

HOUSTON

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Q-Patrol: The eyes and ears of Montrose



'Bar Girl ...'
Actress Camila Griggs talks about her new mainstream movie about lesbians - Pg 8

By GLEN WEBBER

Houston Voice/Houston

(Editor's note: This weekend, gay and lesbian Texans will march on Austin to encourage the passage of a forceful and specific Hate Crime Bill and to remember those who have been victims of anti-gay violence. Here in Houston, a band of dedicated volunteers has been working quietly behind the scenes—literally—to discourage hate crimes for over three years. To get an up-close and personal view of what these donated weekends are like, Houston Voice reporter Glen Webber took to the streets last Saturday with the Q-Patrol, a non-profit citizens patrol group based in the Montrose area).

You are walking alone to your car late at night. You've parked blocks away from the bar. You've had too much to drink and feeling woozy. Suddenly, you notice a car driving slowly towards you. Several people are inside the car. They pass you and yell "Queers Must Die." What do you do?

This is a frequent scenario in Montrose. Non-residents, including many young people, come to the area; some are curious about gays and mean no harm...but others come with the intent of harassing and doing harm. Those who have been attacked can attest to the brutality

of those who do mean harm.

The police are concerned but can't always be there. They have their hands full with other problems. For these reasons, a dedicated group of men and women have come together to form a volunteer group call the Q-Patrol. This caring group patrol the streets in both marked units and on foot. They are there to look for trouble and hopefully prevent it.

The volunteers use their own cars for "mounted patrol." The cars are identified with magnetic signs sporting the Q-Patrol logo. They are equipped with radios and cellular phones and communicate with the foot patrols on a constant basis. All transmissions are recorded in case the information is needed later. The foot patrol consist of at least four persons. They are identified by their white t-shirts with the Q-Patrol logo on the front. While the mounted patrol can operate around Montrose, the foot patrol operates within a four block radius of Crocker and Hyde Park. If a foot patrol spots a suspicious looking car they will take note of the vehicle with the license number if possible, and relay the information to the mounted patrol, who will follow the suspect's vehicle until it leaves Montrose.

(Continued on Page 3)

Diverse groups unite to support



Names Project Quilt display

(HOUSTON)—AIDS has become the most common cause of death among young adults in the United States. The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt—on display through Sunday at the George R. Brown Convention Center—is an international memorial to those who have died of AIDS that has drawn an estimated five million visitors to over 1000 such panel exhibitions since 1987, and has raised more than \$1,400,000 for AIDS services throughout North America.

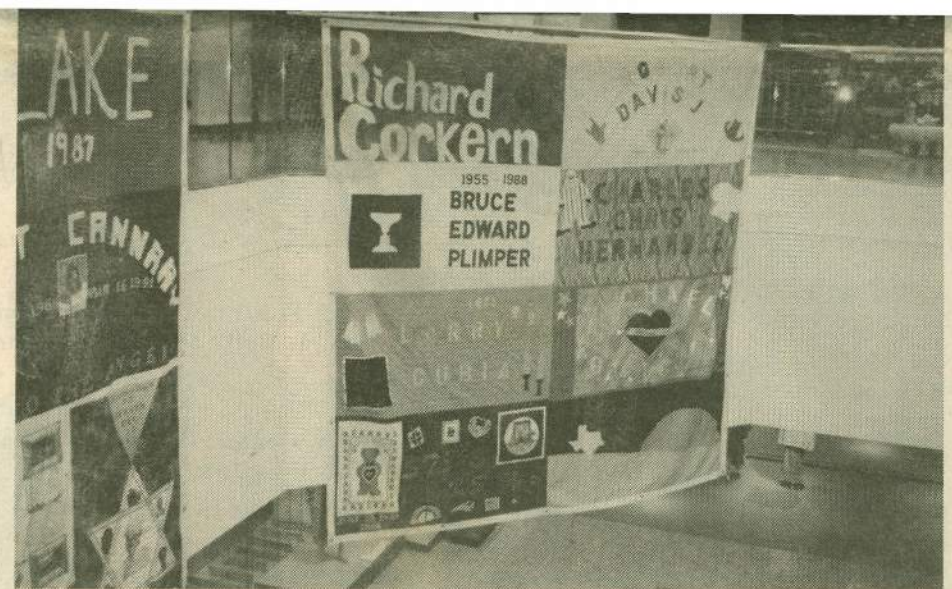
The AIDS epidemic has survived to defy all the initial demographics, as the HIV virus has spread without regard to age, race, gender, religion or sexual orientation. Here in Houston, the participation of diverse groups representing a wide range of businesses, organizations and institutions in support of the current Quilt display lends a note of hope that there is also a wide-ranging and widely spreading response that cuts across the lines to all sectors of the concerned community.

Unfolding teams announced for the

display include, along with the Names Project Board of Directors, teams from Texas Commerce Bank, the Miss Camp America Foundation, Bering Community Service Foundation, AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service), Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos, the Brentwood Respite Care Team, the Bayou City Boy's Club, Houston Independent School District, PWA Coalition Houston, DIFFA/Houston (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS), the Colt 45's, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, and the Jewish Community Center.

Names readers are being provided by the following groups: Fashion International/Houston, Miss Camp America Foundation, AIDS Foundation Houston, Four Seasons Club, Bayou City Boy's Club, Bering Community Service Foundation, PWA Coalition/Houston, DIFFA/Houston, AVES, Dizinger Foundation, Montrose Counseling Center, Body Positive Houston, Out Smart Magazine, Northern Lights Alternatives, Loving Arms, the Art Institute of Houston, Diocesan AIDS Ministry, the Krewe of Olympus, Montrose Clinic, Pet Patrol, Steven's House and the Assistance Fund.

The four-day local display features 3072 panels from the Quilt, which in its entirety comprises over 27,000 three-by-six foot panels. Opening ceremonies were scheduled to be held Thursday, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The display is open to the public, and continues Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closing ceremonies will be held Sunday at 4:00 p.m.



Local panels from the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt were displayed earlier this week at Neiman Marcus stores in Houston in conjunction with this weekend's exhibit at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

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Senate committee approves hate crimes bill

By **CHIP BROWN**

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN (AP)—A Senate committee approved legislation Thursday cracking down on hate crimes following testimony by parents of slain gay men and a man who watched his gay brother gunned down by "queer-hunting" teens.

The Senate Criminal Justice Committee unanimously approved the measure and sent it to the full Senate for consideration.

The bill proposed by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, would specify that

punishment would be enhanced for crimes committed on the basis of "race, color, disability, religion, national origin or sexual orientation."

Edward Tubb of Longview recounted to the committee how he and his brother, Randal, were attacked after meeting two 17-year-olds last December in a gay bar in nearby White Oak.

Tubb said the group left the bar after agreeing to meet at his brother's house. The 17-year-olds showed up with two other teenagers, one of whom had a shotgun.

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"PROUDLY TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN THE HOUSTON VOICE!"

Committee approves bill after hearing from gay victims' families

(Continued from Page 1)

"He shot my brother dead without even saying a word to him," Tubb said. "He turned the gun on me and shot me in the chest before I could wrestle the gun from them and run them out of the house.

"In their own words, they said they were out 'queer hunting.' We were hunted and stalked and my brother was killed like an animal. They didn't see us as human beings," Tubb said, his voice rising.

Tubb said the teens had been in juvenile homes and that he wished "somewhere along the line, the system had grabbed them and choked them and said, 'Look, gay people are human beings too.'

"That's why we need this hate crimes law," he said.

Don Sinclair, pastor of Bering

Methodist Church, told the committee his son, Stanley Sinclair, was stabbed to death in Houston 15 years ago because he was homosexual.

Sinclair praised the hate crimes bill and denounced churches "that use their pulpits to condemn homosexuality."

"That gives permission to tease and to bait and ultimately to kill for no other reason than a person's sexual orientation," Sinclair said.

Carolyn Galloway, of the conservative group Texas Eagle Forum, testified in opposition to the bill. She said her group opposed the classification of sexual orientation in the bill.

"There is no definition of sexual orientation in the bill, so we don't know whether that means bisex-

uality, homosexuality, heterosexuality, transsexuality, pedophilia or child molesters," Ms. Galloway said.

She was interrupted by committee Chairperson John Whitmire, D-Houston, who said, "Does it matter what the definition is? If somebody targets and kills someone for one of these reasons don't you agree that it's wrong?"

Ms. Galloway said she feared that protecting homosexuals in the hate crimes bill would lead to stronger rights for gays in the workplace and schools.

Ellis said his bill is patterned after a Wisconsin law that was recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, he said he expects an "uphill battle" in the House, where conservatives led by Rep.

Warren Chisum, D-Pampa, have vowed to fight the bill if it includes the reference to sexual orientation.

Chisum has said he believes it would set a precedent "to give special consideration to the gay and lesbian community just as if they were of the same stature as all minorities."

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian-Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, said eight Texas men were killed last year because they were gay.

"It's very tragic that we are going to have a tough time passing this bill," Ms. Hardy-Garcia said. "It's tragic that there are some who believe it isn't wrong to beat up lesbians and gays. If any other group was being deliberately killed, there would be public outrage."

Community Calendar

by Carolyn Larson

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the facts to me at 529-9531.

03/30 to 04/02 * AIDS Memorial Quilt on display at the George R. Brown. For more info, call 52-NAMES.

03/31 * Art Classes at the Art League. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 623-6796 for more info.

03/31 * Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. On-Line number 526-KPFT.

03/31 * HATCH meets at 7:15 p.m. Call for location 942-7002.

03/31 * Art Opening at the Hyde Park Gallery. Artist is David Greiger. 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

03/31 * Healing the Hurt—Conference on Homophobia. Call 867-9020 for more info.

03/31 * "The Rag Doll Dreams Gala Auction"—7:00 P.M. \$10. Innova Design Center. A benefit for Children with AIDS. Call 477-9303 for more info.

03/31 to 04/02 * Double Dime Anniversary. Call 459-2629 for more info.

03/31 * The Freds perform at the Toy Box.

03/31 * Texas Lesbian Conference. Call 512-326-4453.

03/31 * "This Little Pyggie"—A fairy tale in a queer-punk-slacker groove. At Kumba House Repertory Theater. 3414 LaBranch. Runs thru 4/30. Call 525-5960.

03/31 * "The Sum of Us" opens at the Greenway 3. A unique movie about a father and son relationship, looking for love thru dating services and a gay bar. Call for limited show times 626-0402.

04/01 * Ralph Street Awards at E/J's

04/01 * EPAH's Leather and Lace benefit at Pacific Street. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

04/01 * Men's Network meets at the Montrose Counseling Center at 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037 for more info.

04/01 * Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus General Meeting. 7:30 p.m. 2700 Albany Call 521-1000.

04/02 * March on Austin! 512-474-5475.

04/02 * P-FLAG meets at 7601 Fannin at 2:00 p.m. Call 867-9020 for more info.

