

# HOUSTON VOICE

JAN. 5, 1996  
ISSUE 793

A Weekly Community News Publication

## A preview of 1996

By SANDY PENNY

*Special to the Houston Voice*

(Editor's Note: The *Houston Voice* devoted its last issue, as well as a part of this one, to reviewing and reflecting on the events of the past year. But what lies in store for us in 1996? We asked Houston psychic Sandy Penny for her projections regarding the promises and challenges of the year ahead for our community, city, and world).

### Overview

The coming year, 1996, will be a

## AFA targets gay paper's

year of many debates in many arenas. In particular, when people's belief systems come into question, the debates may heat up. All in all, however, the open discussion will enable more understanding.

### Sexuality

In the gay community, men will feel less of a need to publicly discuss their sexual orientation, while more prominent women will openly admit their lesbianism. Mainstream public acceptance of homosexuality and bisexuality will increase, due to a backlash against fundamentalist propaganda and gay bashing. People in general will begin to express being more comfortable with all types of alternative lifestyles, as dissatisfac-



The Miss Camp America "Showgirls" entertain sellout crowd at 'Celebrate '96'

## New Year celebration raises \$45,000

(HOUSTON)—A sell-out crowd of more than 1200 people turned out to "Celebrate '96" with the Bering Community Service Foundation and Bayou

tional dining, drinking, dancing and champagne toast to the new year, the event featured casino-style gaming and a lavish midnight breakfast. Spirited entertainment included a feature

# AFA targets gay paper's advertisers

(HOUSTON)—Several local businesses, including some that are gay owned, have received letters from the American Family Association of Texas, a fundamentalist group, attempting to pressure them into pulling their advertising from an Austin-based gay publication.

Wyatt Roberts, head of the American Family Association of Texas, who previously has announced the names of advertisers in the *Texas Triangle* on his weekly radio show, told the Associated Press that he is not threatening the businesses, but will continue his efforts to inform *Triangle* advertisers that their dollars are "subsidizing the homosexual agenda."

Roberts said the AFA mailed some 50 letters to advertisers in Austin and Houston on Dec. 19, giving them 10 days to reply.

"If I walk into a business and make a purchase, and that purchase is used to support a philosophy I disagree with, I should know that," he said.

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People in general will begin to express being more comfortable with all types of alternative lifestyles, as dissatisfaction with the social system increases. A move toward more loving attitudes will be the result.

(Continued on Page 5)

# CompuServe shutdown blocks access to gay newsgroups

## FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The shutdown by CompuServe of worldwide subscriber access to 200 electronic forums, known as newsgroups, has ignited a firestorm of controversy and refueled ongoing debates over regulation and/or censorship of the Internet.

Pressured by prosecutors investigating child pornography in Ger-

(HOUSTON)—A sell-out crowd of more than 1200 people turned out to "Celebrate '96" with the Bering Community Service Foundation and Bayou City Boys Club at their third annual New Year's Eve fundraising gala.

The party, which took over the Wyndham Warwick Hotel from the skyline penthouse to the grand ballroom, netted over \$45,000 for the Bering Foundation. In addition to the tradi-

many, the Columbus, Ohio-based service last week blocked access for all 4 million of its users to 200 "sexually oriented" newsgroups on a section of the Internet global computer network called Usenet.

Many gay-oriented groups fall the banned category, even though they do not contain pornography or are not specifically or exclusively sex-oriented.

(Continued on Page 4)

champagne toast to the new year, the event featured casino-style gaming and a lavish midnight breakfast. Spirited entertainment included a feature performance by the Miss Camp America Showgirls, which marked the first time in its 27-year history that the MCA Foundation has presented a full show, other than the annual September pageant, complete with production numbers and solo highlights.

# Referendum tops Maine list

By JERRY HARKAVY  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

MAINE, Wednesday, Dec. 27 (AP)

The statewide referendum in which Maine voters rejected a ballot question to restrict gay rights was voted the state's top news story of 1995.

After an acrimonious campaign that attracted national attention, the measure initiated by Concerned Maine Families was turned back, 53 percent to 47 percent.

The narrow outcome in a contest in which opponents of Question 1 outspoken supporters 10-1 stirred discussions among gay rights advocates about the timeliness of a new legislative effort to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

The top stories were selected in a year-end poll of Associated Press member newspapers and broadcast stations throughout the state.

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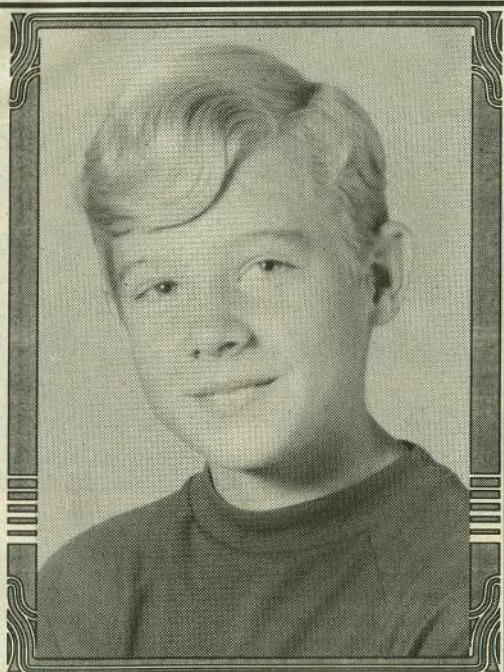
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Roy Glen Rainwater

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# Community Calendar

by Carolyn Roberts

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.

## Friday, Jan. 5

\* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.

\* HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817

\* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

\* 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 868-5039.

\* Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.

\* "HIV+ Class Five Year Retrospective" exhibition opens at the Art League of Houston. Call 523-9530.

## Saturday, Jan. 6

\* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.

\* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.

\* "ARTgirls of the West" opens at the Firehouse Gallery. 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7840.

\* Houston Wrestling Club practices at 1:00 p.m. Call 453-7406.

## Sunday, Jan. 7

\* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.

\* Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis Center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.

their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Exxon Association of Gay and Lesbian Employees meet at 7:00 p.m. Call 916-8110.

## Tuesday, Jan. 9

\* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

\* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.

\* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

\* Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.

\* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Bereaved Partners/Spouses at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 488-4492.

\* PROTECT support group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.

\* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.

\* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call

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*Sunday, Jan. 7*  
\* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.

\* Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis Center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.

\* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

\* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.

\* Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.

\* Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. \$3

\* Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

\* Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.

\* Houston Tennis Club meets at noon. Call 868-5039.

\* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.

\* P-FLAG meets at 2:00 p.m. Call 867-9020.

## Monday, Jan. 8

\* AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.

\* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.

\* HeartSong open rehearsal at the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.

\* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.

\* Agora meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 623-6796.

\* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.

\* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and

\* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.

\* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call 782-6066.

\* Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents support group meets. Call 666-8260.

\* Nutrition workshop at 7:00 p.m. Call 524-2374.

\* AIDS Equity League meets at noon. Call 871-0092.

## Wednesday, Jan. 10

\* Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.

\* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.

\* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.

\* Toopee's Coffee Bar has "Activity Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 522-7662.

\* HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.

\* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 868-5039.

\* Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.

\* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.

\* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

\* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

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## Community Organizations Bulletin Board

### Queer Comeback

Queer Nation, the activist group, is reorganizing. Local lesbian and gay activists have called a start-up meeting, after three years of absence, for Monday, Jan. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Montrose Library, near the corner of Richmond on Montrose Blvd.

Queer Nation is a diverse group of individuals of all races, genders, and sexualities who are committed to ending homophobia and heterosexism. Queer Nation will use direct action and other tactics to fight the rising tide of right-wing and Christian fundamentalist attacks against lesbians, gays bisexuals, and transgendered people.

For more information, please leave a voice mail message at 973-4563.

### HGLP Support Group

The January Support Group meeting of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents group will be held Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 7 until 8:30 p.m. in the MCCR Library (1919 Decatur).

The HGLP Support Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month and focuses on topics such as: coming out to your kids; divorce; visitation; and step-parenting. The group is open to all interested individuals.

Other meetings planned at the MCCR include the youth support group JFU (Just For Us) Jan. 20 and Family Activity Feb. 11. For more information please telephone 666-8260.

### PWA Volunteers Aid Thomas St. Re-Opening

Members of the People with AIDS (PWA) Coalition's Volunteer Program at Thomas Street Clinic will conduct tours during the grand re-opening of the clinic Jan. 12. The tours will take place during an open house from 3 until 7:00 p.m. at the Harris County Hospital District facility located at 2015 Thomas Street.

The Coalition's Volunteer Program at Thomas Street began in early 1993 with assistance and funding from DIFFA and later from the Texas Department of Health State Services grants. It has been hailed as a model for volunteer programs across the United States. Members of the volunteer program—which is 90% staffed with persons who are patients at the clinic and/or clients of the PWA Coalition—log approximately 16,000 volunteer hours each year.

### Future Activities

The Rainbow Ranglers Dance Club will host professional dance instruction; an estate planning seminar; and a "Plurality of Religions in Society" are all scheduled for Jan. 20 while there is a pot-luck dinner planned for the Houston Professional Men's Association Jan. 21.

More details will be included next week.

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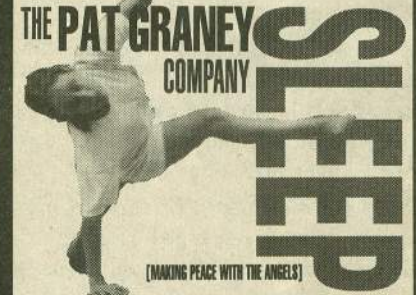
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Include in (Just For Us) Jan. 20 and Family Activity Feb. 11. For more information please telephone 666-8260.

More details will be included next week.

