Volume 1▼ Issue 2 March 15 - April 14, 1994 Complimentary Copy

Out▼Smart

HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE

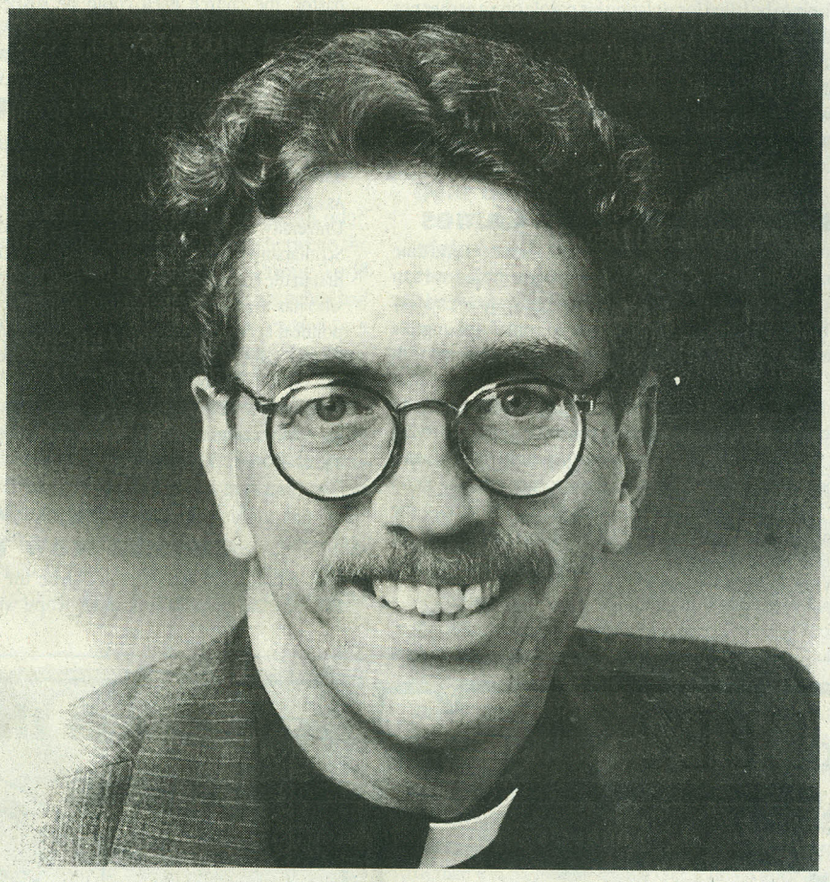


In Concert—April 15 in Houston

benefitting The Assistance Fund and Northern Lights Alternatives/AIDS Mastery Workshop

News ▼ Reviews ▼ People ▼ Places ▼ and More!

FAKERY OR FAITH?



AN INTERVIEW WITH REV. STEPHEN PIETERS

Rev. Pieters was diagnosed with ARC, AIDS-related complex, the predecessor of the HIV + diagnosis, in 1982. In April of 1984, the medical profession told him that he would not live to see 1985. Although he survived fifteen AIDS related illnesses, not even Hepatitis, Mononucleosis, paralysis, blindness, Kaposi's sarcoma, or lymphoma could stop this man with a mission. He became patient #1, with 89 patients to follow him, testing the first anti-viral drug, Suramin. Due to the toxic side effects, the drug was discontinued. During the initial trial period 14 patients died.

Today, Stephen Pieters is the lone survivor of that original group of 90. Despite the drug's toxicity, which destroyed his adrenal glands and impaired his endocrine system, Stephen is in complete remission from both forms of cancer. This is a remarkable story of a man, who in 1982 was justifiably embittered, self destructive, depressed, and isolated. This bears little resemblance to the Rev. Pieters, who on November 29, 1993, captivated the attention of President Clinton dur-

BY LACEY L. LEWIS

ing the prayer breakfast of twelve people who are doing AIDS ministry work on the national level. The Rev. Pieters who held hands with the president while they prayed, and who was later embraced by Bill Clinton, is a man who truly lives up to his own motto "Finding Hope To Be Fully Alive With HIV."

His journey is one of great strength, passion, and humor. He has been interviewed by Jane Pauley, Tom Snyder, *Time* magazine, *Omni* magazine, and numerous television talk and news shows. He is the author of the book *I'm Still Dancing* and a likely candidate for President Clinton's Advisory Council on AIDS. He now travels around the country, sharing his belief in God's healing and sustaining power, while living with HIV and AIDS. And although the topic of "Long Term Survivors" is apparently not politically correct, because of the fear that it will decrease budget allocations, I have a feeling Stephen Pieters is going to be dancing as joyously, and as fast as he can, for a long, long time to come. I believe in miracles, and if one were created for me today, it would be to see this remarkable man continue his dance with the millions of those who have already been diagnosed as his new dancing partners. As a lesbian who practices safer sex, I am in a lower risk category for the development of HIV or AIDS. I would, however still be honored if Stephen saved the last dance for me.

Skeptic or Believer, Saint or Sinner, Spiritual or Atheist, New Age or Traditional Medical Model, all of you are invited to take a twirl around the dance floor with the Rev. Stephen Pieters and decide for yourself, is this fakery or faith?

LACEY L. LEWIS: I understand that when you had breakfast with the president, you had a pretty interesting seating arrangement.

REV. STEVE PIETERS: Yes, it was exciting in a couple of ways. I was seated to the right of President Clinton. The Rev. Ed Dobson, a former Jerry Fallwell aide, was sitting to the president's left. The vice president, Al Gore, was sitting directly across from me, and the new AIDS Czar, Kristine Gebbie, was seated on my right. President Clinton later pointed out that he had the representative of the Religious Right on his left side and on his right he had the representative from Metropolitan Community Church, which ministers to a primarily gay and lesbian congregation. As the president clapped Rev. Dobson and me on the back, he joked that a picture should be taken of the three of us so he could send it to Rush Limbaugh. The second thing I found very interesting was that I was the token person with HIV, and although not the only homosexual at the meeting, I was the only openly gay person there and the only one representing gay and lesbian interests and issues. Despite the fact that there were other gay clergy present, they brought to the table a discussion of heterosexual issues that covered the gamut from women with AIDS, inner-city gang problems and AIDS, teenage issues, and heterosexual-people-of-color-with-HIV-and AIDS issues.

As a child I learned that healing was a miracle that only someone named Jesus could do centuries ago, that they just didn't occur in the present modern-day world. Then, when I first became sick with AIDS, the only miracles I believed in were the miracles of modern day Science and Medicine. There was a turning point in my illness that came as I got closer to approaching death. I realized that healing occurred on several levels and held many different interpretations and meanings.

I know that you are an ordained minister. Can you tell our readers a little about your denomination?

I am really glad that you asked me that question. In several interviews, including the one with *Look Magazine*, they intentionally left out any mention of my church affiliation. I guess Gay Ministry doesn't sell well in Peoria. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches was first started by Rev. Troy Perry in 1968. Prior to organizing UFMCC, Troy Perry had been a minister with the Church Of God. The first service took place in his home. His vision was to create a safe place where gay and lesbian people could openly worship. It's really important to note that, even during that first service and all those that have followed through the years, there were, and continue to be, straight people in attendance. Historically, homosexual people have been afraid to express their orientation, since traditional religion has been used as a primary vehicle of oppression against them.

UFMCC is a diverse and eclectic denomination. Today we have representatives of every religion within our denomination. In all our churches, you will see people from Catholic, Baptist, Assembly of God, Judaism, Methodist, Lutheran, and every imaginable denomination represented at our services. We now have over 300 churches, in 17 countries, worldwide, and we are continuing to grow.

So many Gays and Lesbians shy away from religion. Can you explain to us why that is and what the implications for our community have been?

As I said before, regrettably religion has been used as a primary tool of oppression against our community. This generation of Gay men and Lesbians grew up in traditional religions where they were institutionally abused and bashed. At best we were ignored, and the end result is that we were made second-class citizens. In the past, as well as in the present, organized religion has sanctioned the denial of our love for one another and our ability to celebrate that love through the expression of our spirituality. It has cost our community a great deal. Perhaps the best example would be in the area of relationships and marriage. Traditional Christian-Judeo faith, not only sanction and celebrate marriage, but they also support it. We all know that under the best of circumstances relationships are very difficult to maintain, but without the spiritual support of hope and faith they can be impossible.

I personally believe that human beings are spiritual beings. Spirituality is as much a part of us as is our intellect, our emotions, our sexuality, and our physical presence. Having little or no access to express that part of our lives within traditional religions has left us handicapped in a way. With such a large part of our humanness being denied to us, we have often been left as a community seething with hopelessness and misdirected anger. The glory of spirituality is the opposite of those feelings. They are feelings of hope and healing.

When religious leaders begin to talk about faith and healing all in the same sentence, many of us begin to conjure up images of the Religious Right and Pentecostal preachers. We can vision them pushing peoples' foreheads, while they scream Jesus' name, pronounce they are saved, and demand that "they go ahead on and heal themselves." I sense that you are talking about something dramatically different than that.

Healing and faith healing are very different things and have different meanings for different people. I grew up in New England as a member of the Congregational Church. As a child I learned that healing was a miracle that only someone named Jesus could do centuries

the same time teaching me to live with hope. She would always correct me when I would say "if I die." She would say "not if, when you die." For me, that concept began and expanded the idea of living in the moment.

The chances of you being selected for the President's Advisory Council on AIDS seems pretty good. While, admittedly, you do not see yourself as a political activist, what would your agenda be?

There is so much that needs to be done. I think my first priority would be to keep the President's attention on the HIV/AIDS issues. High on my list would be to see the ban lifted on immigrants with this disease. I firmly believe it violates the very foundation upon which this country was founded. The last time I checked, I think the Statue of Liberty still says "give me your sick, your hungry, your poor."

I believe that it is essential that the discussion of HIV and AIDS remains inclusive of the gay and lesbian community. I would want to see that the President remained sensitive to that. Of course, it will always be necessary to push for increased funding for research and social services. Having been patient #1 on the first anti-viral drug, I have a great sensitivity to the need for speed in research. However, given that 14 patients were killed by the toxicity of that drug, I also appreciate that good research will take time. I would just like to see the bureaucratic red tape be eliminated. And finally, it would be essential to me that, if I were selected to the President's Advisory Council on Aids, I would want to remain engaged as both a representative of MCC and of the AIDS Council.

I believe in life, and I believe in miracles. My very presence is a testimony to the possibilities. I am going to live my life according to Peter Pan. Do you remember when Tinker Bell is dying, because no one believes in fairies anymore? Well, I just keep saying to myself, over and over again, "I do believe in fairies, I do believe in fairies!"

We are a community suffering from collective grief from the loss of so many loved ones and friends to this epidemic. How does this continual loss affect us, and how do we move from despair to a position of hope?

The only way out of grief is by going right through it. Just because we have heard it a thousand times, it doesn't become any less true. We must become very intentional about our grief. We must continue to design rituals community wide to facilitate the grieving process to occur. It is very sad that so many are tired of dealing with the pain of the sick and dying, that they now refuse to go to another funeral or memorial service. It is through these rituals that we gather together as a community, not only to honor and remember those who have died, but to create a community where life can still be celebrated.

A few years ago, George Solomon did a study of surviving spouses, who themselves had HIV or AIDS. He found that, without exception, those who did solid and intentional grief work survived far longer than those who tried to suppress their emotions in an effort to quickly get on with life.

Until we as a Church, or as the gay and lesbian community, focus on creating intentional experiences that shatter the heart with grief we will not be able to bridge the gap from anger, despair, and grief to a healing place of compassion, love, and understanding. It is by the moving through the grief, that we come to the other side, and we finally understand the meaning of it all. The only thing in life that is really important is the quality of our love for one another and the loving nature of our relationships.

We don't truly understand what the human body, or the mind, or even our spirituality can accomplish, so why not believe in miracles? Do you want to live your life waiting to die, or do you want to squeeze the very essence of a life well lived out of every moment? I choose the latter. I believe in life, and I believe in miracles. My very presence is a testimony to the possibilities. I am going to live my life according to Peter Pan. Do you remember when Tinker Bell is dying, because no one believes in fairies anymore? Well, I just keep saying to myself, over and over again, "I do believe in fairies, I do believe In fairies!"

When someone, such as yourself, comes to the attention of the national media, there is usually one question that no one ever asks. What is the one thing you haven't been asked that you would want us all to know about you.

After years of being interviewed, there isn't anything, from the bizarre to the comical, that I haven't been asked. I am a pretty open-book kind of person, but even I have been caught off guard by some of the questions. After one presentation, someone in the audience raised their hand, and when I called on them, they asked me if I had contracted AIDS through anal sex. Another person asked me if I still rimmed. I think that those two experiences may have been the few times in my life that I have been speechless.

Perhaps the most comical thing that ever happened to me was at the end of a very serious presentation. When I called on the questioner, he said "I have noticed that you work out. Will you please flex your muscles for me?" Being the drama queen that I am, of course I did. This past Tuesday night I gave a presentation to the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection's weekly Empowerment For Living Group here in Houston. Despite the HIV diagnosis, people tend to treat me, well, as virginal is probably the best way to put it. I had mentioned that, as a result of the damage from the trial drug, I have to take monthly testosterone shots. Within about three days after the shot, EVERYBODY begins to look wonderful to me. I had my shot last Friday before I left Los Angeles. I also mentioned that part of my personal wellness plan was to keep my stress at a minimal. At the end of the presentation, one of the facilitators came up to me and presented me with a check. He then proceded to advise the audience that I was leaving in the morning and that anyone interested in helping me alleviate my stress level still had time to contact him about getting my hotel room number. I turned beet red, although the audience seemed to love it, based on the laughter I heard.

I guess what I want most for people to know about me is that I am not perfect. I don't have all the answers. I do have flaws because I am human. I am not Captain AIDS, or even Rev. Captain AIDS. I don't know why I am still here when people with greater faith than me have died. I don't understand why I have never had a long-term lover. It's something I yearn for, but so far it just hasn't happened. There is so much I don't understand. I used to say that I was dying to be accepted for just being Steve, not the Rev. Pieters or Captain AIDS. I believe that language is a powerful tool, so I have changed my way of speaking by changing familiar expressions to things like, "he has a body to live for, rather than to die for." Today I am living to be accepted for being Steve. The few things that I really do understand through all of this is that being a long term survivor is absolutely possible. The most important thing in life is the quality of our love for one another. When the moment of death arrives nothing else is relevant. ▼

Yoga for Life

at Spectrum Center

with Satya Shepherd

WHEN: Monday & Wednesday
6-7 pm
Tuesday & Thursday
9-10 am

Ending Date: Not in sight

WHERE: The Spectrum Center
4100 Westheimer @ Mid Lane, Suite 235
(just inside the loop; east of the Galleria)

WHO: Satya Shepherd

HOW MUCH: $10 a class; 4 for $35.

