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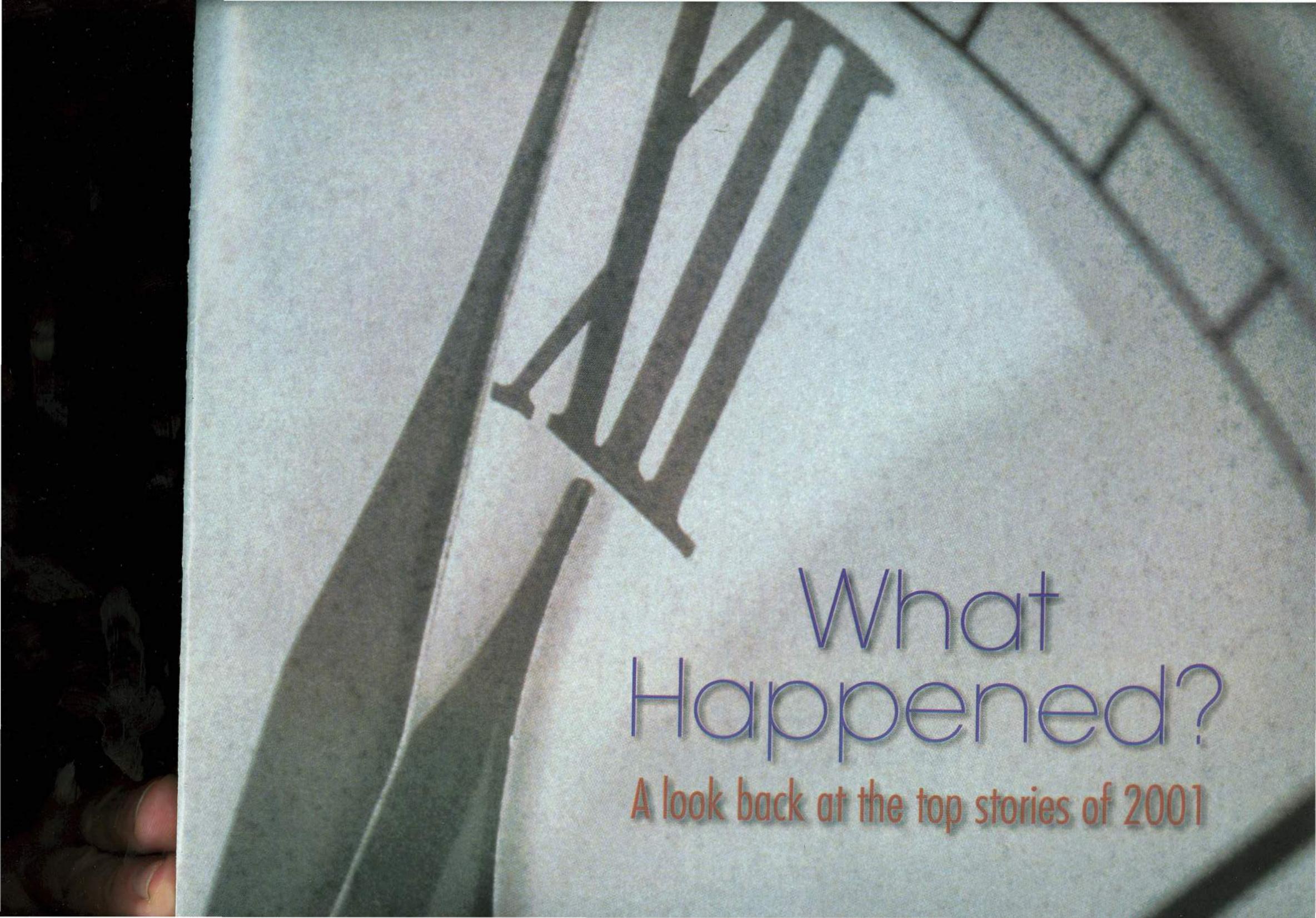
Triangle

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What Happened?

A look back at the top stories of 2001

What Happened?

A look back at the top stories of 2001

By Matt Lum
Triangle Editor in Chief

Has another year already passed? Indeed. And gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders in Texas have plenty to show for it.

The year started with a bang in Austin with the opening of the 77th session of the Legislature where several GLBT initiatives dominated the floors of the house and senate for months and prompted impassioned testimony and a March Against Hate. Lawmakers passed hate crimes legislation and non-discrimination bills lived longer and through more committees than ever before.

In Houston, anti-discrimination measures and domestic partner health care benefits dominated the scene as openly lesbian council member Annise Parker and Mayor Lee Brown faced critical run-off elections and voters citywide reversed landmark progress.

Dallas saw protestors wishing death to homosexuals, the election of another gay city council member, and the passing of community leaders Alan Gellman, Sandy Meyers and Gary Monier. GLBT protestors targeted Exxon-Mobile shareholders and The Boy Scouts of America at their national headquarters. Mayor Ron Kirk attended at gay church, and Oak Lawn became an arson hotspot.

In San Antonio, Park Rangers were accused of roughing up two Canadian tourists while calling them "Canadian Faggots" on the River Walk and later hauling them to jail. The Triangle's report on the incident sparked an FBI investigation and brought attention to the 1,000 gay men arrested in San Antonio parks over the last several years. The community center also had to relocate while finding another executive director, and the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center won a lawsuit against the city that claimed discrimination in funding distribution because of their gay and lesbian 'activism.'

Outside of Texas the world changed, as well. Terrorist struck America. Openly gay Mark Bingham thwarted their attempts on Sept. 11 by struggling with hijackers, ultimately crashing a plane destined for Washington into the unpopulated countryside. Openly gay FDNY Chaplain Mychal Judge was honored by the Pope for his service after being killed at the World Trade Center.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. The events of 2001 have truly shaped the course of human history. Join us now and take a look back at the people and events that affected our community most during the last year.

JANUARY 2001

Hate Crimes Legislation Filed

AUSTIN — In a move that well-honors the legacy of tolerance taught by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Bill was introduced into the Texas State Legislature. Authored by State Representative Senfronia Thompson and State Senator Rodney Ellis, House Bill 587 would offer universal protection to Texas citizens against crimes motivated by hatred.

"We will all continue to work fast and furiously on the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act this session," said Hardy-Garcia. "With 64 legislators

relationship status that grants to the parties of the relationship the same legal protections, benefits, and responsibilities as are granted to the spouses of a marriage," and explicitly states, "the state should not give effect to a public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes or validates a marriage or civil union between persons of the same sex and denies a right to claim asserted as a result of the purported marriage or civil union."

"Gay marriage is already against the law in Texas, so the only result of this bill is to promote anti-gay stereotypes," both Steve Labinski, president of the Texas Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) and Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL)

Challenging Park Arrests

SAN ANTONIO — A gay man needs more than one thousand dollars to help finance his court appeal on an "indecent exposure" conviction that could result in a thirty-day jail sentence. Members of San Antonio's City Park Rangers contend that the man exposed himself in a secluded area of McAlister Park in December 1999. Since January 1998, the Park Rangers have facilitated the arrest of close to 800 men, all charged with indecent exposure. The men have spent an estimated two million dollars on fines, court costs, lost work and psychological testing.

"The vast majority of the men fear public embarrassment and loss of employment, so they

Bill Filed to Remove De-criminalize Sodomy

AUSTIN — State Representative Debra Danburg (D-Houston) filed legislation to remove Texas' sodomy law from the Penal Code. The Bill (HB687) will now be assigned to the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee for consideration.

On June 8, 2000, a three-judge panel ruled in the case of Lawrence and Garner v. Texas that the Texas sodomy law violates the Equal Rights Amendment of the Texas Constitution. Danburg's bill would simply remove Section 21.06 from the books.

"This law has already been ruled unconstitutional. The Texas sodomy law is not enforceable



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"We will all continue to work fast and furiously on the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act this session," said Hardy-Garcia. "With 64 legislators co-signing the bill as it was filed, it was a powerful and moving start for the legislation."

Some of the legislators signing the bill were Republican and only 12 additional supporters in the House were needed for the bill to pass. During the last legislative session, a hate crimes bill was introduced, but after passing in the House, the bill never left the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice due to Bush's bid for the presidency. With a new governor, hopes are high this bill will pass both houses this session. Sen. Ellis said this bill is of the highest priority, and that the defeat last session, while disappointing, was good experience.

Chisum Files to Prohibit Gay Marriage

AUSTIN — State Representative Warren Chisum introduced House Bill 496 in an effort to convince lawmakers in Texas that recognizing gay relationships should be illegal. Although Texas already has a law on the books prohibiting gays from being married, this bill aims to make void all "same-sex marriages" and "civil unions" legally recognized in other states.

The bill defines a civil union as "any rela-

tionship status that grants to the parties of the relationship the same legal protections, benefits, and responsibilities as are granted to the spouses of a marriage," and explicitly states, "the state should not give effect to a public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes or validates a marriage or civil union between persons of the same sex and denies a right to claim asserted as a result of the purported marriage or civil union."

"Gay marriage is already against the law in Texas, so the only result of this bill is to promote anti-gay stereotypes," both Steve Labinski, president of the Texas Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) and Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) said, verbatim.

Concerned About Ashcroft

WASHINGTON — The GLBT community has reason to be gravely concerned about President-elect George W. Bush's nomination of



John Ashcroft to the post of U.S. attorney general, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

The former Republican senator from Missouri was defeated Nov. 7 by the late Gov. Mel Carnahan in a re-election bid. HRC is currently consulting with members of the civil rights community as well as its coalition partners and congressional allies to determine the best course of action about this very troubling nomination.

Ashcroft served only one term as a U.S. senator - in three two-year term congresses. During each congress, Ashcroft scored a zero on HRC's voting scorecard.

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"The vast majority of the men fear public embarrassment and loss of employment, so they plead guilty, pay the fine, take a suspended sentence and do community service," said Michael McGowan, spokesperson for San Antonio's Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

The Community Center has attempted to work with local political, McGowan said, and police authorities to communicate that Park Rangers are conducting a form of illegal entrapment by imposing a "profiling" policy that targets males who happen to be alone in a city park.

Gays Picket Vatican

ROME — About 80 Italian gays picketed the Vatican Jan. 13, shouting "shame shame shame" near Pope John Paul II's windows. The demonstration marked the third anniversary of the death of Alfredo Ormando, a 39-year-old Italian homosexual who set himself on fire at the site to protest Catholicism's anti-gay doctrines.

The church considers any sexual act that is not open to the possibility of procreation to be a mortal sin which, if not absolved in confession prior to one's death, condemns one's soul to hell. The procreation doctrine also categorizes birth control, masturbation and oral sex as mortal sins.

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"This law has already been ruled unconstitutional. The Texas sodomy law is not enforceable and it's quite simply archaic," said Rep. Danburg, who has long worked on repealing the sodomy law. "Keeping this type of law on the books and in the courts will only continue to cost Texas money in appeals and other challenges. For the benefit of all Texans, we should remove this law now."

Last session, a similar bill filed by Danburg did not make it out of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

"I asked Log Cabin to bring me two Republicans who would vote for it, and I would get all the Democrats," she said. "But they could only come up with one."

Maxey, Dukes File Non-Discrimination Act

AUSTIN — Representatives Maxey and Dukes filed HB 816, a bill that would prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for Texas state employees. The bill aims to protect workers from discrimination in hiring, firing, promotion and treatment within Texas' state agencies.

"Texas state agencies are funded by our tax

See **WHAT HAPPENED** pg. 5

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Mayor Brown named
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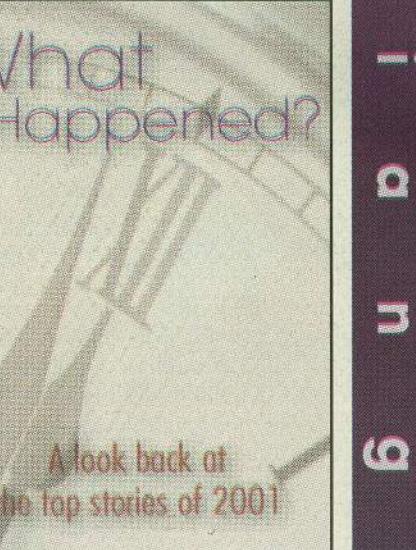
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and Lesbian Liaison

HOUSTON – Mayor Brown appointed Janine M. Brunjes as the new Lesbian Liaison. As Brown, she will convey dire concerns of Houston's gay and

lesbian community. "In this position Ms. Brunjes replaces Mayor Brown, my administration and the said Mayor Brown. I look forward to working with her on a variety of issues that concern the gay and lesbian Houstonians."

Brunjes replaces Mayor Brown, who recently relocated to Los Angeles.

Mayor Brown named Brunjes, a nurse, healthcare advisor and gynecologist, as the new liaison. Her office will further the Mayor's efforts to maintain a sense of safety and respect between City government and the lesbian community.

FEBRUARY 2001

Pope Denounces Marriage

ROME – Pope John Paul II has said that gay marriages are unnatural.

"Marriage is not just a relationship between human persons, but is a relationship configured according to a divine model," the pope said in a speech to a group of bureaucrats. "You observe the way in the ongoing attempt to redefine unions, including homosexual unions, as marriages, is contrary to the natural character of marriage."

"The natural consideration shows us that a couple united in marriage precisely because they are persons of opposite sex, with all the spiritual and physical diversity has at a human level."

Frank Introduces Sex Marriage Bill

WASHINGTON – It's time to make Mary Cheney and her wife happy.

The office of Rep. Barney Frank announced

What Happened?

January — February

A look back at the top stories of 2001

dollars, and every Texan who serves this state should be treated fairly and equally," Maxey said. "There is no room in Texas government for discrimination of any kind."

Currently, Austin and Fort Worth have citywide ordinances to protect gay, lesbian and bisexual people from discrimination in the workplace and Houston and Dallas have non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation for city employees.

Federal law provides basic legal protection against employment discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or disability, but not sexual orientation or gender identity. Those who experience this type of discrimination have no legal recourse.

Mayor Brown Appoints New Gay and Lesbian Liaison

HOUSTON — Mayor Lee P. Brown has appointed Janine M. Brunjes as his new Gay and Lesbian Liaison. As liaison to Mayor Brown, she will convey directly to him the concerns of Houston's gay and lesbian community.

"In this position Ms. Brunjes serves both my administration and the gay community," said Mayor Brown. "I look forward to working with her on a variety of important issues that concern the gay and lesbian community and all Houstonians."

Brunjes replaces Matthew P. Eastus who recently relocated to Los Angeles.

Mayor Brown named Brunjes, a registered nurse, healthcare advisor and licensed gerontologist, as the new liaison on Jan. 30. Brunjes' office will further the Mayor's continued efforts to maintain sense of security and mutual respect between City government and the gay and lesbian community.

FEBRUARY 2001

Pope Denounces Gay

filed legislation to comply with the policy on the definition of marriage expressed by Mary's dad, Vice President Richard Cheney, in his debate with Joe Lieberman.