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HOUSTON  
**VOICE MAIL**  
Letters to the Editor

*Warm Fuzzies From Toy Drive*

**FROM DEAN WALRADT**  
*Secretary, NLA:Houston*

National Leather Association:Houston would like to announce that its Fifth Annual Toy Drive for Kids with HIV/AIDS, benefiting Community Visions Inc., was a resounding success. Over 1500 toys and stuffed animals were delivered to the children and families receiving services from Community Visions. Toys were picked up Dec. 21 by NLA:Houston members Mike (president), Orlin, Neil and Dean and delivered to Community Visions' Pamela and Rachel on Dec. 22—just in time for Christmas delivery to the organization's clients.

On Tuesday, after Christmas, money collection jars were picked up, with a little over \$200 collected. The \$200 will be added to the \$500 raised at Imperial Court Emperor XII Candidate Jim Halbert's "Boys and Their Toys" show, held Dec. 9 at the Venture-N. The money will go into Community Visions' emergency fund for clients, and all use will be reported to NLA:Houston and the Imperial Court.

NLA:Houston would like to thank all those who contributed, and the businesses that collected, for mak-



*Pamela and Rachel of Community Visions, foreground, and Mike Geinzer, president of NLA:Houston, pose with some of the toys collected in NLA's fifth annual toy drive*

drives yet! Thanks go to Venture-N (NLA:H's home bar), Jo's Outpost, Gentry, E/J's, Briar Patch, Bacchus II, Leather by Boots, Leather Forever, Basic Brothers, Mary's, Pacific Street and Hyde Park Galleries. Very special thanks to Jim Halbert and the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star and to the Emperor and Empress XII Candidates for their support of this worthy cause. Also, special recognition to Neil and Jeff, NLA:Houston members who contributed time and talent to this year's efforts.

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## Debate rekindled over Internet access, censorship

(Continued from Page 1)

Some angry German users said on the service's in-house message forums that they planned to cancel their subscriptions and seek direct, uncensored Internet access.

"Of course there are some things on Usenet that are illegal and immoral, but to therefore censor an entire area goes a bit too far," said one subscriber, who said he was starting a petition drive.

Edelmann said two CompuServe forum leaders protested over what they considered an arbitrary deci-

sion and asked that certain news-groups—particularly gay-oriented ones—be reinstated.

The move, announced last Thursday, is the most drastic action taken to date to limit public access to the Internet. It raised fears among cyberspace enthusiasts that governments are getting serious about regulating the electronic global village.

Angry users, posting complaints on Friday, likened CompuServe's action to "using a cannon to kill a sparrow."

"Do we abolish automobile traffic because of a few speeders?" complained one incensed user in a posting to the on-line service's German-language Internet forum.

Ironically, child pornography is the only pornography illegal in Germany, which is far more sexually permissive than the United States. Soft-core porn is standard fare on late-night television in Germany. But CompuServe's German headquarters is in the country's most conservative state, where police tend to be zealous about fighting child exploitation.

## Observers expect Idaho lawmakers will dodge gay rights controversy

BOISE, Idaho, Wednesday, Dec. 27 (AP)—Idaho legislators will likely try to avoid divisive gay rights and abortion debates in 1996, focusing instead on balanced budgets and education spending, political observers predict.

The state has one of the most conservative legislatures in the nation, with four Republicans for every Democrat. But social philosophy is likely to give way to economic practicality.

"Abortion, gay rights, prayer in school, flag burning—they often get put on the back burner because more pressing legal and financial matters have to be dealt with," said Steve Shaw, Northwest Nazarene College political science professor.

He predicts lawmakers will focus on

Idaho residents who educate their children outside the public school system.

The contract's points do not call for restrictions on abortion or gay rights.

They are aimed at bolstering the traditional family—and encouraging alternatives to abortion—through tax breaks and legal reform.

Sherry Brown, executive director of the Idaho Christian Coalition, said her group drafted its contract after asking "what kinds of positive steps can we begin to take that would be helpful to families that are in difficult situations."

Dennis Mansfield, executive director of the Idaho Family Forum, said the Legislature is sidestepping conflict.

It wants to strengthen strictures on late-term abortions, limit gay rights, provide tax incentives to families who send their children to private or home schools, and expand the state's right to work law to educators.

The Legislature has not always shied away from controversy.

The Republican-dominated body passed abortion restrictions in March 1990, only to see the measure vetoed by then-Gov. Cecil Andrus. Months later, several anti-abortion legislators were defeated.

State Rep. Kathleen Gurnsey, R-Boise, said lawmakers learned from the 1990 experience.

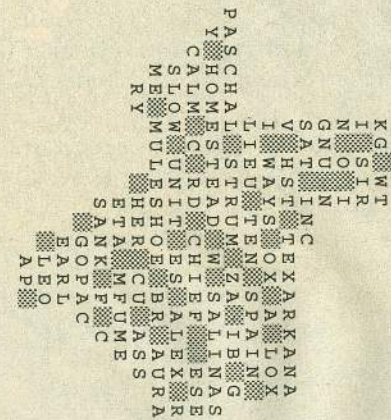
"It's a no-win issue," she said. "Everybody has their own opinion and



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**HOUSTON VOICE**  
A Weekly Community News Publication

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weekdays

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Crad Duren/publisher

Jack Leonard/general manager

on the back burner because more pressing legal and financial matters have to be dealt with," said Steve Shaw, Northwest Nazarene College political science professor.

He predicts lawmakers will focus on "mundane pragmatic issues ... where are the dollars going to come from and where are they going to go."

That will not stop some groups from trying to change the focus.

The Idaho Christian Coalition will propose a package of 10 reforms that it calls its "Contract with the Idaho Family."

It calls for lowering taxes for married couples and offering tax breaks for

families that are in difficult situations."

Dennis Mansfield, executive director of the Idaho Family Forum, said the Legislature is sidestepping conflict.

"We've got a very, very, practical, pragmatic Legislature and they view potholes and roads and textbooks for kids as primarily important" instead of social issues, he said.

But Mansfield said lawmakers should not ignore abortion and gay rights.

"If they don't address them, there's going to be some folks who do," he said, referring to the Idaho Citizens Alliance's initiative campaigns.

State Rep. Kathleen Gurnsey, R-Boise, said lawmakers learned from the 1990 experience.

"It's a no-win issue," she said. "Everybody has their own opinion and you're not going to change anybody's opinion" with legislation.

Republicans Gov. Phil Batt, House Speaker Michael Simpson, and Senate President Pro Tem Jerry Twigg will likely head off debate on abortion and gay rights.

Any legislators who try to raise the issues would likely be "shot out of the saddle," Idaho Citizens Alliance Chairperson Kelly Walton said.

## Iowa man to fight discharge from marine reserves

MUSCATINE, Iowa, Thursday, Dec. 28 (AP)—A Muscatine man has learned he will be discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves for violating the federal "don't ask, don't tell" policy about homosexuality.

Marine Cpl. Kevin Blaesing said he will challenge the constitutionality of the discharge.

"I am going to fight this, as long as my money holds out," he said Wednesday from his mother's home in Muscatine. "I took an oath to defend the Constitution from foreign and domestic enemies, and that is what I intend to do. This is an unconstitutional policy. I consider it a domestic enemy."

Blaesing was told by his lawyer Wednesday that the Marine Corps investigation into his alleged homosexual conduct was complete, and he was being processed for discharge.

Blaesing won't say whether he is gay. However, he will show a videotape of himself at a Gay and Lesbian Pride March in Columbia, S.C., where he said he was "a proud, gay man."

The discharge decision is the latest chapter in Blaesing's career as an active-duty and reserve Marine.

According to documents, Blaes-

ing's struggle began while he was on active duty at the Naval Weapons Station near Charleston, S.C.

Blaesing's struggle began while he was on active duty at the Naval Weapons Station and had questions about whether he might be gay. On Sept. 20, 1993, he visited naval psychologist Christine Bachmann and asked her what it meant to be gay.

Bachmann testified she did not know what Blaesing's sexual orientation was. However, she was obliged under military rules to report what in civilian life would have been confidential information.

Blaesing, who was promoted to the rank of corporal, said he was later harassed and badgered into making a statement about homosexuality and into seeking a discharge.

A three-member board voted 2-1 in May 1994 to discharge him, but the recommendation was later overturned by a general.

When his re-enlistment came due in Sept. 1994, he was given the lowest

manding officer. His re-enlistment was first denied due to lack of jobs. After a review, the Marines offered a one-year contract to "prove himself."

Blaesing left active duty but stayed in the Charleston area, serving in a Marine reserve unit. In August, he returned to Muscatine and asked to be transferred to a reserve unit based in Des Moines.

A Marine officer then began investigating Blaesing's conduct as a reservist.

Blaesing vows that his military career is not over. He said that if a military administration board upholds the discharge, he will file a civil lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. Department of Defense. He said he is prepared to take his case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Blaesing said officials have not yet given him the full details of the investigation.

Marine Staff Sgt. Philip Haring said the discharge hearing has not yet been scheduled. "We're directing any inquiries to Cpl. Blaesing or his attorney," he said. "Releasing any details would be violating his pri-

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Crad Duren/publisher  
Jack Leonard/general manager  
Matthew Pennington/production manager

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT  
Sheri Cohen Darbonne/editor

STAFF WRITERS:  
Jon Harrison, Javier Tamez,  
Glen Webber, Mark Henry,  
Carolyn Roberts

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:  
Jon Anthony, Andrew Edmonson,  
John Reed, Jazz Paz,  
Chris Lambert, Kerry Kadell,  
Sam Dawster, Curt Morrison

CARTOONISTS  
David Brady, Scotty, Earl Storm

PHOTOGRAPHERS  
David Goetz, Kim Thompson

ADVERTISING SALES DEPARTMENT  
Carolyn A. Roberts,  
Susan Scott

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# Some hopeful projections for the year to come

(Continued from Page 1)

## *AIDS*

A new hospital, devoted solely to researching and finding a cure for AIDS, will be built, either in the Washington D.C. or Houston area. It will be funded by a foundation set up by a prominent wealthy man who is HIV positive. It will incorporate many experimental practices and drugs being tested on volunteers.