WHAT LEVELS: Beginning and Intermediate

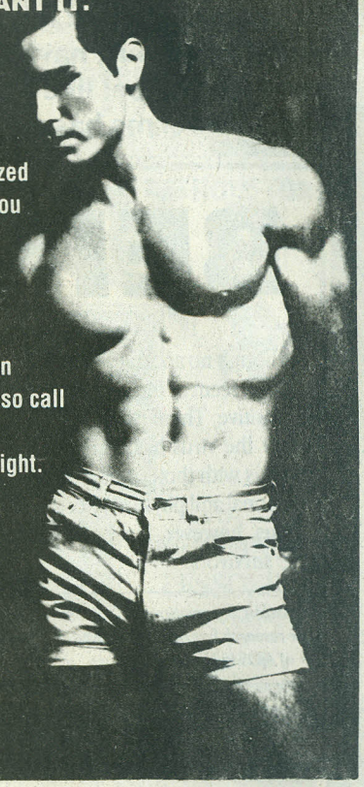
WANT MORE INFO: Call Satya at 902-7913

WHAT TO EXPECT: A beautiful safe environment - breathing - stretching inspiration - gentle music - gong meditation - little bit chanting little bit visualization - lot of good vibes - lot of bliss - see you there.

THE BODY IS YOURS,

YOU'VE JUST GOTTA WANT IT.

Bring out the hot new you.
Hard and Lean in just 12 weeks.
For Real! Personal Fitness
training by Certified Trainer
John Aaron along with personalized
nutritional guidelines will help you
strip away fat & toxins,
and relieve stress while
gaining strength and energy.
You can even get big while
you get ripped. Programs come in
a variety of affordable packages so call
now for a free consultation.
After all, it is your body – Do it Right.



MUSCLE MECHANICS
(713) 869-0356

New Counseling Center

Patrick J. Vachon, L.M.S.W. - A.C.P.
& Certified Imago Relationship Therapist

3415 Graustark
Houston, Texas 77006
713•529•1913

Books, music, and more for the lesbian, gay and feminist communities.

Inklings

1846 Richmond Ave.
Houston, Texas 77098
* * *
(713) 521-3369

Open Tuesday - Sunday

Owners: Pokey Anderson and Annise Parker

JAPANESE AUTO CENTER
QUALITY WORK
AFFORDABLE PRICES
782-8895

• NISSAN • TOYOTA
• HONDA
▪ PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
▪ MAJOR REPAIRS
LOANER CAR
▪ A.S.E. CERTIFIED MECHANICS
▪ WE USE GENUINE PARTS
6261 RICHMOND

MasterCard VISA

"...one of my clients, a gay man in his thirties, bluntly stated 'It's not easy being negative. Sometimes, I think it would be easier and less painful to go out, have fun and get AIDS. At least then I would feel like I fit in.' This same statement in various forms has resurfaced many times..."

BEING NEGATIVE... STAYING

Although no accurate data exists, it is estimated that between 45 to 55 percent of the active gay population in the United States is HIV positive. There is little dispute as to the physical and emotional effect that the virus has had on those infected. The last 14 years have provided us with thousands of studies examining the varied psychological, emotional and physical effects related to HIV infection. Relatively very little focus, however, has been given to the effects on long term HIV-negative survivors.

The information, observations and recommendations in this article have no known basis in data or research but rather from years of professional and personal experience since the onset of AIDS in Houston.

BY PATRICK VACHON, LMSW-ACP

Each day clients enter my office in an attempt to find some direction to their lives as a result of the psychological and emotional upheaval caused by the effects of HIV. Most of these individuals are, of course, HIV-positive, however an ever increasing number are HIV-negative people attempting to survive in a "positive" community.

This issue slapped me in the face several years ago when one of my clients, a gay man in his thirties, bluntly stated "It's not easy being negative. Sometimes, I think it would be easier and less painful to go out, have fun and get AIDS. At least then I would feel like I fit in." This same statement in various forms has resurfaced many times since and on at least one known occasion the person was successful in seroconverting.

The fear of surviving for many is terrorizing. Imagining one might outlive all of his or her friends and/or lover only to die alone is a most unwelcome proposition. Compared to some, death is a much more pleasant option.

Many of these HIV-negative individuals report of the "good old days" as if they were survivors of the Great Depression. They reminisce of "Mardi Gras Madness" parties with thousands in attendance and Gay Pride parades with "hunky men and elephants" strolling or riding down Westheimer. They generally follow with a somber comment like "there are only a couple of us left now," and their elation is replaced with an overwhelming sense of loss.

Many of these stories may seem very familiar regardless of one's HIV status. A difference as reported by one client was that he was afraid that one day he may be the last storyteller.

In addition to the sense of grief and loss there is also a seemingly unending cycle of fear. These fears manifest in as many different ways as the individuals affected. Many don't want to make new friends, fearful of more loss. The relationships that they have with HIV positive friends often change or end completely, fearful that what was once a commonality is gone forever. Some-HIV negative people will only date other HIV negative people if they are willing to date at all. Some individuals might remain "closeted" where they perceive some sense of emotional safety. And still others are so fearful of having sex that paranoia overcomes their sexual life resulting in inability to perform or sexual withdrawal.

It appears that one of the major contributing factors to the acceleration of separation is the denial of the effects and/or denial of needs and feelings. Almost all of the HIV-negative clients I see report a sense of feeling alone and abandoned. Alone, because they believe no one wants to hear

Dignity Houston

Lesbian and Gay Catholics and friends

Celebrating our 20th Year—

Houston's oldest lesbian/gay/bisexual religious organization

Dignity/Houston celebrates Mass each Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

We offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the first Saturday of each month at 7 p.m.

1307 Yale, Suite H

880-2872

Our schedule for Holy Week:

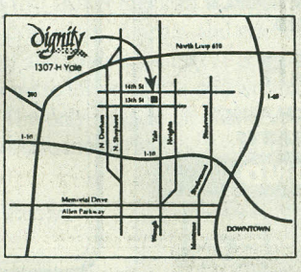
Holy Thursday, March 31
Exposition of the Sacrament, 7–9 p.m.

Good Friday, April 1
Reconciliation Service, 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil, April 2
Easter Vigil Celebration, 7:30 p.m.

Inclusive liturgy celebrated.

¡Todos bien venidos!



their problems, and abandoned by a community that appears to be focused on only one side of the epidemic.

Most clients state they don't feel they have a right to be upset or to "burden" other people with their pain, especially if they are HIV-negative or not ill. One client stated quite clearly to his lover something I have heard in some form many times in my office, "How dare you be upset; I'm the one who is going to die."

In many cases those willing to talk won't do so fearing that they will "upset" the HIV-positive person. Consequently many people deny fear, sadness or anger as well as their physical, emotional or sexual needs. These feelings and needs do not go away however, and generally manifest in subtle or passive/aggressive ways.

As with the physical treatments for HIV, there is no easy way to overcome the effects or "cure" the

POSITIVE

problem. There are, however, many ways that, by a mere shift in perception or willingness to change, we might help the healing occur.

First and foremost, it would be helpful to end the silence and begin the discussion. For this to be effective, everyone must cooperate. Individuals who are harboring their emotions inside must realize that each human life is important, no more or no less than any other. It is OK to talk, knowing that the discussion may be painful or affect someone else in a painful way. This, however, is the road to healing. We must allow the pain to surface, recognize it, feel it, hopefully share it with another compassionate person, and yes, eventually let it go. By doing so it will likely soon be realized that there are less differences and more similarities between all affected persons. The grief, sadness, anger and fear once shared openly and honestly can become mortar to solidify rather than ammunition to separate.

The flip side of this coin is that we must also be willing to listen. Communication has two parts, and any messages, even the most subtle that state an unwillingness to listen, will shut down the communication, the process and the progress.

Finally everyone must be willing to "look at their own stuff." Each person who wants to heal must be willing to do their own work. They must be willing to confront their "demons," own their emotions and honestly communicate with others. This to my knowledge is impossible to do in a vacuum of isolation and can only be done through human interaction. In the most simple terms, "No pain, no gain."

Obviously many of the issues cited above are not exclusive to HIV negative persons. Many or most are also shared by HIV-positive individuals at various stages of HIV infection. The main differences seem to be the lack of overt permission given to the HIV population to share their pain, as well as the lack of "self permission" apparent in most HIV-negative individuals in some form. This overt, covert, and self permission is certainly not the answer, but it, no doubt, would assist in recognizing that we are all more alike than we are different, allowing everyone to join in healing.

Patrick J. Vachon, L.M.S.W., A.C.P. is a Clinical Social Worker in private practice at New Counseling Center in Houston. He can be reached at 529-1913.

PLAZA 9200
FOUR Bars in ONE!
Only 10 Minutes From Montrose • ONE COVER FOR ALL THE FUN
300 Car, Lighted Parking with Security • Men Always Welcome!
9200 Buffalo Speedway
713•666•3464 713•666•3356

THE RANCH HOUSTON
"Little Bit of Texas" Featuring
Shiela Lennon
April 15


"Sugar Creek"
April 29
Check Out Our
FREE DANCE LESSONS
Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm
Sponsored By:
SOUTHERN COUNTRY
H★O★U★S★T★O★N
OPEN Tuesday thru Sunday • 7 pm-2 am

XTC
happy hour all night every friday
• industrial
• alternative
• new wave & dance music

The Patio
STEAK NITE WILL RESUME AFTER THE "SPRING THAW"

Ms.B's
A LITTLE BIT OF NEW YORK CITY IN THE HEART OF HOUSTON
A Musical Comedy Revue With:
NANCY FORD
Queen of the Lesbians
March 24 & April 14
& Every Other Thursday
Open Everyday 4 pm-2 am • Happy Hour Every Night • 4 pm to 8 pm

BUYING A HOME IN 1994: GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN

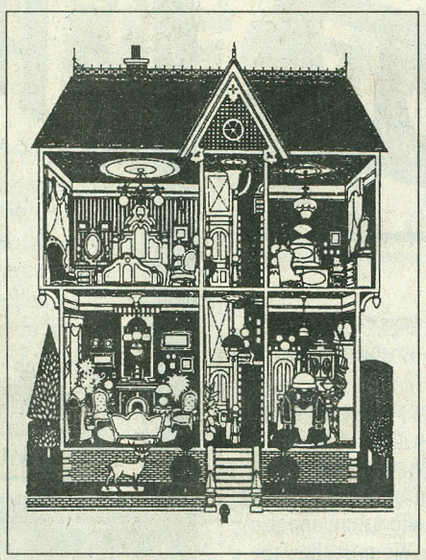
The 2nd of a 4-Part Series

by Alice Tomasello

For most people, buying a home is the largest financial expenditure they will make in their lifetime. Monetary commitments aside, the process of selecting a home in the community they want to live in, getting mortgage approval, and going to the closing table can be a very emotional experience.

The average home buyer has limited knowledge of the home-buying experience. This fact alone makes them feel powerless. Many people do as much homework as possible trying to educate themselves, but the reality is simple: The average home buyer seldom has the time to become expert in the fields of real estate, the mortgage approval process, title company matters, etc. Too often he or she must rely upon the kindness (and expertise) of strangers.

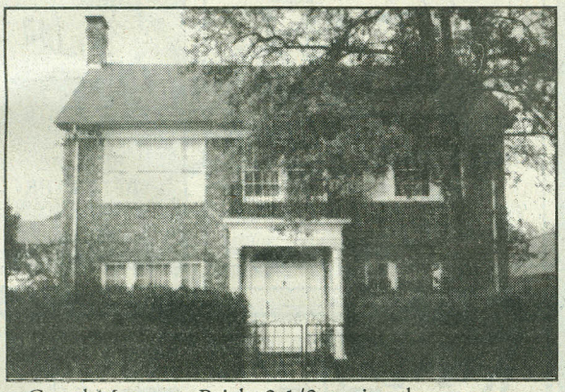
The following is a walk-through of the mortgage process: What to expect, what to beware, and how to prepare yourself and/or your partner before you sign those papers.



Traditional and Pre-Approved Mortgages

There are two approaches to financing your dream home: via traditional and pre-approved mortgage.

The traditional way is to contact a realtor, disclose some basic information about your credit and income to pre-qualify you, pull up an in-file credit report and discuss your personal desires. The realtor uses his or her experience to select homes in your price range and neighborhoods. Following a tour of several homes you may decide on the first, second, or third trip out. Decide on the home of your dreams, complete an earnest money contract and write out an earnest money check as a deposit. Your earnest money contract is presented to the seller (realtor) of the home. Once all parties (buyer & seller) agree, the earnest money contract is given to a title company. Your realtor instructs you to apply for a mortgage, giving you one or two names of mortgage officers. It is your



Grand Montrose Brick, 2 1/2 stories plus quarters, hardwoods, grand staircase!
3-3-2+ Den. Fantastic! $239,000



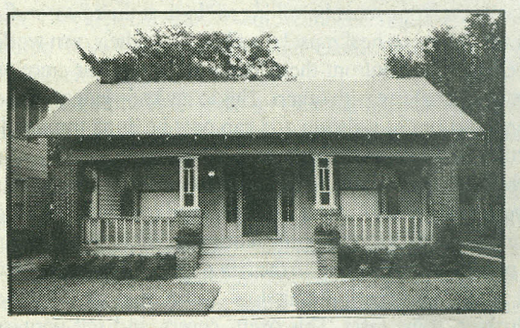
SELLING or BUYING a Home in the Inner-Loop Area?

FREE! Home Buyer's Warranty if you list or buy with me during March or April!

EXPERIENCED AND PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION GUARANTEED! CALL ME!

RICHARD HILL 869-0456
A MEMBER OF SWILLEY-HUDSON & ASSOC. 768-3095

Suzanne Anderson
• PROPERTIES •
Proudly Serving Houston's
Lesbian & Gay Community



906 Peden • Montrose Classic

Beautifully renovated 2-11/2 with study/den. New A/C & heat, plumbing & electrical. Lush landscaping with traditional front porch. Marble fireplace, gourmet kitchen & beautifully refinished hardwoods. Look for open houses in March/April Saturdays 2 to 4 PM

Only 114,900!

529-8484

315 W. Alabama, Suite 101 • Houston • 77006

responsibility to complete the application process.

Considered by many professionals to be the most innovative approach to buying a home, a pre-approved mortgage is a guaranteed line of credit issued to the buyer to purchase a home. The line of credit is guaranteed for 90 days from issue date. Once your line of credit is issued, contact a realtor.

Half of the process of getting your mortgage approved is already completed. This will make your realtor happy because it will make his or her job easier in that you already know exactly how much you can spend. The fact that your credit line is approved is a good negotiating tool to be used with the seller of the home you choose. Further, negotiating price is easier, because you will be moving into your home in two weeks instead of 30 days.

Mortgage Approval Process

Sooner or later in the mortgage approval process you will have to pay for a full factual mortgage credit report. This report combines the facts reported by two or three credit reporting agencies, including a thorough search of the county courthouse records.

In order to clear the first step in the mortgage approval process you must clear any outstanding debt in the past due column. This is achieved by payment of the debt, proof that you paid it, or a letter protesting that it is not your debt and asking the credit bureau to investigate. This process of clearing past due debt can take from one to 30 days for credit card or installment accounts. Judgments found in the courthouse require more complicated maneuvers and may take the help of an attorney. A good mortgage company will guide you through the process of removing items listed on your credit report in error. The average mortgage company will reject your mortgage at this point.

