



HOUSTON

VOICE

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**Southern
Baptists
Boycott
Disney**

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JUNE 20TH 1997 • ISSUE 869

Gay and Lesbian Pride of Yesteryear

The 20th Anniversary of Houston's Anti-Anita Bryant Protest

**HOUSTON
VOICE
EXCLUSIVE**

by T.F. Mann

This is the story of one particular Houston day, Thursday, June 16, 1977, when gays and friends of gays just plain got mad and had their say in a very dramatic way. Two decades ago the gay political movement was just getting started everywhere in the country. Houston's gay "political" activity was now two years old if measured by the beginning of the first Houston gay political organization, the *Gay Political Caucus*.

The gay movement in Houston was still in

The Largest in History GAY MARCH IN HOUSTON

its political infancy, but growing fast. The event which happened 20 years last week, jump started Houston's gay activists into action and by doing so, brought the Houston movement into the national, state, and local spotlight, even if only for a moment of time. It was the kind of event that once experi-

enced, would never be forgotten by those there. It also a matter of gay pride back then.

Several months ago you may have read stories that ran in several of our community publications about the 20th anniversary (January, 1977) of the Dade County battle

that took place down in Florida when the issue of gay rights got on the ballot and passed. The religious right was outraged and put together a referendum which called for the reversal of the January vote. The vote would be held on June 7th. Heading up the gay side of the political fight was Floridian Bob Kunst.

Opposing was a group named *Save Our Children*. It was headed by another Floridian named Anita Bryant. She made her fortunes as a popular singer and also by being the official spokesperson for the Florida orange juice industry in their ad campaigns. The political battle was a harsh one filled with the same type of lies which we, ourselves, would experience eight years later in the Houston's 1985 referendum. When it came time for Dade County to vote, the votes were sharply against us. Bryant had successfully led her forces into victory.

When the news reached Houston, local political activist Gary Van Ooteghem sent a telegram to Anita Bryant which read in part,

See BRYANT page 15

Police Arrest Man for Murder

Robin Unmasked

An Interview with 'Boy Wonder' Actor Chris O'Donnell

by Tim Nasson

Much has changed, in the almost nine years (yes nine, count 'em), since Chris O'Donnell first graced the world with his boyish and charming presence on the big screen in *Men Don't Leave*, as one of Jessica Lange's children. Most may remember seeing him first in *Fried Green Tomatoes*, only months later, as the heart stopping handsome teen who meets an untimely death when getting his foot stuck on a railroad track.

Quickly rising to heights that some stars twice his age have not yet ascended to, with a role that earned him a Golden Globe nomination opposite Al Pacino in *Scent Of A Woman*, and then as D'Artagnan in the very successful *The Three Musketeers*, O'Donnell continued to astound. His biggest break until then (not including the McDonald's television commercial he did that caught Hollywood's attention of course) arrived in 1995 when he was cast as Robin in the third *Batman* film.



As outstanding as that all may seem, he was mostly relegated to second billing (except for the dreadful *Mad Love*). Fast forward a year. In October of 1996 O'Donnell was finally seen as a leading man in *The Chamber*, a film most industry insiders thought would become another successful John Grisham novel to screen transition, opposite Gene Hackman no less. It wasn't.

Grisham's *The Chamber*, was the fifth in a series of the author's books to make the leap from page to screen. Unfortunately for all involved in the making of the film, it bombed big time, earning less than \$10 million at the box office.

Nonetheless, there were some positive effects from the making of *The Chamber* (now on video) for O'Donnell, and he talked about them as well as reprising his role as Robin in what is sure to give *The Lost World* a run for its money this summer and, resultingly, put O'Donnell back 'on top'.

"I'm finally glad to be playing some-

See O'DONNELL page 22

Police Arrest Man for Murder of Stacey Ellis

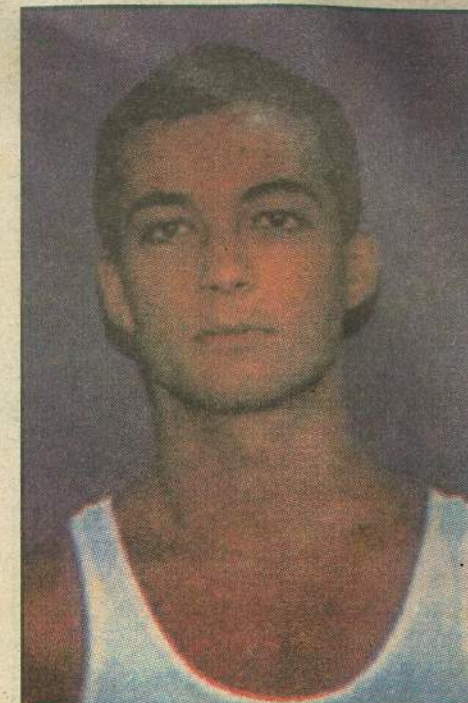
by John Touns

Houston police homicide investigators have arrested a California man for the murder of Stacey Leon Ellis, 29. Ellis was found beaten to death in his apartment at 2727 Briarhurst on Monday, April 7.

HPD Sgt. T.M. Ladd and Officer R.F. Huseman said that after a lengthy and complex investigation they traced Ellis' killer to California where he was arrested by HPD investigators and Fullerton police. The man, identified at Robert Lynn Gonzales, Jr., gave a confession to Houston authorities admitting to killing Ellis.

Ladd said they learned that Gonzales and his girlfriend had been staying with Ellis. Gonzales caught Ellis attempting to assault his girlfriend so he picked up a blunt object and struck Ellis several times. After the killing, Gonzales fled, taking Ellis' Chevy S-

See MURDER page 14



Robert Lynn Gonzales, Jr.

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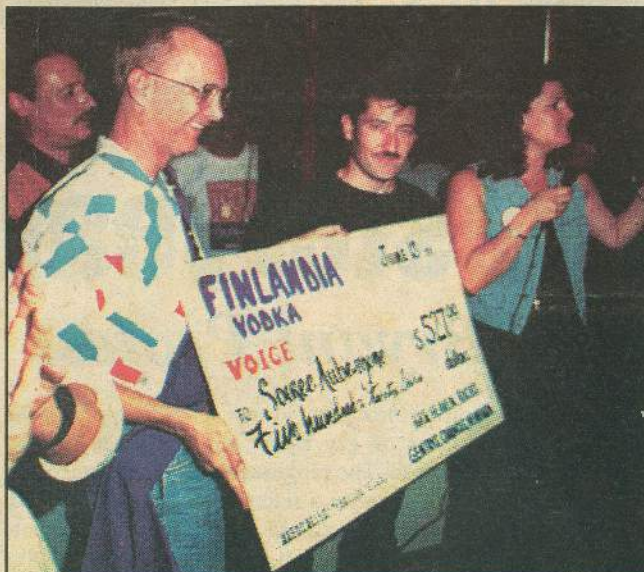
The staff of The Center for AIDS, from left to right, Donna Rochon, Michael Peranteau, Sara Steen, and L. Joel Martinez. see related story on page 14.



by Lee Davis

Fun(d)raisers!

The Montrose Softball League would like to thank everyone for showing at Rich's last Saturday night for the league's final fundraiser of the year. Raising a record amount of money, Steven's House was



Finlandia Vodka presents a check to Soiree Aubergine.

selected at the beginning of the year as MSL's chosen charity. Also on hand was the largest crowd ever to attend the event.

with 225,000. This first, and certainly not last, event pulled in over \$2500. Oh, Daddy!

Bering Community Service Foundation through Soiree Aubergine was the recipient of \$527 through the Houston Voice/Finlandia Best Bartender Contest. Held at Gentry, the competition was fierce between David Crowson of BRB; Val of Gentry; Wiley from Chances; Vanna of The New Barn; Matthew of Heaven and Yvonne from Rich's. The final result was Vanna taking top honors with Val losing by only one point. Congratulations to all of the bartenders for really putting their imaginations to the test!

AVES received over \$2000 through the "Date with a Daddy Auction" & "Show Me The Booty" events held at Gentry last Sunday. A tip of the hat to Gentry bartender Kip, who brought in a whopping \$1300 after offering a quaint, little picnic with him and the highest bidder. Wow, all that for a picnic! That's great for AVES.

At the Venture-N last Saturday, Crystal Rae Lee Love & Sean Carter hosted RSICSS and "21 & Growing" (not Crystal's age!) benefiting Colt 45s. In an outrageous show, over \$450 was raised. It was great see-



Mary's must change sign

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Community Calendar/

HOUSTON VOICE
 One Community! One Voice!

ISSUE 869

JUNE 20, 1997

Established 1974 as the Montrose Star, reestablished 1980 as the Houston Montrose Star, Changed name to The Houston Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, Reestablished as the Houston Voice by Thomas Nelson in 1993
 811 Westheimer, Suite 105
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 Contents copyright 1997
 Office hours: 9:00am-5:30pm weekdays

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Mary's mural changing soon.

Thanks to the management and staff of Rich's for their support who contributed to the event's success. Special congratulations to Al Critz who won the highly coveted title of Miss MSL '97. Great job, Al!

PWA Holiday Charities (LVL) was the beneficiary of several fundraisers this past weekend! The Mr. Montrose Contest held at the Brazos River Bottom netted \$622. Congratulations to Johnny Montgomery for being selected the new Mr. Montrose. Over at Marys, naturally, bartenders on the patio raised over \$375. Good work, people!

Q-Patrol was the recipient of over \$200 at the "Friday the 13th" show held at Chances.



Daddy of Montrose, '96 Ken Claude

Emcee Fancy Pace-Lawrence brought on a cast of versatility, including Sean Carter, Lexy and Billie Bailey. Fabulous show, Fancy!

Steven's House was the beneficiary of the Daddy/Master Auction I at the Ripcord last Friday. Topping the action was Ken Claude who won 1st with 350,000 Daddy bucks. Dirk won 2nd with 240,000 and Don 3rd

ing Crystal get paddled—again!!

Something New?

If you haven't driven past Mary's, naturally in the past week, you don't know what you are missing. In an effort to show their pride, they have gone shocking pink! The mural, shown here, was up for the last six years and it seems it was "time for a change". Famed artist Scotty has been busy working on the mural and is doing a Don't Rain dance to finish in time for Pride Week. Every day that you drive by, a little more is done. Look for the final product during Pride Week!

She's Back!

Lazy J has turned things around! **Erica Lane** is returning for Saturday evening shows beginning at 10:30pm. She has brought back Bill Gonzales as D.J. Performing with Erica Saturday, June 21 will be Tricia Blaque, Frankie Lane and Miss T.T. Drop by Lazy J and welcome Erica back. You won't want to miss this show!



A great turnout for the Daddy of Montrose Contest.

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Initial names: William O. Douglas, Walt Whitman
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**Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce**

Pauken Slated to Resign Post; Plans Run for Attorney General's Office

by Steve Labinski
Houston Voice Austin Bureau Chief

Tom Pauken, the chairman of the Texas Republican Party, will step-down from his position in June in order to begin his campaign for Texas Attorney General. Although he has not formally announced, Pauken has been a vocal critic of Attorney General Dan Morales, and intends to unseat the popular Democrat in 1998.

Since Pauken will leave in the middle of his term, his replacement will be selected in a special election by the 64-member State Republican Executive Committee (SREC). State committee chairs for both the Republican and Democrat party are generally selected at their biannual state conventions by delegates from around the state. GOP Vice-Chair Susan Weddington announced last Thursday that she has lined-up enough votes to win the chairmanship.

If elected, Weddington will be the first woman to chair a major political party in Texas. "Under state law, if a woman is chair, then the vice-chair must be a man. I expect the vice-chair's responsibilities to grow considerably if a man is in that position," said Kirk Overbey, a member of the SREC from Austin.

Ann Makris, a recent member of the SREC in Houston, commented, "Susan has been around long enough and knows the ropes, so that she would be the heir apparent. For her, this is a passion, as well as career."

One party insider explained that the mid-term resignation gives Pauken the opportunity to pick a successor so that Weddington can go to the next convention as an incumbent. From the 1940's to the 1980's, the GOP chairman would typically resign before their term was over in order to give their successor a better chance to run as an incumbent at the next convention.

"I think (Pauken's) tired. He's too moderate for the right-wingers and too conservative for the moderates. He's Catholic, so he's suspect by the evangelicals in the party. Susan Weddington probably thinks he's far too moderate, and far too soft," said the insider.

Texas court system. Susan Weddington called the gay Republican organization "extremist" on an Austin AM radio show in 1996.

The party's actions against other Republicans have drawn accusations that it has marginalized itself by right-wing social conservatives. "It is 'flat-earthers', militia-types, and Shiites like Pauken who cost us the 1996 Presidential election. We should rue the day that these old Democratic segregationists joined the Republican Party," said Carpenter.

Carpenter stated that gay Republicans would probably not support Pauken in his race for Attorney General, and will seek to support others in the Republican primary.

"Tom Pauken has about as much chance of getting Log Cabin support in any race in which he runs as Jesse Helms would have. And Jesse Helms has no chance. Pauken is opposed to everything we believe is valuable about the Republican Party, including its historic commitment to limited government and individual freedom. Pauken wants only white Christians to have individual liberty, and seeks to limit government only in areas related to his narrow morality," said Carpenter.

Legislation was introduced this Spring by Rep. Debra Danburg (D, Houston) and Rep. Kim Brimer (R, Kennedale) to address complaints that state parties are out-of-touch with the electorate. The bill would have moved

the election of the state party chairman, vice-chairman, and SREC representatives from the party conventions to the primary elections.

"The public feels that the party offices have become an insiders club. Many party officers have never walked a block or participated in a phone bank. Their attitude is that it's somehow beneath them," said Danburg in a recent *Houston Voice* interview.

According to Danburg, Governor Bush supported the bill, and the only organized opposition at committee hearings came from the Texas Republican Party. Although the bill did not move out of committee, Danburg intends to introduce similar legislation in the 1999 session.



THE ANSWER

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TYPE OF TREATMENT

IF YOU CHOSE THE

RIGHT

are for the right-wingers and too conservative for the moderates. He's Catholic, so he's suspect by the evangelicals in the party. Susan Weddington probably thinks he's far too moderate, and far too soft," said the insider.