## *Economics*

As the push toward using more plastic over paper money increases, bartering systems and personal bartering agreements will increase.

## *Communications*

There will be a big cooperative push between the computer companies and Internet servers to get the masses on-line. After a short period of increased prices for Internet services, increased demand and new availability will again drop the monthly rates and on-line time charges. Computer companies will begin offering lower computer prices with Internet packages included and free internet training. The Internet servers will essentially begin a price war after new satellite availability is launched. This will benefit the world through

increased personal communication among people of all nations resulting in greater understanding that all people are the same everywhere.

## *Peace*

There will be a large movement among women, particularly mothers, for world peace. The Bosnian women will begin to unite from both sides to demand peace initiatives. This expands to include women of all cultures and belief systems desiring harmony and safe living environments.

## *Nuclear Testing*

The Anti-nuclear testing movement will have significant press time due to the effects the French testing under water is having on the oceans. Pressure from people on all the governments, especially the US, will increase. This will be followed by the introduction of a different type of nuclear power which does not create

fallout. Many initiatives to "ban the bomb" will grow out of the data that shows the negative environmental effects this testing is having around the world.

## *Community*

A strong grass-roots movement in the U.S. toward a return to community awareness will take hold. People who are tired of living in fear, violence and isolation will begin to form groups to help clean up the neighborhoods. People will begin to focus again on a more generous and loving way of helping people around them. A program will be established promoting fami-

lies taking in the homeless to help them get back on their feet. Some young movie stars will head up a movement for this purpose. They will travel around promoting community commitment. This return to community will cause a drop in drug use through users' feeling that someone cares enough to help them. It will be the beginning of people returning to depending on

people instead of the government.

## *Crime*

Efforts this year will increase to get non-violent criminals out of prison. More job training will be available for young prisoners. Several cooperatives between prisons and business will be instituted, especially in the computer industry.

## *Alternatives To Violence*

This year, many programs will be introduced into prisons and schools to teach self-esteem building and alternatives to violence techniques. The Quaker church will be recognized for its ongoing efforts to teach these techniques, and its practices will be converted into mainstream usage.

(Sandy Penny has lived in Houston since 1969. She has been working as a psychic since 1978. She helps people understand their emotional and spiritual selves and bring their life into balance through her intuitive insights and integration techniques. This year she has traveled the world working with earth healing and creating positive future visions. She can be reached for private appointments by calling 526-5359 or 338-4739).



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# SATURDAY

## MISTER HOT BUNS

### 1996 CONTEST

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FUZZY  
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BUNS

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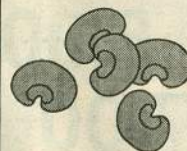
THE BUNS GO BARE AT MIDNIGHT

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**\$1.50 MILLER**  
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**HOUSTON'S HOTTEST**  
**MALE STRIP**  
**CONTESTS**  
**SUNDAY &**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**THE CLOTHES DROP**  
**AT 11:00 pm**

# BOY TOY DANCERS

**THUR**  
**9pm**

**FRI**  
**6pm**

**SAT**  
**10pm**

**SUN**  
**5pm**



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# Colorado gay and lesbian community center could close

DENVER, Thursday, Dec. 28 (AP)—A lack of interest and funding could be the death knell for the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, which has been the heart of Denver's gay community for 19 years.

"There's a clear possibility the center will close," said Peter Gross, who has been a regular volunteer at the center on East Colfax Avenue.

"It would be astonishing for a gay community the size of Denver not to have a community center. It would say something. And it may say something accurately. Our community may be more entertainment-oriented than activist."

Mounting debt and defections from the center's board of directors and staff have crippled the gay

service agency. The 15-member board has been whittled to only four, say volunteers at the center.

Intense focus on fighting the state's anti-gay rights Amendment 2 may have compounded problems by diverting donations from the community center, some say.

Phil Nash, who was the agency's first executive director, has been asked to help save the center, which had a budget of about \$150,000 this year but is thousands of dollars in debt.

He says community members have depended on grant money, rather than community donations to run the agency. In addition, fewer and fewer people are willing to be on the board of directors and take an active role, he said.

Some Denver gays have criti-

cized their own community in the past for being more interested in social functions than in fighting for political power and gay rights issues.

But Nash said, "Some of us are now checking back in to see how we can help.

"I think the situation is serious. I'm not going to minimize it. But I don't think the center will close."

The center is a social service agency for gays in metro Denver, running an anti-violence hotline, a youth services program and an emergency financial support network. The center also organizes the annual pride parade in Denver.

The only other agency providing direct services to gays is the Colorado AIDS Project.

# Community Calendar

(Continued from Page 2)

## Wednesday, Jan. 10

- \* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
- \* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- \* Mind/Body Connection workshop at 7:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.

## Thursday, Jan. 11

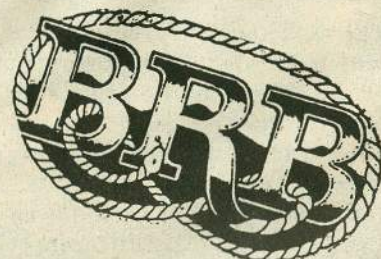
- \* Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 629-1432.
- \* Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
- \* Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 P.M. Call 523-8817
- \* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- \* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- \* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- \* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.
- \* Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- \* Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.
- \* Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670



Saturday, January 6th  
Join us at the Patio Bar as



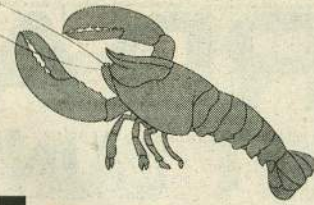
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SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th



# Annual Texas Renegades GUMBO COOK-OFF

Judging at 5:00 pm  
Show at 7:00 pm  
benefiting The Colt 45's  
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Miss BRB - January 14th  
Mister BRB - January 21st  
Contest Time 7:00 pm  
Applications available at the bar.



Dance Lessons

Tuesday 9:30 - 11:30 pm \* Thursday 9:00 - 11:00 pm

**BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM**  
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- \* Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.
- \* Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.
- \* Safer Sex for Lesbians at Ms. B's 9:30 p.m. Call 666-3464.
- \* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.
- \* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.
- \* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0923.
- \* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.
- \* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Film festival at the Museum of Fine Arts starts. Call 639-7300.
- \* Back to Basics panel discussion at 7:00 p.m. Call 524-2374.

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# NEWS NOTES

Compiled by  
Mark Henry




## Clinton Veto

President Clinton vetoed the \$265 billion defense appropriations bill last week, citing, among other objections, provisions that would ban abortions at overseas military hospitals and expel service members who test positive for the AIDS virus. The HIV amendment had been hotly protested by critics, who argued that the measure was unfair and discriminatory, as it denies medical benefits to those with the virus. The military does not deny benefits to those individuals who are discharged for other ailments, such as cancer and heart disease. Another contentious issue in the bill is the congressional support for increased production of the B-2 bombers, which Clinton is hesitant to endorse; however, he did not mention the extra \$493 million cost for increased production as a reason for vetoing the bill. At issue is the 25,000 California jobs that depend on B-2 work. Since California is a key state, rich in electoral votes, Clinton must walk a fine line. Most analysts agree that both sides will reach a path toward compromise for the 1996 defense authorization bill.

## Deneuve vs. Namesake

*Deneuve* magazine has succumbed to litigatory pressure and changed its name to *Curve* as a result of a lawsuit filed by French actress Catherine Deneuve. Ms. Deneuve was upset that the lesbian magazine used her sur-

Successful Victory Fund candidate Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) intoned that "running for office as an openly lesbian or gay candidate is one of the greatest things you can do for your country, your community and your own self—respect." Studds believes that as more openly gay candidates run and win offices, the aftermath will provide our nation to "free itself from the grip of its last socially acceptable prejudice." The Victory Fund's sole mission is to increase the number of qualified openly gay and lesbian public officials. Victory Fund is the nation's 15th largest non-connected political action committee and to date has contributed more than \$1.3 million to campaign coffers. If interested, contact Kathleen DeBold at (202) 842-8679.

## Flatulent Dangers

This is not a joke. A startling new study indicates that the air we breathe may be polluted by human flatulence. The study, researched and conducted by the University of Stockholm, discovered that workers at an insurance office suffered greater health damage from gas passed by co-workers than from second hand cigarette smoke or other toxins in the air. Dr. Olaf Johannsen, who was in charge of the 11-year study, says "the results are devastating in their consequences for the workplace...there is simply no way to avoid gas passed by others in the office." The study was conducted on 456 office workers for a well-known Swedish insurance company and found that human flatulence

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filed by French actress Catherine Deneuve. Ms. Deneuve was upset that the lesbian magazine used her surname as its namesake and sued the magazine to stop them from using the title. Ironically, Catherine Deneuve has paid homage to the community in her many portrayals of bisexual and lesbian characters throughout her career and has been a favorite of the gay community for years. *Curve* magazine debuted with the January/February 1996 issue with a cover story on Martina Navratilova.

### Men Wed In South Africa

Venash Mooriken and Neil Millard, who are both HIV-positive, married each other in the country's first cross-racial marriage. The ceremony took place at a Johannesburg nightclub and was performed by a minister of the church. The union was ceremonial only, as South African law does not recognize marriage between two individuals of the same sex. Mooriken said the couple took their vows seriously and hoped that the marriage would serve "as an educational program to show people that people that are HIV-positive can still carry on living. ...still lead a normal life, within limits."