Simultaneously with the Mortgage Credit Report, verifications of your employment, bank deposits, investment account balances, and residence for the past two years are requested for original signatures. These documents of verification are government forms. The return of these verifications can take one week to three weeks.

The processing of all the information provided in the mortgage application is compared to the verifications, credit report, tax returns, bank statements, investment account statements, etc. When all of the information is matched and verified, a letter is written describing the loan applicants' objective, past credit history, and recommendation for approval of credit.

When a property has been selected at the time of mortgage application, simultaneous to all of the above, an appraisal, survey, inspection and title policy are ordered. Each of these items are regulated by their own rules and credentials, and the appraiser must be approved by the funding source. Sometimes the above items are not ordered simultaneously, especially the appraisal. The reasons for this interruption may vary. Sometimes selection of the appraiser narrows down the funding sources. Sometimes repairs indicated in the earnest money contract may not be completed. Maybe the inspection revealed the costs for repairs were too high or credit problems were revealed in the credit application process that might take time to remove. These are only a few examples. But don't despair—you've come too far to turn back now!

When each report is completed, it is examined by the mortgage company. The appraisal for appraised value is compared to sales price, life of the property is compared to the term of the mortgage and any condition placed on the appraisal met before closing.

Suppose your survey reveals encroachment. If any part of the property you are buying is on someone else's property, waivers must be signed by them. At the least, some type of legal release must be retained before closing.

The title policy is examined for clear title. Liens which have been placed on the property must be removed to give the funding source a first position lien. Many times, homeowners associations, condo associations or community associations have special clauses placing them in first lien position. This right must be waived in writing, and this process takes time. The inspection is examined for the cost and timing. If the repairs are too costly, the price might be re-negotiated or a different property selected.

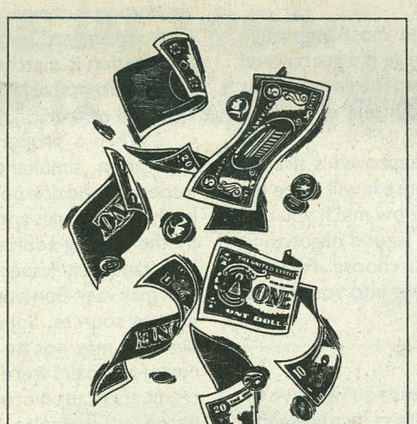
Continued on next page

ARISE FUTON
THE ORIGINAL FUTON MATTRESS CO.
NIGHT IS SHORT
PLAY HARD
(LIFETIME WARRANTIES ON ALL HARDWOOD FRAMES)
2013-D WEST GRAY AT RIVER OAKS SHOPPING CENTER
M.-SAT. 10³⁰-6⁰⁰ THURS. 10³⁰-8⁰⁰ SUN. 12⁰⁰-5⁰⁰
713.524.8120

EYES ARE PRECIOUS
OFFERS YOU MORE THAN THE USUAL, FAST-FOOD EYE EXAM
NEOSTYLE

most designer frames under $180 and all our frames come with single vision lenses (includes free uv & scratch-resistant coating and polish)
from the perfectly sensible to the perfectly outrageous
convenient hours - saturdays, sundays & most evenings
exams for CMV Retinitis • preventive care • treatment for eye infections • we have Dr. Thomas S. Johnson's records •
2015 W. Gray • next to Arise Futon • River Oaks Shopping Center
Dr. Sue Moss Optometrist 524-2525

The letter and the entire file, plus two copies, are submitted for final approval. Twenty-four to 48 hours later the approval, suspension or rejection arrives. One of three things can happen: Your mortgage can be approved with conditions to be met at closing; your mortgage can be suspended waiting for conditions to be met before it is released to (and with conditions to be met at) closing; your mortgage can be rejected. In the case of the last, it is especially important to work with a client-oriented mortgage company that will explore all possibilities to provide you with mortgage approval.



Common Sense: Interest Rate, Closing Costs and Down Payment

Most people want to buy a home with a mortgage that requires the lowest down payment, the lowest closing costs and the lowest interest rate.

Closing costs are generally standard in the industry, but interest rates are determined by the type of mortgage that is selected. There are many types of mortgage products. The interest rate and type of mortgage are the direct result of how much you can afford each month on a mortgage payment and how much cash you have to spend for your down payment and closing costs. The average mortgage officer will recommend a standard mortgage. A customer-committed mortgage officer will take the time to customize a mortgage that fits your needs at no extra cost to you.

The Closing

One of the first things done in the entire process of buying your home was the selection of the title company.

This should have been a primary concern in the beginning because the title agent is the person you will see last. The title agent is the person who explains each and every document requiring your signature at the closing table. The average number of pages ranges from 50 to 60 pages. The realtor chooses the title agency, unless you ask for a specific one.

The closing of your mortgage can be very emotional. You and your partner suddenly see the reality of staring down a 20-year or longer stretch of highway with no guardrails. This is a time when you and your partner need to freely display your feelings.

Mortgage Officer

Choose a mortgage officer that is committed to providing you with customer service who has as much confidence and pride in you as you have in him or her. Your mortgage officer should be willing to explain the ongoing process of getting your mortgage approved and answering questions no matter how ridiculous they may seem to you. Committed customer service mortgage officers can recommend realtors & title agents who understand you and your partner's special needs, whether legal, financial or social.

The whole home buying process is much easier when "your guides" through this jungle are professional, yet accessible. A little hand-holding and general reassurance throughout the process never hurts.

Alice Tomasello is co-owner of JAG Financial Services, a member of Lesbians In Business and long-time member of Houston's business and financial community. For more information regarding this article call 713/933-2897.

On Shepherd
There's A Hairstylist
Who Isn't Snippy



TRACY GILMORE
Friendly, Flexible, Affordable, Professional
ALL DECKED OUT
3502 S. Shepherd between Richmond & Alabama
713 • 522-0507

Brown-Wilkins & Assoc. Travel
Go far... Live well... Have fun...

NEW YORK, NEW YORK... THINK NEW YORK, JUNE 1994

Call us for inclusive 4-night air/land packages

Deluxe Package:
Plaza Hotel - $966 per person
Moderate Package:
Carlton Hotel - $626 per person

STONEWALL 25 NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL MARCH JUNE 26, 1994

Gay Games IV

International Gay Travel Association
IGTA

Sandra B. Wilkins, M.A.
Pat Brown, C.T.C.
713 • 942 • 0664
Fax: 713 • 942 • 0665

AROMATHERAPY BATHS

by Alan Davidson

Aromatherapy bathing, or ritual bathing, has been used for thousands of years in temples and royal palaces. Yet aromatherapy seems to be the new catch word for natural self care. What does it all mean? What are the healing effects of these plant essences on the body, heart and soul? And how can you use them at home to ritualize your own bath?

Aromatherapy oils are the most concentrated source of plant energy available to the modern natural healer. Most of the oils are concentrated by steam-distilling the flowers, leaves, stems or roots of specific plants. The distillation process leaves a small amount of "oil." This oil is the hormonal essence of the plant and carries its signature scent and healing properties. Complementing and maximizing these properties is where aromatherapy becomes a complicated science.

The fascinating aspect of aromatherapy is the impact these oils have on the whole human organism. Some oils work specifically on the physical body. Other oils work with the emotional bodies. Some clear the mental processes, while others are used for their spiritual effects. All of the oils affect the limbic system, which controls the process of our feelings. The limbic system is interrelated with the process of memory and the sense of smell. This is why particular scents can transport us to certain people or events from the past. Aromatherapy accesses this important faculty, and its importance on well being cannot be underestimated.

Bathing and massage with the oils are the two most effective ways to use them. With the right intention, they can also be the most fun. So, how does a novice side step the complications of science and move directly to the art of aromatherapy? Some simple guidelines and common sense can open this powerful and enjoyable world to you. For simplicity's sake, let's place the oils into some broad categories like relaxing, muscular, energizing, euphoric, sacred and immune blends. Please note that the oils from these broad categories send specific signals to the brain. Blending oils from different categories, such as the energizing and relaxing groups, for the same bath is not suggested since it confuses the brain.

These are the various oils listed by category:

- Relaxing: lavender, chamomile, marjoram, tangerine
- Energizing: peppermint, spearmint, rosemary
- Muscular: juniper, cypress
- Euphorics: lavender, rose, jasmine, melissa, grapefruit (note that three of the most expensive oils are in this group)
- Sacred: patchouli, sandalwood, cedarwood, myrrh, frankincense
- Immune-stimulating: Laurel Noblis*, lavender, lemon, bergamot *use only two drops when making this blend

Other than baths, oils can be used for steam installations, which are good for clearing the sinuses, applied directly to body parts (for example, sore feet), or combined with a carrier (massage-grade safflower oil or other type of massage oil) to be used as a massage lotion. Following are the recommended number of drops for different treatments. This is the total number of drops from all the oils in your blend.

- For baths: use 20 drops per bath
- For massage lotion: use 20 drops per 1 oz. of carrier
- For steam inhalations: use10 drops per quart of boiling water
- For local applications: use 30 drops, maximum

As a word of caution, these oils are powerful; they must be used with respect. Using too strong of a blend or unpure oils can burn the skin. There are three brands of oils I recommend for home use. These are Source Vital, Aroma Vera and Aroma Care. These are the purist of oils (also the most expensive) and will give the maximum effects desired. Most of the oils found in health food stores are not of this caliber, so shop carefully. The above-mentioned brands can be found locally at Essential Touch, Lucia's Garden or Brea: An Aromatherapy Bar.

So now that you know a little about aromatherapy, you can create a sensual bath for yourself or that special someone—you are only limited by imagination. First choose an all-natural bubble bath that complements the aromatherapy blend you are using. Then add the oil to the hot water. Personally, I also like to add some large chunks of polished rose quartz and flower petals (rose petals are my favorite, but any flower will do). You can also try adding cinnamon sticks or citrus peels to further complement the oil you are using. The point is to be creative!

Alan Davidson is a licensed massage therapist with Essential Touch Therapies. To learn more about aromatherapy and other forms of therapeutic treatments call him at 942-0923.

Inside/Out Productions
presents
Entertaining Mr. Sloane
by Joe Orton
March 25 - April 16
Friday and Saturday Nights
8:00 p.m.
Kuumba House
3412 LaBranch at Holman
Tickets: $10
($8 students and seniors)
group discounts available
Call 864-5986 for info or reservations

"....an absolute riot!" "...fun from the minute you step inside..." '...see it with someone you love...'

"Despicable!" "...even the men will blush..." "Eye-popping!"

TRAVEL UPDATE
SUMMER 1994

GAY GAMES IV, STONEWALL 25 NEW YORK CITY JUNE 18-27, 1994



Dan Baker, Deputy Director of Gay Games IV, talks with Sandra Wilkins about the growing excitement, momentum, and importance of this historic month in lesbian and gay history...

Dan, how did you get involved with planning Gay Games IV?

Well, you know I was Treasurer for Act Up New York for several years, and my colleagues, Andy Velez and Sean Strub were early Games Board members. In talking with them I got interested in being appointed to the Board, and became Treasurer of the Board for the Games. I became increasingly excited about the Cultural Festival which will run in tandem with the Games and was Committee Chairman for that for a while before assuming the new position of Deputy Director for Gay Games IV.

So, how are things progressing thus far?

The two big events are Gay Games IV and the Stonewall 25 March. This year the Stonewall March will replace the traditional New York Gay Pride Parade, and this year there aren't going to be any floats, which has been a source of much controversy between the New York people and the Stonewall 25 people. It's been decided that this year our march will be a march for civil rights for gays and lesbians, bi-sexuals and transgenders throughout the world, and that's why one of the things we're doing is to march by the United Nations to protest the oppression of gay people everywhere. Then, the march will go uptown to Central Park where there will be a big rally, with huge video screens and hopefully some famous speakers outside of the community, like some Nobel Prize winners, including, we hope, the Dali Lama from Tibet, who will speak about human rights in general for all people everywhere.

The games are scheduled for June 18-25, and we have now confirmed Vine Stadium at Columbia University for the Opening Ceremonies. What we don't know yet is where the Closing Ceremonies will be held, because we want to get Yankee Stadium, and we're in negotiation with George Steinbrener now to make that happen.

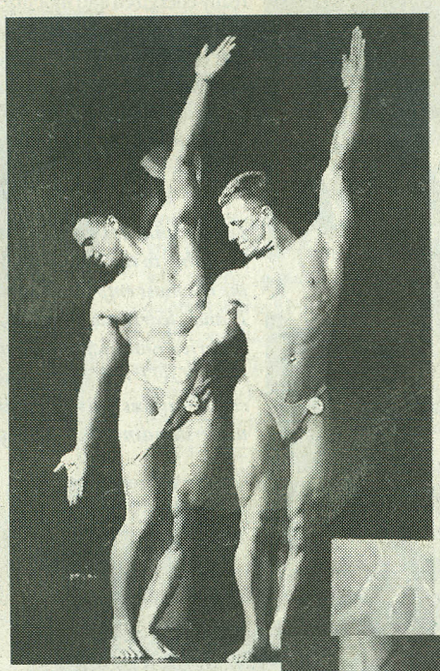
It sounds like things are starting to come together nicely. One question we want to ask is what's it been like to coordinate all of the events of this magnitude? How's it been working with the city, politicians, etc.?

Dealing with the city of New York has been very interesting. The City of New York has been verbally supportive all along, and when the people who put together the bid with the Federation of Gay Games to bring GGIV to New York, the Board of the City of New York, endorsed it, the Mayor of New York, who was David Dinkins at the time, actually did a news conference saying that was something the City wanted. But that early support was mostly verbal. They were not all that forthcoming, mostly because New York is just a huge and non-functioning bureaucracy.

And just because the Mayor says he wants something, doesn't mean it

will happen. We never encountered roadblocks, as such, but we did get the run-around in the early planning stages, and, even though we're not necessarily supporters of Rudolph Juliani, (the Republican Mayor), in fact things have been as good, or better, under his administration.

It's funny, but one thing that's helped the GGIV organizers is that the Juliani administration didn't know what the Dinkins administration had done with us, so that's worked to our advantage. We had contracts with the City Parks and so forth, but the new administration didn't know the details, so in effect when we started approaching them for commitments they must have thought, well, we can't say no because Dinkins must have said yes. Please note: We have gotten no money, whatsoever, from the City of New York.



Did you expect funding from the city, Dan?

We didn't really expect money, but had hoped for more in-kind sorts of things, like providing office space, communications support, and them putting more pressure on Steinbrener to get Yankee Stadium. But the truth is, any pressure they put doesn't make any difference anyway.

Why is that?

Because Steinbrener, according to his contract, during baseball season has total control over the use of the stadium, and nothing the City can do will make any difference in his decision.