04/02 * TGRA Play Day at Dixie Farms Equestrian Center. Open to all. Call Carlos at 956-0758.

04/03 * Lobby Day. Call 512-474-5475 for details.

04/03 * Free Sign Language Classes at the Brazos River Bottom. 7:00 p.m.

04/05 * Men's Network at the Montrose Counseling Center. 529-0037.

04/05 * Lambda Skate Night at the Dairy Ashford Skate Rink. 933-5818

04/05 * HIV and Nutrition—A community forum presented by the Houston Clinical Research Network, at the DoubleTree, 400 Dallas. Free. 6:30 p.m. For more info, call Steve Nettles at 520-2000.

04/05 * Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus general meeting. 2700 Albany. 7:30 p.m. 521-1000.

04/05 * "Cancer in Two Voices," a documentary by independent filmmaker Lucy Massie Phenix about the experiences of a lesbian with breast cancer and her partner. Houston Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet. 7:30 p.m. \$5. For info, call 639-7515.

04/06 * Juice Plus Dinner. Call 578-3744 for more info.

04/06 * Dyan Michaels in a "One Man Show" at E/J's

04/06 * Jailhouse Rock and Lock-up Party at the Venture-N. A fundraiser for Children with AIDS. Call Chris at

536-4392 to arrange "Arrest Warrants" and "Get Out Of Jail Free Cards."

04/07 * Fem 2 Fem appear at J.R.'s at 7:00 p.m. to meet and sign autographs. A benefit for the Lesbian Health Initiative and 800 Pacific Street Employee Emergency Fund.

04/07 * "Getting The Love You Want"—workshop by Patrick Vachon. Call 529-1913, Voice Mail #4.

04/07 * Tim and Tracy perform at Ms. B's.

04/07 * Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. 526-KPFT.

04/07 * Houston Mastery Weekend. Call 523-8711.

04/07 * Mishpachat Alizim—An organization that provides a forum for Gay and Lesbian Jews and their families. For more info, call 748-7079.

04/7 to 9 * NLA:H's Anniversary weekend run. Call 527-9666

04/08 * Westheimer Street Festival! For more info, call 521-0133.

04/08 * Fem 2 Fem perform at Heaven at midnight.

04/09 * TGRA President's show at the Brazos River Bottom. 7:00 p.m.

04/09 * "Senza Misura" a recital. 11th to 20th century women composers. Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. 1504 Wirt Road. 7:30 p.m. \$10., \$5-students. Call 521-1681 for more info.

04/09 * Torn Levi Party at the Montrose Mining Company.

04/11 * Houston Gay/Lesbian Pride Week meeting. 2700 Albany. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. 529-6979.

04/11 * Financial Planning Workshop—at 1475 W. Gray at 7:00 p.m.

04/11 * Juice Plus Meeting at the Greenspoint Marriott. 7:30 p.m. Free. Call 578-3744 for more info.

04/11 * "Twentysomething" workshop entitled "Boy to Boy" 7:00 p.m. at Bering Church, 1440 Harold. Call 315-6786.

04/12 * Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Board meeting. 2700 Albany 7:00 p.m. Call 521-1000.

04/12 * Women's Network at the Montrose Counseling Center. 701 Richmond 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

04/12 * "Healing and Happiness through Wellness"—A program by Bart Loser of AFH, at the Multi-Purpose Center, 1475 W. Gray, 7:00 p.m. Call 623-6796 for more info.

04/13 * The Last Days of Charles/Kathryn and Split:Portrait of a Drag Queen. At Rice University. Call 527-4882 for more info.

04/13 * Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 p.m. Call 639-1432.

04/13 * National Leather Association:Houston—General meeting. 711 Hyde Park. 7:00 p.m. Call 527-9666.

04/13 * AIDS Equity League Awards. 4727 W. Alabama. 5:30 p.m.

04/13 * Chat and Chew at Gentry.

04/14 * Texas Leather and Lace and Texas Riders Annual "Bunny Run."

04/14 * "Paris is Burning"—An award winning, witty and revealing documentary on "voguing" and the drag balls of Harlem. At Greenway 3. Call 626-0402 for limited show times.

04/15 * Jungle Lust III—A party sponsored by the Bayou City Boys Club. Benefit for HCRN. Call 529-9712 for more info.

04/15 * Houston Wrestling club meets for practice and fun. 1475 W. Gray 1:00 p.m. Call 453-7406.

04/15 * Lonestar Volleyball Classic VII Video highlights party at Gentry 7:00 p.m.

Patrol hopes to deter gay bashers with visibility, postcards

(Continued from Page 1)

I recently spent the evening patrolling with the Q-Patrol. My host was Glenn Holt, co-president of the group. We met with the rest of the group last Saturday night at Barnaby's, where the volunteers discussed the kind of night it might be. Because the weather was cool and it was Spring Break for a lot of kids, the feeling was it would be a busy night.

Among the group of volunteers out this night included Kris, a 31 year old straight woman. When asked why she gave her time to this important group, she replied, "This is something that interests me. I know there is only so much the police can do. There aren't a lot of people who are willing to volunteer their time." Another member, James, a 30 year old gay male, says, "I just believe in the cause—preventing gay bashing. I have been attacked myself and I don't want this happening to anyone else."

After the group finished the meeting, Glenn and I got ready to go on foot patrol. He was carrying his walkie talkie, ready to communicate at a moment's notice. It didn't take long for Glenn to spot a suspicious vehicle. It was a late model Blazer with several people in it. "They didn't look like they belonged here so I radioed the mounted patrol," he said. The mounted patrol reported back in a few minutes that the suspect vehicle left

Q-Patrol is also now forming a group in the Dallas area, providing the Oaklawn section of Dallas with the same type of protection. So far, the volunteer effect has been successful with several mounted and foot patrols available. Those persons interested in volunteering in Dallas may call Corporal Lynn Albright, Dallas Police Department at 214-670-5514. Those interested in the Houston Q-Patrol may call 713-871-8519.

Now that Q-Patrol has 501(c)(3) status, you may donate on a monthly basis to help the Patrol reach its goal of providing more coverage of Montrose more nights a week. Any amount will help this fine group better equip themselves for our safety. They also provide speakers who can elaborate on the fine work the group is doing. Donations are tax-deductible.

By the way, the answer to the question at the start of the article is simple: don't get in that situation in the first place. The following list of safety tips can help you prevent being a victim of any bashing-related crime.

Tips For Your Safety:

You can help prevent from being a target for crime. Crime often happens quickly and quietly. Someone can come out of the darkness and get you before you know what's happening. The following tips should help you be

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ounted patrol reported back in a few minutes that the suspect vehicle left the area.

When a license plate is recorded, the registration is checked and the owner of the vehicle is sent a postcard stating that the suspect vehicle was spotted in the patrol area and reported to HPD. The card goes on to explain the dangers of gay bashing and notes that if the occupants of the vehicle are "genuinely interested in the gay lifestyle," they may call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

Eight cars that night were considered suspicious and license plates recorded while we were on duty. In the meantime, the large crowd of people continued going back and forth between the clubs at a fast pace, unaware they could easily be targets for any fast acting criminals.

According to the Houston Police Department, the Q-Patrol has made a significant difference in the frequency of occurrences in the Montrose area. One unidentified office replied, "We trust their judgment about any situation they call us about. They help our department by being the eyes and ears of the neighborhood. When they call about a vehicle or a situation, we know it is serious and we take action. We thank them for helping us patrol Montrose."

The meticulous record keeping by the patrol has led to convictions of some criminal activity by gay bashers. Most of the time the car registered in the name of an adult who doesn't know or realize their child is involved in criminal activity.

The Q-Patrol is always looking for volunteers. They ask that you give at least 3 hours a month to the patrol. Extensive training is provided with an important emphasis on the fact that those involved are not policemen or security men. They are there to watch for trouble and hopefully prevent a crime from taking place.

before you know what's happening. The following tips should help you be safe than sorry.

1. Park in lighted areas as close to the place you are going. If you must park far away, find a street light or porch light from a house or apartment to park by. Better yet, park in a lighted parking lot and take a cab to your location.

2. Don't travel alone if possible. Look for others to walk with when leaving a crowded area. A small group can be a deterrent.

3. Don't wear flashy jewelry or expensive watches. The only person you will impress is the criminal. Don't carry a wallet in you back pocket. There are many pickpockets in the bars waiting to bump into you and take you money. Keep your driver's license and a few dollars in your front pockets.

4. Don't carry or flash large sums of money. Don't carry credit cards, social security cards, anything that can be used to commit fraud later. If you must carry these types of cards, leave them in the car. Leave the ATM cards at home.

5. Women should carry fanny packs around the waist instead of purses. Police recommend that women don't carry purses at all if possible.

6. Have your keys ready when leaving the club so you can be ready to enter your car right away. Be aware of your surroundings. If there is a lot of brush, walk in the middle of the street.

7. Don't drink too much or it will impair your vision and affect your judgment and make you an easy target.

8. If someone does taunt you, keep walking. Increase your pace and don't look back. Don't challenge a trouble maker.

9. Support the Q-Patrol and the Police Department. They care for your safety. So should you.

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In Memory of...



JERRY BEASLEY

Born: June 6, 1944

Died: December 29, 1994

Jerry made his transition Thursday, December 29, 1994 at 1:00 p.m. with his family at his side. "Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on the snow, I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn's rain, When you awaken in the mornings hush, I am the swift uplifting rush, of quiet birds in the circled flight, I am the soft stars that shine at night, Do not stand at my grave and cry; I am not there, I did not die." Author unknown

Jerry, we miss your smile and your love, however, we know you are still with us.

Your Family, Mabel, Derek, Jim and many friends.



LEE CHRISTENSEN

Lee was born in Chicago, Ill., and moved to Houston in the seventies. He worked in customer service for a local insurance company prior to this death. Lee died of complications following heart surgery. Lee leaves behind many friends in Houston, Chicago and Monterrey, Mexico.



CHARLES RAY DOWNEY

Charles Ray Downey, 41, died March 21, 1995, the first day of spring. He is survived by his parents Hollis and Billie Downey from Graham, Tx; brothers Mikel E. Downey and family from Atlantic Beach, Fl; Donald E. Downey and family from Olney, Tx; grandparents, Howard and Carrie Bell Teimann from Priddy, Tx; and numerous friends.

Charles spent all of his life in Texas living in Houston the last 35 years. Practicing the fine art of hairdressing over 15 years, he collected many friends who will miss him dearly. Charlie Ray had a favorite saying that he'd like to "Make America beautiful, one person at a time." So that he can continue to make America beautiful, a special memorial service will be held for Charlie Ray in Houston by planting a tree in the near future.

Funeral services will be held at Morrison Funeral Home, Graham, Tx., Friday, March 24th at 2:00 p.m. For more information call (713) 623-4047 or (713) 630-0531.

