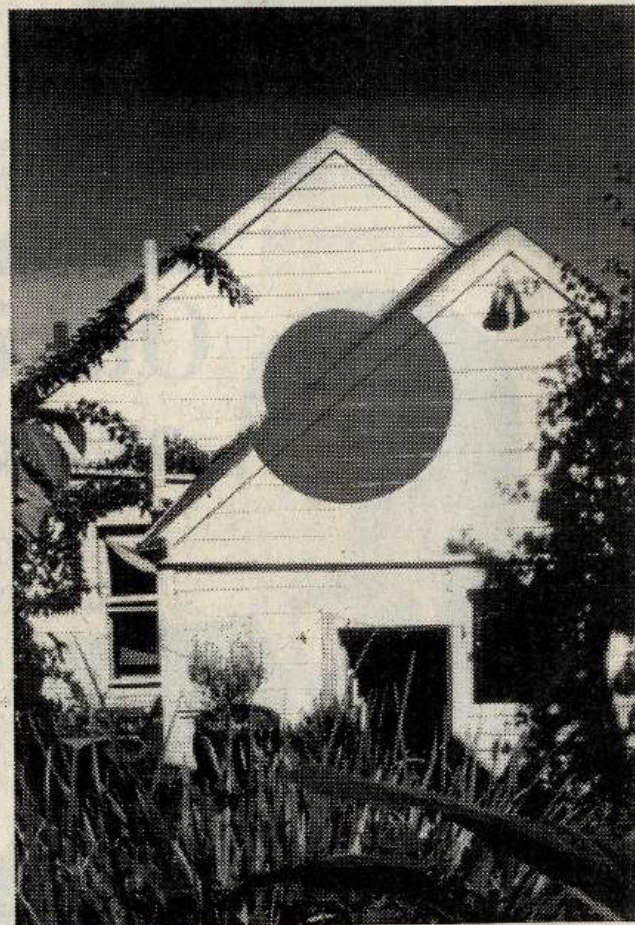
By Melissa Valenzuela

In the very near future, some enterprising individual will connect all the red dots painted in America to two deviant little artists, while never coming up with a meaning for the mysterious and intriguing circles.

Local artists Rick Carpenter and Robert Ramos are the Red Dot Boys who paint red dots on houses and buildings, and there are many in this city, many more throughout the country. At 360 degrees, 53 inches in diameter, it can dominate a natural setting with its loud, bold presence or blend with a drab, quiet canvas. After each dot is completed, a photograph is taken to show the balance between architecture and art. Sometimes Ramos poses nude for the photo, simulating the final stroke on the dot, his stylistic contribution "to emphasize the true beauty of nature and humanity."

"It started as an exhibitionist thing, to just take his clothes off in public, and he was stimulated by it, to be totally honest," Carpenter claims, his chiseled face displaying some dissatisfaction about Ramos' indecency. "I'm not very fond of it."

But Ramos' growing fear of incarceration has prompted him to keep his clothes on more, opting instead to use the back sides of nude female models for future projects. Carpenter says it's Ramos'



nude "photo ops" that draw most of the attention, taking away from the phenomenon of the red dot itself. Nevertheless, they'll take whatever publicity they can get, especially in their hometown where their talents are generally ignored.

"We're real famous in rural America; no one knows us here," he laughs. "[Houstonians] have no idea who the hell we are."

Most of our interview takes place in Carpenter's short-bed pickup truck, as we tour some of the 26 red dots in the city. I sit in the middle of the duo, wedged between two seatbelt buckles, feeling the undiverted shock of potholes as Carpenter navigates the streets of Montrose like a Grand Prix master. Braving the streets without a seatbelt, he suppresses a daredevil ego, underneath a worn and faded farmboy image, a result of the big city's frenzy, but he insists his risk-taking will never amount to taking his clothes off. Ramos dresses

himself with the seatbelt, not taking a chance with any vehicular stimulation.

No one needs to know the boys, they insist, if a red dot serves its purpose to raise art awareness, to raise any type of awareness. But it's difficult not to become infected by their childlike

enthusiasm and passion for art. They bounce from story to story, sometimes completing each other's sentences. Together, they are like a pair of hands, locked, intertwined, each offering what the other cannot.

Carpenter, a native Kansan, is a sculptor. He ignites conversation with passion, only censoring himself when he realizes his comments could be bad business. His farming roots are apparent in his voice, while his polite manners battle with his direct mindset, encouraging him to do whatever the hell he wants.

"Robert can really work a crowd, and I'm a little better at [writing press releases, doing the paperwork]; that's why we fit so well together," Carpenter says. "And I'm even right-handed and he's left-handed, ... so I always paint the left side of the dot and he always does the right."

Ramos is a multimedia painter. He humors himself and others with a boyish charm. The Puerto-Rican native has a laid-back, spirited personality that usually gets patrons to invest in a red dot and gets rural Americans to cook up a good meal.

The artists met nearly a decade ago at a gay pride art show Ramos was asked to curate. Carpenter was one of the show's featured artists. On the day of the show, Ramos mistakenly placed paperwork on Carpenter's pure white pedestal for his sculpture.

"I was a stickler at the time," Carpenter admits. "Well, I'm a stickler about everything, and one thing is that the pedestal is white, pure white, no fingerprints, and it's for my sculpture only."

"Well, when I went outside to get the sculpture, I come back and see this paperwork on my pedestal. I asked whose it was, and Robert comes running over saying 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry,' and whatever. It really doesn't seem like we started off like good friends," he adds.

But they are friends. Since their first encounter, they've worked on smaller projects at Carpenter's sculpting shop, absorbing and learning about each other's appreciation for art, combining their talents. Then as a fluke, the red dot emerged.

Carpenter describes the red dot as a public service, an icon to get people talking about art, specifically in rural America where visual art is practically nonexistent, where some farmers are naturally resistant to creativity. But that's where the red dot phenomenon began, with boredom and a little deviance on a farmland in Auburn, Kansas.

In 1997, Carpenter and Ramos were visiting Carpenter's twin brother when boredom struck. Stranded in the rural area where

topics of conversation range from herding cows to mending fences, the duo needed some exposure to art.

And then deviance kicked in.

Carpenter plotted to adorn the side of his brother's dull barn. He manipulated his brother into leaving the farm, sending him away to the nearby town. Like a mischievous teenager on a quest to raid a neighbor's house, he gathered the needed materials:

red paint, brushes, and a steel hoop from a 19th-century buggy wheel. He then solicited Ramos' help, knowing his devilish friend wouldn't resist. Using the steel hoop as a stencil, they dressed the bare barn with a glossy red dot. Carpenter's brother loved it, and it stayed.

A few days later, they ventured into town to the local grocery store. People surrounded them, asking questions about the red dot. What is the dot? What did it mean? When the artists left the store, they realized they had stumbled onto something with great potential.

"Farmers were talking about art and its abstract meaning rather than herding cows. To be able to get a group of people, who are fairly stubborn about the topics they talk about, to start discussing art is a really wild thing," contends Carpenter. "So, Robert and I decided when we left Kansas to continue painting the dot."

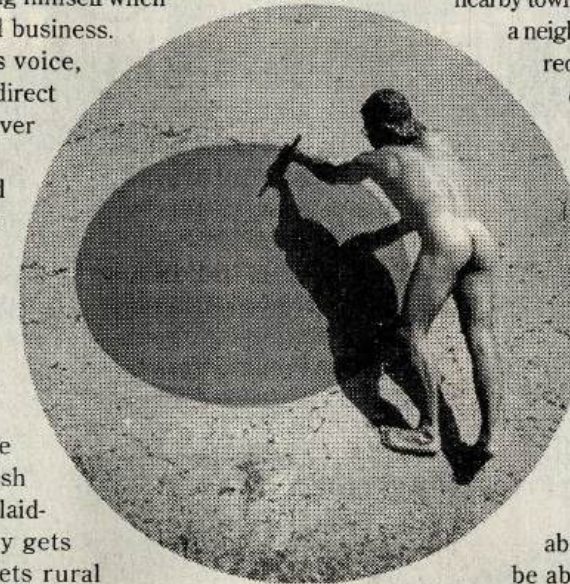
The first dot in Houston surfaced on the refinishing shop of Carpenter's lover at the corner of Waugh and Fairview, a gray-blue building with a matching red door. An occasional car parked on the side street keeps me from assuming the place is abandoned. I have seen that particular dot many times during my drives home, reflecting on it for only a second. It becomes just a myriad of passing images that remind me of Japan's bold red dot flag or the decorative tikka originally worn by married women of the Hindu faith.

But if I'm stopped at the corner light, my images of the red dot develop, transcend into something more involving and consuming. Why is that huge, red circle there? Maybe the owner of the building, however old it is, had intentions for the circle and never completed the project, or maybe some underpaid painter messed up.

Whatever the case, it lures you away from your black and white days, sometimes without realizing it. It is art's most recent porthole for escape, a diversion from the dead gray habits of the everyday, encircled in a perfect perimeter.

The red dot can swallow your ideas and beliefs, evolving them from some abstract and unembellished meaning to something

*continued on page 70*



Red Dot #22 (above)  
Robert Ramos paints a red dot on the sea wall in Galveston.  
Red Dot #10 (below)  
on Aunt Ruth Estes' metal barn in Raywood, TX.



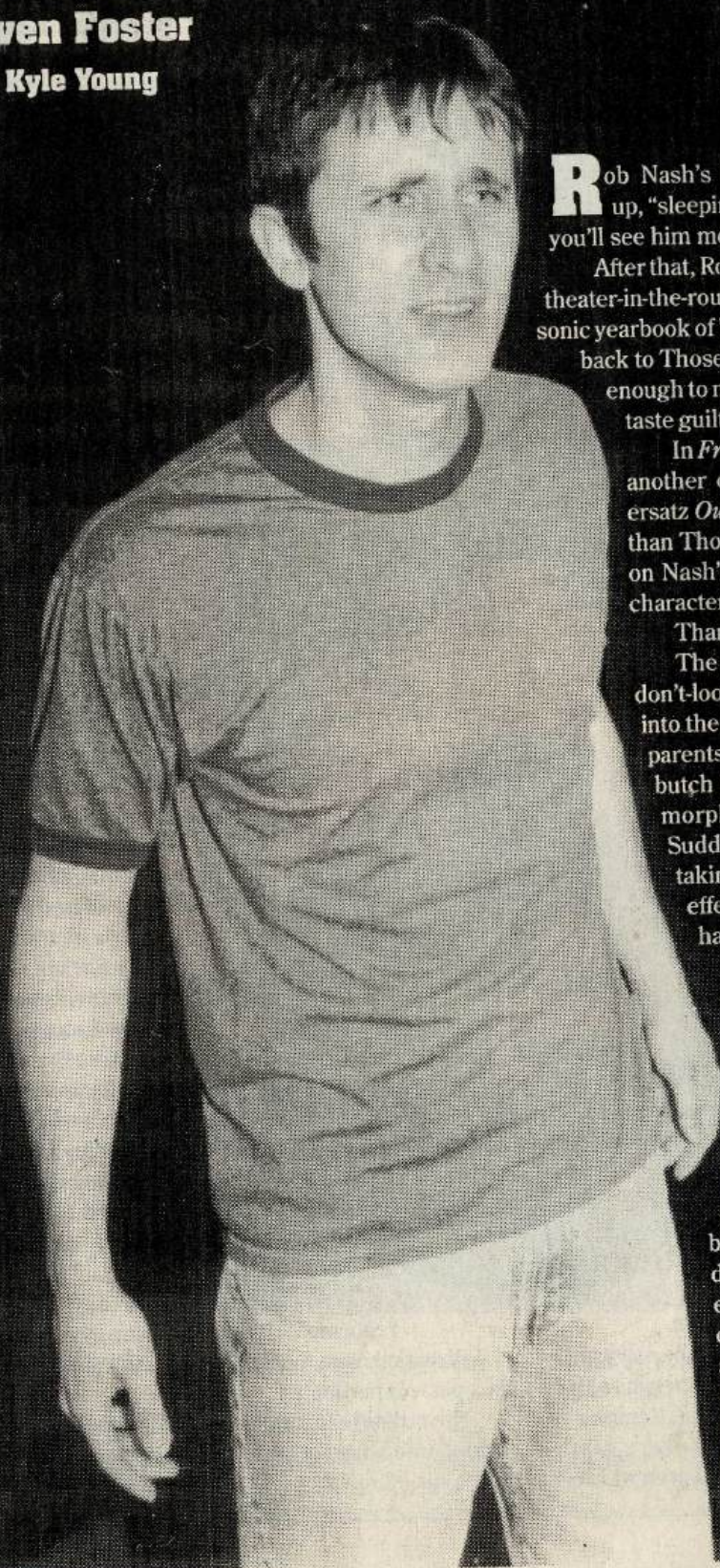


# Nash-Ville

It's Rob Nash's Town. We're just Living in It.

by Steven Foster

Photo by Kyle Young



**R**ob Nash's latest solo show opens with Nash curled up, "sleeping" on a small oblong cube. It's the only time you'll see him motionless the entire night.

After that, Rob Nash dashes, limps, and dances on Stages' theater-in-the-round art space, with scene breaks courtesy of a sonic yearbook of '80s bands. Immediately, you are transported back to Those Days. And if the sound of Bananarama isn't enough to make your skin crawl with the memory of bad-taste guilt, Nash's portrayal of some 26 characters will.

In *Freshman Year Sucks!*, you're transported to yet another one of Rob Nash's weird worlds, a kind of ersatz *Our Town*, penned by someone gleefully wilder than Thornton. And the townsfolk of *Freshman* (based on Nash's own life and times at Strake Jesuit) are all characters portrayed by Nash himself.

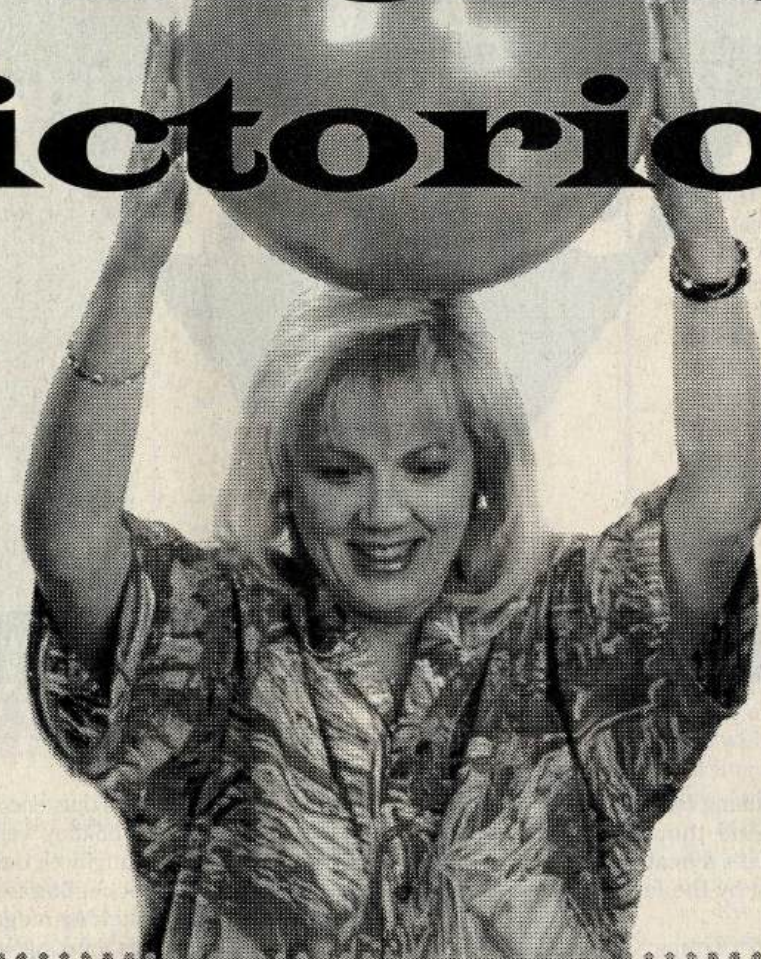
Thankfully, the show's well cast.

The transformation of Nash's toned, thin, sure-don't-look-over-30 frame and his chameleonic voice into the show's various high schoolers, teachers, and parents is a thrill to watch. In one minute, he's the butch bully with a sexual edge. Seconds later, he's morphed into a martini-swilling society mom. Suddenly, he's a painfully Cleaveresque couple taking their son to school. It's a dazzling special effect even Industrial Light & Magic would have a hard time creating.

Propelled to deserved notoriety with his explosively entertaining *Twelve Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family* trilogy, Houston homeboy Rob Nash is back to showcase yet another whirlwind cavalcade of gay (and straight) angst. But whereas *Twelve Steps* was a kind of steroid-juiced *Dr. Katz* couch trip, *Freshman Year Sucks!* is more like a dysfunctional *Dawson Creek*, only more believable because Nash's high school characters don't act or sound like they've been through extensive Shadow Work therapy with a minor in creative writing from NYU. Nash's scripted jibes are rarely maudlin Shakespearean sentiment hippped up by pre-millennium culture references. Rather, his ether-edged '80s observations give you a plastic bird-dip nod of knowing that is happy one minute (Cheap Trick, drinking,

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# Vickie Victorious



## The Strange & Wonderful World of Vickie Shaw

**I**m playing the Laff Stop August 9th with a friend of mine, Roxanna Ward. She plays piano, kind of funky stuff. She's so funny she makes me pee. Just pee!" squeals Vickie Shaw, her Beaumont-born accent rising to the occasion.

"Well," she admits, trademark blue eyes glowing relentlessly. "I blame it on that, but it's menopause."