We're all wishing you luck in pulling off Yankee Stadium, but regardless, these events are history-making stuff. I opened my March 8 Advocate *today and saw a "casting call" for production teams for the Cultural Festival and Opening/Closing Ceremonies. Let's talk a little about the Cultural Festival and what that entails.*

Here's something exciting that happened today! Sir Ian McClellan confirmed with us today that he would perform at the Cultural Festival. He's going to do a one-person show for two or three nights at City Centre or Town Hall, which are big theatre spaces here in New York, so we're thrilled about his being a part of this.

Bill T. Jones and his dance company are going to perform. We're doing the big queer comedy night, where Sandra Bernhard has confirmed to headline, so we're capturing some big-name entertainers in our community to make this a wonderful experience.

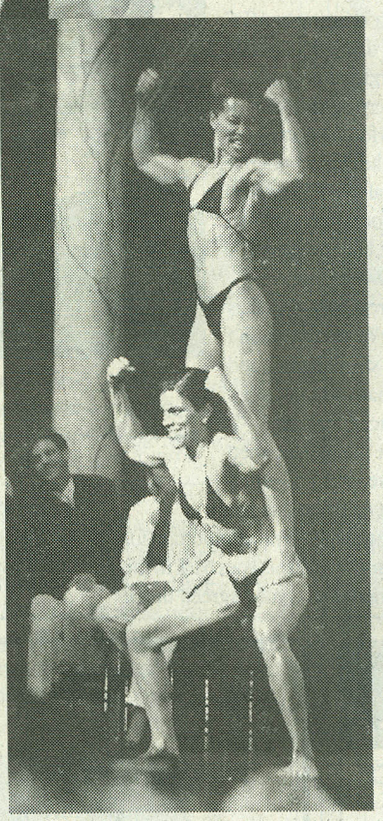
My clients often ask what else is going on besides the Games. Clearly there is a ton of fun waiting for all of us, whether you're interested in athletics, drama, dance and music, or fun social events.

Yes indeed. Remember the theme this summer is Unity 94, and we've contracted for Pier 52, where all the ocean liners dock; it's like a big convention-location. Here we'll have vendor booths to showcase gay and lesbian goods and services, a stage area where gay and lesbian entertainment will take place constantly, an ongoing arts and crafts fair where gay and lesbian artists and artisans will exhibit, and, best of all, the activities at Unity Center are FREE!

Another remarkable thing is, like the March on Washington, everyone is piggybacking onto this event. All of the national organizations, like NLGTF, HRCF, are doing some kind of event, like sponsoring a big dance or get-together during this time. The biggest dances are Friday and Saturday nights, June 24 and 25, on the U.S.S. Intrepid, a retired Navy Aircraft Carrier that's been contracted as the site for 2,000 to 4,000 gay and lesbians to party. So, as if there aren't enough reasons to come to New York, there are going to be the biggest and best parties going on all throughout these dates that our community has ever enjoyed.

Dan, that comment brings to mind Mary Breslauer's "Viewpoint" editorial in the February 22nd issue of the Advocate. *Her title was "Another Weekend Lost," and essentially she's scolding gay and lesbian activists and the community that will participate for wasting our time and money by coming to New York in June.*

Right. I read that editorial, and she specifically was knocking Stonewall 25, saying why weren't we organizing and spending our money against the Christian Right, instead of spending our resources organizing another big celebration like the March on Washington.



Both men and women will participate and compete in the physique category at this summer's Gay Games IV. Photos by Bobby Miller

So, how do you feel about that?

Well, I have several things to say about that. One is that one of our big problems as a community is that people don't know we exist or wish we didn't or have preconceived notions about who we are. Surely this is one of the ways we can continue to show our strength, and it can never hurt to show the world at large how big and how impressive in numbers we are, exhibit our financial resources, and illustrate how very diverse and powerful the international lesbian and gay community really is. Obviously, this kind of massive coming together will be an enormous media focus and will bring us a lot of attention and will show the world just how important we are.

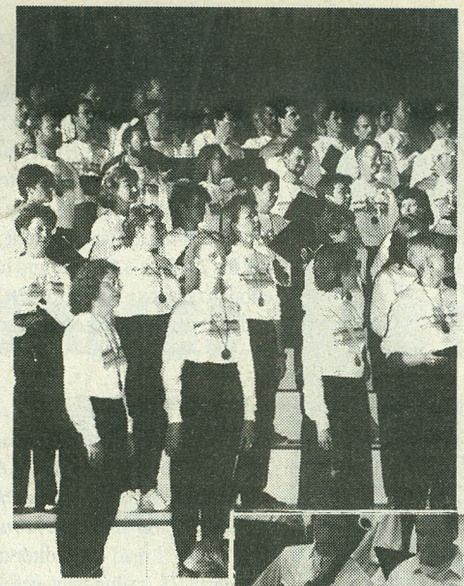
The other thing, and I think this is vitally important; we have a right to celebrate. This is the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the movement for lesbian and gay rights, and we ought to be celebrating. Of course, we still have a long way to go, and hopefully we will be sending a message to the world at large and to our community about the necessity for integration and cooperation between all people around the world.

The other thing is, this time in New York is about visibility and about pride. That's what the Games are about. Showing that gays and lesbians are out there in ways that people don't usually see us, that the boy or girl next door might just be a gay or lesbian athlete, and that we do all kinds of things that people never think about. This is part of our goal in breaking down stereotypes, getting people out there, performing at their best, for all the world to see, and bringing us much-needed publicity.

Continued on next page

Wow, speaking of publicity, how is mainstream media reacting to this, and what kind of coverage is shaping up at this point?

Sandra, this is one of the most gratifying aspects of being so closely involved in this project. We're seeing more and more interest every day, and we're talking to people like New York One, which is like CNN for New York City, and they want to do a regular feature on Gay Games IV every day from now through the Closing Ceremonies of the Games. Also, CNN is talking to us about doing live coverage of different athletic events during Games week, so in fact there is enormous interest from mainstream media about all of this.



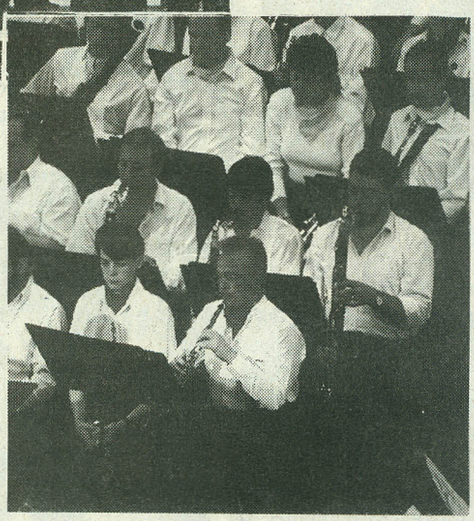
A humorous aside, *The New York Times* has reported that a Latino minister of some kind of Pentecostal church has complained that it is a mistake for the city to host this event because it would only bring more AIDS into the city, and there would be all kinds of displays of public nudity, etc. and IMMEDIATELY this got an enormous reaction, and the *Times* came out with an editorial decrying this kind of bigotry and endorsing what a great thing it was for the city to host this historic event. So, of course we thought this was wonderful and got some good publicity from it. Additionally, in *USA Today*, it was reported that Janet Reno would waive for 30 days the ban on anyone who is HIV positive coming to the U. S. to attend or participate in these events.

This was announced by the Associated Press, who called us at the Games offices and asked our comment. We said we hadn't heard anything about it, but they released the story anyway, and the next morning Janet Reno said she hadn't made that decision, but by the end of the day she in fact announced that the U. S. would lift the ban for 30 days. So, both of those things happened last week and were a really big deal, all positive for our community, so we're pretty happy about mainstream media at this point.

That makes me want to say one more thing about why it is important for us to be visible and proud in New York this summer, and this goes back to the 1987 March on Washington. After that experience, everyone agreed that it really energized and mobilized people. So many of the powerful and influential national organizations we have today came out of that experience. People came to Washington and realized that they were not alone; there were so many others out there like them—there was so much needed to be done, and so much that could be done, and that we needed to organize and work toward common goals.

I agree, and, as I mentioned in the first article for OutSmart, *my going to the March on Washington last April became for me the most empowering event I'd ever participated in, and I, and clearly many others, realized it was OK to be gay in America and accepted that we have some sort of obligation to be OUT THERE, if we can, and make the kinds of contributions we can on an individual basis to further the understanding and acceptance of lesbian and gay people everywhere.*

Exactly. And the one advantage that this whole series of events has is that it goes beyond The March on Washington, because it is not just a one-day event, but goes on for virtually two weeks, if you count the ILGA Conference that begins on June 27th.



The Cultural Festival will include choirs, like the 1,000-voice-strong Celebrations '90 Chorus, and bands, such as the Gay & Lesbian Band of America. Photos by Bobby Miller.

This time will illustrate such amazing diversity. It has the political aspect with the Stonewall 25 March on the United Nations, it has the athletic aspect with the Games, the cultural aspect—it's like every part of our society gets reflected in everything taking place that week. One of the things I've wanted from the Cultural Festival would be to have people come here and see what's going on and see how many gay and lesbian artists and performers are on the cutting edge, and this would serve to inspire people to go back and achieve and create these things on their own. It's like this enormous coming together of gay talent that we can showcase to the world.

TONY CARROLL,



LMSW-ACP
Carroll and Turesk Psychotherapy Associates

(713) 522-3045

Certified **Imago** Relationship Therapist
Individual and Couples Psychotherapy
Offices: Montrose-West U Bear Creek FM 1960
Call about **Couples & Singles Seminars**

PATRICIA D. SALVATO, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Board Certified

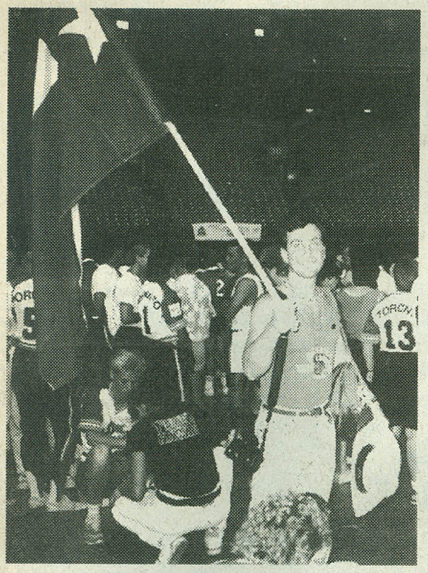
7800 Fannin, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77054
(713) 791-7520



Clyde Williams
Attorney at Law

Board Certified in Criminal Law
by Texas Board of Legal Specialization

1314 Texas Ave., Suite 712
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 236-0064



Bobby Miller, co-chair of Team Houston, proudly carries the Texas State flag at Gay Games III held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

What kind of corporate sponsorship have you achieved, and what are the long term prospects there?

I'm happy to report we've signed up several mainstream corporate sponsors and have some other exciting companies not far from committing. Miller Beer and Continental Airlines are on for sure. We had to convince these global corporations that we are a market to be seriously reckoned with and that we know what we're doing. Some others of major, major importance, which we can't mention yet because they're not signed up, would really put us on the map in terms of advertising. Suffice it to say "you may not leave home without it," and "switch back for free" are in the wings. That kind of mainstream corporate endorsement would be an amazing breakthrough for the gay and lesbian community. If such occurs, you must realize the impact, because these mega-global corporations will risk boycotts and protests from the other organizations they support and endorse. If they come on line that means they are willing to take this risk because they see it as a worthwhile thing to do, and obviously they do it because of commercial reasons as well. That we have come this far in negotiations with these major corporations is a stunning statement of how far along we've come in a short period of time. Who could possibly doubt a massive presence of gay and lesbians in New York this summer isn't important.

Here's a final question. Sitting in a real hot seat, how's the climate at the Gay Games Offices these days?

(Dan laughs for 30 seconds) Well, it's getting better. Of course we've had a lot of internal disagreements, and it hasn't been easy, but that's because of the diversity involved. We've gone out of our way to get a diverse and inclusive staff, and as a friend of mine said, "What do you get when you do that? You get diversity." People don't think alike, they don't have the same assumptions, they don't have the same way of dealing with each other or folks outside our organization, so it's not just a big, happy, rosy world when you get all these people together, but from this will emerge good results. Today I counted a salaried staff of 42 people, not including our many paid consultants. What's important about this is this is the first time that the gay and lesbian community has ever had an event like this where we've been able to mobilize so many resources, have so many staff, and fully expect to get so many volunteers together. I mean, GMHC has a much bigger staff than we do and can get so many volunteers for their activities, but for a pure gay and lesbian event, as opposed to an AIDS event, this is unheard of.

I hope all concerned gay and lesbians in Houston will come join us.

Believe me, this will be a memorable event in our lives.

Dan Baker is currently writing a book for Harper Collins titled Cracking the Corporate Closet, *which is going well, and is getting tremendous response from corporate America, hoping to improve their non-discriminatory image. For information about Gay Games IV, Call 212-633-9494*

• • •

Sandra Wilkins is Vice President and co-owner of Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel in Houston, Texas. For complete travel packages to New York, call Sandra at 713-942-0664.

FOOTNOTE: Sandra and Dan were sweethearts at The University of Texas, Austin, and engaged to be married in 1968. Unrealized misgivings prevailed on both sides prior to the event, which was called off. Nine years later Dan called Sandra and announced that he was gay. She responded, so was she. Ain't life a kick in the pants?

JAG Financial Services

Residential Mortgages • • •Refinance & Purchase

- When do you want to move in?
- How much do you want your monthly mortgage payment to be?
- We make the entire mortgage approval process simple and convenient.
- We are customer service committed mortgage officers.
- We will not stop at the first pitfall in your approval process.
- We won't stop until you are Just Approved Guaranteed!

CALL: MARGI, ALICE & GAYLE
(713)933-2897 Fax (713)831-6803
3730 Kirby Drive Suite 1200 Houston, Texas 77098

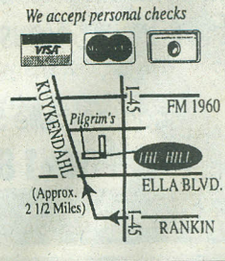
THE HILL
AKA AK's Berry Hill II

St. Patrick's Day Blarney Blow-Out with Nancy Ford
Thurs. Mar. 17 • 10:30
No Cover – 75¢ Well Drinks 9-11 PM

OPEN 6 PM-2AM Nightly
HAPPY HOUR
Mon - Sat 6PM - 9PM • Call for Nightly Specials

THE HILL
15346 KUYKENDAHL
FM 1960 & I-45 AREA CLOSE TO THE AIRPORT
587-8810

We accept personal checks



PINQUE

by Michael Harren

With a single look at Pinque, one can surely guess her favorite color, or is it an obsession? Either way, this Houston native has one thing going for her—determination. A performer since childhood, Pinque has never taken "no" for an answer. Nor has she compromised herself when it comes to making her music. Her latest venture is no exception.

Hush...The Drama is a diverse collection of tunes. Ranging from the house-influenced remake of the country classic, "Beautiful Body" to the somber "Beyond the Pale," each track takes her expressive voice to a new level.

"I don't follow the crowd," says Pinque. This comes as no surprise to look at her. Her eccentric style and outgoing personality suggest a woman who is truly at ease with herself.