JEANNE B. BLAKEWAY

Jeanne passed away on March 8, 1995. She was born in New Castle, P.A. and was raised in Cleveland, Ohio. Houston was her home since 1973. She worked at The Methodist Hospital and the retired, after 12 years, from Ben Taub where she worked in admissions for the Emergency Center. Bowling was her passion and she bowled on the Thursday Night Mixed League for 15 years.

She is preceded in death by husband and her beloved son, Phillip (3/12/87). She leaves behind her "Boys"; Tim, Bob, Rick and Richard plus many friends from bowling and Gentry's. A memorial service will be held on Sunday,



GEORGE CHRISTOPHER WARWICK

Born: November 10, 1953

Died: March 14, 1995

Memorials may be made in Chris' name to Bering Care Center, 1440 Harold, Houston, Tx 77006. Chris volunteered many hours of his time to this wonderful organization.

Chris Warwick: "He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and head is a craftsman. He who works with hands and head and heart is an artist..."

Ron R. (His significant other): "A wedding ring may not be as tight as a tourniquet, but it certainly stops the wearer's circulation."

Molly W. (His mother): "Across the fields of yesterday, He sometimes comes to me, A little lad just back from play - The lad I used to hold."
Rod H. (His everyday buddy): "In school the best minds are not necessarily those that mind the best."

Ron J. (His confidant): "When you help someone up hill, you find yourself closer to the top."

Randy B. (From Guam): "Progress involves risk--you can't steal second and keep your foot on first."

Neil Z. (From Oklahoma): "When you tell your troubles to someone else, you should be willing to listen to his."

Mary W. (From Montrose): "Why is it that some folks even after they're admitted to a friend's home, keep right on knocking?"

Carol Lee R. (From Heaven): "#3 (across): To the pessimist, "0" is the last letter in z__o; #8 (down): To the optimist, "O" is the first letter in o____ity."

Steve S. (From the kitchen): "An intelligent person is one who understands the obvious."

Bill G. (From his ad): "Subtlety is the art of saying what you think and getting out of range before it's understood."

"WARM AND DEEPLY AFFECTING."
-Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES

the Sum of Us
Not your typical father and son story.

STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 31st

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Tad Nelson/publisher

Mexico. Lee was an active member in The Imperial Court' and was most recently Santa Claus at Gentry's.

Lee, your stubborn, opinionated self is greatly missed, as well as your smile and concern for others. You are fondly remembered and deeply loved.

Your family and many friends.

Ft. Worth doctor alleges discrimination

FORT WORTH, Texas, Saturday, March 25 (AP)—The Tarrant County Hospital District has discriminated against a physician because he has tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS, the doctor alleges in a lawsuit.

Dr. Kenneth I. Freedman, 32, said he has been barred from practicing at John Peter Smith Hospital because he is HIV-positive.

A statement from the hospital district said Freedman's allegations, filed Thursday in state district court, were groundless.

"All of the district's actions concerning Dr. Freedman have been taken for the purpose of maintaining the quality of patient care," the statement said. "It is neither the policy nor the practice of the district to engage in discrimination."

Freedman, an internist specializing in gastroenterology, also sued Hospital Medical Specialists Associated, the Fort Worth group that hired him for the JPS job.

There was no answer Saturday at the number listed for the group.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, 4/9/95 at Gentry's from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contributions, in her name can be made to the Montrose Sports Association for their bowling programs.

Sweetie, your bowling with your Angles.

Love forever,

Your Boys



JUST AS I AM



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Author of
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ing what you think and getting out of range before it's understood."

John S. (From Dallas): "Genius is the ability to evade work by doing something right the first time it has been done."

Will W. (From the pulpit): "Learn from the mistakes of others—you can't live long enough to make them all yourself."

All of his other friends: "The trouble with these "how to succeed" books is that you find out from them that you have to work at it."

All his past neighbors (from Isabella Court): "Our town is a delightful place to live in if you are a delightful person to live beside."
(Composed posthumously by Chris Warwick via Rod H.)

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OPINION

This time, let Quilt emotions inspire action

Guest Commentary

By **BOB HERGENROEDER**

For the Houston Voice

The Quilt is here and just in time!

How exciting! The political action masterpiece of the year!

Just when you thought we will never get our act together as an activist community on behalf of People with AIDS (PWA) along comes The NAMES Project Quilt inaugurating the way for a few months of intense lobbying for the enactment of the Ryan White CARE act of 1995. Register the voters. Write your lobbying letter before the tears dry from the shine of your face.

Am I dreaming, hoping, and naive? Am I an agitator of possibilities? Yes, I certainly want to be all of the above. The NAMES Project Quilt is the single most powerful gathering of the true diversity of the people impacted by AIDS in this nation of ours. It is a national memorial, a national tool to mobilize the masses towards an authentic and comprehensive national response to this epidemic.

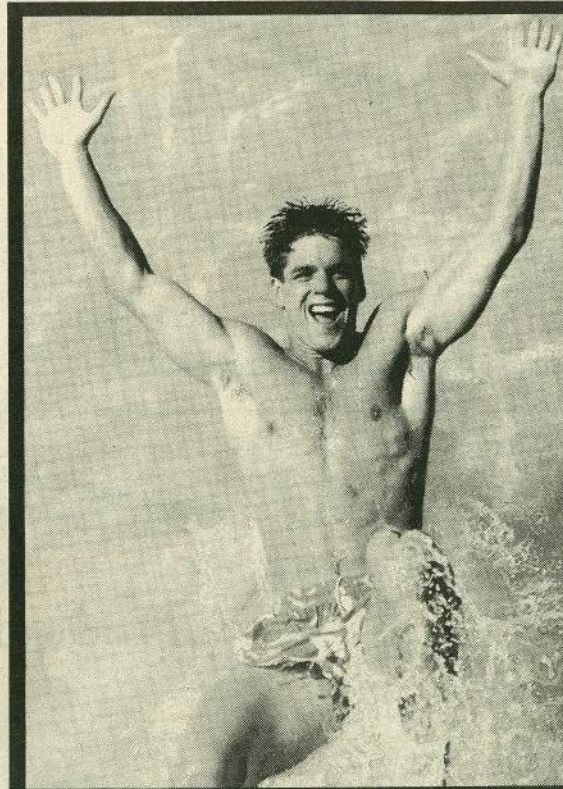
Yes, Cleve Jones (Founder), your quilt is a political organizing tool, not a political organization endorsing candidates, ballot measures, or specific legislation. Yes, Cleve Jones, your quilt makes an impact on the national political process, just as you intended when you envisioned the patchwork in 1985. Yes, Cleve Jones, as you stated in Washington, DC in October, 1992, it is perhaps time to stop making panels and attempt to direct all that energy towards politi-

Ryan White CARE Act of 1990 may need to have a panel made in its honor, not as a tribute but only as a memory.

We need a Ryan White CARE Act of 1995 enacted to secure adequate services to PWA's in the coming years. The second decade of this epidemic has already proven itself to be worse than the first. The epidemic is growing relentlessly, spreading each year into new communities across the nation. When the Ryan White CARE Act was first authorized, sixteen cities were eligible. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) projections indicate an expectation of fifty-nine communities being in 1996.

In 1991, \$86 million Ryan White Title I Funds were distributed to sixteen eligible communities. This year, 356.5 million is being distributed to forty-two communities. Next year will see an additional seventeen communities. The Coalition of Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) is advocating for 465.5 million in 1996 Title I distributions, an increase of 109 million. President Clinton's propose budget for FY 1996 includes a \$50.5 million increase for Title I Funds. Our current U.S. Congress will likely propose even less.

Here in Harris County, Ryan White Funds provide health care, financial assistance, transportation, food, home nursing, home makers, legal assistance, substance abuse counseling, therapy, support group, Care Teams, rehabilitation, case management, and more. Our friends are often unseen and unheard. Our friends



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Boy Toy Dancers 6pm - 2am

stop making panels and attempt to direct all that energy towards political activism. We saw that 1992 unfolding as the last possible display of the Quilt's entirety, and yet now, two years later, there are plans for a 35-40 acre display in 1996, accompanied by millions of voters.

Is there a panel in the Quilt memorializing the life of a boy named Ryan White? If not, perhaps there needs to be. But then, The Ryan white CARE Act of 1990 will expire on Sept. 30, 1995. If we don't act now to influence current activity in our U.S. Congress, the

agement, and more. Our friends are often unseen and unheard. Our friends and neighbors and family members living with HIV Disease depend on the power of The NAMES Project Quilt. The Quilt is vivid, loud, and clear. View it, succumb to its power, and commit to its lure. Write a letter. Make a phone call. Join a group. Ryan White CARE Act of 1995, fully funded, is a must! Do something to make it a reality. Do it now!

(Editor's note: Bob Hergenroeder is a case manager at People With AIDS Coalition Houston and chair of the Houston HIV Caucus).

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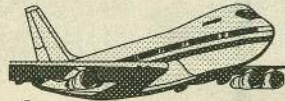
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See page 21

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VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Guilt Won't Help Gay Image

From TOM JONES
Houston, Texas

In a recent issue of the Houston Voice, there was an article by Glen Webber ("Gay Today" column, Issue 751, March 17, 1995) discussing the arrest of two men accused of using their computer bulletin board service to attract and molest young boys, and the effect the arrests had on the image of the gay community in general. He also trots out the old condemnation of sex in public places, particularly the parks and bookstores, even though public sex is not an issue in the molestation case.

There seemed to be an implication that we, as a community, should suffer some sort of collective guilt because some gay people do not adhere to the basic moral standards and laws of society, and that public acknowledgment of the guilt will help reduce the damage to our image.

I disagree. For years, gay activists have made an issue of the fact that we are everywhere, in every part of society. Straight people have been told that we are their friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family. We have never acknowledged the fact that there are also gays who would steal an old lady's Social Security check, rob a Stop-N-Go, and, yes, even some that would molest children. Like every other

'Specter' Of Change...?

From DAVID RAFFIELD
Houston, Texas

Even long-time Republican Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania finally woke up a little over a year ago and began adamantly criticizing the increasing bigotry, racism, homophobia and hate-mongering of the radical right. For years, he was one of those ranting right-wing fundamentalist types.

Being from a huge family of Roman emigrants, he fully understands where we are headed with this situation.

Because of his many past statements and behavior, I fully understand why and how many Democrats, liberals, feminists and gays continue to harbor strong resentment against him. We all remember his mean-spirited/harsh treatment of Anita Hill during the Clarence Thomas hearings. Unlike the aforementioned individuals and groups, I am one gay person who is now willing to give him the benefit of that doubt.

Recently, Specter (along with two other Republican members of congress) met with the lesbian half-sister of current House Speaker, Newt "the Grinch" Gingrich. Candace Gingrich has become very outspoken against her Republican brothers agenda and alignment with the radical right. This includes his ongoing "kid-bashing" effort to eliminate the much-needed school lunch/break-

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Like every other group, we have a few "bad" people among us, and ignoring them won't make them go away.