Shaw may be joking about The Change, but an aging female body design isn't the only thing moving to another stage in her life. After a short time working the comedy clubs and laugh bars of various yoo-hoo towns around the country, Shaw, with a new dynamic agent and crisp new material to match, may be ready to leave more than just a few female hormones behind. Her hectic touring schedule is testament to the fact things are picking up speed.

"I'm gonna miss Pride Parade again," she sighs. "I have to work, have to go to a women's festival. Women with comfortable shoes and a lotta hair." She leans back in her chair. "Not big hair, a lotta hair."

It's that member-of-the-family mocking tone that has served Shaw well since she began a life of standup comedy, even when her audience was made entirely of women who vehemently rejected Bic shavers.

In our family tree of comics, the gay community's been well served. There was Ellen's downtrodden (and decidedly closeted) Everywoman, which was nice, and a pleasant "in" secret as to the real reason behind her why-I-can't-get-a-date

by Steven Foster

Original Photo by Woodallen Photography

jokes. Scott Thompson gave us characters such as Buddy Cole. And Lea Delaria, while immensely popular to some, to others is just a big fat loudmouth, obnoxious woman playing the fat loudmouth obnoxious dyke role for as long as she can.

Well if Lea Delaria is the dark/dyke side of lesbian comedy, Vickie Shaw is her Southern sorority sister. Blonde hair, blue eyes, three kids from a previous marriage, played with Barbies when she was a little girl, Shaw is the non-screaming antithesis of Delaria. Although, to be fair, she has been known to raise her volume in some instances. As usual, children often incite a louder delivery.

"Having a gay mom does change the dynamics a little bit. The other day, the kids are having one of those neighbor-

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# Are You GAYME ?

THANKS TO TOM WADDELL, WE GOT GAME

by Ran Blumburg

Imagine taut, toned bodies straining for peak performance in a myriad of athletic events. And though the accent is on friendship and camaraderie, it's a heated atmosphere—the warm summer sun matched only by the feverishly competitive spirit of the participants.

If this sounds like the Summer Olympic Games, you're right. But the scene also fits a much younger event, one that turns sweet 16 this year.

The Gay Games.

And the reason the Olympic Games has a gay compatriot is largely due to the vision and desire of one man, Tom Waddell.

In 1968, at the Olympic Games in Mexico City, American athlete Tom Waddell finished sixth in the most grueling test of strength and endurance offered in the Olympics panoply: the decathlon, placing him among a precious, select few of the world. With this, Waddell is one of the top 10 all-around athletes in the world.

And then, after that, he became a doctor.

After years of contemplation about himself and his accomplishments (both in the athletic arena and the ER), Dr. Waddell caught a vision of a new type of international sporting event, one that replaces "the obsession to win at all costs with the positive joys of simple participation." To Waddell, winning was not a goal unto itself, or something represented by a trophy to adore or a medal that symbolized greatness. Waddell thought winning as, quite simply and powerfully, "achieving one's personal best." Philosophically, this idea de-emphasizes nationalism, enabling athletes to represent their locality, instead of their country. Furthering this line of thinking, Waddell thought to formulate a competition that eliminated minimum ability requirements so all ages compete on an equal basis by age and sex groupings, something Waddell believed would stress simple participation

slightly over competition, thus encouraging total inclusiveness, and allowing people to be who they were without pretense, celebrating diversity while promoting both unity and solidarity.

This thought is not coming from some poor fat slob who sat there, embittered, watching mega-athletes winning medal after medal after medal. This thinking was from an Olympic athlete and a doctor who also happened to be gay. And while this adds an entire other texture to his thinking, it neither validates nor renders it invalid. Waddell must have had something of a universal psychic substance to his belief because this year, once again, his dream will be rigorously celebrated in Amsterdam.

Tom Waddell longed for a world that recognized that gays are (surprise, surprise) just people after all, with similar emotions, aspirations, talents, skills, and competitive spirits as heterosexuals. He wanted to disprove arbitrary stereotypes, counteract hostility, and do away with the residual prejudice so often directed toward gays.

So, in June 1981, Waddell founded San Francisco Arts and Athletics (SFAA) to oversee the creation and production of a first-ever "Gay Olympic Games." However, three weeks prior to the opening ceremonies (diva Tina Turner was set to perform), the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) obtained a federal court injunction prohibiting SFAA from using the word "Olympic." The big surprise of all this was that the USOC, in the past years, had no problem with other applications for the ancient word—the Special Olympics were well known for years, the Police Olympics, the Dog Olympics, even the Nude Olympics all passed by the USOC virtually unnoticed. Powerless against the USOC's injunction, the SFAA deleted all "Olympic" mentions (a perversely Olympian task considering the late hour) and actually managed to open the first Gay Games on August 28, 1982.

The games were a hit.



## The Boys of AMSTERDAM

**S**purred on by his father's lack of health and the death of his lover, David Fagan began a fitness program in Fall 1994. That only whet his appetite. Hitting the gym in 1995, the now 52-year-old Fagan will flex his muscles in Amsterdam, which might be an actually lighter workout than his usual one (weightlifting six times a week, cardio twice a day, and six—count 'em, six—meals a day).

"Bodybuilding began as a means to an end," explains Fagan. "And ended up a means to a beginning."

**D**ancers Lee Ingalls and Bob Pavey both come from classical ballet backgrounds. Both 45 years old, they coincidentally moved to Houston in their early 20s. They first met 20 years ago as Fred Astaire Dance Studio instructors. But it wasn't until their paths crossed in 1996 that they formed a friendship, then a partnership.

Ingalls planned to make billiards his sport at the 1998 Gay Games in Amsterdam. But when Bob decided to enter the ballroom dance event and didn't have a partner, Ingalls moved from the pool table to the tango.

Two guys dancing together? In tails? No, that's not something you see every day, but watch two pros at work and you begin to get a real quick lesson on the fluidity, kinesthetics, and artistry that makes this event worthwhile. Remember *Strictly Ballroom*?



With that success under their belt, the SFAA decided to use their Herculean drive to challenge the USOC's ban on the Waddell and company's use of the now-rigorously protected word Olympic. So, in the midst of preparing for Gay Games II, the SFAA suffered through a two-year legal battle with the USOC. It was at this time that the specter of AIDS was beginning to cast its long and ugly shadow over America and, in the early 1980s, SFAA founder Tom Waddell found that he himself was one of the many who were caught in the disease's dark wake. Nevertheless, the SFAA set a precedent by adding cultural events to the Gay Games II athletic events, and the number of athletes (and corresponding budget) tripled.

But the SFAA were still in need of a political, if not a "legal" affirmation of the Games. That came on August 9, 1986, when San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein attended the Games, buoying the spirits of those present.

"These Gay Games," Feinstein began, "are very important. Don't let anybody tell you they are not. What's important is that you are here...you are good...you are coming together from all over the world in peace and love to demonstrate to all who are willing to see that you are energetic, enthusiastic, and that you have much to give to this needy world."

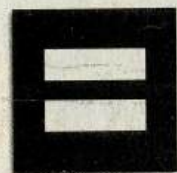
In the awful age of AIDS, this was more than a pep talk, it was an almost parental admonition to keep up the good work. So, at the closing ceremonies, Waddell announced that the site for Gay Games III would be Vancouver. But the moment was poignant to many, including Waddell himself. Having tested positive for the HIV virus, it was not likely that Waddell himself would make it to Vancouver.

During the following year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision supporting the lower court's decision to disallow SFAA the use of the word Olympic, and that the USOC did in fact have proprietary rights to the use of the term. Victory was apparently not enough for the USOC, as they then began maneuvers to have legal fees of \$92,000 levied against Tom Waddell's residence, even as Waddell was waging his battle with AIDS.

On July 11, 1987, Waddell succumbed to the disease, survived by his best friend, a lesbian, with whom Waddell fathered a daughter, and a legion of people who were permanently changed by Waddell's Olympic vision.

Perhaps galvanized by Waddell's death, the SFAA met in Seattle in 1989 to add board members from around the world,





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subsequently changing its name to The Federation of Gay Games. The international governing body and parent organization for the Gay Games was charged with promoting, protecting, and perpetuating the games according to the founding principles Waddell and others had set forth. In June 1990, just a few months prior to the third Games, the FGG announces that Gay Games IV would be held in New York City.

The Vancouver Games attracted even more athletes and saw more than a six-fold increase in budget from the previous Games. The Tom Waddell Award for Outstanding Games Participation was also inaugurated during opening ceremonies. The city of Vancouver celebrated the Games wholeheartedly, offering athletes free use of public transportation and amassing the city's largest-ever volunteer effort. It was here that the Gay Games became a world-class event.

But political issues continued to affect the Games as the FGG formally requested to then-President George Bush that U.S. immigration policies denying entrance to the HIV-infected be overturned. The FGG also completed registration process for the "Gay Games" name and logomark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, though attorneys for the USOC countered by filing a petition it cancel this registration.

Fed up with the persecution, the FGG contacted Dr. Harvey Schiller, the USOC executive director, to resolve the matter. The meeting resulted in the USOC directing their attorneys to withdraw the petition opposing the Gay Games trademark. Finally, in January 1992, the top brass of both organizations met to discuss ways they could work together instead of against each other, and by 1993 the USOC (finally) had a change of heart, waiving the legal fees against Tom Waddell's estate, even inviting the federation's executive committee to meet with the USOC in Colorado Springs to discuss matters of mutual interest to both parties.

In November of 1993, the FGG met with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Justice Department's Immigration and Naturalization Service to request "designated event" status for Gay Games IV, thus allowing all HIV-positive international Games participants to enter the U.S. without having to file special applications or visas. Amidst this political parrying, the FGG received bids from Sydney, Atlanta, and Amsterdam for hosting Gay Games V in 1998.

Four months after their initial meeting with the Washington power brokers, the FGG received the word that Attorney General Janet Reno would sign the "blanket waiver" for Gay Games IV.

The Gay Games were on a roll. Justice, it appeared at last, was on the FGG's side. And in 1994, the USOC honored the newly outed multiple Olympic Medalist Greg Louganis. In a savvy display of poetic justice, Louganis dedicated the award to Tom Waddell. Then, as if to signify their turning over a new leaf, the USOC handbook cited Gay Games IV as one of 1994's noteworthy events.

Gay Games IV became one of the largest sporting events in the world.

By creating a safe and accepting environment, the Gay Games still offers those present a freedom to express themselves openly, to experience camaraderie and validation of sport, culture, and art. Through the Games, stereotypes are challenged and barriers broken down, both within the alternatively oriented community and between that community and the world at large. This opportunity to create positive change and, in Waddell's vision, "educate people through sport in the spirit of better understanding," was gaining momentum and validation globally.

As it approaches the next millenium, the FGG continues to flex its muscle to that end, giving realization to Waddell's claim that "Games can change the world."

## Humor

# Pat Robertson and the Weather Channel

## My first activist gesture was breaking a window in Pat Robertson's house.

This wasn't exactly Queer Nation, though. It was a newspaper route, and I was an 11-year-old hellraiser with less than perfect aim. Depending on which end of the horse you're looking at, activism is either cultural vandalism or beautification.

Now it seems that Miss Robertson is in cahoots with Mother Nature to serve up fierce storms on all the unwitting queers who head down to Orlando for Gay days: divine wrath for a weekend of spinning teacups and lispig boys in badly ventilated Chip and Dale costumes.

Pat Robertson and I graduated from the same high school in Lexington, Virginia. His father, state senator Willie Robertson, got my father an appointment at West Point. What with all of Pat's horses, it might be that we're both into chaps. The similarities end there.

I'm not one to gossip, but if you ever have the chance to play bridge in Lexington, you might learn a few of the items on Pat Robertson's own private Leviticus rap sheet. Some ladies who lunch will swear on a stack of scorecards that a certain first child was conceived—gasp!—out of wedlock.

When I first moved to Virginia Beach, there were monthly hurricane warnings. My then-boyfriend and I would frantically move all of the porch furniture into the garage. We taped windows and tied branches. Little did we know that we had nothing to worry about. A scant distance away, Pat was busy prayerfully deflecting those pesky acts of God. This is actually comforting to me, since my therapist's office is half a mile from the Christian Coalition, the right wing's answer to the Pentagon. At

least I know a twister will never interrupt my 50 minutes.

Pat's meteorological resume includes praying away Hurricane Gloria in 1985 and Hurricane Felix in 1995. Pat even sent Gloria up the coast to Fire Island, much to the chagrin of Calvin Klein, whose home was trashed. Pat's prayers, to be sure, aren't of the "Have mercy on humanity" variety. They are pure "Please, God, steer clear of my phat mansion, horse farm, and corporate empire." The rest of the world be damned, God. Just save my crib. Pat

**Pat's prayers, to be sure, aren't of the "Have mercy on humanity" variety. They are pure "Please, God, steer clear of my phat mansion, horse farm, and corporate empire." The rest of the world be damned, God. Just save my crib.**

has made a career of shaking hands, kissing babies, and rerouting natural disasters to South Carolina. As if South Carolina needed more problems.

It is worth noting that Pat is one of the state's only TV meteorologists who hasn't been busted for soliciting an undercover vice cop in a public bathroom. But maybe those brave Lexington bridge ladies have the dish on that, too.

Pat added that he had obtained footage of last year's gay days which were "too graphic to show." I struggle to imagine what could be so shocking. An orgy at Space Mountain? People dropping acid before Mr. Toad's Wild Ride? I suspect that the most shocking thing about Gay Days is a hand-holding couple in "Nobody Knows I'm Gay" shirts who, after two years of strict monogamy, catch each other's sidelong glances at the passing throngs of men.

Truth be told, I was elated when I heard about Pat becoming a Weather Girl. Even *Hard Copy* made fun of him. When bigots show their asses like this, it's up to queers to parlay it into something usable. Days

after Pat's storm warning, enterprising Norfolk, Virginia queers were hawking shirts at their pride festival saying, "Don't mess with me, or I'll hit you with a comet!"

Outrageous acts of "faith" can turn even conservatives into eye-rolling cynics. One Christmas, when my born-again brother insisted that we have a candle-loaded sheet cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, even some of my most God-fearing relatives were over it. The more Pat does to portray himself as a sideshow freak, the better. This latest

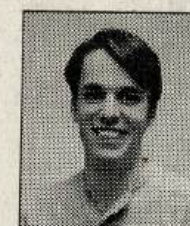
media foray places him squarely in Fred "God Hates Fags" Phelps territory.

Queer people of faith have an opportunity to take the high road here. Pat's transformation into Elijah the prophet, who made the sun stand still, is the ultimate act of human

arrogance. Even Jesus used his control over nature sparingly, with tasteful photo opportunities like withering fig trees and walking on water. Jesus calmed a storm; he certainly never put in a request for one.

It makes you wonder what the Christian Coalition is doing at its board meetings. Given the substantial drop in the Evil Empire's budget, perhaps they're doing more rainmaking than fund-raising. Imagine power lunches to steer tornadoes and group conference calls to divert cold fronts from Promise Keepers gatherings.

Always one to put up or shut up, I issue this memo to Miss Pat Robertson: touch my Mouseketeers with inclement weather and you'll rue the day. My voodoo doll is full of black pins.



Kirk Read is the editor at Our Own, Virginia's statewide LGBT newspaper. He can be reached at [KirkRead@aol.com](mailto:KirkRead@aol.com)



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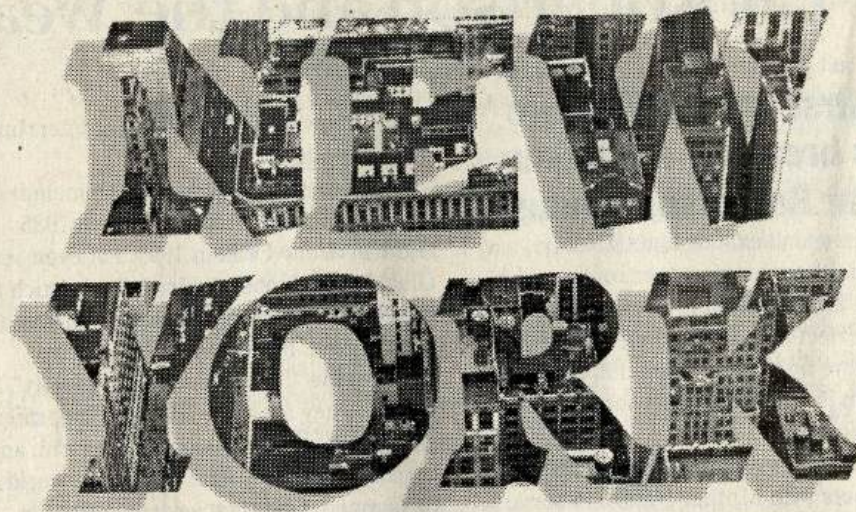
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## TravelOut

by Sandra Wilkins



## NEW YORK CITY

### The Ultimate LOVE/HATE Relationship

When I was 16 I traveled with my dad to Tripoli, Libya, via New York City and Rome. Our stop in New York involved the ubiquitous half-day Gray Line tour, the Staten Island ferry, the Empire State Building, and the Taft Hotel, very near Broadway on the west side, but now long gone. I thought it was a very big and scary place. Then at 23, I moved to London and stayed five years before coming home to Texas and starting my travel industry career. Though I knew and loved London, I never got to really "know" New York until I settled in Houston and started working for ALIA, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which had its North American headquarters on Fifth Avenue in New York City. My job took me to NYC a couple of times a month for a couple of years, and I could not believe any place on earth would excite, enchant, interest, frighten, and welcome me more than London, but New York did all those things and more.

Twenty years later, it still does. As fate would have it, three of my life's best friends live in New York (Dan, Herb, and my sister Jamie). Work has taken me to the Big Apple many times, pleasure has

taken me several times, naughty sexual encounters three times, and one joyous opportunity of participating in the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and Gay Games IV in June 1994. Jamie's move to New York was the ultimate reason to keep this affair with the city.