Controversial Tenure

The conservative Dallas attorney has earned a reputation as GOP chairman of attacking not only Democrats but many Republicans as well. "The successes the party has enjoyed in recent years have been despite, not because of, Tom Pauken. He has been intolerant, bigoted, and divisive," said Dale Carpenter, President of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, a state-wide organization of gay Republicans.

The GOP won all state-wide races in 1996 and became the majority party in the Texas Senate. However, both Pauken and the SREC have actively chastised many of their own elected officials. Pauken was a vocal critic of Governor Bush's 1997 legislative priority to lower property taxes in Texas.

In February, Austin banker David Hartman quit as Texas' GOP finance chairman, saying in a memo that state party chairman Tom Pauken shouldn't have been so public in criticizing Gov. George W. Bush's property tax relief proposal. Pauken and the SREC censured state Senator Jeff Wentworth (R, San Antonio) last Spring for his pro-choice vote against a bill requiring parental consent for a minor to receive an abortion.

Popular Republican Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, as well as Rep. Henry Bonilla (R, San Antonio) and Rep. Lamar Smith (R, San Antonio) were almost prevented to attend the 1996 GOP National Convention in San Diego as delegates because of their positions on abortion and other issues. The party also made a highly unusual move by not making Governor Bush the chairman of the Texas delegation to the national convention, instead handing the title to Tom Pauken.

The Republican Party denied the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas a booth at last year's state convention. "It was Pauken's decision to shut Log Cabin out of the state Republican convention," said Carpenter, causing the organization to initiate litigation against the party for its breach of contract. The contract issue is still moving through the



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¹Coste, J. et al. "Comparative evaluation of 3 assays for the quantification of human immunodeficiency virus type 1 RNA in plasma." *Journal of Medical Virology*, 1996; ²Dunne, A.I. and Crowe, S.M. "Comparison of branched DNA and reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction for quantifying six different HIV-1 subtypes in plasma." *AIDS*, 1997; Vol. 11;1. ³Rouzioux, C. et al. "Quantification of "Non B" Subtype HIV-1 RNA: Underestimation is Frequent For All "Non B" Subtypes with Monitor and NASBA-QT Tests." Abstract for the 4th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.

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Southern Baptist Convention Opts to Boycott Disney and its Subsidiaries

by Curt Morrison and John Toups

(Dallas) - The country's largest Protestant denomination (15 million members), Southern Baptists, voted to boycott the Walt Disney Company at their annual convention Wednesday in Dallas. The move had been widely expected for more than a week. The boycott includes Disney subsidiaries ABC television and radio.

Among the factors contributing to the Southern Baptists Convention's (SBC) decision were Disney's willingness to allow gay people to visit its theme parks, its policy of extending equal benefits to the domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees, and its decision to allow the star of its ABC sitcom *Ellen* to become the first lead character on network television to acknowledge their sexual identity.

According to SBC President Tom Ellif, who was re-elected without opposition, the boycott would not just damage the company. "The issue is not Disney coming down," he said. "The issue is Baptists going up to the level of God."

At the 1996 convention in New Orleans, a decision was made to monitor Disney's actions with the intent of acting at this year's meeting in the event the group decided a boycott was warranted. They did and the group made their decision based on the company's actions last year.

"It is morally wrong for the delegates of the Southern Baptist Convention to punish a company for simply refusing to discriminate against gay Americans," said Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Senior Strategist David M. Smith at a press conference immediately following the group's decision. "Most peo-

ple of faith recognize that religious disagreements do not justify discrimination. For this reason, this boycott is bound to fail."

Smith observed that, while it would be illegal for Disney to discriminate against people based on their religion, it remains legal to discriminate against gays and lesbians — making the Disney's voluntary policy of equal treatment for gay people all the more worthy of praise rather than boycott.

A recent poll conducted for the HRC by Greenberg Research, Inc. shows that 70 percent of Christians believe gay and lesbian people should be protected from discrimination in the workplace, compared to 23 percent who don't. Sixty percent of evangelicals share this belief, while 34 percent do not. The poll's margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percent.

"The Southern Baptist Convention is at odds not just with gay people, but with the majority of people of faith who - despite their differences - are united in opposing discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans," said Smith. "Unlike the Southern Baptist Convention, most people of faith realize that they can disagree over gay issues and still agree that discrimination against gay people is wrong."

The boycott is not expected to have any significant impact. Most boycotts are unsuccessful with the exception of the media attention they garner for the group boycotting. In fact, Disney had record earnings last year and with the upcoming release of the animated *Hercules*, analysts expect the company to report good third quarter earnings from the films residuals and merchandising.

Turner Decides Not to Enter Upcoming Mayoral Race, Cites Other Commitments

State Rep. Sylvester Turner announced last week that he will not seek the mayor's office in the upcoming November elections. Turner ran for the post in 1991, amidst controversy, against Mayor Lanier. Despite the brouhaha that surrounded his candidacy, he received more votes (47%) than any previous black candidate.

Turner's decision not to enter the race is viewed by most pundits as a boost for Lee Brown's candidacy. Recent polls have shown Brown in the lead with Rob Mosbacher a distant second. The remaining candidates, George Grenias, Gracie Saenz and Helen Huey, fared poorly in the poll.

Turner cited other commitments, such as his law practice, his family and his legislative duties, as reasons for his decision. In the 1991 campaign, a Channel 13 report linked him to a scam involving life insurance. Turner professed his innocence and won a libel suit against the station in October.

Ellis Urges Texas Board of Health to Use Unexpended Funds for AIDS Medications

State Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) urged members of the Texas Board of Health Wednesday to use \$4.1 million in unexpended funds to pay for AIDS medications for Texans in 1997. In a letter to Board Chairman Dr. Walter D. Wilkerson, Jr., Ellis said additional funds for protease inhibitors could help hundreds of Texans who are

affected by HIV and AIDS over the next year.

"Teal hope has emerged for the treatment of AIDS with the use of protease inhibitors and other medications," Ellis said. "I asked the Board of Health to use the \$4.1 million in unexpended funds to expand these treatments for Texans suffering from AIDS." The Board of Health will vote on the funding matter, Friday, June 20 1997.

Ellis said the Department of Health currently provides HIV education, offers diagnosis of individuals with HIV and links patients to health and social service providers for intervention and treatment. By targeting additional funds for AIDS-related services, Ellis said Texas can continue to make strides toward health for HIV-positive individuals.

"When used in combination with other drugs, protease inhibitors can produce significant reductions of HIV in patients' blood," said Ellis. "As a result, we can reduce costly expenses for hospital stays and treatment of infections — and improve the quality of life and productivity of individuals with HIV."

Exxon Joins the Fight Against AIDS

Representatives from Exxon presented Montrose Clinic with a \$25,000 check for HIV/AIDS research last week. The company has proffered support for the clinic in various capacities over the past few years. In fact, it was a grant from Exxon that helped build the clinic's current facility in at 215 Westheimer.

"Montrose Clinic provides Houston with many needed services," said Exxon Public Relations Manager Mel Gallagher. "Exxon is proud to support HIV/AIDS research in Houston."

The moneys will be earmarked towards
See REGION page 5

RIDING BAREBACK! Is Safe Sex Necessary?

THE CENTER FOR AIDS PRESENTS A COMMUNITY FORUM ON HIV/AIDS AND SEX, CO-SPONSORED BY THE MONTROSE CLINIC



Thursday, June 26, 1997 • 7 - 9 PM
BERING MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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RECEPTION -

A reception with food and drink will be held at The Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne
(around the corner from the church) from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

PANEL FOR FORUM -

Michael Samuel, Ph.D., *Director of Epidemiology for the New Mexico Department of Health*

Gordon Crofoot, M.D., *HIV clinical specialist with ONCOL Medical Associates*

Dorothy Lewis, Ph.D., *virologist with Baylor College of Medicine*

PANEL MODERATOR -

Paul Simmons, R.N., *The Center for AIDS Treatment Information Specialist*

Is safe sex necessary between persons who are both HIV positive? Do potent antiviral treatments lessen the risk of transmission? Can persons be reinfected with another more virulent strain of HIV? Or a strain that may already be resistant to some of the new antiviral drugs? What about contracting other sexually transmit-

ted diseases, opportunistic infections, HHV-8, the virus associated with KS? Speakers will address issues about oral sex and other sexual practices that may impact the course of HIV infection. These are but a few of the issues being examined at this forum. Misinformation can be dangerous. Know your risks!

This community forum is supported by unrestricted educational grants from The Hollyfield Foundation, HMI Pharmaceutical Services, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Merck & Co. and Continental Airlines.

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REGION/ from page 4



Pictured above (l-r) Katy Caldwell, President, Montrose Clinic; Mel Gallagher, Public Relations Manager, Exxon and Bernie Barbour, Chairman, Montrose Clinic Board of Directors.

Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN), the research division of Montrose Clinic. Established in 1989, HCRN is a community-based research organization that identifies, promotes and conducts HIV/AIDS related research and clinical trials.

"We are grateful to Exxon for their generous donation," informed Clinic President Katy Caldwell. "Their support will enable us to continue bringing HIV/AIDS research to Houston."

Two Local Foundations Commit \$100,000 to Develop Montrose Conference Center

Two Houston Foundations, The Hollyfield Foundation and The Elliott H. Matthews Foundation, Inc. have committed \$100,000 to begin capital improvements to space at The Hollyfield Center. The 3,000 square foot conference space will be renovated to provide meeting and office facilities at affordable rates for community-based gay and lesbian organizations.

Recognizing the lack of facilities available to the community, over the last few years the Hollyfield board has been planning office and meeting facilities for the gay and lesbian community. At the June meeting of

with OraSure at Montrose Clinic or to make an appointment to be tested, call (713) 830-3000. Information can also be obtained from the clinic's web site at www.montrose-clinic.org.

Center for AIDS to Present Community Forum on HIV/AIDS and Sex

The Center for AIDS: Hope & Remembrance Project will be presenting a community forum co-sponsored by Montrose Clinic, examining the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and sex, Thursday, June 26 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The forum, Riding BareBack! Is Safe Sex Necessary?, will consist of a distinguished panel of experts including: Michael Samuel, Ph.D., Director of Epidemiology for the New Mexico Department of Health; Cordon Crofoot, M.D., HIV specialist with OnCol Medical Associates; Dorothy Lewis, Ph.D., virologist with Baylor College of Medicine; and panel moderator, Paul Simmons, R.N., The Center for AIDS Treatment Information Specialist.

Panelists will discuss whether safe sex is necessary between two HIV-positive individuals, whether or not antiviral treatments lessen the risk of transmission, whether or not an individual can be re-infected with a more virulent strains, etc. A reception will precede the forum from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event will take place at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold Street. For more information, call (713) 527-8219.

Houston Symphony to Perform Five Free Concerts

A Houston tradition begun in 1940, the Houston Symphony opens its fifty-seventh season of free concerts at Miller Outdoor Theatre, Saturday, June 21, with a *Tchaikovsky Spectacular*, led by Conductor-in-Residence Stephen Stein.

Friday, July 4th

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Oh, Mary!

at affordable rates for community centers and lesbian organizations. Recognizing the lack of facilities available to the community, over the last few years the Hollyfield board has been planning office and meeting facilities for the gay and lesbian community. At the June meeting of Hollyfield's board of directors, The Elliott H. Matthews Foundation trustees made a generous offer of matching, dollar-for-dollar, money spent by The Hollyfield Foundation related to developing currently unused space at the center.

Both foundations were formed by their namesakes, who died in 1994 as a result of AIDS-related conditions. The foundations fund projects that help secure equal rights for gays and lesbians and projects that assist those affected by AIDS. Organizations that meet the criteria of a 501(c)(3) and meet the aforementioned goals are invited to submit grant requests.

Montrose Clinic Touts Participation in National HIV Testing Day

Montrose Clinic is participating in National HIV Testing Day by offering free oral HIV testing from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, June 27, 1997. According to the Clinic's Medical Director, well-known HIV specialist Dr. Gordon Crofoot, HIV testing with OraSure, is safe and painless for both those being tested and those who administer the test.

"A specially treated pad attached to a handle is placed between the client's lower cheek and gum for two minutes. The pad is then placed in a vial containing a preservative and sent to a laboratory for analysis just like the traditional blood test," added Crofoot. "In addition, using this new test eliminates the risk of accidental needle stick injuries."

"With Houston being ranked seventh in the nation for reported cases of aids education and prevention are essential," said Katy Caldwell, clinic president. "We are hoping to reach a number of Houstonians that would not normally have access to free HIV testing."

For more information about HIV testing

Houston Symphony opens its fifty-seventh season of free concerts at Miller Outdoor Theatre, Saturday, June 21, with a *Tchaikovsky Spectacular*, led by Conductor-in-Residence Stephen Stein.



Stephen Stein, Conductor-in-Residence for the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

The concert schedule continues with *Parisian Nights*, Friday, June 27, featuring conductor George Pehlivanian and violinist Vadim Gluzman. Saturday, June 28, Houston Ballet music director Ermanno Florio makes his Houston Symphony debut conducting a program titled *Romeo and Juliet*, and featuring cellist Wolfgang Emanuel Schmidt, one of the two second-place winners from the Ima Hogg National Young Artist Competition.

The two remaining concerts are: The perennial July 4 concert, *Spirit of America*, led by Stein, featuring patriotic music, Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* complete with cannons, and fireworks; and *Finale Fantastique*, July 5, also conducted by Stein, closes out the series featuring Houston symphony clarinetists Thomas LeGrand. For more information, call (713) 520-3290.

In related news, critically-acclaimed Cellist, Hai-Ye Ni will make her Houston Symphony debut with an evening of *Tchaikovsky and Mozart* at 8 p.m., Friday, June 20 at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. The performance program, led by Stein, features selections from classical music's great immortals, including Tchaikovsky's *Mozartiana Suite* and Variations on a Rococo Theme in addition

See REGION page 6


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REGIONAL NEWS

REGION/from page 5

to Mozart's Symphony No. 39. For more information, call (281) 363-3300.

Briefs....

The Texas Music Festival Orchestra, comprised of 100 young musicians from across the nation and the world, will come together at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, Saturday, June 21 at 8 p.m. to pre-



Master instrumentalist and composer Mark O'Connor.

sent a program of selections which trace the history of the Lone Star State through music representing the six flags that have flown over Texas territory. Featured artists are Mark O'Connor, violinist and Debra Brown, mezzo-soprano. The concert will be conducted by Franz Anton Krager. For information, call (281) 363-3300....

