

THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Vol. 4 ▶ No. 6

The State's Gay News Source

November 17, 1995

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PFLAG ADS STIR CONTROVERSY

Most TV stations refusing to run spots under threat of lawsuit from CBN

By David Elliot and Kyle Young
TRIANGLE Staff

HOUSTON — Since Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) unveiled its "Project Open Mind" campaign of paid TV advertising in four U.S. markets last week, controversy has erupted.

Accusations of censorship. The threat of a lawsuit from the Christian Broadcast Network. Reversed decisions, misinformation about what ads were airing where and confusing statements from TV stations about why they wouldn't air the ads.

The purpose of "Project Open Mind" was to reach mainstream Americans who have not yet been sold on the radical right's view of gay issues and gay people. PFLAG, made up of 380 chapters around the world, had chosen Houston, Atlanta, Washington, D.C. and Tulsa as markets where two advertisements would be unveiled.

Both ads are intended to show the connection between hateful language and hate crimes.

Entitled "Innocent," the first ad opens with footage from the Rev. Jerry Falwell's TV program. "Homosexuality is a moral perversion,"

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El Paso Nightclub Employee Found Murdered

Caucus Declares Sodomy Statute 'Null and Void'

HGLPC plans statewide campaign

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FIRST TEXAS HONDA

Dealer withstands call to pull Texas Triangle ads

By David Elliot
TRIANGLE Staff

AUSTIN — Community leaders, business owners and gays and lesbians came together this week to support an Austin car dealership that is being picketed by a conservative Christian group—the American Family Association—for advertising in the *Texas Triangle*.

The controversy has been ongoing for several months. It began when Wyatt Roberts, who hosts a talk show on Christian radio station KIXL-AM on Saturday mornings, began reading a list of Austin advertisers in the Triangle on the show. Advertisers were urged to pull out of the Triangle; when one car dealership, First Texas Honda, refused, it was picketed by the American Family Association.



Support for First Texas Honda

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El Paso Nightclub Employee Found Murdered

By Jennifer Dockery

TRIANGLE Staff

EL PASO—An employee of the city's largest gay nightclub, The Old Plantation, was found murdered last week.

The body of Robert Alba, a 56-year-old doorman at the club, was found in his apartment by a roommate on Thursday, Nov. 2, at approximately 11:30 a.m. According to El Paso Police, Alba apparently was bludgeoned to death with a blunt object, a dining room chair, but official cause awaits autopsy results, which have yet to be released.

Alba, who had worked at the Old Plantation for almost three years, was last seen alive at approximately 5 a.m. at Denny's on North Mesa St. Surveillance cameras at the restaurant recorded Alba leaving the restaurant with an unknown man, who since has been identified as 22-year-old Cesar Lara. Police have issued an arrest warrant for Lara, who is from Mexico. Police said he previously has been involved in minor criminal incidents. The primary suspect, when found, will be charged with capital murder, police said.

The owner of The Old Plantation called Alba a very hard worker and said that he

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Support for First Texas Honda

ANALYSIS

Elections Good for Gays

Outcomes in Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia indicate voters scornful of extremism

By Hastings Wyman, Jr.
Special to the TRIANGLE

HOUSTON—The state's oldest gay and lesbian civil rights organization has declared that the Texas anti-sodomy statute, Section 21.06 of the Penal Code, "is no longer law in the State of Texas."

We need to point out in a very forceful manner that this law has never been used for anything but as a tool of discrimination against gay and lesbian Texans.

—Matthew Huston

"We need to point out in a very forceful manner that this law has never been used for anything but as a tool of discrimination against gay and lesbian Texans," said Houston engineer Matthew Huston as he presented the resolution from the floor of this month's Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus membership meeting.

Huston's resolution states that "the antiquated notion that sexual behavior between adults of the same sex is immoral has spe-

continued on page 7

T in Maine was obviously the big enchilada, but not the only important message from voters in the Nov. 7 elections.

In Kentucky, the losing candidate for governor—Republican Larry Forgy—had endorsed anti-sodomy laws and was aligned with the Religious Right. In Mississippi, the losing incumbent lieutenant governor said if he lost, "homosexuals" would be teaching in the state's schools. And in Virginia, in state legislative and local elections, voters kept control out of the hands of those whose social agenda would prevent even minimal efforts to encourage tolerance against homosexuals.

And at least half the gay and lesbian candidates for public office across the country were elected, a common enough occurrence that it no longer gets on the front pages of the main-



God Loves YOU, so Come share the LOVING EXPERIENCE.

Serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Community of Catholics & Friends. Become a part of Dignity U.S.A.

SERVICE

Saturdays 7:30 pm. Traditional Mass

Inclusive liturgy celebrated. Call and press 4 for our Social Events & Schedules. ¡Todos bienvenidos!

Details in 95-96 G/L Yellow Pages under Organizations

In the Heights 1307 Yale Ste. H. Phone 713/880-2872

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n. 1. A woman-owned business specializing in quality graphics and printing. **2.** A large red brick house in the heart of Montrose. —*adj.* Having many and varied features. —*v.* Producing design, illustration, camera work, printing, and bindery —*adj.* **1.** To increase the client's business manifold. **2.** To satisfy the client.

House of Coleman
901 West Alabama
Houston 77006 • (713) 523-2521

Sojourns

A World Travel Service

Holidays Are Coming!

Ask about our

New Year's Eve in New York



"Touch is an integral part of healing."



Dr. Jeffrey Smith

Dr. William Booker

Applied Chiropractic Center

SPORTS, AUTO & WORK INJURIES

Back, Neck & Shoulder Pain • Headache
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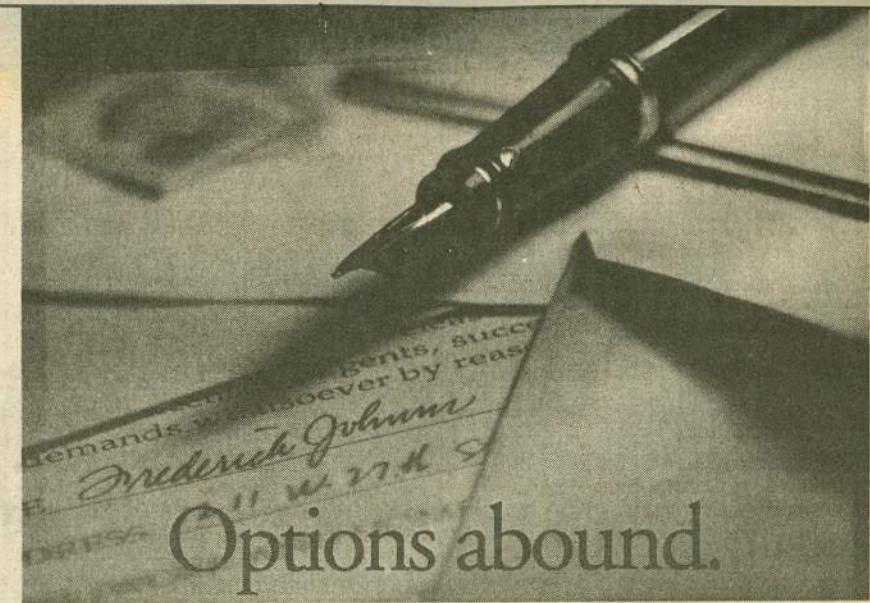
Austin

Gifts to delight
yourself and others

Celebration!

Silver Jewelry, Beads
Greeting Card, Posters
Books & Gift Books
Candles & Incense, Soaps
Aromatherapy Products
Windchimes & More

M-Sat 10-6:30 Sun 11-5
108 W. 43rd 512/453-6207
Austin



Options abound.
Simplify your life.

With so many options open to you, making an informed decision about your viatical needs can be a difficult process. Life Partners can simplify your life by providing efficient and professional service with sincere concern for your specific situation. We have grown to be the largest viatical funding company in the United States. In the past few years we have



YOUR PARTNER IN LIFE™

800-693-0062

You still have the power of choice, and by choosing Life Partners you'll begin the process of moving on through your life.

NETWORK MORTGAGE

1705 Capital of TX Hwy S #500
Austin, TX 78746
(800) 895-7030

"My goal is your realization of the Great

If you've been searching for a chemical dependency program that celebrates your sexuality and the part it plays in your recovery, look no further.

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House of Coleman
901 West Alabama
Houston 77006 • (713) 523-2521

Silver Jewelry, Beads
Greeting Card, Posters
Books & Gift Books
Candles & Incense, Soaps
Aromatherapy Products
Windchimes & More

M-Sat 10-6:30 Sun 11-5
108 W. 43rd 512/453-6207
Austin



Sojourns



A World Travel Service

Holidays Are Coming!

Ask about our

New Year's Eve in New York

December 28 - January 1

4 nights/5 days

Rnd. trip air/hotel/parties, etc.

Ski Event of the Year

February 4 - 11, 1996

Whistler, B.C., Canada

Mardi Gras in Australia

February 21 - March 6, 1996

The 1st Country-Western
and Square Dance Vacation

Plan your holiday travel early
to get the best airfares possible.

Your friends at **Sojourns** are ready
to make your travel arrangements for
the lowest possible price.

We are a full service agency serving our
community with all your travel needs.

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NETWORK MORTGAGE

1705 Capital of TX Hwy S #500
Austin, TX 78746
(800) 895-7030



"My goal is
your realization
of the Great
American Dream;
HOME OWNERSHIP!"

RICK DAVIS
Sr. Loan Officer

Over 15 years
experience;
A successful
professional
—Working for
You!

MORTGAGE BROKERS

Phone: (512) 328-4471 Pager:
(512) 606-6553
Fax: (512) 328-2451

process. Life Partners can simplify your life by providing efficient and professional service with sincere concern for your specific situation. We have grown to be the largest viatical funding company in the United States. In the past few years we have

financial settlement in a timely and uncomplicated manner.

You still have the power of choice, and by choosing Life Partners you'll begin the process of moving on through your life.

**Life
Partners
Inc.**
YOUR PARTNER IN LIFE™

800-693-0062

If you've been searching for a chemical dependency program that celebrates your sexuality and the part it plays in your recovery, look no further.

Waterloo Counseling Center proudly announces

Crossroads

Austin's primary provider of counseling services to the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community since 1983, is pleased to offer a comprehensive chemical dependency recovery and relapse prevention program.

- Licensed by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Strong relationship component • Insurance billing provided
- Sliding scale available • Payment plans available



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COUNSELING
CENTER**

If you or someone you know needs help,
please call Waterloo at (512) 329-9922

HOPELESSNESS Anxiety Despair Trauma & Abuse Hurtful Relationships GRIEF Addiction sex, alcohol, drugs,



MARK HAWORTH
Honda Sales Expert



"Come see why
we're developing
a loyal following!"



ANGELA LANG
Honda Sales Expert

Centrally located at 1301 W. Koenig Lane
between Lamar & Burnet Road in Austin

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First in Sales ★ *First in Service* ★ *First in Texas*

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Dr. Michael F. Lessner
presents as a community service

WHY THE SENSITIVITY

Q. What makes teeth sensitive to hot or cold foods or drinks, and what can be done about it?

A. Such a sensitivity can result from very different causes. It may signal tooth decay or a broken filling. It also results from longtime grinding of the teeth and excessive brushing. One of the most common causes of tooth sensitivity in mature adults is gum recession. Nerves in the portion of a tooth uncovered by receding gums often react to hot or cold exposure, a situation that is worsened by forceful brushing.

Many cases of hot and cold sensitivity are relieved by switching to an appropriate toothpaste recommended by the dentist or by a treatment in which dentist applies a sealant to sensitive tooth areas. The first step is to eliminate tooth sensitivity is an examination by the dentist to determine the cause. An effective treatment then can be chosen.

2907 Duval, Austin

Complete consultation, exam and 1 x-ray
(if needed) for only \$1.00 with this ad.

(512) 472-5633

**"ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST
EMINENT AND BEAUTIFUL FILMS."**

- GENE SHALIT, TODAY, NBC-TV

**"THOMPSON GIVES A
PERFORMANCE OF**

Hurtful Relationships Abuse GRIEF Addiction sex, alcohol, drugs, shopping, food

Your Sexual Orientation Is Not At Issue Here...Your Mental Health Is.

Praxis at the Manors is a dedicated lifestyle accepting and affirming mental health treatment program for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and the gender community. Praxis validates rather than defends the choices gays and lesbians are faced with every day. If you've had it with advice from those who don't have a clue as to what the problem is, call someone who does. Praxis. No cliches. Just answers.

1-800-277-6266 V/TDD • Call 24 hours a day - 7 days a week

Tarpon Springs, Florida • 22 Acres On The Gulf of Mexico

Praxis is covered by most insurance companies and Medicare.



Dr. Michael Lessner

907 Duval, Austin

complete consultation, exam and 1 x-ray (if needed) for only \$1.00 with this ad.

(512) 472-5633

“ONE OF THE YEAR’S MOST EMINENT AND BEAUTIFUL FILMS.

GENE SHALIT TODAY NBC-TV

**"THOMPSON GIVES A
PERFORMANCE OF
STRIKING INTELLIGENCE
AND NUANCE."**

STEVEN REA, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

"TWO THUMBS UP!"

ISKEL & EBERT

Best Actor Award
Jonathan Pryce

Special Jury Prize
Christopher Hampton



EMMA THOMPSON JONATHAN PRYCE

ELM BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

ARRINGTON

EXCLUSIVE AUSTIN ENGAGEMENT

PRESIDIO THEATRES
VILLAGE CINEMA ART
2700 ANDERSON 451-8382

STARTS WEDNESDAY, NOV. 22

EDITORIAL

If You Don't Like Bill Clinton, How Does 'President Dole' Sound?

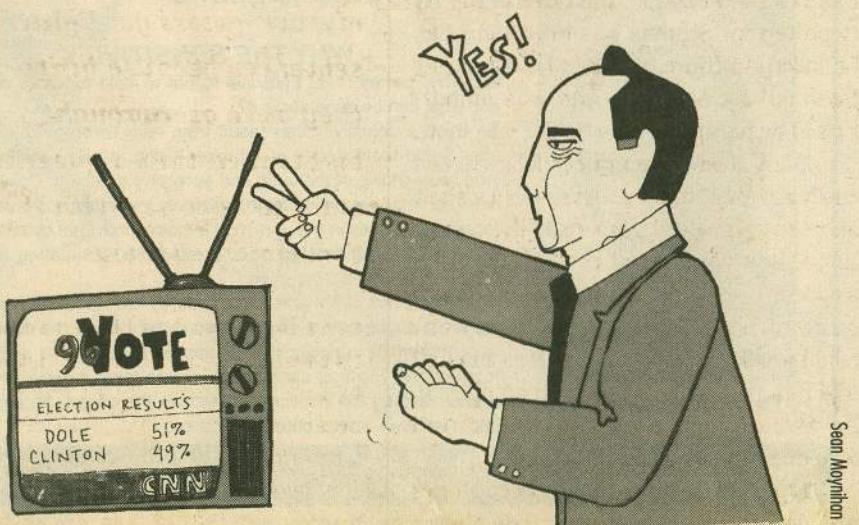
By Keith Clark
Special to the TRIANGLE

It might be very easy to belittle President Clinton's backing of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), and in fact many gays and lesbians have been doing exactly that since the announcement was made.

The argument, by the terminally cynical, is: Sure, Clinton is backing ENDA now because he's facing a tough re-elec-

never promised in the 1992 campaign to appoint an openly gay or lesbian member of the Cabinet. He did promise to appoint "Cabinet-level" gays and lesbians in his administration—and he did in fact do just that.

Roberta Achtenberg got to hear herself called a "damn lesbian" by Jesse Helms on the floor of the U.S. Senate during her confirmation hearings to a Cabinet-level post as head of the civil



tion campaign and realizes that he needs gay and lesbian bucks and ballots to win—and he also knows that ENDA hasn't got a chance of actually getting past the Republican-controlled Congress.

Clinton, these critics like to point out, betrayed gays and lesbians on ending the military ban, refused to file an amicus brief in the Lambda v. Gandy case,

rights division of the Department of Housing and Urban Renewal. Bruce Lehman is also the openly gay head of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Both of these are Cabinet-level officials, a broad

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And I say "naive" because the anybody-but-Bill critics seem to think the President of the United States is an absolute monarch.

Clinton said he would issue an executive order ending the ban on homosexuals in the military. When the topic blasted its way to the front pages of newspapers and prime-time TV news shortly after Clinton took office, he backed away from issuing the order and began negotiating with congressional and Pentagon leaders who took immediate exception to the idea and promised to engrave what had been merely Defense Department policy into federal law if Clinton ended the ban.

Ultimately, of course, a nonsensical "don't ask, don't tell" compromise was reached that satisfied no one.

There's plenty of "blame" to go around for everyone on the botched attempt to end the military ban—and a good deal of it lies at our own doorstep, as well as at the Oval Office.

But the political reality is that presidential executive orders, while a potentially powerful and effective tool of administration, can in fact easily be nullified by Congress. And it was obvious once this flap erupted that Congress and the Pentagon brass were hell-bent on not letting Clinton do anything like ending the ban outright.

And in the case of Jim Hormel, it's again true that his nomination as ambassador to Fiji was withdrawn by the Clinton Administration. But it is also true that Hormel is now a ranking official with the United Nations with the help of the Clinton White House. And it also seems that Hormel agreed to his nomination being withdrawn after Jesse Helms—now incredibly the Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—threatened to keep the nomination bottled up "until hell freezes over."

None of this is intended to portray

tations and shortcomings. (Welcome to the human race.) And the administration needs to be asked to explain itself on some tough questions if it wants our money, our active support and our votes in 1996. But holding any president up to a test of perfection is the fastest way to assure the election of someone else.

By all means, Clinton's feet need to be held to the fire on a number of issues of enormous importance to our community: The still-unresolved military question; the move to prohibit gays and lesbians from having basic civil rights, as with Amendment 2; the AIDS epidemic continues to decimate our nation; and the Hawaii marriage case, if successfully resolved in that state, immediately presents the federal government with very substantive and real issues.

ENDA will, of course, go nowhere in the Republican-controlled Congress. We don't need to even ask about a presidential signature on it because no such measure will get to the president's desk this year or next—and perhaps not for some years to come.

But even without a chance of passage now, Clinton's endorsement of ENDA is a major step in eventually winning this battle—a step that Ross Perot, Phil Gramm, Bob Dole and Colin Powell have not and probably will not ever take.

And, unlike Clinton, none of these presidential prospects have bothered to even ask for our support (with the obvious exception of Bob Dole, who sent a Log Cabin contribution back and then said returning the money was "a mistake").