Pinque maintained total creative control in the creation of her CD, insisting she "couldn't *not* have complete control over any project that had my name on it. I designed the packaging, co-wrote and co-produced all of it."



Hush...The Drama was produced by industrial/dance wiz Ken Gerhard of Houston's Bamboo Crisis. Though heavy on synthesizers, the disc features honest to goodness harp, cello, flute and a real horn section—quite commendable, considering the ease of today's computer-generated counterparts.

"I like to see real instruments, and know that they're real. To me, it sounds better than keyboard-generated sounds," says Pinque. "I would have used more live musicians, but my budget wouldn't allow it.

Her unfaltering conviction that her music is her mission inspires Pinque to pursue a career that is at best, considered risky. "In most other careers, there is much more security," she admits. "But I feel that I'd be cheating myself if I didn't pursue music. You can't think that it won't happen, or it won't."

Michael Harren is a songwriter/waiter/pianist/writer/bartender who will be releasing his own CD in the winter of 1995.

JULIA A. SISKA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT



Taxes • Accounting • Business Consulting
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION
contact Julie Siska
713.460-1885

Rights of Survivorship— An Invaluable Shield

by Connie Moore

Sometimes doing the right thing isn't enough. Take the plans of Bill and Don (not their real names). They made a commitment to each other and decided to make it legal. They bought a house in both their names. They signed powers of attorney and wills to protect each other in the event of emergency or death. They hoped to live happily ever after. They didn't.

Don died after a few years, leaving an estate with little cash but half the house and no mortgage, thanks to credit-life insurance. He also left a huge unsecured credit card debt and large creditors wanting their share of the estate, namely the house. Bill had to fight to keep the creditors from selling the house, since spousal homestead exemptions aren't allowed yet in gay or lesbian families in Texas. He was eventually successful in keeping his home, but he lost many nights' sleep and several thousand dollars in legal fees.

What happened here? Could this have been avoided? The answer is yes. By using creative estate planning, Bill and Don could have kept the house out of Don's estate. The two ways used most often to do this are (1) the use of trusts, or (2) by owning the property as joint tenants with rights of survivorship.

There are several ways to own joint property in Texas, but the two most common are as tenants in common and as joint tenants with rights of survivorship. The major difference between the two is the ownership of the property after one of the owners dies. When two or more persons own real or personal property as tenants in common, the ownership interest of a deceased owner passes to that person's estate for distribution according to the terms of a will or Texas law. Compare that to joint tenancy with right of survivorship. When one joint tenant dies, the survivor or survivors own the deceased person's interest automatically as a matter of law. The property does not pass through the estate for probate purposes, which would cause delays in distribution and be subject to the claims of creditors. It also is not part of any gift or bequest under the decedent's will.

Almost any type of joint property can be owned in this manner, including real estate, stocks, automobiles, investment accounts and regular checking and saving accounts. The most important thing to remember about joint tenancy is that you must establish ownership with the correct language in a written agreement. This type of ownership will not be implied. The Texas Supreme Court has gone so far as to require the use of the magic words from the Texas Probate Code. A joint tenancy agreement can be drafted that will meet the conditions of the Texas Probate Code for most types of assets. Bank signature cards are rarely sufficient.

Joint tenancy with right of survivorship will not fit every situation. Used correctly, however, it can be an extremely inexpensive way to avoid probate and potential problems, especially in a small estate.

Connie Moore is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian/feminist law firm based in Houston. Since graduating from the University Law Center, Connie has pursued the area of human rights law with an emphasis on gay and lesbian rights. Under Moore's guidance, Moore & Hunt is part of the cooperating attorney network of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. In addition to feminist, lesbian and gay issues, the firm concentrates in family law, contract negotiations and disputes, corporation and small business formations, wills, estate planning and probate matters. Moore and her partner Debbie Hunt pride themselves on creating a warm and safe place for people of all backgrounds to bring their legal matters. For more information regarding this article call 522-4282.

Please remember to tell them you saw their ad in Out▼Smart MAGAZINE!

Kreller & Associates, Inc.
Psychotherapists, Counseling and Testing Specialists
- *Individual Counseling*
- *Group Counseling*
- *Relationship Counseling*
- *Grief Counseling*
- *Career Counseling*

19 Years Experience

Office Hours by Appointment
Including Sat & Sun
1801 Huldy Street, Suite 15
Houston, TX 77019
(713) 529-8017

CUTS PERMS COLOURS
ROBIN HOODS
Great hair is more than a part.
You deserve a hair expert who really listens to your needs
Robin Hoods
(713) 942-8888
315 W. Alabama

TOUCH WITH INTEGRITY
ESSENTIAL TOUCH THERAPIES
Massage • Reflexology • Polarity
Aromatherapy Baths
Facials • Salt Scrubs • Seaweed Wraps
3100 Richmond • Suite 204
Houston, TX 77098
713/942-0923
Alan Davidson, Director • Registered Massage Therapist
Mention this ad for 20% OFF your first visit.

events, but this year's huge Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco will include 2 lesbian/gay groups—the Asian/Pacific Sisters and the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance—for the first time. The parade, which this year kicks off the new lunar year 4692, the Year of the Dog, usually draws nearly a half million people. "I'm thrilled about beginning the process of finding our place in the Chinese community," said Ann Mei Chang of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance.

225 House Members Sign Non-Discrimination Pledge

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — Half the U.S. House of Representatives have signed a pledge promising not to discriminate in hiring, firing or promotion based on sexual orientation in their congressional staffs. The 225 House members, out of 435, included Speaker Tom Foley (D-Wash.), Majority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) and Minority Leader Bob Michel (R-Ill.), the entire congressional Black Caucus, and 52 House Republicans. The pledge was circulated by the Human Rights Campaign Fund and states, "The sexual orientation of an individual is not a consideration in the hiring, promoting or terminating of an employee in my congressional office." The non-discrimination pledge came about after the "Tulsa World" revealed that 3 members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation said they would not hire gays or lesbians to work in their staff offices. Tim McFeeley, executive director of HRCF, said, "A majority of the House of Representatives agrees with the majority of Americans. Discrimination in the workplace is wrong and it must be stopped."

Queer Kiss Coming on 'Melrose' Liz Smith Says

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Gossip columnist Liz Smith says "Melrose Place" producer Darren Starr said recently that the TV program's gay character Matt (portrayed by Doug Savant) would actually kiss his boyfriend "probably next year." Smith writes, "These two could end up as the show's most frustrated characters."

Overwhelming Defeat in Missouri City

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (GayNet) — In what activists fear may be a harbinger of next November's statewide vote on a Missouri anti-gay constitutional amendment, Springfield, Mo., residents voted overwhelmingly to repeal a city hate crimes measure that includes sexual orientation, among other categories. The vote was 71% for repeal to 29% against. The repeal campaign was headed by a local group, Citizens for Decent Standards, which has close ties with the statewide Amendment Coalition, which is backing a state anti-gay constitutional amendment based on Colorado's Amendment 2 prohibiting any gay rights measures in Missouri.

Rights Battle Erupts in New Mexico Legislature

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (GayNet) — *Out Magazine* in Albuquerque reports that state Rep. Jerry Alwin (R) and 17 other state legislators—10 Democrats and 7 other Republicans—have introduced a non-binding resolution calling on "the state of New Mexico not [to] spend state revenues to enforce or administer any ordinance, regulation, rule or policy that provides protected status or preferential treatment to individuals on the basis of sexual orientation." The Alwin resolution, known as House Memorial 1, was introduced in response to a state Senate resolution, Senate Memorial 9, which calls on the New Mexico Human Rights Division to collect data on discrimination complaints in the state based on sexual orientation.

Union Launches Canadian Income Tax Challenge

OTTAWA (GayNet) — The Canadian gay magazine *Clue!* reports that the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the nation's income tax act because it discriminates against gays and lesbians. According to *Clue!* the Canadian Income Tax Act prohibits the union from recognizing same-sex couples. A CUPE executive told the magazine, "Lesbian and gay workers are required to make the same contributions to the plan and they should no longer be denied their pension rights" because unmarried couples cannot receive their partners' benefits as married spouses do. The case is scheduled to begin April 26. CUPE represents some 408,000 members.

Raymond Burr Kin Sue to Block Will

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (GayNet) — Raymond Burr, the late veteran actor who portrayed the fictional lawyer Perry Mason on television and in film, is about to return to court in a fight over the actor's estate between Burr's relatives and his long-time companion and business partner. Minerva Burr and her brother James filed a lawsuit to contest their uncle's will which left his entire estate, estimated to be worth about $32 million, to Robert Benevides, Burr's one-time valet who for nearly 30 years was also the actor's close companion.

'Front Runner' Sequel Slated

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Athletically inclined literary types should be thrilled to learn that the sequel to Patricia Nell Warren's popular best-selling novel *The Front Runner* will be on bookshelves in time for Gay Games IV this June in New York. Warren's sequel, *Harlan's Race*, continues the story of characters Harlan Brown and Billy Sive. The author calls the continuation "a story about loss and healing, about the courage to love again."

Hawaii Gay Marriage Controversy Explodes

HONOLULU (GayNet) — Dieter Huckestein, a Hilton Hotels vice president in Honolulu and head of the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, stirred up trouble in the state last month when he sent an assistant to testify before the state legislature that if same-sex marriages are permitted in Hawaii its "fragile tourism economy" would suffer from boycotts. The assistant said Huckestein, as head of the bureau, had received a number of boycott threats if gay and lesbian marriages are legalized. Taking his opposition a step further, Huckestein and his wife also personally wrote to a state legislative committee considering the anti-gay marriage ban. "The family is weakened when all forms of a family-type community are put on the same level," the Huckesteins wrote. Both the Visitors Bureau and the Hilton Hotel chain say Huckestein and his wife were not speaking for them and that neither the tourism agency nor the hotel chain have taken any position on the issue. The Hawaii Visitors Bureau can be contacted by writing to them at 2270 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 801, Honolulu HI 96815 or by calling (808) 924-0266. The Hilton Hotels can be contacted by writing to Mr. Baron Hilton, Chairman, Hilton Hotel Corp., 9336 Civil Center Drive, PO Box 5567, Beverly Hills CA 90209.

Mormons Called to Fight Gay Marriage

SALT LAKE CITY (GayNet) — The Mormon Church has declared war on legalizing same-sex marriages and urging the nation's 9 million church members to defend the "sacred family setting." A press release from Mormon Church leaders said, "Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God to fulfill the eternal destiny of his children. This sacred family setting, with father and mother firmly committed to each other and to righteous living, offers the best hope for avoiding many of the ills that afflict society." Church officials said the call to oppose gay and lesbian marriages was a result of a court case in Hawaii that could lead to same-sex couples legally getting married there.

AIDS Education Foe Cashing In On 'Death Futures'

AUSTIN, Texas (GayNet) — Texas gay and AIDS activists are outraged to learn that state Rep. Warren Chisum (D-Pampa), who has battled successfully in the state legislature to keep the Texas sodomy statute on the books and to require schools to teach that abstinence is the only way to prevent HIV infection, is making a tidy sum of money by investing heavily in viatical settlements of life insurance policies of people dying of AIDS, sometimes called "death futures." Chisum reportedly has invested some $200,000 in the viatical program, which gives terminally ill patients a way to cash in on their life insurance policies at a discount by naming the purchasers of the policies as beneficiaries. According to the "Dallas Morning News," Chisum's investments have so far netted him a 17% annual return. Chisum is head of the Texas Conservative Coalition, which last year attempted to have all state AIDS education funds for adults transferred to programs for children and teens—who by state education regulations can only be taught abstinence as the way to prevent the disease. Chisum also co-authored a 1993 measure that gave the state insurance department authority to regulate the selling of life insurance policies by people with AIDS, the same viatical settlements that he is now cashing in on. AIDS and gay rights activists in the state called Chisum's actions "macabre."

State Domestic Partners Proposed for California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (GayNet) — Assemblyman Richard Katz (D-Sylmar) announced the introduction of a proposed measure in the California Legislature on Monday, Feb. 14 to set up statewide domestic partner registration for unmarried opposite- and same-sex couples. The Katz bill would allow couples to file partner registration forms with the California Secretary of State's office. Both partners, whether same-sex or opposite sex, would have to be 18 years of age or older, not currently married or in another registered domestic partnership, live together, share living expenses and not be related in a way that would legally bar them from getting married under state law.

GLA's 'Queers Across America'

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — Gay & Lesbian Americans (GLA), the new grassroots civil rights group launched last month, staged a series of coordinated press conferences around the country on Feb. 14, officially known as "Queers Across America," focusing on local issues. GLA chapters in a number of larger cities, including Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, participated in the coast-to-coast media blitz. But activists in cities less often heard from nationally also joined in the media love fest. Activists also staged GLA events in Biloxi, Miss., Louisville, Ky., Charlotte, N.C., Portsmouth, N.H., Austin, Texas, and other cities around the country.

U.S. Women Unaware of Sexual Health Risks

WASHINGTON (GayNet) — The overwhelming majority of women surveyed in the U.S. believe they are safe from sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, according to a poll of 1,000 women between the ages of 18-60. The survey, conducted by the American Medical Women's Assn. and the Campaign for Women's Health, determined that two-thirds of U.S. women know "almost nothing" about STDs other than AIDS, and one-third know "almost nothing" about any STDs, including AIDS. In addition, some 50% of women believe monogamy is effective protection against disease; fewer than one-third of the women surveyed use condoms during sex; and two-thirds of the women under age 25 use condoms or abstain from sex. "This survey confirms that women are uninformed, unconcerned and not taking action in the face of rising risk," said Joan Kuriansky of the Campaign for Women's Health.

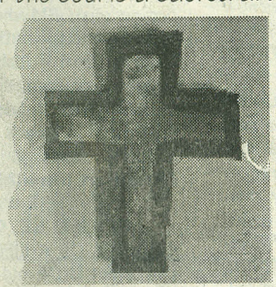
Book Critics Circle Taps 'Genet,' 'My Alexandria'

NEW YORK (GayNet) — Two books of interest to gays and lesbians have received awards from the National Book Critics Circle. Edmund White's portrait of the life and work of gay French writer Jean Genet, *Genet*, was tapped as best biography for the past year. Also selected was Mark Doty's book, *My Alexandria*, an introspective reflection on life, suffering and loss in the AIDS era, which was given the nod for best book of poetry.

Inner-City Alcoholics' High HIV Rate

SAN FRANCISCO (GayNet) — Nearly 1 in every 20 non-gay alcoholics treated at public health clinics in San Francisco is infected with HIV, researchers with the University of California at San Francisco have reported, saying the infection rate is much higher than expected. The researchers said the results indicate highly risky sexual behavior among the 860 men and women identified as heterosexual and undergoing alcoholism treatment at 5 city clinics between 1990 and 1991. Many of the individuals were poor and homeless. The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that 3% of the men and 4% of the women who had no prior history of IV drug use were infected with the virus. Researchers said the results were disturbing because the infection rate for heterosexuals in the city is less than 1% overall. The researchers are now trying to determine if the infection rate among heterosexual inner-city alcoholics is increasing or decreasing.