In that debate, when asked by Bernard Shaw whether "a male who loves a male or a female who loves a female have all - all! - the Constitutional rights enjoyed by every American citizen?", Secretary Cheney replied, in part, "and I think that means that people should be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to enter into.... [T]he next step, then, of course, is the question you ask of whether or not there ought to be some kind of official sanction, if you will, of the relationship, or if those relationships should be treated the same way a conventional marriage is.

"That's a tougher problem.... I think the fact of the matter, of course, is that matter is regulated by the states," Cheney continued. "I think different states are likely to come to different conclusions, and that's appropriate. I don't think there should necessarily be a federal policy in this area."

Council to Vote on Domestic Partnership Benefits

HOUSTON — Houston, at this point, looks as if it soon be the only major city in Texas to offer domestic partner insurance benefits to city employees. The driving force behind the initiative is openly gay City Council member Annise Parker, who has been circulating information to other council members and Mayor Lee Brown about the benefits of adding domestic partnerships to the insurance policy. Councilman Bruce Tatro, who currently does not support domestic partner benefits, told Martin that perhaps this was an issue better left to the voters to decide rather than the City Council.

Tatro cited a failed attempt by the city of Austin to institute domestic partner benefits, where the measure passed in the city council but was petitioned to a vote by the city, whereupon it was defeated.

Martin replied that the matter of the city's

Ehrhardt Files Non Discrimination in Education Bill

AUSTIN — Authored by Representative Harryette Ehrhardt of Dallas, House Bill 1296 would make illegal harassment and discrimination based upon ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religion, disability or national origin. Appearing alongside other key legislators like Glen Maxey, speakers in support of the bill included teachers, students, and members of several organizations such as LGRL, the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), and the American Civil Liberties Union. All cited the overwhelming need for comprehensive protection for students against discrimination.

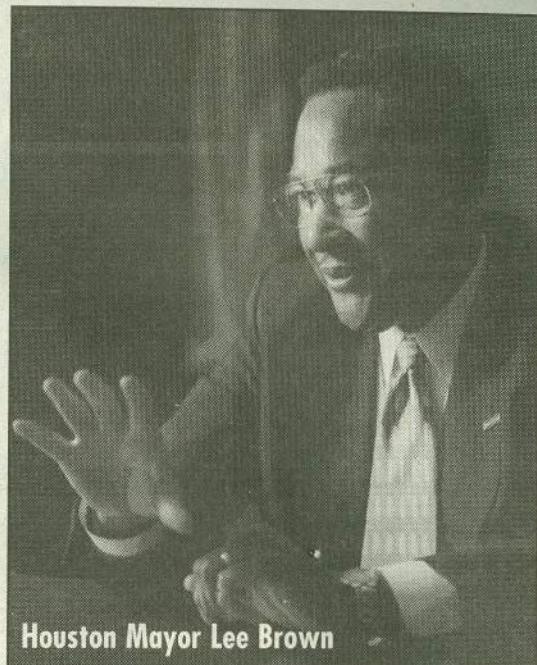
Texas HIV Rates Reported Highest in Nation

DALLAS — Researchers recently tested more than 2,400 gay and bisexual men, ages 23-29, for infection with the AIDS virus and found the overall infection rate to be 12 percent. The report also indicated that 30 percent of the black men in the study and 15 percent of Hispanic men tested positive. The infection rate in Dallas was higher than any other city studied, and was measured at an alarming 18 percent.

Researchers described the results in Chicago during the 8th Annual Retrovirus Conference, the country's top scientific gathering on AIDS. The men in the study were from Dallas, New York, Seattle, Miami, Baltimore and Los Angeles.

Anti-Discrimination Strategy Accepted

HOUSTON — GLBT leaders have agreed to temporarily drop the addition of domestic partner benefits for city employees in exchange for a commitment to the addition of sexual orientation to the city's human rights ordinance.



Houston Mayor Lee Brown

Elton John Performs with Eminem

LOS ANGELES — The recent announcement that Elton John would be performing with anti-gay rapper, Eminem, at the 43rd Grammy Awards, has become one of the show's most talked about performances and caused many in the gay community to label John a hypocrite.

"There is no question that the prospect of Eminem performing on the Grammy telecast has been greeted with a great deal of interest, heat and controversy," acknowledged Recording Academy President/CEO Michael Greene. "The addition of Elton John — always the musical adventurer himself — joining Eminem on stage will no doubt generate further debate and comment. But we view this moment not only as musically significant, but also as an opportunity to help tear down some of the unfortunate walls of division that Eminem's lyrics have built."

Album Of the Year nominee Eminem has drawn fire for what some activist groups have called homophobic and misogynistic lyrics. Touring with superstar Elton John will put him

Four years later, Gloria Swidrski fights for justice Son's Murder Haunts Mother

By Michael Baker

HOUSTON — Ilhan Yilmaz, the man who shot and killed 28-year-old Marc Kajs on a Sunday afternoon in 1998, never stood trial for the murder. He shot himself in the head moments after he killed Kajs, his former boyfriend.

He acted alone, so it would seem the case is closed. But the blame for Kajs' murder, said his mother, Gloria Swidrski, extends far beyond the obsessed ex who fired eight bullets into Kajs on a street outside a Montrose area restaurant in broad daylight.

Though undeniably a shock, Kajs' murderer did not come without warning. For several months Yilmaz had followed Kajs, beat him and threatened to reveal to his mother that he was gay. His mother knew the situation was serious, but had no idea the rate at which it was escalating. Eventually Kajs tried to get help from the Houston Police Department, Swidrski said, but HPD repeatedly did nothing.

"At one point, Marc told the police, 'Arrest him, he wants to kill me.' They blew it off," she said. That, Swidrski said, was the real crime behind her son's death.

"They wanted him to be beat up before they did anything," she said, her voice still choking on the pain that has lingered for almost four years. "Why? Marc died because they didn't do anything."

She took the matter to court, but the last March a federal judge said she had no case. But a recent decision handed down by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals resurrected the matter by overturning the first judge's decision. It will still be a difficult fight.

The appeals court has only allowed the judge to hear arguments that the police violated the equal protection clause since the police allegedly gave less validity to Kajs' claims of domestic violence since he was in a gay relationship.

with the rest of the case," Rosenberg said. "Judges typically don't like to be reversed."

Should the case fail at this level, Swidrski still has the option of taking it to the U.S. Supreme Court. She said she is willing to take it that far if necessary, but Rosenberg said it would be an unlikely step.

"I can't object because it would be a fact decision, not a legal decision," he said. "I'm just troubled by what kind of facts they would require. The burden is so high, it's scary."

Even so, the GLBT communities in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi may have averted a setback in civil rights by the recent decision to hear Kajs' case on the equal protection clause. While the lower court's refusal to hear the case was a personal tragedy for Swidrski, it could have been devastating to the whole community, Rosenberg said.

"The city filed a motion to have the case dismissed claiming gays and lesbians have no right to equal protection under the 14th amendment," he said. "They were willing to put their rights in danger by asking the judge to dismiss it."

As an example, Rosenberg said that if a county medical facility refused health services specifically to the GLBT community, it would have been acceptable under the judge's initial ruling. Likewise, the GLBT community could be legally excluded from public housing.

It's a moot point, since the ruling was reversed, but Rosenberg said he was appalled at the silence over the decision from even the most GLBT friendly politicians at City Hall, to whom city attorneys must ultimately answer.

"Politically connected people had absolutely no interest in carrying this message to them," Rosenberg said. "It's fine to try to enhance rights for people who work for the city and provide them with benefits, but that would be meaningless if the judge's order had

February — March

it could be you."

Headlines appeared on the front page showed race motivated crime — motivated by sexual orientation. "Not a Queer," one slide read.

"To the extent that we do grow," said Thompson, Alexander.

The video introduction with images of James Byrd's tombstone having been destroyed since his murder two years ago.

Mrs. Estella Byrd, Byrd's mother, testified before the committee by Byrd's father. It was their first appearance before the state regarding his case.

"I am hoping and praying that you will support his bill," she said. "He never gets over something like this."

Activists Gear Up for Referendum on Non-Discrimination

HOUSTON — A right-wing group has filed a pre-emptive strike against a proposed city ordinance that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The ordinance, which would implement an anti-discrimination policy and provide benefits to GLBT people, has been proposed by the Houstonians for Family Equality.

Although city council has not taken a stand on either issue as of now, the Houstonians for Family Equality have begun circulating a petition that would guarantee the ordinance is adopted by city council.

Former mayoral candidate and GLBT rights advocate leading the charge and is a member of the group. 20,000 signatures are needed to qualify the ordinance for a November 2001 election.

Meanwhile, city council is expected to pass the non-discrimination ordinance in the coming weeks.

For long-time Houstonians, the upcoming election could be a test of the city's commitment to equality.

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was gay. His mother knew the situation was serious, but had no idea the rate at which it was escalating. Eventually Kajs tried to get help from the Houston Police Department, Swidrski said, but HPD repeatedly did nothing.

"At one point, Marc told the police, 'Arrest him, he wants to kill me.' They blew it off," she said. That, Swidrski said, was the real crime behind her son's death.

"They wanted him to be beat up before they did anything," she said, her voice still choking on the pain that has lingered for almost four years. "Why? Marc died because they didn't do anything."

She took the matter to court, but the last March a federal judge said she had no case. But a recent decision handed down by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals resurrected the matter by overturning the first judge's decision. It will still be a difficult fight.

The appeals court has only allowed the judge to hear arguments that the police violated the equal protection clause since the police allegedly gave less validity to Kajs' claims of domestic violence since he was in a gay relationship. It was a key component to Swidrski's case, but not the strongest.

In order to hold the police accountable for Kajs' death, Robert Rosenberg, Swidrski's lawyer, argued that the officers themselves created an imminent danger to Kajs by ignoring his reports of violence. "The police observed criminal conduct; they chose not to do anything including the morning Marc was murdered," Rosenberg said. "He was chased into the station, threatened in front of the police officer, who sent both of them out."

The appeals court rejected that claim, saying that Rosenberg did not "...show that defendants created a dangerous environment." Rosenberg disagrees, saying he didn't know how they could create a more dangerous environment for Kajs short of giving Yilmaz a gun. Thomas Raymond Rodriguez, attorney for the city, did not want to comment on the case.

The decision has made the burden of proof heavier for Rosenberg and Swidrski in a case where they are already entering hostile territory. "We have to go back to the same judge who has been reversed and has to deal

to hear the case was a personal tragedy for Swidrski, it could have been devastating to the whole community, Rosenberg said.

"The city filed a motion to have the case dismissed claiming gays and lesbians have no right to equal protection under the 14th amendment," he said. "They were willing to put their rights in danger by asking the judge to dismiss it."

As an example, Rosenberg said that if a county medical facility refused health services specifically to the GLBT community, it would have been acceptable under the judge's initial ruling. Likewise, the GLBT community could be legally excluded from public housing.

It's a moot point, since the ruling was reversed, but Rosenberg said he was appalled at the silence over the decision from even the most GLBT friendly politicians at City Hall, to whom city attorneys must ultimately answer.

"Politically connected people had absolutely no interest in carrying this message to them," Rosenberg said. "It's fine to try to enhance rights for people who work for the city and provide them with benefits, but that would be meaningless if the judge's order had not been overturned."

The invisible victory for the region's GLBT community means little to Swidrski. Though she said police never offered her an apology, Police Chief C. O. Bradford did promise Montrose-area residents in June, 1998 that he would enact policy changes in response to Kajs' murder, such as extending the hours of the domestic violence unit and offering sensitivity training to officers.

The changes were insignificant to Swidrski. "A few years, shortly after Marc's death, there was another incident," she said. It made her even angrier, she added, when the police made minor errors in the handling of her son's case after his death, such as repeatedly misspelling his name or misreporting the number of times he had sought help from them.

The police, Swidrski said, had even at one time promised to include her in their sensitivity training, but never called her back. "I don't believe they've done anything," she said.

support his bill," she said. "It never gets over something like that."

Activists Gear Up for Referendum on Non-Discrimination

HOUSTON - A righted a pre-emptive strike sexual orientation and gender anti-discrimination policy and benefits.

Although city council on either issue as of now, the Houstonians for Family begun circulating a petition which would guarantee that be adopted by city council.

Former mayoral candidate leading the charge and is a 20,000 signatures needed to be put to a vote in November of 2001.

Meanwhile, city council and pass the non-discrimination the coming weeks.

For long-time Houston upcoming election could be from 1985, when a similar anti-discrimination policy defeated, with the final tally a percent against the policy a

Protestors Ultimate for Homosexuals

DALLAS - A group of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs by to support anti-gay and now being considered in The Constitution Party of Texas that said "Steve Homosexuality", "Defense Protects Families", and "among others.

The men protesting, five-year-old son to the eventuality should be illegal, a able by death in America, on the book of Leviticus is

"Well, we know punishment would be extremely ty," said Larry S. Kilgore chairman of the Constituti

What Happened?

A look back at the top stories of 2001

February — March

it could be you."

Headlines appeared on the screen that showed race motivated crimes as well as those motivated by sexual orientation. "Strike a Pose, Not a Queer," one slide read.

"To the extent that we do not combat evil, it grows," said Thompson, quoting Legislator Alexander.

The video introduction to the hearing ended with images of James Byrd, Jr.'s gravesite. His tombstone having been desecrated several times since his murder two years ago.

Mrs. Estella Byrd, Byrd's mother, was first to testify before the committee. She was joined by Byrd's father. It was their first time to testify before the state regarding hate crimes.

"I am hoping and praying that I have something to say to you that will encourage you to support his bill," she said. "A mother - a family never gets over something like this."

Activists Gear Up for Potential Referendum on Non-Discrimination

HOUSTON — A right-wing group has initiated a pre-emptive strike against both adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's anti-discrimination policy and domestic partner benefits.

Although city council has taken no action on either issue as of now, the group, calling itself Houstonians for Family Values, has already begun circulating a petition for a referendum which would guarantee that neither policy could be adopted by city council.

Former mayoral candidate Dave Wilson is leading the charge and is already collecting the 20,000 signatures needed to ensure the referendum is put to a vote in either August or November of 2001.

Meanwhile, city council is likely to propose and pass the non-discrimination ordinance within the coming weeks.

For long-time Houston GLBT activists, the

case," Rosenberg said. "I'm not like to be reversed." "I case fail at this level, the option of taking to the She said she is willing to ssary, but Rosenberg said only step.

because it would be a fact decision," he said. "I'm kind of facts they would be so high, it's scary."

GLBT communities in Mississippi may have civil rights by the recent case on the equal protection of the lower court's refusal a personal tragedy for have been devastating to Rosenberg said.

motion to have the case says and lesbians have no protection under the 14th Amendment. "They were willing to agree by asking the judge

Rosenberg said that if a city refused health services to the GLBT community, it would under the judge's initial ruling the GLBT community could be denied public housing.

Since the ruling was made, Rosenberg said he was appalled by the decision from even the politicians at City Hall, to just ultimately answer.