Clinton's courage in publicly backing ENDA deserves admiration, not cynical ridicule. Many politicians still fear losing more votes than they could gain by taking the "right" stand on gay employment rights. Clinton's support also makes the rights of gays and lesbians a front-burner issue in the presidential race, thereby giving

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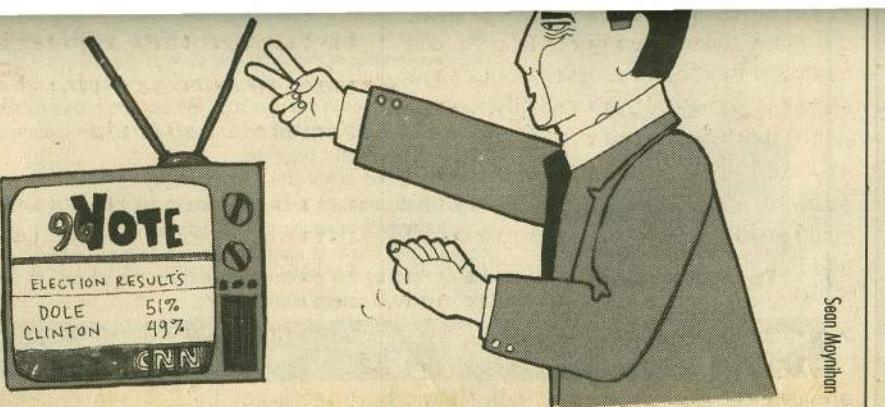
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tion campaign and realizes that he needs gay and lesbian bucks and ballots to win—and he also knows that ENDA hasn't got a chance of actually getting past the Republican-controlled Congress.

Clinton, these critics like to point out, betrayed gays and lesbians on ending the military ban, refused to file an amicus brief in the legal battle over Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 now before the Supreme Court, dropped the ambassadorial nomination of James Hormel because he is gay, promised to appoint an openly gay person to his Cabinet but didn't, and a variety of "lesser betrayals" of our community ranging from the firing of former Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders to endorsing "school prayer."

It's an interesting, if somewhat jumbled and naive, list of Clinton's "sins" that the anybody-but-Bill critics have come up with.

I say "jumbled" because, among other things, Clinton has always endorsed the idea of allowing students in public schools a "moment of silence" when they can pray if they want to. More to the point, however, is the question of when this item became a specifically gay and lesbian issue.

Similarly, Dr. Elders was fired as Surgeon General because she endorsed sex education classes in public schools covering the topic of masturbation.

Is this also now part of what the pseudo-religious right likes to call "the gay agenda?"

I also say "jumbled" because Clinton

rights division of the Department of Housing and Urban Renewal. Bruce Lehman is also the openly gay head of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Both of these are Cabinet-level officials, a broad

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designation that includes not only folks like the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, but scores of under-secretaries, commissioners and others who help formulate and implement administration policies.

But the political reality is that presidential executive orders, while a potentially powerful and effective tool of administration, can in fact easily be nullified by Congress. And it was obvious once this flap erupted that Congress and the Pentagon brass were hell-bent on not letting Clinton do anything like ending the ban outright.

And in the case of Jim Hormel, it's again true that his nomination as ambassador to Fiji was withdrawn by the Clinton Administration. But it is also true that Hormel is now a ranking official with the United Nations with the help of the Clinton White House. And it also seems that Hormel agreed to his nomination being withdrawn after Jesse Helms—now incredibly the Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—threatened to keep the nomination bottled up "until hell freezes over."

None of this is intended to portray Clinton as a perfect pro-gay president. He ain't.

But "perfection," while hotly debated in theological circles perhaps, isn't really a very useful concept in the political arena. Compromise, concession and negotiation are the realities of politics outside the domain of absolute monarchies and military dictatorships. And Bill Clinton is, always has been, and probably always will be, a "negotiating" politician. For all the hoopla about Clinton's hero-worshipping of the "idealistic" John F. Kennedy, the President in fact has much more in common with Jimmy Carter. And while many people were disappointed in Carter's "softness" and his apparent unwillingness to go up against the wall, the former Georgia governor is now being seen increasingly as an almost Gandhi-like peacemaker.

It should also not be necessary to point out that the man who replaced Carter in the White House was Ronald Reagan, whom no one will ever say was even quietly sympathetic to gay and lesbian issues.

To be sure, Clinton has failings, limi-

sure will get to the president's desk this year or next—and perhaps not for some years to come.

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Clinton's courage in publicly backing ENDA deserves admiration, not cynical ridicule. Many politicians still fear losing more votes than they could gain by taking the "right" stand on gay employment rights. Clinton's support also makes the rights of gays and lesbians a front-burner issue in the presidential race, thereby giving American voters clearer pictures of all these chief-executive-wannabes.

Clinton will doubtless get trashed by the Pat Buchanans and the Rush Limbaughs of the political world. But the reality is that Clinton has once again shown how "mainstream" he is. Polls indicate that most Americans don't think lesbians and gay men should be fired or thrown out of their homes or refused service in a restaurant because of their sexual orientation. In fact, many Americans are somewhat stunned to learn that there is no federal legislation (and none in 41 states) to prevent such bias. And Clinton's endorsement of ENDA is a reflection of this same moderate position.

Some day, the Republican leadership will learn this, too, and Americans will have ENDA in one form or another.

Until that day, however, we have to abandon "perfection" tests for politicians and learn to accept incremental steps forward—while continuing to insist on our absolute full rights.

Otherwise, we better start practicing phrases like "President Dole" and "President Gingrich" right now. ☺

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THE TEXAS
TRIANGLE

The State's Gay News Source

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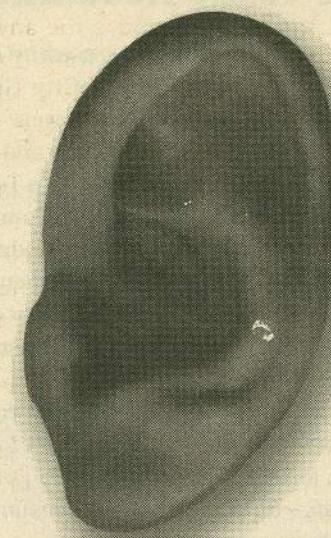
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**WE LISTEN TO YOU****BONEY NOT SUPPORTED BY ALL**

To the editor:

Many of us have long respected the integrity and thoroughness of the *Texas Triangle's* coverage of the gay community and the issues important to it. I was very disappointed, therefore, to see the *Triangle's* recent front-page story on the race for City Council District D in Houston (Nov. 3 issue). The story was nothing more than a front-page editorial for Jew Don Boney masquerading as a news piece.

The story nowhere mentioned that Boney's candidacy has been very controversial in Montrose, the heart of Houston's gay population. The story did not mention any of his well-known outlandish past. It did not mention his ties to the Nation of Islam, a racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and homophobic organization. It did not mention that in all his vaunted history of "civil rights activism," he has not lifted one finger for the gay community. It did not mention that he is opposed by many in the gay community, liberal

Jonathon Schmitz may be the defendant charged with the murder of his gay admirer, Scott Amedure, but Jenny Jones will probably be convicted.

Schmitz shot Amedure twice with a 12-gauge shotgun three days after Amedure had revealed his "secret crush" on Schmitz to him on the talk show Jenny Jones.

Schmitz turned himself in to the police, but has now decided to plead not guilty.

According to a story in the Nov. 14 issue of *The Advocate*, the defense will try to prove that Schmitz was irrational when he killed Amedure, because he was being "stalked" by Amedure and was embarrassed by his appearance on the talk show.

Many folks—even queer folks—could easily say that, had the Jenny Jones show any sense of social responsibility, tact or taste, this whole trial could have been avoided. If the show had never brought a straight man, whose behavior no one could predict, on to national television and told him that a queer had a crush on him, he wouldn't have felt humiliated and wouldn't have sought retribution.

True. It's also true that queer stories are always big rate-getters for talk shows, and that shock gets even higher ratings. There was little consideration for the people involved. They were merely being used by the show to garner ratings points.

But it's equally as true that a large part of the exposure to gay men and lesbians that mainstream America gets comes through television and especially talk shows. While the pictures talk-show

Queer Notes

ELLEN HOBBS



munity aren't always the most favorable, the shows they are on certainly have made a lot of people who would never think about queer issues aware of the things that affect gay men and lesbians.

The issue, however, is not whether talk shows use queers in the same way circuses used "freaks"—to attract a wide-eyed audience. Nor is it whether the staff of the Jenny Jones show used poor judgment.

The issue here is that Schmitz would

Over and over, people who murder queers get lighter sentences because juries decide they were overwrought by the idea that a queer might want to have sex with them or someone they know

never have shot and killed a woman who revealed a crush on him to a national television audience. He killed Amedure because he was a gay man. This was a hate crime.

Over and over, people who murder queers get lighter sentences because juries decide they were overwrought by the idea that a queer might want to have sex with them or someone they know. If history repeats itself in this trial, however, the jury will be less likely to blame the sexual appetite of the queer himself than to blame the talk show that should have known better than to put a straight man in such a humiliating position.

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THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is published every Thursday. Estimated readership 39,200. Subscription rates are \$45.50 (26 weeks) and \$91 (52 weeks). Advertising deadlines are Thursday noon (week before publication) for make-ready ads, Friday noon for classified advertising and calendar items, and Monday noon the week of publication for camera-ready ads. □ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is protected by copyright and may not be reproduced in whole or part except by permission obtained by contacting THE TEXAS TRIANGLE directly. Credit must be given to THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. □ The views of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE are expressed in editorial only. Views expressed in letters to the editor and other submissions are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the owners or management of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted for publication. Unsolicited submissions cannot be returned. □ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is not responsible for damages due to typographical errors except for the cost of revising and replacing advertisements containing error. Advertisements designed and created by THE TEXAS TRIANGLE for the advertiser remain the property of THE TEXAS TRIANGLE. Advertisements and designs can be released for a \$250 licensing fee. THE TEXAS TRIANGLE cannot be responsible for claims made by advertisers, but readers are requested to report any fraudulent or deceptive advertising. □ The use of the name or likeness of a person or entity in THE TEXAS TRIANGLE in advertising or editorial content does not imply any particular sexual orientation or political affiliation. © 1995 THE TEXAS TRIANGLE.

Triangle's coverage of the gay community and the issues important to it. I was very disappointed, therefore, to see the *Triangle's* recent front-page story on the race for City Council District D in Houston (Nov. 3 issue). The story was nothing more than a front-page editorial for Jew Don Boney masquerading as a news piece.

The story nowhere mentioned that Boney's candidacy has been very controversial in Montrose, the heart of Houston's gay population. The story did not mention any of his well-known outlandish past. It did not mention his ties to the Nation of Islam, a racist, sexist, anti-Semitic and homophobic organization. It did not mention that in all his vaunted history of "civil rights activism," he has not lifted one finger for the gay community. It did not mention that he is opposed by many in the gay community, liberal and conservative, much less any of his considerable opposition. The story did not even mention his most prominent rival, Saundria Chase Gray, whom I expect is going to win the run-off.

When I pick up the *Triangle*, I expect analysis and information, not propaganda. The *Triangle* has a high reputation to uphold. So far in this election, it has fallen far short of what we should expect.

Marion E. Coleman
Houston

**MOST WATERLOO CLIENTS
NOT HIV-POSITIVE**

To the editor:

In Jennifer Dockeray's "Boo Guide: Fun Stuff to Do From Now to Halloween" (*Triangle*, Oct. 27), she describes Waterloo Counseling Center as "an organization dedicated to providing care to persons affected by HIV and AIDS" and says Waterloo "provides counseling to Austin-area residents living with HIV and AIDS."

Those statements are true. However, the majority of our clients are lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered individuals who are not living with HIV.

grossed by his appearance on the talk show. Many folks—even queer folks—could easily say that, had the Jenny Jones show any sense of social responsibility, tact or taste, this whole trial could have been avoided. If the show had never brought a straight man, whose behavior no one could predict, on to national television and told him that a queer had a crush on him, he wouldn't have felt humiliated and wouldn't have sought retribution.

True. It's also true that queer stories are always big rate-getters for talk shows, and that shock gets even higher ratings. There was little consideration for the people involved. They were merely being used by the show to garner ratings points.

But it's equally as true that a large part of the exposure to gay men and lesbians that mainstream America gets comes through television and especially talk shows. While the pictures talk-show guests paint of the lesbian and gay com-

infection. Furthermore, Waterloo has just launched Crossroads Chemical Dependency Programs, outpatient gay-affirmative substance abuse programs licensed by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Waterloo Counseling Center is an agency which offers a variety of affordable mental health services to anyone in need. Although psychotherapy to those affected by HIV is an important component of what Waterloo does, it is just that—a component.

Suzi Wagers
Executive Director

**PROPOSITION 6 ANTI-GAY
AMENDMENT IN DISGUISE**

To the editor:

On the recent amendments ballot issue for our own Texas Constitution I found Proposition 6 to be anti-gay in its own subtle way. This proposition would give property exemptions for senior citizens to surviving spouses of at least 55

*they were overwrought
by the idea that a queer might
want to have sex with them or
someone they know*

never have shot and killed a woman who revealed a crush on him to a national television audience. He killed Amedure because he was a gay man. This was a hate crime.

Over and over, people who murder queers get lighter sentences because juries decide they were overwrought by the idea that a queer might want to have sex with them or someone they know. If history repeats itself in this trial, however, the jury will be less likely to blame the sexual appetite of the queer himself than to blame the talk show that should have known better than to put a straight man in such a humiliating position.

This is not progress. □

years old. At the same time this implies that people of an officially recognized married status are going to have even more advantages over single individuals than they enjoy already.

Since Texas does not acknowledge non-coed marriages this would be one more bit of discrimination towards the lesbigay community, as well as the straight single community as well. So long as Texas (and the entire United States) does not recognize lesbigay marriages as binding and legal, we should not support legislation that continues to give married coed couples further advantages over us.

Mike Rayburn
Round Rock

(Editor's note: Texas voters on Nov. 7 overwhelmingly approved Proposition 6.)

Have something to say? Write us at The Texas Triangle, 1615 West 6th Street, Austin, Texas, 78703, fax us at (512) 472-8154 or send e-mail to txtriangle@aol.com. We're listening!

COMMUNITY

6 ▼ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE ▼ NOVEMBER 17, 1995

STRONG SUPPORT FOR FIRST TEXAS HONDA

Dealer withstands call to pull
Texas Triangle ads

continued from page 1

Initially, gays and lesbians and their supporters ignored the pickets. That changed last weekend, when a group of business leaders, politicians, and gays and lesbians decided to demonstrate their support for First Texas Honda on two fronts:

First, community leaders signed a statement pledging that discrimination will not be tolerated in Austin. Second, gays, lesbians and their supporters picketed KIXL-AM Saturday morning. The "non-verbal picket" was covered by the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Lew Aldridge, owner of the City Grill, an Austin restaurant in the entertainment district, invited area business owners, newspaper publishers and political leaders to sign a resolution stating that there is "no place in Austin business for those who advocate discrimination."

In a letter attached to the resolution, Aldridge said he hoped that "Austin's mainstream business and community leaders can make it clear that this kind of hatred and oppression has no place in

the picketers before the rally began. "We're not backing down," he said. "It is with the support of you all that's going to help us stand strong. They've got to be stopped, because if it doesn't stop here, who's next?" Haworth said that since AFA protests began, the agency has signed another 26-week contract with the Triangle, a statewide weekly.

Support for the picket was diverse. Amy Carter, spokeswoman for the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, explained why she became involved:

"Sometimes it is best to ignore them (the American Family Association) and go on, but we felt this time that we would stand up and support First Texas Honda," Carter said. "We are proud of them for advertising and supporting the gay community. And we will continue patronizing them."

Sally McIntosh, president of the Austin chapter of PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, said she came out to protest because of talk show host Wyatt Roberts' anti-gay rhetoric.

"I don't like somebody telling me that my lesbian daughter has any less value to society than my heterosexual daughter has to society," McIntosh said as she held up a banner against a gusty wind. "If she's not a good person, then she's not a good person."



Support was diverse



Wyatt Roberts

First Texas Resolution

Here is the resolution released by Lew Aldridge, owner of the City Grill. Those signing the resolution were the publishers of the *Austin Chronicle* and the *Texas Triangle*, Austin Mayor Bruce Todd, County Judge Bill Aleshire, City Council-members Gus Garcia, Jackie Goodman and Brigid Shea, Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, Reps. Sherri Greenberg, Glen Maxey and Elliott Naishat, and Austin businessman and former Mayor Roy Butler.

We support the equal rights of every Austinite, including our lesbian and gay citizens, to fully participate in our city's economic life—as employees, as consumers and as business people.

We support the equal right of every Austin business to conduct its business in a manner that includes all of Austin's people.

We deplore actions of any group designed to force or intimidate businesses into discriminating against gays and lesbians or any other group.

We commend, applaud and support First Texas Honda and other businesses who have resisted intimidation by the American Family Association, talk show host Wyatt Roberts and radio station KIXL designed to force them to discriminate.

We affirm that: Austin business won't discriminate or tolerate intimidation to force them to do so. While we recognize the right of every citizen to express their views, we ask those responsible for the intimidation to stop immediately. There is no place in Austin business for those who advocate discrimination. □

Flu Shots: Life or Death

Jennifer Dockery
TRIANGLE Staff

An influenza vaccination could be the difference between life and death for people with AIDS this winter, according to a warning issued by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) last week. People with AIDS are among the high-risk groups whose weakened immune systems may make a bout with the flu extremely dangerous.

The TDH issues this warning annually that anyone who may be at an increased risk of complications from influenza should be vaccinated before the flu season begins. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts each year which strains of the virus pose the greatest public health danger. This year the vaccine CDC has recommended will specifically target A/Johannesburg, B/Beijing and A/Texas. The A/Texas strain was first isolated in Houston in 1991.

The most effective way to combat the flu is to receive a vaccination annually. Vaccines lose their effectiveness over long periods of time, and the appropriate strain must be located each year. Therefore, annual shots are critical for those at high risk of complications.

People with AIDS or HIV are at high risk because of their increased susceptibility to contracting viruses, and their body's weakened ability to fight off illnesses. Other groups at high risk include elderly people, anyone with chronic respi-



Linda Palmer Davidge and
Wendy Jean Foxworth

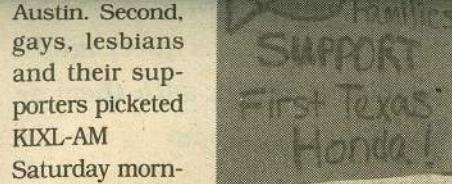
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Support was diverse
Austin. Second, gays, lesbians and their supporters picketed KIXL-AM Saturday morning. The "non-verbal picket" was covered by the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Lew Aldridge, owner of the City Grill, an Austin restaurant in the entertainment district, invited area business owners, newspaper publishers and political leaders to sign a resolution stating that there is "no place in Austin business for those who advocate discrimination."

In a letter attached to the resolution, Aldridge said he hoped that "Austin's mainstream business and community leaders can make it clear that this kind of hatred and oppression has no place in our city."

"Both personally and as a citizen of Austin, I will be deeply grateful for your assistance," Aldridge said. "But in the end it is for everyone that this statement should be released: One cannot stand silently by while others are oppressed without becoming one of the oppressors."