"...care of the soul is a sacred art."



Heights ART PAVILION MARKETPLACE

And

October STUDIOS GALLERY

present

"Cruciform"

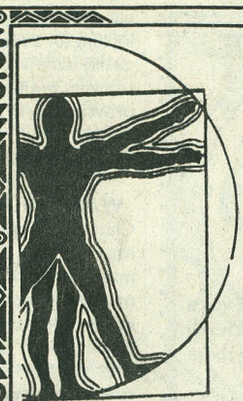
100 original crosses & crucifixations

MARCH 25

FRIDAY 6 - 9 P.M.

244 W. 19th • 861-3411

OLD DOWNTOWN HEIGHTS



NORMAN SANFORD

MASSAGE THERAPIST

State Registered and Nationally Certified

Relieve Stress and Sore Muscles
Improve Athletic Ability
Enhance Physical and Emotional Well-Being

Introductory 1 1/2 Hour session ...$50

Session includes complimentary Aromatherapy

2503-B Shepherd • Houston, TX 77019 713/935-2122



Lucia's Garden
Earth, Moon & Stars

Classes • Workshops • Tarot Readings • Herbal Studies • Aromatherapy

...New Age music, handcrafted jewelry, pottery, potpourri, oils, crystals, meditative music, metaphysical & psychological books, herbal gifts, cookbooks, wreaths, wind chimes, herbs & teas, incense, oils, aromatherapy products... and many other magical treasures.

2942 Virginia St. at W. Alabama

Hours: 10-6 Mon-Sat 523-6494



OutLookin' Personals

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN INTRO-EXPRESS PERSONAL AD:

Scan the ads listed, perusing them somewhat as you would items in a catalogue, but not nearly so callously. Make your selection of the person(s) you would like to meet, and dial 1-900-370-8687. (A charge of $1.95 per minute appear on your next phone bill. You must be at least 18 years old to use this service.) You will be instructed to record a response to your potential love mate's ad. Make your recording dazzling and descriptive, giving the box-holder plenty of incentive to return your call. If dazzling and descriptive is too much to ask, just shoot for audible.

If you're more of an old-fashioned guy or gal, write a response to your potential love interest. Put this letter in a STAMPED envelope addressed with nothing but the box number you're responding to. Put this envelope and $2 in yet another envelope. Mail the whole thing to OutLookin' Personals c/o OutSmart Magazine , 2990 Richmond, Suite 316, Houston, TX 77098. We'll forward your letter to your new honey within 48 hours. After that the two of you are on your own. We claim no responsibility for fireworks or fizzles. Love's kinda funny that way...

WRITE YOUR OWN INTRO-EXPRESS PERSONAL

Mail us your 50-word-or-less personal ad by the first of each month for publication in the following issue. (Add 25¢ for each word over 50.) We will not publish a last name, address, or phone number. We do, however, require ALL that information for our files. After we receive your personal ad you will be assigned your own voice mail box and sent instructions on how to record your free voice personal introduction.

OUTLOOKIN' PERSONALS MAKE IT SO EASY TO FALL IN LOVE...

IT'S MORE THAN JUST A LINE...

Send us your FREE 50 word personal ad for publication in *Uptown Express* for the next three months.

TALK YOURSELF INTO IT...

After we receive it we'll give you a number to record your own FREE voice greeting—at no charge! You'll be assigned a voice mailbox number which will appear in your ad. Record a free greeting about yourself to be heard by those responding to your printed ad.

YOU'LL GET THEIR EAR...

Respondents to your ad will hear your greeting. If they like what they hear, they can leave a message. They'll be charged $1.95 per minute which will appear on their phone bill.

AND THEY'LL GET YOURS...

Use our toll-free number to call you mailbox and check how many messages you have waiting for you. Then call 1-900-370-8687 to listen to your responses! There will be a charge of $1.95 per minute which will appear on your phone bill.

THEN GET TOGETHER...

Once you've listened to your messages, you'll decide whom to contact. Only then do you make your identity known. It's completely confidential!

Call 1-900-370-8687

$1.95 per minute • You must be at least 18 years old to use this service.

MEN SEEKING MEN

CALIFORNIA DREAM COME TRUE

GWM, 48, 5'8", 160 lbs., healthy, fit and handsome Californian recently transplanted to Houston. Seeking non-smoking guy for friendship, romance and possibly more. Enjoy old fashioned courtship/romance, cooking, movies, bicycling, animals, volunteer work and fun times. Looking for sincere professional man. Call or write me.
OutSmart Intro Box 70107

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY...TOO LONG

GWM, mid 30's, entrepreneur, attractive, healthy and full of charm. Success-oriented and seeks same. Some say my quick wit and sparkling blues are hard to match. I enjoy traveling, dining out, entertaining, working out, movies and friends. A positive attitude and hearty sense of humor a must. Although my schedule and projects keep me busy, I'm looking for a special person to spend quality time with. Please, no drugs, smokers and light-to-no alcohol. Call or write me. Everybody enjoys new friends.
OutSmart Intro Box 70076

WANTED: LOVER OF LIFE

Chocolate for the cold weather, perhaps forever. If you are an active, masculine black male (in preference) or a white guy; honest, healthy, realistic, who loves life, spirituality, walks, conversations and a special friendship, this SGHM, 31, 5'7", 153 lbs., somewhat attractive, self-disciplined, passive, sincere is waiting for you.
OutSmart Intro Box 70075

SLIM, TRIM AND NO FEM!

Looking for affectionate, healthy, trim GWM who likes being cuddled by GBM, 34, 5'9", 146 lbs. Seeking drug-free, healthy, straight-acting GWM for friendship. Let's develop a discreet, caring relationship, slim GWM! Please send photo!
OutSmart Intro Box 70053

"RED LEATHER, YELLOW LEATHER..."

Easy-going GWM, 33, eager to meet others whose interest runs toward leather. Write or call me.
OutSmart Intro Box 70109

SEEKING LORD BYRON INSIDE ALEXANDER

GWM, 35, 5'9", 160 lbs., blonde/green, Hobby area. Looking for Renaissance Man with the heart of a warrior and the soul of a poet. Please be sincere, affectionate, confident, communicative, sentimental, creative, adventurous, humorous, self-sufficient, spiritual rather than religious and drug-free. Smoking and responsible drinking is fine. Not interested in perfection, ego or Adonis types, but hoping for enduring romance with a *real* type. Ethnic background unimportant.
OutSmart Intro Box 70009

TAKE A WOK ON THE WILD SIDE

Gay Asian male, 34, 5'8", 150 lbs., out, attractive, fun-loving and sincere, fit and healthy. Seeking kind, hirsute and handsome, fit and trim, well-adjusted guy (30-45) for friendship. Enjoy working out, cooking and my work. Not ready for romantic commitment, but my friends are friends for life.
OutSmart Intro Box 70058

CUDDLE YOUR WAY TO HAPPINESS

Desiring totally drug-free, slender GWM for friendship and to meet occasionally. Seeking GWM who wants a passive friend. I'm a discreet, professional GBM who's also responsible, dependable and humorous. This GBM is 33, 5'9", 145 lbs., healthy, drug/smoke free. Seeking lasting friendship with slender-built, healthy GWM cuddler. Let's share discreet, enduring friendship!
OutSmart Intro 70015

COULD BE CATCH!

CHANCE OF A LIFETIME! Attractive GWM, D/DF mid-30's. Everyone says I am the most interesting person they have ever met. I wonder. I enjoy life and all that it brings. Intelligent, masculine, spiritual, outdoorsy, witty and at times, downright charming (Heck, even your Mom would like me!). Pretty burned out on the "bar scene" and wanting something different. Seeking handsome guy-next-door type 25-35 (Maybe a cross between Wally Cleaver and Tom Cruise?). Lots to do in this ol' world and wanting the right guy to share it with! Spiritual and eclectic... possibly eccentric too! Do drink, don't smoke. This could be "IT." Save bucks—send letter. Photo optional...but if you do, send your ugliest!
OutSmart Intro Box 70092

WOMEN SEEKING WOMEN

A ROOK, A PAWN ... A KNIGHT?
IF THIS WERE A GAME OF CHESS, the next move would be up to you. Attractive white male, 42, non-smoker, weight proportionate, D/DF and goal oriented seeks companion of like qualities. Some interests include music, dancing (C & W), theater and Teddy Bears— alive and other.
OutSmart Intro Box 70113

LET THE GAMES END!
Professional GWM, 32, 6'1", 165 lbs., black/brown, mustache, Montrose Area, swimmer's build, witty, outgoing who likes the arts, movies, dining out, traveling, reading and writing. I am looking for intelligent people who don't play games and are looking for new friends to share hobbies with and socialize with. Am a smoker, occasional drinker. Though looks are unimportant, I prefer people my age group with same interests.
OutSmart Intro Box 70111

UNLIMITED INTERESTS SEEKS OTHER
GWM, mid 30s, 6'0", 175 lbs., brown hair/eyes, clean shaven, attractive, degreed professional. Interests include, but not limited to, music, movies, theater, dining out. Desires companionship of non-promiscuous, sincere, reliable and dependable significant other. D/DF, HIV-, 30-40 y/o. Serious replies only. Prefer letter with recent photo.
OutSmart Intro Box 70121

SIMPLY THE BEST
GBM, 25, 5'8", 153 lbs. Handsome student, harmonious, humorous, articulate, kind and loving. Enjoys music, astrology, reading, Tina Turner, Kathleen Battle, stimulating conversation and romantic evenings. Seeking stable, loving, handsome, slender, healthy, relationship-oriented GM, 25-35 with similar interests.
OutSmart Intro Box 70023

A TISKET... A TASKET...
GF looking for GBF or GWF who likes picnics, going to the park, movies, dancing and TV. One who is strong, independent, sincere and affectionate.
OutSmart Intro Box 70119

FEM TO FEM
GF: Emotionally available, feminine, athletic, charming, witty, intelligent, positive self-esteem, good listener and conversationalist; enjoys rollerblading, biking, weight lifting, chess and the beach. Looking for emotionally available, feminine lesbian who isn't afraid of falling in love or being loved. Prefer dark hair and blue or green eyes.
OutSmart Intro Box 70115

WHERE IS MY DREAM?
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE! Like me, a GF with a passion for life; one who works and plays hard. Rugged, independent, yet enjoys sharing enthusiasms. Emotionally, both strong and sensitive. If that's who you are, please tell me *where* you are. Somewhere also, I hope, outside my dreams!
OutSmart Intro Box 70013

FRIENDSHIP TO ROMANCE
Are you an honest woman with family values? So am I! I'm a SGWF seeking genuine friendship with a SGF, 32-44, that may lead to romance: I'm college educated, blue-collar, late 30's who enjoys movies, theater, museums, cafes, and new adventures. Isn't it time we met?
OutSmart Intro Box 70117

THE ASSISTANCE FUND continued from page 23

explained by differences in medical need.

The prognosis for treatment was once grim, but it is possible to design treatments and therapies aimed at life-threatening illnesses. The programs of TAF provides the opportunity for its clients to maintain their chosen method of health care.

Since its inception, TAF has generated more than $750,000 to assist over 500 with HIV/AIDS, which has resulted in millions of dollars of health care. Its emergency prescription drug payment program is designed to assist clients newly diagnosed or in desperate need. Most government prescription drug programs have a processing or waiting period of at least 30 days. TAF provides clients with their medication until an alternate source can be established.

"I have always wondered why people don't know about us and our good and valuable work," says Sean Rudolph, Executive Director of The Assistance Fund. For more information as to what The Assistance Fund can do for you or someone you love, call (713) 529-4788.

PEOPLE WITH AIDS
COALITION HOUSTON
OPERATION RESTART

Share your abundance and help those less fortunate to maintain an independent, self-reliant lifestyle. Donate used furniture and kitchen items to the PWA Coalition Operation Restart. Contributions can be picked up by the staff of the Coalition on Mondays or Wednesdays. Call 522-5428 for scheduling. Donations are tax-deductible to the maximum extent allowed by the IRS.

★ ★ ★ OPERATION RESTART WISH LIST ★ ★ ★

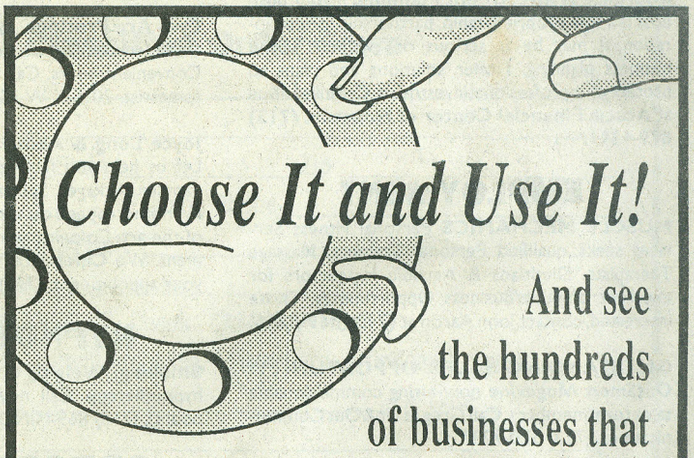
KITCHEN
1 qt. Saucepans
Coffee Pots
2 qt. Saucepans
Toasters
Frying Pans
Can Openers
Electric Skillets
Dishes
Tables and Chairs
Silverware
Misc. Utensils

BATHROOM
Bath Towels
Hand Towels
Wash Cloths
Shower Curtains

BEDROOM
Sheets
Dressers
Pillows
Beds
Lamps
Mattresses

LIVING ROOM
Coffee Tables
End Tables
Lamps
Sofas
Chairs

MISC. ITEMS
Heating Pads
Vaporizers
Wheelchairs
Space Heaters
Portable Radios
Clocks



Choose It and Use It!

And see the hundreds of businesses that welcome more than just your money!

THE HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN YELLOW PAGES

DISTRIBUTION & RATES INFORMATION **942-0084**

HGLYP

Your FREE 93-94 Edition available at your neighborhood Kroger, Stop & Go (Montrose @ Westheimer), W. Alabama Rice, Whole Foods (Shepherd location), Lobo Books and many more starting OCTOBER 1st.
Or mail $2.00 to: VillaGraphics • P.O. Box 66045 • Hou. • 77006 • ATTN: Mail Orders

THE CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATIONS

THE LOVETT INN. Affordable luxury in the heart of Montrose. Beautifully appointed rooms for both business and leisure travelers. All rooms have direct dial phones, private bath, breakfast and color TVs. Also available VCR, FAX, Jacuzzi Suites, Pool & Spa. Walk to clubs, restaurants, shopping and public transportation. Convenient to Downtown, Galleria, Medical and Convention Centers. Call today **(713) 522-5224.** See display ad this issue and mention OutSmart Magazine for special discount.