Due to enormous crowds, the Museum of fine Arts, Houston, will extend viewing hours during two weekends in July for the *Jewels of the Romanovs* exhibit currently displayed. Visitors can celebrate Fourth of July weekend at the museum, with new viewing hours from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday, July 4 and Saturday, July 5. The museum will also be open late (again,

10 to 9) on the closing weekend, July 18 and 19. For more information, call (713) 639-7300....

A Memorial Reading, celebrating the life and poetry of the great beat poet, not to mention the most celebrated 'out' poet of the century, Allen Ginsberg, will be held at DiverseWorks Artspace, 1117 East Freeway in Houston. The Memorial will take place Wednesday, June 25 at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public. A group of prominent poets will be on hand reading Ginsberg's poems. For more information, call DiverseWorks at (713) 223-8346....

AWARE, the lesbian and gay group of employees of Southwestern Bell Corporation, will hold their next meeting 6 p.m., Sunday, June 22 at The Hobbit Hole, 1715 S. Shepherd. The group is trying to establish a Domestic Partnership Benefits and equal compensation within Southwestern Bell Corp. For more information, call (713) 235-7929....

Carlá Valenzuela and Rosa Lecuona of Sonrie Enterprises are scheduled to give a 30 minute Pride Week Educational Seminar for all those interested in learning about an organization that acknowledges the needs of today's changing families. The free seminar is open to all. The seminar is Wednesday, June 25 from 6-8 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center located at 1475 West Gray. For more information, call (713) 914-3919....

Finally, Just like June, Barbie doll 'madness' will be busting out all over southeast Texas next weekend with the return to Houston of the Barbie Madness Mega Show. The show is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 22 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, 5150 Westheimer, across from the Houston Galleria. For more information, call (714) 376-4180 or (713) 961-1500.



NATIONAL NEWS

Clinton Urged To Change U.S.-

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Clinton Urged To Change U.S.-Funded Aids Experiments Abroad

(District of Columbia) - A consumer advocacy group renewed its push for the U.S. government to change the way it conducts AIDS research in poor countries and stop withholding a protective drug from pregnant HIV-infected women.

The practice is unethical and questioned by even some of the researchers conducting the experiments, Public Citizen said in a letter to President Clinton. The group urged Clinton to change the way the experiments are conducted or present the issue for review during next month's meeting of the president's National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

The experiments are intended to prevent HIV-infected women from passing the AIDS virus to their unborn babies in a method cheaper and easier than the complex AZT therapy U.S. women use. The government defends the studies, saying they are the only way poor countries can learn about new HIV treatments they can afford. Pregnant women in developing countries do not get the AZT therapy that American patients use to protect their unborn children.

"We're trying to find economically viable

treatments for women in those countries," said Victor Zonana, a spokesman for the Health and Human Services Department. "The studies have undergone rigorous ethical scrutiny, both domestically and in the host countries. The key thing is to find treatments that can be practical in those countries which cannot afford the standard of care in the United States."

Studies on American women indicate that taking the drug AZT during pregnancy - and giving it to the babies for six weeks after birth - cuts by two-thirds the chance of infants catching HIV from mothers. The treatment, however, is too expensive for developing countries and doctors are studying potential alternatives such as shorter courses of AZT or giving malnourished pregnant women vitamin A.

But nine of these U.S.-funded studies in Africa, Thailand and the Dominican Republic compare the potential new therapies with placebos instead of AZT treatment. The government insists a placebo comparison is the only way to prove potential new therapies are better than no treatment.

Senate Panel Hears Of "State-Sanctioned Discrimination"

(District of Columbia) - Patrick Leon seemed to make the grade, but it wasn't enough to get the Chinese-American teen into a San Francisco high school that is one of the country's best, his mother tearfully told a Senate panel.

In South Carolina last year, a gang of men screamed sexual insults at Ron Daugherty and a friend, then beat them outside a bar. Daugherty is gay, and his state has no laws targeting against hate crimes. The pair were among witnesses Monday as the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings into race-based policies in the states, or what the

panel described as "state-sanctioned discrimination."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, the chairman, said he scheduled the hearing in the "spirit of the honest dialogue" President Clinton called for this past weekend as he urged a national discussion about racial differences. But "should one American's racial suffering be valued above another's?" Hatch asked. "That is a question the nation must answer."

Witnesses asked for federal policies that would open the door for minorities - without favoring or holding back a particular race. A racial quota system established by a 1983 federal court agreement limits the number of pupils from each racial and ethnic group who can attend San Francisco schools, Charlene Leon said.

See NAT'L page 7

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NAT'L from page 6

As a result, the high school in question set different minimum test scores for each group. In 1994, her son, Patrick, scored 58 out of 69, but the minimum for Chinese-American students that year was 62. The minimum for whites and other Asians was 58, and it was lower for blacks and Hispanics.

"Patrick would have gotten into Lowell if he were white, Japanese or black. He was rejected because he is Chinese-American," Mrs. Leon said, her voice breaking. She said the decision depressed and angered her son, and that the system had pitted school chums against one another. A federal judge recently declined to end the consent decree. "There's got to be some way of resolving these racial difficulties short of preferring one racial group over another," Mrs. Leon added.

Daugherty, who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C., said a detective showed him copies of photographs of possible suspects a day after the beating when he was on pain medication and still traumatized by the attack. He said police refused to let him see them again three months later when his memory returned. They also closed the investigation, without his consent, after his friend dropped his case. His assailants have not been punished.

Hatch encouraged Daugherty to take the case to the local district attorney, saying "there's no excuse for what happened to you." Daugherty, who lost the hearing in his right ear and some vision in his right eye as a result, urged the committee to expand federal civil rights laws to cover crimes motivated by the victim's sexual orientation.

Meanwhile, Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., plans to reintroduce legislation Tuesday to abolish race or gender preferences in federal employment, contracting and other programs. A similar bill died in the last Congress.

Conservative Group Challenges San Francisco Ordinance

(California) - A second legal challenge was filed Tuesday against San Francisco's domestic partners ordinance, this one by an organization founded by the Rev. Pat Robertson. The ordinance, effective June 1, requires all companies seeking contracts with the city to offer health benefits to the domestic partners of their employees on the same basis that they offer benefits to spouses.

It was challenged in federal court last month by the Air Transport Association, representing the nation's major airlines, in a suit arguing that San Francisco was violating exclusive federal regulation of air transportation and employee benefits.

Tuesday's suit was filed by P.M. & M Electric Inc., an engineering firm represented by the American Center for Law and Justice, founded by Robertson in 1990. Most of the legal claims were similar to those in the airline suit, but the center added a statement reflecting its ideological opposition to the ordinance.

"The goal of this ordinance is to destroy traditional marriage as the bedrock institution in our society and, in its place, substitute whatever sexual arrangements are currently in vogue," said the center's lawyer, Benjamin Bull. "San Francisco is attempting to force businesses located all across America to adopt its extremist and radical agenda."

Chief Assistant City Attorney Dennis Aftergut said, "I'm sure the airlines are happy to have an ally in the battle to protect their right to discriminate against domestic partners." The suit seeks an order barring enforcement of the ordinance. It is to be assigned to U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken, who is hearing the airline suit.

P.M. & M., a general contracting firm

with an office in Oakland, says it would like to bid for San Francisco contracts but is excluded by the ordinance, since the company is unwilling to offer domestic partner benefits. The suit says San Francisco, by requiring its contractors to offer certain benefits, is attempting to regulate workplace benefits that are governed by federal law and is placing an undue burden on interstate commerce.

The city contends it is not acting as a regulator but as a participant in the market, placing conditions on its own contracts.

Attorney General, Janet Reno Receives Award at D.O.J. Pride Ceremony

The Justice Department's gay, lesbian and bi-sexual employee group, DOJ Pride presented Attorney General Janet Reno with the first James R. Douglass Award, an annual honor that will recognize individuals whose efforts have contributed positively to the work-life environment for gay and lesbian employees.

"Ms. Reno's efforts have been a great step forward on the road to equality for all of the employees at the Justice Department, regardless of their sexual orientation," said Robert Moosy, a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division and the President of DOJ Pride. The award is named in honor of Jim Douglass, who died of AIDS, March 11, 1997.

Reno has long been an advocate to the gay community. She is credited with signing a non-discrimination policy that protects employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation and with eliminating the long-standing Justice Department policy of denying security clearances to gay and lesbian employees.

She has also vigorously supported the department's workplace-based AID's education efforts.

Frank Files Bill to Decriminalize Private Consensual Sex in the Military

Congressman Barney Frank filed a bill this week which would repeal all sections of the uniform code of military justice which provide criminal penalties for private consensual sex among adults. The timing of Frank's bill couldn't be more appropriate following the recent controversy involving adultery charges against various members of the military.

"What we have seen over the past few weeks is the extension of the witch hunt principle from gay men and lesbians, who have long been victimized by it, to the heterosexual majority," said Frank. "Not surprisingly, they find it as oppressive and unfair as gay men and lesbians have."

Frank's legislation would make it clear that the general provisions of the code cannot be used to prosecute adultery criminally. Frank also would explicitly repeal the anti-sodomy section of the code which has been used to prosecute gay men and lesbians who engage in consenting sexual behavior.

North Carolina Couple Says Liver Transplant In Omaha Gave Them HIV

(Nebraska) - The risk of contracting HIV from an organ transplant cannot be avoided, a doctor said following claims that a North Carolina couple was infected with the virus after the husband had a liver transplant at a Nebraska hospital.

"There are no absolutes in organ transplants," said Dr. Sue Swindells, director of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's

See NAT'L page 10

Sunday, June 22

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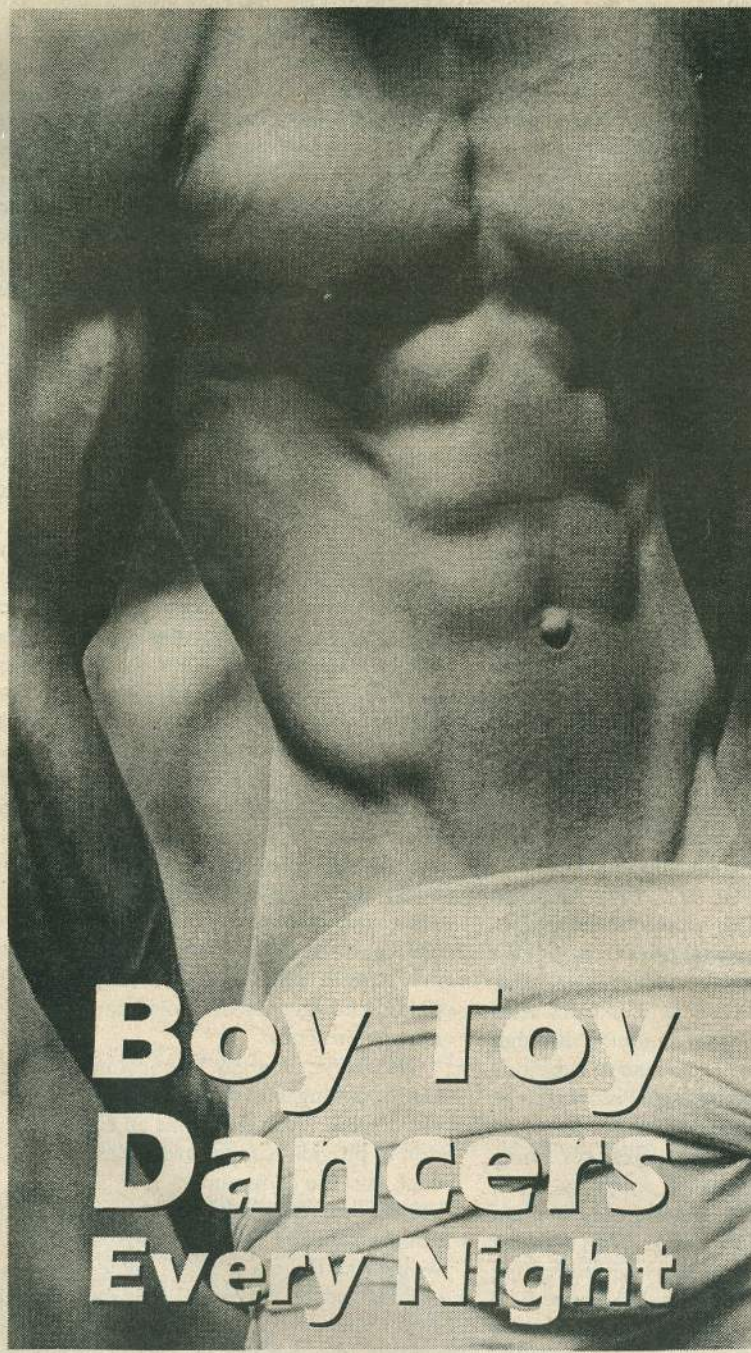
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The Economics of Cohesion and Survival

by Larry Lingle

Yet another bookstore is closing in New York City. And, dear reader, you are perhaps wondering yet again where this is leading. Despite what some may say and others have written, the gay bookstores I own have always been about books. They have also been about pornography, if you wish.

I started the second oldest gay bookstore in the United States twenty-four years ago (the oldest is, of course, the Oscar Wilde Bookshop in New York, founded in 1967, which I purchased last year). I came closest to shutting down the business in 1980 and was saved from this fate by the advent of gay

adult video (I established the first video rental club in Texas) and an agreeable landlord - a rarity right up there with the whooping crane.

Over the years I sought to develop a mix of merchandise that would appeal to the entire community while at the same time produce sufficient revenue to stay open. I commensurate with my fellow booksellers who attempted to be politically correct - i.e. no smut - and profitable. They failed. Times have changed and new approaches have proved successful as gay and lesbian literature expands and our community becomes more visible, Crossroads Market being a prime example.

big city is rents. The latest closing, a Doubleday store, was enabled by selling its leases to Prada, the clothier seeking Fifth Avenue digs. Another recent closing, Books & Company, was done in by a museum seeking to boost its revenue.