Connected people had been carrying this message around. "It's fine to try to people who work for the with benefits, but that if the judge's order had

that we can help to drive it under ground so in about twenty or thirty years, the punishment can fit the crime."

Kilgore said he and his Party are upset that Representative Steven Wolens, chair of the State Affairs committee, refuses to even allow a public debate on HB 496 and instead will let it die in committee. "We just think he should at least have a hearing so those who might agree with the proposition can have a chance to be on the record in support of it," Kilgore said. "It threatens the sanctity of marriage," they claim.

Rothko Chapel's Exclusionary Policy Draws Fire

HOUSTON — A latent antigay policy is threatening to undermine the image of one of Houston's most famous religious sites that has long been considered a rallying ground for progressives.

Many Houstonians are just now discovering that Rothko Chapel, a multi-faith sanctuary located by the University of St. Thomas, has a long-standing policy that prohibits same-sex union ceremonies from being performed within its walls.

Concerned GLBT Houstonians brought to the attention of Clarence Bagby, a member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Leadership Council in Houston. Bagby decided to find out the veracity of the situation for himself.

Without identifying his organizational affiliation, Bagby placed a call to Rothko and asked to schedule a commitment ceremony for himself. His request was refused.

Rothko's executive director, Suna Umari, told Bagby that it is the chapel's policy to prohibit any same sex commitment ceremony.

MARCH 2001

Ashcroft Promises LCR 'Equal Protection'

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Meanwhile, city council is likely to propose and pass the non-discrimination ordinance within the coming weeks.

For long-time Houston GLBT activists, the upcoming election could be considered a rematch from 1985, when a similar vote took place. The anti-discrimination policy in 1985 was soundly defeated, with the final tallies approximated at 88 percent against the policy and 12 percent for it.

Protestors Ultimately Want Death for Homosexuals

DALLAS - A group gathered at the corner of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs to urge passers-by to support anti-gay and anti-gay family bills now being considered in the Texas Legislature. The Constitution Party of Texas (CPT) held signs that said "Steve Wolens Promotes Homosexuality", "Defense of Marriage: HB 496 Protects Families", and "No Homo Marriage", among others.

The men protesting, one who brought his five-year-old son to the event, believe homosexuality should be illegal, and ultimately punishable by death in America. They base their beliefs on the book of *Leviticus* in The Bible.

"Well, we know punishing homosexuals by death would be extremely hard in today's society," said Larry S. Kilgore, the Dallas/Ft. Worth chairman of the Constitution Party. "But we hope

Houston's most famous religious sites that has long been considered a rallying ground for progressives.

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MARCH 2001

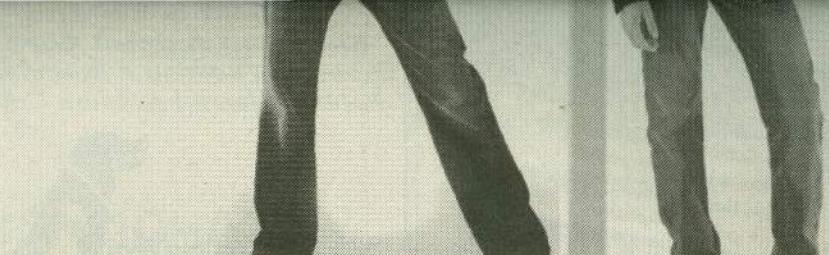
Ashcroft Promises LCR 'Equal Protection'

WASHINGTON - Attorney General John Ashcroft met with the leadership of Log Cabin Republicans at his office in the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Present at the meeting were Bob Kabel, Chairman, Liberty Education Fund; Kevin Ivers, LCR Director of Public Affairs; Attorney General John Ashcroft; Rich Tafel, Executive Director, LCR; Bob Stears, Chairman, LCR; and Bill Brownson, Vice Chairman, LCR.

"This meeting was another step in solidifying a working relationship with the Attorney General and the Department of Justice on civil rights issues and matters of concern to gay and lesbian Americans," said Tafel. "The Attorney General made clear again that he will enforce the law equally for all Americans, and that equal protection under the law means that no one will be left out."

According to a statement released by LCR, the group's officials and the Attorney General discussed ways to work together on issues in the purview of the Attorney General, who acts as the nation's top law enforcer. In his confirmation tes-

See WHAT HAPPENED pg. 16



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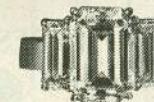
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and back and reviewing what we know of him, we believe he will be fair," says Besen. "But the clouds will part over the weeks ahead, and we'll see what happens. Hopefully, this holiday season will be one of comfort, versus confusion. But it goes to show that inequities in the law really do hurt families. A patchwork of state laws doesn't work in our favor—it leaves us in a suspended state, subject to the whims of individuals, rather than the wisdom of the law."

Hate Crime Law Ignored in Wisconsin Murder

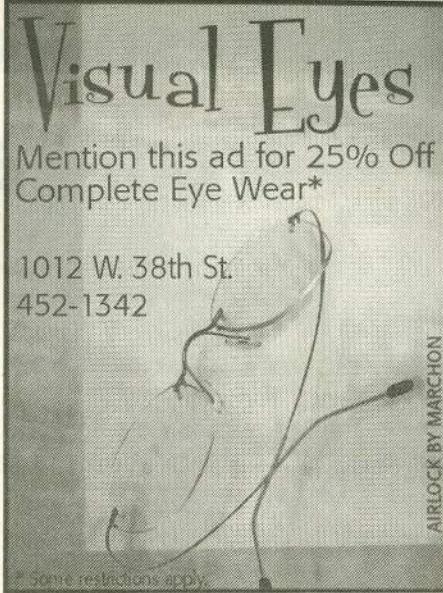
The murder of a 36-year-old lesbian in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, last month is becoming another illustration of the difficulty in enforcing hate crime laws. Although Juana Vega was unquestionably killed because of her sexual orientation, the District Attorney in the case, Michael McCann, is reluctant to add a hate crime charge to the case against her killer, and the Human Rights Campaign has fired off a letter to him asking why. Vega was shot repeatedly in the face and chest at point-blank range by her ex-girlfriend's brother. The killer, Pablo Parrilla, had threatened to kill her in the past for corrupting his sister, and had often made anti-lesbian comments.

According to HRC, the chief investigator in the case has not bothered with the hate crime element, and more importantly, D.A. McCann told Vega's family last week that filing a hate crime charge might backfire, leading to a lesser conviction for Parrilla. "To imply that a defendant could be convicted of a lesser charge if a case is pursued as a hate crime flies in the face of hate crimes law in general and Wisconsin law in particular," wrote HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch in a Dec. 20 letter. "Successful prosecution under a hate crimes law depends on the quality of evidence and the determination of the prosecutor. Your apparent reluctance to use Wisconsin's hate crime statute is, therefore, particularly disturbing to Ms. Vega's family and the gay and lesbian community in Milwaukee."

The Vega case highlights the complexity of fighting violence against gays, and using hate crime laws as a tool to do so. Passing hate crime legislation is first, an exhausting legislative battle, and one that has yet to be won on the federal level. Then, once hate crime laws are passed, the gay community has to read the fine print in order to tell if the particular version has teeth, or if the statute is vague and unenforceable. Even if a good law makes it onto the codebooks, a prosecutor must use it. And finally, even when hate crime charges are brought, judges and juries often convict on the underlying crime, whether it be assault or murder, and hesitate to "put themselves in the mind of the defendant." As the Vega case plays out, activists in Florida are still mourning the execution-style murder two weeks ago of outspoken transactivist Terriane Summers, who was shot dead in her driveway and left with money in her pockets. Hate crime laws will never stop hate crimes, but they send an important message of respect to the GLBT community, and a message of contempt to those whose hatred can't be checked.

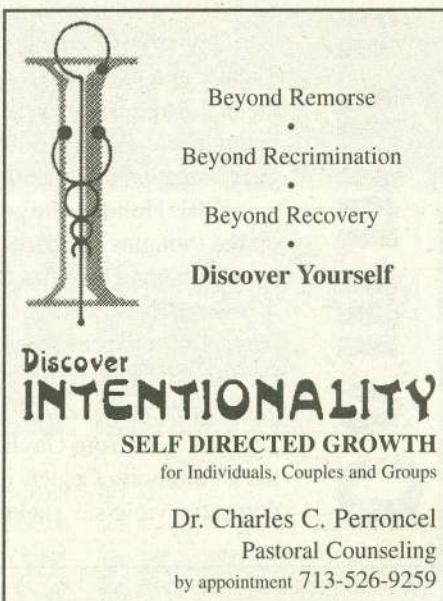
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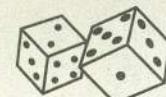
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ould have thought gay barely allowed in the Victim Compensation Fund. Success Remains. Sponsors had a chance to work with partners, it remains to be seen if number 11 tragedy might be avoided. National Stonewall Fund Rules." Sponsors Executive Director, and federal laws that

lost a gay partner on the same day. Some of them are mixed. The few of these survivors for the death of their gay partners are struggling, the Red Cross and New York's governors as spouses under the law have been established. Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation League do not recognize the estate of gay partners (in a will), is passed on

to the gay community. Gay partner status and is not recognized by vicious dogs in order to carry on alone, and painful death. A Florida man is ineligible for death benefits to the state Supreme Court for three decades. These laws are discriminatory. Not only is the fundamental injustice of allowing gay sex couples to spend their last days together, that status is at the forefront of sudden vulnerability of parents of their children. The ruling was later modified.

Wayne Besen tells us that Feinberg retains a place in the city. "From going back

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The Shoot Gay Couples, Don't They?

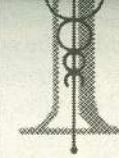
Activists fighting the drive to put two anti-marriage constitutional amendments on the Massachusetts ballot have filed a complaint with the state Attorney General that includes a somewhat bizarre charge. According to the Associated Press, the Phoenix-based company that was hired to collect signatures for the anti-marriage petitions was also collecting names for a proposal to ban the slaughter of horses for food. Presumably, the horsemeat petition was an attractive idea, and most people approached on the subject were happy to sign up. But the company is accused of slipping the anti-marriage petition in with the horse petition. Many people who thought they were saving sweet little ponies from the butcher's cleaver, were also urging the state to ban any legal recognition of same-sex couples, whether it come in the form of marriage, civil unions, domestic partnerships, or any other variety on the theme. Some signers were allegedly given the marriage petition to sign instead of the horse petition, while others were allegedly given the horse petition, followed quickly, and with no explanation, by the marriage petition.

Although the head of Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage says there was no hanky panky, the Attorney General's office told the AP that spot checks have indeed indicated confusion over the two lists. In an added twist, although the anti-marriage petitions have qualified for the ballot (barring future court action), the horsemeat petition has not yet qualified and may come up short, thanks perhaps to the bait and switch tactics.

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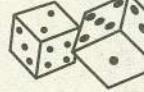
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Community Briefs

Resource Center To Benefit from Years' Final GayBINGO

DALLAS — Saturday, Dec. 29, from 6 'til 9:30 p.m., The John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center presents, 2001: A Holiday GayBINGO Odyssey at the Lakewood Theater, located at 1825 Abrams Parkway.

Organizers invite participants to "Blast past the Milky Way as GayBINGO takes you to a party from out of this world."

Gay BINGO is more than your VFW-hall brand of bingo, organizers promise. It's real bingo (charitable bingo license #137825) where you can win cash (up to \$2,500 given out each night) and prizes.

GayBINGO is held in the plush, historic Lakewood Theater and is hosted by diva Kerri Oki and her ensemble of cosmic Bingo Verifying Divas (The BVD's). Also featured are Beauty Babes & Boys, a cast of surprise guest stars, and a video and sound extravaganza.

2001 Holiday Odyssey, organizers said, conjures up the thoughts of space, new worlds, and the future to come. Theme costumes are encouraged.

GayBINGO charges a \$15 entry fee which provides players 60 chances to compete in ten different games. Five special games are played for \$1 each, with a \$500 game prize at stake.

Proceeds from GayBINGO benefit the programs of the Community Center including the center's same sex domestic violence shelter and services, 10% Youth's

gay and lesbian youth programs, and lesbian health and social programs.

Reservations assure prime seating and no waiting. Info: www.resourcecenterdallas.org/gaybingo, www.lakewoodtheater.com, or 214-540-4495.

GLBTs Needed for Tolerance Video Project

TEXAS — Women's Educational Media (the filmmakers who produced the award-winning films, It's Elementary and That's a Family!) has announced production is about to begin on the next two parts of the Respect for All series. The videos address and challenge middle school-aged students regarding name-calling and stereotypes.

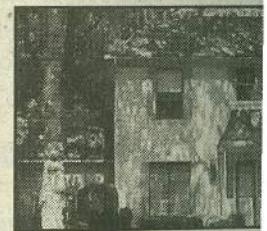
According to producers, the video on stereotypes will debunk common misperceptions kids have about gay people, and make connections between GLBT stereotypes and those based on race, religion, and disability.

For this video, WEM seeks gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of all races, ages, shapes, and backgrounds who can be featured in short documentary portraits.

"We want to film people at their workplaces or schools, with their families, friends, pets and sweet-



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featured are **Beauty Babes & Boys**, a cast of surprise guest stars, and a video and sound extravaganza.

2001 Holiday Odyssey, organizers said, conjures up the thoughts of space, new worlds, and the future to come. Theme costumes are encouraged.

GayBINGO charges a \$15 entry fee which provides players 60 chances to compete in ten different games. Five special games are played for \$1 each, with a \$500 game prize at stake.

Proceeds from GayBINGO benefit the programs of the Community Center including the center's same sex domestic violence shelter and services, 10% Youth's

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721 Kristi Lane, Cedar Hill (2 Immaculate 4/2.5/2, highlighted vaulted ceilings in living and din Roomy den with fireplace, kitchen island, master bedroom downstair tures jetted tub, with all other be upstairs. \$127,000

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THE LOVETT INN

News With A View

By Ann Rostow

No News is Bad News

Our holiday deadline means that I am starting this issue of "News With a View" exactly five minutes after finishing last issue's news. Do you know what this means? This means that there is next-to-no-news to report, because I just told you every damn thing of interest. So please join me as I search the news swamp again for any items that failed to rise to the surface in our last dredging operation.

Well, here's something. A *Detroit News* article dated Dec. 18, headlined "ACLU sues Detroit police over gay arrests". Seems as if at least 300 men were arrested this year in the aptly named Rogue Park, and charged with - oh, sorry, it's Rouge Park. Still. That works and charged with something like giving provocative looks to other men, saying "Hi, good looking," to a member of the same sex, and other lewd conduct. Actually, they were charged with violating a couple of annoyance ordinances written in 1964, and interpreted to encompass a range of harmless activities. Many of the men did nothing more than talk to undercover cops, and some of them saw their cars impounded. Not clear exactly how that came about, but suffice to say that the ACLU is going to see to it that the vagaries of these laws are examined in federal court.