### Gay and Lesbian Candidates Sought

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is seeking qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates who plan to run for public office in 1996 and 1997.

conducted on 456 office workers for a well-known Swedish insurance company and found that human flatulence is a "direct cause of severe illnesses like lung cancer, brain damage, heart disease, respiratory problems and extreme allergic reactions." Dr. Johannsen warns that "it is far worse than secondhand cigarette smoke, about which there is so much concern." He adds that "around certain workers, especially those who eat lots of onions or beans, the methane levels are downright dangerous."

### Personality Gene Identified

Scientists have discovered the gene that influences personalities of individuals with respect to their impulsiveness, excitability and quick temperedness. The studies, which were reported in *Nature Genetics*, if confirmed, would establish the first clear link between personality traits and a particular gene. University of Cincinnati psychologist Brian Gladue says that this is "clear and present evidence connecting the dots between genetics, brain chemistry and behavior," according to an article in *USA Today*. The discovered gene apparently tells the brain how to make a receptor for the chemical messenger dopamine. Scientists indicate that the findings are impressive and could lead to a discovery of a genetic link to neuroticism, extroversion or other personality traits.

### TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

The HOUSTON VOICE is your Voice in Houston, and we value your input and suggestions. Write us at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston TX 77006 (Fax: 529-9531) to tell us what you like and don't like or to share your own creative ideas. (Please indicate if your letter is for input only, as we also receive numerous letters for publication).

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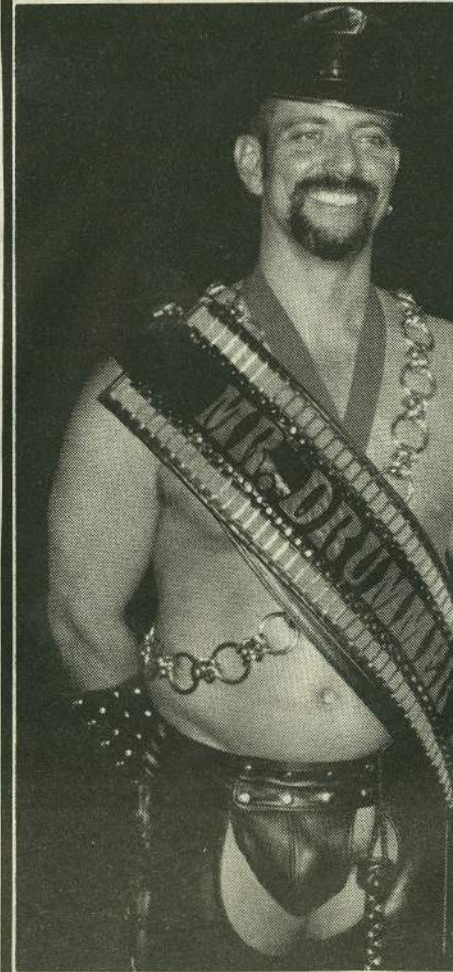
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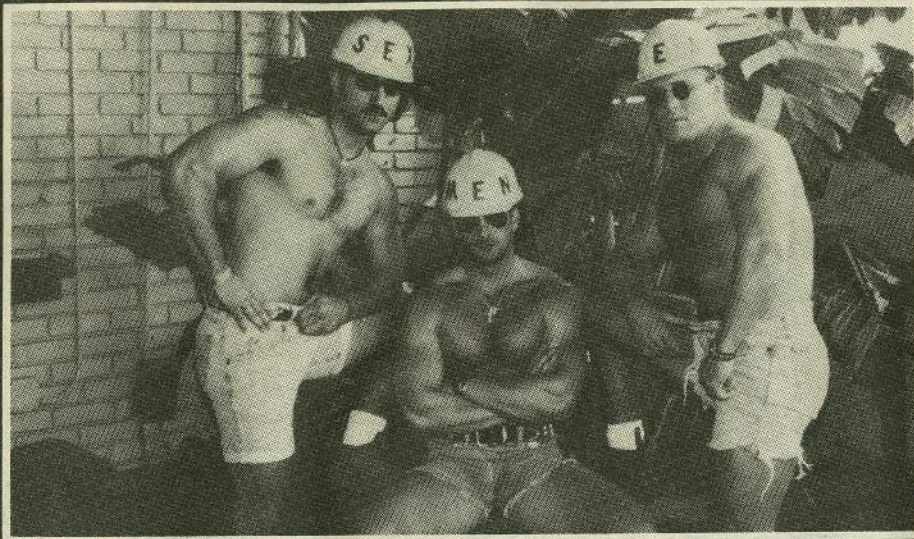
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### Bad Newsgroups?

In a massive capitulation to censorship, the world's leading online service—CompuServe, Inc.—has suspended access to over 200 Internet “newsgroups.” The new ban was orchestrated during the last week of 1995.

Though it affects all CompuServe users around the globe, the ban was initiated at the request of just one country—Germany. According to a company spokesperson, “German government officials, as part of an investigation of illegal material on the Internet, ordered CompuServe to do what was necessary with respect to specified newsgroups in order to comply with German law.”

CompuServe currently has 500,000 clients in Western Europe, and hopes to quickly double that number. Overall, the company currently services more than 4 million users in more than 140 million countries.

“Newsgroups” are specialized forums that allow Internet users to read or post information on almost any conceivable subject.

Most the newsgroups banned by CompuServe addressed (or simply APPEARED to address) an erotic or sex-related theme. The company, however, deleted a number of lesbian, gay and bisexual groups, INCLUDING groups that had NO erotic focus. CompuServe banned newsgroups dedicated to resources for young queers, lesbian/gay journalism, and information about coming out.

confirmed that homophobia is very much a part of the course.

In Texas, state education officials have rejected \$1.85 million in federal funds for AIDS education. The funds were refused to protest—and avoid—federal guidelines regarding fair and accurate sex education. Apparently, Texans place substantial value on the “right” of local school boards to teach a biased AIDS curriculum or (in the absence of funds) to teach NO curriculum at all.

In Michigan, the school board of Byron Center (situated a few miles from Grand Rapids) recently stopped short of firing an openly-gay music teacher. However, board members did issue this hateful statement: “The school board firmly believes that homosexuality violates the dominant moral standard of the district’s community. Individuals who espouse homosexuality do not constitute proper role models as teachers for students in this district.”

A similar slander was announced by an Indiana school board. On Dec. 19, the East Allen County School Board adopted a resolution declaring: “We resolve...to strongly support and value those things which contribute to and improve the stability of families...This is a denunciation of activities such as drug use, premarital sex, violence, or gay and lesbian behavior or the support of such activities.”

The East Allen school board concluded that: “homosexuality is at odds with the area’s Christian

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alism, and information about coming out.

Of course, lumping ALL lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender subjects under the heading "sexually explicit" is inaccurate as well as defamatory. The definition of heterosexual lives is never limited ONLY to sex acts. It would still be unacceptable, however, even if CompuServe had "only" banned sexually explicit newsgroups.

As queer communities know, sex negativity goes hand-in-hand with homophobia. Prohibitions against the SEXUAL communication of "pornography" and "obscenity" lead, inevitably, to prohibitions against HOMOSEXUAL communication of any kind.

Acting with very little integrity, CompuServe has attempted to deflect criticism by claiming the company is at the complete mercy of German law. A CompuServe spokesperson explained: "CompuServe did not select any groups or determine the nature of the newsgroups that have been impacted by this action."

If one person selects the titles, but another person strikes the match, aren't BOTH guilty of book burning? A censor who is following someone else's orders is STILL a censor.

\*\*\* ACTION ALERT! Demand that CompuServe act as a mature, responsible caretaker of free expression on the Internet. Contact: Robert Massey, President, CompuServe, Inc., 5000 Arlington Center Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43220, tel. 614-457-0802, e-mail 70006,101@compuserve.com. CompuServe members can also complain directly to customer service, via "GO FEEDBACK."

## School Daze

In regard to textbooks and other educational media, the year closed on a discouraging note. Recent actions in Texas, Michigan and Indiana have

cluded that: "homosexuality is at odds with the area's Christian beliefs." So was the notion of a round Earth, at one time.

\*\*\* ACTION ALERT! Send instructive criticism to each of the following:

Mike Moses, Education Commissioner, Texas Education Agency, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701-1494. Copy your correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, "Austin American Statesman," Box 670, Austin, TX 78767, fax 512-445-3679.

All Members, Byron Center School Board, 2475 84th Street, SW, Byron Center, MI 49315, tel. 616-878-1541. Copy your correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, "The Grand Rapids Press," 155 Michigan Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49502, fax 616-459-4126.

All Members, East Allen School Board, 1240 US 30 East, New Haven, IN 46774, tel. 219-493-3761. Copy your correspondence to Indiana's schools chief and the state's largest newspaper. Contact: Suellen Reed, State Superintendent of Schools, Indiana Department of Education, Room 229, State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798, tel. 317-232-6665, fax 312-232-9121; "The Indianapolis Star," 307 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, fax 317-633-9423.

Resources for activists working to reform school books and school boards include "Saving Our Schools from the Religious Right: The Lake County, Florida Story" (a publication available from Saving Our Lake County Schools, P.O. Box 492124, Leesburg, FL 34749) and the recently updated "Community Action Kit: An Information Pack to Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education" (distributed by SIECUS, 130 West 42nd Street, Suite 350, New York, NY 10036, tel. 212-819-9770, fax 212-819-9776).

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# SUNDAYS

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**MONDAYS**

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### Bad Newsgroups?