But for the past few years, I've really disliked so many things about New York. It is not a place for the feint of heart, the timid, the searching, nor the lonely. It is big beyond your wildest imagination; it is dirty regardless of how "less dirty" it is under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's regime. Show me one street in all of New York where you can walk 50 yards without having to step around, or more likely, step in dog crap, and I'm talking good neighborhoods here!

It is intimidating; you walk so much because you can't figure out how or are afraid to use the subways and buses. Then when you finally learn to hail a taxi, the driver's either off duty or you're stuck in cross-town traffic for an hour with the meter ticking. It's exhausting and expensive. During a recent visit with Jamie, I toiled with 34 pounds of dirty clothes in a basket with wheels for nine

long blocks in pouring rain, just to pay someone \$27 to wash, dry, and fold panties, towels, and T-shirts.

But guess what? There is no place like New York on this or any other planet. So, I think I'll just always be the kind of person who visits New York, overlooks the negatives, and revels in the endless glories of this extraordinary city.

Let me give you a fabulous four days in New York, Sandra style:

First, use your frequent flyer miles, if at all possible, and upgrade to first class from Houston to Newark. Forget LaGuardia—trust me, fly in to Newark. Lower yourself and take the \$9 shuttle into Midtown. (The shuttle runs every 15 minutes and will save you a bundle since it's "prix fixe" into the city.) Then grab a cab to your hotel. Stay at the Paramount or the Royalton, if you can afford it (West side shi shi makes you feel just like who you want to be, especially at \$220+ a night). If these darlings won't work, then shoot for the trusty Pickwick Arms, a well-located budget hotel that's been around 50 or more years, offering clean rooms with private bathrooms starting at \$55 single, and they have a roof garden to boot!

Next, you make darn sure your tickets for the Joyce Theatre are in your coat or pants pocket, purse, or backpack, then make your way by subway to the 14th Street Station. The Joyce is New York's premier venue for dance performances, and you will never see more exciting, innovative drop-dead dancing than you do there. At \$35 per ticket, it's also quite a bargain compared to Broadway ticket prices. During my recent visit I was treated to the best dance performance by the Ballet Tech Company. Acclaimed by *The Washington Times* as "one of the nation's most inventive choreographers and one who has long sought to invigorate the art of ballet," Eliot Feld has built a company with a current take on the sensibility that is ballet. There's not a bad seat in this small theater, and the lighting, music, and originality of performances is awe-inspiring. Ballet Tech will be performing Aug. 3-15, every evening except Sundays at 8 p.m.

Either before or after the Joyce experience, you must visit the restaurant/bar Le Singe Vert (the green snake). Located at 160 Seventh Ave, between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets, where the left bank meets Chelsea, the restaurant is a "jumpin' neighborhood French bistro." And, don't forget the jazz combos that play for free on the weekends... eclectic beatnik types playing piano, bass, and drums for an admiring crowd. Reasonably priced and tons of fun, the restaurant offers the best martinis in town.

Another fine restaurant is the L'Ecole of the French Culinary Institute. Students cook for patrons as part of their rigorous training at the culinary school, where as the Zagat guide says, "enjoy champagne style at ginger ale prices." The restaurant is one of NYC's best-kept secrets because you can get a prix fixe lunch for \$17.99 and dinner for \$24.99, which would cost at least twice that amount at any other restaurant preparing such sumptuous fare. Open Monday-Saturday, lunch is served from 12-1:45 p.m. and dinner from 6-9:30 p.m.

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Let me recommend two more restaurants, which are polar opposites in atmosphere. First is Gotham Bar and Grill, located in East Greenwich Village at 12 East 12th St. (call 212-620-4020 for reservations). In its 11th year, this beautiful grill was nominated as Best Restaurant in the Nation by the James Beard Foundation in 1997. It is the only New York restaurant to be awarded three stars in four consecutive years by the *New York Times*. And guess what? You can afford to dine here ... at least for lunch, when it features the Gotham Prix Fixe Luncheon for \$19.96! This is an incredibly beautiful restaurant: very modern, fantastic lighting and other fixtures, architectural touches galore, a bar that is oh-so-elegant, and very friendly wait staff. During my recent visit I was walking in as Kelsey Grammer was walking out. Shortly after my sis and I were seated, who walks up to be seated at an adjacent table? Meryl Streep and a very handsome young man. I swear. Of course we gawked, but ever so discreetly.

**A**cross town, on the West Side, lives another major contribution to New York's endless dining experiences: The Chelsea Bistro & Bar at 358 West 23rd St., between Eighth and Ninth avenues (call 212-727-2026 for reservations). Walking into the Gotham is like entering the 21st century. Walking into the Chelsea Bistro, where brass railings, rich tapestry banquettes, and working fireplaces remind you of a more genteel and slower paced era, you're thrown back to the 19th century. This spot was awarded "Best Bistro in New York," and provides its guests with serious cooking and quality service. Perhaps one of the best dishes I've ever eaten was its signature goat-cheese tart with caramelized onions and golden pastry. Warm, cozy, friendly and around \$30 per person for dinner.

Now you'll want to explore some of New York's famous neighborhoods: Greenwich Village, home to Christopher Street and Stonewall; SoHo, a trendy historic district with the greatest concentration of cast-iron architecture in the United States and vibrant home to art galleries, restaurants, and shops; Chinatown; and Little Italy. Shopping will take some time as you browse along Fifth Avenue, exploring Bloomingdales and Bergdorf Goodman. And check out the bargains on Orchard Street, where you can purchase Mont Blanc's for 60 percent off retail!

Just around the corner from Bergdorf's, located at Fifth Avenue and Central Park South, is the famous Plaza Hotel, a legend from the moment it opened in 1907. Even on a budget you can walk through the public areas and afford one glass of wine in the famous Oak Room and Oak Bar.

Step across the street from the Plaza and you are in Central Park, all 840 acres of it. This is one of New York's best "people watching" haunts, and it's free! If you're a true cornball, then by all means do ride one of the horsedrawn carriages through the park; they're delightful.

You'll need to get around in an efficient manner to see and do all these things. Taxis are plentiful, but the drivers these days don't seem to know their way around too well, don't speak much

English, and are often surly and rude. Of course this is a New York tradition, and there will be times when a taxi is a must, but because of the horrendous traffic congestion, you can eat up \$20 in no time and only go 10 blocks.

**B**uck up and ride—no, let us say *experience* New York's subway system. It's a lot cleaner and quite safer these days since Giuliani took the rein as mayor. It is also one of the city's best bargains, and it takes you anywhere you want to be ... Uptown, downtown, East Side, West Side, Brooklyn, Queens, or the Bronx. Each ride costs a mere \$1.50, regardless of distance; it's cheap and efficient. The best thing to do is purchase a MetroCard worth \$5 or \$10 of rides. Each time you enter a station, just swipe your card and bingo, you're on the way. When you run out of rides, just present your card with more cash, and it gets re-filled. To do Staten Island and gaze at the Statue of Liberty, you'll have to ride the ferry. Keep that one on the back burner, you'll have more important things to do.

The subway is essential for your visit to the remarkable New York Botanical Gardens, located way north in the Bronx at 200th Street and Southern Avenue. What a glorious place, getting my vote as best botanical garden, even more so than the famous Kew Gardens in London. Set on a spectacular 250-acre site, it boasts 28 specialty gardens, plant collections, and beautiful natural landscapes. One collection is "A World of Plants" in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory where tropical,



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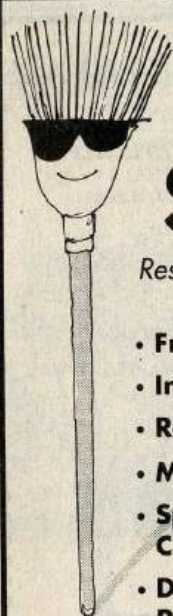
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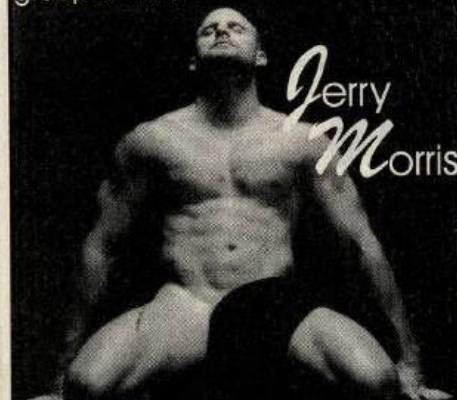
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subtropical, and desert plants are featured. There's also "Orchid Terrarium" where specimens from over 5,500 orchid plants are exhibited to the total delight of the visitor.

Another big chunk of a day should be allotted for visits to New York's amazing museums. Like with any other world-class city, don't try to do them all; be selective, do your homework, and choose your museums according to your personal interests and tastes. The Metropolitan (The Met) is outrageous, huge, and complex; this museum spans the history of world art ... a pretty big chunk to bite off right there! I must say that if for no other reason, pop into The Met to see the huge Tiffany glass display and the reconstructed living room of the Francis W. Little Residence designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. And speaking of Wright, don't leave the Guggenheim Museum off your list, if only to gaze at the famous architect's landmark building with its spiral design showing off a fabulous collection of Impressionist and modern masterpieces.

I love the MoMa (Museum of Modern Art); it's much smaller and easier to manage than The Met, and more to my tastes than most of those items housed there. At the MoMa you can see a delightful melange of paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints, industrial and graphic

design from the 1880s to the present. Another small and wonderful museum is the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, a branch of the Smithsonian Institution. In 1996 the museum mounted an exhibit dealing entirely with the importance of graphic design transmitting information to the eye and the incredible explosion of creativity in all forms of visual communication, from the printed page to the Internet. Check out [www.si.edu/mixingmessages](http://www.si.edu/mixingmessages) on the Web for details about this exhibit.

Finally, two useful addresses for your first day in town:

NYC Lesbian & Gay Community Service Center, Greenwich Village, 208 West 13th, between Seventh and Eighth avenues. Open daily 9 a.m.-10 p.m.

New York Convention & Visitor's Bureau, 810 Seventh Ave. Call 212-484-1200 or 800-NYCVISIT for visitor information, or visit [www.nycvisit.com](http://www.nycvisit.com) on the Web.

Ah, NEW YORK. It's a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there!



*Sandra Wilkins is the owner of The Travel Partnership in Houston. Her e-mail address is [outtravel@aol.com](mailto:outtravel@aol.com).*

## Out of Town

by Andrew Collins

### Minneapolis/St. Paul by Day

To bastardize an old Oscar Wilde saying, Minneapolis and St. Paul are two cities divided by a common river. Unfairly lumped together by most folks as the seemingly identical Twin Cities, these two vibrant and gay-friendly getaways have their own distinctive charms. Observers sometimes note that St. Paul shares a close kinship with the nearest major city to the east, Chicago, while Minneapolis captures the

spirit and aesthetic of the nearest major city to the west (albeit at 1,800 miles away), Seattle.

Despite having been developed as a rough but productive mill town, Minneapolis is today the flashier and more cosmopolitan of the two. Its residents tend to dress up before heading out to a show (only New York City has more theater seats per capita), party in large numbers at the countless

Warehouse District nightclubs, and dine in trendy see-and-be-seen restaurants. Here you'll find the Twin Cities' pro sports teams, the two best art museums, and the region's fanciest window shopping. The gay scene is male-dominated and focuses largely on cruises clubs and fashionable coffeehouses, although Minneapolis queers are less attitudy than most.

The money that was generated by Minneapolis' early industrial prosperity typically found its way into the banks and white-collar concerns of St. Paul, a city that has long maintained a subdued old-money air. Despite this reputation, the city today possesses a comfortable, middle-class, almost gritty character. Note the abundance of close-knit low-keyed residential neighborhoods dominated by neatly preserved red-brick row houses and subdivided Victorian mansions. Nesting lesbians and lesser numbers of nesting gay men have long been attracted to the city's community spirit and manageable pace, but visitors may find less to see and do here than in Minneapolis.

Downtown Minneapolis has a towering modern skyline, the highlights of which are gay über-architect Philip Johnson's masterful 57-story IDS Building and the elegant 1929 Foshay Tower, whose 32nd-floor observation deck is open to the public. Linking this structure to buildings on the 50-plus surrounding downtown blocks is a vast network of second-story interior skyways. If you wonder why, on blustery winter days, you see so few pedestrians dashing along downtown's icy streets, it's because most folks remain within these climate-controlled glass tubes.

The one street that does typically buzz with colorful street life, especially in warm weather, is Nicollet Mall, a 12-block pedestrian-and-bus mall lined with park benches, trees, sculptures, and ritzy shopping centers. Also great for wandering is the nearby Warehouse Historic District, most of whose 150 buildings contain shops, restaurants, nightclubs, and about a third of the city's 100 art galleries.

Hennepin Avenue leads southwest from downtown to modest but inviting Loring Park, a seeming slice of small-town America whose beloved pond offers back an almost jarring reflection of gleaming skyscrapers. Here a mix of queers, vagrants, yuppies, and families wander around the grassy, minimally landscaped shores, feeding ducks and enjoying the scenery. It's where Mary Richards seems to thank the stars for life in Minneapolis during the opening credits of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and where the gay pride parade commences each year.

Due west of the park begins Lowry Hill, a mixed-income and fairly gay and artsy residential neighborhood that's home to the country's largest regional theater, the Guthrie, and one of the top-10 most-visited art museums in the nation, the contemporary Walker Art Center. The city's GenX alternative scene centers on nearby Uptown, a once-dowdy neighborhood whose rows of brownstones are rented out mostly to twentysomethings with a progressive bent and moderate-to-low incomes.

Midway between Uptown and downtown is the tremendous Minneapolis Institute of Arts, which is housed in a 1915 Beaux Arts building designed by the firm of McKim, Mead, and White. The 80,000-piece collection has works by such diverse masters as Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe, Grant Wood, Rembrandt, and Titian.

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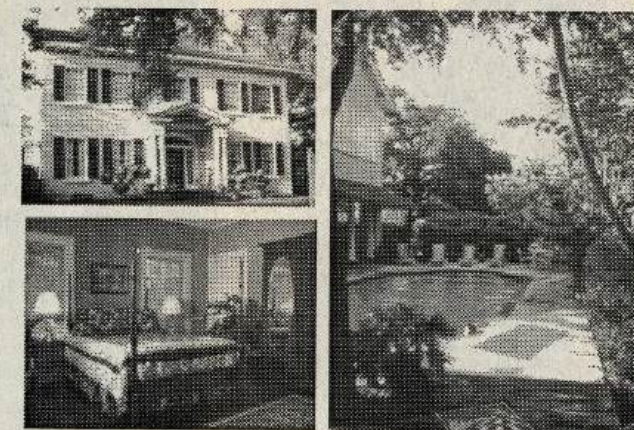
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St. Paul is east of Minneapolis, 10 miles as the crow flies and about 30 minutes by car. The city's workaday downtown is anchored by the intersection of North Robert and 7th streets. From here it's about a 10-minute walk to the Science Museum of Minnesota, which has fine exhibits on paleontology, biology, and anthropology. The museum is close to the large park anchored by the Cass Gilbert-designed Minnesota State Capitol, a turn-of-

the-century structure rife with domes, arches, columns, and murals.

The most engaging downtown attraction is the Minnesota History Center, whose exhaustive collection of memorabilia and artifacts captures the region's past, from a replica of an early sod house to an actual costume worn by Prince in *Purple Rain*. A short walk from here is the Minnesota Museum of American Art, housed inside the neo-Romanesque Landmark Center, which looms over gracious Rice Park.

Southeastern St. Paul, down near the river and known as the Lowertown Historic District, is ideal for strolling. This 17-block tract of former warehouses and industrial concerns bears a certain resemblance to

Minneapolis' Warehouse District. A key landmark is Depot Place, a 1920s rail depot that now houses restaurants and boutiques. Nearby is the engaging St. Paul Farmers' Market, which is held on weekend mornings.

While traveling between the Twin Cities, consider a detour to Bloomington, home to what some hail as one of America's greatest man-made wonders, the Mall of America. This hulking retail shrine to middle-brow consumerism contains every imaginable chain store known to man. It is by far the most-visited attraction in the northern Midwest.

Andrew Collins recently authored the greatly 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](mailto:gayfodors@aol.com). For more *Out of Town*, visit [www.gay.net](http://www.gay.net).

## LITTLE BLACK BOOK

(Minneapolis' and St. Paul's area code is 612)

**Depot Place** (214 E. 4th St., St. Paul).

**Foshay Tower** (821 Marquette Ave. S, Minneapolis, 341-2522).

**Greater Minneapolis Convention & Visitors Center** (348-7000, website [www.minneapolis.org](http://www.minneapolis.org)).