I was just talking to some friends about why you gay men get such a kick out of cruising these parks, while we delicate ladies wouldn't dream of such a thing. Well, you know what? You guys are all shameless whores, that's why. And if there was a park filled with lascivious straight women dying for sex, all the straight guys would be out there with you. But there's not, because we females only cruise around for sex with strangers in our dreams. For some reason I just got an image of heading out to a park some night at two in the morning wearing really masculine clothes and seeing if I could snag one of you. Bet I could! It would be dark. You wouldn't care. You wouldn't even notice. You'd just say "Thanks, guy." and move on to the next shadowy form. Now that I think about it, I don't even think you'd call me in the morning, let alone send flowers. Hey, now that I think more about it, I'm kind of ticked off in advance. Heartless bastard. I never really cared for you, either.

Practice Does Not Make Perfect

Moving on with our news search, here's another Dec. 18

and they meet in a Doubletree Lodge somewhere in Tennessee, as I recall, to hash out the situation. This Fall the Council rules that you can't dump a practicing gay minister without due process. On the other hand, you can and should dump a practicing gay minister once you go through that aforementioned due process. While all this has been going on, Dammann and Williams have been given non-ministerial assignments of some sort. Now, Bishop Galvan has officially filed complaints against both, the first step in the official removal schedule. I have the vague impression from covering this story that Galvan is not 100 percent happy about having to fire his gay ministers, but he is trying to follow the rules. Don't recall where I got this sense of things.

That was not, after all, particularly speedy. But we have arrived at the current story line at least. Both ministers will now go to trial, but the Woodland congregation adores them. Woodland Park remains steadfast in support of our beloved pastor, said two congregation leaders in a prepared statement, (which I'm taking out of the *Seattle Times*). We can think of no good reason why Mark Williams needs to be taken from us. I assume everyone is equally fond of Karen, but she's working out of her house in Massachusetts on some special church project, so I guess they don't miss her so much in Seattle.

Riders Wanted

Well, it seems as if I have more interesting news than I thought. The beneficiaries of the California AIDS Ride have had it with the L.A. firm of Pallotta TeamWorks, and are going to organize their own ride, which is to take place two weeks earlier. The new event, AIDS/LifeCycle, will take place May 13-19, while the usual AIDS Ride is scheduled in June.

I'm reading this news from an Associated Press dispatch, but I must interject my own experience with the California AIDS Ride. No, no, no. I don't do things like bike from San Francisco to L.A. Not for AIDS. Not even for the future of the Democratic party. But I have a few unbearably healthy and fit friends who have participated. First of all, they decide to do this a year in advance. Second, they sign up, something like six months in advance. Third, they start training and becoming a pain in the ass about the damn bike ride long before the daffodils are even thinking about blooming. (Want to go spend Sunday afternoon at El Rio, drinking Margaritas and salsa

Mass Sex

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The head of the Massa laws were written in a tim supported that a sexual un laws, by the way, were w thrown in the stocks for c Crews continues, was just know, there are lot of thing gliding, sitting in front of the quadruple Lutz, runni malls. You can make your

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Practice Does Not Make Perfect

Moving on with our news search, here's another Dec. 18 dateline, this one out of Seattle, where the two gay pastors at the Woodland Park United Methodist Church have finally been hung out to dry by their Bishop, Elias Galvan. God, the background on this story is complicated. But here goes. Well do it fast speed background...

The first act takes place last February. Pastor Karen Dammann has taken a leave from her post at Woodland. Why? Because she's gay and in a relationship. She writes a letter to Bishop Galvan asking to be reinstated and explaining her situation (which is of course against Methodist rules). Galvan stalls. Last summer, the west coast Methodists are at one of those conventions they love so much, and Dammann is the talk of the town. In a stunning surprise, Dammann's successor at Woodland, Mark Williams, comes out of the closet himself in a speech to delegates. He's also in a relationship. (If you're in a relationship, you're having gay sex or else you're in couples counseling and you are therefore defying church rules. You can be gay. But no sex.) All hell breaks loose. Meanwhile, this is not exactly a new issue. Methodists and other churches are busy as beavers trying to decide what to do with gay ministers, gay marriages, gay this, and gay that.

Next thing you know, Galvan kicks the ball over to the Solons on the Methodist Supreme Judicial Ruling Council of Evangelical Rule and Justice, or whatever they call themselves,

(which I'm taking out of the Seattle Times). We can think of no good reason why Mark Williams needs to be taken from us. I assume everyone is equally fond of Karen, but she's working out of her house in Massachusetts on some special church project, so I guess they don't miss her so much in Seattle.

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I'm not even going to get into the absurd looking Tour de France outfits they acquire, the messing around with the bike accessories for hours to increase draft, (or decrease it, whatever), or the endless boring discussions of last year's AIDS Ride. But, I will say that if the AIDS/LifeCycle people just announced this plan, they're way behind the curve. In fact, I'd bet good money that the plan was announced months ago, and the Associated Press just picked it up.

At any rate, Dan Pallotta and his event company are a controversial bunch. According to the AP, California AIDS Ride beneficiaries are complaining that they only got 50 cents on every dollar raised, which is another mystery in the story. A 50 percent return is very high for this kind of operation, which requires a massive support system of food, back-up cars, logistics, camping facilities, volunteers, snack stops, medical services, insurance and administration. Pallotta TeamWorks caused a stir on the East Coast several years ago for delivering far less than 50 cents on the dollar, and taking large fees in the process. But the California Ride has always been relatively successful. If the new organizers can top 50 cents on the dollar, however, more power to them.

School Daze

Moving on. One new long-running battle in the state has been adopted over a year ago by the legislature, a law, or to announce a new state to another to actually put such a law into effect. The state entrusted with deciding the California went through the legislature passed a bill in public schools. Again, a set of recommendations to come up with a plan. They were under attack from the legislature. The point is, school bills actually work is a complex just how they might go them to do it.

And of course, the report on the passage of Protect Gay Youth. Quot our state," said Lisa Lavender, maneuvering in the Hawkeye task force has final task force terminology for is that the 10-5 majority in the majority agenda in the schools. The age by testifying before committee reports to the Board of Education for the Board of Education.

Oh yes, I'll keep you posted.



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Mass Sex

Shall we talk about sodomy? Well, I hadn't realized that Massachusetts was one of the last bastions of sex laws, but apparently it is, because our friends at Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) are going after the 350-year-old law in court. According to the Associated Press, anal sex is punishable by up to 20 years in prison, while unnatural and lascivious acts are only worth five years. Oral sex, for the record, is included in the latter category, along with God knows what else - maybe having sex on the kitchen table. The state of Massachusetts is claiming that these laws are never used against consenting adults in the privacy of their homes, but are used to restrain public sex. Well, why not have a law against public sex, then? As we all know, felony sodomy laws make instant criminals of every practicing gay and lesbian resident of the state, a status that can be used against them whenever convenient.

The head of the Massachusetts Family Institute, Ron Crews, explains that the sex laws were written in a time when moral standards were clear and society and culture supported that a sexual union in its most natural form was a heterosexual union. The laws, by the way, were written during colonial times, when I guess you could be thrown in the stocks for coveting your neighbors stewing pot. Their whole purpose, Crews continues, was just affirming what human bodies had been created to do. You know, there are lot of things that arguably the human body was not created to do. Hang gliding, sitting in front of a computer for 12 hours straight, eating six tacos in a row, the quadruple Lutz, running a marathon, picking grapes, and Christmas shopping in malls. You can make your own list of activities we might outlaw on this basis.

School Daze

Moving on. One news item I deliberately neglected in the last issue concerns a long-running battle in the state of Hawaii over the fate of the safe schools policy, adopted over a year ago by the state School Board. Its one thing to pass a bill, to make a law, or to announce a new ban on sexual orientation harassment in schools. It's another to actually put such a measure into effect, and basically, the Hawaii committee entrusted with deciding how to implement the policy has done nothing but bicker. California went through this process with more success a couple of years ago, when the legislature passed a bill banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public schools. Again, a commission was organized and about 30 people hashed out a set of recommendations. Unlike Hawaii, the California commission got it together to come up with a plan. But as soon as the recommendations were announced, they were under attack from the right. Not sure the exact status of either schools policy, but the point is, school bills pass with great fanfare and press coverage. Making them actually work is a completely different story, because a bill doesn't explain to schools just how they might go about eradicating discrimination or harassment. It just tells them to do it.

And of course, the reason I neglected this story last time is that it's fairly easy to report on the passage of some Safe Schools Act. Headline: State Legislature Votes to

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And of course, the reason I neglected this story last time is that it's fairly easy to report on the passage of some Safe Schools Act. Headline: State Legislature Votes to Protect Gay Youth. Quote: "This is a great step forward for gay and lesbian youth in our state," said Lisa Lawmaker, author of the bill. But covering the back and forth maneuvering in the Hawaii committee on something or other is not so much fun. The testy task force has finally come up with what it's calling a majority report, which is task force terminology for report with which many members disagree. The good news is that the 10-5 majority likes gay youth, as opposed to the minority, who believes that the majority agenda (in the words of one committee member) is to teach homosexuality in the schools. The various players in all of this have earned recent news coverage by testifying before the Board of Education on their respective views. The committee reports to the Department of Education, which is supposed to produce a proposal for the Board of Education next month.

Oh yes, I'll keep you up to date. Of course I will.



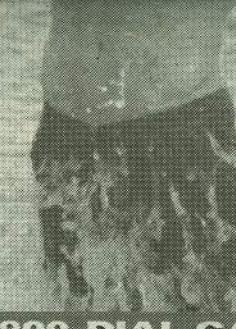
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Capital Letters

Hastings Wyman

001's Top 10 Red, White, and Lavender Leaders

Here is Capital Letters' fourth annual list of the year's major gay politicos, a list that each year becomes harder to pare down to 10 names. Because all their contributions are important, I haven't tried to rank them - they're in alphabetical order.

Beth Bashert, president of Michigan Equality, led an aggressive effort to provide campaign training, voter identification programs, professional and volunteer personnel, and financial consulting to local groups fighting anti-gay initiatives in three Wolverine State municipalities. The result? Our side won by 54 percent to 46 percent in Kalamazoo, by 58 percent to 42 percent in Traverse City, and by 69 percent to 31 percent in Huntington Woods.

Brian Bond, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, is one of the major reasons there are 208 openly gay officeholders - a record high - across the United States. In 2001, the Victory Fund endorsed 38 gay candidates; 21 were elected. The Fund's endorsement is a major boost to a candidate, who gets help with fundraising and campaign services. Bond knows how to put a good campaign together - he's been a campaign manager in state and congressional contests, and an operative for the Democratic National Committee.

Scott Evertz is the first openly gay person to serve as AIDS czar. He helped get the GOP-controlled House of Representatives to increase its Ryan White funding by some \$120 million, and has worked closely with Secretary of State Colin Powell on international AIDS programs and with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson - a friend from Wisconsin - on domestic AIDS programs. Moreover, Evertz doesn't stay in Washington - he's been traveling the country meeting with HIV/AIDS service organizations.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) hasn't missed a beat. He proposed the Frank-Cheney bill to enact the domestic partnership policies that Vice President Dick Cheney says he favors. He wrote to Egyptian President Mubarak protesting the mistreatment of 52 gay men. The letter, co-signed by 35 members of Congress, reminded Mubarak that Congress must approve foreign aid. Frank also fought a provision in the administration's faith-based plan that would allow religious charities to discriminate. And after Sept. 11, he sent a letter - signed by 28 Democratic and 16 Republican representatives - urging Attorney General John Ashcroft to adopt the same liberal policies toward surviving same-sex domestic partners as New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R).

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, now 10 years of work pay off when the Texas legislature passed a hate-crimes bill. While considerable credit belongs to the lawmakers themselves, Hardy-Garcia deserves three cheers from the gay community for nurturing a small band of pro-gay legislators, beginning in 1991, until they became a majority - in Texas, no less.

U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) led the fight in committee and on the House floor to stop majority from preventing the District of Columbia from implementing its domestic partners law. Democrats provided most of the pro-gay votes in the 226-194 victory, but Kolbe delivered an important cadre of Republicans, some of whom were casting a gay-friendly vote for the first time. As a result, the GOP-controlled House declined to pass the kind of homophobic amendment it used to pass routinely.

California Assemblymember Carole Migden (D) got her domestic partners bill through the legislature this year and saw it signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis (D). This landmark law extends basic legal protections to lesbian, gay, and senior citizen families. Migden, who chairs the Committee on Appropriations - the first woman to serve in that post - has clout,

Resolution Changed

By Elizabeth Birch and

As 2001 draws to a close, we can look back on many significant developments offering domestic partner benefits, changes in criminalization law - and the happy endings of many gay law. Hawaii's and Texas' passage of marriage legislation were myriad and heartening.

But the GLBT community year for the Sept. 11 attacks at

One of the many lessons
times and heroes, with names :

Because so many in our privilege to learn about these who died, they also left behind car loans, monthly bills - theists.

One key difference for the
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fits other surviving families but
these GLBT families never put
homes, their children, their health

The events of Sept. 11 in

As we look to 2002, re-smoking or losing a few pour deserve it, protecting our love for generations to come. Here

- Write your will. Sept. lesbian, bisexual and transgender lies, it is imperative that we die. While many aspects of important for single GLBT people with their biological families. living wills and hospital visit documents, visit www.hrc.org

- Come out to your health care provider. Your gender identity can be a matter of care and treatment. There are many people and many stereotypes that can affect your care. Make sure your provider is aware of your gender identity and ensure that you get appropriate care and treatment.



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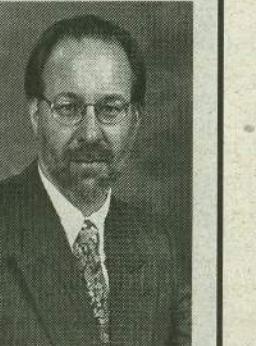
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Wisconsin - on domestic AIDS programs. Moreover, Evertz doesn't stay in Washington - he's been traveling the country meeting with HIV/AIDS service organizations.

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) hasn't missed a beat. He proposed the Frank-Cheney bill to enact the domestic partnership policies that Vice President Dick Cheney says he favors. He wrote to Egyptian President Mubarak protesting the mistreatment of 52 gay men. The letter, co-signed by 35 members of Congress, reminded Mubarak that Congress must approve foreign aid. Frank also fought a provision in the administration's faith-based plan that would allow religious charities to discriminate. And after Sept. 11, he sent a letter - signed by 28 Democratic and 16 Republican representatives - urging Attorney General John Ashcroft to adopt the same liberal policies toward surviving same-sex domestic partners as did New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R).

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, saw 10 years of work pay off when the Texas legislature passed a hate-crimes bill. While considerable credit belongs to the lawmakers themselves, Hardy-Garcia deserves three cheers from the gay community for nurturing a small band of pro-gay legislators, beginning in 1991, until they became a majority - in Texas, no less.

U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) led the fight in committee and on the House floor to stop a majority from preventing the District of Columbia from implementing its domestic partners law. Democrats provided most of the pro-gay votes in the 226-194 victory, but Kolbe delivered an important cadre of Republicans, some of whom were casting a gay-friendly vote for the first time. As a result, the GOP-controlled House declined to pass the kind of homophobic amendment it used to pass routinely.