Among those who had signed the statement at press time were Austin Mayor Bruce Todd, County Judge Bill Aleshire, Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, Reps. Sherri Greenberg, Glen Maxey, and Elliott Naishat, City Councilmembers Gus Garcia, Jackie Goodman and Brigid Shea, longtime Austin businessman and former Mayor Roy Butler, and the publishers of the *Austin Chronicle* and the *Texas Triangle*. Declining to sign the statement were the Texas Automobile Dealers Association and Roger Kintzel, publisher of the *American-Statesman*.

While Aldridge worked to gather signatures, gay and lesbian activists demonstrated.

Mark Haworth, the First Texas Honda salesman who began placing ads in the *Triangle* 14 months ago, addressed

them for advertising and supporting the gay community. And we will continue patronizing them."

Sally McIntosh, president of the Austin chapter of PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, said she came out to protest because of talk show host Wyatt Roberts' anti-gay rhetoric.

"I don't like somebody telling me that my lesbian daughter has any less value to society than my heterosexual daughter has to society," McIntosh said as she held up a banner against a gusty wind. "If she's not a good person, it's not because she's a lesbian, and I happen to think she is a good person. But I don't want anybody deciding on the basis of her sexual orientation, on the basis of who she chooses to love, whether she's a worthwhile person or not. I certainly don't want a radio station who doesn't know her deciding that."

On the air, Roberts denied that he instigated the protest against First Texas Honda. At the same time, however, he read the Honda dealership's address to his listeners three times and reiterated why the American Family Association is picketing them.

In a *Triangle* interview last Saturday following the radio program, Roberts initially said that his radio show "didn't organize any kind of protest out there" at First Texas Honda. However, Roberts acknowledged that his words on the radio—as well as the fact that he had attended the protest the previous Saturday—might be viewed by objective sources as a statement of support.

"I think it would be fair to characterize my presence there as a protest," he said. "I did not orchestrate the protest."



Wyatt Roberts

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People with AIDS or HIV are at high risk because of their increased susceptibility to contracting viruses, and their body's weakened ability to fight off illnesses. Other groups at high risk include elderly people, anyone with chronic respi-



Linda Palmer Davidge and
Wendy Jean Foxworth

were married
on Saturday,
November 11, 1995,
at Green Pastures.

The ceremony was officiated
by Rev. Elder Darlene Garner

of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and attended by many friends and family from as far away as Wyoming, South Carolina, Michigan, Florida, and California.

The brides are both members of Metropolitan Community Church of Austin. Ms. Davidge is a homemaker and philanthropist who donates part of her time working at Texas Freedom Alliance. Rev. Foxworth is a church developmental/organizational consultant and mediator.

The couple will reside in Austin.

XENA - an upstart, seafood, salads, Server, Bartender, starting wages up to \$6.00pm. Located at 183 & Great Hills. Gay & Lesbian civil rights and dedicated. Pays \$5.00/hour, necessary, will train

Live "where YOUR tures 2 locations at PRIVATE OFFICE SPA office at Triangle, 5

Looking for gay men? Backs up to a green MoPac. *Available (w); at night 794-3800. Finally, a first class covered parking, 5 rooms from \$575. MOVE-IN SPECIAL 1BR, 2BR. Gated entrance. MOVE-IN SPECIAL 3702 S. 2nd, #101. \$100. off move-in Thornton. 441-3907

All stressed up and 346-6210.

Try Swedish Brazilian this! Male therapist. Promote your own message. Enjoy a relaxing Make your next licensed massage the

ATTENTION
Want to improve your machine. It's portable!

ratory or heart problems and children weakened by disease.

"Usually most threatening between December through April each year, influenza kills about 20,000 in the U.S., most of them in high-risk categories," according to Robert D. Crider Jr., director of TDH's Influenza Initiative Division.

"Fewer than 30 percent of Americans in high-risk groups heed our repeated warnings to seek influenza vaccinations," he added. "We know that one reason some older people fail to be vaccinated is because of an unfounded fear that the vaccine can actually cause influenza. The truth is that a vaccinated person may still contract some strain of influenza, but not from the vaccine. If they do become ill, the vaccine usually helps lessen the severity of the case."

Beyond people with AIDS, the specific groups targeted by the CDC as high-risk are: persons 65 years or older; adults and children with chronic heart or lung disorders, including children with asthma; people under medical care for chronic metabolic diseases, kidney or blood problems or weakened immune systems; and children who already are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, which can place them at risk of developing Reye syndrome after influenza.

The TDH also recommends that anyone planning to travel internationally during the winter or any women who are pregnant also be immunized. Health-care workers and employees of nursing homes should also be immunized to avoid spreading the disease among patients.

Children younger than nine who have never received a flu shot will need one shot, then a booster a month later. Adults, however, will require only one shot per season.

People in high-risk groups should receive their shots in October or

Medicare and most health insurance companies. For information on where to receive an immunization, contact your local health department or health care provider. □

PFLAG Ads

continued from page 1

Falwell intones in the background, as the camera cuts away to a distraught teenage girl. As anti-gay statements by Falwell, Pat Robertson, and U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms continue in the background, the girl begins frantically searching through her house, until she finds and picks up a gun. The announcer's closing voice-over states: "It is estimated that 30 percent of teenage suicide victims are gay or lesbian."

The second ad, entitled "Bashing," shows a young boy being chased and beaten by a gang of thugs as quotes from Falwell, Robertson and Helms are played in the background. It ends with a statement from Nancy Rodriguez, whose gay son, Paul Broussard of Houston, was murdered on the 4th of July, 1991. "My son was brutally murdered," Rodriguez says. "The FBI said it was a gay bashing."

So where are the ads airing? So far, it's been hit and miss—but mostly miss. In Houston, ABC, CBS and NBC affiliates each rejected the ads, while the Fox affiliate, KRIV Channel 26, reportedly is considering airing them. In Tulsa, the NBC affiliate is airing the "Bashing" ad, an action termed "courageous" by a Tulsa PFLAG spokeswoman. In Atlanta, all major local affiliates have rejected both ads, although they are running on cable systems.

Why are the ads being rejected? Because of both content and legal reasons, say TV general managers in Houston. Bob Clark, general manager of KHTV Channel 39, Houston's Warner Brothers affiliate, said the "Bashing" spot

is public domain. Still, CBN has threatened to sue both PFLAG and any TV station that airs footage from its program.

"The spots contain defamatory material and cast Pat Robertson and CBN in a false light by implying that Pat advocates/promotes heinous crimes against gays or directly caused the suicide of one or more homosexual persons," stated a letter from CBN's general counsel to all the TV stations in all the targeted markets.

"This is outrageously false and severely damaging to the reputation of Dr. Robertson and this ministry. You are hereby on notice that should your station televise these defamatory spots we will immediately seek judicial redress against your station to the maximum extent permitted by law, including injunctive relief and monetary damages."

Alan Howard, general manager for Channel 11, Houston's CBS affiliate, voiced concern that the ad entitled "Innocent" might incite someone to commit suicide. "Somebody could say, 'Gee, this is really getting me down. I hadn't thought of that.'

Howard also explained why stations may be placing themselves at risk if they run the ads: "The reason is that we will open ourselves up to a lawsuit from Falwell, from Pat Robertson, and whoever else is on there because the way it can be interpreted is that they are saying all of these things about gays and lesbians purposely to incite the beatings and to incite the lesbian to commit suicide. Nobody had that intent, but we've already had a letter from the Robertson people saying, 'Don't do that.'"

Howard did have some advice for PFLAG: "What I would say to the agency that created the spot and to the group is, why don't you go to a law firm and say, 'Here's the message we want to get across. How can we do this in as strong a way as possible, and yet, have it in such a way

Statute 'Null and Void'

continued from page 1

cific misinterpreted biblical origins and therefore has no business being used as the basis of law as it infringes upon the separation of church and state ..."

The resolution, passed by the HGLPC with one "no" vote, also says "it is not within the government's purview to decide with whom, among adults, any individual may choose to have sex."

Former Caucus Board Chairman Kevin Davidson cast the only vote against the resolution, stating concerns about the liability of board members in passing a resolution declaring a state law null and void.

The law, which dates from the 1870s, has been declared unconstitutional by Texas courts but state lawmakers have thus far refused to repeal it.

"We need to state loudly and clearly that government has no place in our bedrooms," said HGLPC President Terri Richardson. "We should not and will not be penalized for who we sleep with, nor will we continue to allow this law to be utilized to justify crimes of hate and violence in Texas."

Huston added that, "One of the most important things to remember about Section 21.06 is that it generates an atmosphere in which violence against gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons is considered acceptable."

The HGLPC is planning a major statewide campaign promoting the passage of similar resolutions by other gay and lesbian organizations across the state, Richardson said.

"We defy anyone to continue to use this law against gay men and lesbians in Texas," Huston said. "It is no longer valid and we do not recognize it as a law in our state." □

El Paso Murder

continued from page 1

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Children younger than nine who have never received a flu shot will need one shot, then a booster a month later. Adults, however, will require only one shot per season.

People in high-risk groups should receive their shots in October or November because the vaccination does not reach full strength until a few weeks following the vaccination.

According to TDH Adult Immunization Coordinator Mike Keenan, these shots are completely covered by Medicaid and

murdered on the 4th of July, 1991. "My son was brutally murdered," Rodriguez says. "The FBI said it was a gay bashing."

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Why are the ads being rejected? Because of both content and legal reasons, say TV general managers in Houston. Bob Clark, general manager of KHTV Channel 39, Houston's Warner Brothers affiliate, said the "Bashing" spot contains footage taken from a copyrighted Christian Broadcast Network program. "It was unclear to us that PFLAG had the proper releases to use that," Clark said.

They didn't—but PFLAG's legal position is that because the footage has aired,

thought of that."

Howard also explained why stations may be placing themselves at risk if they run the ads: "The reason is that we will open ourselves up to a lawsuit from Falwell, from Pat Robertson, and whoever else is on there because the way it can be interpreted is that they are saying all of these things about gays and lesbians purposely to incite the beatings and to incite the lesbian to commit suicide. Nobody had that intent, but we've already had a letter from the Robertson people saying, 'Don't do that.'"

Howard did have some advice for PFLAG: "What I would say to the agency that created the spot and to the group is, why don't you go to a law firm and say, 'Here's the message we want to get across. How can we do this in as strong a way as possible, and yet, have it in such a way that a television station doesn't have to worry about being sued?'"

And what does PFLAG say? The national group says that there is nothing wrong with the ads—and that the Tulsa TV station airing them is proof of that.

Nancy McDonald, spokeswoman for the Tulsa chapter of PFLAG, said the NBC affiliate questioned one of the ads after receiving the letter from CBN threatening legal action. "They asked for a legal opinion from PFLAG," McDonald said. "We sent them a copy from the three firms that we had been in contact with, and they sent information to their attorneys. Their attorneys found no problem with it."

As for PFLAG Houston, the fight continues. "We're getting documents from (the) PFLAG national office showing that these ads are legal, we've got lawyers in Houston working on this, and a team of parents ready to go," said PFLAG Houston member Barbara Winston. "We are setting up appointments with every station manager and we're going in armed. We want these commercials on."

Triangle correspondents Andrea Peterson and Richard Shumate contributed to this report. □



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Huston added that, "One of the most important things to remember about Section 21.06 is that it generates an atmosphere in which violence against gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons is considered acceptable."

The HGLPC is planning a major statewide campaign promoting the passage of similar resolutions by other gay and lesbian organizations across the state, Richardson said.

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El Paso Murder

continued from page 1

seemed to get along with everyone. The owner said that Alba was a disabled veteran, with hearing and vision problems. Alba has been buried in Kilgore, TX, and The Old Plantation is planning a memorial service for him.

The owner praised the El Paso Police Department's thoroughness in its investigation of the murder. The nightclub owner said that Alba did not work on Wednesday nights and was not picked up at The Old Plantation. Police said they do not know how Alba and Lara met.

According to Detective Art Perez of the El Paso Police Department's Crimes Against Persons Unit, the murder has not been classified as a hate crime. He said that some property was missing from Alba's apartment, leading police to suspect robbery as a motive.

But Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, disagreed, calling the murder a "pick-up crime." She explained: "A pick-up crime is when someone becomes a victim as a result of going places with people they do not know. Gay men are often targeted for this. They are often set up to

continued on page 11

Austin Church Won't Attend Baptist Meeting

AUSTIN (AP) — A church ousted from the Austin Baptist Association because it ordained a gay deacon has decided not to attend the state meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The Rev. Larry Bethune, pastor of University Baptist Church, said the congregation had planned to send 11 delegates to the San Antonio gathering, but backed off when it appeared the messengers would be challenged.

"The congregation doesn't want the state convention to be distracted by this issue," Bethune told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "We are not hiding. And we will remain loyal members of the Baptist General Convention of Texas."

Bethune said church members voted Oct. 29 not to send delegates to this week's convention, which is expected to draw about 7,000 representatives.

The Austin Baptist Association voted 108-55 last month to remove University Baptist from the 78,000-member association because it ordained the gay deacon.

Bethune said he considers the Austin association's action to be interference with the autonomy of the local church.

"We didn't consider the man's sexual orientation," Bethune said. "He was ordained because he demonstrated himself as a spiritually focused, loving Christian, and he has continued to do so."

Dale Gore, executive director of the Austin Baptist Association, strongly disputed Bethune's contention that the association violated the autonomy of the local church by its actions.

Minister Fired After Lesbian Wedding

NEW YORK (AP) — A minister is suing his church and several of its members for \$110.25 million, charging they fired him for performing a lesbian marriage.

The Rev. James Renwick Jackson, 67, also alleged that members of the Congregational Church of Patchogue discriminated against him because of his age and called him a crook, a drunk and an adulterer.

Church lawyer Kevin McDonough said Tuesday that Jackson's firing "had nothing to do with the wedding of the lesbians. He was fired because he was a poor administrator and was not fulfilling his duties and ministry, not handling the needs of the congregation."

Jackson, who became pastor of the Long Island church in 1991, signed a three-year contract in July 1994 at \$55,000 a year plus housing. On July 31, 1995, the church voted 84-67 to fire him.

In papers filed last week in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, Jackson said he was fired because on Dec. 31, 1994, he "offered his blessing for the marriage of two lesbian congregants within the church." □

Weight Critical in Living with AIDS

BALTIMORE (AP) — Maintaining body weight may be a crucial factor to AIDS victims living longer, according to a new study.

People with AIDS can live six months

Instant Activist

Can you manage to perform one community service act this week? Try this one:

HELP SLICE THE AIDS FUNDING PIE

There's a little-known secret in the maze of bureaucracy that is our nation's social services system. The secret centers around something that actually works: the distribution of Ryan White Care Act funding in our communities.

In every urban area, HIV planning coalitions recommend to local governmental entities how the AIDS funding pie should be sliced. These coalitions include people with AIDS, gays, minorities, former injecting drug users—in other words, not the same ol' bureaucrats who usually make decisions without us.

Each of the 10 regional planning coalitions in Texas has 11 to 18 members. Besides at-risk groups, the coalitions look for people from HIV prevention services, public health agencies, epidemiologists, and behavioral and social scientists.

Coalitions are constantly looking for new members. If you want to know how to contact the co-chairs in your community, please call the Texas Department of Health at (512) 490-2525. □

Deficiency Syndromes and Human Retrovirology

"Weight loss remained a significant predictor," said John Palenicek, lead author of the study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

The study began in 1984 with about 5,000 men known to have HIV, the virus suspected of causing AIDS. They have been tracked every six months with questionnaires and physical examinations at four sites around the United States.

Subjects with cancer or stomach problems that caused weight loss were not included in the observation study. Race, age, education and use of AIDS medication were factored in before calculating the effect of weight loss on life expectancy.

Since the study started, 962 of the men have been diagnosed with AIDS, and 773 of them have died.

The median survival time for AIDS patients in the study was about a year with the disease after losing at least 10

AIDS Peaks in Colorado

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — New HIV infections have dropped 32 percent since 1991 in Colorado, largely because of safer sexual practices, health officials say.

A Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment study also found that the number of AIDS cases has peaked, with 675 cases diagnosed in 1991 and 684 diagnosed in 1994.

"A lot more people are aware of safer sex behaviors than they were 10 years ago," said Richard Blair, director of the Southern Colorado AIDS Project.

Although the news is encouraging, AIDS remains a serious threat, said Dr. Ken Gershman of the state health department.

He cited an increase in AIDS cases among women and gay Hispanic males. The study found 5 percent of Colorado's AIDS cases involved women between

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General Convention of Texas."

Bethune said church members voted Oct. 29 not to send delegates to this week's convention, which is expected to draw about 7,000 representatives.

The Austin Baptist Association voted 108-55 last month to remove University Baptist from the 78,000-member association because it ordained the gay deacon.

Bethune said he considers the Austin association's action to be interference with the autonomy of the local church.

"We didn't consider the man's sexual orientation," Bethune said. "He was ordained because he demonstrated himself as a spiritually focused, loving Christian, and he has continued to do so."

Dale Gore, executive director of the Austin Baptist Association, strongly disputed Bethune's contention that the association violated the autonomy of the local church by its actions.

"That's just not true," Gore said. "The church is an autonomous body. So is the association. The association has a right to choose whom we wish to remain in fellowship." □

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Jackson, who became pastor of the Long Island church in 1991, signed a three-year contract in July 1994 at \$55,000 a year plus housing. On July 31, 1995, the church voted 84-67 to fire him.

In papers filed last week in Manhattan's state Supreme Court, Jackson said he was fired because on Dec. 31, 1994, he "offered his blessing for the marriage of two lesbian congregants within the church." □

Weight Critical in Living with AIDS

BALTIMORE (AP) — Maintaining body weight may be a crucial factor to AIDS victims living longer, according to a new study.

People with AIDS can live six months longer if they maintain their weight before symptoms of the disease appear, Johns Hopkins University researchers found in a study published this month in *The Journal of Acquired Immune*

predictor," said John Palenicek, lead author of the study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.

The study began in 1984 with about 5,000 men known to have HIV, the virus suspected of causing AIDS. They have been tracked every six months with questionnaires and physical examinations at four sites around the United States.

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Since the study started, 962 of the men have been diagnosed with AIDS, and 773 of them have died.

The median survival time for AIDS patients in the study was about a year with the disease after losing at least 10 pounds in 9 months or 10 percent of body weight over a longer period before diagnosis.

Those who kept their weight constant lived about 18 months after being diagnosed with AIDS, according to the study.

Simply eating properly does not stop weight loss, and research into other therapies are inconclusive, said Carl Grunfeld, professor of medicine at University of California in San Francisco.

Research has been done on the effect of severe weight loss in AIDS victims but this is the first time the effect of weight loss has been studied early in the progression of the disease, Palenicek said.

"It's important because people have not tuned in to the fact that weight loss is a key indicator," Grunfeld said. "We need to follow weight like we follow lymphocyte count."