In a massive capitulation to censorship, the world's leading online service—CompuServe, Inc.—has suspended access to over 200 Internet “newsgroups.” The new ban was orchestrated during the last week of 1995.

Though it affects all CompuServe users around the globe, the ban was initiated at the request of just one country—Germany. According to a company spokesperson, “German government officials, as part of an investigation of illegal material on the Internet, ordered CompuServe to do what was necessary with respect to specified newsgroups in order to comply with German law.”

CompuServe currently has 500,000 clients in Western Europe, and hopes to quickly double that number. Overall, the company currently services more than 4 million users in more than 140 million countries.

“Newsgroups” are specialized forums that allow Internet users to read or post information on almost any conceivable subject.

Most the newsgroups banned by CompuServe addressed (or simply APPEARED to address) an erotic or sex-related theme. The company, however, deleted a number of lesbian, gay and bisexual groups, INCLUDING groups that had NO erotic focus. CompuServe banned newsgroups dedicated to resources for young queers, lesbian/gay journalism, and information about coming out.

confirmed that homophobia is very much a part of the course.

In Texas, state education officials have rejected \$1.85 million in federal funds for AIDS education. The funds were refused to protest—and avoid—federal guidelines regarding fair and accurate sex education. Apparently, Texans place substantial value on the “right” of local school boards to teach a biased AIDS curriculum or (in the absence of funds) to teach NO curriculum at all.

In Michigan, the school board of Byron Center (situated a few miles from Grand Rapids) recently stopped short of firing an openly-gay music teacher. However, board members did issue this hateful statement: “The school board firmly believes that homosexuality violates the dominant moral standard of the district’s community. Individuals who espouse homosexuality do not constitute proper role models as teachers for students in this district.”

A similar slander was announced by an Indiana school board. On Dec. 19, the East Allen County School Board adopted a resolution declaring: “We resolve...to strongly support and value those things which contribute to and improve the stability of families...This is a denunciation of activities such as drug use, premarital sex, violence, or gay and lesbian behavior or the support of such activities.”

The East Allen school board concluded that: “homosexuality is at odds with the area’s Christian

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nalism, and information about coming out.

Of course, lumping ALL lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender subjects under the heading "sexually explicit" is inaccurate as well as defamatory. The definition of heterosexual lives is never limited ONLY to sex acts. It would still be unacceptable, however, even if CompuServe had "only" banned sexually explicit newsgroups.

As queer communities know, sex negativity goes hand-in-hand with homophobia. Prohibitions against the SEXUAL communication of "pornography" and "obscenity" lead, inevitably, to prohibitions against HOMOSEXUAL communication of any kind.

Acting with very little integrity, CompuServe has attempted to deflect criticism by claiming the company is at the complete mercy of German law. A CompuServe spokesperson explained: "CompuServe did not select any groups or determine the nature of the newsgroups that have been impacted by this action."

If one person selects the titles, but another person strikes the match, aren't BOTH guilty of book burning? A censor who is following someone else's orders is STILL a censor.

\*\*\* ACTION ALERT! Demand that CompuServe act as a mature, responsible caretaker of free expression on the Internet. Contact: Robert Massey, President, CompuServe, Inc., 5000 Arlington Center Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43220, tel. 614-457-0802, e-mail 70006,101@compuserve.com. CompuServe members can also complain directly to customer service, via "GO FEEDBACK."

## School Daze

In regard to textbooks and other educational media, the year closed on a discouraging note. Recent actions in Texas, Michigan and Indiana have

cluded that: "homosexuality is at odds with the area's Christian beliefs." So was the notion of a round Earth, at one time.

\*\*\* ACTION ALERT! Send instructive criticism to each of the following:

Mike Moses, Education Commissioner, Texas Education Agency, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701-1494. Copy your correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, "Austin American Statesman," Box 670, Austin, TX 78767, fax 512-445-3679.

All Members, Byron Center School Board, 2475 84th Street, SW, Byron Center, MI 49315, tel. 616-878-1541. Copy your correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, "The Grand Rapids Press," 155 Michigan Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49502, fax 616-459-4126.

All Members, East Allen School Board, 1240 US 30 East, New Haven, IN 46774, tel. 219-493-3761. Copy your correspondence to Indiana's schools chief and the state's largest newspaper. Contact: Suellen Reed, State Superintendent of Schools, Indiana Department of Education, Room 229, State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798, tel. 317-232-6665, fax 317-232-9121; "The Indianapolis Star," 307 N. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, fax 317-633-9423.

Resources for activists working to reform school books and school boards include "Saving Our Schools from the Religious Right: The Lake County, Florida Story" (a publication available from Saving Our Lake County Schools, P.O. Box 492124, Leesburg, FL 34749) and the recently-updated "Community Action Kit: An Information Pack to Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education" (distributed by SIECUS, 130 West 42nd Street, Suite 350, New York, NY 10036, tel. 212-819-9770, fax 212-819-9776).

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## Rated H: The bigot's guide to broadcasting

### Media Watch, Continued

*AFA Journal*, the monthly magazine of the virulently homophobic American Family Association, has begun the new year with a bigot's guide to broadcasting. The Jan. 1996 issue offers readers a homophobic accounting of prime-time television programming.

To indicate the "offensiveness" of particular programs, the AFA has assigned various ratings codes. These codes include: "AC" (anti-Christian), "PC" (politically correct), "S" (objectionable sexual content), "P" (profanity) and—of course—"H" (promotes homosexual agenda).

For example, an episode of *The Crew* (FOX, Nov. 16) is rated "S H P6." Thus, according to the AFA, the episode contained objectionable sexual content, promoted the homosexual agenda, and used profanity six times. A

brief content summary is also provided, adding specific details about the episode: "RuPaul is a guest star, and dialogue is packed with homosexual jokes, bondage jokes and more."

Of the 22 prime-time programs reviewed by the AFA, no less than 15 are accused of "promoting the homosexual agenda." "H" ratings are given to *Courthouse* (CBS), *The Crew* (FOX), *Friends* (NBC), *High Society* (CBS), *Homicide* (NBC), *Hope & Gloria* (NBC), *Hudson Street* (ABC), *Melrose Place* (FOX), *The Nanny* (CBS), *NewsRadio* (NBC), *NYPD Blue* (ABC), *Pursuit of Happiness* (NBC), *Roseanne* (ABC), *The Single Guy* (NBC), and *Sisters* (NBC). Of these series, five—*The Crew*, *Friends*, *Melrose Place*, *Courthouse* and *NYPD Blue*—are cited for broadcasting MULTIPLE promohomo episodes.

Significantly, AFA members are NOT encouraged to write or call the TV networks, but rather the companies that

purchased airtime during "H" rated shows. These advertisers are urged to stop sponsoring the "homosexual agenda," or risk a loss in sales.

The effectiveness of such threats is difficult to determine (and the subject of some debate). Despite official industry denials, however, advertisers undoubtedly wield SIGNIFICANT influence over the content of commercial television. The AFA, which reaches a large and responsive membership, intends to wield significant influence over the conduct of advertisers.

The January *AFA Journal* specifically targets Abbot Labs (Murine eye drops, Selsun Blue shampoo), for advertising during *Courthouse* episodes that portrayed lesbianism as "normal" and a lesbian as the "heroine." McDonald's (fast foods) is cited for sponsoring episodes of *The Crew*, which featured "Paul, the series homosexual." Procter & Gamble

(Tide, Spic & Span, Pringles) is also listed, for purchasing airtime during episodes of *Friends* in which there were "numerous homosexual and condom" references and "God's name is used in vain about once every 2.5 minutes." The AFA targets Volkswagen (Audi, Volkswagen cars), for sponsoring *NYPD Blue's* inclusion of a lesbian police officer, a homosexual secretary, and "many crude scatological and sex terms..." Finally, Johnson & Johnson (Johnson baby products, Tylenol) is cited, for sponsoring the "homosexual character Matt"—staple of the prime-time soap opera *Melrose Place*.

\*\*\* ACTION ALERT! Urge companies targeted by the AFA to resist the forces of homophobic hate—through the continued support of fairness, accuracy, and diversity in television. Contact: Duane L. Burnham, Chair, Abbott Laboratories, 100 Abbott Park Road, Abbott Park, IL 60064, tel.

708-937-6100, fax 708-937-1511; Ralph S. Larsen, Chair, Johnson & Johnson, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933, tel. 908-524-0400 or 800-635-6789, fax 908-214-0332; Michael R. Quinlan, Chair, McDonald's Corporation, 1 Kroc Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521, tel. 708-575-3000, fax 708-575-5512; Edwin L. Artzt, Chair, Procter & Gamble, P.O. Box 599, Cincinnati, OH 45201, tel. 513-983-1100 or 800-435-9254, fax 513-562-4500; Clive Warrilow, President, Volkswagen of America, P.O. Box 3951, Troy, MI 48007, tel. 313-340-5000 or 800-822-8987, fax 313-340-4930.

The "AFA Journal" is the product of Donald E. Wildmon, Executive Editor and President, American Family Association, P.O. Drawer 2440, Tupelo, MS 38803, tel. 601-844-5036, fax 601-844-9176, e-mail amfamily@ebicom.net, URL <http://www.gocin.com/afa/home.htm>.

## CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY - 1/5

\* CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

\* "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community

\* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m., 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

\* Sex Addicts Anonymous Support Group. Meets at MCCR. 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

### TUESDAY - 1/9

\* MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support

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about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church. 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7533.  
\* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

#### SATURDAY - 1/6

\* Traditional Mass at 7:30 p.m. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872

#### SUNDAY - 1/7

\* Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) worship services. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

\* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "Looking at Relationships from a Godly Perspective" & "Homosexuality & the Bible/Spirituality & Sexuality Integration" at 10:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.

\* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.

\* Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.

\* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy. An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.

\* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.

\* Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 p.m. 6610 Alder. Call 668-8830.

\* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 1440 Harold. Call 526-1017.

#### MONDAY - 1/8

\* Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

#### TUESDAY - 1/9

\* MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

\* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.

\* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

\* Over Eaters Anonymous support group meets at MCCR - 6:00pm. Call 861-9149.

\* Advent Scriptures for Gay/Lesbian Christians: 7:30 pm at Kolbe House.

1509 Fairview 522-8182

\* "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 p.m. for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

#### WEDNESDAY - 1/10

\* MCCR: Bi-net Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.

\* "A Course in Miracles"- Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.

\* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.

\* "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 p.m. for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

#### THURSDAY - 1/11

\* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

\* Pot Luck Supper 7:00 p.m. Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

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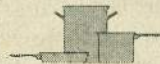
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**SUNDAY**  
**BRUNCH 10 am to 2 pm**

# Gay Today

by Glen Webber



## Cleaning Out The Closets of The Past

I had a very nice Christmas. It was a quiet one, which is my favorite kind.

I rode home with my good friend from high school, Keith Chapman. Keith is one of those very talented singers and actors, and he is now doing what he loves. I think that is wonderful.

We got to talking about our high school days, and about the people we knew. Keith was popular and had many friends. I, on the other hand, was just "there," and although I knew a lot of people, I didn't have a lot of friends.

We also talked about our 10-year high school reunion, and that brought back some memories.

I remembered how optimistic I was going into that reunion. I thought I would have a great time. I thought I would be surrounded by good friends. I thought I was going to feel like "Miss Thing." So, you can imagine my surprise when nobody talked to me. Other than a couple of "hi's," I was pretty much completely ignored. It hurt so bad, I left that major meeting feeling depressed and sad. I have known some of those people since First Grade, and I knew some of them through church as well as school. I didn't know why I was so ignored.

When the 20-year reunion came up about five years ago, I debated about going. I didn't want to repeat what happened back then. You know, I was carrying so much baggage from high school and the 10 year reunion that I

I think I was the most insecure person growing up. Even though I lived in a beautiful home and had wonderful parents, that didn't help. I had no real friends in high school, and no "run-around" group. I judged myself the way I thought others were judging me. I hated high school. Or, maybe more appropriately stated, I hated me.

Although college went a little better, I was glad to get into the real world. My goal became getting over the baggage that was affected my ability to function at my best. But how do you let the past go? I decided that this is my life, and I will do or be anything I want. If someone would criticize me, I would say, fine; if you don't like it, get out of my way. I also tried reading anything I could on building self-esteem and confidence in myself and my abilities. The most important thing I could was associate myself with successful people and try to learn from them.

I read once where if you wanted to clear your mind of clutter, clean out your closets. Get rid of clothes you haven't worn in over a year. what about all that junk you have been carrying around since high school? Most of mine went to garbage heaven.

I think the most important thing I can say is, let it go. Let go of your insecurities. Do what you want to do. If someone is being judgment and critical and you did not for it, tell them to shut up and get out of my way. Once you are in control, you are going to be very happy. I know many of you are still in the process of dealing with being gay. I know many of you are afraid to discuss it with your family and friends. You're afraid of

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packed such much baggage around from high school and the 10 year reunion that I decided not to go, hoping I could keep buried a lot of stupid ideas I created in my head.

I do believe many of us are still carrying baggage around from high school and childhood. I describe "baggage" as any preconceived ideas we have about ourselves. They include insecurities about our abilities, fear of failure or success, and concerns about our looks, what other people think about us, how we dress, etc.

dealing with being gay. I know many of you are afraid to discuss it with your family and friends. You're afraid of rejection and being judged. Well, it is time you to live your life, and that means accepting your sexual orientation. Anyone who judges you for anything accept how you treat the world doesn't need to be in your life.

I hope all of you make a resolution to get to know yourself really well. Improve the things you like and get rid of the things you don't. As I said before, you deserve the very best in life, but you have to get it yourself.

## AIDS stricken transit worker loses award on appeal

PHILADELPHIA, Saturday, Dec. 30 (AP)—A federal appeals court overturned a \$125,000 verdict awarded to a transit worker who contended a superior violated his privacy when she reviewed employee prescription claims and learned he had AIDS.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals directed U.S. District Judge William H. Yohn Jr. to reverse the verdict in favor of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and Judith Pierce, the agency's former top administrative officer.

Yohn presided over the 1994 jury trial that ended with the damages being awarded to "John Doe" for mental and emotional distress.

In the decision written by Judge Max Rosenn, the appeals court found that an employer's need for access to employee prescription records under its health-insurance plan outweighs the

employee's right to keep those purchases confidential.

Judge Timothy K. Lewis, in a dissenting opinion said he was troubled by the rulings "potential implications."

"I predict that the court's decision in this case will make it far easier for employers to disclose their employees' private medical information," Lewis wrote, "and to escape constitutional liability for harassment or other harms suffered by their employees as a result of that disclosure."

Doe did not contend that he suffered any harassment. The court noted that he continued to work for the agency and was later promoted.

His lawyer, Clifford A. Boardman, said Doe has since become too ill to work.

Boardman said he and his client may consider asking the full appeals court panel to consider the case.



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# THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

## Poll-Watchers May Be Surprised In '96

President Clinton should take some solace in his recent rise in the polls as a result of the Republican's failure to constructively convey their positions. Clinton's mediocre rise is temporary, at best, and will more than likely not last much more than three to four months. Why? To paraphrase an axiom, The Economy, Stupid.

The retail industry reported dismal and sluggish holiday sales in the month of December. Indeed, retailers were in a panic in mid-December, and if shoppers hadn't made a mad last minute dash to the malls of America, they would have been in dire straits. Consumers were waiting until the last minute to get the best bang for their buck, so to speak. Keep in mind, consumer spending controls two-thirds of the economy. What went wrong? Several things.

First and foremost is that the working people of America are fully aware that the president, in all his wisdom, inundated them with the biggest tax increase in history and that those monies are due in just a few short months. Beginning in January, employers start issuing employees their W-2 forms. Most individuals start preparing their taxes and completing the necessary paperwork at the earliest date they can. They want to know what their refund will be or, as in most cases, how much they owe good

points. This should send alarm bells to President Clinton that all is not well. How? Dole hasn't even begun to campaign and he is only 18 points behind the President. That is not a comforting lead for Clinton to bank on. There have not been any debates, the real issues haven't even been discussed and Clinton's approval ratings are hovering around 50%. Granted, that is much better than the low forty percentile ratings he has mustered in his first two years; however, Clinton would be remiss to rely on such to carry him through.

By contrast, all of his recent presidential predecessors had approval ratings in the upper sixtieth percentile throughout their presidencies, something Clinton has never enjoyed. For the president and the media to report his recent increase in the polls as proof positive that the electorate is satisfied with his performance to date is premature and nugatory. Remember, Bush, at the same time in his presidency, had an 85% approval rating and lost. I have said it before in my columns and it bears repeating: you can not govern by polls.

President Clinton's current rise in the polls, albeit small, can be attributed to recent events where he has come across as a leader. He stood up to Congress with respect to sending troops to Bosnia. He is standing up to them now concerning the Budget. He is looking and acting like a leader,

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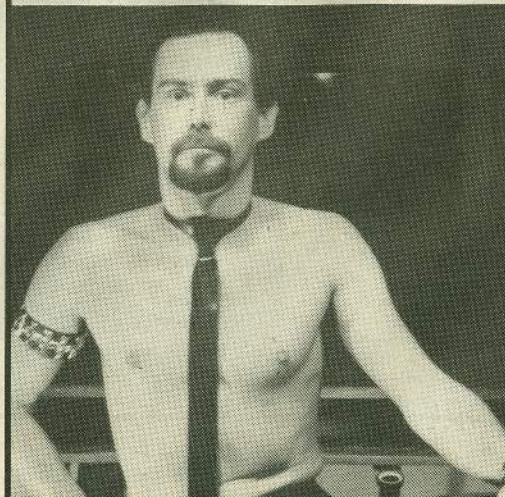
- Linens: twin sheets & pillow cases, thermal cotton blankets, bath towels, mats & wash clothes
- Laundry detergent & cleaning supplies, e.g. bleach, paper products
- VCR
- Lawn mower
- Hospital bed tray tables (3)
- Copier paper
- Soft drinks
- A larger house with some bedrooms on the first floor
- A small house or apartment to use for office and meeting space with room for visitors and staff

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to know what their refund will be or, as in most cases, how much they owe good old Uncle Sam. It's no wonder consumers were not spendthrifts this holiday season, they were uncertain of what their financial status would be for the year. Consumer uncertainty definitely abounds, and it does not bode well for the economy.

In addition, the budget impasse isn't likely to increase consumer confidence at any time soon. Most working people are fully aware that if the government doesn't reign in spending, they will be the ones who will ultimately pay for their fiscal irresponsibility through higher tax revenues in one form or another. Polls to the contrary, most people support the idea of a balanced budget, they just disagree on how to balance it. This is where President Clinton, in my opinion, is making a highly miscalculated mistake. After all, he campaigned as the candidate who would champion change. Instead, he is out there defending the status quo, and that is not going to play well in November of 1996. I reckon he will stay the course until the budget is passed in order to keep his liberal base and then change his tune during the summer when the election cycle begins full force.

Secondly, the polls that are showing Clinton's popularity on the rise are beguiling and inconclusive. Recent polls have shown that in a head-on race, Clinton would beat Dole (the front-runner Republican nominee) by as much as 18-20 percentage

them now concerning the budget. He is looking and acting like a leader, which he failed to do through most of his first two years. President Clinton could probably boost his poll numbers even higher if he led the right battles. Taking on the Republican party's serious effort at eliminating deficits and defending the status quo may play well in the short term, but will hurt the President come election time. Americans vote pocket book. It doesn't matter what a candidate's views are on abortion, homosexuality, gun control, etc. If the economy is in poor shape, voters will send you back to the private sector, and pronto.