When I acquired Oscar Wilde the un-business-like predecessor thought it was an advantage that he did not have a lease, leaving me to spend three months in negotiations with a broker - a New York broker to boot. Only because the building's owner, a woman in advertising, lives behind the building (the Village is dotted with these hidden homes within the blocks of buildings) and cares about her tenants were we able to eventually obtain a reasonable, for New York, lease.

Just since acquiring Oscar Wilde a neighboring gay greeting card store has folded,

and a landmark gay clothing store on Christopher is now in jeopardy. Its adjacent store was recently acquired by a chain willing to pay \$12,000 a month rent and do their one buildout. So the clothier's landlord suddenly got dreams of big bucks and a new tenant with capital. So the clothier, Bob Kohler - the father of gay commercialism and liberation on Christopher, may find retirement his only choice.

New York is notorious for absentee landlords. One of the secrets for the

success of Dallas' Cedar Springs gay strip is that much of the property along the three-block stretch is gay owned. In Houston gay businesses are more spread out and except

"Of course, we should always be grateful when straight businesses welcome our dollars, if not us. I, frankly, am more grateful for my gay competition. At least then the bucks are going into our community, not some corporate pocket ... I advocate spending our dollars within our community ... It is, as it were, a social contract which should bind our community together for our mutual survival."

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have changed and new approaches have proved successful as gay and lesbian literature expands and our community becomes more visible, Crossroads Market being a prime example.

I acquired Oscar Wilde Bookshop for all the wrong reasons. It was on the verge of closing - taking a part of gay history with it. The tiny store was unchanged since its founder, Craig Rodwell, moved to the current location on Christopher Street in the West Village. It was heavily in debt.

I have always wanted a store in New York and my sense of history pushed me in the direction of Oscar Wilde. Obviously, I did not buy it with any hopes of a financial coup. In competitive New York, Oscar Wilde was easily outflanked by the much larger chain of A Different Light. And I had already heard all the stories of the gay migration from the West Village to Chelsea.

I cut a deal with Rodwell's successor which provided him with escape money to San Francisco (where he now runs an adult video store) and I assumed his mountain of debt. But even then none of this would have worked had I not had Kim Brinster at my side. Kim attended high school in the Valley with my late partner, Bill, and had worked for the Postal Service in the Village for more than a decade. Combine that with her master's degree from Fordham (in religious education) and there was no stopping Kim.

I closed the deal and flew back to Houston, leaving Kim to gut the store, contract for new wiring, walls, floor and lights - more than doubling the old space. After adding all new shelving and fixtures Kim had the store open within a month (although this was the first time I ever had to close one of my stores for remodeling or moving).

Now back to my original point. In recent years seven of the eight bookstores lining New York's boulevard of shoppers, Fifth Avenue, have closed, leaving only a giant Barnes and Noble (surprise). With some of the world's largest publishers within hailing distance, only one store could survive. Of course, the fact that several of the casualties were stores absorbed by Barnes and Noble explains some of the attrition.

The other ongoing fact of commerce in a

er for our mutual survival."

notorious absentee landlords. One of the secrets for the success of Dallas' Cedar Springs gay strip is that much of the property along the three-block stretch is gay owned. In Houston gay businesses are more spread out and except for some of the bars the properties are not gay owned and as a result Houston is following the big-city trend of pushing commercial rates ahead of their time. Landlords are afraid they'll be tied to long term leases at a time when the going rate is higher, so they start at the high end with the beginning of leases.

Speaking only for myself, I currently am paying twice what I was at a previous location. The cost of doing business continues to increase even as large chains, straight and adult, target the gay market. Such chains smell a viable market and tap into this trend at the expense of gay businesses.

Even in the bar business, I currently live next door to a newly opened straight club which is now attempting to tap into the lesbian market with a one-night a week affair which started with *Ellen's* coming out episode. As in the case of my straight competitors, this club is straight owned and six nights a week not particularly gay friendly.

Of course, we should always be grateful when straight businesses welcome our dollars, if not us. I, frankly, am more grateful for my gay competition. At least then the bucks are going into our community, not some corporate pocket. This is the commercial equivalent of our community gratefully accepting a mere nod from some straight politician eager for our votes and money, if not our presence.

Of course, as a gay businessman, I advocate spending our dollars within our community, but I also recognize an equal obligation to provide competitive prices and to put back into the community. It is, as it were, a social contract which should bind our community together for our mutual survival. I would like to believe that I signed onto this contract nearly two and a half decades ago. And I intend to be around to celebrate a half century of commitment, even if that means I have to remain active well past an age when most crave retirement.

The Importance of Role Models

by Leslie Ramsay

My partner and I just got around to seeing *Love! Valor! Compassion!* this past weekend. We shared memories of friends and family that the characters reminded us of over dinner. The couple that was together until the very end, of course, reminded us of ourselves.

The couple announces that they are role models during the course of the film. They acknowledge that this does create some pressure. No doubt that they feel the pressure from their peers as well as society at large. Being in a long-term relationship of any kind, gay or straight, is now the enigma.

In a conversation I had with a really good friend the other day, he asked whether I had ever "cheated" during the course of my nine-year relationship. He was very surprised when I told him "no". He continued, "Everybody cheats, don't they?" "No, everybody does not cheat", I answered.

The role of "role model" in today's society is filled with cheats. The belief of my dear friend is based on the current revelry around media idols with feet of clay.

Historically, America has modeled their behavior after sports figures, ministers, parents, actors, and politicians. The character of the "role model" was never in question. Even if the person were flawed, the media would look the other way in order

to their lives and well being. Their parents are out tending to their own passing physical desires while they loose sight of the more important long term role of parenting their children.

The recent news of the video tapped Frank Gifford affair has the media wagging their fingers at the *Globe* tabloid. They are accusing the *Globe* of "setting him up". While I agree that what the *Globe* did was evil and vile, I still believe that Mr. Gifford should have declined the illicit offer. His family deserved better.

The self proclaimed "Good Father", Bill Clinton, is the supreme example of a celebrated cheat as role model. During the first campaign for the presidency, *60 Minutes* did a flattering news piece on "Candidate Clinton". The role of Ms. Flowers was downplayed. The wife was forgiving. The marriage was solid.

The "Flower" incident was behind him, a slight discretion at best.

The Arkansas State Troopers began to tell tales of soliciting women for the governor, going condom shopping for the governor, and transporting women to and from the governor's mansion all during the tenure of Honorable Governor Clinton. The media discounts the statements as "boys will be boys".

A former FBI agent assigned to the White House wrote an entire book detailing the alleged current behaviors of the "Good Father".

The tabloids report statements by Dick Morris regarding the wayward "Good Father". His state-

ments were discounted, as a former employ-

"When a car cruises up to make a solicitation, it should be of a safe trip to a shelter, some food, or a safe place to stay - not some quick sex in the parking lot for cash. The gay children of the streets are in need of role models. Their parents and society-at-large have failed them. Why not rise above the dregs and ... set a good example. Give a gay teenager a reason to be proud of who they are."

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and politicians. character of the "role model" was never in question. Even if the person were flawed, the media would look the other way in order to maintain a semblance of impeccability. Now the media exploits the flaws and magnifies them. The more serious the character flaw the more popular the "rogue" is with the media.

Dennis Rodman has picked up quite a following during his explosive career in basketball. He is currently playing for the most popular basketball team in America. He is starring in a major motion picture, *Double Team*. His books are flying off the shelves in bookstores everywhere. He draws crowds instantly. He proudly insults an entire religion to make an excuse for his poor performance during the play-off games. He has been featured on the cover of several gay magazines, heralded as a gay icon. His character flaws are enumerated in his autobiographical book and exploited for profit. His is a proud "rogue", a cheat and self-described philanderer.

Jimmy Swaggart is still raking in the donations on Sunday mornings through his tele-vangelism ministry. He, apparently, was preaching against the "temptations of the flesh" while he was seeing prostitutes on the side. He admitted to the affair and asked his following to forgive him in a televised cry fest. They did. He went back to preaching his doom and damnation dogma. It was reported in the media that he was caught with another prostitute. He is back on the television airwaves as a reformed sinner, a flawed man seeking perfection through evangelism. The tabloids are waiting for the next slip-up to exploit.

The divorce rate in the heterosexual community is over 50%. It has been reported that the most common reason for divorce is infidelity. Society has not just discovered extra-marital affairs. However, I believe they are more accepted, if not glorified, now.

Last years Academy Award winning film, *The English Patient*, glorified extra-marital love as a superior form of love. Guilt, in my view, should not be used as an aphrodisiac. Some children can no longer count on the people who are the most important element

gay teenager a reason to be proud of who they are."

The tabloids report statements by Dick Morris regarding the wayward "Good Father". His state-

ments were discounted, as a former employee who was embroiled in his own sex scandal "du jour". The more outrageous his ex-boss' exploits would appear, the shorter his scandal would live in the media's focus. Who even remembers his call girl's name?

Paula Jones is suing the president for what she claims was improper behavior. The defense team floated a trial balloon that they could produce ten women that the president had propositioned to prove that he would not use the same technique that Ms. Jones is alleging. Mind you, the president has been "happily married" this entire time.

I am appalled at the lack of honor and integrity that the role models in today's society have for themselves and their families. The children suffer the most.

One of my nephews is at the age of mimicking. He repeats things the adults around him say. We are all amazed at the things that stick in his memory. He said that something was "cool" the other day. He has adopted mannerisms from me that I wish he had not picked up on. He walks around with his hands on his hips pronouncing that he is going to the store or to work or wherever. I have to remember that everything I do or say is witnessed and stored in his data banks for future reference.

The young runaway children that litter the streets of all major cities are doing the same. When a car cruises up to make a solicitation, it should be of a safe trip to a shelter, some food, or a safe place to stay- not some quick sex in the parking lot for cash.

The gay children of the streets are in need of role models. Their parents and society at large have failed them. Why not rise above the dregs and be responsible? Set a good example. Give a gay teenager a reason to be proud of who they are.

Being a role model for other adults to model after is important as well. Many of my friends are from so-called dysfunctional families. They do not know how to create and maintain a long lasting relationship. Living examples are the best teachers.

Saturday, June 28

Pre-Parade Cocktail Party

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Pride Blowout

11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

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NATIONAL NEWS

NAT'L from page 7

HIV clinic. "It's impossible to have a situation where there is no risk of contracting HIV, but the risk is extremely small."

Jervon and LaSonya Smith of Charlotte, N.C., have filed lawsuits in Nebraska and federal courts against the UNMC, several physicians and the American National Red Cross. The suit claims Jervon Smith contracted HIV after receiving a liver transplant at the Medical Center in 1987 and gave the virus to his wife through sexual intercourse.

The Smiths' attorney, Jim Leventhal of Denver, said Monday that doctors knew Smith was receiving a liver at risk of carrying HIV when he had the operation. Leventhal said papers that accompanied the donated liver from a Wisconsin hospital said the organ was taken from someone known to use drugs intravenously - one way of contracting HIV, which leads to AIDS.

"It included a statement from a friend or a relative of the donor that said he was an (intravenous) drug user," Leventhal said. "The information was available to the donor clinic, the medical center and the doctors but clearly it was ignored."

Omaha attorney David Ernst, who represents the Medical Center, said there is no proof that the HIV-screening process did not work in this case. He said this was the first lawsuit of its kind against the Medical Center, which has conducted 1,100 liver transplants since 1985 - an average of 100 per year.

The suit claims that the Medical Center told Smith in late 1992 that his organ donor had tested positive for HIV before he died. Smith and his wife were then tested and found to have contracted HIV. The suit alleges that the Medical Center's physicians failed to warn Smith not to have sexual intercourse with his wife for five to six months after the procedure and until he could be tested for the virus.

The liver may not have been the source of Smith's infection, however. A 1996 Centers for Disease Control investigation raised the possibility that the HIV may have come from 18 units of blood Smith received at the time of the operation. The suit alleges that

knowingly exposing her and another woman to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

"I waited from the day I found out I had HIV 'til today for this," Brent said. "Now that's he's been found guilty, I feel better. I'm happy. I hope he dies in prison."

Brent, 19, was diagnosed with HIV last August. A police officer testified that Sykes admitted having unprotected sex with Brent while being HIV-positive. Unprotected sex is one way the virus is transmitted. Sykes' lawyer, Assistant Public Defender Laura E. O'Sullivan, said another man could have given Brent the virus.

But a jury took less than an hour to convict Sykes, 23, of Kansas City, and he now faces up to 10 years in prison. Sykes and Brent dated between November 1995 and April 1996. They lived together most of that time in Sykes' grandmother's house in central Kansas City.

Lesbian Legislator Runs For Congress

(Wisconsin) - A lesbian legislator running for Congress says a personal life should be no more of a political handicap than it was for Rep. Steven Gunderson, a gay who won re-election in 1994. "Gunderson proved conventional wisdom wrong. Sometimes conventional wisdom isn't true," Tammy Baldwin said.

Voters in his 3rd Congressional District "didn't have a problem with it" because he represented them on a variety of issues, she said. Ms. Baldwin, 35, has been in the state Assembly since 1993. She is among several Madison-based Democrats considering their party's nomination in 1998 for the 2nd Congressional District seat that Republican Scott Klug said he will vacate.

Two other possible candidates are Rick Phelps, former Dane County executive administrator, and state Sen. Joseph Wineke of Verona. Attending the Democratic state convention Saturday in Lake Geneva, Ms. Baldwin said she does not worry about opponents and strategists as she considers a move from the Legislature to the House.

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could be tested for the virus. The liver may not have been the source of Smith's infection, however. A 1996 Centers for Disease Control investigation raised the possibility that the HIV may have come from 18 units of blood Smith received at the time of the operation. The suit alleges that the Red Cross did not properly screen blood donors or test for HIV. The Red Cross has been screening its blood for HIV since mid-1985.

"These cases are very rare but if the blood donor became infected (with HIV) within a few weeks before giving blood it would not be detected through tests," said Bruce Chadwick, a New York attorney representing the Red Cross. "But there are fewer and fewer risks for infection today than there was 10 years ago when this would have happened."

Tulsa Man Receives 25-Year Sentence for Possible Mercy Killing

(Oklahoma) - A Tulsa man was sentenced to 25 years in prison Monday for fatally shooting his neighbor last year. Herbert Clinton "Bert" Gordon, 48, pleaded no contest to first-degree manslaughter in the March 7, 1996 shotgun killing of Charles Ennis, 38.