When a person has HIV, the body uses muscle and other tissue for energy instead of fat, Grunfeld said. Current treatments for HIV and AIDS weight loss stimulate appetite and add fat but do not stop the loss of other tissue, he said.

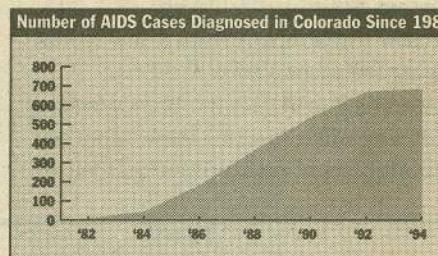
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He cited an increase in AIDS cases among women and gay Hispanic males. The study found 5 percent of Colorado's AIDS cases involved women between



1982 and 1992. By 1994, that percentage rose to 7.7 percent.

The study also found:

- An estimated 8,000 Coloradans are HIV-positive.
- Of the 4,728 Coloradans diagnosed with AIDS through 1994, nearly 3,000 have died.
- AIDS is the second leading cause of death among men age 25 to 44. In first place is unintentional injuries.
- The Denver metro area accounts for 80 percent of 1994 AIDS cases and 84 percent of 1994 HIV cases.
- Among men, the greatest risk of contracting AIDS remains homosexual sex, followed distantly by illegal drug injection. Among women, the greatest risks are heterosexual sex and illegal drug injection. □

Texas Spotlight

Texas Spotlight features one of many groups and organizations available to the community. To be considered for a future Spotlight, e-mail a 300 word description to TxTriangle@uol.com. Or fax to 512/472-8154.

SUPPORT OCTOPUS CLUB FALL SPORTSFEST

AUSTIN — It's time for AIDS Services of Austin's Octopus Club Fall Sportsfest, Volleyball and Tennis Tournament, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 18-19. The sportsfest will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at Bailey Park, on 32nd Street one block west of Lamar Blvd.

Proceeds from the event go to the ASA Paul Kirby Fund as well as PFLAG, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

It's a chance to make new friends and help raise money for a good cause. Everyone is encouraged to bring a canned food item for the Helping Hands Food Pantry, also an ASA program.

AIDS Services of Austin has an annual budget of about \$2.7 million, a staff of more than 45 workers and a caseload of more than 800 people with AIDS. □



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Election Watch

Information that affects your vote and shapes your opinion.

MAINE LOOKS TO FUTURE AFTER VOTE

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — The controversy over the anti-gay referendum plan attracted more than 44 percent of Maine voters to the polls, far more than the 37.5 percent predicted by Secretary of State Bill Diamond.

Diamond said he did not mind being proven wrong.

"Any time it's more than (the projection), we take it with a smile," he said Wednesday.

Nov. 7's turnout compares to 55 percent for the 1994 gubernatorial race. The last referendum to draw such an enthusiastic turnout was in 1987, when 44.6 percent of the voters cast ballots on a plan to shut down the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant, Diamond said.

The proposed ban on anti-discrimination protection for homosexuals was rejected by a slim majority of 53 percent. Advocates and opponents of a state gay-rights law weighed their options in the aftermath Wednesday, but the debate over the significance of the vote remained anything but settled.

National gay-rights leaders were quick to hail the outcome as a step forward in the two-decade-old fight for gay rights and a major setback for "radical right" activists seeking to block that effort.

"Now we look to the future," said the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. "The victory ... offers us a tremendous potential to seize the momentum and pass a statewide non-

now," she said.

Lawmakers approved a gay-rights bill in 1993, but it was vetoed by then-Gov. John R. McKernan. Gov. Angus King, who actively opposed the referendum, has said he would sign the bill if it reaches his desk.

"It's too early to tell" whether the gay-rights bill will be presented next year, said Sen. Dale McCormick, D-Hallowell, the bill's prospective sponsor, who said supporters must analyze the situation more closely.

A leader of the pro-referendum forces said the vote did not represent a popular mandate for a gay-rights law. Carolyn Cosby noted that Maine Won't Discriminate, the coalition that led a million-dollar drive against the referendum, stressed repeatedly during the campaign that the plan would affect not only homosexuals but groups such as hunters and veterans.

"They widened the issue," said Cosby, whose Concerned Maine Families group spearheaded the referendum campaign, vowing to "continue to fight on" against gay rights when lawmakers consider the bill next year.

The proposal did not mention "homosexuals" or "sexual orientation," but sought to limit civil-rights protections to 10 categories already in the Maine Human Rights Act. It would have repealed existing gay-rights ordinances in Portland and Long Island and barred such municipal laws in the future.

ANALYSIS

Good for Gays

continued from page 1

stream papers.

The gay and lesbian community did not win everything—this is, after all, a multi-cultural nation. In Northampton, Mass., voters overturned the city's domestic partnership law. Lesbian Roberta Achtenberg lost her bid for mayor of San Francisco. And other lesbian and gay candidates around the country lost elections.

On balance, however, these off-year elections showed that gay bashing is not a sure-fire ticket to victory, and indeed, probably helps identify a candidate as "extremist" even with conservative electorates. Here are some electoral highlights:

Maine. The Pine Tree State became the third in the nation to reject a homophobic referendum designed to scuttle legal protections for gay people that already are on the books and make new anti-discrimination laws possible only by amending the state constitution. The narrow but decisive 53-47 percent margin, coming on top of similar outcomes in Oregon and Idaho, shows that voters don't have to be in San Francisco or Key West to oppose bigotry against gays and lesbians.

The Maine outcome also confirms that the gay and lesbian community can mount an effective campaign against these homophobic efforts, raising the money, developing a message and building the necessary coalitions. Making alliances with straight groups, including key business, religious, civic and political leaders in both parties, is especially important—we can argue about whether we're 1 percent or 10 percent of the population, but not even Act Up claims we're 51 percent.

The Maine vote is also a tribute to the gay women and men in the state who were willing to leave the comfort that a

Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the Human Rights Campaign, which saw the importance of the vote and helped mobilize the community's resources for the campaign.

Kentucky. Larry Forgy was the GOP's big hope this November. Had he won, he'd have become the first Republican elected governor of the Bluegrass State since 1967. Moreover, his election would have confirmed the rightward trend in Kentucky, where a Christian Coalition candidate won election to Congress in 1994.

Forgy has a mainstream conservative background—he was Ronald Reagan's Kentucky campaign chairman—but he made a strong alliance with the burgeoning conservative Christian political movement in his state. During the primary, Forgy endorsed the Christian Coalition's call for new anti-sodomy laws and he appeared on the platform with controversial Louisville anti-abortion activist Dr. Frank Simon. After the primary, Forgy hedged a little, saying anti-sodomy laws would not be a high priority for his administration. Nevertheless, the beyond-the-fringe nature of some of his conservative supporters was a background issue throughout the campaign. The election did not turn on Forgy's anti-gay stance, but that helped stamp him as an extremist, and undoubtedly helped Democrat Paul Patton build up a larger-than-expected 25,000 vote margin in Jefferson County, which contains Louisville and much of the state's urban liberal community, including lots of gays and lesbians.

Mississippi. Lt. Gov. Eddie Briggs, a Republican, was not popular even with the leadership of his own party and his opponent was not a knight in liberal armor, but a self-proclaimed conservative Democrat.

Nevertheless, as the polls showed

Forgy had decided to use "homo-

ballots on a plan to shut down the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant, Diamond said.

The proposed ban on anti-discrimination protection for homosexuals was rejected by a slim majority of 53 percent. Advocates and opponents of a state gay-rights law weighed their options in the aftermath Wednesday, but the debate over the significance of the vote remained anything but settled.

National gay-rights leaders were quick to hail the outcome as a step forward in the two-decade-old fight for gay rights and a major setback for "radical right" activists seeking to block that effort.

"Now we look to the future," said the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. "The victory ... offers us a tremendous potential to seize the momentum and pass a statewide non-discrimination law in Maine.

"We salute the campaign workers of Maine Won't Discriminate and every gay, lesbian, bisexual and non-gay person who stood up to be counted. Tomorrow we rest and heal. The day after that we pick up the mantel again and continue our fight," the Washington-based group said.

State gay-rights leaders were less resolute about their next step.

Karen Geraghty, head of the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, said the diffuse debate over the vaguely worded referendum plan obscured many of the real problems caused by discrimination against homosexuals in Maine.

She said she was uncertain whether gay-rights advocates would press ahead with legislation next year, even though legislative leaders have voted to allow its introduction, and that the public needs to be educated on the issue.

"We have to get out and talk to our neighbors, and our friends, and our co-workers, and our parents about the realities of living (as gay people) right

Carolyn Cosby noted that Maine Won't Discriminate, the coalition that led a million-dollar drive against the referendum, stressed repeatedly during the campaign that the plan would affect not only homosexuals but groups such as hunters and veterans.

"They widened the issue," said Cosby, whose Concerned Maine Families group spearheaded the referendum campaign, vowing to "continue to fight on" against gay rights when lawmakers consider the bill next year.

The proposal did not mention "homosexuals" or "sexual orientation," but sought to limit civil-rights protections to 10 categories already in the Maine Human Rights Act. It would have repealed existing gay-rights ordinances in Portland and Long Island and barred such municipal laws in the future.

Patricia Peard, executive board chairman of Maine Won't Discriminate, said "the voters of Maine have spoken loud and clearly against discrimination," but stopped short of pledging the coalition's support for the gay-rights bill.

The coalition, which counted among its allies such diverse interests as the Maine Lesbian-Gay Political Alliance, all four members of the Maine congressional delegation and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland, has yet to determine its future course and may assume an educational role, she said.

The governor, who appeared in TV ads urging a "no" vote, said he did not view Tuesday's vote as necessarily a vote for gay rights. "I sense they all voted for different reasons," he said.

If the proposal had passed, King said he would "have to do some soul-searching" before deciding whether to sign a gay-rights bill.

"As much as I believe in the issue, I also believe in the sanctity of the process." □

anti-discrimination laws possible only by amending the state constitution. The narrow but decisive 53-47 percent margin, coming on top of similar outcomes in Oregon and Idaho, shows that voters don't have to be in San Francisco or Key West to oppose bigotry against gays and lesbians.

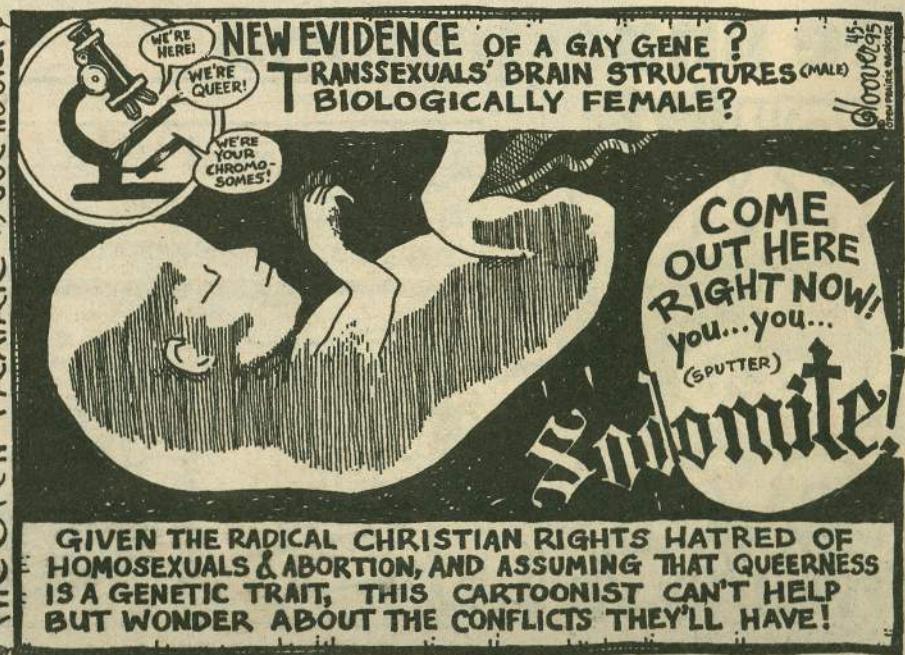
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The Maine vote is also a tribute to the gay women and men in the state who were willing to leave the comfort that a semi-closeted 'ghetto' can provide and risk the personal discomforts of making their case to the public. And the vote was a tribute to the effective assistance, financial and otherwise, provided by such national organizations as the National

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Mississippi. Lt. Gov. Eddie Briggs, a Republican, was not popular even with the leadership of his own party and his opponent was not a knight in liberal armor, but a self-proclaimed conservative Democrat.

Nevertheless, as the polls showed Briggs losing, he decided to use "homosexuals" as his whipping boy, telling Magnolia State voters that such perverts would be teaching their children in the public schools if his opponent won. His opponent won. □



Hope Returns With New Drugs...

FDA approves three new drugs

By Bob Roehr

Special to the TRIANGLE

Three more drugs have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for HIV treatment, leading to a greater sense of optimism among AIDS treatment activists.

The approval came during a three-day meeting of the Antiviral Drug Products Advisory Committee of the FDA.

Two of the drugs are nucleoside analogues, d4T and 3TC, the same category of drug as AZT. The third is Saquinavir, the first in a new family of AIDS drugs called protease inhibitors.

FDA Commissioner David Kessler told reporters, "The answer is not going to come from any one of these drugs, the answer is going to come from combinations." He is expected to quickly sign the recommendations.

Approval of d4T was almost perfunctory. The drug had long been given accelerated approval for limited use. The recommendation now was for full approval.

The Committee recommendation for 3TC was for use in combination with AZT. The drug had proved of little value as a monotherapy because the HIV virus quickly mutates resistance. But those mutations seem to make the bug more susceptible to AZT, or so researchers have speculated. Regardless as to why, data coming forth during the last year has been most encouraging.

Martin Delaney with Project Inform in San Francisco welcomed "the broad indication" given to 3TC. "We think it would have been a mistake to limit this

The panel did advise that 3TC carry a warning for pediatric use. One study showed a 14 percent incident of pancreatitis, a potentially life threatening side effect, in children receiving the medication.

Gary Rose, a lobbyist with the AIDS Action Council in Washington, praised the committee's recommendation as "the first FDA approval of giving combination therapy. That is a very useful educational and advocacy tool."

The committee recommended accelerated approval for the first protease inhibitor, Saquinavir, which its manufacturer Hoffmann-LaRoche will market under the name Invirase. It denied the request for stand alone usage because of limited evidence of efficacy in those trials. It opted instead for use in combination with nucleoside analogues.

"I do think the class of drug represents a new threshold in the ability to treat the disease," Delaney said. "The clinical impact of these combinations is hard to predict. There is no reason to expect it is anything but good. The question is, how good?"

...But Who Can Afford the New Drugs?

Cost will keep many from drugs

By Bob Roehr

Special to the TRIANGLE

The cost of state-of-the-art treatment for PWAs just got higher. A Food and Drug Administration advisory committee recommended marketing approval of three more HIV drugs—d4T, 3TC, and Saquinavir—at a meeting November 6-8 near Washington, DC.

"It's good news for people who have private health insurance," said Gary Rose,

vate health insurance; the other half rely upon Medicaid and AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. And the outlook there is more troubling.

"3TC is going to cost the same as AZT, maybe a little less," Rose said.

"Saquinavir, who knows. I've heard numbers all over the map." Roche will not discuss pricing but the protease class of drugs is difficult to manufacture, and its price will be high.

Peter Staley, with the New York based Treatment Action Group (TAG), called it "critical that manufacturers price their new drugs at affordable levels."

Homar Perez with the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) warned:

"There is no doubt that growing health care cuts will prevent thousands of Americans with HIV disease from receiving these new treatments."

Rose went further. "There are going to be states where Saquinavir will not be available if you are poor."

The problems are twofold. The first is wisely spending the money available under AIDS programs in Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act. The second concerns adequate levels of funding for the programs.

Rose maintains there are "state ADAP directors who are making these decisions either on the basis of too much information or on who just came in the door."

In theory these expensive new medications will defer hospitalization and may allow the body to restore its immune system to the point where prophylaxis for opportunistic infections can be reduced or eliminated.

"If you can keep people from progressing, out of the hospital, the net result might be cheaper," said Martin Delaney with Project Inform in San Francisco.

"But somebody has to do cost-benefit analysis."

Texas Returns \$1.35 million in AIDS Education Funding

By David Elliot

TRIANGLE Staff

AUSTIN—Texas has declined \$1.35 million in federal funds that would have helped pay for AIDS prevention education in local schools, a move that has infuriated advocates who say that education is the best way to keep young people HIV-free.

Education Commissioner Mike Moses informed the Centers for Disease Control earlier this month that the state will return \$450,000 a year for the next three years to the federal government, effectively ending a program that the state launched in 1988.

The money had been used to pay for seminars that instructed teachers, and in some cases, students, about preventing AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. All of the money was earmarked for education through the Texas Education Agency and local school systems, not treatment.

Last spring, the Texas Legislature, as part of what lawmakers called education reform, approved a provision that requires that abstinence be taught as the only foolproof method of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

But some people are questioning whether Moses' understanding of the law is correct.

"The law talks about abstinence as the only method that's 100 percent effective if it's used consistently and effectively," explained Carolyn Parker, executive director of the Texas AIDS Network. "The law notes that there's a failure rate. There are peer pressures, there are situations with alcohol, with other drugs that affect their (kids) ability to practice abstinence 100 percent of the time."

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Martin Delaney with Project Inform in San Francisco welcomed "the broad indication" given to 3TC. "We think it would have been a mistake to limit this (use) based on CD4 numbers, those are really arbitrary parameters. And I think, frankly, you would have had a riot on your hands with people with HIV infection."

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...But Who Can Afford the New Drugs?

Cost will keep many from drugs

By Bob Roehr

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"It's good news for people who have private health insurance," said Gary Rose, treatment specialist with the national advocacy group AIDS Action Council. Their insurers are now assured of picking up the costs of the new medications.

But only about half of PWAs have pri-

The problems are twofold. The first is wisely spending the money available under AIDS programs in Title II of the Ryan White CARE Act. The second concerns adequate levels of funding for the programs.

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"But somebody has to do cost-benefit analysis."

Rose calls that "our key job in the next year." His "intuitive sense" is that these medications are cost effective, "but you can't sell intuition to this Congress. We have to be able to document it." □

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"You don't," Parker added, "get a King's X for Prom Night."

And what happens if young adults do not receive information about AIDS?

"Children die," Parker said. □

life underground

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when...

The operators at 1-900-HOT-STUD have your credit card number memorized...

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Sports

GARY N. REESE



TBS DOCUMENTARY LOOKS AT GAYS IN SPORTS

By Gary N. Reese

Special to the TRIANGLE

Gays and lesbians in the sporting world is one of many issues addressed in an upcoming six-hour documentary scheduled for broadcast on the Turner Broadcasting System Nov. 27, 28 and 30.

Idols of the Game examines the lives of a dozen famous athletes whose example and accomplishments changed the character of their sport and the role that athletics plays in American culture. The documentary, divided into two-hour segments over three evenings, begins with the great boxers of the turn of the century—John L. Sullivan and Jack Johnson—and spans the century to Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King.