If a community response to this case is readily called for (and I'm not sure it is), there are several ways we can control the damage to our image. First, we should remember that the accused men are innocent until a jury says otherwise, and we should withhold judgment until they have their day in court. If they are found guilty, we should insist they go to jail. Gay or straight criminals should go to jail...period.

If they are found innocent, we should not let the shame of an accusation keep us from rushing to their defense, helping to make sure they aren't punished by society for a crime a court says they didn't commit. Defending the innocent is every bit as important as condemning the guilty.

A strong response from responsible members of our community, that unlawful behavior will not be tolerated, will help our image. Our image will suffer if we take on the guilt for what two individuals are accused of doing, whimper our apologies to straight America, and let a very small part of our community ruin it for the rest of us.

"kid-bashing" effort to eliminate the much-needed school lunch/breakfast program, huge AIDS and other social spending cuts and etc... Those of his ilk want to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Arlen Specter eagerly supported and voted for the Brady and Clinton crime bills. He remains adamantly opposed to ongoing congressional efforts by some radicals to repeal or water-down these long overdue bills.

Lets not forget that these bills were adamantly supported and backed by all (former) living presidents with Bush being the only exception. Reagan was the most vocal supporter.

While Specter adamantly opposed the Clinton national health care plan, he is now promoting his own very similar proposal.

On the issue of abortion, he is pro-choice.

I would classify him as a fiscal conservative who is a libertarian when it comes to social and moral issues.

He has already announced that he will be a candidate for president in 1996.

I, for one, find Specter to be a very viable alternative for many Democrats, liberals, feminists and gays who are upset with and tired of the continuing wimpish, unprincipled, waffling behavior of Bill Clinton.



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Camila ('JR') Griggs on acting, bars, lesbian chic and other topics

(Continued from preceding page)

Asked what she thought about the new trend of the 90's that it's chic to be lesbian, Camila told me, "It's true that lesbianism is sort of trendy think for the 90's, but I think it goes a little deeper than that. Part of it I think is that women are finally starting to say 'hey, we have another alternative.' I have always wanted to be with an equal and women have decided they certainly don't need the abuse. I always said I would never be in an abusive relationship and I would never get hit in the face. So these days I just stay out of relationships so I don't have to take that chance. More of my loner personality. So I let my acting career take most of my time.

"When I talked to the publicist at Orion and we were talking about the character J.R., I told her it would be truly difficult for me because it goes against the grain of what I believe. J.R., being a rough but basically good person at heart, but with no elements of morals, you know, not that the ones she had were bad—she just didn't have any. I'm also eight and a half years sober and sobriety to me is all about bringing the walls down and being vul-



Screen Girl Camila Griggs

the role. But as production on film began, I had to commit completely and that required the walls going up and I cried a lot with myself because it was so hard and I didn't ever want to have to go back there (being not sober) to that hard shell character. It's a lonely place to be."

Camila went on to say, "It was a really fun production to work on though. We had such a low budget that there were no stunt people. So the fights we had in the film, we really had. And I really was angry when I was angry on film."

Was there a particular message the film conveyed to you as an actress, I asked. Camila said she believed it was, "If you have a life in a bar, then the quality of your life is going to be that, of a life in a bar. And I think that one of the messages that I got from the film is that you are going to have a bar relationship if you keep it in a bar and what I saw Loretta doing in the end there was saying, 'Okay, I've got to take responsibility for my own life here and for the quality of my life.' To say to herself, 'I'm somebody special. this is a new day and age and it's time for me to make a commitment to myself first.' It was a very subtle point I think because there

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bringing the walls down and being vulnerable and being my true self and my loving self. And like you said J.R. is kind of intimidating to anybody—man or woman.

I told her I thought if the women playing roles in Bar Girls were straight, that something is amiss, because straight men can't pull off gay roles with such ease. Camila told me, "I think that this is why our film can go mainstream, because women's friendships are not as threatening as the men to men. I'm not trying to be evasive about your initial question really, but because of people's expectations, if I'm gay then it's going to change everybody's perspective one way or another. And if I'm straight, it's going to change everybody's perspective one way or another. So I'm an actress and yes, I can play gay and I can play straight and I can play as tough as a guy and all of the other roles that I've done have been vulnerable and been victims. My first part was landed in a Chuck Norris film called "Forced Vengeance" and I played the Jewish American princess daughter of Chuck's father-like figure and basically played a brat who was abducted in the streets of Hong Kong. I also played a girlfriend on television's 'Alien Nation.'"

In trying to get to the meat of the matter, I asked Camila if she called upon her real life experiences for any part of your role in Bar Girls? Realizing she's been 8 1/2 years sober, did she have to revert to her alcoholic days for the role of J.R.? She replied, "Yeah, that was the hard part. That was what made me isolate as a person and an actress. I kind of went back into that hard shell. You see, we worked on this show in rehearsals and on stage for 2 1/2 years before the actual film production and at first I wasn't committed to

commitment to myself first. It was a very subtle point I think because there was so much fun in the movie and people will sort of tend to lean towards that fun. But I clearly got the message.

Camila again wanted to touch on whether she was gay or not by saying, "There is so much prejudice in this world and people make automatic assumptions all the time. You know, if you are a pretty girl then they think that you have it all. And if you are intelligent you can intimidate people who think you have it all in the form of prestige and money. Little do they know that you struggled through with D's to get your BA. So in some respects, I think 'simple is more' is the best way to go. I think the less reason we give people to find prejudice, the better off we are. It seems like this is a backward way and this is something that I have been doing a lot of thinking about lately. I don't have any concrete resolve with any of it yet. But especially because of this movie and the topic of whether or not the cast or crew is gay comes up a lot. The only prejudice I have is against prejudiced people. I support all people of all races and sexual orientations. I think about when I was in Sherman Oaks and we had that earthquake. Nobody cared who was gay, who was straight, who was black and who was white. No body cared for about two weeks. I think that is the true nature of a human being. At five years old, I think if everybody was allowed to go onto the playground and pick their friends whoever they would be, be it boy-boy, boy-girl, girl-girl, you know, whatever the mix, just anybody they wanted to be friends with I think we would have quite a different world. I know in that respect, I'm a dreamer, but I do believe in the human condition that we as a people can pull together."

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Albee Playwrights in Production workshop features Houston poet's AIDS play

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE

Houston Voice Editor

"We live in different hemispheres—I bask in the sunlight of a hopeful future/ While he shivers in the damp dark fog of hate and prejudice..."

The line from a poem by Peggy McCue Rhoads



Peggy McCue Rhoads

titled "AIDS and the Working Man: The Caregiver," hints at the confusing emotions that arise from the difficult, often forced confrontations of culture between friends, acquaintances and family members that are a curiosity of life in the age of the AIDS crisis. It is this conflict of communication and the ability of human beings who care for one another to rise above it that also is the centerpiece of the rising Houston writer's first venture into playwrighting.

"The Shame Factor," Rhoads' examination of the impact of AIDS on families through the eyes of a homophobic Hispanic patriarch who is forced to confront his son's sexual orientation and imminent death at once, is being produced as part of Edward Albee's new playwrights' workshop, sponsored by the University of Houston and scheduled over two weekends in April at Stages. The

uncomfortable about being there. He even said at one point that the Bible says homosexuality is wrong."

The encounter planted the seeds in Rhoads' mind for "The Shame Factor," which she initially wrote as a short story.

"For some reason, I just couldn't get this man out of my mind,"

she said. "It was a different angle that I saw...a parent losing a child, and having to deal with so much. I started to think about how parents and family members, so many times, have to deal with everything at once—they only find out their son is gay when they also find out he may be dying. And their background, their world of everything they know and belief in, hasn't given them the knowledge they need to understand any of it." The conflict is especially keen for those rooted in strong religious traditions and cultures, like the Hispanic man in the support group, Rhoads observed.

Rhoads worked "The Shame Factor" into a play script to enter a Home box Office cable network contest in February of 1994. About a year ago, she was notified that she had received an honorable mention in that competition. "That gave me the confidence to submit it to Edward Albee," she says.

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two weekends in April at Stages. The performances are at 8:00 p.m. April 7 and 8, and at 3:00 p.m. on April 9. (The second weekend of workshop productions, featuring new work by other Houston writers, is April 14-16).

The play, however, is only the latest step in Rhoads' own journey of self-discovery, education and involvement with AIDS issues, she says—a process initially inspired by her friendship with her hairdresser and confidante of many years, community fund raiser and organizer Don Gill. It is her observation of Gill's struggle as a selfless AIDS caregiver, Rhoads says that she was moved to document in the poetry series and which later led her to her own involvement as a volunteer for local organizations, including AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Food Pantry.

Her interest in the issues grew more intense, says Rhoads, when at Gill's urging she sat through a support group session at the Bering Community Service Foundation, and later met with a BCSF caregiver's group.

During the meeting with the caregivers, Rhoads said, "There was this one Hispanic couple, an older couple who had apparently just learned about their son's illness.

"The husband seemed very rigid and closed...you could tell he was quite

submit it to Edward Albee," she says. Rhoads says she initially thought she was merely applying to enter a workshop led by the noted playwright, and had no idea the work would actually get to be produced this year.

Like the man who inspired him, the central character in the play is an opinionated Hispanic man, whose gay son has just been diagnosed with AIDS. He is also coming to terms with the many things he had denied to himself and must now admit in the arena of counseling at an AIDS outreach center.

The characters ethnicity and at first hostile attitude toward his son's homosexuality are important to the drama of the play, but Rhoads says she has included elements that will hit home to heterosexuals—like herself not too long ago, she notes—who believe themselves beyond the prejudice but still are hampered by naivete. Many people who are not gay—even those who grow up in more open-minded, liberal circles and even those who believe themselves well educated and knowledgeable—are in the dark when it comes to AIDS, says Rhoads, often deliberately and decidedly so.

At a time when the "insider's" view of AIDS continues to inspire powerful art, Rhoads' work—which she hopes to bring to a longer-run production in Houston at a later date—may inject a very necessary other perspective into the mix.

Dr. Robert E. Wilner has written "Deadly Deception": The Proof that Sex and HIV Absolutely Do Not Cause AIDS." It claims being HIV+ is not a death sentence and the US Government and established medicine are fraudulent in their approach. For more detailed information and information on purchasing the book, send a long self addressed stamped envelope to: **Transglobal Associates, 16720 Stuebner Airline - Suite 133, Spring, Tx 77379**

GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by Al Kielwasser

A Mickey Mouse Protest

The Walt Disney Company—a paragon of “family values” in entertainment—is, ironically under attack by Morality in Media and the 200,000-member Catholic League. At the center of this controversy is “Priest,” a new film from the Disney-owned company, Miramax.

Scheduled to be released nationwide on April 14, “Priest” tells the tale of five fictional clergy men, two of whom are sexually active. One of the “actives” is also gay (a character described by Variety’s Greg Evans as “a young priest coming to grips with his homosexuality).