California Assemblymember Carole Migden (D) got her domestic partners bill through the legislature this year and saw it signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis (D). This landmark law extends basic legal protections to lesbian, gay, and senior citizen families. Migden, who chairs the Committee on Appropriations - the first woman to serve in that post - has clout, which she has used effectively for gay causes.

Mark Spengler moved up a notch at the Democratic National Committee this year, leaving his gay outreach post to become director of programs aimed at increasing support for Democratic candidates among the party's base - not just gays, but African-Americans, Hispanics, and others. According to a Democratic insider, Spengler "really did pay his dues, working very, very hard" when his job focused solely on gay voters. In his new job, Spengler has a broader responsibility, but motivating gay voters is still one of his primary aims.

Wally Swan was re-elected to the Minneapolis Board of Estimate and Taxation - which manages the city's finances - leading the gay ticket as 10 openly gay candidates in the city won elections. Moreover, he received the largest number of votes any gay candidate has ever received in Minnesota. Swan has been a major player in North Star State gay politics. He helped revitalize the gay and lesbian caucus in the state's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party and worked to set up campaign training sessions for gay candidates. "He has encouraged more gay men and lesbians to run for office than any other gay or lesbian in the area," says Paul Mazur, a political scientist in Minneapolis. Wally's work paid off splendidly!

Cathy Woolard made history when she won the presidency of the Atlanta city council, the second most powerful job in the Deep South's most influential city. As a council member, Woolard helped pass pro-gay laws and demonstrated superior competence on municipal issues. Since she became the first openly gay person to be elected to office in Georgia in 1997, seven other openly gay candidates have won public office in the Peach State. Her latest victory is likely to encourage other gay Dixie politicos.

Hastings Wyman publishes *Southern Political Report*, a nonpartisan biweekly political newsletter. He can be reached care of this publication or at HWymanSPR@aol.com.

ity to rely on the same safety and society don't recognize community have had to fight state and private agencies. This fits other surviving families homes, their children, their health.

The events of Sept. 11 made clear how.

As we look to 2002, remember smoking or losing a few pounds deserve it, protecting our love for generations to come. Here

- Write your will. Sept. 11, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered, it is imperative that we die. While many aspects of important for single GLBT Americans with their biological families, living wills and hospital visitation documents, visit www.hrc.org.

- Come out to your health care provider. Your gender identity can be a matter of life and death. There are many people and many stereotypes and ensure that you get appropriate care.

- Come out to your elected officials. You can take advantage of an issue that can bring about real action but you'll be assisted by your elected officials.

- Be a mentor. Many GLBT Americans would have been easier had they been accepted into a group or community center that had the school's guidance counselors and parents.

- Thank someone. Far too many GLBT Americans are not thanked for their contributions. Thank your mom for including you in her life, for voting your way on a political issue, for being a homebound neighbor living with AIDS.

- Remember the pioneers of our movement. Who are they're famous today. But what about Cleve Jones, Kameryn, What about Barbara G. Winkler? Get to know the giants who have made a difference.

As a most difficult year for GLBT Americans whose honesty and strength forward to those whose open doors.

Resolutions for a Changed America

By Elizabeth Birch and Candace Gingrich

As 2001 draws to a close, America's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community can look back on many significant gains. A marked increase in the number of employers offering domestic partner benefits. Rhode Island's addition of gender identity to its non-discrimination law - and the happy end to a lawsuit challenging Maryland's non-discrimination law. Hawaii's and Texas' passing hate crimes laws that cover sexual orientation. The successes were myriad and heartening.

But the GLBT community - along with the entire country - will forever remember this year for the Sept. 11 attacks and the terrible results that are still being played out in the world.

One of the many lessons America learned from Sept. 11 is that there were GLBT victims and heroes, with names and faces and ordinary life histories.

Because so many in our community are now committed to living honestly, we had the privilege to learn about these brothers and sisters now that they are gone. Like many of those who died, they also left behind grieving partners, children, houses with mortgages, unpaid car loans, monthly bills - the same sad remnants of so many of the lives stolen by the terrorists.

One key difference for the survivors in our community, however, has been their inability to rely on the same safety net that has caught other surviving families. Because our laws and society don't recognize our relationships and our families, survivors from the GLBT community have had to fight for relief funds from the federal government and from some state and private agencies. They will never get the same Social Security and pension benefits other surviving families have received, and have taken for granted as their due. And if these GLBT families never put their legal houses in order, the survivors now face losing their homes, their children, their health insurance - their basic security.

The events of Sept. 11 made clear the power of living outside the closet.

They also made clear how vulnerable the GLBT community remains.

As we look to 2002, remember that New Year's resolutions aren't all about quitting smoking or losing a few pounds. They can also be about taking the time to thank those who deserve it, protecting our loved ones and working to make a safer and more accepting world for generations to come. Here are a few suggestions:

- Write your will. Sept. 11 should be a wake-up call for everyone, but especially gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans. Because the law does not recognize our families, it is imperative that we specify who will receive our money and possessions when we die. While many aspects of this planning revolve around couples and children, it is also important for single GLBT Americans, especially those who may not have good relations with their biological families. Other important documents to consider are powers of attorney, living wills and hospital visitation authorizations. For more information and sample legal documents, visit www.hrc.org/familynet.

- Come out to your health care provider. Being honest about your sexual orientation or gender identity can be a matter of life and death - or, at a minimum, essential to getting effective care and treatment. There is still much misinformation in the medical world about GLBT people and many stereotypes to overcome. By being out, you will help educate your doctor and ensure that you get appropriate care.

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- Come out to your elected officials. Politicians can ignore us if they don't know we exist. You can take advantage of HRC's Action Network, pay a local lobby visit, or write a letter about an issue that concerns you. Not only will you be exercising your right to political action but you'll be assisting local, state and national organizations working on GLBT issues.

- Be a mentor. Many GLBT adults we've spoken to say that their coming out journeys would have been easier had there been an understanding ear. Contact your local GLBT youth group or community center to see how you can help. You can also pay a visit to your old high school's guidance counselors to share your experiences and explain the needs of GLBT students.

- Thank someone. Far too often, we only speak up when we're unhappy or disgruntled. Thank your mom for including your partner in family gatherings. Praise an elected official for voting your way on a piece of legislation. Thank the person who delivers food to your homebound neighbor living with AIDS.

- Remember the pioneers. Too many GLBT people have forgotten (or never learned) the history of our movement. We're quick to name the Ellens and Eltons as trailblazers because they're famous today. But what of Bayard Rustin, Phyllis Lyons, Del Martin and Frank Kameny? What about Barbara Gittings, Lisa Ben, Harvey Milk and Christine Jorgensen? Get to know the giants whose shoulders we - as well as Ellen and Elton - stand upon.

As a most difficult year draws to a close, we look back with gratitude to those GLBT Americans whose honesty has made all our lives easier and more complete. And we look forward to those whose openness will help effect the change we need to protect all our families.

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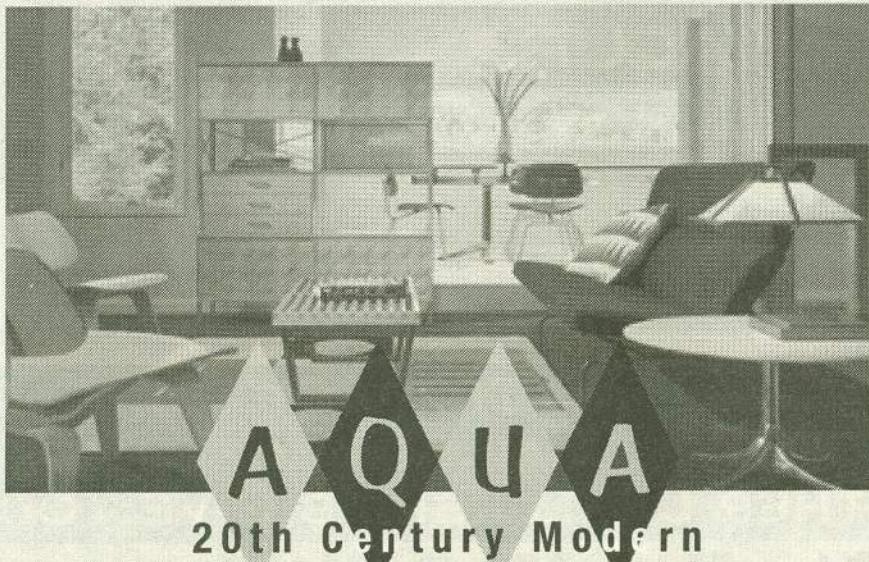
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What Happened? A look back at the top stories of 2001

March

timony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ashcroft stated repeatedly that sexual orientation will not be a consideration in Justice Department employment or appointments, and that he would enforce all laws equally.

Chronicle.

Signers of the letter included: Harris County Republican Party Chair Gary Pollard, anti-gay crusader Steven Hotze, former Concerned Women for America Director Betty Lou Martin, Harris County Christian Coalition Director Ronald Meinke, and City Councilman Rob Todd.

The letter questioned the necessity of a petition drive, given that domestic partnership benefits has been temporarily dropped from the city agenda.

"We believe that the timing, the content, and the context of this proposal threaten to jeopardize the victory we have achieved together and could inadvertently do considerable damage to the pro-family cause in Houston," the letter says.

Gay Sex Ruled Illegal Again

HOUSTON — The Texas 14th Court of Appeals ruled March 15 in a 7-2 vote that the homosexual conduct law is constitutional, overturning an earlier panel decision of the same court.

With this ruling, the court has thrown out the 2-1 decision reached in June of 2000 which said the homosexual conduct law violates Texas' Equal Rights Amendment, since sodomy is explicitly illegal for only same sex couples. Legislative action in 1974 made sodomy legal for heterosexual couples.

The case first began in 1998, when Tyron Garner and John Lawrence were arrested after sheriff's deputies caught them having consensual sex in Lawrence's home while responding to a bogus third-party report of an armed intruder.

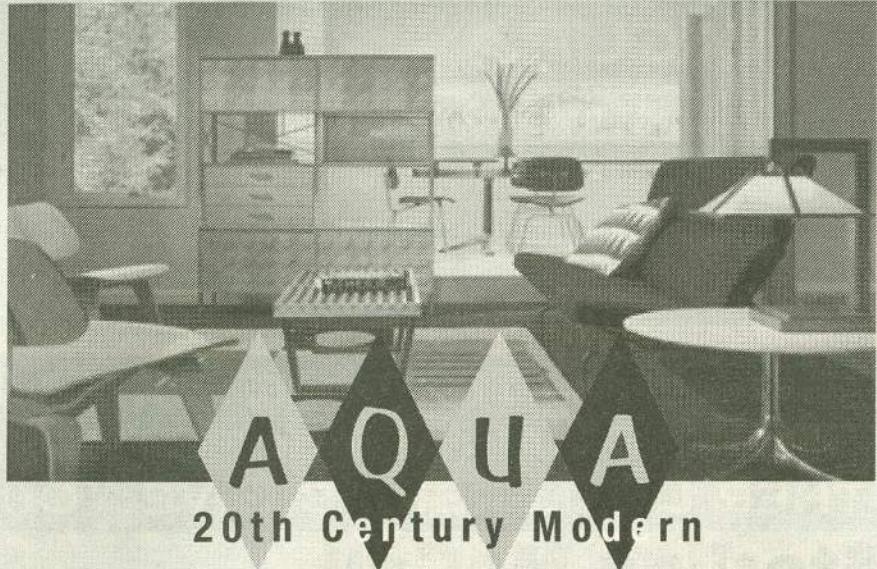
After spending a day in jail and each paying a \$200 bond, Lawrence and Garner pleaded "no contest" in court.

The 3-judge panel decision from the 14th Court of Appeals overturned the case against Lawrence and Garner, but prosecutors filed for an en banc decision (one by the entire court), which was granted.

The decision for an en banc ruling was reaching in September, and both parties in the

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Lopez who also ordered the other officers on the force not to make fun of Lunan and to mind their manners during the transition. His decision to begin the transition process is supported by the U.S. Constitution and the Americans with Disabilities Act, so he will not be taken out of his current job.

Christie Lee Littleton Marries Texas Senator's Uncle; Bill Filed in Senate to Recognize TG Name Change

AUSTIN — Leticia Van de Putte, former Texas House member currently serving her first term as state Senator, filed a bill that would ensure transsexuals and transgendered individuals have a legal framework to aid in changing their names and gender on all official documents with a single court ruling.

Van de Putte's Senate introduction of the bill was inspired by the recent marriage of her uncle, Pierre Van de Putte, to Christie Lee Littleton on Feb. 11. Littleton was denied the right to sue for medical malpractice in the death of her former husband because a judge in Texas' Fourth Court of Appeals ruled her marriage was invalid due to the fact her birth certificate indicated she was a male and same-sex marriages were illegal in Texas.

Van de Putte said if this law had been on the books when Littleton changed her gender, the judge's ruling that ultimately left Littleton with no legal recourse would have been illegal.

"Christie Lee is a dear friend," she told reporters. "I've known her since the early '80s. She was my hairdresser and she is one of my constituents. And she is now married to my uncle."

Anti-Gay Faction Splits, Abandons Petition Drive

HOUSTON — Conservatives rallying for an anti-gay ballot referendum on Houston's November ballot received a major setback last week when local conservative leaders began circulating a letter requesting the petition drive be dropped.

The letter was a particular surprise to petition-drive leader David Wilson, the head of the newly-formed Houstonians for Family Values, who said he had no prior knowledge of it.

"Not one of the signers had the decency to tell me about the letter," Wilson told the Houston

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The 3-judge panel decision from the 14th Court of Appeals overturned the case against Lawrence and Garner, but prosecutors filed for an en banc decision (one by the entire court), which was granted.

The decision for an en banc ruling was reaching in September, and both parties in the case having been waiting since then for the new ruling.

The Court, composed completely of Republican justices, issued a 57-page ruling, including a 29-page dissent. Mitchell Katine, the lawyer for Lawrence and Garner, said the length of the ruling is probably responsible for the long wait for the decision.

HRC Includes Transgenders

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) amended their mission statement to include transgendered Americans on March 8, their decision held until later in the month.

Scores of transgendered activists and supporters have been among the harshest critics of HRC for their refusal to be inclusive of transgender individuals.

The HRC board says it acted to "memorialize HRC's ongoing work related to gender equality by amending their mission statement from "HRC is a bipartisan organization that works to advance equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual

Continued on pg. 18

What Happened?

March — July

Americans to ensure they can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community," to the say "...equality based on sexual orientation and gender expression and identity, to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans..."

Transgender activists agree HRC should be praised for finally acting, but are cautionary and on the lookout to make sure HRC follows through with the changes on a full-scale level.

"No one has fought HRC longer than Karen Kerin and I because we began the fight in July 1994," said Phyllis Frye, transgender attorney and activist based in Houston. "I am not some Polly Anna who is willing to say, 'Oh, goodie, goodie, now it is all over.'"