New York Times columnist and former sportswriter Robert Lipsyte charts the social and cultural history of the American century by examining the lives and legends of its athletic demigods. Lipsyte and his collaborators, sports historian Peter Levine and producer Kathy Sulkes, chose athletes not solely on the basis of their athletic prowess but on their quality of bridging different eras and changing times, and their ability to personify the increasingly important role of sports in modern life.

“Because these athletes’ lives helped, in part, to shape our values, habits and arguably, the content of our character, no full understanding of America is possible

without examining the lives of these athletes,” says Lipsyte. “They are the icons of our century.”

Strangely, no mention is made of Babe Didrikson’s sexuality, although the second segment profiles her life and features rare footage of the Babe being congratulated and carried off the green by her live-in partner, fellow golfer Betty Dodd. The image problems that have plagued the women’s golf tour for years get their share of debate, as well Didrikson’s own struggles with sexual stereotyping. The companion book for the series briefly discusses her same-sex relationships, but perhaps for TV, the absence of any public statements made

the series producers skittish about dis-

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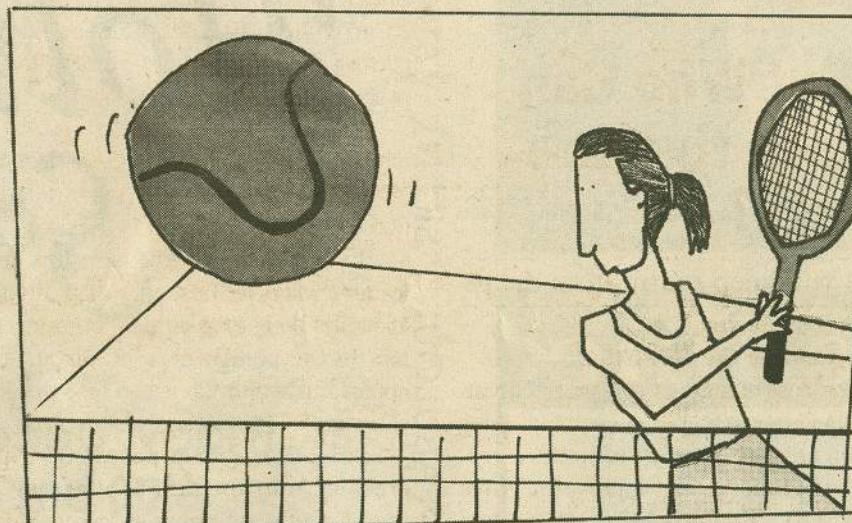
continued from page 7

meet someone, and then beat up, or worse.”

Pick-up crimes are often closely related to hate crimes, she noted. Often, because of the nature of the crime, victims do not report attacks, feeling that they are partially responsible.

A pick-up crime is when someone becomes a victim as a result of going places with people they do not know. Gay men are often targeted for this.

— Dianne Hardy-Garcia,
executive director,
Lesbian/Gay Rights
Lobby of Texas



Sean Mowbray

the annual event is sanctioned by

sible for having put themselves in a potentially dangerous situation, she said.

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"Because these athletes' lives helped, in part, to shape our values, habits and arguably, the content of our character, no full understanding of America is possible without an understanding of its sports idols," says Lipsyte.

Granted, six hours is a lot of footage to sit through unless you're a die-hard sports fan. The second segment, "Babes in Boyland," addresses the contentious issues of gender equality and gay athletes—who, interestingly, are all tennis players.

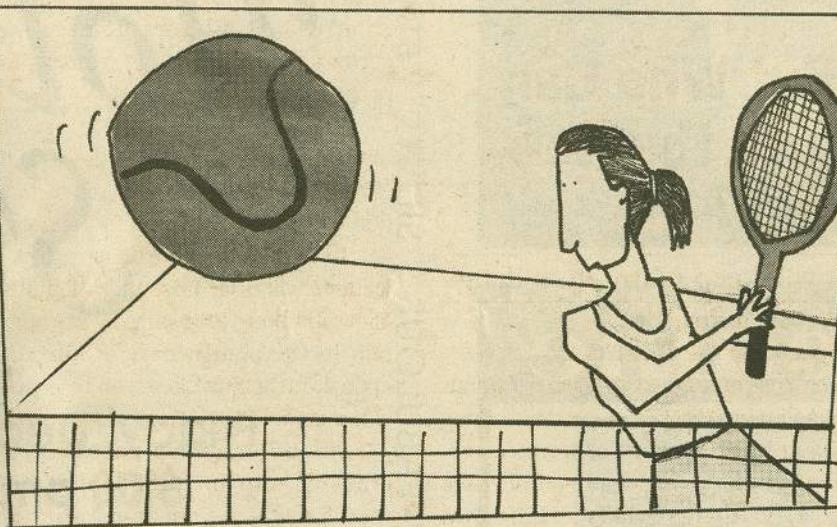
"People just want to be accepted, that's the bottom line," says Billie Jean King. "But women athletes in particular get squeezed into this narrow category. Heterosexual, married, children—that's what everyone wants to hear from a woman athlete."

Chris Evert, who was hyped early in her career as King's successor and later became Navratilova's principal opponent, stresses that sexual orientation of her fellow players never became a major concern for her.

Because she championed diversity, Evert helped promote a climate of acceptance not just for lesbian athletes but for all women in sports, maintains Donna Lopiano, the executive director of the

absence of any public statements made

in round-robin play.



the series producers skittish about discussing Didrikson's lesbianism.

An excellent effort, in any case. *Idols of the Game* will be cablecast on Monday, Nov. 27, Tuesday, Nov. 28 and Thursday, Nov. 30, all from 8:05 to 10:05 p.m. The entire documentary will be shown again on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 12:05 to 6:05 p.m.

HUGE TURNOUT FOR HOUSTON TENNIS TOURNAMENT

A record 220 tennis players competed last weekend in HouTex XV, the Houston Tennis Club's annual Veterans Day tournament.

"It was the biggest tournament we've ever had," said tournament director Bobby Riggins. Players competed according to skill level, from the D division for novices up to the open division for players classified 5.0 and higher by the U.S. Tennis Association.

Ages ranged from 25 to 65 for the 40 women and 180 men from 17 states, Canada and Puerto Rico, Riggins said.

The annual event is sanctioned by the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Association, which is composed of 30 gay and lesbian tennis clubs worldwide. The association helps coordinate a circuit of gay tennis tournaments held every year at different cities around the country. The Oaklawn Tennis Association in Dallas hosts its annual tournament in October during the Columbus Day holiday.

Riggins called this year's tournament the most successful for the club in terms of participation and corporate sponsorship. "I believe we had more sponsors for this tournament than any other here or around the country."

Sponsors, who donated money or merchandise, included Whole Foods, Talent Tree Staffing Services, Naya Water, Advance Damron Travel, Swilley Hudson Realtors, Home Loan Corporation, Christy and Associates Real Estate and All Texas Vending.

Next year's tournament is scheduled for Nov. 9-11, 1996. For more information on the Houston Tennis Club, call Riggins at (713) 868-5039 or e-mail the club at: HouTex95@aol.com. □

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sible for having put themselves in a potentially dangerous situation, she said.

Such crimes are not exclusive to the gay community, but gay people are especially vulnerable, said Hardy-Garcia. "There are so few places where we can let our guard down, that people think that we can in gay bars. What makes us particularly vulnerable is our desire to feel safe. I hope that if anything comes out of this, it's that people will be more cautious."

Anyone with information regarding Alba's death is asked to contact Detective Perez of the El Paso Police Department at (915) 564-7010. □

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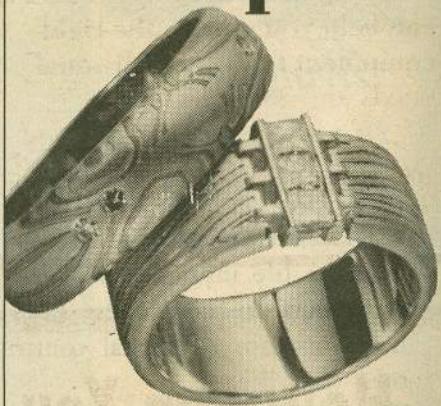
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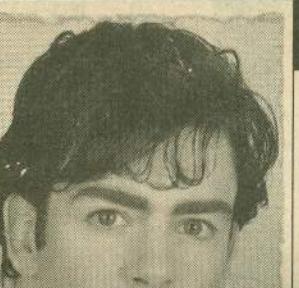
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Coping with AIDS?...



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When I found out at the end of 1993 that my proposal to teach a class called "The Gay '90s" had been accepted as one of the two honors seminars to be taught during the spring 1995 semester, I couldn't believe it. After all, I was a bottom feeder of the academic community, a temporary lecturer in the English Department. I was also the only openly lesbian or gay faculty member on campus. Immediately, I vowed to read a pile of queer theory books and to devote the whole of 1994 to preparing for the seminar. Unfortunately, I spent all of 1994 either fighting to defeat, or recovering from barely defeating, Idaho's anti-gay initiative, Proposition 1. When I should have been reading *The Culture of Desire*, I was mucking through various plowed wheat fields, hammering in "No on 1" signs. When I should have been vamping out my syllabus, I was writing my 120th letter to the editor.

Christmas vacation came, and I wasn't ready.

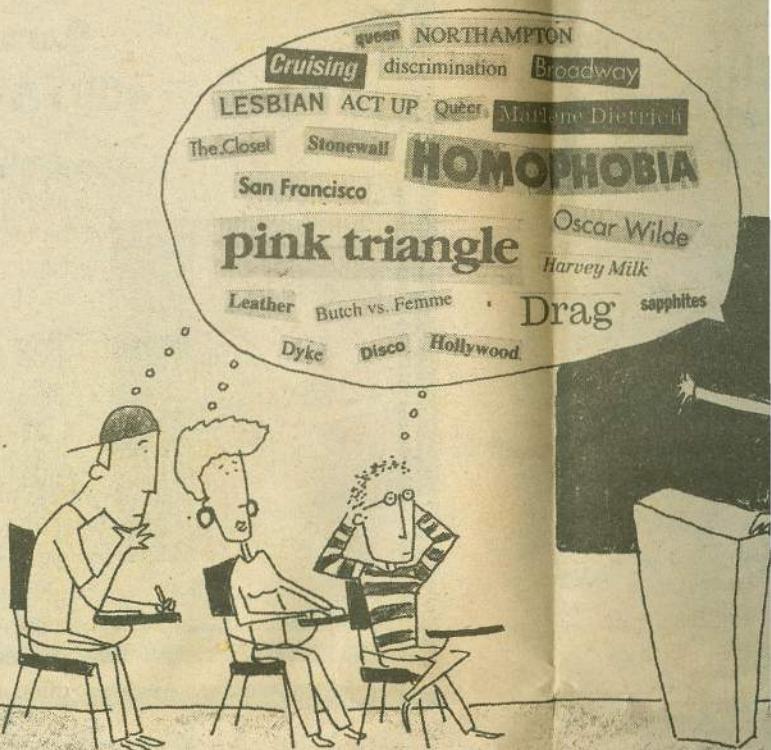
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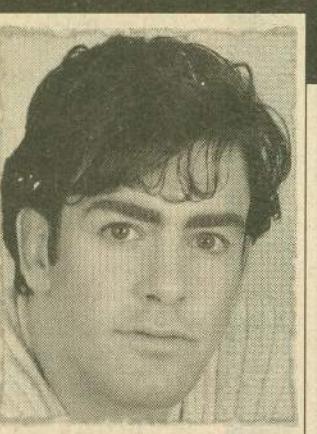
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This approach required a steady source of contemporary gay news, and semester-long subscriptions to *The Advocate* gave my thirteen students a biweekly window on gay culture. The class, free-flowing to begin with, went through a second metamorphosis as I met these students. Only one, Nick, was openly gay, and he was a freshman, given special permission to take this upper division class because of his unique situation. The rest were straight. They were all from Idaho. Although some had gay friends or siblings, several of them hadn't even realized this was a class about the gay civil rights movement. The Honors Program had decided on a more subtle title: "Civil Rights for Everyone: A Place at the Table." Over time, we tried various abbreviations, but simply ended up calling it "the gay class," as in, "Oh yeah, I've gotta get that report done for my gay class."

So we had to begin at the beginning. Our first real class consisted of a vocabulary lesson, providing the words we'd need for discussion. Because they were so straight, because they were so innocent, I was terrified but plunged in anyway, and we talked through all the terms: homosexual, queer, longtime companion, Log Cabin Republicans, affectional preference, pink triangles, etc. They reeled under the information, startled that there could be gay Republicans, previously unaware of the origin of the term "lesbian." We talked about the difficulties of coming up with alternative terms for "husband" and "wife" and I retold



straight students to carry around Michelangelo Signorile's flamboyantly pink-covered book, *Queer in America*. The class was full of surprises.

In an attempt to demonstrate "gaydar," we watched clips from *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, some of us realizing immediately that, of course, Matthew and Gareth were

TEACHING 'THE GAY C

By Susan Baumgartner • Special to the TRL

gay; some of us astounded and demanding to know how a few minutes of film—a scene of two men preparing breakfast together, a devotion to gaudy waistcoats, and one impassioned speech at a funeral—could be enough to clearly indicate sexual orientation.

In another experiment, we each spent two or three days either observing instances of sexual flaunting or trying to refrain from flaunting our own sexual orientation. Reporting back, we were astonished at how constantly people mention their husbands, wives, marriage, children; how central intimate relationships are to our own sense of self. Ironically, three of us who were single and planned to easily refrain from flaunting, happened to have romantic experiences during that period and found it completely impossible to lie about the existence of that "other" who had unexpectedly and wonderfully appeared.

The logistics of getting 13 issues of *The Advocate* bundled up and sent to Idaho every two weeks proved difficult at first. The initial issues came in Fed Ex envelopes and

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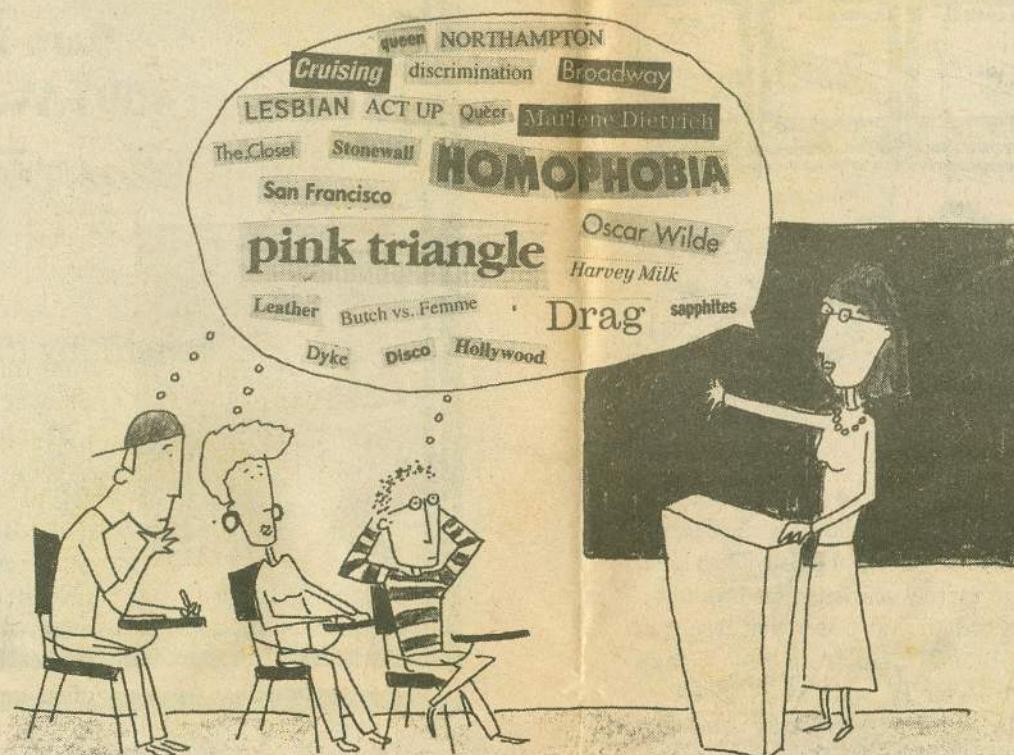
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simply distributed them in class. The students were startled at first; by the advertisements, almost all of them for hedonistic pleasures like alcohol and cruises; by the numerous depictions of same gender couples, men mostly, in affectionate, romantic poses, something they'd never seen before.

But the true surprise came with issue number four. This time, the magazines arrived in the usual grey plastic cover. The students were shocked. All this time they'd been getting the magazines openly, cover visible, and our whole approach for the class had been quite up front. The teacher was a lesbian. She was proud of being gay. She'd come out in the local paper and never made attempts to hide her sexual orientation. The Advocate, which they'd accepted before as just another magazine, something you could probably pick up at the grocery store, now seemed like something secretive, shameful, so out of the mainstream it had to be concealed in a plain brown wrapper. It was an unplanned experiment which taught us all how much even little things, like the hiding of a magazine cover, color our perceptions.

I always feel that I learn more from my students than they learn from me, and this course was no exception. Because of the composition of the class, I often had to jump in as a lesbian participant rather than staying in my safe role as instructor. Nick and I frequently found ourselves way out on the edge with everyone else trying to pull us back toward the middle where things were more comfortable. At the same time, I think Nick and I were amazed at how often the straight students were willing to envision themselves within gay culture, how often they willingly tried on our conflicts and dilemmas and then tried to think their way to possible solutions. We had some knockdown-dragouts between Bruce Bawer fans and

Signorile supporters that were worthy of the most volatile queer debates. During the mean-spirited fight over Proposition 1, I'd largely given up on straight people, even our straight allies, but the class made me realize how much gay and straight people have in common. I mean, we're all human, right?



Sean Moynihan

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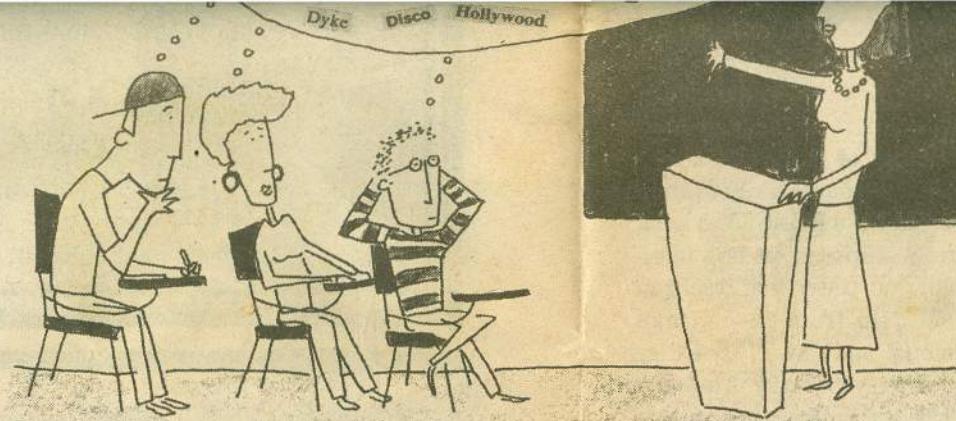
barely defeating Idaho's anti-gay initiative, Proposition 1. When I should have been reading *The Culture of Desire*, I was mucking through various plowed wheat fields, hammering in "No on 1" signs. When I should have been vamping out my syllabus, I was writing my 120th letter to the editor.