The charge was reduced from first-degree murder in a plea agreement. The murder trial was to have begun this week. Ellis was a client of a local agency that provides support for people and their families dealing with HIV infection or the AIDS virus.

A prosecutor said Gordon has indicated that a "mercy killing" may have been a motive from the defendant's perspective. Assistant District Attorney Paul Wilkening said evidence suggests that a friend of Gordon had previously experienced a "painful death" because of AIDS.

Women With HIV Takes On Man Who Gave It To Her

(Missouri) - As far as Jana Brent is concerned, a man she once deeply loved can rot in jail for the rest of his life. Brent cried tears of joy Wednesday when Sean Sykes was convicted in Jackson County Court of

of Verona. Attending the Democratic state convention Saturday in Lake Geneva, Ms. Baldwin said she does not worry about opponents and strategists as she considers a move from the Legislature to the House.

"I will tell you I wouldn't take the risk of leaving the best job I've ever had in my entire life if I hadn't thought through this to conclude I can win, whatever the field," she said. "My decision was made completely independent of who else may be in the field," she said.

She said she is not running as a "lesbian candidate" and will talk instead to voters about "shared values," like what government can do for elderly people and children's education. Gunderson, R-Wis., considered running for re-election last year but stuck with his 1994 election campaign declaration that 1995-96 would be his last term.

Emory President Shuns Media, Opts to Apologize to Gay Couple via Phone

(Georgia) - The president of Emory University canceled his plans to apologize in person to a gay couple who were denied use of a school chapel to get married, and instead offered his regrets over the telephone.

President William M. Chace had planned Saturday to drive to the couple's Forsyth County home to apologize, after a dean canceled the couple's use of a school chapel. Chace called five minutes before he was due to arrive to say he could not be there, said Chris Hamilton.

"He told me he was personally sorry for what had happened," said Hamilton, whose name was Chris Hightower before the ceremony. "He wanted to come out himself and tell us that in person, but he had wanted it to be a private affair. He didn't like that there was publicity about it."

Hamilton, who was director of student development at Emory's Oxford College until May, and his partner, Jack Hamilton, were forced to move the ceremony to another church. The United Methodist Church, which is closely affiliated with Emory, adopted a policy in 1996 that "ceremonies

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that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted ... in our churches."

Citing church policy, Georgia law and community standards, Oxford dean William H. Murdy canceled the chapel reservation. Chace has said the dean's decision violated Emory's policy of nondiscrimination in the use of school facilities. Meanwhile, North Georgia United Methodists disagreed with Chace's position and vowed to take the matter to the university's board of trustees, if Chace does not reverse his decision.

According to a statement released Saturday, the group adopted a resolution last week at their annual meeting in Dalton expressing "strong disagreement and extreme displeasure" with Chace's statements.

United Methodist Bishop G. Lindsey Davis plans to meet privately Monday with Chace and Brad Currey, chairman of the board of trustees, "to discuss our deep concern for the action that has been taken and share with them the resolution passed," the statement said.

Chace said that although religious ceremonies are conducted at the chapels, they aren't churches in the sense that they have a

minister and a congregation. The chapels, he said, are used for functions not related to the Methodist religion and therefore are not always governed by church policy. "I'm quite sure when there's a Jewish wedding (at the chapel), it's not functioning as a Methodist church," Chace said.

Missourian Convicted Of Knowingly Infecting Woman With HIV

Missouri - A Kansas City man infected with HIV has been convicted of exposing two women to the virus that causes AIDS. Sean L. Sykes, 23, was convicted Wednesday by a Jackson County jury of two counts of knowingly risking infecting another person with HIV. He faces up to 10 years in jail.

Sykes allegedly had sex with two Kansas City women from October 1994 to April 1996. Both 19-year-old women testified Tuesday that Sykes never told them he carried the virus and that he usually did not use condoms. One of the two women became infected.

Kansas City Health Department workers testified they told Sykes he carried the virus

in 1992. He attended at least three counseling sessions in which health officials told him he could go to prison for not telling sex partners he was infected. The health department referred the case to prosecutors last year.

Christian Civic League Votes To Pursue Anti-Gay-Rights Repeal

(Maine) - The Christian Civic League of Maine decided Friday to go ahead with its campaign to repeal a bill protecting homosexuals from certain forms of discrimination. Michael Heath, the league's executive director, said his group's board of directors voted to endorse an effort to collect more than 51,000 signatures to block the bill from becoming law and force a referendum.

Under a bill passed this spring by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Angus King last month, gays in Maine cannot be discriminated against in housing, public accommodations, credit or employment. King met with Heath and other league leaders on June 6 to try to persuade them not to go forward with their repeal campaign.

Foes of the gay-rights bill will have 90

days after the Legislature officially adjourns next week to collect the necessary signatures. The league has about 4,000 members, including about 280 churches.

Gay School Board President Wants Police to Investigate Fliers

(Michigan) - The gay president of the school board here said she will file a complaint with police to have them find the author of a negative flier that may have cost her re-election. "It's crazy to allow anyone to get away with ruining someone's life," said Trish Brown, 33, who lost the election Monday. "People have to be held accountable."

Campaign literature labeling her as a "butch" and "dyke" was sent to homes within the school district in the weeks before the election, Brown said. There are about 15,000 students in Wayne-Westland schools and 66,000 registered voters. Just 1,968 turned out to elect two school board trustees, with Ms. Brown losing by 110 votes. Her term expires at the end of the month.

Ms. Brown said a particularly vicious one-page flier, labeled "Take a Hike Dyke," may violate state laws since it is unsigned and it urged Wayne-Westland voters to toss her from the job because she's gay. "It's terrible what's been done," she told *The Detroit News* for a story Friday. "People can't hide behind anonymity."

Tibetan Spiritual Leader Meets With Gay Buddhists

(California) - The Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet and millions of Buddhists worldwide, met privately with gay Buddhists to discuss his views on homosexuality. The gay Buddhists, all from the San Francisco Bay area, requested the meeting because of their concern about the Dalai Lama's past statements, which deem oral and anal sex to be improper but, on the other hand, seem to

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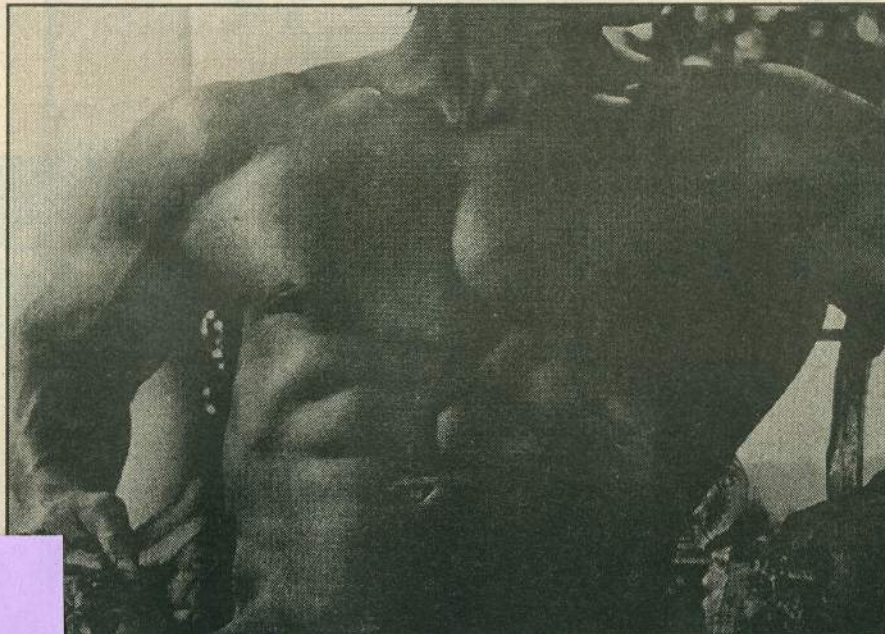
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(California) - The Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet and millions of Buddhists worldwide, met privately with gay Buddhists to discuss his views on homosexuality. The gay Buddhists, all from the San Francisco Bay area, requested the meeting because of their concern about the Dalai Lama's past statements, which deem oral and anal sex to be improper but, on the other hand, seem to approve of same-sex love.

The Dalai Lama reiterated the teachings of the ancient Buddhist scriptures that proclaim certain sexual acts are wrong - even when performed by married couples.

"Man to man, woman to woman, that's also sexual misconduct," he said in explaining the Buddhist teachings which, he said, apply only to those who practice Buddhism. But he said he cannot be solely responsible for interpretation of the scriptures. "It is something that needs to be consulted with other Buddhist traditions as well," he said.

Tinku Ali Ishtiaq, co-chair of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission, was hopeful after speaking with the Dalai Lama. "I came out feeling that he was as supportive as he could be without having to change the Buddhist teachings," Ishtiaq said.

State Supreme Judicial Court Orders Judge to Explain Adoption Ruling Involving Two Women

(Massachusetts) - The state's Supreme Judicial Court has asked a lower court judge to explain why she placed an obstacle in the way of two women trying to adopt a child together. The court issued a ruling last week requiring an explanation for an order by Judge Elaine Moriarty of Suffolk County Probate and Family Court.

Moriarty had required a "home study" report, which looks at whether the two women are suitable parents for the child. The court's message to Moriarty was plain: Explain the order or drop it. "The fact that the petitioners are both women who are engaged in a long, committed relationship cannot be a bar to adoption," the court said.

Moriarty had denied a request by the women that the study be waived, which is possible when one of the adopting parents is

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the natural parent. One of the women is the child's natural mother. She conceived by artificial insemination from an anonymous donor.

The Supreme Judicial Court said that, in light of the couple's claims that the "home study" was being required simply because they're the same sex, it was incumbent on the judge to explain her reason for ordering the study.

Katherine Triantafillou, the attorney representing the lesbian couple, said, "There are some judges in the Commonwealth who want to make it more difficult for lesbian or gay co-parenting petitioners to adopt. ... And some of them erect artificial barriers to these petitions."

Triantafillou said the court was "saying very clearly you have to be evenhanded" in such cases. The 10-page decision in the case titled "Adoption of Galen" was written by Justice Margaret Marshall. It was accompanied by a three-page dissent from Justice Francis O'Connor.

O'Connor said that Moriarty's decision to require the study "neither suggests that the judge is inappropriately biased ... nor indicates that the judge has abused her discretion in any other way. Instead, it suggests that the judge is a conscientious judge who wants to make the right call on the adoption issue with the assistance that a ... home study may provide," O'Connor wrote.

Witnesses Tie Defendants To Prison-Run Scam Preying Homosexuals

(Mississippi) - Former strip club owner Mike Gillich testified Wednesday that he and former Biloxi mayor Pete Halat twice went to the Louisiana State Penitentiary to

visit Kirksey McCord Nix Jr. During one of the trips, Gillich said, he discussed with Halat a Nix-run scam that preyed on lonely homosexuals.

Federal prosecutors contend that money missing from scam profits led to the 1987 murders of Circuit Judge Vincent Sherry and his wife, Margaret. Vincent Sherry and Halat were law partners. Halat, who along with Nix is among four defendants facing trial in U.S. District Court, has said he didn't know about the scam.

Gillich claims, however, that he and Halat discussed the scam during a 1984 trip to Angola, La., to visit Nix. Another trip came two years later, after Halat went to the Golden Nugget, Gillich's strip club. "Pete came by the club. He said he had a problem. He needed to go see Junior (Nix) and wanted to know if I could go with him," Gillich testified Wednesday.

Gillich said he then asked Halat what was wrong. "He said \$100,000 in scam money was gone. He said he had a stash of money there in his law office and \$100,000 of it was missing, and the only ones who knew about it were him and Vince," Gillich said.

After Nix associate and former swimming pool contractor Bob Wright testified for much of Wednesday, Gillich took the stand for 45 minutes before court adjourned for the day. Gillich was expected to resume his testimony Thursday.

During their opening statement Friday, prosecutors said that during Gillich's and Halat's 1986 visit to the Louisiana State Penitentiary to see Nix, Halat blamed Sherry for the missing money. On the return trip Halat told his traveling companion that Nix had said "if Vince Sherry didn't give the money back or get him out of prison, somebody was going to have to die," Asst. U.S. Attorney Peter Barrett said in opening statements.

Gillich could back up those statements during questioning Thursday. In earlier tes-

timony Wednesday, Wright made a financial connection between defendant Sheri LaRa Sharpe and Nix. Wright testified that he did repair work in the early 1980s at an Ocean Springs house owned by Nix. He said Sharpe moved into the house in 1985 and the following year he began helping Sharpe operate Nix's scam.

Nix would place romantic advertisements in gay magazines. When men responded, Nix would string them along by posing as the prospective lover and saying he needed cash for travel or bail from prison. Wright said he worked directly for Nix, who would call him collect from the Angola prison.

"In 1986, I started going to Western Union and picking up money," he said. "I could keep 10 percent."

Wright said he would cash the money orders and turn the money over to Sharpe. Accused triggerman Thomas Leslie Holcomb of Texas is also a defendant in the trial that started last week in U.S. District Court.

Bruno Agrees To Allow Gays To Pass Along Rent Leases

(New York) - In a move that stunned the gay and lesbian community, state Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno has said homosexuals should be able to pass along rent-regulated apartment leases to their live-in lovers. Bruno, the leading opponent of the state's rent laws, had earlier insisted any extension of the state's rent laws bar homosexuals from inheriting the leases. He said Wednesday that he was switching positions in an attempt to demonstrate flexibility in negotiations over the rent laws set to expire at midnight Sunday.

Bruno had earlier said only immediate family members should have succession rights. The Senate leader said he had

changed his mind after talking to Gov. George Pataki, U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato and some of his own state Senate GOP colleagues "who represent a lot of those people."

"These are families ... They consider themselves families whether they are married or not, so I think that argument is pretty persuasive," Bruno said. The Bruno flip-flop, included in rent control legislation he unveiled later in the day, caught the gay and lesbian community by surprise.

"We're a little stunned. ... It's the most remarkable political conversion I've ever seen," said Paula Ettelbrick, a lobbyist for the Empire State Pride Agenda, "but a very important one and coming just in time."