BUSINESS SERVICES

REPRINT! The only printshop in Houston to win the Golden Ink Knife Award. **Copies 3 1/2¢.** MAC rental $4.95/hr. **Business Cards $12.99/500.** Good people w/ good prices. Reprint! 1624 Richmond Ave. **(713) 522-9299.**



Electronic Filing From $20
TAX PREPARATION
Individual, Partnership & Corporation
IRS Problems
MICHAEL LOVE, CPA
713-522-5711
2990 Richmond #107

Julia A. Siska, CPA. Taxes, Accounting and Business Consulting. Free initial consultation. Call (713) 460-1885.

Insurance & Investment Planning. If your business is a sole proprietorship, partnership, or corporation, it may be at serious risk without sound business planning. I offer solutions and plans to protect your professional investment. Call Julie LaRue at **Acacia Financial Center of Houston. (713) 879-1311.**

EMPLOYMENT

MUSCLE MECHANICS Personal Fitness Services seeks qualified Personal Trainers, Massage Therapists, Dietitians & Aerobic Instructors for excellent clientele/Business Opportunities. Those interested, contact John Aaron at **(713) 869-0356.**

OUTSTANDING SALES OPPORTUNITY! ***OutSmart Magazine*** now hiring commissionable sales team members. Call Greg at Up&Out Communications, (713) 520-7237.

ESOTERIC

Channeled Energy Sessions— Sundays, 1-5 pm. Love Offerings Appreciated. Call Dian for appointment and/or information, **(713) 528-KOTL.**

FASHION

Basic Brothers. Men's fashion active wear. 1232 Westheimer. Open Mon.-Sat. 10-8 and Sun. 12-6. (713) 522-1626.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

HOMEOWNERS take control of your Investment! Save thousands of dollars in interest and build equity three times faster. Let us show you how. Call Murice Alexander at (713) 780-3363.

HAIRSTYLIST/IMAGE

Good hairstyling for all types of hair. Call **Cheryl Polson** at Sculptures By Face-It. 6110 Richmond. (713) 780-3775.

Robin Hoods. Cuts, perms and colors. Hair experts that really listen to your needs. 315 W. Alabama. (713) 942-8888.

All Decked Out. *"Friendly, Flexible, Affordable, Professional"* Call **Tracy Gilmore** today and make your appointment. 3502 S. Shepherd (between Richmond & Alabama). (713) 522-0507.

HEALTH/WELLNESS

SKINNY DIP
The "Original" Thigh Cream
with Aminophylline and Theophylline
For details, Call Robin, your local distributor,
(713) 681-1284 Distributor Inquiries Welcome

Alternative Heath and Wellness Center. Jacqueline A. Doval-Graziani, M.S., D.C., specializing in Chiropractic Care and Exercise Physiology. We also offer 24-hour emergency care. Call for appointment, (713) 522-WELL (9355).

Eyes Are Precious. Eye exams, preventive care, treatment for eye infections. Wide frame selection. Convenient hours. Call today. Dr. Sue Moss, Optometrist. 2015-K W. Gray. (713) 524-2525.

Joyce Long & Associates Wellness Center. Let us help you feel better. We offer complete pamper packages. Specializing in massage therapy, hypnotherapy and ear candling. We also offer state-of-the-art Colonics using FDA approved equipment. We **Celebrate Wellness!** Call today for your appointment, (713) 623-0866.

HYPNOTHERAPY

Smoking, Weight, or Sexual Problems? Try hypnotherapy. Call now for free brochure (24 hours), (713) 869-MIND (6463).

OPPORTUNITIES

TOMBOYS! Dyke Derring-Do: Short fiction, essays, and personal accounts wanted for an anthology on tomboys and lesbian identity, to be published by Alyson Publications. Poetry considered. Looking for literate, imaginative, engaging writing. Attitude encouraged. Send typed, double-spaced submissions with SASE to **Tomboys,** Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118. Deadline: June 1, 1994.

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Kreller & Associates, Inc. Psychotherapists, counseling and Testing Specialists. We offer individual, group, relationship, grief and career counseling. 19 years experience. Office hours by appointment including Saturday and Sunday. (713) 529-8017.

Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP. Certified IMAGO Relationship Therapist. See display ad this issue regarding upcoming seminar: FINDING LOVE and KEEPING LOVE. Call for information. (713) 522-3045.

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

BUYING OR SELLING—SUZANNE ANDERSON PROPERTIES, Houston's **ONLY** Real Estate Company focusing on the Lesbian and Gay community. **(713) 529-8484.** (See our display ad in this issue.)

RICHARD HILL Realtor— Proudly Serving The Community In Real Estate For 8 Years. **(713) 869-0456** or **(713) 768-3095.**

Looking For the Perfect Apartment? Call COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT COMPANY today. *"Proudly Serving Houston's Gay & Lesbian Community."* **(713) 869-8018.**

Southwest REALTY CORPORATION "Superior Service"
Dean Smith
Inner Loop Specialist
Office 980-0838 **Pager 648-4224**

RETAIL

HARD TO FIND, BUT WORTH IT! UNIQUE BOUTIQUE @ 4317 Montrose (next to P.J.'S). Cards*Candles*Art*Funky Furnishings *Fashions*Books. **(713) 526-5266.**

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Seeking New Employment Opportunity. Computer, office management and accounts payable-receivable experience. Career-minded and eager to learn. Call Nanette at **(713) 903-2210.**

SEMINARS

CELEBRATING THE BODY EROTIC: Many men long for a deeper connection with their bodies. Most of our education has taken us out of our bodies, away from the simple pleasures of touching and being touched, breathing deeply and feeling joyously alive. Celebrating the Body Erotic teaches men how to feel at home in their erotic bodies. Through **SACRED** sex rituals and conscious breath work, we guide men into feeling states that awaken their deepest centers of pleasure. Erotic initiation rituals based on Taoist, tantric and Sufi traditions, allow men to experience their erotic energy as playful, sacred, energizing and transformative. May 21-22, 9 am-6 pm. Tuition: $275. Reservation/Information: Tom Crow (713) 528-6588.

SERVICES

AQUATIC DESIGNS
CUSTOM AQUARIUMS • SERVICED & MAINTAINED • HOME/OFFICE
713-781-FISH

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE

Are you stressed and need relaxation? **DAVID RANGEL,** RMT # 8069. In the Montrose Area. In and out calls. Evenings and weekends. Call **(713) 287-9527.**

Healing, relaxing and/or deeper tissue massage therapy. Sessions are designed to suit your needs. Nationally Certified and State Registered. **THOMAS (713) 520-6018.**



Lori E. Brown
Registered Massage Therapist
3100 Richmond, Suite 309 — By Appointment
Houston, TX 77098 — 289-1295
AMTA Certified • *Gift Certificates Available/Out-Calls*

ART OF MASSAGE: Restoring comfort and balance to your mind and body by the caring hands of a skilled therapist. Results can be relaxing, invigorating—even inspiring! RMT#7796. **Michael. (713) 410-7689.**

WHOLENESS AND HEALTH. Relax with a Swedish, Deep Tissue massage. Integrates physical, mental, emotional and spiritual self and releases stress and pain. $10 off first visit. RMT#2233. **HOWARD (713) 528-6174.**

Norman Sanford, State Registered and Nationally Certified Massage Therapist. Relieve Stress and Sore Muscles, Improve Athletic Ability. Enhance Physical and Emotional Well-Being. Call **(713) 935-2122.**

TRAINING/FITNESS

Bring out the hot NEW you! Hard & lean just in time for summer! Our Certified Personal Fitness training in conjunction with personalized nutritional guidelines will help you obtain the body that's yours & the results you deserve. Programs come in a variety of affordable packages so call now for your free consultation. After all, it is your body— Do it right! **MUSCLE MECHANICS (713) 869-0356.**

TRAVEL

"LET THE GAMES BEGIN." NEW YORK, NEW YORK... THINK NEW YORK, JUNE 1994. Call us for inclusive air/land packages from $626. Member International Gay Travel Association. Serving all of your travel needs. *"Go far...Live well...Have fun..."* **Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel. (713) 942-0664.**

VIDEO

TriAngle VideoProductions
presents

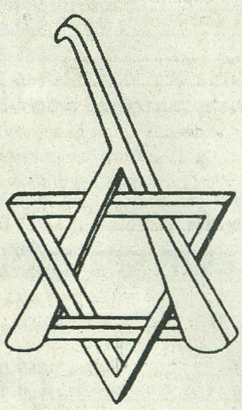
Always My Kid
A Family Guide to
Understanding Homosexuality

- Interviews: Parents, Gays, Lesbians, Clergy, Doctors, Psychologists
- Advice • Reactions • Experiences
- The Bible • Prejudice • Family

For information, call 713-869-4477
$26.95 + tax & shipping

Please remember to tell them you saw their ad in
OutSmart MAGAZINE!

UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE
NO ONE OF US IS TRULY LIBERATED



MISHPACHAT ALIZIM
HOUSTON'S GAY & LESBIAN JEWISH CONGREGATION
(713) 748-7079

Classified Order Form

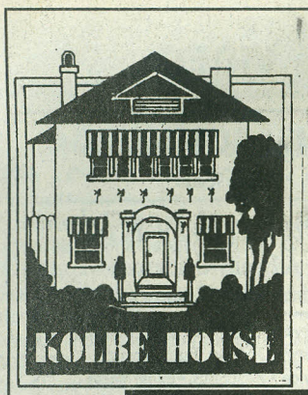
Name_____
Address _____
City _____ State_____ Zip _____
Day Phone_____ Evening Phone_____
Number of Months Ad is to Run _____
Classification Desired _____
Form of Payment ❒ Cash ❒ Check ❒ Money Order
❒ Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)
Card Number_____ Ex. Date_____
Name of Cardholder_____

BASIC CLASSIFIEDS are $13 for 30 words or less and 25¢ for each word thereafter. Add additional 25¢ per each bold word. Discounts available for 3 or 6 months if ads are prepaid. Sorry, we do not bill for classifieds. Three insertions base rate of $10 per month; six insertions base rate of $8 per month.

BOXED ADS are $23 per vertical column inch (2 3/6" x 1"). **REVERSED ADS** are $28 per column inch. 10% discount granted to advertisers who prepay for three or more consecutive months.

DEADLINE: The first of the month prior to publication. Order by phone and pay by VISA, American Express or MasterCard. Or FAX it to us—713/522-3275. Sorry we do not bill. Mail ad and payment to: OutSmart Classifieds, 2990 Richmond #316, Houston, TX 77098.

Questions? Call OutSmart Magazine 520-7237.



KOLBE PROJECT

A house of spirituality and ministry for the gay community and people living with HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS
SUPPORT GROUP
EVERY TUESDAY
10:00 AM

GAY ISSUES
SUPPORT GROUP
EVERY WEDNESDAY
6:15 PM

HIV NEGATIVE
SURVIVORS
SUPPORT GROUP
THURSDAYS 8:00 PM

POT LUCK/SOCIAL
EVERY 2nd TUESDAY
OF THE MONTH

NEW ADDRESS

1509 Fairview Street
Montrose
Houston, TX 77006
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 66669
Houston, TX 77266-6669
(713) 522-8182

OutSmart Resource Directory

ACCOMODATIONS

The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett	522-5224

ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Julia A. Siska CPA	8911 Opelika	460-1885

ATTORNEYS

Clyde Williams	1314 Texas Ave Suite 712	236-0064
Melissa Harper	1610 Richmond	529-3400
Moore & Hunt	3608 Audubon Place	522-4282
Nancy Revelette		957-3115

AUTOMOBILE REPAIR

Japanese Auto Center	6261 Richmond	782-8895

COMMUNITY SERVICES

AIDS Equity League	P.O. Box 980307	871-0092
AIDS Foundation Houston	3202 Weslayan Annex	623-6796
AVES (Amigos AIDS Volunteers)	2510 Broad St. #200	640-2837
Bering Care Foundation	1440 Harold	529-6071
Body Positive	1475 W. Gray #176-177	524-2374
Dizinger Foundation	3701 Montrose	522-8660
Montrose Clinic	1200 Richmond	520-2000
NAMES Project Houston	2410 Woodhead	52-NAMES
Omega House, Inc.	602 Branard	523-7110
PWA Coalition	1475 W. Gray Suite 163	522-5428
KOLBE Project	1509 Fairview	522-8182

ENTERTAINMENT

Curtains Theatre	3722 Washington Ave	862-4548
Inside Out Productions		864-5986
Landmark Theatre Saks	1800 Post Oak Blvd.	627-9910
Landmark Theatres River Oaks 3	2009 W. Gray	524-2175
Ms. B's	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464
Nancy Ford Musical Comedy	2990 Richmond Suite 316	520-7237
Singing Cavalier Telegrams	2990 Richmond Suite 316	520-7171
The Hill aka AK's Berryhill II	15346 Kuykendahl	587-8810
The Patio	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464
The Ranch	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464
XTC	9200 Buffalo Speedway	666-3464/666-3356

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Acacia Financial Center of Houston	9 Greenway Plaza Suite 3000	888-3500
Allied Mortgage	955 Bunker Hill Suite H	722-0600
JAG Financial services	6261 Richmond	9332897
Pride Mortgage	4200 Montrose, Ste. 300	529-9595

FITNESS/PERSONAL TRAINING

Muscle Mechanics		869-0356
Satya Shepherd (Yoga)	Spectrum Center	902-7913

HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS

Alternative Health & Wellness Center		
Dr. Jacqueline A. Doval-Graziani	2615 Montrose	522-WELL

Dr. Jerry Martin P.C.	5252 Westchester	660-7722
Bruce W. Smith D.D.S.	1006 Missouri	529-4364
Eyes Are Precious, Dr. Sue Moss	2015-K W. Gray	524-2525
Joyce Long & Associates	2301 Yorktown Suite 201-A	623-0866
Patricia D. Salvato, M.D.	7800 Fannin #300	791-7520

HAIR STYLISTS / FASHION

All Decked Out - Tracy Gilmore	3502 S. Shepherd	522-0507
Robin Hoods	315 W. Alabama	942-8888

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Essential Touch (Alan Davidson)	3100 Richmond	942-0923
David Rangel	2507 Montrose, Ste. 54	287-9529
Norman Sanford	2503-B S. Shepherd	935-2122

PSYCHOTHERAPY

Jean-Louis Amand	3400 Richmond	621-4220
Kreller & Associates, Inc.	1801 Huldy St. Suite 15	529-8017
Patrick Vachon, L.M.S.W.-A.C.P.	New Counseling Center	529-1913
Tony Carroll, MSW	1937 Lexington	522-3045

PSYCHIC/INTUITIVE COUNSELORS

Sandra Nicholas		522-0990
Joe Paxton	1919 Elmen	523-1627
Sharron Mattison		681-1747

REAL ESTATE

Community Management Company	1125 Lawrence	868-8018
Forum Plaza Apartments	10101 Forum Park Drive	270-1017
Richard Hill (Swilley-Hudson)	1501 Heights	869-0456
Suzanne Anderson Properties	315 W. Alabama Suite 101	529-8484
Tips In Real Estate	1311 Sherwood Forest	722-5200

RESTAURANTS

Cafe Maison	2089 Westheimer	528-6750

RETAIL

Arise Futon	2013-D West Gray	524-8120
Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	522-1626
Celebrations To Go Gift Baskets	2990 Richmond Suite 316	520-1674
Crossroads Market	610 W. Alabama	942-0147
Crystal Castle	228 Westheimer	526-6165
Fiesta Market	3803 Dunlavy	529-7352
For What It's Worth	3600 W. Alabama Suite I	961-1052
Heights Pavillion	244 W. 19th	861-3411
Inklings	1846 Richmond Ave.	521-3369
Kroger	3300 Montrose	526-7865
Lobo	1424-C Westheimer	522-5156
Lucia's Garden	2942 Virginia St.	523-6494
River Oaks Antiques Center	2119 Westheimer	520-8238
Tara's Unique Gifts & Crystals	3600 W. Alabama Suite I	961-1052
Unique Boutique	4317 Montrose	526-5266

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Dignity Houston	1307 Yale	880-2872
Jewish Congregation		748-7079

SERVICES

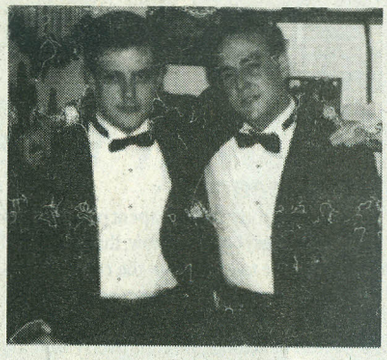
Mail Boxes Etc.	5090 Richmond Ave.	626-2920

TRAVEL

Brown-Wilkins & Associates Travel, Inc.	3311 Richmond Suite 230	942-0664

To have your business or service listed in the OutSmart Resource Directory call 713/520-7237.