William Donahue, president of the Catholic League, wants Disney to pull the film from distribution entirely, and he has threatened a nationwide boycott and stockholder protest. “We can take their Snow White imagery, which is already tarnished, and blacken them up a little bit,” Donahue said at a recent press conference. “If Disney gets no resistance from the Catholic League and from Catholics around the country (over) this film, God knows what we can expect in the future.”

According to Morality in Media’s president, Robert Peters, “this movie attacks the Catholic Church’s teachings as the cause of the (characters’) failings and attempts to undermine the Church’s moral authority at a time when the world needs all the moral help it can possibly get.”

“It is not surprising that this movie

“Party of Five” occupies an important time slot. Following FOX’s popular youth drama “Beverly Hills, 90210.” The character of Roth—as a teacher and now a parent—can significantly challenge long-standing stereotypes, targeting an important segment of the viewing audience with affirming messages about lesbians and gays.

Unfortunately, however, the party may soon be over. The series is at risk for cancellation, and supportive letters are crucial.

Write to Amy Lippman and Christopher Keyser, Executive Producers, “Party of Five,” c/o FOX Broadcasting, P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90213, tel. (310) 277-2211, e-mail foxnet@delphi.com; copy your letters to Chase Carey, President, FOX Broadcasting, at the same address.

Media Briefs

The March 1995 issue of “The Progressive” magazine includes “Contract on Culture,” two features examining conservative assaults on public broadcasting and the National Endowment for the Arts. The issue also contains an interview with former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders, and a critique of “NewtSpeak” by lesbian comedian Kate Clinton. Contact “The Progressive,” 409 East Main St., Madison, WI 53703, tel. (608) 257-4626, e-mail prog-mag@igc.apc.org.

—Calling All Queers...Media homophobe “Dr.” James Dobson, host of



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MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE

"It is not surprising that this movie came from Miramax," Peters added. "That company has produced films featuring cannibalism, animal worship, explicit sex, occultism—you name it."

Miramax spokesperson Mark Gill has publicly defended the film. According to Gill, the characters in "Priest" are "not satanic figures, but real people in the real world."

You can voice your opinion by contacting Michael Eisner, CEO, The Walt Disney Co., 500 S. Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521, tel. (818) 560-1000.

Gays On The Guest List

One of the network television's more inviting programs is the new FOX series "Party of Five." This drama includes the recurring character of "Roth," a gay teacher (played by actor Mitchell Anderson).

"Party of Five's March 15th episode examined Roth's efforts to adopt a child. Though he encounters the expected resistance, Roth is ultimately successful and brings home a new baby daughter, "Tess." A highlight episode is an impassioned speech given by "Bailey," a teenage boy and one of the show's leading characters. Bailey eloquently stands up for Roth in an encounter with the skeptical social worker who is handling the adoption.

phobe "Dr." James Dobson, host of radio's "Focus on the Family," has published a "Corporate America and the Homosexual Agenda Information Sheet." The fact-less Sheet includes the phone numbers for ten AT&T executives and Dobson's listeners are urged to call and demand that the company stop supporting "the homosexual agenda" (i.e., ban lesbian/gay employee groups, cease corporate contributions to AIDS/HIV support groups, etc.) A copy of the sheet can be had, at "Dr." Dobson's expense, by calling (800)-232-6549.

We must confront the media's homophobia in order to cure it! To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage call our 24-hour media watch hotline at (415) 861-4588, or write to "Media Watch," Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; tel. (415) 861-2244, fax (415) 861-4893, e-mail glaads-fba@aol.com.

Founded in 1988, The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of GLAAD is a membership based community organization dedicated to cultural advocacy and media activism. GLAAD/SFBA promotes the fair, accurate and diverse representation of lesbian, gay and bisexual lives in all forms of mass media.

**Party at the Pool
Saturday
Afternoon
Club Houston
See Page 21**


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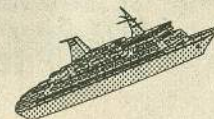
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RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY

**Crossroads to discuss
'Internalized Homophobia';
MCCR has 8:30 a.m. service**

Quick Notes

"Internalized Homophobia" will be the subject at the next brunch meeting of Crossroads, to be held on Saturday, April 15 at 11:00 a.m.

Leading the group discussion will be Bro. David Crank. He is a member of the Franciscan Brotherhood of the Roman Catholic Church and serves on a local pastoral care team.

Crossroads is a spiritual and social support group for gays and lesbians currently serving on a church staff in any capacity or who have been on a church staff in the past. This includes not only pastors, but musicians, chaplains, missionaries, music, youth and education directors, administrators, etc. Individuals from all denominations and faith backgrounds are welcome. For the sake of the confidentiality of those attending, the meeting place is not publicly disclosed. According to the founder of the group, Rev. J.P.Peden, a former Southern baptist minister, "Some of the people in our group are still on the staffs of mainstream churches, others are still married, and some others are just now coming to terms with their sexual orientation. For those very personal reasons, we want to offer people a safe place to meet for support. We are not in the business of outing anyone."

attend a Sunday service. The 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning is a service of Holy Communion called "The Holy Eucharist." The basic structure of the service is similar to that of the 10:45 a.m. service, but is more "liturgical"—that is, the early service more closely follows the prescribed format and wording, similar to the worship services in the Roman Catholic, Episcopal and Lutheran denominations. As is usually true in the "early" services the 8:30 a.m. is a brief service, lasting about 45 minutes.

The English word Eucharist is derived from the Greek word eucharisto, which means "I give thanks." It is thought by scholars to be the oldest name still widely used for the service of Holy Communion. Other names are: The Mass and The Lord's Supper. In Scripture, we are told that Christians gathered on the "first day of the week" (i.e., the day of the Resurrection of Jesus) to give thanks for His Resurrection by reading of Scripture and "breaking of bread." That celebration became known as "The Eucharist."


The 8:30 a.m. service is formal and follows a prescribed ritual emphasizing order, tradition, artistic taste, simplicity and devotion which reaches out and touches the hearts of the people gathered together to proclaim that the Risen Christ is present in their

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For more information about Crossroads, call 802-1056. Friends, family members and spouses are always welcome to attend.

MCCR Early Service

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) has an 8:30 a.m. Sunday service for those who have plans for later in the day, but want to

midst. Scripture is read and proclaimed in a sermon. The worship leader is an ordained clergy person, who is assisted by lay men and women who wish to share in the special presence Jesus promised in the Last Supper.

For more information about this service or other services at MCCR call the church at 861-9149 and "Experience God's Unconditional Love."

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ASK THE PASTOR




Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "Why is inclusive language so important when reading the Bible or addressing God publicly? I feel like that's changing what the Bible actually says. It doesn't bother me at all to call God, "Father," but "Parent" sounds weird and uncomfortable."

A: When most of us read the Bible we read it in English and take it at face value. If the word reads, "Father," we think it means a man or that it refers to a parent of the male gender. What we miss by not looking further into the original language is what was originally intended by the use of the word, "Father." In the Old Testament the word father is used of God only 15 times. The description of God as Father refers in the Old Testament only to God's relationship with the people of Israel. This expression refers to God's merciful, forgiving and loving nature.


It also refers to God's claim to respect and obedience. If an individual sees God as their Father, it is because of their status as a member of the people and because they have experienced the work of God in a way corresponding to God's redemption of Israel. It never refers to any other individual or to mankind in general. God's fatherhood is not understood in a biological or mythological sense. To be a child of God is not a natural state or quality. It is grounded in the miracle of divine redemption. Let's look at one of the classic texts where Jesus refers to God as "Father." In Mark 14:36 Jesus addresses God by saying, "Abba, Father." In Luke 11:2 where Jesus teaches us the "Lord's Prayer" he also refers to God as Father. If we look at these words in the original text we find that it was spoken in the Aramaic language. The actual word is 'abba'. It is like the feminine equivalent, 'imma,' which is a word derived from a baby-language. When a child is weaned, "it learns to say 'abba' (daddy) and 'imma' (mummy). The word "Father" which Jesus used in his prayers to God goes back to the original language, Aramaic. It denotes a parental love and devotion. It also speaks of a very close relationship. Jesus used this word to denote a very warm, familiar term that was used in everyday life by the family. His family from a parental standpoint was truly God. To Jesus God represented both his father and mother. God was everything to him. Jesus was also showing us that as he was God's Son, so we, through our relationship with Christ, have every right to address God as our Parent. In Romans 8:15 we see that Jesus enables us to cry out to God as our Parent because we have been made the children of God through adoption. In our earthly relationships with our parents, we may have a mother to be more nurturing and endearing to us. We may find the warmth and acceptance and unconditional love from a mother more so than through our father. For this person they may be more comfortable addressing God as "mummy" or "imma." If a person had a wonderful loving and nurturing relationship with their father, they may be more comfortable addressing God as "abba" or "daddy." For a person who had a great relationship with both parents may find themselves addressing God as their heavenly parent. In our church we believe that God is both male and female. The original creation of humanity was in the form of both male and female characteristics. Not until Eve was formed did we have two separate genders. I do not believe that God took on the form of the male and abandoned the female. God encompasses both. To see God being more than a male enhances who God is. Think about it! --

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932.




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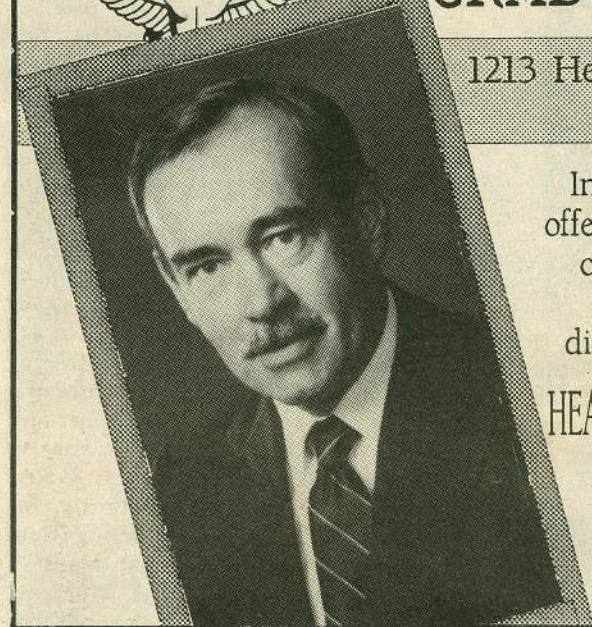
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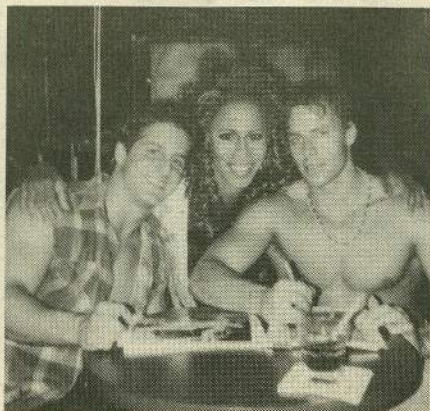
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Congrats to all the Diana winners; successful benefit for Cal Moran at BRB



Scott Baldwin and Tim Barnett with newly crowned Black Velvet

Houston Soap, Part 1

By CAROLYN LARSON

Past Events

Houston Voice/Houston

The 42nd annual Diana Foundation Awards show at the Houston Club was this past Saturday night. And the winner is... Jerry Atwood. The Diana Recognition Award went to the Bering Community Service Foundation. The entertainment was by the Dianas, some of the Miss Camp America Group, and special guest headliner John Epperson as Lypsinka. Congrats to all involved!