**The Guthrie Theater** (725 Vineland Pl., Minneapolis, 377-2224).

**IDS Building** (777 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis).

**Mall of America** (60 E. Broadway, I-494 at 24th Ave., Bloomington, 883-8800).

**Minneapolis Institute of Arts** (2400 3rd Ave. S, Minneapolis, 870-3131).

**Minnesota History Center** (345 Kellogg Blvd. W, St. Paul, 296-6126).

**Minnesota Museum of American Art** (75 W. 5th St., 2nd floor of the Landmark Center, St. Paul, 292-4380).

**Minnesota State Capitol** (Aurora and Constitution Aves., St. Paul, 297-3521).

**Science Museum of Minnesota** (30 E. 10th St., St. Paul, 221-9488).

**St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau** (297-6985 or 800/627-6101).

**St. Paul Farmer's Market** (290 E. 5th St., St. Paul, 227-6856).

**Walker Art Center** (Vineland Pl. at Lyndale Ave. S, Minneapolis, 375-7622).

## Vickie Victorious

continued from page 45

hood fights, as kids are prone to do. I heard one of my kids scream out, 'My mom can lick your mom.' *Hey! Watch what you're saying! Don't go making promises you can't keep! I don't even like his mom!*"

Shaw's appearance at last year's Empower event gave Shaw an invaluable opportunity. While local lesbian icon Nancy Ford was given the slot right before Judy Tenuta, Shaw was "opening" for the entire venue, placed right before the Gay Comedy Jam. Perhaps it was the delightful surprise of having a credible opening act, maybe it was the bright, crisp, witty new material, but Shaw was the one who people were talking about the next week. Gay men were grilling lesbians on who this woman was, where did she perform, how come you didn't tell us about her sooner? Shaw's observations on the trials of modern technology—cell phones, beepers, caller ID, \*69—hit a universal note for everyone, which most of her comedy does. And her gay schtick is more dead-on than most, blooming with terrific word play and sequencing that recalls the best of the blue-collar Brett Butlers and early Rosie O'Donnells.

"I'm a Texan by birth. I'm a lesbian by

grace," explains Shaw on her recent CD *You're funny?—My Mom*. "And if y'all see Grace, tell her I said hi."

Her intimate knowledge of Texas pride (and prejudice) has allowed her to mine rich veins of comedic gold. Vidor, Walmart, and Southern Baptists pop up in queer cultural references like so many bad (but very funny) weeds in her garden of comic delights. Parenting, teenagers, and Barbies give immediate accessibility to both straights and gays alike. She's still amazed that more lesbians didn't play with Barbies which, when you think about it, is a real valid query.

It was thinking such as this that gave her such grief when she realized she was gay.

"I may be attracted to women, but I can't be a lesbian," recalls Shaw. "I like Laura Ashley polished cottons. And I throw like a girl! And I cry for no reason. I'm just a big old crybaby."

Then, the undeniable revelation.

"Oh my God," she laments. "I'm a gay man. With heterosexual tendencies. Trapped in a woman's body. It was frightening."

Get your tickets now for the August 9th show with Vickie Shaw and Roxanna Ward at The Laff Stop. Tickets available at The Laff Stop, Lobo Bookstore, and Tracy's Retreat.

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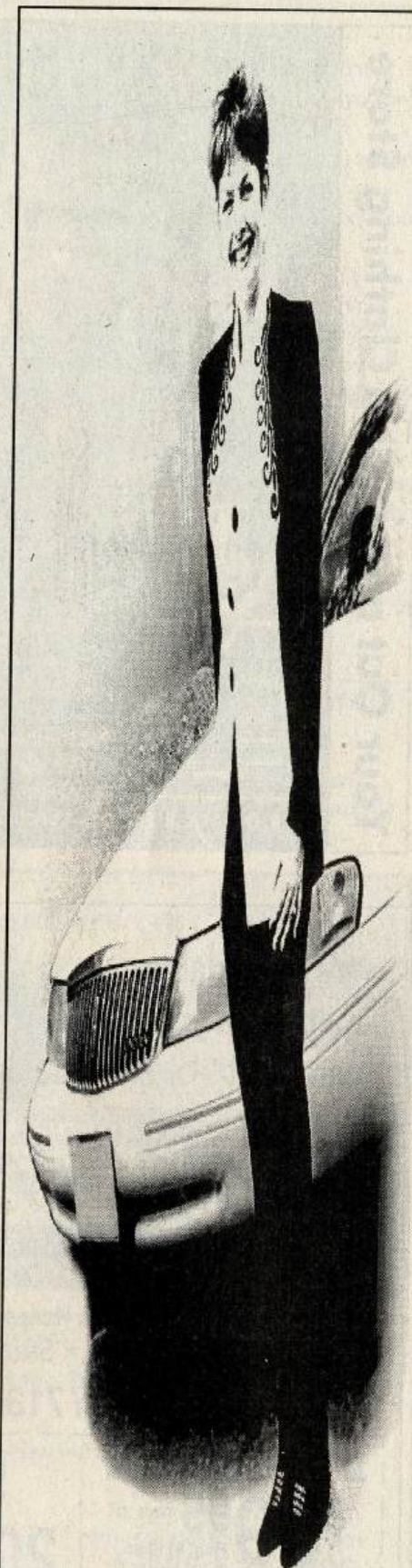
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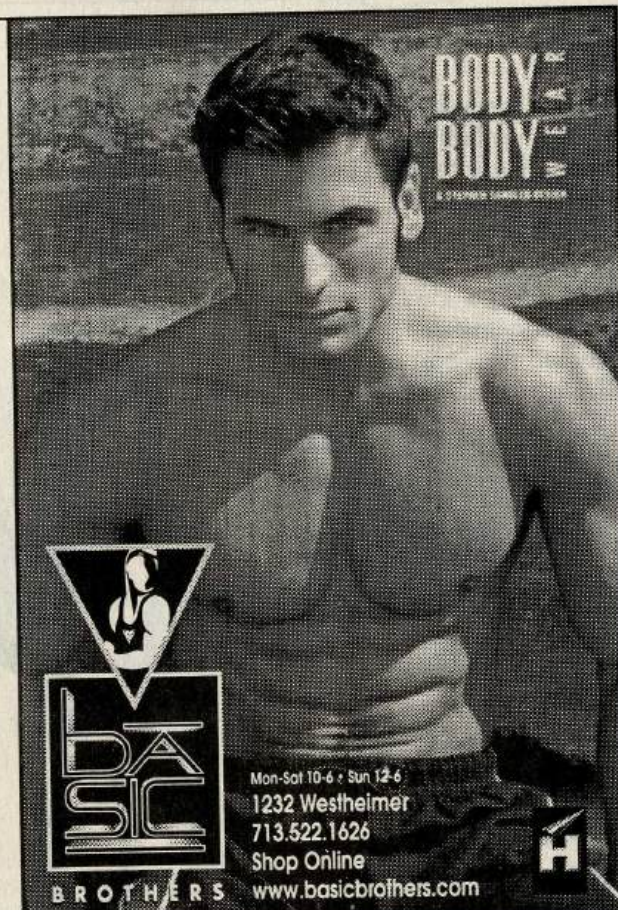
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## WorkOut

by John-Aaron

### The Good Habit of Good Health

*How regular exercise can change your body ... and your health.*

**W**e've heard it for decades. Exercise is good for your health and can have a strong influence on how you look and feel. However, the type of exercise activities you choose will determine whether you lose fat, gain muscle, or do a bit of both. To a certain extent, you can influence your results by designing an exercise program that accomplishes specific goals.

The human body is a combination of fat and lean body mass (muscle, bone, connective tissues, and body fluids). The percentage of a person's weight which is fat is referred to as the "body fat percentage." For example, if a person weighs 150 pounds, and 30 pounds of it resides as fat, then that person has a 20-percent body fat measurement. The remaining 120 pounds is lean body mass.

In terms relative to overall health, it has been recommended that women maintain a body fat percentage that does not exceed 30 percent of their total body weight. For men, this percentage is a bit lower, 20 percent. Although many people still rely on the scale to tell them how "well" they are doing, body composition concentrates on the numbers that have true relevance as far as health risk factors are concerned.

Aerobic exercise is still considered the most effective method of reducing body fat while maintaining lean body mass. Aerobic exercises are low to moderate intensity exercises that move the muscles of your lower body for extended periods of time, and make your heart beat faster. Performed three to five times a week for 30 to 60 minutes at a time, aerobic exercise will reduce your body fat percentages. But, consistency and a low-fat diet are essential.

For an all-around exercise program, strengthening exercises are also included to tone muscles. The most effective way to increase muscle strength is to overload the muscle on a regular basis through weight training or calisthenics. Weight training utilizes either free weights (barbells, dumbbells, bands, etc.) or machines (Nautilus, Keiser, Cybex, etc.) to work the muscles. Calisthenic exercises, such as sit-ups, push-ups, and leg lifts, increase muscular strength and endurance by challenging muscles to lift the weight of certain body parts. Many people are also incorporating the use of hand-held and ankle weights to increase resistance. Depending on your goals, you may choose to include both aerobic activities and muscle strengthening activities in your weekly workouts.

#### Body "Type" Casting

The pleasure of exercise often eludes people who begin with unrealistic expectations. They believe that if they exercise hard

enough, they can sculpt their flesh into the body of their dreams. Remember, our bodies can change. However, the capacity for what can be built will govern the unique possibilities that our bodies possess. Exercise itself will not change our genetic makeup.

Body "types" are determined by genetic inheritance, and there are three characteristic body types. However, most bodies are a combination of all three, with a greater tendency toward one type:

- Ectomorphs are relatively thin and linear.
- Endomorphs are what would be considered rounder and voluptuous.
- Mesomorphs are more adept at building muscle.

Also, weight tends to be distributed in one of two ways: above the waist (apple-shaped) or below the waist onto the hips and buttocks (pear-shaped). Needless to say, most men are likely to be apples while most women tend to be pears. This may be due to the gender-specific fat needed to sustain having a child.

#### "What If I Hate to Exercise?"

Many people struggle with exercise. This fact is apparent when statistics show that many Americans simply do not exercise. Although knowing that exercise is good for them; this does not seem to be enough of a motivating factor to keep them moving for a lifetime.

We develop many of our feelings about exercise and begin to form our athletic personalities in our early years. You may remember being yelled at by the coach because you couldn't do a single chin-up or push-up; being made to feel less than adequate by your teammates because you weren't as adept as they were; or even worse, being the one nobody wanted on their team. Like you, as a child, I learned to associate exercise with embarrassment and humiliation and carried those negative feelings into adulthood. But, I can personally testify to the fact that exercise doesn't have to be something to fear. Why? Because, this time, *you* are in control.

Sometimes, when adults (who already feel like klutzes) finally consent to try a new activity, they tend to blame themselves for feeling awkward or not enjoying the

activity, but this can result from many different factors. Perhaps they just didn't enjoy the actual movement, didn't like sweating, or couldn't develop a good relationship with the instructor/trainer. In any case, this individual may or may not know what is really preventing them from becoming physically active. Until this problem is dealt with and overcome, he or she may never be able to exercise successfully.

With the media's emphasis on the importance of exercise, it's easy to get caught up in a narrow view of what exercise is and what "counts" as actual exercise. And, while some people say they hate to exercise, it's more likely that they have not yet been introduced to a form of exercise that they enjoy, or they may not have managed to let go of the insecurity and humiliation they felt as a child in gym class. Once those obstacles are removed, there is virtually nothing that can prevent you from enjoying the benefits of exercise.

However, bear in mind that if you choose to exercise with the singular focus of changing your genetic makeup and that

exercise will be the miracle solution that brings you eternal happiness, then you are leaving yourself wide open for great disappointment. The signal that you are on the right track is if you're enjoying the activities you are doing and feel good about yourself.

Exercise is simply a healthy lifestyle behavior that can help you become your physical best, while improving your health and thereby improving your quality of life. Enjoy the higher self-esteem and greater feeling of freedom that comes from exercise. And allow exercise to teach you how to appreciate your body and its unique qualities. Remember that there are at least a hundred ways that you can move your body. So—go dance, stroll, dash, play, and enjoy exercise on your own terms. After all, you *are* in control.

*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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## Health

# Get On or Get Off

by Paul Simmons

"Half measures availed us nothing."  
—Alcoholics Anonymous

A new study found what many have long suspected—a lot of us living with HIV are taking our medication haphazardly.

Johnston, Zabor and Associates conducted telephone interviews with 665 HIV-infected patients for a survey commissioned by DuPont Merck. Almost all of these patients said their physicians provided education on the importance of taking anti-HIV medication properly. Ninety-three percent said they believed that taking antivirals would lengthen their lives. Still, 26 percent of the survey participants acknowledged non-compliance on the prior day; 43 percent acknowledged non-compliance in the prior week.

The company conducting the survey also interviewed 100 HIV-treating physicians. All of these doctors were board certified in family practice, internal medicine, or infectious diseases. These physicians had practiced their specialty for a minimum of two years and were seeing at least 50 HIV-positive patients. The doctors estimated that 54 percent of their patients missed doses or were otherwise non-compliant with medication in the prior month.

People with HIV aren't the only ones who fail to take their medication properly. In any population requiring chronic therapy, you will find appreciable levels of non-compliance. For example, my best friend is afflicted with insulin-dependent diabetes, a potentially life-threatening condition. He's the most intelligent human being I've ever known, and he understands well the importance of controlling his condition. But he doesn't monitor his blood glucose regularly and he hasn't seen the doctor in at least two years. When his blood sugar gets low, he sweats and trembles and comes close to passing out. When it's high, he becomes irritable and irritating. Either way, he gets immediate feedback about his non-compliance.

But for non-compliant HIV-positive people, this isn't the case. In fact, we may actually feel better when skipping doses of medication, and skipping is evidently what a large number of us are doing. Among patients in the survey who acknowledged non-adherence, one-fourth of those who had been on therapy for more than 25 months admitted to taking "drug holidays" that, on average, lasted 14.4 days.

This suggests to me that many of us are consistently and willfully negligent in taking our drugs. Yet physicians, driven by a need to feel helpful, continue to prescribe therapy for the non-compliant. I support a different approach. Those of us who can't

"Among patients in the survey who acknowledged non-adherence, one-fourth of those who had been on therapy for more than 25 months admitted to taking "drug holidays" that, on average, lasted 14.4 days."

or won't take our medication properly should be withdrawn from therapy. Upon hearing me say this, one reviewer exclaimed, "Oh, Paul! You can't do that. You're withholding treatment." But intermittent, haphazard drug-taking isn't treatment: it's a public health menace. Suboptimal dosing is the fastest route to drug-resistant virus. And given the rate at which HIV-positive people are transmitting the virus to the uninfected—40,000 to 60,000 Americans will seroconvert this year—the breeding of drug-resistant HIV presents a clear and present danger to the public health.

Of course, some with drug-resistant HIV acquired it through no fault of their own. They may have been unfortunate enough to take the first, poor formulation of saquinavir. Or perhaps their physician prescribed a protease inhibitor without changing the background nucleoside therapy. Or perhaps their gut, damaged by years of viral replication, proved incapable of absorbing the drugs. We must press the pharmaceutical industry to develop second-generation therapies for these patients.

But many with drug-resistant HIV promoted it with erratic dosing. True, the drugs are toxic; the dosing regimens, hard to follow. Moreover, in the last two years, the drug industry and the seronegative activists who now dominate the circles of treatment advocacy have shoved the "hit hard, hit early" paradigm down our throats. We have not given HIV-positive people permission to say, "I'm not ready to take the drugs." But these considerations can only explain non-adherence; they do not excuse it. Some of us may need to wait until late in the course of disease—waiting even until opportunistic infections and tumors are imminent—before taking antivirals. Early, potent drug therapy isn't for everyone.

There is also the matter of cost. Privately insured patients who don't take their medicine properly contribute to higher premiums and increased healthcare costs for everyone. Patients at public facilities who don't take their medications properly are squandering other people's money.

When we fail a first regimen by reason of non-compliance, many physicians simply write us another prescription for different drugs, and the cycle repeats. This sounds harsh, I know. But for those who won't take their medication—every dose, every day—instead of a prescription for still more drugs, the doctor should give them one that reads simply, "Carpe diem."



Paul Simmons, a registered nurse board certified in HIV/AIDS, is the treatment information specialist at The Center for AIDS. You can send him e-mail at NursePaul@aol.com.

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# Calendar of Events

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

## July

**3 Silent Auction** for the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, Inc. at 7 pm @ Longfellows on Galveston Island, 2405 Postoffice. For more information call the coalition at 409/763-AIDS or Longfellows at 409/763-8800.

**3-5 Red, White & You** is a sizzling hot fourth of July weekend of events to benefit the fight against HIV/AIDS. It begins with the Blast-Off welcome/get acquainted party on Friday at the Turntable Club at Bayou Palace (tickets \$10). Saturday begins with a Big Bang celebration that will provide an open bar and 360-degree rooftop view of Houston's skyline & the fireworks display (tickets \$30 advance, \$35 door). The main event at the Edwin Homberger Center will follow for an evening of dancing with an open bar & a surprise guest performance (tickets \$35 advance, \$40 door). Lost in Space after-hours dancing, hosted by Rich's, will conclude the evening's events (tickets \$10 door). On Sunday, in- and out-of-town guests can sip champagne during the Mission Accomplished brunch/daylong dance party at Spy Club & Lounge (tickets \$25 advance, \$30 door). For more information, call the City

of Hope Hotline at 713/521-2910 or Body Positive at 713/524-2374.

**9-12 The Houston Summer Boat Show.** The entire marine industry will be represented in a panorama of exhibits, displays, & info from the world of boating, travel, fishing, hunting, & sport. Experts will be conducting free seminars daily on a variety of marine & recreational subjects. Admission \$6 adults, \$3 children under 12. Thurs. & Fri. 1-9 pm; Sat. 10 am-9 pm; Sun. 10 am-6 pm @ George R. Brown Convention Center. For more info: 713/526-6361.

**10-12 Train Me.** The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston (GLSH) will be conducting training for new phone staff volunteers. GLSH is a nonprofit information & referral service providing info on organizations, services, events, & matters of interest to & about the gay & lesbian community in the Houston area. It also provides info on AIDS, peer/active listening and, when necessary, crisis intervention. GLSH, staffed entirely by trained volunteers, also maintains the hate crimes/incidents hotline. Volunteer or more info: 713/529-3211 or leave message @ 713/529-9615.

**11 Space Center/Kemah Dinner.** The Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) is taking a trip to outer space—well, not exactly outer space, but out to

the Space Center in Clear Lake. Then they'll go down to Kemah to have a seafood dinner on the water. For more information, call 713/KAMP-OUT (526-7688).