Pataki called it a "major philosophical concession" on Bruno's part. State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Manhattan Democrat and leading defender of the current rent laws, has called for continuing the rent laws as they are. Bruno called for Silver to also begin showing more flexibility in the rent talks.

Silver spokeswoman Patricia Lynch declined to comment on Bruno's latest move, citing the speaker's observance of the Jewish holiday Shavuot. Silver, an Orthodox Jew, is unable to negotiate from sundown Tuesday until sundown Thursday because of the holiday.

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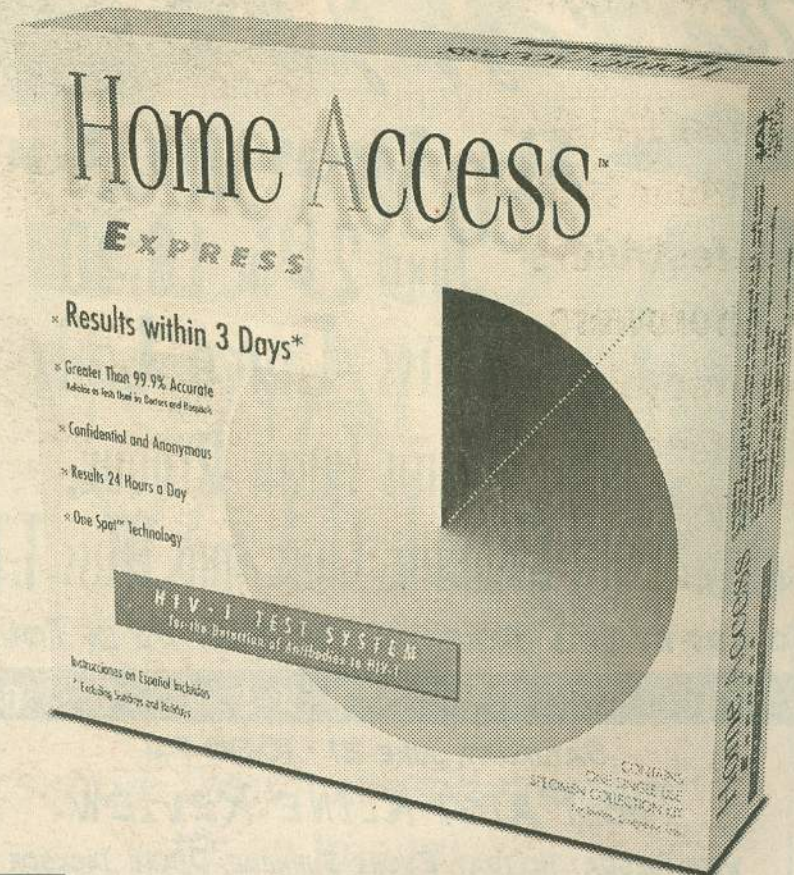
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COVER STORIES

The Center for AIDS

Rich Arenschielt

I feel a bit like restaurant reviewer who has found a terrific little place that no one knows about. I've discovered one of Houston's best kept secrets, one that doesn't serve scampi and pate, but something much more nourishing — vital information on every aspect of HIV management.

The Center For Aids has provided a missing link to our community. As most of us are well aware, information regarding HIV treatments has taken a permanent fast-food stand on the information highway. Treatment options, most of them spawning from the hundreds of new drug combinations available, abound. Patients and their doctors are at the center of this whirlwind of data, technology and treatment alternatives — both parties are struggling to understand/provide the best treatment.

Enter, the Center For AIDS. Founded in 1995 by Joel 'I'm HIV Positive' Martinez. Like most organizations the Center For AIDS (CFA) exists due to the efforts and assistance of many people encompassing the entire spectrum of Houston's philanthropic Community — Louisa Stude Sarofim, Continental Airlines, and Southampton Medical Group have all played a significant part in bringing CFA to its new location. Co-Founder Martinez states, "When I found out I was HIV positive ten years ago, I quit my job and started reading as much research as I could get my hands on" Remember, the big decision was not *which* therapy to use, but whether or not to use AZT, the *only* therapy available at the time. Martinez began working out of his house until Jackson Hicks provided him an office. Martinez laughingly recounts, "It was unusual, here we were in the midst of all these caterers, running an AIDS information organization." From there CFA moved to space donated by the Hollyfield Foundation and finally to their current location, 1407 Hawthorne, at the corner of Hawthorne and Yupon.

In any given week Joel Martinez might be appearing before the Food and Drug Administration (during our interview Joel stated, "I appeared before the committee on drugs to testify" (PAUSES) "wait a minute! I meant 'to testify on drugs.') Regardless of his status during testimony, he is constantly 'in the face of' politicians, vice presidents of pharmaceutical firms, and a vast array of treatment providers. This process enables him to bring patients views directly to the decision makers in AIDS policy. His mantra is, "Patients need to interact with their doctors — things are moving so quickly that those receiving care need to be intricately involved in the treatment process." The CFA is committed to the continued education of the medical community. Every Friday CFA sends 300 service providers and doctors a fax summary of the week's most important updates on HIV.

Doctors aren't the only beneficiaries of the CFA's informational largess — you and I, 'Joe and Josephine H. Omosexual' can hear the best and brightest practitioners in the country via the *CFA Community Forum Series*. These seminars provide up-close and personal access to truly brilliant thinkers and health care providers. Recent topics have included Alternative Therapies with mega-guru Lark Lands and Women and HIV. These get together are not just 'sit-and-listen-to-some-boring-fop' — they provide face-to-face contact with the best and the brightest involved in the management of HIV.

CFA presents its annual '*Sex and HIV*' seminar this Thursday, June 26th at the incredibly gay friendly Bering Church, 1440 Harold (just down the street from CFA) from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Although it seems unlikely that a church would host a seminar entitled *Riding Bareback! Is Safe Sex Necessary Between HIV Positive Individuals?*, Bering is happy to do so. **Don't let the religiousness of this venue influence your decision to attend!** The information within the building is vastly more important than the building itself. As

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is unusual, being in the midst of all these caterers, running an AIDS information organization." From there CFA moved to space donated by the Hollyfield Foundation and finally to their current location, 1407 Hawthorne, at the corner of Hawthorne and Yupon.

From its grassroots startup, the CFA has blossomed into an informational tour-de-force. The first newsletter, *Research Initiative Treatment Action! (RITA!)*, was distributed to 300 people as a single page pamphlet — it is now a twenty page magazine with a 3000+ distribution. *RITA!* contains highly detailed, cutting edge, scientifically based information contributed by authors on the frontier of AIDS research and treatment. Edited by well known AIDS educator, Donna Rochon, it is required reading for anyone with an interest in treatment updates — buy it for yourself and give it to family, friends and even your doctor, it will be the best twenty bucks you've ever spent.

In addition to its newsletter, the CFA also houses the largest library of HIV related materials in the city. The 2,800 square foot facility has shelves filled with numerous up-to-date journals and periodicals, some highly technical and others, very reader friendly. According to Martinez "We possess information regarding every aspects of this disease — we will not tell you what to do, but we will give you information and help you to understand it.." While he's quick to remind visitors that his staff of five (two of whom are themselves HIV positive) does not dispense medical information, he adds, "Many individuals get information from us and then present it to their own doctor. At that point patient and medical professional make a joint decision regarding treatment."

This patient empowerment process is at the top of the agenda for the staff of the

MURDER/

from page 15
10 truck. He was followed by his girlfriend who was driving her Thunderbird.

The couple sold the Thunderbird in Brownsville and continued to California in the victim's truck which was eventually abandoned in Mexico.

Gonzales was arrested in California on

a church who hosted a seminar entitled *Riding Bareback! Is Safe Sex Necessary Between HIV Positive Individuals?*, Bering is happy to do so. **Don't let the religiousness of this venue influence your decision to attend!** The information within the building is vastly more important than the building itself. As an entity that practices inclusivity we should applaud Bering's efforts to help our community in a way most other religious institutions refuse.

CFA also sponsors monthly 'Treatment Mixers' on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month. These mixers are very informal informational exchanges with a relatively small group of guys most of whom are HIV positive. This is *not* a support group. It might be classified as an HIV coffee klatch where the latest gossip on HIV treatments is discussed. It is especially useful for newly diagnosed persons who need a lot of information in a non-intimidating atmosphere. One caveat: This group is fully in control of most of the emotional issues regarding their status — they are at CFA to learn techniques for effective disease management. This group is usually moderated by CFA Program Director, Michael Peranteau, who is (parenthetically) HIV positive..

The Center for AIDS is open to anyone interested in knowing more about HIV. While obviously focused at the HIV positive woman or man, it is open to all. If you and your doctor are cruising down the highway at breakneck speed waiting for a miracle, maybe you should stop in and spend some time at this center — a quiet, friendly home for the HIV informationally challenged..

For more information contact the Center For Aids, 1407 Hawthorne, 713-527-8219. They are open Monday through Friday 9:00 to 5:00, with late hours on Tuesdays until 9:00 p.m. Saturday hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 5 on a warrant charging him with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. After the investigators returned to Houston they charged Robert Lynn Gonzales (d.o.b. 7-8-76) with murder and aggravated robbery in the 339th State District Court on June 9.

Gonzales is presently in jail in California awaiting extradition to Texas.

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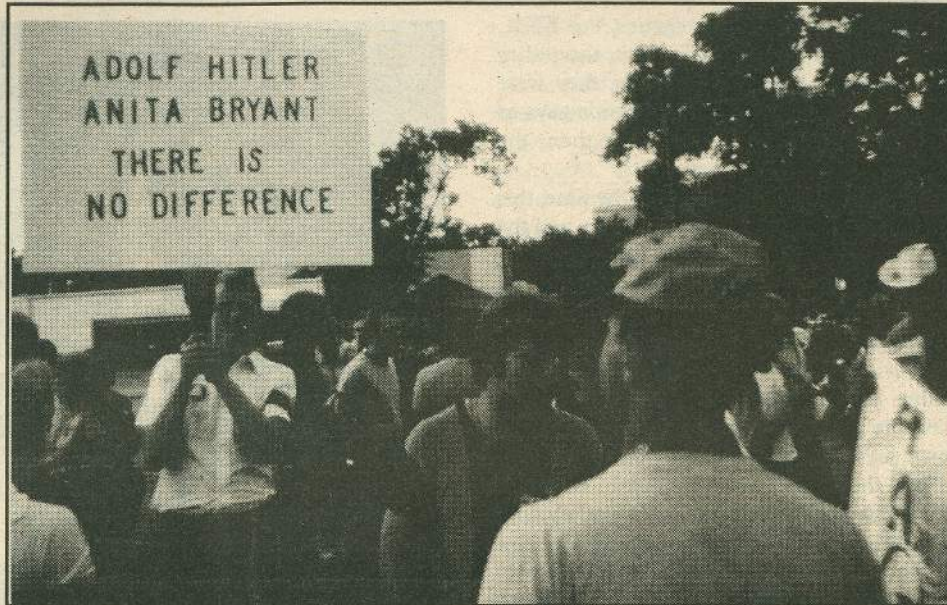
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BRYANT/from page 1

"You have ruined our evening, but we won't let you ruin our lives." At a Dade County press conference the next day, she announced publicly that she decided to expand her fight against gays by going national with it; creating more *Save Our Children* type organizations around the country.

"With God's continued help, we'll prevail in our fight to repeal laws which attempt to legitimize a lifestyle that is both perverse and dangerous," she said. "All America and all the world will hear what the people have said." She was about to become, unknowingly perhaps to herself, an icon to gays everywhere of the stereotypical anti-gay bigot willing to tell lies about us just to win their cause.

Her next public engagement following the Dade County vote, as it turned out, would be here in Houston. She was to perform at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (downtown) before the State Bar of Texas' annual convention



The setting sun meant it was about time to begin the march. The staging area crowd shows its' approval by something said by one of the last speakers on stage.

decisions on responses could be made on the fly.

The group was not granted a permit to march from Montrose to City Hall on the evening that Bryant was to perform before the attorneys gathered at their annual con-

vention. This would be the first logistical problem for the group. Other problems faced almost simultaneously dealt with security problems, finding financial resources sufficient to cover the costs of putting on this march, getting the word out in very short

order to promote the planned march, locating an adequate staging area of suitable size, inviting notables and public figures to stand with us, and just plain learning about how to pull a march together so that all pieces fit. None of the team had ever been involved in putting on a march before. None of them. But they were determined and they continued.

Once base considerations and decisions were dealt with, they focused their attention on developing a plan to implement their strategy and which would be easy enough for the marchers to follow.

The Los Angeles ACLU responded to a plea for help by giving directions on how to contact celebrities who were known to support gay and human rights causes. As it turned out, there were several that said they would be pleased to assist in any way they could. So they were asked to help. Notable among this group was Norman Lear, successful producer of TV hits such as *All in the Family*, *Maude*, and many other shows running at the time. Via a telephone call with Van Ooteghem, Lear indicated his anger at Anita Bryant's involvement in the Dade County referendum.

So were many others that he knew out

See **BRYANT** page 16

Friday June 20th

BOOTS

&

BOXERS

Come See Your Favorite Employee in Boots & Boxers

Sunday June 22th • 8pm



The infamous Anita Bryant

and dinner.

At that particular time, Gary Van Ooteghem was a short time out of office as the GPC's president. Most of Van Ooteghem's former team of now-experienced volunteers were still accessible to him for special projects, if needed. This was one of those times and he asked them to join in a special project with a very short preparation time: respond to Anita Bryant and her hate campaign, publicly. The committee that came together had no official name. It was chaired by Van Ooteghem. Other team members included Robert (Mort) Schwab, Keith McGee, Ray Hill, Steve Shiflett, Nick Escobedo, Jim Vilven, Bill Whiting, and Hugh Crell, to name a few. They began work immediately.

The first decision was not to make this just a gay issue, but instead the bigger human rights issue. They believed then - as many still do today - that Human Rights naturally includes gay as part of a mixed and multi-faceted package of rights which include equality for all. They also believed the Human Rights approach provided a much larger base of humanitarians (like-thinkers to us) who would stand with and beside us to let Anita Bryant know she wasn't welcomed in Houston. Houston would be the first city to have an opportunity to let her know she was wrong. Houston's response could well set the tone for other cities to follow. The organizers continued to develop its action plan.