Congrats to the staff and management of the Brazos River Bottom on their 17th anniversary! The Brazos River Bottom has continually supported our community with enthusiasm and compassion! Thanks!

One of the contestants for Mr. Prime Choice '96, Joe De Rosa, had 3 fundraisers this weekend. The total raised was just over \$1,800. Keep up the good work.

The benefit show at the Brazos River

The Texas Renegades and the River City Outlaws' "Double Dime" anniversary run starts tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. Registration opens at 8:00 p.m.

The stage of the 611 Hyde Park Pub is filled with wienie waivers tonight from 9:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

OK, you hard core pool players, the Lazy J has an 8-ball tournament tonight. It is only open to league players! The balls are racked at 8:00 p.m.

The Freds will be at the ToyBox tonight. They take the stage at 9:30 p.m. and will play 'till around 12:30 a.m. I have heard them play! Check them out for yourselves!

Every Friday night at J.R.'s Bar and Grill you can win fabulous prizes every hour on the hour. This week's hourly prizes will include tickets to Stages' current production "Keyboard Skills."

A great place to start your weekend off with your friends is at Gentry. Perhaps you will "toy" with their "boys."

The Classic Chassis Car Club will be showing off their beauties at the Briar-Patch tonight! The parking lot will look like a car showroom!

Bacchus II is having a farewell show for Dyan Michaels tonight at 10:30 p.m. Stop on by and wish her luck!

holy union at MCCR this afternoon! Good luck to the newlyweds.

The staff and management of the Club Houston is having a special party this afternoon for the "Double Dime Anniversary" of the Texas Renegades and the River City Outlaws. The Club Houston will be on the "run-stop," but will also be open to the public. So, if you want to see some out-of-town buns, head down to the Club Houston and find out what all the excitement is about!

The Ralph Street awards are tonight at E/J's, hosted by Rainbo de Klown. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Be sure to stick around for the super Saturday Show, starring Brittany Paige. This week, Brittany has brought in talent from Austin, Miss Lauren Brach—Miss Austin 1995. Other guests include Vanessa Rae and Veronica De Vore. Be sure to check out this extra special show!

There is a fundraiser for Sandra McReynolds this afternoon at 2023 City Rd. #129, Pearland, Texas. Sandra was at the Montrose Softball League practice, and, well, had a little run-in with a pick up truck and is facing mounting medical bills. Her friends put this BBQ together to help her. If you need further info, call Chastity White at 961-0093, or page her 905-2019.

Club 403 is having their annual turn about show tonight starting at 10:30

is hosted by the Houston Voice Team and the Montrose Inn Team! The fun is from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Feel free to get there early and enjoy the Yea!Buffet! that starts at 5:00 p.m.

The TGRA Play Day is today! There will be barrel racing and cowboy and cowgirl chasing! This event is at the Dixie Farms Equestrian Center. There will also be other rodeo events, an Easter egg hunt, and Barbecue! Head out I-45 south to the Dixie Farms Exit, turn right and follow the signs. Please call 956-0758 if you would like more info.

The Sunday OVERLOAD party is tonight at Pacific Street. This is a party for men who just can't get enough. There is no cover for shirt less men and no cover for everyone from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.!

Monday, 04/03

The Monday Strip contest at E/J's brings a herd of young hunky types to compete for cash prizes! Paivi hosts this ever so almost naked show starting at 11:00 p.m.

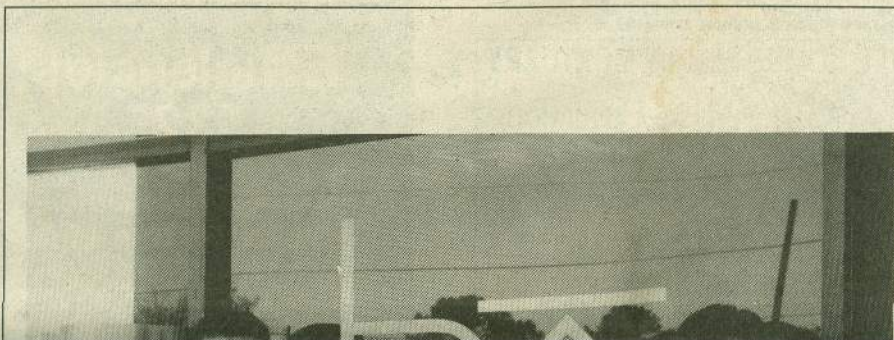
There is a dart tournament at Club 403 tonight at 8:00 p.m. There is a \$4 entry fee and the bar matches the pot! Give darts a shot!

Tuesday, 04/04

Don't forget it is half-price night at the Club Houston. All of their services are half-price until midnight tonight. This is a great way to work off some of that winter padding we all "seam" to put on!

It is week # 4 in the diligent search for talent at E/J's.

Once upon a time, in a city called Montrose, there was a bar. It was called Mary's, naturally. And after \$2 Cuevvo shots, we lived happily ever after.



The benefit show at the Brazos River Bottom this past Sunday was to benefit a long time community angel, Cal Moran. The list of volunteer entertainers was full of very prominent names. Cal has done a lot for this community, and tons of people wanted to give back what he gives so freely to us! A whopping total of \$4206 was raised in a 4 hour period. Sounds like about a \$1000 per hour to me! Shelby St. John was not only the show director, but also did the finale that sent shivers down the spines of all who were there. Thanks to Don (Mr. Everything) Gill and Lady Victoria Lust for putting this ever so important fund raiser together!

The Crowd at Heaven for Chi Chi LaRue's "Submission" party were treated to a show they soon won't forget. Leave it to Heaven to host such a super party! Adult Video Stars Scott Baldwin and Tim Barnett really brought the crowd to its knees!

Congratulations to Black Velvet, the new Miss Houston USA! The first runner up is LaWanda Jackson!

Kevin Maye and Scott Kennedy kept me in stitches at their Houston stop of the Gay Freedom Comedy Jam held at the Laff Stop this past Monday night. They had a special guest, "Kelly V.," from Dallas. Kevin and Scott are local guys and sometimes try out new skits at their home club. Well, this time they tried "The New and Not-So-Newlyweds Game." It was a hit! I laughed till I peed in my pants! (A figure of speech you know, I'm not into water sports...yet.) Be sure to check them out next time they come home to Houston!

"Hams From Hams!!" What else can I say. The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star did their annual show to raise money to buy hams for Stone Soup for the Easter Holiday! The guys and girls of the Court raised \$840!! Congrats and keep up the good work!

Friday, 03/31

The Names Project is displaying the AIDS Memorial Quilt at the George R. Brown. The doors open at 9:00 a.m. and you can view the quilt daily until April 2. If you need further info, call 52-NAMES.



Steve Riser, Mr. Gay Freedom 1994 and John Reny, Mr. Gay All American 1995 pose in front of Basic Brothers, 1232 Westheimer during their recent visit and summer shopping spree. Looking good, guys.

The Penthouse had dinner, dancing, and a whole lot of fun tonight. Be sure to call and make reservations if you will be dining. Their number is 522-0745.

Saturday, 04/01

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour tonight before you crawl into the crib! (No, this is not an April Fool's Joke!)

The Venture-N has free drinks all night tonight. They have burned the TABC rule book and are just going to let you walk behind the bar and pour your own. No cash needed! (Yeah right... April Fool!)

The 8th annual "Leather and Lace" party, sponsored by EPAH (Executive and Professional Association of Houston) is tonight at Pacific Street. The layout will be a little bit different this year. You will need to enter Pacific Street through the Hyde Park Gallery (711 Hyde Park), sign in, and go through the patio of the gallery, then head to the patio of Pacific Street and into the bar. The front doors of Pacific Street will be locked until 10:30 p.m. At that time, the cover drops back to \$5 and the bar will be open to the general public. Wear your most outrageous leather and/or your sexiest lace... or any combo. I never miss one of these parties!

There is a reception tonight at Chances for 2 lovebirds, Linda Ownes and Patsy Klenk. They will be celebrating their

p.m. Guest performers will be Adama Adams, Mr. Rachael Lynn, Karen and Connie Lee Love, Miss Paulette Lee Love, Karen Jr. Lee Love, Roberta White and 2 special surprise guest stars.

Something new for the girls! Ean's Cabaret is having topless dancers tonight... by women... for women... ONLY! Ean's is located at 112 Travis. Please call 227-0505 for reservations.

Sunday, 04/02

The 611 Hyde Park Pub has a brunch buffet you just can't beat! It is only \$2 and it is all you can eat! Sounds like a great place to nurse a hangover!

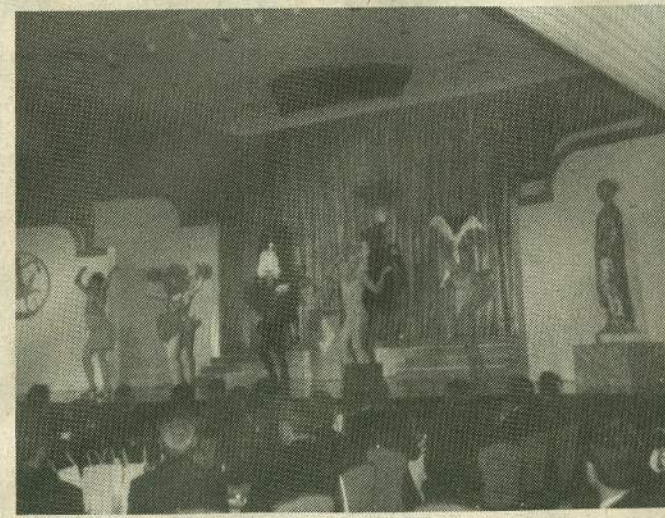
Tonight at the Brazos River Bottom is the kick off for the 1996 TGRA candidates, Miss Shelby St. John and Mr. Eddie Taylor. This show benefits the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. You can git there early and enjoy steak night on the patio. Talk about hunks of beef!

Party with the Montrose Softball league this afternoon at the Venture-N. The party

Wednesday, 04/05

The Men's Network will be having a no holds barred discussion about: "Women—A Gay Male's Perspective" tonight at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Suite 701. The discussion starts at 7:15 and should wrap up at 9:00 p.m. If you would like more info, call 529-0037.