Announcements



RUSSELL WAYNE BYRD AND STEVE MICHAEL BAKER

Steve and Russell will exchange traditional marriage vows in a Commitment Ceremony on April 16, 1994 at 6 p.m. The ceremony will take place at the Memorial area home of Judy Filippone, one of Steve and Russell's many P-FLAG moms, who will "give away" the couple in this holy union.

The ceremony will be performed by two ministers, the Rev. Don Sinclair (Methodist) and the Rev. Doug Ensminger (Presbyterian). Both ministers are straight but are also advocates of legal and church recognition of gay marriage. They will perform a joint ceremony that will closely follow traditional marriage vows and custom. Because even these ceremonies are frowned upon by the leadership of both denominations, both ministers are showing extreme bravery and dedication to what they believe to be the morally right course for churches to follow in terms of gay marriage.

Steve and Russell met more than three years ago from a personal ad that Steve placed in a local paper. They have lived together for two and a half years. They are partners in TriAngle Video Productions, a local video company producing educational programs about the gay and lesbian community. Their first program, *Always My Kid*, was released last month to rave reviews.

The couple will honeymoon in Hawaii or the Caribbean. They hope that their commitment ceremony will prompt other gay and lesbian couples to follow their example in showing society that many homosexual people desire lifelong relationships and deserve the right to be legally recognized and religiously blessed.

OutSmart Magazine will be happy to print announcements (births, union ceremonies, anniversary announcements, obituaries,) on a space available basis. Send them to: *OutSmart Magazine* 2990 Richmond Ave. 3316, Houston, TX 77098. For information call 713/520-7237.

WHAT A WORLD, WHAT A WORLD...

BY NANCY FORD

A recent episode of Roseanne, "The Kiss," *featured Roseanne Connor and pregnant sister Jackie visiting a gay bar, where a loose-lipped lesbian plants one on Roseanne. It's been called the frankest discussion of sexuality on TV since Bono said the* F word *only moments earlier on the Grammy awards presentation—and we're not talkin' Frank Sinatra.*

AN OPEN LETTER TO ROSEANNE ARNOLD

Dear Roseanne,

Let me tell you what. I've spent plenty of time watching television. I've spent plenty of time in gay bars. And now, thanks to you, I, along with the rest of America, was recently able to do both in the comfort of our own homes.

There was great speculation as to whether or not the local ABC affiliate, KTRK Channel 13, would broadcast *The Kiss*. If the two women had knifed each other instead of kissing, the controversy would have been minimal. Fortunately Channel 13 is at the forefront of sensitivity concerning Houston's gay and lesbian issues the entire episode was aired without editing or censoring. How could they refuse? That same night its 10 o'clock news featured a story entitled *Totally Nude Clubs Move in on Houston*.

No one was surprised at the disclaimer that appeared on screen before your program aired: *Tonight's episode deals with mature sexual themes and may not be appropriate for younger viewers. Parental discretion is advised.* In the course of the following thirty minutes America was treated, perhaps for the first time, to the words *vibrators*, *pierced nipple*, *butch* and *slipped the tongue* uttered by someone other than Geraldo. But let's face it—the most sexually explicit portion of the program was hetero daughter Becky's cocktail waitress halter top and mini skirt outfit. Fortunately she wasn't a cocktail waitress at the gay bar your characters visited. Instead, Becky is employed at a straight bar. Hmmm.



Lips (tee hee), the fictional gay bar (and probably the singular "family" haven serving the contact-thirsty gay and lesbian community in that part of the Midwest), looked much like any other bar. Lots of neon, mixed crowd, attractive and feminine (albeit tattooed) bartender. Thanks for staying away from the seedy, dangerous stereotypes that used to characterize our meeting places. We immediately recognized and loved Lois (*Sorority Girls from Hell*) Bromfield, playing a beer-swilling, gum-chewing pick-up artist who hits on Jackie. At least, I hope it was gum...

On the down side, the women who portrayed *Lips*' lesbians had the same walk/expressions as Dan Ackroyd/Steve Martin's *Saturday Night Live* Wild & Crazy Guys. They were reminiscent of straight women doing a lesbian scene in a porno film. Or so I would imagine....

I noticed only one major *faux pas*: Leon tells Roseanne that she looked like "a drag queen doing a really bad Liz Taylor." Any *true* homosexual knows that it's never Liz— it's *Elizabeth*. Always.

Mariel Hemingway was an interesting casting choice. For the second time in her career Mariel played a lesbian with an aimlessly wandering libido. Her first time out (so to speak) portraying a lesbian she was Chris, pubescent track runner in the film *Personal Best*. All through your program I kept waiting for her to lace on a pair of Nikes and say, "Pull my finger." This time she was Sandra Bernhard/Nancy's girlfriend Sharon, as in *Sharon, share alike*.

His mom's having gone dancing "with other women" prompts Connor son DJ to question the acceptability of such behavior. His father PC'ly informs him that "It's perfectly fine, and anyone who tries to tell you different is wrong." When DJ replies he doesn't want to dance with other men, his father calmly responds "That's your choice." But when DJ leaves the room, Dan heaves not only a sigh of relief but also a hallelujah. How sad, how hypocritical a commentary, but unfortunately, how accurate. Suggestion for a spin off: let DJ grow up to realize he's gay. Or Darlene. Or Crystal's new kid. Or Jackie's new kid. Or even Jackie, herself. That *would* explain her lack of success forming committed relationships with men.

Perhaps the most revealing scene came at the end of the program. After a torrid session of lovemaking Dan gets turned on at the idea of what goes on among women at a gay bar, but is immediately doused by the idea of what goes on between men at the same place. What Dan doesn't realize is that there is a lot more than sexuality that goes on wherever gay men and lesbians meet. Additionally, promises are made and broken, relationships begin and end, ideas are conceived, deals are cut, lies are told, philosophies are molded, funds are raised, politics are challenged, lives are changed, etc., etc. Just like in real life.

Point is, ultimately, in this episode Roseanne and her friend Nancy get to know each other better as human beings. Roseanne examines the depth of her "coolness", and the opportunity to examine the gray area of her sexuality.

And you were right. As your character said, being gay "isn't a choice." It just is.

But you need to know that when Sharon confesses to her girlfriend/lover/main squeeze Nancy that she (Sharon) kissed Roseanne, and Nancy responds by thinking "it's a riot" is *very* unrealistic. Perhaps a more bent-chromosome-based reaction would have been for Nancy to *start* a riot, tossing down or just *tossing* a long neck or two, then hurling some nasty epithets regarding straight people in gay bars. On the way home, after being permanently barred from *Lips*, Nancy might then even be compelled to stop by her ex-girlfriend Morgan Fairchild's house for...er...*comfort*. So again, thanks for staying away from the stereotypes.

Accolades to your brave sponsors who did not pull their advertising in the face of criticism by the few TV viewers who would choose to mandate what the many should watch. If ever I find myself in need of an anti-itch creme, transportation, a weight-loss aid and more computerized information in my life, I will without hesitation turn to Cortizone 10, Isuzu Rodeo, Ultra Slim Fast and Prodigy. Further, regardless of their cinematic merit, I promise to see the movies *On Deadly Ground*, *The Chase*, *Guarding Tess* and *The Ref*. At the very least, I'll rent them when they come out on video. Well, maybe not *On Deadly Ground*. We all have to draw the line somewhere.

And thanks too to James Berg, Stan Zimmerman and Michael Berkow for the teleplay and story, and director Philip Charles MacKenzie. Phil's come a long way since portraying the flaming queen on Showtime's 80's travesty *Brothers*, hasn't he?

In closing, heaps of gratitude to you for courageously continuing to present gays and lesbians as what we are—just people. One favor, though. Please, *please* never again make us look at a pregnant woman's stretched-out navel, like in the *Jackie Gives Birth* episode aired the following week.

After all, some subjects are just too sensitive for television.

Forever your fan,

Nancy Ford

P.S. Dump Tom.



This is the way many people deal with HIV.

A lot of people figure HIV isn't something they have to worry about. It's something other people get, not them. But anyone can get HIV infection if they are sharing drug needles and syringes or having sex with an infected person.

HIV infection can happen to you if you take chances or pretend it doesn't exist.

There are some general rules. Never share drug needles and syringes. And unless you're sure your partner isn't infected, don't take a chance. Or at least use a latex condom, correctly, every time you have sex.

Understand HIV and AIDS. Call your State or local AIDS hotline, or the National AIDS Hotline at 1-800-342-AIDS. Call 1-800-243-7889 (TTY) for deaf access.

AMERICA
RESPONDS
TO AIDS

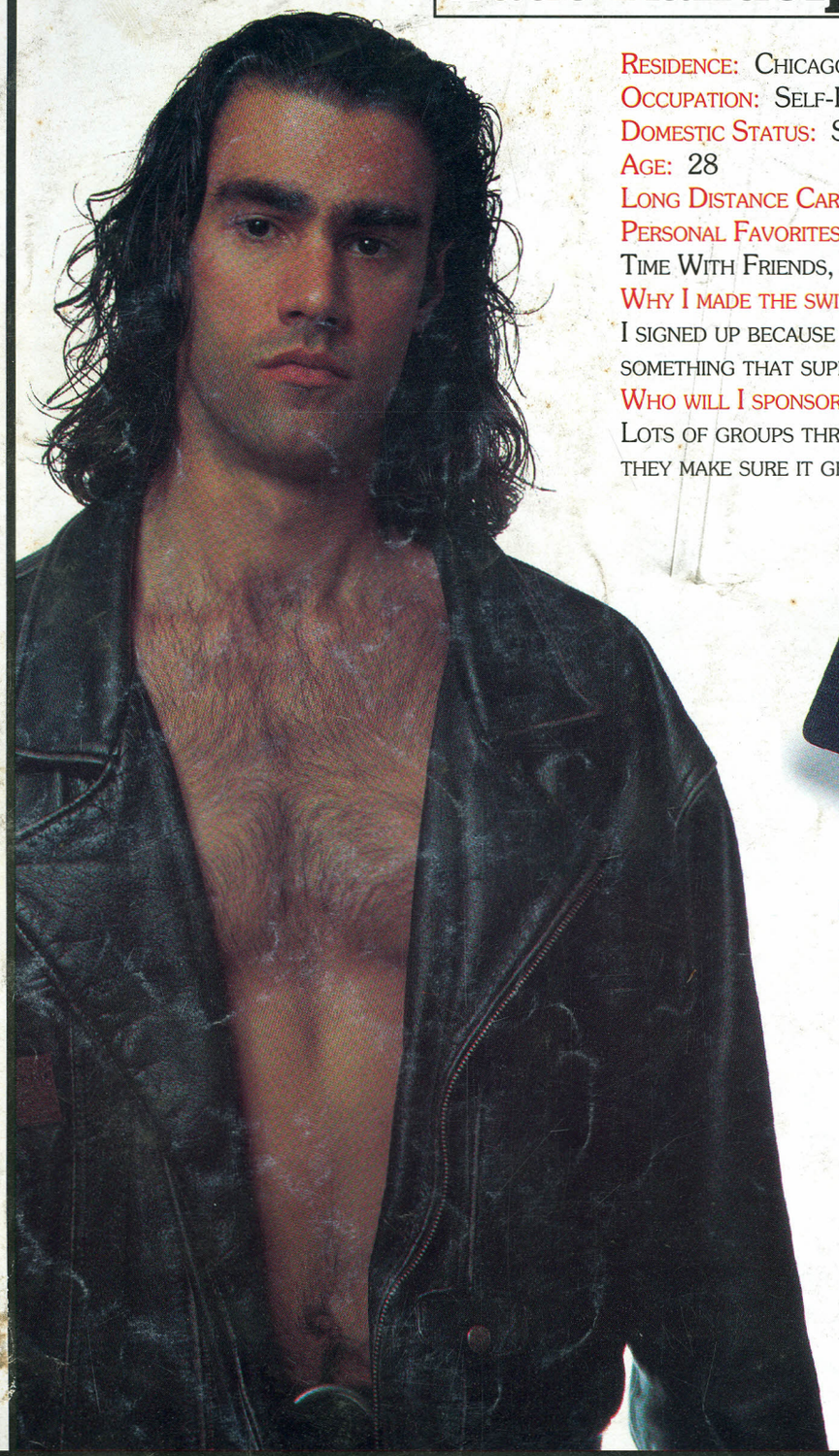
HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

Department of Health & Human Services, Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control.

CommunitySpirit

People Like You

Wade Randolph



Residence: Chicago, Illinois
Occupation: Self-Employed Sign Artist/Designer
Domestic Status: Single
Age: 28
Long Distance Carrier: CommunitySpirit
Personal Favorites: Exercising, Photography, Spending Time With Friends, Italian Food, Vodka & Tonic
Why I made the switch to CommunitySpirit:
I signed up because it was important to be involved with something that supports the community.
Who will I sponsor with every long distance call I make:
Lots of groups through the CommunitySpirit Foundation. They make sure it gets to the groups that need it most.



Call anywhere in the world on the nation's only 100% digital fiber optic network-that means unsurpassed sound clarity.

It's easy. Our rates are up to 25% lower than AT&T, MCI or Sprint. 13.9¢ a minute for the first 60 min/wk and 9.9¢ each additional minute for any interstate call made after 5pm weekdays or anytime on weekends.

Your charges are included with your local bill in most calling areas.

***CommunitySpirit** is Lesbian, Gay and Bi owned and operated.*

1-800-546-0831

No Minimums or monthly fee
We pay the switching fee

20% of our profits or 2% of your bill is donated to the community groups you choose-whichever is more! It's a family thing!