**12 All Wet.** Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents' family activity is a pool party. For location and time, call 713/284-4939.

**15&29 Loky** is not all that low-key with their acoustic rock, folk, blues sound. Admission is free. 9 pm @ Café Artiste, 1601 W. Main, 713/528-3704.

**17 Brosure.** They've got a funky, bluesy, jazzy sound. Admission is free. 9 pm @ Café Artiste, 1601 W. Main, 713/528-3704.

**17-26 The Yeoman of the Guard** is the story of Colonel Fairfax, condemned to death in the Tower of London, and his daring escape, while stealing the heart of another man's intended. Presented by The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston. Tickets \$12-\$30. Cullen Center @ Wortham Theater Center, Smith St. at Texas Ave. More info: 713/238-2323.

**18 Gleeful Girls.** It's a live performance by the local acoustic duo, Girls With Guitars. Admission is free. 9 pm-midnight @ Café Artiste, 1601 W. Main, 713/528-3704.

**26&27 Tee Time.** The 1st Annual Trinity Life

Continued on page 64

## Sister Spit's Ramblin' Roadshow!

Two Vanloads of Bitchin' Bad-Ass Girl Poets, Performers, Trapeze Artists, & Show-Offs

**T**hey wreaked a gentle havoc on America in 1997, performing at nearly 30 venues on the first tour of its kind; and after surviving six weeks of greasy truckstop dining, tragic vehicular breakdowns, and phenomenal sold-out shows, the ladies of Sister Spit have hit the road in '98 with a brand-new lineup. There's Lynn Breedlove, notorious Tribe8 mouthpiece and spastic storyteller; working-class hero Ida Acton; hyperactive cultural critic Beth Lisick, author of *Monkey Girl*; The Turnbuckles, a dynamic duo of poetry and trapeze; the political wit of gut-wrenching performance artist Sanya Kahn; erotica, lovespells, and advice for daily living from Femmepres Shar Rednour; and bitter-sweet angst from rising star Shoshana bon Blanckensee. All this plus the exciting antics and verbal terrorism of the lovely hosts Sini Anderson and Michelle Tea. Saturday, **July 11, 8 p.m.** @ Templo, 5217 Feagan. Call 713/802-1828 for tickets/more information. Visit Sister Spit at <http://www.klever.org/spit>.



## Merchant Ivory Films HIGHLIGHTS

Each summer, Houston's Museum of Fine Arts spotlights a significant contributor to the film industry. This year, the museum features the works of Merchant Ivory, a trio of collaborators including producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory, and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. Most of their works focus on war, social classes, and clashes between the Indian culture and British society, but their adaptations of famous novels have garnered more recognition. For more information, call 713/639-7515 or visit the Web site at <http://www.mfah.org>.

• Julie Christie, who received an Oscar for her role in 1965's *Darling* and a Best Actress nomination for her role in last year's *Afterglow*, stars in *Heat and Dust* as a Westerner who visits present-day India to unravel the facts of an old family scandal involving her great aunt (Greta Scacchi). Based on Jhabvala's award-winning novel, the film shifts between the 1920s and the 1980s. Jhabvala received the Booker Prize, Great Britain's highest literary award in 1975, for the novel. Sun., July 12, 7:15 p.m.

• As a result of a chance meeting, the lives of two families intertwine in *Howards End*, which explores class divisions and cultural conflicts in 1910 England. Henry and Ruth Wilcox (Anthony Hopkins and Vanessa Redgrave) head an upper-class family that dominates a good society, usually scoffing at the working-class. This film of greed and betrayal turns when Henry introduces Margaret Schlegel (Emma Thompson), his second wife from a middle-class family. *Howards End* received nine Academy Award nominations with Thompson taking the Best Actress honor. Sat., July 18, 7:30 p.m.

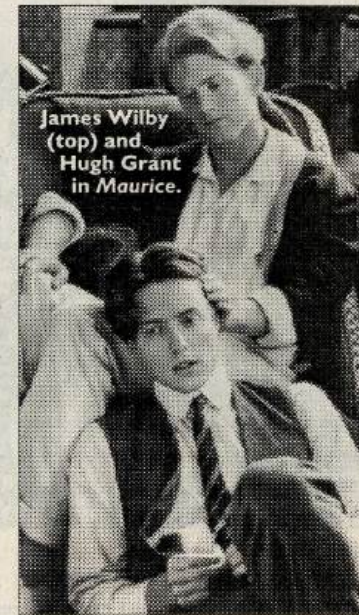
• Based on E.M. Foster's novel, *Maurice* honestly and engrossingly describes the relationship of two young Cambridge schoolmates as they come to terms with their sexual identities in an Edwardian-era society that dismisses homosexual love. James Wilby gives a compelling performance as Maurice, who is in love with Clive (Hugh Grant). Their friendship emotionally develops, but only Clive's fears keep the relationship from becoming physically intimate. Maurice decides to suppress his desire for Clive, and allows himself to be seduced by a gamekeeper (Rupert Graves) unaware of society's condemnation. The film illustrates how homosexual relationships deteriorate when outside forces become influential. Ben Kingsley, Denholm Elliott, and Simon Callow head a superb supporting cast. Wilby and Grant shared the Best Actor award at the Venice Film Festival. Sun., July 19, 5 p.m.

• Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson are reunited in *The Remains of the Day*, which follows a 20-year relationship between an unemotional English butler and a delightful head housekeeper. In a series of flashbacks, James Stevens (Hopkins) recounts his days of service for a self-important aristocrat and Nazi sympathizer (James Fox) while ignoring his feelings for Sally Keaton (Thompson). Jhabvala adapted the screenplay from the ironic novel by Kazuo Ishiguro. Also stars Christopher Reeve. Sun., July 19, 7:30 p.m.

• *Mr. and Mrs. Bridge* is both a powerful portrait of an ordinary midwestern marriage and a social commentary of partners living in quiet desperation. Paul Newman is a smug attorney, and Joanne Woodward stars as his meek, servant wife. Woodward was nominated for an Oscar for her portrayal of Mrs. Bridge and was named Best Actress by the New York Film Critics Circle. Sat., July 25, 9:30 p.m.

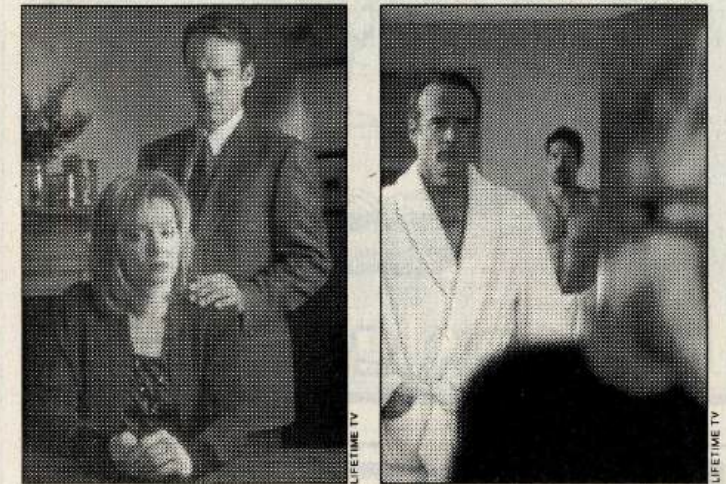
• Tama Janowitz provides an impressive screenplay about New York's hip artistry for *Slaves of New York*, an ironic and humorous interpretation of the city's Lower East Side subculture of clubs and galleries. Bernadette Peters plays Eleanor, an outsider trying to find a place in the social circles. Sun., July 26, 5 p.m.

—Melissa Valenzuela



## July Jewels

July's a Gem Month for Films



*Change of Heart*: (left) Elaine & Jim Marshall (Jean Smart & John Terry) are married, but Jim has a change of orientation (right) with Phil Summers (Patrick Kelly, background).

### CHANGE OF HEART

**E**laine Marshall (Jean Smart of *Designing Women* fame) has been in a conventional heterosexual marriage for 20 years. Or at least that's what she thought. Come to find out, her straight husband, Dr. Jim Marshall (John Terry), is not all that straight. Her happy marriage with two darling children and two beautiful houses—one in the city, the other in the country—suddenly turns into a major transitional life change when she discovers Jim is having an affair with another man, Phil Summers (Patrick Kelly). • With the present media bombardment of gay news, Elaine seems overly naive about gay issues, even though she counts a gay male couple as friends (my guess is that they're really acquaintances). But Elaine and Jim have apparently raised their children to be open about such issues: in one touching scene, their son is protective of a gay guy who is being verbally harassed. However, after his father tells him that he's gay, the son bashes that same guy. • *Change of Heart* is full of contradictions, but then so is life. And this TV movie admirably depicts one of many events that might happen when we come out of our closets. • Premieres Monday, **July 20**, at 8 p.m. on Lifetime Television.

—Blase DiStefano

### THE HANGING GARDEN

**S**weet William belongs to a dysfunctional family. If you're one of the fortunate few to not be privy to what this particular problem is like, you can enlighten yourself by seeing *The Hanging Garden*; if you are privy to it, you can identify with the main character's journey. Either way, you're in for a special treat. William (Ian Parsons as Little Sweet William, Troy Veinotte as Teenage Sweet William, and Chris Leavins as Adult Sweet William), after being away from his rural home for 10 years, returns for

Continued on page 66

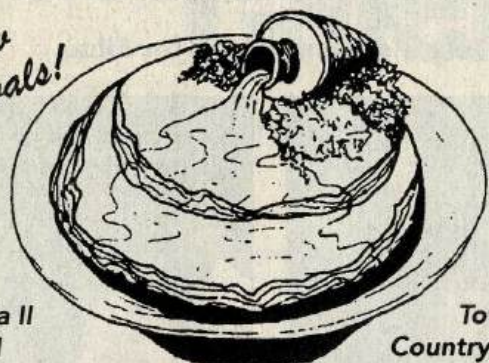
Sweet William (Chris Leavins) comes out in *The Hanging Garden*.





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## Tasty Tuna

The Texas Town of Tuna Goes to Galveston  
in Red, White & Tuna.

**T**hose eccentric, but loveable, citizens of Tuna, Texas, celebrate the 4th of July with a Tuna High School class reunion. *Red, White & Tuna* is the final installment of the "Tuna" trilogy, written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard, as it continues to invite audiences into the hearts and minds of those small-town characters who became so popular in *Greater Tuna* and *A Tuna Christmas*. Find out for yourself if romance blossomed for Bertha and Arles, who were left dancing at the end of *A Tuna Christmas*. And did Didi receive any "other worldly" communications from R.R.'s UFO? *Red, White & Tuna* has the answers to these important questions and much, much more! Tickets are \$10-\$26 Tuesdays & Wednesdays, and \$28-\$39 Thursdays-Sundays. **July 7-18 @ The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston.** For more information, call the box office at 1-800-821-1894.



Joe Sears (left) as Bertha Bumiller and Jaston Williams as Amber Wind-Chime.

Continued from page 62

Center Sports Legends Gala & Golf Classic features celebrity sports figures, such as Kevin Bass, Enos Cabell, Greg LeFleur, Dan Pastorini, & many others. They're gathering to help the Trinity Life Center of Care for Homeless and Abused Children. The Gala is Sunday, 6:30 pm @ Houstonian Hotel, 111 North Post Oak Lane; cost is \$75 per person. The Golf Classic is Monday, 9 am @ Kingwood Country Club, The Island Course; cost is \$150-\$250 per person. A celebrity sports figure will be included in each of the 4-person teams. Info/reservations: 713/688-3773 or 713/771-6200. **29&30 Lilith Fair** features Sarah McLachlan, Natalie Merchant, Bonnie Raitt & Erykah Badu on the main stage; Holly Cole & Ebba Forsberg on the second stage. July 29 show also features Meredith Brooks & Rebekah; the July 30 show also features Liz Phair & Diana King. Tickets (\$29-\$49) on sale at Ticketmaster outlets or charge by phone at 713/629-3700. Show starts 5:30 pm @ the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion.

**31-Aug.2 An Island Just for Us.** Just for Us, a social group for kids in 6th-12th grades with lesbian or gay parents, is taking a weekend trip to South Padre Island. For more information, call 713/284-4939.

## Planning Ahead Aug.&Oct.

**Aug 9 Two Girls: Very Blonde, Very Out, Very Funny.** "Vickie Shaw is to gay comedy what Mary Kay is to cosmetics... cheap, but looks good in the

dark." Roxanna Ward—"It's as if Bette Midler and Steve Allen had a love child." 7:30 pm @ The Laff Stop, 1952-A West Gray, 713/524-2333. Tickets available at The Laff Stop, Lobo Bookstore, & Tracy's Retreat.

**Aug 4-16 Chicago.** The razzle dazzle of the big trial... the transparent motives of big-talking, big-buck lawyers... the bribes and lies in the slammer... getting away with murder. It's just another day in *Chicago*, the musical that's taken Broadway by storm and features what may be Kander and Ebb's finest score. In a plot that could be ripped from today's tabloid headlines, *Chicago* tells the story of Roxie Hart, a murderess who manipulates the media and uses her notoriety to become a star. *Chicago* is the recipient of six 1997 Tony Awards, six Drama Desk Awards, five Outer Critics Circle Awards, an award from the New York Drama Critics' Circle, and the 1998 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$43.50-\$49.50) available at all Ticketmaster locations or charge by phone at 713/629-3700.

**Aug 11-16 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.** Continuing strong after 23 consecutive years, this annual event attracts 5,000-8,000 women for a weeklong event that includes 40 performances, 200 workshops, a film festival, crafts fair, & 650 secluded acres for camping. Scheduled artists include Indigo Girls, Alice Walker, Ferron, Marga Gomez, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie, and Rhiannon. Info: 616/757-4766, or www.michfest.com. Write to WWTMC, P.O. Box 22, Wailhalla, MI 49458.

**Oct 5-11 Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride** is a seven-day, 575-mile bicycling event expected to raise more than \$6 million. Forty-four agencies throughout Texas—eight of them in Houston—will benefit from the net proceeds of the ride. Texas AIDS Ride is a ride, not a race. You don't have to be an athlete. You just have to want to participate in an event that will challenge your body and mind. For more information, and to receive a brochure, call 713/521-RIDE.

## Theater

• **Agatha Christie Made Me Do It** is a mystery comedy with brains, according to director Michael Sullivan, who is staging Houston playwright Eddie Cope's thriller. It tells the story of a retired cop who tries to solve a convoluted murder by using one of Agatha Christie's books as a "how to" manual. Tickets \$8-\$10. Through July 18 @ The Actors Workshop, 1009 Chartres (behind the Convention Center), 713/236-1844.

• **Alternative Music** offers witty commentary on the singles scene and bar life in general. For this production all the theater seats are removed, and a bar is built, around which sit audience members and characters alike, side by side, interacting as the play unfolds. The bevy of unusual characters who frequent the bar include Matt, the bisexual on a mission to get laid; Penny, the 16-year-old with the phony ID; Al, the angry young faggot poet; Margo, the beauty queen; Todd, the straight man with a kinky secret; and Scooter, the lesbian bartender who serves up all the fun. Friday & Saturday evenings at 8 & 11 pm, throughout the month of June. Tickets \$15. For this special engagement, only 25 patrons may be accommodated for each performance. Reservations are strongly recommended. Discounts are available for groups interested in buying the house. The Little Room Downstairs Theater, 2326 Bissonnet, between Greenbriar & Kirby. Box Office: 713/523-0791.

• **Camelot.** The original Lancelot, Robert Goulet, returns to this legendary musical to recreate his 1993 Broadway triumph as King Arthur. The score includes "If Ever I Would Leave You," "How to Handle a Woman," "What Do the Simple Folk Do," and the title song, "Camelot." July 21-August 2 @ the Wortham's Brown Theater. For more info: 713/558-TUTS.

• **Freshman Year Sucks!** is written and performed by Rob Nash (12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family), who brings to life the Class of '85 at an all-boys parochial high school. From the *New York Post*: "Among the most memorable solo shows of recent years, the best scenes are not only entertaining, they ring true. Convincing and likable, portraying kids finding themselves, Nash is a writer/performer to watch." [Freshman Year Sucks!] captures without sentimentality or self-pity the difficulties of growing up." Through July 12 @ Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh. Tickets (\$12-\$15) are on sale at Stages' box office or by calling 713/52-STAGES.

• **Hay Fever** is literally a "blissful family comedy"—the show centers around the four members of the eccentric Bliss family, each of whom has invited a guest to their quiet country estate, unbeknownst to the others. While the guests trade bedrooms & sweethearts, the highly dramatic Bliss family bickers & backstabs over the breakfast table. What starts off as an idyllic summer vacation becomes a hilarious comedy of confusion. Through July 12 @ Main Street Theater, 4617 Montrose Blvd. For tickets/more info: 713/524-6706.

• **Hotter Than Houston** is a satirical comedy about a Californian who dies in 1978 and is damned to Houston where he is given the chance to earn his wings. The show features some original music as it traces Houston's recent history from the boom

Continued on page 67

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Just hanging around in *The Hanging Garden*: the teenage Sweet William (Troy Veinotte, left) and his friend Fletcher (Joel S. Keller).



Continued from page 63

his sister's wedding. Though he was an overweight and despondent teenager—and seriously in the closet—he has matured into an attractive and openly gay man. Fletcher (Joel S. Keller), the kid he fondled back then, now makes eyes at the new William. Oh, and did I mention that Fletcher is the guy who is wedding Williams' sister!? • *The Hanging Garden* is dark, but funny and full of hope. Thom Fitzgerald, the film's writer, director, and producer, says, "In my heart I created *The Hanging Garden* to put out the message to unhappy people that no matter how much you hate your life and yourself in the current moment, it is possible to become the person you want to be, so hang in there." He goes on to say, "In my head I approached the film structurally, hoping to create both a slice-of-life drama and a surrealist fantasy. The structuralist elements, from the rigid use of color and line to the pervasive flower metaphor, suggest that even the most ordinary lives also operate on a poetic level. Depending on how you look at them, these characters live in the past, present, and future simultaneously. I think we all do." Amen. • *The Hanging Garden* is scheduled to start **July 10** at Landmark's Greenway Theatre. —BD

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Continued from page 65

years to the present. \$14. Through August 31 @ Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, 713/522-7722.