Christmas vacation came, and I wasn't ready.

What to do? I decided on a more "warts and all" approach. Gay culture is a moving target. It's always way out there, pushing the envelope, volatile, especially in the current political climate. What better way to study it than to examine it as a living organism, in the present tense? As one of my students later said, "Instead of giving us information that had already been studied to death and regurgitated, you gave us the raw data and let us do our own intellectual work."

This approach required a steady source of contemporary gay news, and semester-long subscriptions to *The Advocate* gave my thirteen students a biweekly window on gay culture. The class, free-flowing to begin with, went through a second metamorphosis as I met these students. Only one, Nick, was openly gay, and he was a freshman, given special permission to take this upper division class because of his unique situation. The rest were straight. They were all from Idaho. Although some had gay friends or siblings, several of them hadn't even realized this was a class about the gay civil rights movement. The Honors program had decided on a more subtle title, "Civil Rights for Everyone: A Place at the Table." Over time, we tried various abbreviations, but simply ended up calling it "the gay class," as in, "Oh yeah, I've gotta get that report done for my gay class."

So we had to begin at the beginning. Our first real class consisted of a vocabulary lesson, providing the words we'd need for discussion. Because they were so straight, because they were so innocent, I was terrified but plunged in anyway, and we talked through all the terms: homosexual, queer, longtime companion, Log Cabin Republicans, affectional preference, pink triangles, etc. They reeled under the information, startled that there could be gay Republicans, previously unaware of the origin of the term lesbian." We talked about the difficulties of coming up with alternative terms for "husband" and "wife" and I retold



Sean Moynihan

straight students to carry around Michelangelo Signorile's flamboyantly pink-covered book, *Queer in America*. The class was full of surprises.

In an attempt to demonstrate "gaydar," we watched clips from *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, some of us realizing immediately that, of course, Matthew and Gareth were

TEACHING 'THE GAY CLASS'

By Susan Baumgartner • Special to the TRIANGLE

gay; some of us astounded and demanding to know how a few minutes of film—a scene of two men preparing breakfast together, a devotion to gaudy waistcoats, and one impassioned speech at a funeral—could be enough to clearly indicate sexual orientation.

In another experiment, we each spent two or three days either observing instances of sexual flaunting or trying to refrain from flaunting our own sexual orientations. Reporting back, we were astonished at how constantly people mention their husbands, wives, marriage, children; how central intimate relationships are to our own sense of self. Ironically, three of us who were single and planned to easily refrain from flaunting, happened to have romantic experiences during that period and found it completely impossible to lie about the existence of that "other" who had so unexpectedly and wonderfully appeared.

The logistics of getting 13 issues of *The Advocate* bundled up and sent to Idaho every two weeks proved difficult at first. The initial issues came in Fed Ex envelopes and I

my students than they learn from me, and this course was no exception. Because of the composition of the class, I often had to jump in as a lesbian participant rather than staying in my safe role as instructor. Nick and I frequently found ourselves way out on the edge with everyone else trying to pull us back toward the middle where things were more comfortable. At the same time, I think Nick and I were amazed at how often the straight students were willing to envision themselves within gay culture, how often they willingly tried on our conflicts and dilemmas and then tried to think their way to possible solutions. We had some knockdown-dragouts between Bruce Bawer fans and

Signorile supporters that were worthy of the most volatile queer debates. During the mean-spirited fight over Proposition 1, I'd largely given up on straight people, even our straight allies, but the class made me realize how much gay and straight people can give to each other, how much we can enrich each other's lives when we're willing to talk openly and when we work to break down the barriers of guilt and resentment and mutual incomprehension.

I also learned that education is not as powerful as I'd thought.

Even after a whole semester of open discussion about gayness, a class in which we sometimes wept because the human situations were so moving or emotional, two students chose to cling to their religious beliefs that homosexuality is a sin and can never be acceptable. All that information, all those truths, were not enough to change the minds of these students, obviously bright, obviously thoughtful. It was a sobering experience and made me measure, yet again, the difficulties of reaching members of the religious right.

But overall, the class was a great success. Gay humor permeated almost everything we did. We told dyke jokes and breeder jokes and laughed together about the ludicrousness that inevitably happens when two people fall in love, regardless of sexual orientation. This fall I've applied to the Curriculum Committee to have a gay studies class included as a regular offering at the University of Idaho. My fingers are crossed. Teaching the gay class was the most intellectually thrilling, emotionally wrenching thing I've ever done in my life. I can hardly wait to do it again. ☺

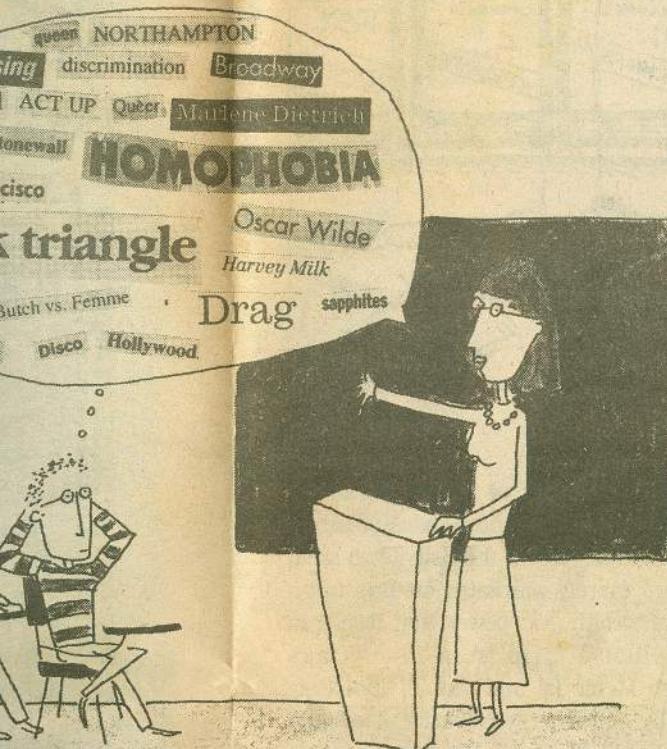
Melissa Roth

"nowhere to go
available now
<http://www.poly>

story about her frustrated friend's invention of " as a title for Ian's partner. When the students get the joke, I realized we were going to be

had to get out of the way of my own internal-homophobia.

around at the idea of gayness from every possible-psychological, genetic, historical, religious, stic. We talked about gender stereotyping and activism and the impact of AIDS. We had all st speakers, gay and straight. Often, we ended about the issues from a straight perspective—, hetero-heroes, P-FLAG, what it's like for



Sean Moynihan

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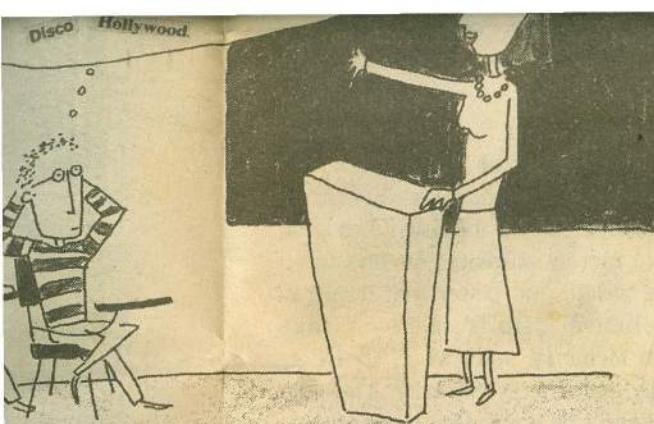
simply distributed them in class. The students were startled at first; by the advertisements, almost all of them for hedonistic pleasures like alcohol and cruises; by the numerous depictions of same gender couples, men mostly, in affectionate, romantic poses, something they'd never seen before.

But the true surprise came with issue number four. This time, the magazines arrived in the usual grey plastic cover. The students were shocked. All this time they'd been getting the magazines openly, cover visible, and our whole approach for the class had been quite up front. The teacher was a lesbian. She was proud of being gay. She'd come out in the local paper and never made attempts to hide her sexual orientation. The Advocate, which they'd accepted before as just another magazine, something you could probably pick up at the grocery store, now seemed like something secretive, shameful, so out of the mainstream it had to be concealed in a plain brown wrapper. It was an unplanned experiment which taught us all how much even little things, like the hiding of a magazine cover, color our perceptions.

I always feel that I learn more from my students than they learn from me, and this course was no exception. Because of the composition of the class, I often had to jump in as a lesbian participant rather than staying in my safe role as instructor. Nick and I frequently found ourselves way out on the edge with everyone else trying to pull us back toward the middle where things were more comfortable. At the same time, I think Nick and I were amazed at how often the straight students were willing to envision themselves within gay culture, how often they willingly tried on our conflicts and dilemmas and then tried to think their way to possible solutions. We had some knockdown-dragouts between Bruce Bawer fans and

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i know a place
down past an old shack
on a road that goes to nowhere
ain't nobody coming back
we can go there tonight
we can talk until dawn
or maybe something else
i'll leave the radio on
there's no one to hear
you might as well scream
they never woke up
from the american dream
and they don't understand
what they don't see
and they look through you
and they look past me
oh you and i dancing slow
and we got nowhere to go
past the wal-mart and the prison
down by the old va
just my jeans and my t-shirt
and my blue chevrolet
it's saturday night
feels like everything's wrong
i've got some strawberry wine
i want to get you alone
down by the muddy water
of the mighty mo
in an old abandoned box car



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and they look past me
oh you and i dancing slow
and we got nowhere to go
past the wal-mart and the prison
down by the old va
just my jeans and my t-shirt
and my blue chevrolet
it's saturday night
feels like everything's wrong
i've got some strawberry wine
i want to get you alone
down by the muddy water
of the mighty mo
in an old abandoned box car
will i ever know
dance with me forever
this moment is divine
i'm so close to heaven
this hell is not mine
this hell is not mine

"nowhere to go" from *your little secret*
available november 14
<http://www.polygram.com/methridge>.

Texas Personals

Discreet Phone Contacts By Area Code

Austin JOCK BOY NEXT DOOR: GWM, 19, long blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth and very buffed, seeks other guys, 18-22, masculine, cute, athletic and muscular only, for fun and more. Please leave a message. #17228

Austin GROUP GROPE: GHM couple seeks others for fun and more. Please leave a message. #17462

GRAB THAT PHONE!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- 1) To respond to these ads & browse others Call: 1-900-288-1119
- 2) To record your FREE Texas Personals personal ad Call: 1-800-546-MENN (We'll print it here)
- 3) To pick-up messages from your existing ad Call: the 900 number & Press the star key (#)

Due to our large volume of calls, if you can't get thru, simply try your call later.

Questions Call: 1-415-281-3183

Austin COUNTRY MUSIC LOVER: GWM, 19, 6'2, brown hair, blue eyes, model, varied interests, drug/disease free, seeks masculine men with similar qualities, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17857

Corpus Christi TRUE LOVE IN TEXAS: GWM, cowboy, 19, 6'2", very masculine and aggressive, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks other masculine and attractive men for a serious relationship. Please leave a message. #16010

Recording your ad:

Figure out what you want to say before calling in. Write down what you want to say. Keep it short and simple. Just describe yourself and what you're looking for. Our computerized system will walk you through the rest. Have a pen ready to

MANFINDER™

others, 25-35, very masculine and discrete, similar qualities preferred, for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. #16595

Dallas SHOP WITH ME: GWM, 19, music professional, college student, 5'7", 135, clean cut, seeks friends and cuddlers, 18-21, race is not important. Please leave a message. #12203

Dallas TRAVELING MAN: GWM, 31, 5'9", 155, blonde hair, blue eyes, good body, varied interests, seeks other GWM, under 29, slim and smooth, for friendship and more. I can travel if necessary. Please call me! #17450

Ft. Worth FRIENDLY IN FT.

WORTH: GHM, 30, black hair, brown eyes, seeks others, under 30, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17854

Ft. Worth GWM, attractive, 24, cowboy, brown hair, blue eyes, 'stache/goatee'd versatile, 6'1", 175, good shape, seeks GWM, football player's build in a masculine cowboy or other. Beard a plus. Please leave a message. #12853

Ft. Worth **LET'S GO SLOW:** GWM, 20, 5'11", 130, blonde hair, blue eyes, avid movie goer and varied interests, seeks local GWM's, for friendship and much more. Please leave a message. #17337

Las Colinas TOP THIS: GBM, 23, 5'7", 165, submissive, light skin, seeks GBM/GHM/GLM, masculine, aggressive and well built, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17226

Longview TEDDY BEAR: GWM, 39, short, stocky and hairy, seeks attractive, masculine and clean cut males over 30, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #16265

Louisville DISCRETE INTERLUDES: GWM, 6'1", 175, brown hair, blue eyes, good looking, goatee, height/weight proportionate, seeks GWM/GHM, defined body and hairy chested, for weekly encounters. Please leave a message. #17354

Lubbock OPENING DOORS: GHM, 29, still in school, seeks other

attractive, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #16099

Houston LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN: GWM, compassionate and straight acting, new to area, varied interests, 28, 5'11", 155, brown hair and eyes, seeks GWM/GHM, 25-32, for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. #16279

Houston STUD MUFFIN: GWM, 5'9", 145, smooth, 29, varied interests, seeks GHM, under 29, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17017

Houston SOFTBALL LOVER: GWM, 29, 5'10", 150, hazel eyes, brown hair, good looking and masculine, varied interests, seeks same, 20-35, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17037

Houston COWBOY WANTED: GWM, professional and attractive, 6', 155, 40's, disease/drug/smoke free, seeks GBM/GHM, 35+, with same qualities, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17384

Western Houston MUSCLED COWBOY SOUGHT: GWM, 37, 5'11", 180, long blonde hair, blue eyes, good body, seeks cowboys, 18-28, who are into wranglers, working out and rock & roll, well endw'd a plus, for friendship and more. Please call!

Arlington BOTTOM'S UP: GWM, seeks young GWM's, 18-23, versatile but mostly submissive, for pleasure and fun. Please leave a message. #15325

Dallas TEXAS TWO STEPPER: GWM, 5'7", 160, dark hair and gray eyes, seeks others, 30-45, for good times and more. Please leave a message. #15309

Dallas OAKLAWN MAN: GBM, 30, very attractive, tall, 6'2", 150, swimmer's build, seeks cuddlers. Please leave a message. #15391

Eastern Texas RECORDING ARTIST: GWM, 195, 6', perfect condition and health, seeks versatile and masculine GBM/GHM or Cuban males anywhere in the U.S. for friendship and more. Travel no problem. Please leave a message. #15767

Amanda

AMANDA B. RECKONDWITH



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Dear Fans, once again Houston has proven itself to be the largest cultural backwater in the universe. Our dear friends at PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) recently released two extremely moving and poignant public service commercials to spread awareness of homophobia and its deadly impact upon gay youth. Well, when PFLAG took these commercials to Houston's television networks, they were summarily rejected by every last one of them.

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**Houston is ruled
by a small elite group
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Laredo MASCULINE ONLY: GWM, military man, 6', blue eyes, brown hair, 190, new to this, seeks GWM's, 25-40, discrete and masculine preferred with experience, for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17519

San Antonio MOVIES AND DANCING: GWM, 18, student, varied interests, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks others for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #16199

San Antonio OUTGOING AND SPONTANEOUS: GWM, 57", 25, brown eyes, blonde hair, trim, varied interests, seeks GWM, 20-30, compassionate and aggressive. Please have varied interests and leave a message. #8783

San Antonio SEEKING POSITIVE THINKERS: GWM, 39, HIV+, seeks others who are HIV+ for companionship and friendship. Please leave a message. #16660

San Antonio STRAIGHT FORWARD: GWM, 29, 150; HIV-, 5'7", clean shaven, drug free, good shape, seeks

'stache/goatee'd versatile, 6'1", 175, good shape, seeks GWM, football player's build in a masculine cowboy or other. Beard a plus. Please leave a message. #12853

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Lubbock OPENING DOORS: GWM, 29, still in closet, new to area, seeks others to open the door. Please leave a message. #17150

Midland MIKE IS MISERABLE IN MIDLAND: GWM, new to area, 33, 6', brown hair, green eyes, mustache, seeks other guys in the area for friendship and more. Please leave a message. #17454

Texas READY AND MORE THAN WILLING: GWM, 18, 6', varied interests, seeks others with varied interests, age and race not important, for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. #16743

Texas THIS IS DEWAYNE: GWM, 20's, dark hair, hazel eyes, 'stache, good looking, varied interests, not into bar scene or cruising, peculiar sense of humor, seeks permanent relationship. Call me. #41391

Houston ON GOLDEN BLONDE: GWM, 24, 5'7", 145, blonde hair, green eyes,

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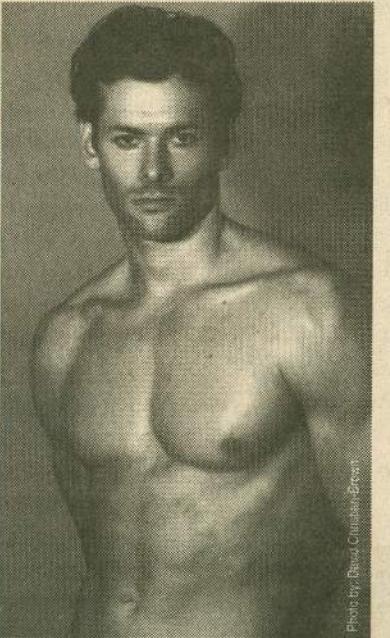


Photo by David Chidester-Bartlett

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Houston is ruled by a small elite group of conservative corporate gods who dwell and breed under the suffocating live oaks like the infamous giant cockroaches they mimic

Of course, Amanda is not surprised, but she is certainly disappointed. We are not surprised, because this is after all the only major city in the country that censored "Tales of the City" by digitalizing every conceivable body part and garbling every possible verbal inflection. But then, that is so Houston! Even Dallas, the first bastion of Baptist conservatism, has the class and the guts to leave art alone! That must be why Dallas is always mentioned on the Weather Channel while Houston is ignored.

Houston is ruled by a small elite group of conservative corporate gods who dwell and breed under the suffocating live oaks like the infamous giant cockroaches they mimic. There is a dual nature to Houston that does not exist in any other city of its size. It is the most megalopolis as

small southern town.