'Death to Gays' Coverage Leads to Party Shake-up

DALLAS — The Texas Triangle reported of the February Constitution Party of Texas (CPT) protest at the corner of Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs, demanding gays not be allowed to legally marry. The protestors carried signs saying, "Steve Wolens promotes Homosexuality" and "No Homo Marriage" among others.

The Executive Committee of the CPT later investigated the actions of Larry S. Kilgore, organizer of the protest and Dallas/Ft. Worth Chairman of the CPT, after the article was brought to their attention. Kilgore was then terminated from his post as the Dallas/Ft. Worth Chairman of the CPT.

Kilgore admitted to using CPT funds and resources to hold a non-sanctioned demonstration to espouse his own beliefs, including that gays should be put to death. The Executive Committee sent letters of apology to this publication and the community and thanked The Triangle for bringing their attention to the matter.

Rothko Reverses Discriminatory Policy

Gay Marriage Made Illegal Again

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives passed an amendment that again prohibits recognition of same-sex marriages in Texas. Since gay marriage is already illegal in Texas, this amendment is nothing more than the punitive politics of the religious Right according to some lawmakers and activists.

Representative Glen Maxey (D-Austin) called the amendment "politically divisive," and Dianne Hardy-Garcia, Executive Director for the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) said it was another slap in the face of the gay community.

"Amending this bill to force a vote on an unnecessary and redundant anti-gay measure is indicative of the right wing's malicious, underhanded political tactics," she said.

The bill, HB 1245, addresses estate issues in the dissolution of marriage. Hartnett's amendment defines spouse as a husband and wife and further specifies that husband and wife cannot be people of the same sex. Texas law already stated that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

Texans March Against Hate

AUSTIN — Over a thousand people came out in the cold rain to March Against Hate to the state's capitol building. The March, organized by the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) was followed by a two-hour rally on the capital steps and an organized Lobby Day was held the next day.

Primarily to show support for the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, the march aimed to raise awareness of hate crimes in Texas and motivate legislators to take proactive measures to curb hate violence in the state.

Organizers were pleased that over a thousand demonstrators were present despite the unseasonably cooler temperatures and pouring rain. State Representatives Glen Maxey and Harrvette Ehrhardt, as well people from all cor-

A look back at the top stories of 2001

gay couples can obtain up to 99 percent of the rights and obligations of marriage. But only The Netherlands now lets gays simply marry.

"All the other countries have marriages specially made for gay people," said Henk Krol, publisher of De Gay Krant magazine and the driving force behind the 16-year process that led to legalized marriage for same-sex couples. "What we have in The Netherlands is civil marriage open to everyone. That's the big difference. That is the news."

Bush Moves on AIDS, Appoints Gay LCR Czar

WASHINGTON — The White House announced Monday the appointment of openly gay Scott Evertz to head the Office of National AIDS policy, an office the new administration once signalled it might close.

He is the first openly gay AIDS "Czar" to be appointed since the office was created.

Evertz, who was serving as President of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) of Wisconsin when he was selected, will sit on the White House Domestic Policy Council, chaired by the President, and will head an expanded AIDS office. The White House also said the office would upgrade its policy coordinating scope to include both domestic and international HIV/AIDS, with staff detail from both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of State.

"The president wants to increase the focus on the international aspects of the disease and we believe we have chosen the right director for the office," said a White House official.

Rich Tafel, President of LCR nationally, applauded Bush for his appointment and congratulated Evertz.

Hate Crimes Legislation Passes Texas House

AUSTIN — The Texas House of

based on sexual orientation also passed favourably out of committee, as did a bill that would repeal Texas' sodomy law.

The hate crimes act faced several amendments intended to derail it, but each one was defeated soundly on the House floor. Warren Chisum motioned to table the bill, Rep. Huff offered an amendment to "protect the kids who get beat up because they have red hair and pimples," and Rep. Shields testified that General Sam Houston would be opposed to the legislation.

MAY 2001

Texas Gets Hate Crimes Law

AUSTIN — After over ten years of hard work and education efforts by a coalition of progressive organizations in Texas, The James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act passed 20-10 in the Texas Senate Monday and awaits Governor Perry's approval. In the final vote, all Senate Democrats and five Republicans voted in favor of the bill, including Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff.

Texas now joins 41 other states with such laws, providing enhanced penalties to perpetrators of crimes motivated by bias or prejudice. Twenty-two of them, including Texas, include crimes against gays or lesbians in their protections.

Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) sponsored the legislation in the Senate. "This legislation aims at the heart of hatred," he said in his opening statement. "We have debated this issue on countless occasions and the time has finally come to take action."

Protestors Target ExMo Shareholders

DALLAS — ExxonMobil shareholders gathered at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center for their annual meeting to vote on various corporate guidelines, one being whether or not to include sexual orientation in their non-discrimina-

tion from the non-discriminatory policy Mobil originally had for their shareholders.

Stockholders were greater than two hundred protesters environmental and human who were there to actively voice globalization, climate change and employment discrimination.

JUNE 2001

Tropical Storm Soak

HOUSTON — Floods from Tropical Storm Allison left at least 20 people expected to total over \$1 billion in damage.

An equal opportunity employer, Allison's floods were also detrimental to GLBT entities key to Houston's GLBT community.

The Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond Avenue, was inundated with GLBT institutions. The MCGC health services to the GLBT communities.

Other GLBT churches, Bering Memorial Methodist Church, 1440 Harold Street, is suffering problems after the basement flooding.

Rev. Troy Plummer, pastor of the moderate, but said the elevators were stuck for two weeks. Plummer said several HIV-positive members of the church are chair-bound, it will be difficult to provide services as long as the elevators are stuck.

Basement flooding was reported at the Gulf Coast Archives Museum, which displays memorabilia of GLBT history.

GCAM had recently celebrated its 20th anniversary at the new location at 1609 Main Street. The building was unscathed. However, some of the exhibits were soaked at the old location (also the home of activist Reeves).

GCAM had a nearly complete collection of various local GLBT-themed items, many of which got wet.

Numerous performances at the Alley, Jones Hall and the取消, moved or indefinitely postponed. Several musical instruments at Jones Hall were also damaged by flooding, according to the Houston Chronicle.

A foot of water also

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Rothko Reverses Discriminatory Policy

HOUSTON – GLBT activists rejoiced over the demise of an antigay policy at one Houston's most famous religious landmarks - a policy that many only recently discovered.

Rothko Chapel board members voted unanimously on March 17 to end its policy banning same sex commitment ceremonies little more than a month after the matter came to the attention of Houston GLBT activists.

Several individuals and organizations, such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, State Rep. Debra Danburg and Texas Southern University Law Professor Eugene Harrington, had sent letters to Rothko's Board stating that the policy contradicted the Chapel's mission statement.

Paramount Dumps 'Doctor' Laura

LOS ANGELES – Paramount Domestic Television ended production of Dr. Laura on March 29 to the applause of gay and lesbian activist groups nationwide. The show's cancellation is a direct result of an organized effort in the gay community to challenge Schlessinger's attacks on gays and lesbians and comes after two format changes and a move to early morning hours in major markets.

handed political tactics," she said.

The bill, HB 1245, addresses estate issues in the dissolution of marriage. Hartnett's amendment defines spouse as a husband and wife and further specifies that husband and wife cannot be people of the same sex. Texas law already stated that marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

Texans March Against Hate

AUSTIN – Over a thousand people came out in the cold rain to March Against Hate to the state's capitol building. The March, organized by the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL) was followed by a two-hour rally on the capital steps and an organized Lobby Day was held the next day.

Primarily to show support for the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, the march aimed to raise awareness of hate crimes in Texas and motivate legislators to take proactive measures to curb violence in the state.

Organizers were pleased that over a thousand demonstrators were present despite the unseasonably cooler temperatures and pouring rain. State Representatives Glen Maxey and Harryette Ehrhardt, as well people from all corners of Texas participated.

Over one hundred people showed up at LGRL's lobby day following the March.

"The most significant thing about the march was that we had about fifty youth to lead us to the capital," said LGRL's Dianne Hardy-Garcia. "Kids from Corpus, San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin made the trip and also stayed to visit with their legislators."

APRIL 2001

World First: Dutch Gays Can Legally Marry

AMSTERDAM – It was probably the most important moment in the history of the worldwide struggle for gay equality. Four gay couples were legally married in the Netherlands April 1 under the exact same laws heterosexuals use.

It was a world first.

Several nations have registered-partnership laws under which

gay Scott Evertz to head the Office of National AIDS policy, an office the new administration once signalled it might close.

He is the first openly gay AIDS "Czar" to be appointed since the office was created.

Evertz, who was serving as President of Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) of Wisconsin when he was selected, will sit on the White House Domestic Policy Council, chaired by the President, and will head an expanded AIDS office. The White House also said the office would upgrade its policy coordinating scope to include both domestic and international HIV/AIDS, with staff detail from both the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of State.

"The president wants to increase the focus on the international aspects of the disease and we believe we have chosen the right director for the office," said a White House official.

Rich Tafel, President of LCR nationally, applauded Bush for his appointment and congratulated Evertz.

Hate Crimes Legislation Passes Texas House

AUSTIN – The Texas House of Representatives passed the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act with a vote of 87-60, capping off a busy seven days of legislative hearings for gay Texans. A Non-Discrimination in Education Bill that will protect students from discrimination

AUSTIN – After over ten years of hard work and education efforts by a coalition of progressive organizations in Texas, The James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act passed 20-10 in the Texas Senate Monday and awaits Governor Perry's approval. In the final vote, all Senate Democrats and five Republicans voted in favor of the bill, including Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff.

Texas now joins 41 other states with such laws, providing enhanced penalties to perpetrators of crimes motivated by bias or prejudice. Twenty-two of them, including Texas, include crimes against gays or lesbians in their protections.

Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) sponsored the legislation in the Senate. "This legislation aims at the heart of hatred," he said in his opening statement. "We have debated this issue on countless occasions and the time has finally come to take action."

Protestors Target ExMo Shareholders

DALLAS – ExxonMobil shareholders gathered at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center for their annual meeting to vote on various corporate guidelines, one being whether or not to include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policy for employees.

After Exxon and Mobil merged to form the biggest oil company in the world in November 1999, the new company eliminated sexual orienta-



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Crimes Law

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tation from the non-discrimination policy that
Mobil originally had for their workers.

Stockholders were greeted outside by more
than two hundred protesters representing various
environmental and human rights organizations
who were there to actively voice their opinions on
globalization, climate change, arctic refuge, and
employment discrimination.

JUNE 2001

Tropical Storm Soaks Montrose

HOUSTON – Floods from Tropical Storm
Allison left at least 20 people dead and damages
expected to total over \$1 billion in the Houston
area.

An equal opportunity destructive force,
Allison's floods were also devastating to several
entities key to Houston's GLBT community.

The Montrose Counseling Center, located at
701 Richmond Avenue, was one of the hardest hit
GLBT institutions. The MCC provides mental
health services to the GLBT and HIV-positive
communities.

Other GLBT churches fared better, though
Bering Memorial Methodist Church, located at
1440 Harold Street, is suffering minor electrical
problems after the basement flooded.

Rev. Troy Plummer assessed the damage as
moderate, but said the elevator will be out for one
or two weeks. Plummer said since the church has
several HIV-positive members who are wheel-
chair-bound, it will be difficult for them to attend
services as long as the elevator is not functioning.

Basement flooding was also a problem at the
Gulf Coast Archives Museum, which collects and
displays memorabilia of GLBT history.

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the new location at 1609 W. Main escaped
unscathed. However, some boxes of magazines
were soaked at the old location on Capitol Street
(also the home of activists Judy and Bruce
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GCAM had a nearly complete collection of
various local GLBT-themed publications, but
many of those got wet.

Numerous performances at venues such as
the Alley, Jones Hall and the Wortham were either
canceled, moved or indefinitely postponed.
Several musical instruments stored in the base-
ment of Jones Hall were also damaged, according
to the Houston Chronicle.

A foot of water also ruined the carpet, furni-

ture and equipment.

Paris elected openly gay Socialist Bertrand
Delanoe, 50, on March 18.

"The most remarkable thing about it may
well have been that it was not remarkable at all,"
said political scientist Michael Dreyer, a German
correspondent for this column. "In the week
between the candidate's coming out and today's
parliamentary election, some media have men-
tioned his coming out in a matter-of-fact way, but
virtually the only comments and editorials I saw
just mentioned it in passing and then generally
favorably, as a welcome openness."

Supreme Court Backs Brown's Anti-Discrimination Policy

HOUSTON – As if timed perfectly to
accompany the GLBT community's annual Pride
Parade and accompanying festivities, the Texas
Supreme Court upheld Mayor Brown's executive
order banning discrimination in City of Houston
employment against gay, lesbian and transgendered
employees. The ruling, announced June 21,
maintained that Council Member Rob Todd and
conservative businessman Steven Hotze had no
standing in opposing the constitutionality of
Mayor Brown's executive order.

Todd and Hotze had argued that Brown's
order was illegal because it nullified a 1985 citizen
referendum that had repealed a 1984 City
Council-approved ordinance prohibiting discrimination
against persons because of their sexual
orientation.

2001 Pride Parade Determined Biggest, Longest

HOUSTON – With more than 130 entries,
the 23rd annual Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride
Parade was the first in its history to begin on one
day, and end on another. Kicking off at 8:45 on
Saturday, June 23, the annual procession concluded
shortly after midnight on Sunday morning,
deeming it Houston's longest Pride Parade to date.

Largely ignoring the predictable gathering of
a dozen or so protesters holding Fred Phelps-
inspired signs, more than an estimated 150,000
revelers lined Westheimer to pay homage to
Houston's GLBT community's visibility and
achievement of the preceding year.

I Was Fired for Talking to The Triangle'

WIMBERLY, Texas – A wrongful termina-

saw the image, but proceeded to congratulate
Larry on a good piece of work. After causing a bit
of controversy among school board members and
Director Dr. Yana Bland, the mural was whitewashed
by a volunteer team in the cover of the night.

Students and Roper spoke out against the
whitewash. Roper contacted *The Triangle* on
several occasions during the incident. He claims
Bland ushered his firing due at least in part to his
exposure of the incident to the press.

JULY 2001

Bush Army Retreats After Salvation Deal Foils

WASHINGTON – When the Washington
Post broke a story about the White House's back-
door deal with the Salvation Army to allow dis-
crimination against gays and lesbians, a firestorm
of controversy erupted. Gay rights groups and
Democrats immediately called on Bush to clarify
the negotiations that would have guaranteed The
Salvation Army's support of Bush's "faith-based
initiative" in exchange for an executive order
allowing the church to continue their discrimination
against gays and lesbians, despite local laws.