The next decision was to make this a protest march: a big one, albeit a peaceful one. The march was to make a positive and impact-full statement which hopefully the local straight and gay press would report on. By design, there would be no violence in what was being planned. Nevertheless, an alternate plan was prepared based on the possibility of violence being directed at us from the other side. Should this happen,

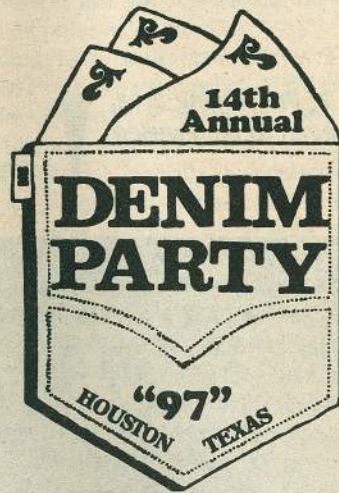
Sunday June 22th • 8pm

KENNETH WILLIAMSON PRESENTS

"A GIFT FROM WITHIN"

M.C. SHELBY ST JOHN

AND A CAST OF SOME OF HOUSTON'S FINEST ENTERTAINERS



Registration for 14th Annual Denim Party '97

continues until June 22nd
See your favorite Bartender
for more information.



June Madness Continues With
\$1.00 Vodka Well Drinks
\$1.00 Regular Schnapps
Open Til 7pm Everyday of the week
throughout June.
Free Pool Table-Side Bar Open til 7pm

2400 Brazos • Houston • 713-528-9192

BRYANT/from page 15

there, he said. Lear agreed immediately to Van Ooteghem's request for financial help by agreeing to underwrite the march's related costs. He made that decision after parts of the Action Plan were described to him. He also believed that something should be done. With Lear's verbal guarantee in hand, the organizers began implementing the plan they developed.

Their first celebrity contacts directed them to still others who could help. It was through this growing list of supporters that the team found a convent in Maryland that had openly gay-friendly nuns who were willing to lend a hand, too. Gay-friendly priests were also found and included. Having funds now, we purchased plane tickets for our guests: the nuns and priests and our VIPs. Once they arrived, they were given a special assignment much different than the others. Since Anita Bryant was using religion to hit us over the head, the organizers would use religion in their plan, as well. You will read about their unique assignment a little further on.

Movie stars were starting to send in telegrams and messages of support to the Houston marchers. Jane Fonda even sent a telegram of support from the site of her filming location where *Electric Horseman* was being shot at the time. Rod McKuen sent a taped message of support which he asked to be played to the assembled marchers. Ed Asner sent a strong message of support for us and an equally strong condemnation on

would likely come from crazies, the KKK, or the police department. (Yes, the police department! Back 20 years ago, they were often as ruthless and brutal towards gays as skinheads are today. And back then, the police could get away with it.)

While it wasn't thought of at the time, this march was about to make politicians and the police sit up and take notice of our movement locally. The days of them thinking of us a small, gay community of no real political importance or power was about to end.

David Goodstein, the former owner/publisher of *The Advocate*, assisted us with security planning by making available his own security people. They were professional and their advice was very good. The organizers had to be cognizant of all safety considerations in their overall planning.

They eventually wound up obtaining two emergency vehicles which were to creep along on parallel streets to our march route. These vehicles were for the VIPs. They would always be at a point closest to where the invited VIPs were located in the march line, itself. Walkie-Talkies would be used for communication and vehicle positioning while the march progressed on its way toward the downtown rally site. Each of the VIPs were assigned a monitor (monitors will be described in just a few moments) who would get them out of harm's way should trouble appear along our route.

The second security concern, the safety of the marchers, was a little more complicated. How does one keep a crowd from being possibly provoked into actions (or reactions)



Hollywood actress Liz Torres, sharing her personal reasons why she came to Houston to march with us.

marchers could and could not do on the evening of the planned anti-Anita Bryant march. One restriction they imposed was that the marchers would not be permitted to walk in the streets, only on sidewalks. Further, marchers must obey all traffic signals; no jay walking would be permitted.

Anyone violating these rules would be arrested or ticketed on the spot. So, the question was how to march downtown without breaking the law which the police were so adamant we obey. The team came up with a novel solution.

The problem was handled by pulling all the monitors and other volunteers together a few days prior to the march. Again, a couple hundred people or so came forward and patiently waited while the march leaders

pace down to that which would be needed to cross intersections on a timely basis. It seemed to work. One of the monitor's duties was to be sure that every group moved across each intersection in the prescribed time and pace allotted; not faster, not slower.

Here is a better description of the monitors and their duties: They were to be the backbone of the march on the night that it takes place. Authority and responsibility for keeping the march on course and on time would be in their collective hands. They would come to serve very well that night.

At each corner along the proposed march routes, a monitor was stationed. Their assignment was to keep the lines moving. Monitors were also stationed across the street for the Hyatt Regency as well as inside



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the Dade County referendum.

One young rising star from Hollywood flew in to march with us. Previously she expressed a concern that her appearance here in open support of Houston gays might have an adverse effect on her future career as an actress. (Remember, this was 1977 and being associated with anything gay could prove disastrous to the person involved.) Nevertheless, she wanted to be counted with the Houston marchers and so she flew here, too. Her name is Liz Torres. In 1977, she

that would or could expose themselves to serious safety concerns? The team realized that they needed to maintain some kind of discipline from start to end. They decided policing themselves would be the best way to keep the march peaceful and under control



Hollywood actress Liz Torres, sharing her personal reasons why she came to Houston to march with us.

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The problem was handled by pulling all the monitors and other volunteers together a few days prior to the march. Again, a couple hundred people or so came forward and patiently waited while the march leaders tested and experimented with several ideas they had. After an hour, one plan developed as the best. Using stop watches, traffic light changes were timed.

Then through experimentation, a count of how many people could safely be assembled together in small groups that could cross street intersections before traffic lights changed. The best sized groups were less than 60 people. Now that the formula was known, another hour was spent testing it by having our volunteers separate themselves into groups of 60 or less and walk towards downtown paced at traffic-light speed, pretending that they were under actual march conditions.

It took several tries before they got the

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Despite the apparent negative police attitude towards the march, several attempts were made to establish communications between the march leaders and the police. Harry Caldwell was police chief at the time and wasn't exactly friendly towards gays. The march organizers wanted the Houston Police Department's action and/or reaction to be kept at a minimum so as to prevent any possible confrontation or injury to any marcher.

While at first resistant or reluctant to discuss the matter with march leaders on a face-to-face basis, they finally agreed to a meeting. A call came in to Van Ooteghem's office saying that two high-ranking assistant police chiefs would like to come over to the office for a visit, right now, and discuss more march issues. Van Ooteghem agreed and

See **BRYANT** page 17

As early crowds began gathering at the staging area, placards and marching banners began to be unveiled.





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Some gay national leaders also came to town to be with us: David Goodstein (then owner of *The Advocate*), Reverend Troy Perry (UFMCC), Ginny Apuzzo (Gay Rights National Lobby; now known as Human Rights Fund), David Kunster (the gay activist who led the Florida fight down there) were some who were known to have attended.

Security problems were next addressed. Security was separated into two elements: the safety of the special invited guests who were brought in from all over the country, and the safety of our marchers. Both were important, but each required totally different planning.. Any threat to the marchers

that would or could expose themselves to serious safety concerns? The team realized that they needed to maintain some kind of discipline from start to end. They decided policing themselves would be the best way to keep the march peaceful and under control

When the call went out for monitors, two hundred plus volunteers came forward in just a matter of days. To identify themselves as monitors to the marchers, the monitors would each wear an armband especially made for the occasion; color coding identified higher authority. (Monitors was the name used most often to identify this internal special force so that is what they were called.)

One of the rules that all marchers were to abide by was to follow the monitors' directions, if and when given. The monitors were educated as to what their respective roles were and how they were to handle problems might arise. Problems they could not resolve were to be brought to the attention of the monitor supervisors for resolution.

The police became a problem, too, when then became very specific as to what the

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See BRYANT page 17



BRYANT/from page 16

they said they would be on their way immediately.

Instinctively, Van Ooteghem sensed a need to have an independent observer present. Something did not feel right. Van Ooteghem called a friend from the ACLU, Chuck Humphrey, for advice and help. At the time, Humphrey was the president of the Texas Civil Liberties Union. Humphrey agreed to drop what he was doing and headed immediately over to the office. He arrived about fifteen minutes before the chiefs did.

The office was a beehive of activity what with march volunteers everywhere. It was a day out from the event at this point. Van Ooteghem's personal office was set up so that only four people could sit in for the meeting: Humphrey, Van Ooteghem, and the two police chiefs. The doorway between the office and the anteroom did not have a door. After the chiefs arrived, the place went silent. Volunteers quietly positioned themselves near that doorway so that they could hear what was being said at the meeting.

One assistant police chief was known to Van Ooteghem from his earlier days as president of the Caucus. The other was not and was introduced as the officer that would be in charge of the police assigned to cover the march. Chuck Humphrey was introduced to them as an impartial ACLU observer. The meeting began.

The chiefs again stressed the rules which must be followed. Van Ooteghem stressed the importance in establishing a live communication link between the march leaders and the police. This was important to march

well as the day before. Tens of thousands of flyers promoting the march were distributed around various parts of the city asking for people to show up; but team leaders had no idea if anyone would even show, or if they even cared. A feeble response would be both embarrassing and unproductive. (What if nobody showed?)

Early on, the staging area and rally site downtown had been selected based on their ability to handle large numbers of people. Portable sound systems were rented. Dual march routes had been laid out: Smith Street and Louisiana Street. These two streets ran on both sides of the Hyatt Regency. The ACLU was going to send over approximately fifty impartial observers to walk beside the marchers and document any problems which might be encountered. The march leaders felt ready. It was time.

The staging area selected was the large parking lot at the corner of Brazos and McGowen Streets. There was plenty of parking available on the streets in the immediate launch area. Its location was good, too. It belonged to the Depository 2, a popular disco bar of the time. Team managers and monitors arrived earlier and were in position. The planners had allowed for adequate assembly time before the march was to begin. Slowly at first, people began arriving. It was beginning. Were we fully prepared for whatever lay ahead?

Gays were especially prominent in the early crowds, but not for long. Others had come to join us. A surprise no one expected was the number of mothers bringing their toddlers with them. More than a few moms were pushing baby carriages. These were

and unique experiences encountered during the evening's activities. Sister Grammich shared how she was swamped after her speech by young gay Catholics who told her that this was the first time they had ever heard anyone from the church say something good about being gay. She said one young man was so moved by her that he could not stop crying because he was so happy and enlightened.)

The last staging area speaker was Liz Torres who spoke about what all this meant to her and why she was here. She told of having a gay high school teacher who "taught me all the beautiful things in life. He gave me music, poetry, love and theater. Without him, I would probably be a lady's room attendant," she said to cheers and applause. By this time, the marchers had

grouped and were all pumped up and ready to go. They were again reminded to follow the rules described to them earlier and reminded to obey the monitors. It was now 8:30 p.m., time to leave the staging site and hit the streets.

By the time the march was set to begin, monitors had already been sent ahead to their respective positions along the dual march routes. Each intersection from the staging area to the rally site had a monitor waiting to help and assist. Outside and inside the Hyatt Regency Hotel were more march monitors waiting for their cue to begin their assigned tasks. It turned out that we would be marching outside the Hyatt at approximately the same time that Anita Bryant was actually on stage doing her show

See **BRYANT** page 17

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SCHNAPPS



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The marchers were about to moved off crowded sidewalks and on to the streets. Soon after, they came to fill it, curb to curb.

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It was at this point that the heretofore silent Chuck Humphrey interrupted the conversation between Van Ooteghem and the chiefs by raising his voice while speaking to the directly to the police chiefs in obviously controlled anger. He reminded them that there was an attempt being made here to avoid or prevent people from possibly getting hurt at this upcoming march.

Humphrey then went on to identify himself as being the current foreman of the grand jury currently in session and that should anyone get hurt at this march, that he would personally hold both of them responsible and that he would bring them before his

our brothers and sisters coming over from other parts within the human rights movement to give us support.

More surprises: a bus pulled up from the Jewish Community Center and discharged into the crowd a bevy of little white-haired ladies who had also come to support us. People were coming from all over Houston. The assembly area was fast becoming crowded. Still they were arriving in numbers. Parking had by now spilled over into adjoining neighborhoods as latecomers arrived.

Under the timing schedule in place for this event, the first speakers were to begin. The march was officially being called to order. It was the intent of the organizers to rev everybody up with good speakers; also to give them the rules they were playing under this evening. Time allotments had been assigned to the various speakers. Telegrams and mes-



1022 WESTHEIMER

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SCHNAPPS
THURSDAY

GAY PRIDE

SAT. JUNE 28

OPEN 7AM-2AM

PATIO BAR OPEN

12PM-2AM



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The meeting ended shortly after that. The chiefs still had not committed to establishing that communication link, but would consider the matter. Between then and the evening of the march, the chiefs would not be heard from again. The marchers would be on their own. They had tried.

Every part of the plan was in place. They were ready to march. VIP guests were coming into town both the day of the march as

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They were the big hit of the early evening crowd as they shared one inspiring gay-positive story after another. The crowd ate it up. One nun, Sister Mary Grammich from the school of Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland, gave a stirring speech about why what happened in Dade County could not be allowed to ever repeat itself again. Her remarks about feeling good about being gay moved many in the crowd to tears, especially some gay Catholics present.

(Later that evening, after the march was over, the VIPs and key volunteers met back at the home of one of the march organizers. Stories were shared of each others separate

SCHNAPPS THURSDAY

GAY PRIDE

SAT. JUNE 28

OPEN 7AM-2AM

PATIO BAR OPEN

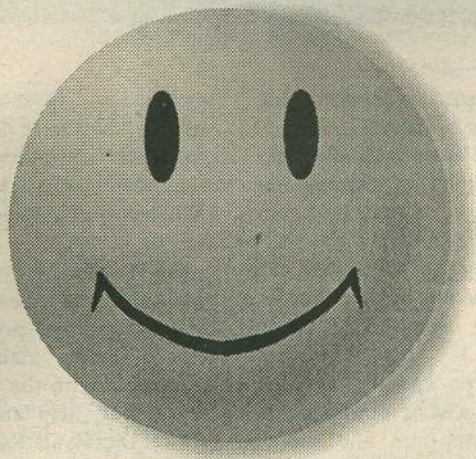
12PM-2AM

SUN. JUNE 29

PWA HOLIDAY CHARITIES

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COVER STORY

BRYANT/ from page 17

for the attorneys. It hadn't been planned to be that exact, so the timing coincidence was just a stroke of good luck for the marchers.