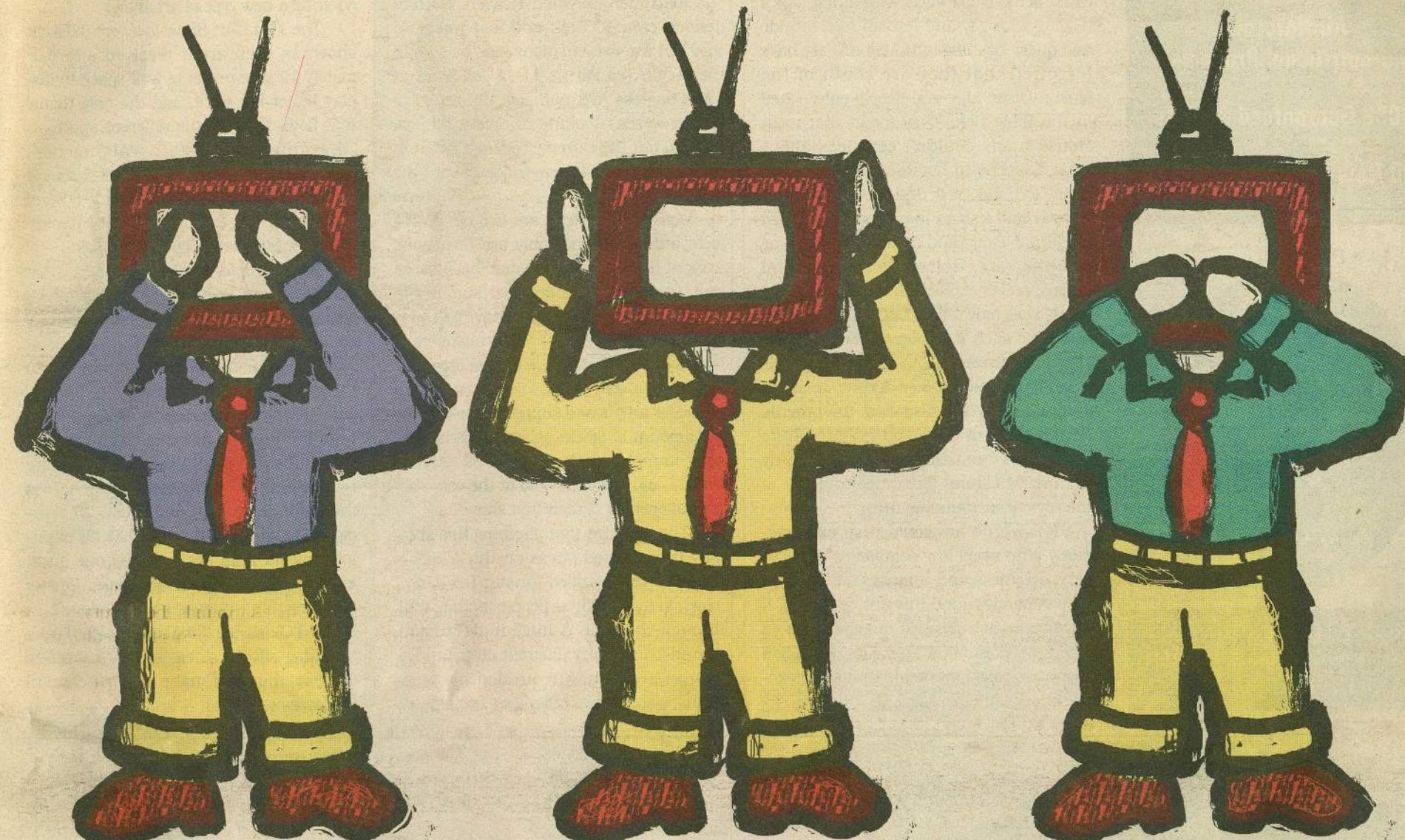
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They tend to sit comfortably among themselves in west churches like First and Second Baptist and John the Divine—each with congregations of thousands, hands raised to their white sugar-coated Aryan Jesus (who, by the way, still weeps over the loss of the Civil War). They listen to hate and prejudice spewed from the pulpits against gays and lesbians because they can no longer get away with the once-convenient and accepted racism that fueled their sermons for so many decades. Their children go to private religious-based academies and prep-schools where they are so convinced of their exclusivity and superiority that they lack the natural tendency to rebel against their elders.

And all these privileged people own the businesses that pay the money for the advertising that fuels the television stations of the city. This must be the case, since we all know that a good percentage of those who work on and off the screen at these stations are gay, or are at least seen in gay bars and restaurants.

Call: **1-900-288-1119**

To respond to ads, browse unlisted ads, or retrieve messages. Only \$1.99 per minute. 18+

The Texas Triangle Arts & Entertainment

Andrew Criss

AUSTIN—Austin residents may get a chance next year to see what people who live in Houston and Dallas are already watching: a critically acclaimed news-magazine dedicated to gay issues and culture that is

When it first started production in 1992, only six stations carried the shows, which were then a half-hour long. Since then, *ITL* has switched over to an hour-long format in which host Katherine Linton introduces segments by various correspondents.

"We do have almost a shortage of time slots, because there's so much product out there," Lauderman said. "There's so much programming that comes through to us just from that one station, distributed directly by WNYC (WNYC co-produces *ITL*.) Then there are other series and



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AUSTIN—Austin residents may get a chance next year to see what people who live in Houston and Dallas are already watching: a critically acclaimed news-magazine dedicated to gay issues and culture that is being seen on almost 75 public television stations nationwide.

In The Life is broadcast television's only regularly scheduled series concentrating solely on gay issues, and is dedicated to introducing the many facets of the gay and lesbian community to mainstream America. The show has been lauded not only by the gay press, but also by publications as diverse as *TV Guide*, *USA Today*, *The Chicago Tribune* and both the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*.

Unlike most other shows seen on public television, *ITL* does not receive any funds from PBS, the Public Broadcasting System. It is supported by a handful of private sponsors and a national network of individual contributors, and is provided free of charge to public television stations.

When it first started production in 1992, only six stations carried the shows, which were then a half-hour long. Since then, *ITL* has switched over to an hour-long format in which host Katherine Linton introduces segments by various correspondents.

Some of the topics that have been covered include: coming out in the workplace; gender roles in Native American culture; lesbian and gay parents; the history of homosexuals serving in the military; a profile of the openly gay mayor of a 300-person town in Missouri who's in his eighth term, and a look at a number of social service projects in Los Angeles specifically targeting lesbians and gay men.

Now in its fourth season, *ITL* is being broadcast five times a year: October, December, February, April and June. And while it can be seen in Dallas and Houston, as well as statewide in North Dakota, Oregon, Wisconsin and Vermont, people who live in Austin aren't as lucky.

The problem in Austin, according to David Lauderman, KLRU program operations manager, is a question of time.

"We do have almost a shortage of time slots, because there's so much product out there," Lauderman said. "There's so much programming that comes through to us just from that one station, distributed directly by WNYC (WNYC co-produces *ITL*.) Then there are other series and programming coming to us from each regional network, made up of regional PBS stations."

He said, "It's really hard, because there's a wide variety of programming covering a wide variety of topics coming from these sources. A lot of the series don't get aired, because it's so hard to find the time for them."

John Catania, *ITL* producer, said, "We've been in touch with them as recently as the last month or two. (Time-slots) is a complete front. That's a problem only at the very largest stations. If that's the case, then (KLRU) would be the first station in the country not to run *ITL* because of time-slots."

"Basically, what they have (said) is that they do not have room in their schedule on public television for one program, one regularly scheduled serious program, on gay and lesbian issues," Catania said.

continued on page 22

Whose IN THE LIFE is it, anyway?

By Casey Hamilton • Special to the TRIANGLE

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Amanda

continued from page 16

And so, when a noble and very up-front organization like PFLAG introduces public service ads against homophobia, it is only natural that they are rejected. PFLAG was wrong to think that they could actually get away with airing topics dealing with gay and lesbian teen suicide and queer-bashing in Houston. They have forgotten that they are south of the Mason-Dixon Line and deeply entrenched in the Bible Belt. They forget that most Houstonians couldn't care less about what happens to homosexuals, and that their God and their Jesus tell them that our gay and lesbian friends will only burn in eternal agony and damnation for being who they are, unless they repent and marry and beget children.

It was naive of PFLAG to think they could air such enlightened messages on Houston's airwaves, Dear Fans. And while it saddens Amanda very deeply, we are in a strange way satisfied that the parents and families of gays and lesbians have once again been slapped in the face by the overwhelming ignorance and evil of the society surrounding them.

It is a cruel awakening that must certainly strip away any semblance of political correctness and complacency on their part. Amanda found this out years ago. It is why she is published outside Houston where its poisonous art-killing Christian corporate-based marketing influence cannot impede her message. ◊

18 ▼ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE ▼ NOVEMBER 17, 1995

Tea Party Unites Artists

Jennifer Dockery

TRIANGLE Staff

Alan Klenk created Heaven, Nathan Jensen created Hell, and last weekend they put the two creations side by side at the Austin Tea Party's 11-11 Art Show at 823 Congress Ave. Actually, the two local artists weren't looking to create biblical images, but the extreme contrast between their work caused them to joke about the analogy.

Jensen and Klenk are two of over 40 local artists who not only are displaying work at the show, but created the show as well, from its conception last summer to its opening night on Saturday, Nov. 11. Both are among five founding members of the Austin Tea Party, a new local organization whose sole purpose is to provide a venue for artists and supporters to witness the amount of action occurring within the art community. Their motto is "Artists Unite!" and unite they did at the very successful opening of their first show.

The first sign that planning this show may have caused stress on the artists is Jensen's work entitled "Austin Tea Party," which screams out at people as they walk through the door. A huge nude woman, comprised of many different oil paintings, lies on a couch surrounded by drop cloths, photocopies of famous nude paint-

ings and Polaroid photos of Jensen and his work. Surrounding this work are about 10 other paintings of Jensen's, most showing twisted, screaming faces jumping off the wall. This display of organized clutter not only exposes Jensen's talent, but informs guests that they are entering a new type of art show.

The 11-11 Art Show is a very different show, as each artist received approximately 12 square feet of wall space to display his or her work, and the only theme that flows through the different spaces is "the unity of artists." Walking past Jensen's creation to the other art spaces is a journey through almost every type of visual art today, from photography to original mixed media to digital paintings.

For example, one area of the exhibit space displays Polly MacGregor's triptych describing the Aeneid in mostly primary colors. MacGregor, a 23-year-old artist from Boston, translated the work from Latin, and includes a summary of the epic with her work. Adjacent to this painting were five huge oil paintings by Molly Iley, whose abstract paint-splattered works are reminiscent of Jackson Pollock. Across the room, another young artist, 25 year-old Nikki Shilling, displays her oil paintings, which were described by one guest as looking like soft stained glass. One of her paintings is even called "Venus in Stained Glass." Shilling's paintings have a haunting effect, adding spooky images to the foreground of many of her beautiful landscapes.

continued on page 25

WHEN FACING A
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By Gary L.
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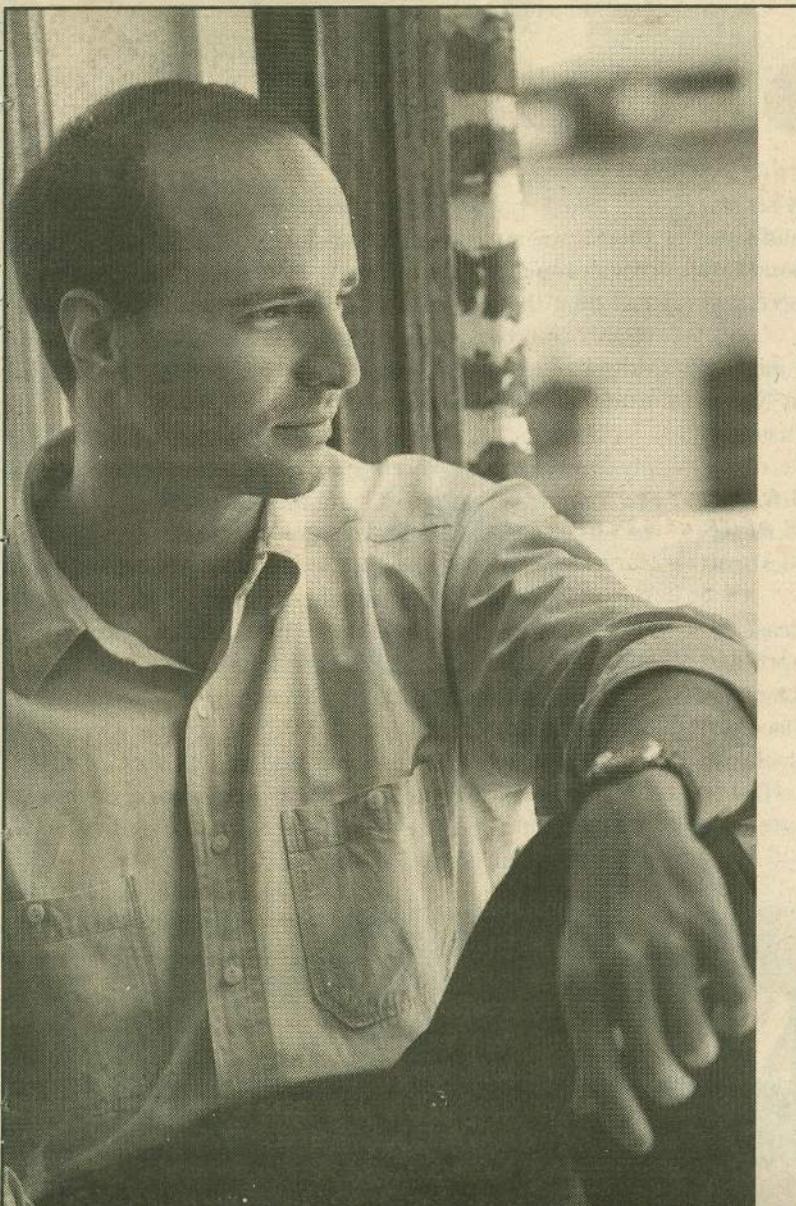
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continued on page 25

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The Kansas cyclone comes skating into Texas and drops Dorothy in Houston, Dallas and Ft. Worth in Kenneth Feld's spectacular \$9 million production of *The*



Wizard of Oz on Ice.

The first full-length production on ice of this American classic plays in Houston Nov. 22-26 at the Summit; in Dallas at the Reunion Arena Nov. 29-Dec. 3 and in Ft. Worth Dec. 7-10 at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

Choreographer Robin Cousins, Great Britain's 1980 Olympic gold medalist, heads the international creative team. Just as the original MGM movie starring Judy Garland utilized state-of-the-art technology of its time in sound, lighting and set design, Feld's production is on the

Arts, Briefly

NICKI ORSBORN

**HOUSTON'S TRISH MURPHY
GOES SOLO**

Houston native Trish Murphy will play at McGonigel's Mucky Duck, Nov. 24 at 9 pm.

Trish said goodbye to her band and her singing partner and brother, Darin, in December '94 to embark on a solo career. Her new release, "Driving Home," recorded in Houston at Sugar Hill Studios, is a six-song cassette sampler including the popular "The Trouble with Trouble" and "Lightning Strikes." For information call (713) 528-5999.

**...PICK OF THE WEEK IN AUSTIN
IS SUPER STAR REBA MCENTIRE**

Two Grammys, four consecutive Country Music Association's Female

vention will be held in Austin Dec. 1-3. Highlight of the weekend is the Dec. 2 musical gala, *Gilbert and Sullivan Holiday Revue and Trial by Jury* by the Texas Gilbert and Sullivan Company of Dallas. The musical will be held at the Scottish Rite Theater, 18th and Lavaca. A champagne buffet in the reception room of the Cambridge Towers follows the performance. For more information call (512) 472-4772.

**KATHERINE GRIFFITH IS LOST...
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The Vortex Repertory Company presents playwright-actor Katherine Griffith in her original comedy, *Lost in Utopia*, Nov. 16-18 at the Planet Theatre. Active with Jump Start Performance Company



in San Antonio, Griffith has toured the country with *Utopia* including stints at the Dallas Theatre Center, the New York Shakespeare Festival and Yale University. For tickets call (512) 499-TIXS

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Choreographer Robin Cousins, Great Britain's 1980 Olympic gold medalist, heads the international creative team. Just as the original MGM movie starring Judy Garland utilized state-of-the-art technology of its time in sound, lighting and set design, Feld's production is on the cutting edge of 1990's technology.

For tickets in Houston call (713) 629-3700; available at any Ticketmaster outlet or the Summit box office.

In Dallas and Ft. Worth tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (214) 373-8000 or (214) 868-2843.

TWO CITIES JOIN FOR CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Happendsdance, presented by the Chrysalis Dance Company and Contemporary Dance/Fort Worth Nov. 17 and 18 at the Heinen Theatre in Houston, is just part of the weekend of dance hosted by Chrysalis of Houston.

Contemporary Dance/Fort Worth will teach a master class Nov. 18 at noon in the main dance studio of Houston Community College. The class is open to the public; fee is \$5.

Chrysalis was founded in 1983 as a contemporary dance company for all ages and is the company-in-residence at the Heinen Theatre of the Houston Community College. For tickets and information call (713) 630-1138 or (713) 661-9855.

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...PICK OF THE WEEK IN AUSTIN IS SUPER STAR REBA MCENTIRE

Two Grammys, four consecutive Country Music Association's Female



photo: Mark Tucker

Vocalist of the Year awards and 20 million albums later, Reba McEntire, as successful at entrepreneurship as she is performing, comes to Austin's Frank Erwin Center Nov. 24. Opening for the superstar are Tracy Byrd and Rhett Akins. (512) 477-6060 and all UTTM ticket centers. \$27.

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in San Antonio, Griffith has toured the country with *Utopia* including stints at the Dallas Theatre Center, the New York Shakespeare Festival and Yale University. For tickets call (512) 499-TIXS

TRAIL OF LIGHTS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or organizations are needed to serve as trail monitors-hosts for the Austin's Trail of Lights Dec. 10-17. Deadline to confirm is Nov. 30. Call the cultural arts department, City Parks and Recreation for more information, (512) 397-1454.

LIVE OAK'S HARVEST FESTIVAL LAUDS NEW AMERICAN PLAYS

Live Oak Theatre's Harvest of New American Plays will be held Nov. 17-19 at the State Theatre on Congress.

And a rich harvest it is. The best new American Play Award and \$1,000 goes to Alan Brody, associate provost of MIT, for *The Housewives of Manheim*. The all-female cast deals with the growth of a middle class mother who learns the pain of growth and betrayal as she seeks a broader vision of the world. 8pm reading, Nov. 17.

Desert Crossing by last year's winner, Lisa Shipley and *A Room at the Sheraton* by Michael Moran will be read at 4 p.m. Saturday; *The Grace to Climb with Eagles* by Ron Mark will be read at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Sunday at 2 p.m., Clay Nichols' *Among Thistles*, winner of the Larry L. King outstanding Texas Playwright

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Other Live Oak news is the appointment of Michael Hankin as associate director, director of new play development and producer of the Harvest Festival of New American Plays. □

Stage Struck

DAVID MARK COHEN



AUSTIN—"I have no sense of humor," moans Maggie, the most hopelessly unethnically of *Jake's Women*, the recent Neil Simon comedy currently in revival at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre of St. Edward's University. Jake's snappy comeback: "We'll get you a tutor!"