• **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** tells the story of the Jewish patriarch Jacob's favorite son, Joseph (David Osmond), a dreamer sold into slavery in Egypt by his 11 jealous brothers (the rest of The Osmond 2nd Generation) when their father gives him a fabulous coat of many colors. Strengthened by his adversity and because of his ability to interpret dreams, Joseph becomes the Pharaoh's right-hand man, which leads to a reunion with his family and forgiveness of his brothers. Presented by Theatre Under The Stars, through July 12 @ Wortham's Brown Theatre. To charge tickets: Admissions Network at 1-800-678-5440. TUTS' box office: Corporate Plaza One, 2600 Southwest Fwy off Kirby Dr. For other outlet locations: 1-888-FIND-TIX. Wheelchair accessible.

• **Nunsense** is the 2nd longest-running play in off-Broadway history. *Variety* called it "hilarious musical comedy," and the *New York Times* said it was "zany... hysterical... wacky." And now it's playing at Houston's only dinner theater. Price for sit-down dinner on Wed., Thurs., & Sun. is \$27.95; Fri. & Sat. \$34.95 (children half-price; group rates available). Through July @ The Great Caruso, 10001 Westheimer, 713/780-4900.

• **The Phantom of the Opera** won seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, seven Drama Desk Awards, and three Critics Circle Awards. The musical tells the story of the hideously deformed Phantom who lurks beneath the stage of the Paris Opera, exercising a reign of terror over all its occupants. He falls in love with the young soprano, Christine, devoting himself to creating a new star for the opera by nurturing her extraordinary talents & employing all the skills at his disposal. Through July 18 @ Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. Tickets (\$16-\$66) available by calling 713/227-ARTS.

• **Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four**. When lovely Mary Morstan brings the tale of her lost father to Holmes & Watson, an amazing adventure begins. Stolen treasure, a puzzling murder, & appearances that can be deceiving all combine to produce a spectacle full of laughter, melodrama, & thrills. Tickets \$10. Through August 1 @ The Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square, 713/726-1219.

• **Sherlock's Last Case** is a diabolical play that promises equal parts suspense and humor. When Holmes receives a death threat from the heir of his arch-nemesis Dr. Moriarty, he comes face to face with his own double. But who's the real Holmes here? And is it really elementary, my dear Watson? Tickets (\$16) available at Ticketmaster outlets, the Alley Theatre box office, or by calling 713/228-8421. July 17-August 2 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.

• **Spider's Web**. Get caught in the intriguing web of another chilling tale spun by the Mistress of Mystery, Agatha Christie. When Clarissa, the wife of a diplomat, finds herself at the center of a murder and a potential national scandal, she must weave a web of alibis and invention to save her family and find her way out. But where will the web of lies really lead her? Dame Agatha challenges you to figure out before the curtain falls. Through July 12 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. Tickets (\$16): at the Alley box office or 713/228-8421.

• **Sweet Charity**. Return to the swinging '60s and the world of taxi dancer Charity Hope Valentine and the girls of the Fandango Ballroom. The lively score of this Broadway smash includes "If My Friends Could See Me Now" and "Big Spender." July 10-August 15 @ Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury, Town & Country Village. Tickets \$15. More info: 713/467-4497.

## Theater Young People

• **Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp**. In a magical kingdom, a poor boy and his trusted camel friend encounter the wonderful Genie of the Lamp. Together they battle the evil magician to win the heart of the princess. Tickets \$5. Monday-Friday at 11:30 am, Saturdays at 11:30 am & 2 pm. Through July 18 @ Early-Stages Children's Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, 713/52-STAGES.

• **FEET!** Back by popular demand! *FEET!* is a comedy/thriller about seven-year-old Bostich B. Bellweather. His bedroom is "peopled" with such characters as the overstuffed Charles the Chair and the kindly, highly educated Ms. Lamp. When Bostich encounters the Foot Monster who lives under his bed, he learns an important lesson about childhood fears and how to deal with them. Featuring wonderful costumes & cool special effects, *FEET!* is perfect for kids ages five & up. Through July 24, Tues.-Fri., 10 am @ Main Street Theatre, 4617 Montrose Blvd. All tickets are only \$5 and must be reserved by calling 713/524-6706.

• **The Prodigal Pig**. The A.D. Players closes its children's season with this silly sweet saga of a young swine that gets out of line. It features music, dancing, & tons of down-home humor to entertain audiences of all ages. Jim-Bob, a pig with aspirations of becoming a country & western singer in Nashville, leaves his home only to squander his inheritance away while trying to become "fat and famous." Jim-Bob soon learns that a loving home is like a magnet. Tickets \$5 children, \$7 adults. Through July 25 @ the Rotunda Theatre at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer. For more information, call 713/526-2721.

## 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).

• **TV Montrose** (TV) Television for all people with an interest in the Montrose area. Stories on people, places, and events. New show every Monday which repeats Tuesday and Wednesday on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm.

## 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

Continued on page 69

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## GrooveOut

by Chris Sill

### GYPSY SOUL - Various Artists (Narada)

The third installment in a series of compilations dedicated to flamenco guitar, *Gypsy Soul* is not a traditional flamenco collection. These pieces and performances are fueled by bold interpretations and a strong sense of spirit, thus representing new directions in the genre. A host of known and unknown artists give listeners a well-rounded introduction to the world of flamenco guitarists. For instance, Paco De Lucia, perhaps flamenco's greatest guitarist, appears as well as Ottmar Liebert. Unknowns such as Slash, lead guitarist for rockers Guns-N-Roses, and Jose Luis Encinas, brand-new to American audiences, also appear on the CD. This is a fiery set of new flamenco, sure to spice up long summer nights.



### RISE! - Hannah Jones (BMG/Ariola)

With two No. 1 dance hits on *Billboard*, Hannah Jones is about to become a household name to many Americans. But many gays and lesbians are quite familiar with Jones already. Both her recent No. 1 "You Only Have to Say You Love Me" and last year's chart topper "No One Can Love You More Than Me" became gay anthems. Most gays and lesbians have an uncanny ability to appreciate the power of a good voice, and Jones is no exception. It's big, and it's unmistakable. *Rise!*, her first U.S. album, screams for queer attention. From pounding high-energy anthems to soft, tender ballads (drag queens, take note), Jones sounds at ease showing off her impressive vocal capabilities. Diva anyone?



### FUTURE MIX 2 - Club 69 (Twisted)

Sizequeen, House Heroes, Club 69... they all have one thing in common: they're the brainchildren of DJ/remixer/producer Peter Rauhofer. Between remixing and producing, Rauhofer has earned 10 No.-1 dance singles. He is undoubtedly the most in-demand talent in the business. *Future Mix* is a two-part CD featuring Rauhofer's best remix work. There are plenty of gems here (Sizequeen's "Walk," Kevin Aviance's "Din Da Da"), but what's great for fans is the abundance of remixes previously unavailable! How long have Houston clubbers been waiting for the Club 69 mix of Depeche Mode's "It's No Good"? The wait is finally over! Here it is, and it's all mixed together by Mr. Rauhofer himself. Another highlight to this package is the candid comments Rauhofer offers on each remix. *Future Mix* is essential to any dance music library. It's history in the making.



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

Continued from page 67

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. More info: Patrick Palmer at 713/526-1118.

• **Intimate Encounters: Love and Domesticity in Eighteenth-Century France** is the first major exhibition to be devoted solely to 18th-century French genre images. Works by some of France's greatest painters of the 1700s, including Jean-Antoine Watteau, François Boucher, Jean-Honoré Fragonard, Jean-Siméon Chardin, and Jean-Baptiste Greuze, among others, are included in this survey of approximately 75 paintings and prints. Marguerite Gérard, one of the most important woman artists of the time, is well-represented in this exhibition. Through August 23 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

• **Jade: Ching Dynasty Treasures** from the National Museum of History, Taiwan, include vases, table screens, scholarly objects, Hindustani jades, & replicas of ancient bronzes. Through September 7 @ Houston Museum of Natural Science, Hermann Park, 713/639-4629. Spanish: 713/639-4603. Web: www.hmns.org.

• **Journey/Israel Project** is intended to make use of those preconceived notions which exist when you begin the journey to learn about another culture. It is literally a physical journey where patrons must physically follow 93 4x6-inch images and three objects around the installation, but it is also a metaphorical journey from the Holocaust years to the establishment of the state of Israel. Through September 19 @ Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline, 713/942-8000.

• **A Photographic Journey: Three Houston Neighborhoods** presents a portrait of Houston's Third Ward, East End, and Near Northwest, as captured by nine Houston-based photographers. Celebrating the accomplishments of "A Place for All People," a five-year audience-development project, *A Photographic Journey* focuses on the people & activities of these participating neighborhoods. Through August 2 @ The Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

• **Projected Allegories** focuses on works which engage unique narrative strategies to explore issues of individuality and social interaction. Through July 12: Douglas Gordon, *Hand & Foot*, (Left & Right); William Kentridge, *Weighing ... and Wanting*. July 14-August 2: Leone & Macdonald, *Passing* [a 30-minute video in which individuals comment on their own external characteristics (i.e.: race, gender, sexual orientation, occupation, religion, etc.) and how they are perceived and defined by others, even though they may be "passing" as someone they are not]; Rosemarie Trockel, *Z.B. Balthasar, 6 Jahre*. Contemporary Arts Museum, 5216 Montrose Blvd., 713/284-8250. (See next month's *OutSmart* for August/September Projected Allegories exhibitions.)

• **Putt-Modernism: 18 Hole Miniature Golf Course and Exhibition** takes this all-American sport and adds a dose of contemporary art to create an 18-hole, functional course. Visitors have the option of simply viewing the works, or actually playing through the 18 holes. Even the golf balls are designed by artist Jenny Holzer and inscribed with her "truisms"—such as "Protect Me From What I Want." It is free to view and open to the public; there is a putter fee of \$5 (adults), \$3 (children) to "play the course." Through August 9 @ Blaffer Gallery, entrance #16 off Cullen Blvd., University of Houston main campus, 713/743-9528.

• **Where Masks Still Dance: New Guinea** gives us a rare glimpse of the daily lives of 1,000 indigenous tribes of Papua New Guinea and Iran Java. Photographer Chris Rainier has traveled repeatedly to all areas of New Guinea to photograph tribal traditions, rituals, masks, & art objects. Through August 2 @ Houston Museum of Natural Science, Hermann Park, 713/639-4629. Spanish: 713/639-4603. Web: www.hmns.org.

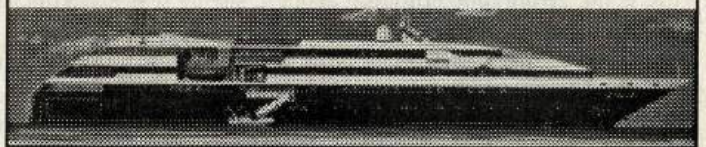
• **Windows of Remembrance** provides insight into people, places, & events of the Holocaust. Mixed media sculptures will remain on display through July 9 @ the Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline, 713/942-8000.

## CALENDAR DEADLINE

for *OutSmart's* August issue  
is 5 p.m., Monday, July 13.

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## Connecting the RED DOTS

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more deeply powerful. If you pass a dot and just wonder why it is there, not giving much thought about it, seeing it as just a dot, the Red Dot Boys depreciate you as a fool.

"A very smart person can look at the dot and say it is just a dot, but they'll know its meaning is to stimulate conversation about art. I will have to say it is just a dot, but it is *more* than a dot," Carpenter emphasizes. "Whether it's distinguished as good art or bad art, regardless of the choice, it is still art."

To the Red Dot Boys, the interpretation of the red dot is not limited or restrictive (though, they admit that the color red had no significant meaning when it was first used; the color is merely rooted from Carpenter's brother's dog named Red). The duo feels fortunate to have chosen red because as a primary color, it accents green, a color that appears everywhere in rural America.

"If we had made blue circles, it probably would have gone nowhere. It would have been a totally different project," explains Ramos.

The Red Dot Boys determine where the red dots are painted according to aesthetics. On their recent 21-day embark of rural America, they selected houses and barns that appealed to the visual senses. But they had to first "sell" the red dot concept to the locals, who weren't always enthusiastic about changing their monotonous landscapes. Carpenter says if he could get the words *red dot, it's free, and Paul Harvey* out in the first sentence, the farmers usually became proud red dot owners.

"[Rural Americans] love Paul Harvey, and he talked about us on the radio. So, as soon as we say Paul Harvey talked about us, they think we're celebrities," he beams.

Houstonians and residents in other urban areas have yet to absorb the charisma of the Red Dot Boys, but they do harbor an interest in the red dots as a rising trend. It's only now when the red dots have grown in popularity that patrons of art want to invest. The dots have become so popular in urban areas that potential owners must cover material and labor fees; the boys currently have a waiting list. However, most city folks tend to miss the dots in the everyday hustle. Bureaucracy can also hold back some of the boys' creative expression, only to perpetrate their deviance. On our tour of the city, we visited two "unauthorized" sites.



Red Dot #25 sits on the Magnolia Ballroom on Franklin at Milam

The first was the construction wall at the Museum of Fine Arts. Like a child flanked by towers of Christmas gifts, Ramos' eyes widened as he tells the story of their feat. "[Painting the dot] took us five minutes, and it usually takes hours, but we did it in five minutes. And we had a getaway car because that was pretty much illegal," Ramos proudly remembers, his smile flaring. They worked quickly to avoid a police officer on the other side of the wall, who might mistake the duo as graffitiists.

"We were quite nervous. We had to be quiet as well as paint the dot, and it was thrilling," adds Carpenter. As we drove past the dot, Carpenter noticed that it has been obstructed by other work on the wall. His artistic ego wasn't altered; he thinks the obstruction adds some style.

The second form of their subtle deviance occurred at a Houston Community College parking lot, this time disguised as a class lecture. As they lectured the students of an art appreciation class, they painted the red dot on the parking lot wall. A police officer looked on, mistaking the work as a formal class. The Red Dot Boys approached school administrators about purchasing the dot. They opted not to wait for final approval because they became too consumed by the art of lecturing. By the time school administrators were finished deliberating about the future purchase, the paint had dried.

The Red Dot Boys say they received informal acknowledgments, grins and smiles, about the red dots by administrators at both facilities, but they are hesitant to confirm any final approvals. They reassure me that only a few of their dots are "unauthorized."

They relish in the illegality of their art, laughing and enjoying their work, a heighten-adrenaline rush. There's a duality in what they hope and want to accomplish with the red dots, primarily hoping to ignite some conversation about art, wanting to let their deviant spirits run free. And they'll do just about anything to accomplish their mission.

The Red Dot Boys don't view their work as offensive, but their dots have erupted some personal emotions for people, including their own families. Carpenter's religious mother called Ramos evil for "parading naked" in public places. He seemed disappointed by her attack, but a crack in his smile convinced me he appreciated the sentiment. Carpenter simply defended their work by telling her, "We are artists. Artists are allowed to do that."

For more information, call Carpenter @ 713.695.4933 or visit The Red Dot Boys' web site @ <http://www.brokersys.com/~reddot>.

# The Source

## Community

- **Adoption.** The Great Wall China Adoption, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) agency dedicated to finding a loving home for the thousands of orphans living in China, will sponsor free monthly workshops on how you can help through adoption. Single men/women and couples from 25-60 years of age can adopt. Please call Barbara at 713/249-5941 (24-hour phone line) for the next free workshop.
- **AIDS Equity League,** a nonprofit organization dedicated to insuring equitable treatment of the gay and lesbian community in local HIV/AIDS decision-making. 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 12 noon, Charlie's Restaurant, 1100 Westheimer, 713/524-9966.
- **An Uncommon Legacy Foundation** is a nonprofit lesbian foundation established in 1990 to promote lesbian visibility and enhance the well-being of lesbians today and in future generations. Legacy supports the lesbian community by making grants to projects that help meet the social, cultural, health and educational needs of lesbians. For more information: 713/520-1142.
- **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/~hailrita>.
- **Colt 45's** is an all-volunteer charity. Despite our name, you don't have to have an overwhelming love of western attire, lore, or guns to be considered for membership. All you need is a big heart and a willingness to help others when they need it the most. As a 501(c)(3) charity, and to serve the Houston HIV/AIDS community by the best means possible, Colt 45's created the AIDS Trouble-Fund, the Stone Soup Fund, & the Till Thacker III Memorial City Charity Fund. Any men or women interested in becoming a member, please leave a message at 713/526-6077 or join us the 2nd Monday of each month at the BRB.
- **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](mailto:GLSTNHou@aol.com).
- **Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHLGCC)** 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 no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity. First Monday each month. 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 772254-0548.
- **Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.** 1st Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm, Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd. For more info: 713/521-1000.
- **Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center,** located in the heart of Montrose, is open for individuals to pick up information on the community, and it has rental space available for meetings and events. Volunteers and donations are requested. 803 Hawthorne, 713/524-3818.
- **Houston Pride Band** provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. They are seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesdays from 7-9 pm. Contact Russell at 713/524-0218 or e-mail: [HousTxBand@aol.com](mailto:HousTxBand@aol.com).
- **Houston Reconstructionist Havurah (HRH)** is an inclusive Jewish community. Core tenets of Reconstructionism are maintaining a supportive community & taking social action to repair an imperfect world. Newcomers describe the remarkable level of acceptance & warmth they encounter, regardless of background or initial level of Jewish education or observance. Info: 713/728-0478.
- **Integrity/Houston** is the advocacy organization for gays & lesbians in the Episcopal Church. Meets 2nd Monday of the month for Eucharist & potluck dinner, 7:30 pm @ Autry House, 6265 Main St. More info: 713/528-6771.
- **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. For more info to get involved: 713/529-6979 or fax 713/529-6929.
- **Q-Patrol** is dedicated to the prevention of hate crimes against gays & lesbians, patrols the bar areas in Montrose, & is always looking for volunteers. If you have at least one Friday or Saturday night per month, please call 713/528-SAFE (72333).
- **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.
- **SEA Change** (Support, Educate, and Advocate for Change) is open to social workers and social work students who are interested in gay, lesbian, bisexual, & transgendered issues. For information, please contact Rick at 281/484-3809.
- **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 encouraged to attend & participate. 3rd Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise scheduled. To be added to mailing list & other info: 713/235-7929. Info can be obtained thru the company's Intranet site for those who have access to it: <http://intranet.sbc.com/SBCWIN/corporate/aware/index.html> & 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: Iris Greer 713/529-8571 or Laura Reich 713/529-1886. E-mail: [HouWmnsGrp@aol.com](mailto: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 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—Tues. or Thurs. 6-8:30 pm; Mixed—Wed., 7-9:30 pm. Southwest Recovery Place, 4726 Yoakum. Call Jackalyn Rainosok, 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.