"The federal government's record on civil
rights throughout history has been spotty, ranging
from solid enforcement to non-enforcement. But
this is the first time the federal government will
actually try to coerce states and cities to allow dis-
crimination as a condition of receiving federal
money," said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU
Lesbian & Gay Rights Project.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
(NGLTF) said "the secret discussions between the
Bush White House and the Salvation Army to
allow government-funded charitable organizations
to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation
should serve as a red flag to anyone wondering
whether tax dollars should go to religious
organizations."

"This back room deal exposes the rank
hypocrisy of the Salvation Army, whose own mission
statement asserts that its charge is 'to meet
human needs...without discrimination,'" said
Lori L. Jean, the group's executive director.

Groups Aim to Amend Constitution to Prohibit Gay Marriage

Lesbians Could Become Pregnant without Male Sperm

MELBOURNE – Doctors in Australia
believe they have found a way to fertilize an egg
with cells from any part of the body, rather than
the sperm of men. This development, say experts,
is indication that lesbian couples could have chil-
dren that are genetically their own.

The researchers discovered non-sperm ferti-
lization was possible while developing solutions
for infertile men. They've created mice embryos
thus far with the new application.

The research, which complements efforts to
enable infertile women to "reprogram" donated
eggs with their own genetic recipe, was originally
intended to help couples to have babies that are
their own genetic offspring, even when the man
has no sperm or even sperm-making cells.

One of the researchers, Dr. Orly Lacham-
Kaplan, of Monash University, Melbourne, said
Monday that the sperm-free technique could, in
theory at least, enable a lesbian couple to have a
baby, with one woman contributing an egg and
the second a cell to fertilize it.

Park Rangers Investigated For Gay Bashing

SAN ANTONIO – The investigation into
allegations that San Antonio Park Rangers
assaulted three Canadian tourists in the early
morning hours of Friday, July 13 continues with
national and international attention this week.

The Human Rights Campaign, the largest
gay and lesbian organization in America, sent let-
ters to the U.S. Justice Department as well as the
Federal Bureau of Investigation requesting a full-
scale investigation of the park rangers in question.
The HRC and FBI were alerted the incident by
reading *The Texas Triangle*.

Two days later, FBI officials in the San
Antonio field office confirmed their involvement.

Joey Abbruzzese, 20, and Gregory
Maleszyk, 19, were arrested and jailed for "resisting
arrest" and "interfering with an arrest" respec-
tively after a confrontation with Rangers.

The young men, both Canadian citizens vis-
iting Texas from Toronto, claim four Park
Rangers continuously called them "Canadian
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Numerous performances at venues such as the Alley, Jones Hall and the Wortham were either canceled, moved or indefinitely postponed. Several musical instruments stored in the basement of Jones Hall were also damaged, according to the Houston Chronicle.

A foot of water also ruined the carpet, furniture, and many set pieces at Unhinged Theatre at 3304 LaBranch, another GLBT-oriented theatre. Unhinged did not have flood insurance.

The GLBT bars in the Montrose area sustained mostly minor damages. The lone exception was Chances, a mostly lesbian bar at 1102 Westheimer.

At Chances, flooding ruined the dance floor and the pool tables, and pressure from the water also shattered the front windows in the bar, putting it out of business for at least a week. Owner Nick Vastakis promised that Chances would be re-opened this weekend.

New Berlin Mayor Comes Out

BERLIN – The man elected mayor and governor of Berlin on June 16 came out as gay on June 10. Berlin is both a city and a state.

Klaus Wowereit, 47, made the announcement during his candidate's speech at the Social Democratic Party's convention.

"I'm gay and that's a good thing," he said. ("Ich bin schwul, und das ist auch gut so.") He received lengthy applause.

Eighty-four percent of Germans told pollsters last week they have no problem with the idea

Mayor Brown's executive order.

Todd and Hotze had argued that Brown's order was illegal because it nullified a 1985 citizen referendum that had repealed a 1984 City Council-approved ordinance prohibiting discrimination against persons because of their sexual orientation.

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Largely ignoring the predictable gathering of a dozen or so protesters holding Fred Phelps-inspired signs, more than an estimated 150,000 revelers lined Westheimer to pay homage to Houston's GLBT community's visibility and achievement of the preceding year.

'I Was Fired for Talking to The Triangle'

WIMBERLY, Texas – A wrongful termination lawsuit was filed in Hays County after the Katherine Ann Porter School (KAP) fired art and journalism teacher Grady Roper for "not being a team player." Roper, represented by the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP), says he was actually terminated for talking to *The Texas Triangle* to assess the rights of his students and perhaps shed public light on what he considered callous censorship of student art.

Last fall, as teens at KAP began the new school year, Roper had a project in line for his students. A bare, 30 x 10 foot wall in the school's hallway would soon be home to a colorful mural painted by the young artists.

By mid September student creations almost filled the mural, a work in progress for two weeks. Even students not in the art classes at KAP took time from their lunch to add their own contributions.

On September 28, an advanced art student, Larry McDowell, added an image of two males kissing to the mural.

"It was not provocative nor erotic, simply two faces with their lips touching," says Roper. "It was no bigger than 2 x 2 feet."

Roper admits he was surprised when he first

arrived in exchange for an executive order allowing the church to continue their discrimination against gays and lesbians, despite local laws.

"The federal government's record on civil rights throughout history has been spotty, ranging from solid enforcement to non-enforcement. But this is the first time the federal government will actually try to coerce states and cities to allow discrimination as a condition of receiving federal money," said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) said "the secret discussions between the Bush White House and the Salvation Army to allow government-funded charitable organizations to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation should serve as a red flag to anyone wondering whether tax dollars should go to religious organizations."

"This back room deal exposes the rank hypocrisy of the Salvation Army, whose own mission statement asserts that its charge is 'to meet human needs...without discrimination,'" said Lorri L. Jean, the group's executive director.

Groups Aim to Amend Constitution to Prohibit Gay Marriage

WASHINGTON – The Federal Marriage Amendment, presented at a news conference, would require ratification by both houses of Congress and the legislatures of 38 states to become law, but it threatens gay and lesbian families, according to liberal organizations.

Saying it would deprive millions of families of their most fundamental rights, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) denounced the new attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution as an unwarranted attempt to limit liberty in the United States.

The reaction came the day before a press conference convened by religious and conservative leaders. The amendment would invalidate gay and lesbian families, according to the HRC and ACLU.

Gay and lesbian equality advocates call the move "gay-bashing" while backers say the amendment would prevent judges from setting family policies that lack public support.

Park Rangers Investigated For Gay Bashing

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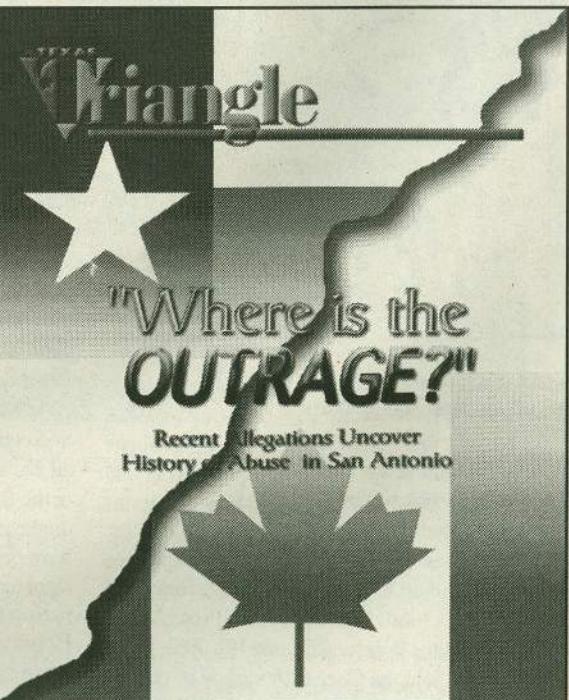
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Two days later, FBI officials in the San Antonio field office confirmed their involvement.

Joey Abbruzzese, 20, and Gregory Maleszyk, 19, were arrested and jailed for "resisting arrest" and "interfering with an arrest" respectively after a confrontation with Rangers.

The young men, both Canadian citizens visiting Texas from Toronto, claim four Park Rangers continuously called them "Canadian Faggots" while choking, beating, and scraping their heads on the concrete before ultimately taking them to jail.

Continued on Next Page



Progressive voters Alliance's Grant Martin, and Houston City Council candidate Ada Edwards, among others.

Scouts' Texas HQ Protested

DALLAS — One year after the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) could legally discriminate against gay scouts and leaders, the controversy continued to rally supporters and mobilize detractors.

Most BSA chapters still actively discriminate against gays and lesbians, even though big money donors pulled their support in protest of BSA's homophobia. And although some BSA chapters across America have decided to allow gays to participate with a "don't ask, don't tell" nod, many say that is not enough.

Scott and Steven Cozza have been at the forefront in the effort to make BSA accept gays openly among their rank and file. The father/son

team who founded "Scouting for All" will be in Dallas through the week.

Wishik said in an Aug. 10 phone call from Provincetown, where the couple has a home. "We were the first foreigners to marry at the Zuider Amstel town hall in the southern part of Amsterdam. It seemed important to us that the Dutch law is exactly the same [for gays and straights].

"It felt to us like there was a way to be ordinary and a lesbian couple in a new way," Wishik said. "It was a real extension of Dutch fairness and choice. We found it a delightful process. The town hall clerks never raised an eyebrow. They were cordial, gracious, welcoming, wonderful."

AUGUST 2001

Signatures Bring Non-Discrimination Ordinance to Vote

HOUSTON — On July 25, Houston became the first city in Texas to pass a non-discrimination ordinance for city employees that mentioned both sexual orientation and gender identity.

But slightly less than one month later — on August 21 — founder of Houstonians for Family Values Dave Wilson turned in 22,577 signatures at City Hall to put his charter amendment opposing the ordinance on the Nov. 6 ballot. The ballot initiative would make domestic partner benefits illegal via the city charter.

Dave Wilson's petitions are being handed in to create two different groups of city workers — those that are allowed to protect the health of their families, and those that are not," commented Houston Council Member Annise Parker.

Parker explained that Wilson's ballot measure will prevent gay and lesbian city employees from getting proper health care for their families. "This kind of blatant discrimination is wrong. It's unfair. And, it's not the way we treat people in Houston.

Now that the petition is turned in, City Secretary Anna Russell and her office will check all the signatures against voter registration list to make sure it is all-legitimate and there are no duplications. Wilson's supporters were reported to have been combing the Montrose gay bar area for signatures, misrepresenting the true intent of the petition. The Texas Triangle reported that Houstonian Scott Womack was at a local gay bar when approached by a man who said he was col-

Houston has 6,070, San Antonio 2,278, Austin 2,532 and Fort Worth 1,245.

The Oak Lawn neighborhood in Dallas has one of the highest concentrations of gay and lesbian couples in the country. Also, the Kessler Park-Stevens Park areas of north Oak Cliff and suburban neighborhoods contain high numbers.

"It's pretty well known that Dallas has one of the most successful gay communities in the country," Deb Elder, 49, a real estate agent who has a mostly gay and lesbian clientele, told the *Dallas Morning News*.

Although this census data is the first detailed accounting of gays and lesbians, it has significant limitations. The Census Bureau only asked about relationships within households, nothing about sexual orientation. So, the count excluded gays living alone, with roommates, or with relatives, while unmarried partners were counted.

Helms, whose propensity for going his own way earned him the nickname "Senator No," announced that he will not seek a sixth term, sources told The Associated Press. Helms had one of the worst records in history when it came to GLBT friendly legislation.

Anti-Gay Gramm Will Not Return

AUSTIN — United States Senator Phil Gramm announced he would not seek re-election, stating he had accomplished what he wanted in the nation's Capitol. Gay and lesbian activists and organizations that have monitored Gramm's voting record and political tactics in the past welcomed the news.

"Yippie!" said Alan Baker of Austin's Lesbian Gay Political Caucus and Stonewall Dems. "2002 will be a great year for Texas Democrats."

Gramm is the third conservative Republican to announce his retirement, following that of Strom Thurmond and Jesse Helms earlier this year. All men have said they will not seek re-election.

SEPTEMBER 2001

Phelps an Austin No-Show

AUSTIN — No, Fred Phelps did not show up at Austin's University Baptist Church, where two dozen protesters and a hoard of media awaited. Nor did he make it the previous day to the campus

of Northwest Missouri State University, where students had commissioned a special run of "Hate is not a Northwest Family Value" T-shirts in anticipation of his visit. The Topeka-based minister, who specializes in anti-gay demonstrations around the country, often skips his self-assigned dates. But no matter. Just the rumor of a Phelps appearance is enough to uncork an outpouring of progressive solidarity.

Sunday's eleven a.m. service at University Baptist drew an overflow crowd of 600 or so, many from other churches around town. The American Civil Liberties Union organized a handful of volunteer observers. The city sent a contingent of police,

mate their pledge class and when compared to the rest of

Cunningham was asked shirt and made to walk shirt where the new pledges had ga

World Changed by Terror Attack; Gay Community Exception

NEW YORK — Days after the World Trade Center in Manhattan and Washington, D.C. were attacked by planes, many in the cities' gay community turned to sift through debris and assess the damage.

It would later be known that many of the tragedy were out and the gay and lesbian community. Rugby Player Mark Bingham, one of the men who led the attempt to force a fourth plane in their September 11th attack, was also a member of the association.

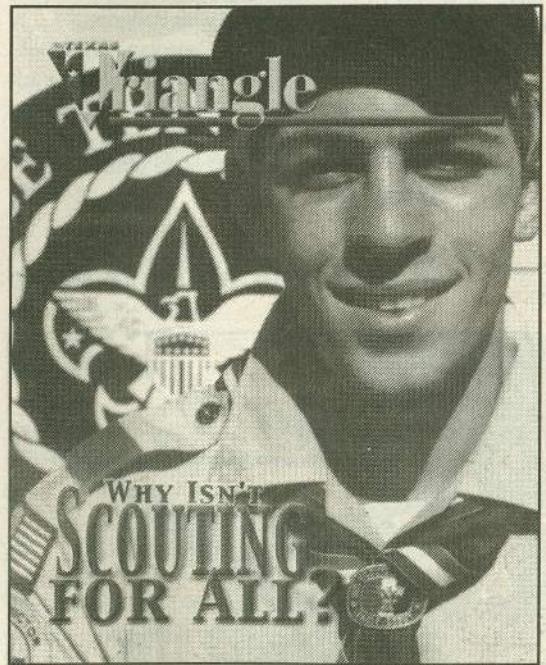
New York Fire Department Captain Mychal Judge was killed by a firefighter while administering last rights to a firefighter victim at the World Trade Center. He was later honored by the Pope. Judge was a gay member of the Catholic order.

The US Armed Services the nation and battle the terrorist. In the process, gays are receiving the end of discrimination. The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy and lesbians from serving in the military.

Despite the fact that service members are taking the step of issuing a 'stop-loss' policy, the military is continuing to discharge, each order that specifically instructed units to continue processing gay and

Surviving partners of service members began dealing with the legal issues of victim assistance since they were not recognized by law. Rudy Giuliani and Gov. George Pataki have issued a statement that gay and lesbian survivors of the attacks are married couples. So to did former Rep. Jim Cooper.