Houston Clinical Research Network will be presenting a community forum on "Nutrition and HIV" tonight at the Doubletree Hotel, starting at 9:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to hear what the latest research is saying about the part nutrition plays in HIV infection. There will be a question and answer session immediately following the presentations. The speakers are: Richard Beach, M.D., Ph.D., Comprehensive Immune Care, Miami, Florida; Kristin Weaver, RN, MSN, CNSN, formerly with Bay Area Nutrition Counseling Center @ San Francisco General Hospital; and Wayne Bockman, M.D., Montrose Clinic/HCRN Dir. This forum is sponsored by American Airlines, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Frosch Int'l Travel, Mead Johnson, and Serono Laboratories. If you would like further info, call Steve Nettles @ 520-2000.



The finale at the Dianas

Here's the rest of the week and the best of the dirt



Perry and Jeff party at Pacific Street

Houston Soap, Part 2

The lovely and talented Dyan Michaels has just a few more Wednesday nights to do the boring task of making the cute and sexy guys take their clothes off at Gentry's Wednesday night male strip contest. The show starts at 10:30 p.m.

The Montrose Mining Company's Wednesday nights Bear's Night Out gets better and better every week. All domestic longnecks are only a dollar and there is free pizza on the patio at midnight.

Hump day/night at Mary's, naturally, gives you happy hour prices all day and all night to help you make it thought the hump and bumps of the week!

Thursday, 04/06

Steak night is back at the 611 Hyde Park Pub. The grill is lit from 6:00 p.m. until

The Lazy J is doing some remodeling. They will soon be done. The doors are still open, but please excuse their mess. "You can't make an omelet without scrambling a few eggs!"

In the coming weeks, the BriarPatch is having: The Daddy-dale dancers and the Chicken-dale dancers; The 1st Miss BriarPatch Contest; Holcombe Boulevard, starring Norma Desperate; and Larry Gruenwald, direct from Austin. Keep your eyes open for the dates as these fun events get closer!

Keep your eyes open for the new look at Charlie's Coffee Shop. They have been doing some renovations!

Niko Niko's is one of my favorite places to grab lunch or dinner. The place is always clean, the food delicious, and the location makes it very handy for those of us that work and live in Montrose. Be sure to stop in and try their fantastic Greek menu selections.

"Never Be Lonely Again," is the slogan of one of our new advertisers. Call 1-900-0033, ext. 8909 and find out what they mean.

J.R.'s Bar and Grill is proud to welcome Randy Jobe as its new "Special Events Coordinator." Randy will be putting his special touch on things. ... look for changes and new fun stuff at J.R.'s in the near future!

Weekend power hours are back at Gentry. Sit back, relax, and enjoy \$1.50 well drinks and longnecks from noon to 5:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday.

Have you had one of the huge, cool, and ever so sheik Martinis at the Brair-

ning. They met on April 1.. and this is not an April Fool's joke!

Double Rodent Drop-pings!

The little varmints are still learning about each other. It is just like cruising. You know, you check the other one out, go up for a sniff, then fall into a tumble to fight it out for control! After a frantic tumble and a shy good bye, they go to separate sleeping quarters. Sounds like any Saturday night at the Ripcord!

I happened to pick up this week's "People" magazine. The editor must read "Soap," 'cuz there was an article about Ferrets and the "FUR," Ferret Underground Railroad. This group of over 1000 helps rescue Ferrets from animal shelters all over our country. You see, these little critters are still illegal in 5 states! I'm gonna find out how to get involved!

My usual disclaimer is in force: Dirt, lies and trash, oh my!

Brittany Paige (E/J's): Is it true that the only title you have is "Miss 1984 Crown Victoria." You need to have at least a title besides the one to your car!

Vera (BRB): I heard miracles do happen! You lost your voice last week! I thought the noise in Montrose went down to a dull roar!

I found this on a scribbled bar napkin in my in basket, author unknown:"Paul requested for Chris not to show the Fireman's Calendar on the Video anymore. He was disappointed when he saw the fireman that came to his house, searching for his



The Lazer Wizard holds Ratrat and Harvey

will tell you that she can't make what is already in your pants!

Dog Lips (Wolf Pack): Well, I understand the first time you drove that new Caddy as you were leaving a book store, you ran into a "man of the cloth." Sorry to hear that you did over \$2000 worth of damage to that new Caddy.

Jimmie Arispie: Your "Noodle" passed out from chewing on one of your T-backs! Don't you know to pick up your underwear from the floor before your doggie gets it?

Zack: What was this I heard about you, a garden, and your new batch of cucumbers?

Boris: Getting "it" a lot lately?

Question: What local T-shirt store owner has made a movie called "Sludgemaster?" I'm not telling, but he is as explosive as TNT!

Bettye (Hangs at Chances): What is this I hear about your fiddling around?

steak grill is back at the Pub. The grill is lit from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. It is only \$5 for a steak, baker and a salad. They also have a dart tournament tonight that starts at 8:00 p.m.

The Kolbe House will be having a special "Healing Service with Anointing" tonight, starting at 7:00 p.m. If you would like more info on this, please call 522-8182.

Thursday nights at J.R.'s Bar and Grill you can enjoy Broadway show tunes and Karaoke, which both go so well with \$3.75 top shelf liquor drinks!

Dyan Michaels is having a one-man farewell show tonight at E/J's. For the uninformed, Dyan has signed on to do La Cage in Nashville for a year! Yes, Dyan has a real job!! Good luck honey, and we are going to miss you!

It is open mike night at the ToyBox. This is a great place to try out new material, a new act or song!

Other Important Stuff



Kevin Maye and Scott Kennedy at the Laff Stop

Have you had one of the huge... ever so sheik Martinis at the BriarPatch? Even Auntie Mame would complain if you put olives in them! There is more than enough room in these Texas size Martinis. While enjoying your Martini, check out the walls of the BriarPatch. They are showing and selling the art works of the estate of Craig Lesser. The prices on these fabulous pieces are too low to print! Check it out!

This week's features at the French Quarter are: "The Bridegroom's Cherry," and "Mystery Men!" (I did not know that bridegrooms still had cherries!)

Three is a 10 day sale of the entire contents of a local attorney's Heights area home who is moving to SF. He wants to travel light. Call 862-4455 to get more info. The house is located at 1112 Algrett in the Heights.

The Ripcord, once again, is hosting the "Mr. Prime Choice" contest to be held on April 2. All you have to do is raise money for your favorite charity, and, well, you can get the rest of the details from the Ripcord. Come on you guys over 40... do it.. just do it!

Birthday Corner

An extra special happy birthday to my dear friend Al Krueger! Love ya honey!

A happy birthday to local artist and gallery manger, Larry Crawford.

A happy birthday to Jeff Hambrick.

A Happy 7th anniversary to Tom and Kerry of Heights Tan-

pointed when he saw the fireman that came to his house, searching for his burning torches."

And, yet another: "Lock up your husbands, Tommy is on the loose and looking for love in all the right places. No, Larry Wayne, You are safe!"

Hansel (PS): Two things, First, Helga Sue CAN have a buxom blonde bimbo blackout... it is her natural color... and at least she HAD a date to forget about!"

Woody (Gentry): I heard your "Wood-Pecker" was the hit of your weekend!

Dyan Michaels: Why is Papa Del calling you a "Lame Duck?" I think it should be a "Lame' Duck!,"

Steve Underwood (Heaven and J.R.'s): I hear you are getting mail from the county jail! I think you should screen your tricks just a little bit better!

Lloyd (BRB): Why do you wear short shorts on Wednesdays? Does it make it easier to get to?

John (BRB X): I heard you almost dropped your pager in the toilet! Sounds kinda like my act!

Rabbit (Gentry): So, you were caught naked and not alone in a hot tub in some Huntsville apartment complex... and the experience landed you the opportunity to spend the night in the Walker County Jail!

Tina Alexander: You looked so cute, in boy clothes, and big girl hair driving your jeep with the top down!

Advice to bar flies: Never ask Vanna to make you a "Dirty Dick!" She

Bettye (Hangs at Chances): What is this I hear about your fiddling around?

Mark: It was nice to meet you at the ToyBox. I heard my "bell" ring!

Did anyone see the ad in last weeks paper from Thumper.. he is advertising for a husband! Well, so far, he has gotten more responses than he ever thought he would! I thought is took balls to take this display ad out, but it is working! You go girl! Check out his ad on page 11.

Ok, what clown had the balls to send me a chain letter? Come on, I know my name and address is published in the Voice, but, get real! Why waste time, energy, and the Post Office's time on these stupid things!

Huggs and kisses,
Cuervolyn



Joe DeRosa, candidate for Mr. Prime Choice, hides behind his fans



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Miss Shelby St. John

Mr. Eddie Taylor

Benefiting Gay & Lesbian
Switch Board



On the Patio Bar 9:30 - 1:30



Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Pride Parade Grand Mar- shal Nomi- nations

The Pride Committee of Houston will be accepting nominations for Grand Marshals of the 1995 Houston Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade at the next general meeting on April 18. The categories for nomination are: Honorary Grand Marshal, Male and Female Grand Marshal, and Organization Grand Marshall. The nominations must be made at the meeting on April 18 and must also be in writing.

The Pride Committee of Houston will be awarding grants to four local community organizations with funds raised during Pride Week 1995. Any organization that would like to be considered as one of the recipients is asked to submit a written request. Requests must be received by the Pride Committee no later than April 18, and should include the following: Organization theme, 501(c)(3), contact person, address and phone number, the organization's contribution to the community and reason why the organization should be a recipient.

Bayou City Boys Club



The Bayou City Boys Club announce 'Jungle Lust III' on April 15

organization that provides dolls and counseling for children affected by HIV/AIDS, is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 31 at Innova Design Center, 20 Greenway Plaza. Plans include a dinner buffet catered by popular Houston restaurants including Casa Ole, the Black Eyed Pea, Sonny's Crazy Cajun and Pancho's Mexican Restaurant, among many others; dancing to the music of the High School for Performing and Visual Arts Jazz

Quartet and Rick Stencil with Blind Ambition, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$10 per person, and are available at Casa Ole Mexican Restaurant, or at the door that evening. For more information call Lisa McInnis, (713) 943-7574.

Songfest Proceeds To Be Awarded

The presentation of proceeds from A Christmas Songfest 1994 will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 3 at Ovation, 2535B Times Boulevard in the Village (a few doors east of Kirby. The beneficiary for the 1994 event is Omega house, a local hospice caring for local indigent persons with AIDS.

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Bayou City Boys Club Hosts 'Jungle Lust III'

Jungle Lust III, the annual "Happening in the Hot House" hosted by those irrepressible men of the Bayou City Boys Club, is scheduled this year for Saturday, April 15.

This year's celebrity D.J. at what the BCBC promises will be one of the season's hottest parties will be Scott Davis from Atlanta's Heretic Club. The party will again be held in a commercial greenhouse at 1609 Ennis at Leeland (The Spencer Company), just east of downtown Houston. The space is enhanced by the lavish use of large tropical plants. Admission includes open bar.