Clinton has the momentum to demonstrate serious leadership skills that could parlay into significant gains in the polls. He could sit down with Newt and Dole, hammer out a balanced budget agreement that would allow both sides to look good and sign it into law. Whether or not Clinton will seize the moment or revert back to his philosophy of seesaw governance remains to be seen. I predict he will do the latter. As a result, I believe that the Republican nominee will resoundingly beat Clinton if it is a two man contest; however, if a third party candidate enters the race, Clinton will be re-elected with 40% of the vote as he did in 1992. One thing is certain; 1996 will be an interesting year politically, and anyone who thinks that they can predict with certainty what the outcome will be is in for a few surprises. Happy New Year!

## Another way to reach us!

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# SPORTS NOTES



## Bowling Is Back

Bowling starts again this week with the Montrose Monday Night Men's League reporting the following standings. Division A is headed by Dem Damn Dawgs, Party of Four and The Queen Sick Court. Division B reports Tennis Anyone? in first, Snow White & Black Butes in second, and Somebody Ate My Duck Sausage in third. High scratch game of 247 was bowled by Chris Bennett and series of 642 by Mace Adams. For more information, please telephone 641-5424.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League is headed by Screw It! in first place, Too Wong Fo U? in second and Sticky Wickets in third. For the men Tom O'Dell bowled

high scratch game of 242 and series of 643. For the women Geri Swan bowled high scratch game of 223 and series of 633. For more information call Tom at 522-9612.

The Wednesday Night Mixers has To Wong Foo: Thanks for Nothing in first, Half & Half in second, and 3 Tops and a Bottom in third. For the men Mace Adams bowled high scratch game of 264 and series of 694. For the women Terry Shannon bowled high scratch game of 211 and series of 562. For more information, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place is taken by In the House, second by TAZ Club, third by Lesborados and fourth by Festive Foursome. For more information call Pat at 437-6218.

# Church Calendar is on Page 9.

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by Forman Brown

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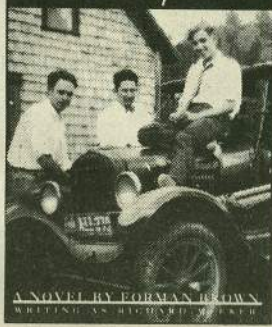
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# ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

**Q: "If there's only one God, why are there so many religions?"**

**A:** Let's look at the definition of religion. Webster defines religion as belief in a divine or super human power or powers to be obeyed and worshiped as the creator(s) and ruler(s) of the universe. Secondly, religion is the expression of this belief in conduct and ritual. Thirdly, it is any specific system of belief, worship, conduct, etc., often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy: as, the Christian religion, the Buddhist religion, etc. Fourthly, religion is a state of mind or way of life expressing love for and trust in God, and one's will and effort to act according to the will of God. Fifthly, religion is any object of consci-

entious regard and pursuit.

As you can see, religion is probably an important part of everyone's life in some form or fashion. Whether a person worships God, creation, money, a philosophy, another person, they will worship something. When humanity was created, we were made to be in relationship with our Creator God. That's how we were designed to function. When that relationship was broken through disobedience on the part of Adam and Eve, they began to find ways to still have "religion." That innate need and desire to worship God had to go somewhere. Through the creative abilities of humankind sprang all of the religions of the world.

Religion is a universal phenomenon. Wherever humanity lives, they are found giving some recognition to a power or powers beyond themselves. No matter what culture, society or level of technology, people have always practiced a form of religion. It has met the needs of people. The practice of religion is as varied as the religions themselves. A common misconception is that all religions are basically saying the same thing or that all religious "paths" eventually reach the same summit--God. This is simply not true. Although similar teachings do occur in more than one religion, the differences between them are as marked as night and day.

As the Apostle Paul traveled around the Mediterranean area he noticed something very significant. In Acts 17:22 we read, "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And God is not served by human hands, as if God needed anything, because God gives all people life and breath and everything else. From one person God made every nation of people, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and God determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that people would seek God and perhaps reach out for God and find God, though God is not far from each one of us. Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone---an image made by humanity's design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now God commands all people everywhere to repent. For God has set a day when God will judge the world with justice by the One God has appointed. God has given proof of this to all people by raising Christ Jesus from the dead." (stay tuned next week for closing remarks)

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



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**Saturday Evening: 7:00 PM**  
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## Group's attack on gay publication angers businesses

(Continued from Page 1)

The letter sent by AFA-Texas, based in Austin, informs the business owners of the organization's practice of broadcasting the names of *Triangle* advertisers during its Saturday morning program on an Austin radio station. Then, it asks for a response "within 10 days if (the business) intends to continue" advertising in the gay publication.

Accompanying the letter are examples of *Triangle* content—usually, editorial cartoons lampooning religious right views—that Roberts and his group deem objectionable.

The written deadline has caused two advertisers to pull their ads and has made others nervous. Kay Longcope, editor and publisher of the newspaper, told the *Austin American-Statesman*. Ms. Longcope said Roberts wants her clients to fear demonstrations in front of their stores. Such protests by association members hit an Austin car dealer, which recently renewed its advertising with the *Triangle*.

Other advertisers say they also will continue their relationship with the

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continue their relationship with the three-year-old *Triangle* no matter what the Family Association does.

"We regret to inform you that Tower Mortgage Corp. will continue to advertise in any publications the corporation chooses," Tony Eddols, president of Tower Mortgage Corp., wrote in a response to Roberts.

Targeting advertisers is a familiar tactic for the AFA; however, the national group has previously concentrated such efforts on broadcast media (see related story, "Bigot's guide to broadcasting," in GLAAD Media Watch column in this issue). In directing its efforts against a newspaper—and particularly, one whose primary readership and focus is the gay and lesbian community—the Texas AFA chapter has broken new and chilling ground.

Included among the targets of Roberts' mailout were eight businesses in Houston, including at least one that has also advertised in the *Houston Voice*.

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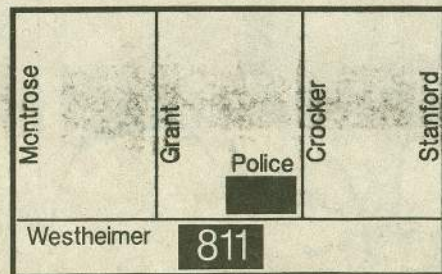
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# Welcome 1996!!!!



*Men of the Mine!*

## Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Soap is short again this week! I'm just now starting to recover from all the parties!

### Friday, Jan. 5

Seven gorgeous male dancers fill the bill tonight at J.R.'s Bar and Grill! Complimentary hors d'oeuvres begin at 6:00 p.m. as well as the TGIF happy hour with Texas-sized ice cold doubles in a tall glass until 10:00 p.m.

Start your weekend off right at the Venture-N. Power hour starts at 5:00 p.m. and well cocktails, longnecks, and wine are only \$1.50. This super special goes until 7:00 p.m.

Fridays in Heaven you can start your

hottest music videos from around the world tonight at Heaven. Heaven offers 75c well cocktails and \$1.75 Red Wolf longnecks from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Eighteen and up are welcome!

Kara Dion is searching for talent! This and every Saturday at E/J's, she hunts for talent. Do you have an act you would like to try out on an audience? Check out this contest which begins at 11:00 p.m. The winner gets to perform in the Tuesday night super show! You could be a star!

Who will become Mr. Hot Buns 1996? Prizes will be awarded for Fuzzy Buns, Baby Cakes, Papa's Choice, Bubble Butt, and Mr. Hot Buns 1996? The buns go bare at midnight at Gentry.

Do you like to bar hop on a Saturday night? Well, start off at the Santa Fe Bar and Patio at 9:00 p.m., then head to the Mine at 9:30 p.m., cross the street to J.R.'s Bar and Grill at 10:00 p.m., and finally go to

Heaven at 10:30 p.m. This is the run for the 800 Pacific block party. You can get 75c well cocktails and \$1 domestic longnecks at each stop. Heaven offers no cover from 10:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The 611 Hyde Park Pub has pumping, party pleasing, male dancers tonight. The seduction begins at 9:00 p.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 7

Tonight at Pacific Street, a new Mr. and Ms. Olympus Leather South-Central will be chosen. This is a preliminary to the Mr. and Ms. Olympus contest to be held at Pantheon of Leather VI in New Orleans. This should prove to be one of the hottest contests of this year.

The Texas Renegades are hosting their annual gumbo cook-off this after-

### Wednesday, Jan. 10

\$1 longnecks are the deal of the day/night at the Venture-N. Stop in for a cold one served by some of Houston's hottest bartenders.

The leathermen of the Ripcord are rockin'-n-rollin' tonight. The music venue on Wednesday is old rock and roll!

### Thursday, Jan. 11

The BriarPatch has the biggest martinis in town! Plenty of room for an olive or pearl onion! Stop in and see what I'm talking about!

Chances has \$2 Cuervo shots today and every day! I just love Cuervo!

The Houston Press' "Romance Night" will be held at J.R.'s Bar and Grill tonight beginning at 6:00 p.m. You can get a free personal ad, and there are door prizes from Travel Heights and Floral Events.

### Other Important Stuff

This week's selections at the French Quarter are "Maverick" and "The Personals!"

Mark your calendars for Jan. 12, 13, and 14. The women of FIST present Ms. Gulf Coast Leather 1996 contest. Comedian Shann Carr and leatherman Chuck Higgins will MC the contest to be held on Jan. 13. at Bacchus II. If you would like more info, call 661-9829.