Early on, march organizers decided to march in dual columns. They thought the visual impact would be more meaningful. Smith & Louisiana Streets were selected because they ran along both sides of the Hyatt Regency. They wanted the marchers to be seen no matter which way you looked out of the hotel.

The march had two perspectives depending on which of the two streets you were marching on; the remainder of this story is from the Louisiana Street perspective. Because of the narrow sidewalk width, marchers walked two-astirde. This writer's vantage point was from near the front of the Louisiana Street column, but not at the head of it. Instead, at the very front our march column would be the nuns. (Did I mention the nuns were clothed in their full habit regalia and to the hilt? There was no question of who and what they were.) That idea was intentional and by design.

The sisters were told of where their positions would be and why. They knew this in advance and still they agreed to come march with us. It was a dangerous assignment.

ran over to Van Ooteghem and said that one of the police chiefs they had both met earlier now wanted to see him. Humphrey suggested that he run over and thank the chief for their cooperation so far.

The Chief told Van Ooteghem that the crowd was now getting too big and that he was giving the marchers permission to move themselves into the street, supposedly for safety reasons. The sidewalks needed repair for being uneven and broken in places. At night under packed conditions, walking on the sidewalks became dangerous because it was easy to trip and fall. The streets were somewhat better, except for potholes.

The marchers now moved into the streets continuing their same slow pace. They quickly grew in size as groups merged until there was only one huge group left. It did not take long for everybody to abandon the sidewalks in favor of the streets. It was quite impressive to look back and see thousands of people stretching out of sight.

The marchers were now getting close to the Hyatt Regency Hotel. A radio reporter ran up to Van Ooteghem at one point and asked if he was aware that the KKK was ahead waiting for us. He said no, but that it made no difference. They were still continuing forward. The reporter left after a few more questions but his words left some with



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Actress Liz Torres, addressing assembled marchers at the staging area. She told of her gay high school teacher who "taught me all the beautiful things in life. He gave me music, poetry, love and theatre," she said to cheers and applause.

They would be the buffer, if you will, between the marchers and any enemies that might be confronted as the march progressed forward. This idea came to us from David Goodstein's security people. Liz Torres's position in the march was near the front. Her walking partner was the late Keith McGee. Nearby was Troy Perry and Van Ooteghem. Behind them was David Goodstein.

As the first group to head out, all felt exhilarated. The pace was brisk as it had to be. And this pace had to be maintained because directly behind, less than a minute away, was the next group of marchers.

The lead group was now quite a few blocks down the way, but still a good distance from the hotel. Reverend Troy Perry

apprehension and fear. Liz Torres began to cry softly. She was scared, but still with us. Keith McGee had his hands full. Was something going to happen to the marchers? Were they really doing the right thing? Tensions were growing. Most marchers, including this writer, were very apprehensive.

The Hyatt was now less than a block away. On the Louisiana Street side, marchers had to pass under an overpass which crosses the street near the hotel. It had a cave-like appearance and was pitch black in some spots, or at least it appeared so. Moving figures could be seen ahead appearing shadowy and indistinguishable in front of the hotel. Now the marchers were there, not stopping, passing through the edge of

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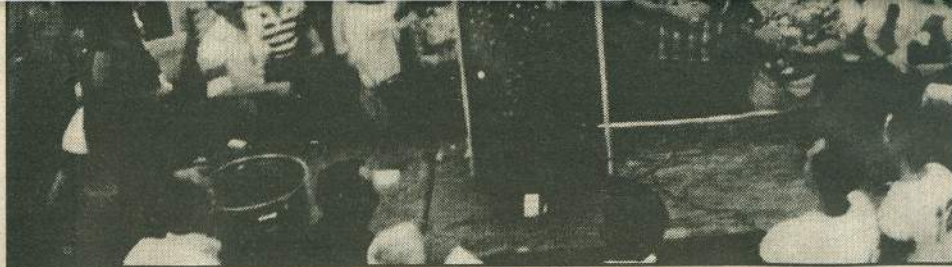
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The lead group was now quite a few blocks down the way, but still a good distance from the hotel. Reverend Troy Perry pulled up alongside Van Ooteghem in the first group and told him that speed walking in a march just doesn't cut it. Instead, Perry suggested walking at a slow shuffle-your-feet speed. It was acted upon promptly. The lead group in the Louisiana Street column immediately slowed its pace to half steps or baby steps.

The impact of doing that was seen and felt within minutes as group after group coming from behind crashed into the one before it. The crosswalks filled. The sidewalk marchers expanded from two abreast to four abreast, but still the crowd grew. By now, there were thousands of marchers on the street. Back at the staging area, monitors were still discharging marchers onto the streets.

Chuck Humphrey was one of the ACLU observers working the Louisiana Street side that night. At one point along the way, he

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The lead marchers did not know whether or not all hell was about to break loose upon them. The adrenaline was pumping. Most marchers were somewhat frightened, truth be told. But nobody talked about it. The shadowy figures seen earlier now began moving onto the street in the path of the marchers.

Bright flashes of light began bursting. Just a few at first, but then they began exploding from here, there, everywhere. The marchers appeared as though illuminated by strobe lights. The shuffle speed accentuated that appearance. The camera flashes were followed by the bright lights of news cameras being turned on to record this event. The lights temporarily blinded the lead marchers, but they could still see that

See BRYANT page 19

BRYANT/from page 18

the crowd ahead still growing as more shadowy figures poured out of the hotel and onto the sidewalk.

The front line, like the rest of the column that followed, had grown to a width of curb-to-curb. The front line was comprised of nuns and gay activists, joined arm-in-arm, as they came up alongside the hotel where *she* was performing. The sidewalk crowds were slowly becoming recognizable as TV news cameras turned to catch our passing. Seconds earlier we knew they were friendly as shouts, cheers, and applause suddenly greeted our arrival. There wasn't a dry eye among the marchers; everybody was crying. They slowly and proudly passed by. A block over, the Smith Street column could be seen having the same success as the Louisiana side. Fear had been overcome. Somehow that became the defining moment of the march. But there was still more to happen. We had a point to make.

Right after both columns were on both sides of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the monitors stationed outside the hotel went into action. They got word to the inside monitors, who were pre-positioned, to pass the word along to our gay attorney friends inside the convention that we had arrived. A number of gay attorneys, members of this legal association, had agreed to act in concert with our march.

While some would have attended this legal convention anyway, most were attending the convention at the request of march organizers who had this idea. Each attending attorney carried one of the march's inverted pink triangle armbands with them that evening. When they got word from the inside monitors, they each stood up (turns out she was in the middle of a song when this occurred), slowly put on their armbands, and then walked out of the convention in protest and joined the marchers outside. From those that were inside the convention, it was learned that it had the dramatic effect intended. Bryant got the message. So would the rest of Houston the next day as they viewed march photos and read

woman," he said as marchers clapped and shouted their approval.

Stalling until other column marchers caught up and came onto the plaza, he led the group in song by singing "We Shall Overcome," the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "God Bless America." The next wave of speakers came forward out of the crowds with their speeches. The rallying speeches were short and to the point. Goodstein intoned that "It isn't just our (gay) rights at stake, but the civil rights of everyone in this country." More speeches about why we did not like the outcome of Dade County's vote on the issue of gay rights; that we certainly did not like Anita Bryant's role in it nor her pledge to take that fight nationwide; and why, as human rights activists, we must fight this kind of thing whenever and wherever it should show its ugly head next. (They were preaching to the choir.)

Across the street, in front of city hall, approximately 200 people led by Dr. Joe West, a San Antonio Baptist minister, gathered to protest our protest. Their signs mostly contained religious condemnations of gays: READ YOUR BIBLE, DOWN WITH QUEERS, and PROTECT OUR CHILDREN. A couple of catcalls were made but were drowned out by our side. More noticeable was their silence after they saw just how big our turnout size became.

Before the speeches ended, the assembled marchers lit candles furnished at the staging area. Each candle had a small white paper cup through which it passed. March organizers were advised earlier when they obtained permission to use the Plaza that they would be responsible for removal costs of any dropped wax on the Plaza, itself. The cups prevented that and actually added to the effect of the evening because of their now muted, soft glow. Thousands of lighted candles softly lit up the Plaza. It was a beautiful sight.

Eventually, activities ended and we all headed back. The security cars were now parked on the street outside the rally site carried our VIPs back to where they started. The rest just walked back. It was a major

Crad Duren, M.D.

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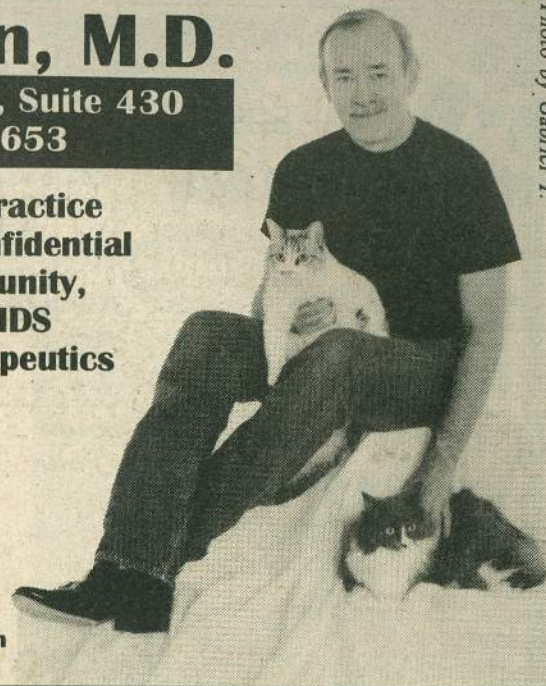
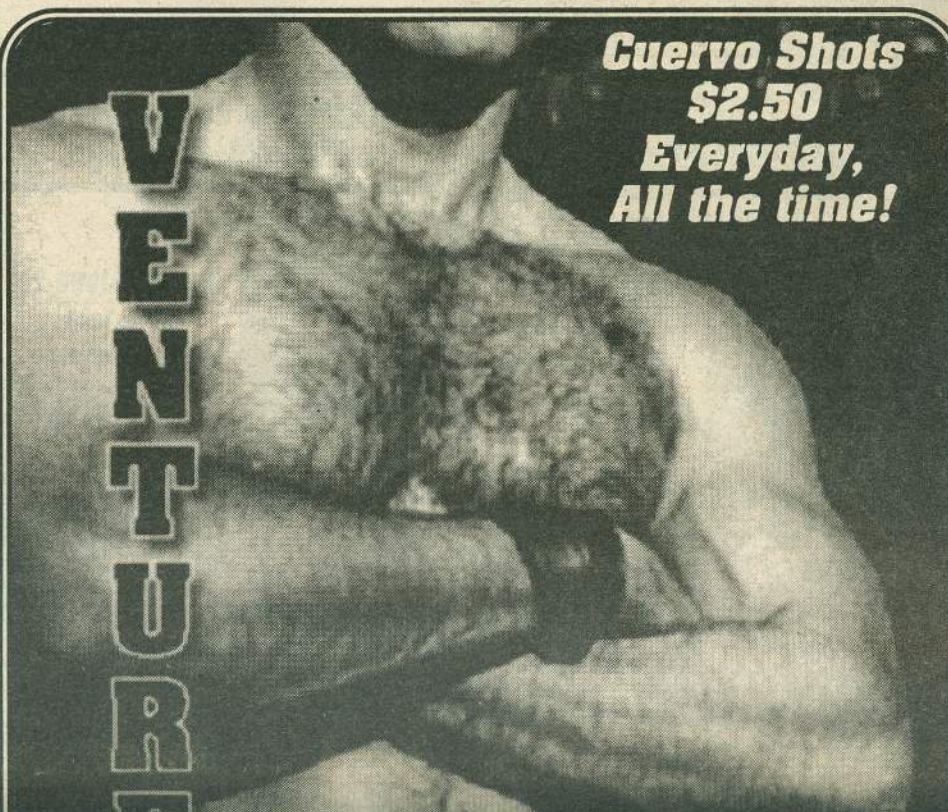


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tion in protest and joined the marchers outside. From those that were inside the convention, it was learned that it had the dramatic effect intended. Bryant got the message. So would the rest of Houston the next day as they viewed march photos and read stories which appeared in both the Chronicle and the Post.

Back on the streets there were only a few more blocks to go before reaching the rally site: the Houston Library Plaza across the street from city hall. It didn't take long for the Plaza to fill to capacity while others spilled out into the street. Reverend Perry got to the plaza microphone first and proceeded to crank the crowd up again into one cheering mass. "We're gonna haunt that

Eventually, activities ended and we all headed back. The security cars were now parked on the street outside the rally site carried our VIPs back to where they started. The rest just walked back. It was a major success, everybody there knew it. Ten thousand marchers had turned out. That was (and still is) the largest march ever held in Houston, Texas.

Now you know about *Houston's Twentieth Anniversary* of what we, as a community, did back in 1977 to reflect our anger and disgust of that vote and of Anita Bryant, newly crowned queen and icon of the anti-gay movement in the United States.



CORRECTION

IN APPRECIATION



Anthony Wright

The Appreciation/In Memoriam in last weeks issue of the *Houston Voice* for Tony Marlois was inadvertently printed incorrect. Tony's last name was Wright. A memorial service was held last week at Geo H. Lewis & Sons.

Born April 16, 1957 in Coffeyville, KS, Tony died June 11, 1997 in Houston after a short illness. Tony is

survived by Art Fleming, Life Partner of 6 years, his mother Marlois Rush, his sisters Susie, Sherry and Candy, brothers Mark and Johnnie, 9 nieces and nephews and a host of friends and cast of thousands.

The *Houston Voice* apologizes for the misprint and for any inconvenience the matter may have caused.

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