Tickets are \$25 in advance at Crossroads Market (Houston, Dallas and Austin), Lobo and Basic Brothers, or \$30 at the door if still available. Doors open at 10:00 p.m.

Bayou City Boy's Club Inc. (BCBC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The club now hosts three parties per year: Jungle Lust, Hurricane Party, and a New Year's Eve party. In the past year over \$50,000 has been donated by BCBC to local AIDS related charities. The fund raising goal for this year's Jungle Lust Party is to donate \$20,000 to AIDS Foundation Houston and to Houston Clinical Research Network.

Rag Doll Dreams Gala

A gala benefiting Rag Doll Dreams, an

organization that accepts donations for local indigent persons with AIDS. "A Christmas Songfest" is a zany but elegant annual Christmas music singalong, concert and dinner that is entering its ninth year as a Houston tradition. Each year, the board donates the proceeds from the event to local HIV/AIDS related charities.

The 1995 Songfest event will be held Sunday, Dec. 3 in the Imperial Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Houston. The beneficiaries and latest developments for A Christmas Songfest 1995 will be announced at the gathering on Monday. For more information, call Joseph Cooney at (713) 862-3888.

BAHR Meeting

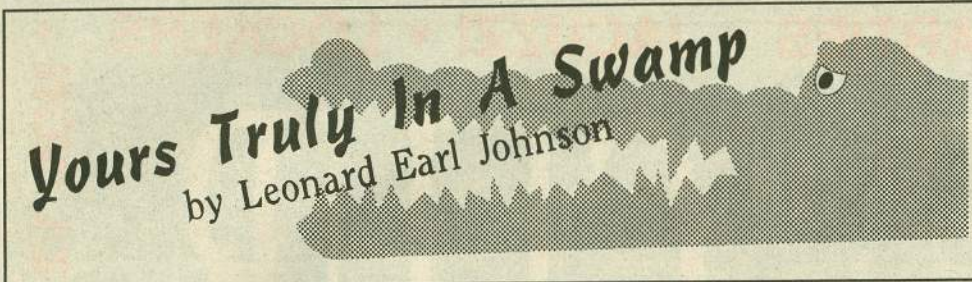
The Bar Association for Human Rights' annual membership meeting is being held 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 6 at the offices of Moore & Hunt, 3608 Audubon Place. This is the time to meet other members, mingle and munch; food and beverages will be provided. The business portion of the meeting will include annual awards and elections. Those eligible are encouraged to vote and to run for positions on the Board of Directors. A number of positions are open. All those interested in BAHHR are welcome to attend. Every year BAHHR sponsors a variety of educational and community service programs. Membership is open to legal professionals, law students and others interested in the legal system and its impact on our community.

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Lent In The Year Of 1995

Mary Pure is Joseph's sister. She came from Houston see him dance in the nude on Mardi Gras day. He danced at a private party near City Park. The spirit of Bacchus—god of partying—resonated in the warm February air.

At the party, Mardi Gras colored tents covered the courtyard. Under the tents Mardi Gras colored lights twinkled on Mardi Gras colored balloons and banks of Mardi Gras flowers. Mary Pure and Joseph walked through the park earlier in the week to see the Claude Monet paintings at the Museum of Art. Monet's garden's at Giverny were no more dazzling to Joseph than these tents, where at midnight—at the official beginning of Lent—he would dance.

That day in the park, the paintings and the moss draped trees put Joseph and Mary in a dreamy corner of the mind. They sat under one of the oak trees, facing the lake, and talking.

"What," Mary Pure asked, "Does mama think of you dancing in the nude?" Mary Pure is named for her mother, Mary Virgin—neither are either!

Joseph shrugs his shoulders, raises his arms and lifts his gold jacket and red T-shirt, exposing his midriff. A trace of hair, dark as the hair on his head, glistens in the sunlight. "She doesn't say much," he answers. but she don't like it."

He tells his sister how their mother

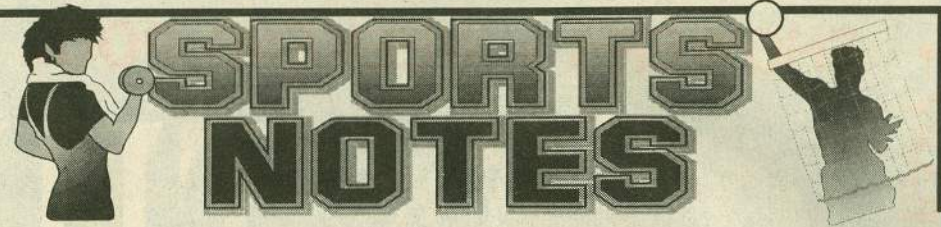
neighborhood where they live and run their grocery/po-boy store. "The take their names from all good people," Mary Virgin says. "Either saints, or, in the case of Leon, Jr., from his father. And my Mary," she adds with a smile, "from me."

Mary Pure married at 16 and went to live with an oil rig manager in Morgan City, then Lake Charles, then Houston. The oil rig manager was 30 years her senior. When she told her mother she was seeing Leroy Boudroux, Mary Virgin said, "Old enough to be your papa, hell, my papa!" She said this often. Then one day Leroy and Mary Pure asked her to sign the "Ok to marry thing." She did. Mary Pure was with child.

Leroy didn't like Carnival in New Orleans, "Too big," he said. Mary Pure didn't like spending Carnival in Houston, where it wasn't celebrated at all. Leroy stayed home with the kids, and took communion Fat Tuesday morning at their church in River Oaks. He stood in the communion line thinking, "There aren't many Catholics in Texas, but by God, there are not many blacks either." Leroy didn't like blacks. Blacks didn't like Leroy.

Joseph danced Mardi Gras night/Ash Wednesday morning with two dancers at Club Oz, on Bourbon Street. All three were 20. The other two were from Austin, and were booked into New Orleans by Fetching Fetchers, the corpulent Houston lady "known widely," as she puts it, "The fat lady with more boys to the ounce."

Fetching traveled to New Orleans



Golf Classic To Benefit AIDS Charities

Landry Service Co. of League City will host and underwrite its First Annual Mike Standly Charity PRO-AM golf classic on Monday, April 3 at the South Shore/Harbour Country Club in League City, Texas.

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. with a buffet lunch and a shotgun start at 1:15 p.m. Registration fee includes green fees, carts, lunch, awards, range balls and refreshments on the course. Sponsorship opportunities range from single participant level at \$100 to Hole Sponsorship with a player at \$200.

This year's tournament will feature a clinic by tour pro Mike Standly. Standly was the winner of the 1993 Freeport McMoran Tournament. We will appear on the course during the tournament where players have the chance to win a new automobile for the first hole in one on a designated hole. There is also over \$2,000 in merchandise awards.

Monies raised will benefit the People With AIDS Coalition Houston and the AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. AIDS struck home for family owners of Landry Service Co. Inc. with the death of their 34-year-old son and brother in 1994.

For more information on registration or sponsorship opportunities contact Chuck or Ken Landry at (137) 334-4681.

Counseling Center.

Play continues through June 18. Come on out and support your favorite team!

Lambda Easter Skate

Lambda Rollerskating Club will hold their Easter Skate on Wednesday, April 5 from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Dairy Ashford Roller rink locate at 1820 Dairy Ashford. There is a \$5 admission. For more information call (713) 933-5818.

Bowling Standings

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reported the following standings. First place team—Fish-N-Pole, Second place—President and First Ladies, and Third place—Bambi's Bandits. For the men, high scratch game of 253 and series of 690 was bowled by Mike McCloud. For the women Diann Thomason bowled scratch game of 222 and series of 621. Summer League begins April 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Palace Lanes. For League info, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports results of the first week of Playoffs. In first through eighth place: 4 Non Blondes, Party of Four, Unlisted Numbers, Hindlick Maneuver, Gutter Gamblers, Nellie By Choice, Bill's Bratts and Naughty by Nature. The Rolloffs are led by Ms. Dee Dee & the Doo Dahs, Got a Gerbil? and Up My Alley. Summer League begins April 24 at 9:00 p.m. at Palace Lanes. For more info, call

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came to see him dance in a gay bar near Cathedral School. "After that, she made Leon and Aloysius make me a full one-third partner." He grins as he says this. His teeth are very white and the sun's glint makes them sparkle as he speaks.

Mary Pure recalls Joseph as shy when they were children. She asks if he remembers. He says, "I still am in a bombastic, strip-dancer sort of way." They laugh, then rise and walk back through the park.

She wonders if he knows how truly beautiful he is. "They never do," she says so lowly it sounds to Joseph like she is blowing him a kiss. He blows one back.

Joseph and his brothers are known collectively as "The Brothers" in the

Fetching traveled to New Orleans with Mary Pure. She was spending her Carnival draped over the second story balcony at the Bourbon Parade, "Dickering with beads to the boys below." Mardi Gras was a talent hunt for Fetching.

Late Ash Wednesday morning, Mary Pure and Mary Virgin went to mass at Saint Louis Cathedral, on Jackson square. Joseph went to bed. The good Archbishop put a thumb smudge on their foreheads, and a man wearing a crimson cape and a painted face put his heel on Mary Virgin's corns. She offered up the pain, "For all the pain in the world."

A room full of pain filled the heads assembled in the Cathedral Ash Wednesday morning. More than Mary Virgin's corns could cure.

MSL Kicks Off New Season

On Sunday, April 2, the Montrose Softball League (MSL) kicks off its 16th year of play at Tim Hearne Field (corner Memorial & Jackson Hill). Opening ceremonies begin at 11:00 a.m. with the reading of proclamations and the introduction of teams.

Following Opening Ceremonies schedule will occur: 12:00 noon-Montrose Inn vs. Briar Patch, 1:00 p.m. Houston Voice vs. Mining Co., 2:00 Rich's Prime vs. J.R.'s, 3:00 p.m. Traveler's vs. Pacific Street, 4:00 p.m. Positively BRB vs. E.J.'s and 5:00 p.m. Gentry vs. Montrose Counseling Center.

MSL is proud to announce two new sponsors this years. Welcome to the Montrose Inn and to the Montrose

Palace Lanes. For more info call Gardy at 41-5424.

The Monday Nite Women's League reports the following standings: First place—Can't Bowl Straight; Second place, Maybe, Maybe Not; Third place—Three Vets and a Virgin; and, Fourth place, Highly Questionable. Summer League begins April 17 at 6:15 p.m. at Fairlanes Southway. For info call Pat at 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

The Houston Thursday Nite Mixers reports First place team is Pat & Company; Second place is TD2; and, Third place is Download & Unzip. High scratch game of 215 and series of 681 was bowled by Chris Bennett for the men. For the women, Pamela Spayde bowled scratch game of 224 and Marla Aizenshtat series of 520. Summer League begins May 17 on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Palace Lanes. For more info call Tom at 522-9612.

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Cash prizes for 1st & 2nd.
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