Never fear. Director Ev Lunning, Jr., has tutored a strong student cast—headed by Equity Guest Artist Eddie Mekka—to near comic perfection. A few New York accents may head a little

while working out a relationship with a new love. The punch of *Jake's Women* comes from the playwright's new-found dramaturgical freedom. It's as if the success of Simon's semi-serious *Brighton Beach Trilogy*—and Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lost in Yonkers*—gave him the courage to throw away his rule book and just have fun with the power of theatre.

As Jake, Eddie Mekka is loveably warm and fussy—though he seemed to be losing vocal control in the later part of the play.

The women are impressive: you're certain to have a different feeling about Neil Simon after sharing an evening with this remarkable gallery of women. Whether girl friend (Kodie Nagy), wife (Kelly K. Stump), shrink (Amy Bizjak), sister (Brenda Gleiter), or daughter (Julie Buchanan and Ami Hubbard at different ages), they are a powerful sisterhood.

Designer Michael Massey has provided a glossy setting—punctuated by a clever neon wall sculpture—while the costumes of Pamela Anson match Jake's antic imagination—right down to Karen's very red platform wedges.

Yes, the play seems a bit on the lengthy side. But by the time Jake has engineered an impossible meeting between mother and daughter—reconciling his own need for closure—Simon's careful balance of comedy and sentiment becomes totally irresistible. It's nice to see St. Ed's doing the kind of material they do best.

Jake's *Women* performs through



Buchanan, Mekka & Hubbard in *Jake's Women*

southerly, but the overall effect of this semi-autobiographical, introspective play is moving and funny.

Taking a cue from British playwright Alan Ayckbourn (who for years was erroneously termed the "British Neil Simon"), *Jake's Women* utilizes a strong theatrical conceit: the hero "summons up" the women in his life and puts the words in their mouths. Unfortunately for Jake, they are aware that they are his creations and often rebel at playing their roles.

Of course, Simon is reworking much

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Buchanan, Mekka & Hubbard in *Jake's Women*

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Of course, Simon is reworking much of the material of his autobiographical *Chapter Two*—Jake is a writer struggling with the memory of his saintly first wife

Whether girl friend (Kodie Nagy), wife (Kelly K. Stump), shrink (Amy Bizjak), sister (Brenda Gleiter), or daughter (Julie Buchanan and Ami Hubbard at different ages), they are a powerful sisterhood.

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Jake's Women performs through November 19 at the Mary Moody Northen Theatre of St. Edward's University. Phone: (512) 448-8484. □

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The life and times of 'ITL'

continued from page 17

"Right now, they're telling the gay and lesbian community of Austin, that they cannot make room for one hour every two months."

Currently, according to the television schedule printed in the Sunday edition of the *Austin American-Statesman*, KLRU is off the air for two and a half hours on weekdays and six and a half hours on weekends.

KLRU's broadcast manager Maria Rodriguez was not available for comment, due to a death in the family. However, Lauderman said that she feels KLRU is "covering that area, with the *POV* series and the *Territory* series, and some other programming coming from PBS itself."

POV is distributed by PBS, while *Territory* is a co-production of KLRU, KUHT in Houston, and Laguna Gloria art museum. Lauderman said both *POV* and *Territory* feature the work of "independent

22 ▶ THE TEXAS TRIANGLE ▶ NOVEMBER 17, 1995

filmmakers, with a wide range of things from experimental film and video to docu-

"Right now, they're telling the gay and lesbian community of Austin, that they cannot make room for one hour every two months."

mentaries. Those two series have featured programs on gay men and women, and also films done by gay filmmakers. This

schedule at least the two that PBS was going to distribute. But I don't know when she plans to do that, and I don't know that we would use all four. But I'm fairly sure that there's a good chance that the two of those might play," he said. "What she's looking at right now is working in potentially two to four of the episodes of *A Question of Equality* series."

One of Lauderman's responsibilities is to schedule programming for KLRU2, KLRU's cable-cast sister station, channel 20 on Austin Cable Vision. It has often been the case that shows which can't find air-time on KLRU end up being scheduled on KLRU2.

"Some of the public affairs shows that we've not been able to get worked into the schedule on KLRU, I've found time-slots for on KLRU2," he said. "It's something that I'll probably look into for these kinds of series as well."

Lauderman said, "Maria's unable to work either *Network Q*, or *ITL* into the schedule. But it's something that I might take a look at and see if we can at least use it on KLRU2. That's definitely a possibility in the future."

"Probably it's not something that I would really look at working into the schedule until early next year, January or February, and it will be either one or the other, *Network Q* or *ITL*," he said. "I'll probably end up cable-casting one of those on KLRU2, starting sometime early next year. It's a matter of which one and exactly when."

Catania said *ITL* has made getting on the air in Austin a priority this season. He mentioned that the newest member of the *ITL* board of directors is Tony Award-winning playwright Terrance McNally, a native Texan from Corpus Christi.

"He remembers what it was like growing up gay in Texas," Catania said. According to Catania, *ITL* airs in many parts of the country because of grassroots

However, Catania said cable-casting *ITL* could be a problem. "There's a legality issue there," he said. "A lot of our film footage is provided to us with the stipulation that it only be broadcast on public television."

"Plus, we're committed to being on public television," Catania said. "We believe it's important that the gay and lesbian community be represented on public

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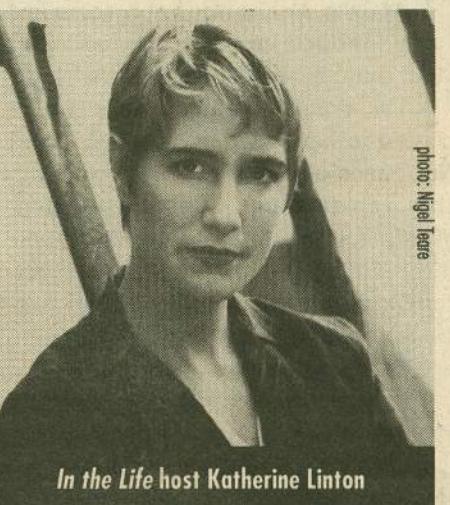
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In the Life host Katherine Linton

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"Usually in December the influenza kills most of them according to Ro of TDH's Influen

"Fewer than in high-risk groups warnings to see he added. "We some older people because of an vaccine can act truth is that a contract some from the vaccine vaccine usually of the case."

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Children who never received a shot, then a shot. Adults, however, per season.

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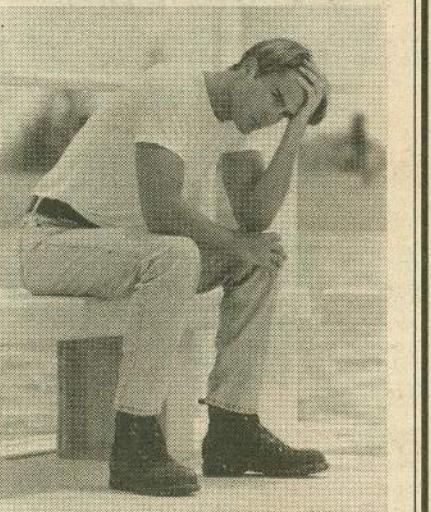
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In the Life host Katherine Linton

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"He remembers what it was like growing up gay in Texas," Catania said. According to Catania, *ITL* airs in many parts of the country because of grassroots support. He said it is best for Austinites who wish to see *ITL* added at KLRU to write to the station in a non-confrontational manner.

Lauderman said the station has received telephone calls about not only *ITL*, but also about *Network Q*, another news-magazine show, and about *A Question of Equality*, a four-part series about the gay civil rights movement.

According to Lauderman, *A Question of Equality* "was being handled by ITVS (the Independent Television Service). They presented it to PBS, and for whatever reason, PBS said (they'd) distribute two of the four episodes as part of their national schedule. ITVS said no, you have to do all four. So it didn't come through PBS."

Lauderman said he feels it was a mistake for ITVS to insist on PBS distributing all four episodes of the series. "If you get the two out there distributed and aired, you might create a demand for the other two," he said. "But they chose not to."

KLRU has recorded *A Question of Equality*, Lauderman said, and Rodriguez is planning to consider them for broadcast. "I would think that she's going to

schedule. But it's something that I might take a look at and see if we can at least use it on KLRU2. That's definitely a possibility in the future."

"Probably it's not something that I would really look at working into the schedule until early next year, January or February, and it will be either one or the other, *Network Q* or *ITL*," he said. "I'll probably end up cable-casting one of those on KLRU2, starting sometime early next year. It's a matter of which one and exactly when."

However, Catania said cable-casting *ITL* could be a problem. "There's a legality issue there," he said. "A lot of our film footage is provided to us with the stipulation that it only be broadcast on public television."

"Plus, we're committed to being on public television," Catania said. "We believe it's important that the gay and lesbian community be represented on public television. And we want to reach people without them having to go through a paid (cable) service."

As far as Lauderman is concerned, *ITL* could well have the edge over *Network Q* in being included in KLRU2's schedule, because it's already being aired by KUHT and by KDTN in Dallas.

"That says a good deal for *ITL*, because the programming people in Houston especially, are very impressive people, very sharp people," Lauderman said. "If they feel it's worth air-time, that's definitely a big vote of confidence for it."

Catania said there is a wide spectrum of responses nationwide to *ITL*. In other markets, he said, not only is *ITL* included in the prime-time schedule, it's featured as part of public television's Pledge Week.

"We hear from some stations, like the ones in Denver and Tacoma, that they have their highest period of pledges during *ITL*, said Catania. In Tacoma they even have an *ITL* marathon, running for five hours."

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A Cinderella for the Masses

Bartoli Triumphs in Houston

By Gary N. Reese

Special to the TRIANGLE

HOUSTON — This wasn't New York City, and it wasn't the Metropolitan Opera.

But last Friday night along the Buffalo Bayou could have been called "Live from Wortham Center."

Inside the cavernous foyer of the Wortham and the elegant Brown Theater, a sold out crowd of 2,000 music-lovers shared the concert hall with eight TV cameras and a remote mixing board poised to capture on videotape Gioacchino Rossini's comic masterpiece of the Cinderella tale, *La Cenerentola*.

Meanwhile, outside the theater in Fish Plaza, more than 2,000 other opera-goers without tickets squeezed onto bleachers, reclined on lawn chairs and crowded onto blankets waiting for the show to begin — projected on a huge 20-by-33-foot screen huge in front of the theater's arched entranceway. Two huge PA speaker banks, customarily found at rock concerts, were set up to carry the stereo sound from the theater inside.

"This is one of the most exciting events in our company's history — the first-ever live outdoor opera simulcast in this country," announced Houston Grand Opera General Director David Gockley from the stage. "This performance is being broadcast to an audience outside the theater tonight, and later to millions around the world on PBS stations, the BBC and other networks."

The appeal of the joyous Rossini clas-

already drawn a cult following around the world, persuaded the company to attempt the ambitious project. A cloud cover that threatened to dampen the festivities had lifted by the overture's opening bars. And the stars were Rossini's shimmering orchestration, his quicksilver ensembles, and his talent for driving the comedy through a steady rhythmic beat, thematic repetition and mounting crescendos that are his trademark.

Not yet 30 years old, Bartoli already is one of the world's leading singers in this genre. From the opening scene, she was almost note-perfect, singing the part with freshness and agile virtuosity. Her voice is small, but she still can fill the house with her burnished tone and a supple expressiveness that is rarely found in singers with twice her stage experience. As her neglectful but endearingly goofy stepfather, bass Enzo Dara was the other showstopper. Dara, who has recorded

the opera with Bartoli, has a cannon of a voice, with remarkable agility and comedic timing. Argentinean tenor Raul Gimenez, in the role of the prince, is another Rossini specialist, but he sounded tired and tonally threadbare, at places barely audible in his middle register.

Conductor Bruno Campanella drew a controlled, elegant reading of the score from the mostly young players. This musical discipline produced an harmonic clarity and precision rarely heard from Rossini, but it also dampened some of his rollicking good fun and bombastic dynamics.

La Cenerentola is scheduled for



Gimenez and Bartoli

Fashionable P5 Unzips New CD

If you saw *Unzipped*, the documentary about gay designer Isaac Mizrahi, you got a taste of the eclectic Tokyo pop duo Pizzicato Five. Their song "Happy Sad" was featured in the film and can now be found on their new U.S. album, *The Sound of Music* by Pizzicato Five. Vocalist Maki Nomiya rivals the best tones from Swing Out Sister and Deee-Lite. Resembling New York's finest drag queens, she is known for glitter make-up and fantastic costumes and wigs. Yasuharu Konishi, the founder of the band, creates the concepts, the music and the art. In Japan, P5 has released over 20 CDs and EPs over the last decade. Creating spectacular theatics in their live performances, the band sold out 14 venues in 3 countries last spring. They have plans to resume a world tour in early 1996.

— Kyle Young

Moody Blues

Move over Harry Connick, Jr. — Steven Kowalczyk's *Moods and Grooves* is a jazzy collection of timeless tunes. The new album on Atlantic Records contains 11 original songs along with a cover of Johnny Burk & James Van Heusen's "Polka Dots And Moonbeams." Kowalczyk's love songs lack gender-specific lyrics, guaranteeing that his music will end up in many a gay man's CD collection.

While much of Steven's music holds wonderfully to the harmonic style of the rich 32-bar sound, it's in his subject matter that he departs from what typically might be expected in such a musical setting. "I still believe that, in this genre, you have to have a lyrical foot in the past," remarked Kowalczyk. "Not that you have to write about train stations and blue gardenias, but you have to find a way to say modern things in a more traditional way. That's the challenge." As a case in point, the bluesy "Who Do You Do" has what Steven describes as a "dirty, loungey kind of sound... It's the kind of song where you can say things like, 'I bet it makes all the sweethearts come,' or 'who do you do for this much money.'" Those lines let you know it's a CD and not a 78.

— Kyle Young

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Gimenez and Bartoli

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La Cenerentola is scheduled for nationwide broadcast on PBS stations on April 3, 1996. □

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Life Imitates Art

LYNN C. MILLER



Thirty years ago, Frank Marcus' play, *The Killing of Sister George*, arguably the first commercial, mainstream play to show lesbian life in any form, premiered in London.

The work, labeled a comedy, tells the story of June Buckridge, a BBC soap opera actress whose career and life

Sister George was remarkable in its time for its intriguing conflation of "real" life and soap opera fiction

become threatened when the show's producers decide to ax her character, the popular Sister George, out of the program. George, whose persona is so intertwined with her character that she herself confuses the two, proceeds to fall apart.

Three years later, the film director Robert Aldrich adapted the play for film, creating an even starker, more disturbing *Killing of Sister George*. With the play undergoing a thirty-year revival this year in London (with the gifted Miriam Margolyes as George), I think it's time to take another look at this landmark play and film.

Sister George was remarkable in its time for its intriguing conflation of "real" life and soap opera fiction. When the play opened this summer in London, the program copy included an essay on its pre-

was shut away behind the snuggest-fitting of closet doors, George thrives on the stereotype of the lost, immature, feminine partner (Childie) tortured by her hard, bitter, masculine lover (George). In the end, Childie is rescued by another powerful, masculine predator, the producer Mercy Croft.

So why watch *The Killing of Sister George* in 1995? Obviously, its historical value makes it a production worth attending. Clearly now, time cushions the shock value for the audience. In an uneasy scene, for example, when George forces Childie to drink bath water, we can retreat behind the screen of the past homophobia to shield us from its viciousness. The cleverness of Marcus' dialogue remains, however, as well as his artful soap opera frame around lives lived with excess and in continuous crisis.

Aldrich's film, however, has the more contemporary feel and it's definitely worth a view (Vulcan Video has a rare copy). The adapter/director transforms the radio drama into a television soap, vastly increasing the scope of the play to include footage of George (Beryl Reid) in virtual life as well as showing her interacting with the crew and her fellow actors.

But, most important, Aldrich takes the comic triad of Childie, George, and Mercy Croft and creates a powerful sexual triangle where the stakes are high. The explicit scene where the reptilian Croft (Coral Browne) seduces the alluring

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Sister George/June Buckridge is a split being: the radio character is a paragon of small town generosity and civility, while the actress who plays her is at bottom a hard-drinking cynic.

George's lover, Childie, bears the brunt of the title character's cruelty. When I saw the London production, I was appalled by the brutal nature of the couple's life together. Even when shielded by its obvious comic frame, *Sister George* makes for tough viewing: the two principals are competitive and angry and there is no affection lost between them. Depicting a mid-sixties where lesbianism

forces Childie to drink salt water, we can retreat behind the screen of the past homophobia to shield us from its viciousness. The cleverness of Marcus' dialogue remains, however, as well as his artful soap opera frame around lives lived with excess and in continuous crisis.

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But, most important, Aldrich takes the comic triad of Childie, George, and Mercy Croft and creates a powerful sexual triangle where the stakes are high. The explicit scene where the reptilian Croft (Coral Browne) seduces the alluring Childie (Susannah York), a love sequence added for the film, is one of the most remarkable depictions of sexual tension and raw desire I've ever seen. Most films show lesbian love scenes as soft-focus or romantic. Aldrich shot this scene realistically, without filtering, pointedly showing that the lust for power and youth is not just confined to male sexuality. The performances and direction in this version are superb.

The Killing of Sister George is, of course, dated. But, both its successful London stage revival, and its still-compelling transformation onto film, show that it still has life, and perhaps, a point to make. ☀

Tea Party continued from page 18

Then there is the artist known as Skin. His/her work consists of stark, commercial-like sketches and airbrushes. One airbrush contains the slogan, "Like it or not—God made pot!" Other works have an almost Warhol-ish feel to them.

Other exhibits include furniture,

mixed media, photography, ceramic wall-hangings and metal sculptures.

"I feel like we just stepped inside this energy that was already there. We want people to know that they can create something like this, for art" said Klenk, whose three-part oil painting of angels connected with a rainbow is displayed next to Jensen's work in the front of the exhibit. ☀

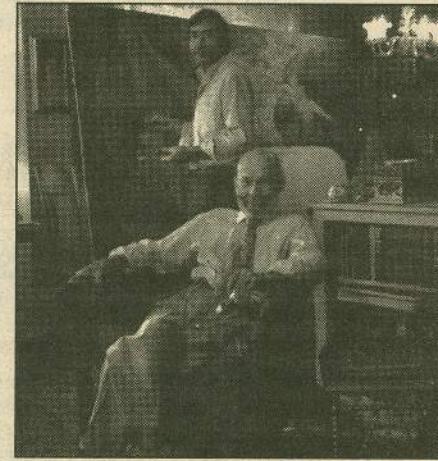


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