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• **Crossroads** is a support group for gays & lesbians who are currently in full-time church work, have been in the past, or are pursuing their calling. Not exclusively for pastors—is open to chaplains, administrators, musicians, or music-, youth-, and educational-directors. 3rd Saturday of each month & socials throughout the month. Call 681-9082 for dates, time, and place.

• **Empowerment for Living**, a weekly HIV-positive and 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 77266-6496, 529-3211. GLSH also operates the Hate Crimes Hotline, 713/529-9615.

• **Gay Fathers of Houston** is a support group of gay men who meet every Monday, 8-9:30 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh, to discuss problems gay fathers share. More info or directions: 861-6181.

• **Gay Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse**. Montrose Counseling Center is offering a therapy group designed to provide a safe environment for men who share this type of experience to work together to resolve the impacts of the trauma on everyday life. Services are provided on a sliding scale basis, and insurance is accepted. Certain restrictions apply. For further information, call Shane Hennese at 713/529-0037.

• **Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence Support Group** is for gay men who are being abused in their present relationship or who are dealing with unresolved issues from a past abusive relationship. Abuse can be emotional, mental, verbal, physical, or sexual. Survivors may experience low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, isolation, a deep sense of shame, or embarrassment. A support group offers a safe place to share your experiences, learn from others, or just listen. More info: Russ Robinet or Rev. Troy G. Plummer @ 713/526-1017 and leave your name & a safe phone number where your call can be returned. Meets Monday nights, 7-8 pm @ Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold.

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

• **Just For Us (JFU)** is a social and support group for youth in the 6th through 12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. Sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents. 284-4939.

• **Lambda Center A.A.**, 1201 W. Clay, Houston, TX 77019. For meeting times, call 521-1243.

• **Living in Process Groups**. Ongoing mixed group for men & women 3 Wednesday evenings per month. Ongoing gay men's group 3 Thursday evenings per month. Call Eric Mayo at Living in Process Southwest for more info: 622-7250.

• **Living With HIV Support Group**. For anyone whose life is

touched by HIV. Meetings include a relaxing meditation, information about community resources, & occasional speakers. The group meets Thursdays, 7-9 pm in room 117, Unity Church of Christianity, 2929 Unity Dr. For more info: 782-4050.

• **Male Survivors of Sexual Assault** is a support group designed to provide a safe, confidential environment for men to talk about their experience and their struggles in society around the issues of male sexual assault. Call Diane Williams at the Houston Area Women's Center, 713/528-6798, ext. 246, for more info. All services are free of charge and confidential.

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

• **Montrose Counseling Center** offers numerous counseling groups, including groups for men & women living with HIV, people in recovery, lesbian survivors of cancer, survivors of sexual abuse, lesbian survivors of domestic violence & more. The center needs office furniture, equipment & interested citizens to serve on boards. 701 Richmond. For more info (24 hrs): 713/529-0037.

• **Muscular Dystrophy Association**, Houston/Gulf Coast, provides monthly support groups for adults with neuromuscular diseases, for people with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), for parents of MDA children, and Spanish-speaking groups. For the most current info on these ongoing groups, call the MDA office at 713/522-3941.

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

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

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

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

• **Project CAESAR** is the Gay Men's Health Initiative at AIDS Foundation Houston. By providing the latest information & education to the gay community, Project CAESAR intends to slow HIV infection rates among gay & bisexual men in Houston. Through self-esteem, motivational & 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@aims.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 answer hotline calls, counsel survivors in hospitals and at the center, and help with clerical support. The Women's Center offers extensive training for volunteers who work with survivors of sexual assault. Call 713/528-6798, ext. 273.

• **STEPS** is a transitional living facility for homeless young adults between the ages of 18-21. Services include free housing, GED preparation, independent living skills training in money management, housekeeping, apartment search, nutrition, HIV/STDs, drug & alcohol awareness, job search, on-site case management, counseling & referrals. After completion of our 6-8 month program, clients will be referred to independent housing. STEPS Program provides culturally competent services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender & heterosexual young adults. 40-60% of our clients are HIV positive. HOPE Center, 3118 San Jacinto, 713/524-1992.

• **StreetWise Houston** is a drop-in/educational & support center for homeless, street, & lesbian/youth, ages 13-22, located @ 202 Tuam. We provide HIV support groups, drug intervention, housing case management, & GED classes. We are seeking donations of hygiene products (deodorant, tampons, toothpaste, etc.), canned foods, furniture (beds, sofa, dining table), new socks & underwear, dishes, linens, & bus tokens. Also seeking volunteers who would like to teach life skills and/or be mentors to our young clients during afternoon or evening operating hours. For more info: Michelle @ 713/524-557.

• **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. Volunteers 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) comfortable with various ethnic & sexual cultures; 4) able & willing to commit at least 2 hours a week; 5) able to staff the hotline during office hours; & 6) willing to make at least a 6-months commitment. 4126 Southwest Frwy, Ste. 1717, 626-2837 or 1-800-981-2837.

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

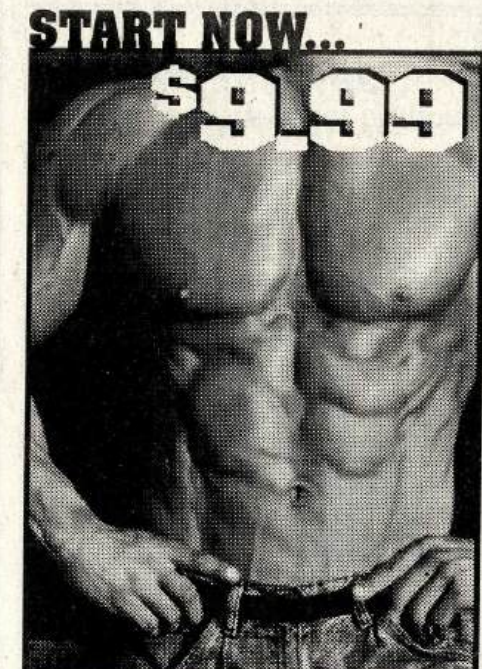
• **Camp Hope**, for children living with HIV/AIDS, needs sleeping bags, snacks, suntan lotions, insect repellents, toiletries, minor medical equipment (e.g. thermometer), toilet paper, toiletry kits, camper duffel bags, bed linen, fruit juices, soft drinks, and so forth. For more info: Mecie Hardin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

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

• **The Center for AIDS (CFA)** is an information/advocacy organization working to accumulate knowledge & to share information regarding the latest medical treatments/scientific advances in the field of HIV/AIDS. CFA advocates locally & nationally for better 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 comprehensive services through our commitment to the highest standards of care. Volunteers can assist in a variety of tasks: patient care, nursing home volunteer, respite or relief visit for the caregiver, bereavement phone calls/visits, office work, assist during training seminars, delivery person, crafts volunteer or other activities. To inquire about volunteering, call Kevin Phillips @ 713/290-1746.

• **Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)** is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health of lesbians & bisexual women in the Houston area. 1st Tuesday of each month, 7 pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. Volunteers needed to help with computer work, fund-raising, direct healthcare services, organizing



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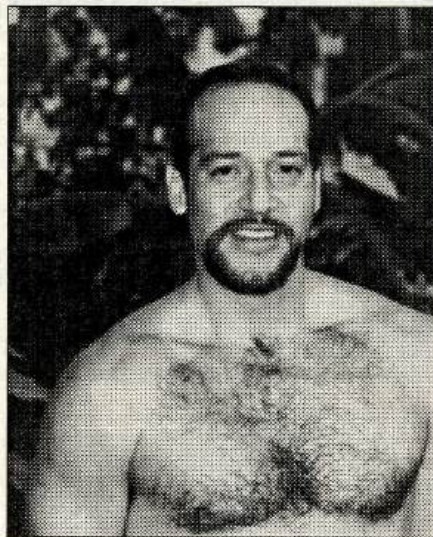


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• **Lesbian Health Outreach Project** is a united effort of the Montrose Counseling Center & the Montrose Clinic to educate lesbians about risk factors for breast cancer, breast self-exam techniques, & other health concerns and to provide low-cost (sliding scale) well-woman exams that include pelvic exams, pap smears, breast exams, lab work, & referrals for mammograms when needed. These services are available by appointment only at the Montrose Clinic, 713/830-3000. Schedule educational presentations through the Montrose Counseling Center, 713/529-0037.

• **Methodist VNA Hospice** is a nonprofit United Way agency that provides in-home care to terminally ill patients in Harris County. We are currently recruiting volunteers to provide emotional support & practical assistance to the patients in their neighborhood. Training is provided to prepare you for the job. No medical skills are required. The next training session begins the first weekend in June. More info: 713/630-5513.

• **Milam House** Volunteers Needed: Reach out, make a difference, 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 [ahhvltr@neofort.com](mailto:ahhvltr@neofort.com). You can also visit the Web site at <http://www.neofort.com/~ahhstaff/MilamHouse/>.

• **Montrose Clinic/Houston Clinical Research Network** is a community-based, nonprofit agency that provides low- or no-cost health, social, educational, and research services; specializes in treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS care. Needed: cash gifts for indigent-patient care and capital campaign; volunteer time from general and specialty physicians or lay persons interested in HIV counseling/office support. 215 Westheimer, 713/520-2000.

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

• **Omega House** provides a homelike environment for persons with AIDS needing hospice care. We do not charge 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, POB 890769, Houston, TX 77289-0769.

• **Thomas Street Health Center Council** is an elected advocacy group that advise the hospital district on matters concerning Thomas Street AIDS Clinic. Meetings open to public comment & participation, 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 pm, 3rd floor conference room, 2015 Thomas St. @ Paschall, 793-4000.

• **Women's Clinic.** Montrose Clinic offers a women's health clinic. Visits include complete examination by gynecologist, lab work, medication, & referral if needed. Fee \$40; but no one turned away. Wednesdays, 5-8 pm, by appointment only, 713/520-2000.

• **Yoga.** Free yoga classes. Yoga benefits the individual by providing stress relief, better health & a clear mind. This is achieved by a combination of physical postures, mental exercises, breathing techniques & improved diet. Free yoga classes are Mondays & Wednesdays at 7 pm and Fridays at 6 pm @ Devanand Yoga Center, 3115 West Loop South, Ste. 21, 713/965-9642.

## Social

• **20 Something** is a caring, informative, social community for lesbian/gay persons & their friends coming together in a safe & positive atmosphere to share, learn, & build friendships. For more information, call 281/315-6786 (pager with voice mail).

• **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 welcome. For info, leave message @ 713/521-SING.

• **Heartsong Women's Chorus** rehearses monthly at varying locations. New & former members welcome! For more information, please call 947-1488.

• **Houston Area Bears** is a social organization for "bears" (hirsute men) of all sizes and their admirers. Their monthly social is held on the second Saturday of each month at the Venture-N, 2923 S. Main, 8 pm. For further info: The Grower Line, 867-9123.

• **Houston Area Motorcycle Society (HAMS)** is a new lesbian & gay motorcycle club for everyone who owns a motorcycle and wants to go on organized rides with other family members. All rides are free and open to the public. For more info: 713/523-7347 or write P.O. Box 981025, Houston, TX 77098.

• **Houston Outdoor Group (HOGS)** is a social group for gay men & lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. Activities include camping, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, etc. We have day trips, weekend trips (typically a 2- to 4-hour drive from Houston), usually in state parks or private campgrounds. Local social events include Saturday morning breakfasts & once-a-month social potluck dinners. Call 713/KAMP0UT for info or your complimentary newsletter, or write to P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098.

• **Lambda Rollerskating Club** invites all ages to join in the fun every Wednesday, 8-10 pm, @ Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Rd. @ Beechnut. Admission is \$5 (+ \$1.50 for skates). For information, please call 933-5818.

• **Lesbian & Gay Potluck.** The Lesbian & Gay Unitarian Universalists (LGUU) cordially invite you to bring a dish & join them on December 19 @ 7 pm, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Crane Fireside Room, 5200 Fannin. Info: 713/526-5200.

• **LiB,** a lesbian empowerment group, promotes lesbians, jobs, networking and businesses. 3rd Friday of each month, 7:30 pm, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. LiB's hotline: 713/529-0077.

• **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.

• **The Movie Club.** We go out to eat and to the movies on Saturdays. No dues. Web: <http://houstongayweb.com/movieclub>, or call us at 281/835-5312.

• **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](http://outrage.org/~outrage).

• **Prime Timers Houston** promotes social activities for the older gay and bisexual male. Some of the activities they participate in are theater, dining out, movies, potluck dinners, card games, and weekend daytrips. For more information, call 867-3903.

• **Rainbow Fishing Club.** To get on the free mailing list for the

new fishing club for gays and lesbians, call John @ 713/523-6381.

• **Rainbow Ranglers,** a gay country & western dance club, teaches beginning level dance every Thurs. at 8:30 pm & advanced level dance every Wed. at 8 pm at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. Dance classes free & open to the public. More info: 880-0670.

• **Rainbow Riders** is a bicycling club for women. Meets every Sunday morning. All women are welcome regardless of ability & experience. More info: Cookie Davenport @ 713/869-1686.

• **Scriptwriters/Houston** is a stage-and-screen writers' support and networking group. Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month, 7:30 pm @ Jones Theatre at the University of St. Thomas, Yoakum @ Alabama. Free. For info: 707-5194 or 523-9291.

• **Sisters** is a social/support group for African-American lesbians & friends. Meets 2nd Sunday of the month, 5-8 pm. Call 713/801-0027 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. For more information, call 713/226-2228 or write to P.O. Box 1502, Houston, TX 77252-1502.

• **Texas Medical Center Lambda** is an association of bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered, & gay-friendly faculty, staff, & students at Texas Medical Center. One community service or social event per month plus meetings the second Monday of each month, 7:30 pm @ Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Info: page @ 284-7206.

## Sports

• **Good Sports.** College football/basketball fans. For more information, call 713/523-9000.

• **Houston Tennis Club,** an affiliate member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, welcomes men and women of all ages and skill levels. They meet Wednesdays & Fridays from 7:30-9 pm & Sundays from 9 am-12 noon at Memorial Park Tennis Center. To join, call 713/692-2703.

• **Houston Women's Flag Football League (HWFFL)** is a nonprofit sports organization open to all women, ages 18 & over. We have 2 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.

• **Independent Billiard League (IBL)** is a recreational billiard league that welcomes everyone to join, either on a team or as a substitute player. We have 3-player teams that compete at various bars & clubs in Houston on Thursday nights. IBL fosters friendly competition & is an excellent way to meet other people with similar interests. More info: 713/524-9621, or P.O. Box 66696, Houston, TX 77266-6696; e-mail at [gvargas@swbell.net](mailto:gvargas@swbell.net).

• **Lone Star Volleyball Association (LSVA)** is encouraging interested volleyball players to join in the fun of playing indoor volleyball. The LSVA leagues play at the Univ. of St. Thomas-Jaraback Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon (between Richmond & Alabama) on Sundays, 4:30-6:30 pm for recreational & intermediate players, & 6:30-9:30 pm for advanced players. All those who have never played with LSVA before will play for free on their first visit. If you're interested: 281/878-4629 or [www.neofort.com/~lsva](http://www.neofort.com/~lsva).

• **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](mailto: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 877-1191.

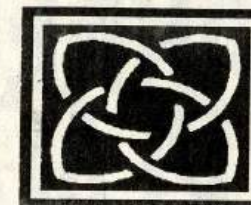
• **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** is a nonprofit organization, with chapters in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston, that promotes and stages an annual rodeo event as well as engaging in fund-raising activities throughout the year. For more information on the Houston chapter, write to P.O. Box 130585, Houston, TX 77219-0585 or call 777-1444.

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## Letters to the Editor

continued from page 7

argument that two HIV-positive men have little to lose by "barebacking" with each other [OutSmart, May 1998]. I recommend a *Scientific American* article (Aug. 1995) "How HIV Defeats the Immune System," by Martin Nowak and Andrew McMichael. Its thesis is that AIDS generally happens when the body gets too many different strains of HIV to cope with them.