Charlie's has a new tasty item on their menu! Baby back ribs!

### Birthday Corner



*Is that really Anita Mann with a riding crop in her hand?*

teed?

B.J. (Hangs at E/J's): Message: What good are the keys if you don't have a "Feller" to open the lock... signed, a key witness!

Oscar (Hangs at E/J's and BRB): I guess I won't park my car too close to your trunk!

Rex (Mary's): So, you want to be like Barbie! The bitch has everything! Yeah, 14 wedding dresses and never been married, she can't keep a steady job, and her boyfriend doesn't have the right equipment!

Shaboom, Reno, Gary, and Buddy: I understand that for that long, long trip to San Antonio, you packed a portable urinal! Plan to drink all the way, or are you four scared to cruise in the rest stop bathrooms?

CW (E/J's): My, you are handy with a ruler! Lots of practice? Also, if it is 2:00 p.m. in Houston, what time is it else where?

Fridays in Heaven you can start your weekend off with one of Houston's biggest dance club parties! The well cocktails are 75¢ all night long!

There is an 8-ball tournament tonight at the Lazy J. This is for league members only!

## Saturday, Jan. 6

You can meet David Walker, Mr. International Drummer '95 tonight at Pacific Street. He will be guest bartending at the main bar tonight starting at 9:00 p.m. Woof! Woof! Also, the men of National Leather Association: Houston will be guest bartending on the patio! A full night of leather tonight at Pacific Street. Don't forget that you can get in free if you are attired in erotic leather!

Scoot down to the Brazos River Bottom tonight and have a cocktail on the patio with the men and women of TGRA. They will be guest bartending tonight starting at 9:30 p.m.

Saturdays at Mary's feature happy hour from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The grill heats up starting at 3:00 p.m. for steak, baker all-the-way, and a salad for a measly \$5.50. They also serve hamburgers for \$2. Head out to the patio and give Scotty a hard time.

DJ/VJ Shawn Byrne takes you to Europe and brings you back again playing the

their annual gumbo cook-off this afternoon at the Brazos River Bottom. You can wonder around the tables and try many types of gumbo for only \$1 per bowl. Judging is at 5:00 p.m., followed by a show at 7:00 p.m. This is a benefit for the Colt 45's Til Thacker Memorial Fund.

Mary's, naturally, has Sunday brunch starting at 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Stop in for a light brunch and tasty Bloody Marys.

Ruby Stone, candidate for R. S. I. C. S. S. Empress XII presents "Red Beans and Rice Revue" tonight at Gentry. This benefit for the Soiree Aubergine's Bering Care Center Meal Program starts at 9:00 p.m.

Paivi Lee Love hosts the show tonight at Bacchus II. Stop in at 10:30 p.m.

## Monday, Jan. 8

M & M Mondays at Gentry feature \$2 Margaritas, and \$3.50 Absolut Martinis all day and all night! At 8:30, the hit show "High Society" is shown on all the TVs. Sounds like a great way to spend Monday nights!

You can get a locker today and tonight at Club Houston for half price! This special ought to help you keep that New Year's Resolution!

Cousin's has a dart tournament tonight at 8:30 p.m. There is a \$3 buy-in and the bar matches the pot!

I hear that the bartenders at the Ripcord wear only boxer shorts on Monday nights!

## Tuesday, Jan. 9

Mary's, naturally, offers \$2 Jose Cuervo shots for only \$2. No wonder they call 'em Cuervo Tuesdays! See ya there!

The super Tuesday show at E/J's stars Catia Lee Love. Her guests this week are Crystal Rae Lee Love, Scotch, Rachelle Stevens, and the winner from the Saturday night talent contest. Show time is 11:00 p.m.



Miss Camp America performs at the Bayou City Boys Club's New Year's Eve party.

## Birthdays Corner

A Happy (I love to sing) Birthday to Susan Maser.

A Happy (Belated) Birthday to Buck at Mary's

A Happy (Long Distance) Birthday to Clay Harper!

A Happy (Yes, I do wear lacy panties) Birthday to Kody at Chances.

## Rodent Droppings

Harvey has already broken his New Year's resolution. I made him promise NOT to beat up Ratrat anymore, but on Monday he was very bad! Harvey climbed into the box that Ratrat was playing in and pounced on top of him! When the Lazer Wizard reached in to get Harvey, he would not let go of Ratrat! We checked for damage, and fortunately Ratrat is ok! Harvey, after several swift slaps on the butt and many loud, stern "bad ferret," was put back in his cage. He sulked the rest of the day! Maybe he will learn! While spanking Harvey, the following dropped down!

Jerry (Mary's): Tossed any full packs away lately?

Lupe (Club Houston): I hear you have a new plastic surgery and your office in the maze at the Club is called "Lupesuction!"

Ricky (Hangs at the BRB): That sure was a big box you gave Byron and Tommy for Christmas!

Tim (Hangs at Mary's): Next time you go hunting in the maze at the Club Houston, make sure there are not any Club Houston employees in there!

David/Roxy (Club Houston): Is it true that you are working out and becoming a man? This week? And is it true you were trying to remodel room # 215 on New Year's Eve or was it just fireworks?

Denver Roger (Hangs at the BRB): What is this about you and Narene shacking up at the Allen Park Inn? Which one was the butch one?

Bob B. (Hangs at E/J's): I guess you are going to have to go on a diet to fit into that sweater!

Sam (BRB): So, your the "New Meat" on the BRB's menu! Are you more tasty raw, baked, grilled, or marinated and sau-

where?

Devin (Mary's): Did you ever find Mr. Ball's ball earrings? Next time, don't leave them in a cab!

Cassandra (Hangs at Mary's): What did you mean, "Nobody got me anything I like for Christmas?" I heard you got a pair of Jose Cuervo bottles, with the Cuervo still in them!

Randy (Hangs at E/J's): What happens when you get in a Santa suit? You get a Santa with attitude.

Sam (Hangs at Mary's): Just what have you and Jack been doing?

Larry Crawford: What happened in Oklahoma?

Jay Allen (PS): Were those really penny loafers on you feet?

Stan (VN): Are you sure I spelled your name right last week? Should it not have been Hoe! Hoe! Hoe!

Question: What two members of the Court were seen naked, without even a tiara, at the party at John D. and Dan L.'s house?

Message to the stupid graffiti artist that scribbled on the men's bathroom at Mary's. "I Like Dikes!" Should that be "I Like Dykes" or "I Like Dicks"? Or maybe, you are just not sure!

TTFN, (Ta Ta For Now)

## Cuervolyn



Sam is the new meat at the BRB

# Lawyer sues allegedly gay PaineWebber executive for \$20 million

By **SAMUEL MAULL**  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

**NEW YORK, Thursday, Dec. 28 (AP)**—A lawyer who sued PaineWebber International's chairperson for \$20 million pleaded guilty this month to harassment after being indicted on grand larceny charges, a law enforcement spokesperson said Thursday.

Richard Yao, 40, was indicted in April 1994 on a third-degree grand larceny charge, said spokesperson Wayne Brison of the Manhattan district attorney's office. A man whose identity was sealed in court records had alleged to police that he was the target of an extor-

tion attempt.

Yao pleaded guilty to first-degree harassment last Dec. 1 in a plea agreement and was given an unconditional discharge by Justice Felice Shea, Brison said. The judge ordered Yao to stay away from the complainant.

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday, Yao claimed that after a torrid two-month affair with John Bult in 1992, the PaineWebber executive promised him \$10,000 a month for life to keep quiet about Bult's gay lifestyle.

Yao, whose court papers said Bult made only one \$10,000 payment, alleged breach of contract and intentional infliction of

emotional distress.

Bult's lawyer, Harvey Horowitz, said he believes his client was being victimized in a manner similar to the complainant in the 1994 case. He denied that Bult ever made a lifetime support deal with Yao.

Bult met Yao at a social function and went to dinner with him a few times—nothing more, Horowitz said. He said Yao called Bult repeatedly, "and after a while the calls became bizarre. He was saying things like 'I have to meet with you or terrible things will happen.'"

"We got a call from the Manhattan district attorney's office in December, three

years after he (Bult) met this guy," Horowitz said. "We were told that Richard Yao was under investigation for extortion of money."

Horowitz said prosecutors told him that they found Bult's name among papers at Yao's home when they executed a search warrant there. A law enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators also found the names of other people and are trying to find those people to ask if they were victims of any crimes.

"We are quite convinced its a bigger scheme and its probably how he supports himself," the source said.

The defense lawyer in Yao's criminal case, Eric Orzick, could not be reached for comment. His lawyer in the civil suit against Bult, Michael B. Ronemus, refused to take calls.

Peter Casey, a PaineWebber spokesperson, said the firm would not comment on the suit since the case is personal. But he said the firm supports Bult.

"John has provided valuable advice and service to our firm since 1966," Casey said. "We are supportive of him and will not allow accusations contained in this personal lawsuit reduce that support in any way."

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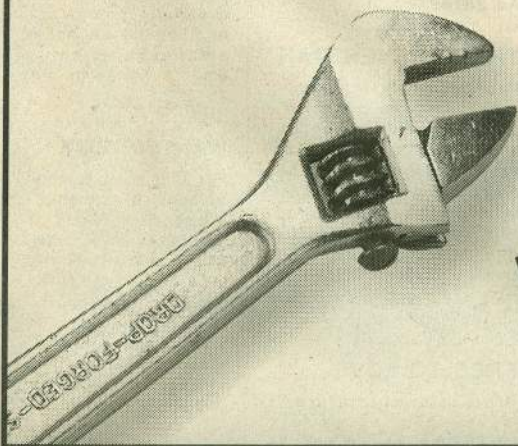
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