HIV is unusually prone to mutation and undergoes considerable evolution inside any host it infects. There is serious theoretical reason to think that if two men exchange strains this will hasten the evolutionary process and the onset of AIDS in both. I wonder, are Mr. Simmons and I using the word "strain" in the same way? The HIV genome can be described as a string of about 9,500 symbols (nucleotides). I say that two viruses belong to a different strain if even one of the 9,500 is different. Even one difference may confer resistance to a drug like AZT.

A big question is: where do you put the burden of proof? I would put it on those who question the risk. Nevertheless, it is a matter of discretion. My own choice is that I have not engaged in anal sex at all since 1979, and try to avoid partners who do. As far as I know, I have succeeded in avoiding HIV. I hear that it is not all that easy to use condoms—I know of at least two guys who instructed other people on how to use condoms, but then became infected. I have not had to know the ins and outs of using condoms.

He cites how some romance ads call for HIV-negative partners, and how such ads have been criticized as a form of apartheid. I have no reservation about running such ads—I think this is simply protecting my best interests. I go a little further—I say, "neither top nor bottom."

I grant that a monogamous couple is a closed system, albeit less so than a celibate individual. He calls for more empirical evidence—cites an author that cites one married heterosexual couple—but concedes that the facts are incomplete. The *Scientific American* article also cites only limited empirical evidence, but presents a very plausible theory, that I would take as promising reliable predictions.

I am a staunch advocate of individualism in sexual matters. Nevertheless, this is like life on the frontier—you may be on your own, but there are definite natural dangers that you must heed. I think I should also add that I oppose any government intervention in the present matter, and that individuals must decide.

—Scott Tillinghast  
Houston

## OutRight

continued from page 23

everyone who believes in privacy rights must favor abortion rights. Yet many Americans who believe deeply in privacy also believe deeply that abortion implicates a competing value: the right to life. They balance the right of privacy against the right to life and come to a very different conclusion about abortion than does Parker. The point is not that they are right about abortion and Parker is wrong, or vice versa; the point is that sincere individuals who share the same core tenets often have wildly divergent views about particular issues. There is, I believe, no "gay" answer to this problem. As a method for helping the gay civil rights movement decide what non-gay issues to pursue, then, Parker's approach is radically indeterminate.

Finally, Parker is right that politics necessarily involves forming alliances or "coalitions" with other groups. But even if we agreed on our "core tenets" (which we do not) and even if we agreed on the policy preferences that emanate from those principles (which we do not), it would still not follow that we must strive to build coalitions with various progressive groups.

It is true that Parker built her own electoral majority in part on the basis of an old-fashioned left-Democratic coalition of racial minorities, progressive whites, and gays (though her economic conservatism also appealed to a broader constituency). A similar alliance of groups has succeeded in electing openly gay, and gay-friendly, politicians in urban centers around the country. That is no small achievement, and it is entirely the product of decades of hard work by the gay left.

The problem is that this old model of progressive coalition-building is an inherently self-limiting political strategy. It has been successful occasionally in urban areas but not often anywhere else. I think Parker would concede that she could not have won a county-wide, as opposed to city-wide, race on the strength of her coalition. Progressive coalitions will carry us only so far but no farther.

To get to the next level, to achieve full and secure equality, we must also be able to appeal to the majority of Americans living outside core urban centers. That means translating equality for gays into terms most Americans, including the ones in the suburbs and rural areas, can understand. In legislatures dominated by Republicans, it means linking gay civil rights with conservative ideas like limited government. In short, it means building understanding and coalitions with new groups of people. It

means relinquishing cherished leftist policy positions, disentangling ourselves from the web of progressive politics, and thinking creatively about the larger meaning of gay civil rights.

I have no illusions that the gay left is going to do that any time soon. And gay conservatives are no longer willing to let gay left ideas go unchallenged. That's why I say that the gay civil rights movement is a myth. The movement comprises many different people, with many different ideas, and many different strategies for achieving equality—in short the "movement" is many different movements.

## Rob Nash

continued from page 44

making out were cool!) and painful the next (gym showers, parents, and dating sucked!). With an almost masochistic bravery, Nash takes you through the psychic, sexual, and hormonal battlefield that is high school—a place that, if you ask most people, they say they never want to go back to again.

"Going back is no problem at all," explains Nash between bites from the buffet table at a *Freshman* premiere soiree. "Believe me, I've done the therapy about it."

And that, in essence, is why Nash's show works. He's done the therapy. Unlike so many solo performances that seem like you're not only watching someone else's therapy, you're *paying* for it, Nash's work is a product of a post-therapeutic, nicely aged and matured, healthy perspective. Sure, as the title implies, freshman year does suck. But it's where the building blocks of courage and compassion, sexuality and love, understanding and tolerance for pain begin to develop. Nash has a bead on this that saves *Freshman* from being simply a laugh riot (which isn't a bad thing), and making it something more intimate and personally touching. Audiences agree. It's been in Austin twice, New York, Atlanta, Palm Springs, L.A. The L.A. influence is blindingly, make that blindingly apparent. Joining the ranks of George Clooney and others, Nash is a freshly bleached blonde.

"I'm actually having more fun," he admits sincerely. Then, as if he's channeling yet another character—a ditzzy pretty boy, perhaps—he looks upward to his new blond roots. "But I find I'm forgetting things more."

Perhaps. But Nash himself is pretty memorable.

*Freshman Year Sucks! plays through July 12 at Stages Repertory Theatre. Tickets are \$12-\$15. For more information, call 713/52-STAGES.*



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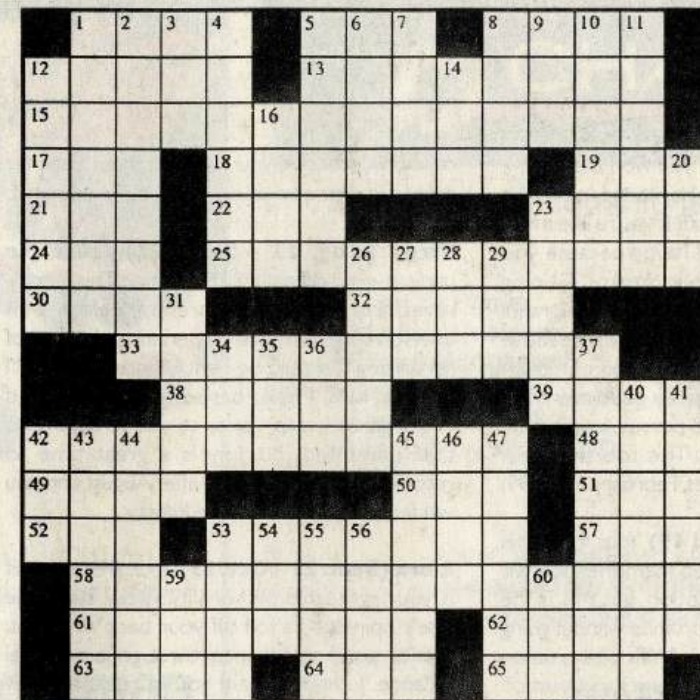
Answers to  
OutSmart's  
June Puzzle

YOGA MILAN ERIQ  
UNIT ABODE MENU  
MARTINMULLSADE  
LAS ISM LIE  
MICHAELBOATMAN  
LASH DVI NRA  
ICH EARP BILLY  
MEL CRYSTAL ELI  
PSYCH YORE GOP  
HOE NAG WAYS  
DANIELMCDONALD  
ADO DUO BIC  
DIVA DOUGSAVANT  
DEEP EARNIE ESAI  
YULE DEALT DEBT

Answers to  
this month's  
Puzzle

SVBL EAG SEAE  
EENS EIZINTX  
EIOEABVNIOR  
OVL AUEEJEDVUN  
VSTIVH EIV  
EET SHLVJOHJASJ  
AHD S HNO SV  
SEISSISXVEM  
SHOGO DOIS  
SNOCSIWOUJCS  
SOIB TOV ABH  
WAG EDEJTOC WIV  
SHBLSEJLOWGTHO  
EABHJWTVJVLVDS  
ASVE VHV WVOV

## Type Casting



### ACROSS

1 Man without a mother  
5 "Caught you!"  
8 *Earth Girls Are* \_\_\_\_  
12 La \_\_\_\_ (Milan opera house)  
13 Where one may find a date  
15 How gay men have often been portrayed in movies  
17 Broadcast  
18 Where straight boys often "try it once"  
19 Kind of bunny or dandy  
21 Marina Del \_\_\_\_, California  
22 Prodigy alternative  
23 Life stories, briefly  
24 PC panic button  
25 How gay men have often been portrayed in movies  
30 Word on an octagon  
32 Aromas  
33 How gay men have often been portrayed in movies  
38 End on \_\_\_\_ note  
39 Nimble  
42 How gay men have often been portrayed in movies  
48 *Do the Right Thing* director  
49 To \_\_\_\_ (exactly)  
50 2001 computer  
51 Pat Benatar's "Love \_\_\_\_ Battlefield"  
52 Streisand foe, of late  
53 Flavored with jalapenos  
57 "You're it" game  
58 How gay men have almost never been portrayed in movies  
61 Less graceful  
62 Look from Scrooge  
63 Bedroom \_\_\_\_  
64 Become a blonde  
65 Pekoe and Earl Grey

Answers

### DOWN

1 Superlatively sore  
2 Milk source  
3 More than many  
4 Zany, like many Nathan Lane roles  
5 Very handsome young man  
6 *Kids in the* \_\_\_\_  
7 Out of the wind, to a sailor  
8 Suffix frowned upon by feminists  
9 "\_\_\_\_ you gay?" ("forbidden" question in the military)  
10 Director Leone or bandleader Mendes  
11 Response to "Who, me?"  
12 Succeeds, like a Kevin Williamson screenplay  
14 Chinese food additive  
16 Secure a ship  
20 Writer's original works (abbr.)  
23 Works clearing tables  
26 Shearer or Kelly  
27 Checkpoint requests  
28 Abba hit of 1975  
29 Dernier \_\_\_\_ (latest fashion)  
31 Flower child's "farewell"  
34 Bonfire remnant  
35 Actress Stark of lesbian sex scenes  
36 Dine  
37 Kind of soup  
40 Scalpers' transactions  
41 Gay porn star Ryan  
42 Neverland resident Peter  
43 Hardcore gay magazine  
44 Frequency of most gay pride parades  
45 "\_\_\_\_ here!" (*Poltergeist* catchphrase)  
46 Heavenly instrument  
47 Most cunning  
53 Erotic body parts, for some  
54 Split \_\_\_\_ ('80s new wave band)  
55 Shelled out the bucks  
56 Cruiser's quest, figuratively  
59 Expected  
60 Pre-Stonewall gay publication



## SignOut

by Madilyn Stein

What would happen if you won the lottery, received a large inheritance, or had a long-term investment pay off? If you're like most, you'd create an emotional havoc because you couldn't wait to realize your dreams. Gaining wealth isn't necessarily going to make life grand. July brings a mixed bag of goodies, because Jupiter in Pisces creates a fluctuation of hidden feelings from the past. July isn't a good month to gamble. It's a great time to pursue, investigate, and process your feelings. This too shall pass when Jupiter goes into Aries, February 14, 1999.

**Aries (March 21 - April 19)** Your focus this month is to clear unresolved memories. You will feel as if you're in slow motion, but this is the perfect time to reach a compromise without giving up your present state of mind. You often run on emotional empty. Splurge on basics and dust off your feelings. Your jet-stream desires will return after December. Luck is a state of mind.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20)** Recluse no more! Life is going to feel as if it's speeding, demanding you pay attention to people, not details. Patience may be your virtue, but just in case, carry a pillow to cover your mouth when you want to scream. Weeping over spilt memories will creep into sharp reality. Winning the lottery won't make your health and sanity any better. Pay attention to feelings but avoid trauma-drama reactions. Wake up and realize you are lucky.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 21)** Ideas, people, material possessions—I want it all. If the words "gonna take a sentimental journey" creep into your bright mind, beware. It's your first clue not to act on impulsive urges or commit to long-term spending until you evaluate the worth of the buy. Turn your energy to creative writing or collecting art. You never really lack for money. Wealth is relative.

**Cancer (June 22 - July 23)** Buy a new set of armor, because you can't hide your feelings from others anymore. Emoting memories will surface and cause anal opposition to rule your birthday if you hide from past pain. Be careful when you feel confrontational, because others aren't in a much better space. Work out, run, breathe deep, or find other forms of release. Money won't buy you happiness.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)** Silent sulking has never been your best suit. Money isn't the issue, because you've always managed to meet your obligations. Past behavior is a wash. Celebrate life and remember: aging is natural, feelings are real, and

others will console you if you let them. Bank on money in your pocket, because you've earned it.

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)** You're the undiscovered dreamer of the zodiac. This month, reveal and balance your present feelings with unresolved guilt of past experiences. Instead of reinforcing "I should be right," concentrate on "I am what I am." Money has been your killer weed in the garden soap opera, so you've held onto that unwanted job. July is a great time to reconsider it all. Take action after August and you will feel like you've won the lottery.

**Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)** Your greatest trait is your agreeable personality. Allow everyone else's opinions to roll off your back while you gather your sustenance through emotional balance. Jupiter will aid you in realizing how positive and constructive your powers are if you use your heart and head together. Blast into the remainder of the year knowing you've won the grand prize by becoming happy with yourself, and everything will follow. Winning the jackpot is yours.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)** Advice is relative to the amount you receive, so reserve your opinions and beliefs. The point is to open your own mind. There's someone coming along to remind you that change is OK. Put on your favorite hat and watch the coins drop. For a change, look outside yourself for nourishment, and you will find your heart and pocketbook full. Jupiter will help you love everyone you're with.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)** Intimate personal relationships, old memories, and previously hidden factors will surface. You will deal with them better than you ever have because your ego is prepped for enlightenment. Finances, power, and sexual intimacy will be examined under a microscope. Trust is being tested with Jupiter in Pisces. Dig deep and you will find your pot of gold.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)** A delicate balance comes from deep down under. Dig to avoid the swing of emotions you will experience. There will be a thin line to walk until you review past feelings. Stand in front of a mirror and take the advice of the viewer. Value is relative to the moment. Don't procrastinate. You always win in the end.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)** Every gift brings a challenge. So what's new? Share your good energy but don't expect major kudos. Jupiter in Pisces acts like your best friend. Buyer beware. You must give up your secret emotional agenda,

then you'll survive the soul trauma you often profess to recognize. I'd bet on you.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)** As you well know, there are no mistakes. You're finally free to sleep with your reality and allow your dreams to echo your truths. Now sit down and wait for the rest of mankind. Jupiter ruling your sign is the best thing that happened to you since doughnuts lost their hole. You may just win the lottery.

## Heartbeat RELATING WITH THE STARS

*Q I'm a Leo, and I always attract lovers who come on strong and then fizzle out in two months. Why is that?*

*A* You can answer your own question by asking yourself how ready you are for a lasting relationship. You are in the realm of a surface search and need to write a list of all the desires you really want. Start with the words "commitment" and "monogamy." Read your list at least twice a day, carry a copy with you and place another copy under your pillow. Call me when you feel you have the right person and we'll talk.

*Q I'm an Aquarius and I always seem to end up dating Scorpios. They're great people, but we never agree on anything. This new one is a keeper, but I'm fearful that she might leave. What do you suggest?*

*A* An Aquarius-Scorpio relationship is likely the most difficult match unless you have a great deal of elemental water in your chart or your friend has a bunch in hers. Try a mediator to help both of you understand your true fears and feelings. Choosing a sign that squares your own (or three signs from your own sign) means one or both of you have issues with commitment.



Got a question for Madilyn? E-mail your questions to [Madstein@hotmail.com](mailto:Madstein@hotmail.com).

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# OUT IN HOUSTON



**1** (L-r): **James Rodriguez, David Downing, Peter Conroy, and Silvester Martinez**, all of whom share a birthday in June, joined together in a philanthropic spirit and asked their luau party guests to bring donations of office supplies for Montrose Clinic in lieu of gifts. With over 150 guests, it resulted in a donation of supplies worth over \$600.



**2** Clockwise from top: **Justin Brown, Debera Phinney, and Anita Renteria** at the kickoff party and open house for Empower '98 at the new Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

**3** Joining the Empower '98 kickoff party: (l-r) **Eric Somebody, Kevin Somebody, Trudy Somebody, & Marion Coleman**.

**4** Houston's Pride Band gets things rolling at the Empower '98 kickoff party.

**5&6** Personal trainer **John Aaron**, before and after he gets dunked, at Muscle Mechanics' "Dunk-Your-Trainer" charity booth. The 2nd annual party raised over \$500 for the Bering Community Service Foundation.

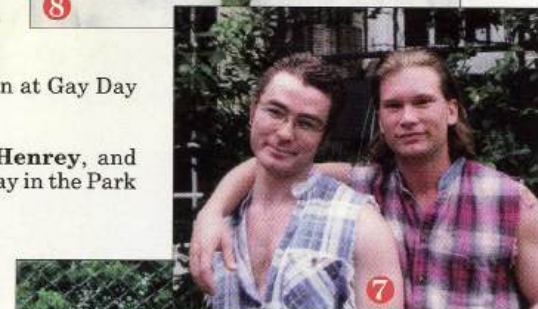
**7** **John Aaron (l)** and **Alex Stutler** at Muscle Mechanics' 2nd annual summer party.

**8** **Marty Chrisman (l)** and **Joy Clayton** did a great job with the menu for Muscle Mechanics' party.

**9** **Terry Hamman (r)** shows **Rob Schmerler** the right way to dunk a trainer at Muscle Mechanics' party.

**10** **Bob Kennedy** soaks up some sun at Gay Day in the Park at Astroworld.

**11** (l-r) **Mikie Rimerez, Cherie Henrey, and Carl Weber** enjoy Gay Day in the Park at Astroworld, June 14.



1 & 5-9 - UNCREDITED; 2-4 & 10-11 - DANI HURLEY



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