The *Triangle* published a special issue dedicated to gays in the military. Read the special issue at www.txtriangle.com/



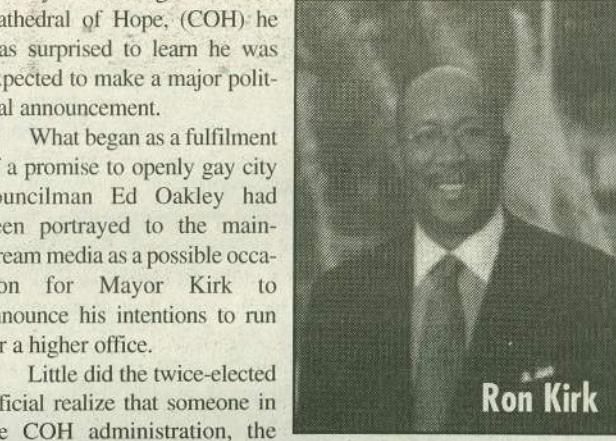
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Ron Kirk

At a press conference State Representative Harryette Ehrhardt, Dallas City Councilmen Ed Oakley and John Lozza, Youth First Social Service Director Bob Ivancic, and PFLAG's Dave Gleason will join the Cozzas. A variety of official

Stories of 2001

sent out last Friday by Kris Senior Pastor Michael Piazza, attend Sunday services with the question, "Will he or won't he? The Senate or Governor's race world's largest gay and lesbian

unt took Kirk and Oakley by

It Quits

— Leading anti-gay legislator, who for three decades has conservative social causes, his term ends in two years, eat that Republicans desper-

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and the local press dispatched camera crews and reporters to capture the excitement. Over the course of two hours, however, the mood outside the church gradually lost its adrenaline and by one o'clock, the various groups had disbanded and slipped away.

A&M Student Claims Fraternity Ousted Him Because He's Gay

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Clay Cunningham, a junior political science major, accepted TKE's (Tau Kappa Epsilon) "bid" only to be removed from the fraternity social organization after fellow fraternity members learned that he is gay, the student said.

Along with other pledges, Cunningham was invited to become an associate member of the fraternity. While they gathered at the Dixie Chicken (a popular bar near campus) that afternoon, Cunningham was asked by rush chairman Patrick Terramaggi if he belonged to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA), a campus organization.

"I told him that I was gay, and he said that if I was a member of TKE, that it would ruin their organization," Cunningham said. "It would decimate their pledge class and make them look bad when compared to the rest of the fraternities."

Cunningham was asked to return his pledge shirt and made to walk shirtless out of the bar where the new pledges had gathered.

World Changed by Terrorist Attack; Gay Community No Exception

NEW YORK — Days after the World Trade Center in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. were attacked by hijacked planes, many in the cities' gay communities continue to sift through debris and comfort loved ones amid the devastation.

It would later be known that several heroes of the tragedy were out and proud members of the gay and lesbian community. Openly Gay Rugby Player Mark Bingham was one of four men who led the attempt to foil hijackers plans to use a fourth plane in their September 11 attack. The pilot of the plane that went down in Pennsylvania was also a member of the gay pilots association.

New York Fire Department Chaplain Mychal Judge was killed by a falling body while administering last rights to one of the first fire

Falwell Says Gays and Lesbians Caused Attacks

TV LAND — While President Bush was preparing the nation for a widespread assault on the terrorist networks responsible for the tragic attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., some in the religious right took the opportunity to lash out at gays and lesbians, saying they and other liberal groups were partially responsible for the massacre.

"I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People For the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America. I point the finger in their face and say 'you helped this happen,'" Jerry Falwell said on a broadcast of the Christian television program *The 700 Club*.

Falwell, pastor of the 22,000-member Thomas Road Baptist Church, viewed the attacks as God's judgment on America for "throwing God out of the public square, out of the schools. The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked," he said.

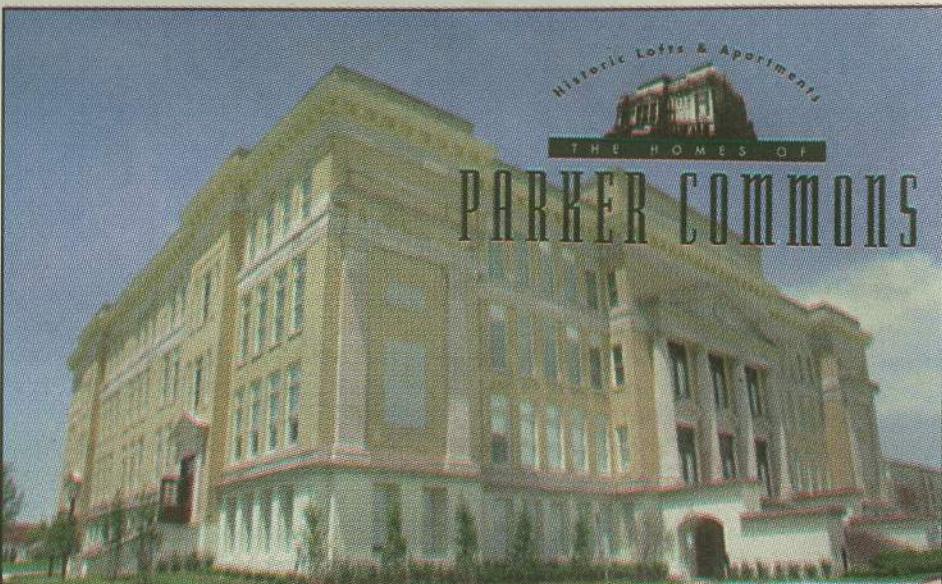
Pat Robertson, host of the *700 Club* television program, echoed Falwell's sentiments.

"Well, I totally concur, and the problem is we have adopted that agenda at the highest levels of our government. And so we're responsible as a free society for what the top people do. And, the top people, of course, is the court system," he said.

OCTOBER 2001

Texas Triangle Turns Ten

DALLAS — Texas' only state-wide gay and lesbian weekly news source began their tenth year this month, marked by the release of the largest edition ever, coming in at 100 pages. The special issue featured a timeline containing a quote from every issue of the *Triangle* ever pub-



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Exposed brick walls and loft pipes**

10' to 27' ceilings w/ceiling fans**

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Located 905 S. Jennings, one block North of Rosedale. From I-30, take I-35S, exit Rosedale. Turn right on Rosedale. 1 mile to S. Jennings, turn right. Community is on the right.

PET
of the
WEEK

SPCA

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for going his own nickname "Senator No," ill not seek a sixth term, iated Press. Helms had one in history when it came to ion.

Will Not Return

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Alan Baker of Austin's I Caucus and Stonewall a great year for Texas

and conservative Republican ement, following that of Jesse Helms earlier this they will not seek re-elec-

001

No-Show

ed Phelps did not show up Baptist Church, where two hoard of media awaited. previous day to the campus Northwest Missouri State University, where students had issued a special run of "It is not a Northwest y Value" T-shirts in antic of his visit. The Topeka minister, who specializes anti-gay demonstrations the country, often skips If-assigned dates. But no. Just the rumor of a s appearance is enough to k an outpouring of pro-eve solidarity.

Sunday's eleven a.m. e at University Baptist l of 600 or so, many from own. The American Civil ed a handful of volunteer a contingent of police,

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New York Fire Department Chaplain Mychal Judge was killed by a falling body while administering last rights to one of the first fire fighter victims at the World Trade Center. He was later honored by the Pope. Judge was an openly gay member of the Catholic organization Dignity.

The US Armed Services geared to secure the nation and battle the terrorist in their home lands. In the process, gays and lesbians were on the receiving end of discrimination through the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that prohibits gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

Despite the fact that several branches took the step of issuing a 'stop-loss' order curbing routine discharges, each order contained language that specifically instructed unit commanders to continue processing gay and lesbian discharges.

Surviving partners of same-sex couples began dealing with the legal difficulties in securing victim assistance since their relationships were not recognized by law. New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Gov. George Pataki vowed to treat gay and lesbian surviving partners just like married couples. So did the American Red Cross.

The *Triangle* published a special issue dedicated to gays in the military called Forward March. Read the special issue online at www.txtriangle.com/

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lished. The issue also featured an in-depth look at the top ten fights of the gay and lesbian community, offered a brief history of this publication, and a collection of our favorite celebrity interview snip-its. Access the remarkable presentation online at www.txtriangle.com/archive/1001/

Elderly Man Bludgeoned with Bat, Later Dies

SAN ANTONIO — Alvin E. Everton, 74, passed away Monday, Oct. 8, a little over two weeks after he was struck in the left temple with a baseball bat while walking his dog in the early morning hours of Sept. 23. Everton told family, friends, and authorities that the attacker, who he

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SPCA

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PET of the WEEK

Darla

AGE: One Year

SEX: Female

SIZE: Small

BREED: Corgi Mix

#40897



My large, luminous eyes will entrance you as will my sweet little personality. I'm calm, loving and gentle and can't wait to find a family who will treat me like the little princess I am. My previous owner abandoned me and a nice person brought me to the SPCA for a second chance at life. I've been here waiting for that new and permanent home since December 18. To adopt me or other loveable pets, contact the SPCA today!*

* From November 16 to December 31, many of our adoptable animals will be traveling daily to NorthPark Center in Dallas for a chance to find a home for the holidays. Please stop by and see us!

What Happened?

A look back at the top stories of 2001

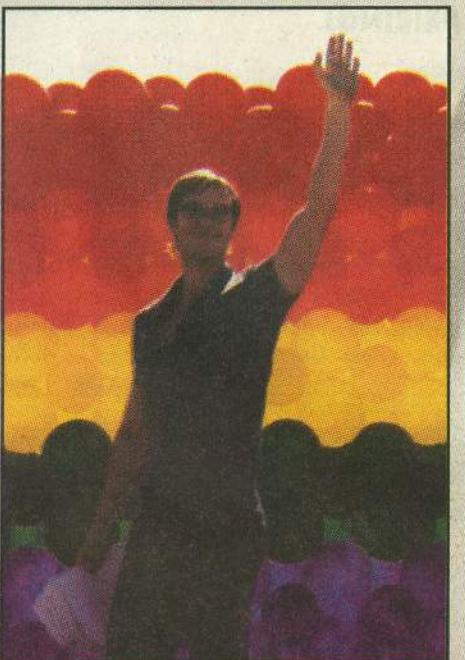
October — December

identified as a neighbor, called him a "fucking faggot" as he hit him with the bat.

The circumstances surrounding the attack as well as the investigation have left Everton's partner of 38 years, Al Thirk, with many unanswered questions in his time of grief. Because Everton died several weeks after the attack, authorities are not currently pursuing murder charges, rather "assault with serious bodily injury to an elderly person."

Terrorist Attacks Affect National Coming Out Day

DALLAS — The Human Rights Campaign's National Coming Out Project did not hold a national event this year because the day marked



the one-month anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The group encouraged

is as significant in its own way as Vermont's civil union bill. The Vermont bill set a new standard in America's legal treatment of gay and lesbian couples, and the California version does not meet that high bar. But, setting Vermont aside, it goes so much further than any other state in the country that it too, creates a new standard for same-sex couples. And unlike the civil union bill, California's law was achieved through the legislative process alone. In Vermont, the legislature was required to equalize marriage benefits within the state by direct order from the state supreme court.

The stage was set for the passage of AB 25 back in 1999. In the 1998 session, San Francisco Assemblymember, Carole Migden, engineered passage of a seemingly symbolic, but critically important bill creating a state-wide domestic partner registry. By the time the bill was passed and signed in January, the registry carried very few actual benefits. Domestic partners could visit each other in hospitals and the partners of state workers could access health insurance and other benefits. Originally open to straight and gay couples, the final version limited the registry to gay couples, and to senior heterosexuals. But the essential feature of the bill was the registry itself, which created a state-wide infrastructure for the recognition of same-sex couples.

Gay Men Dangerously Pop Viagra

SAN FRANCISCO — In an Oct. 16 article, the New York Times reports that gay men are using Viagra as a recreational drug, often with unfortunate results, including several deaths. A San Francisco study of 800 men being treated for sexually transmitted diseases at a clinic, showed that a third of the gay men had used Viagra, versus only seven percent of the straight men.

Of the gay men who reported taking the drug, many had combined it with speed, poppers, ecstasy or other substances. Half had obtained Viagra from a friend rather than a doctor. The

Mayor?

Mayor Brown: Yes, anyone who discriminates divides our city. I campaigned to be the Mayor for all of Houston and I have kept that promise and will be the Mayor for one city with one future.

TT: What do you say to voters who are riding the fence about this issue?

Mayor Brown: Vote against proposition 2.

Suicide Terrorist Pilot Gay?

NEW YORK — The National Enquirer says terrorist Mohamed Atta was gay and his boyfriend was by his side when the men crashed American flight 11 into One World Trade Center. Atta and Abdulaziz Alomari were the two men caught on camera at Boston's Logan Airport, enroute from Maine to New York. The tabloid, which has reported accurate news stories on many occasions, says they sent reporters to Germany for an "in-depth investigation into Atta's terrorist cell."

According to unnamed sources in U.S. and German intelligence, the Egyptian-born radical spent all his time with men and never had a girlfriend. An American intelligence source allegedly told the paper that "operatives who infiltrated the militant Islamic movement learned of Atta's homosexual lifestyle. The Taliban kills gays on sight," continued the mystery source. "That's why Atta kept his lifestyle so secret."

Methodist Court Slams Gay

Ministers

NASHVILLE — The Methodist Judicial Council confirmed that active gays and lesbians are not to be ordained in the United Methodist Church, backing up the decision by the General Conference last year. The church's Supreme Court was considering the case of two Seattle ministers who both came out of the closet, not just as gay, but also as partners in long-term rela-

tricts," he added hopefully.

But when the final votes were tallied, long after all but the most die hard election watchers had retired for the night, the numbers stood: 51 percent for the referendum, 49 percent against. The city, apparently, hadn't changed enough.

If Houston's in a bit of a shock, Michigan's feeling no pain. The three anti-gay ballot measures under consideration in Kalamazoo, Traverse City and Huntington Woods all went our way, a nice switch from the previous gay rights defeats in the two Detroit suburbs.

Report Says Rangers Acted Accordingly

SAN ANTONIO — The Municipal Integrity Division investigating the accusations that two Canadian tourists were gay bashed by Park Rangers on the River Walk concluded Rangers acted accordingly while arresting Joey Abbruzzese and Gregory Maleszyk in July and found no evidence Rangers used gay slurs during the scuffle.

"It looks like there was probable cause for the arrest," San Antonio Parks and Recreation director Malcolm Matthews told KSAT.

Days after the report's release, the Bexar County District Attorney's Office decided to drop all charges against Abbruzzese and Maleszyk, citing a lack of evidence.

Oak Lawn Becomes Arson Hot Spot

DALLAS — Investigators remain hopeful they will identify the person or persons responsible for 72 suspicious fires set in the Oak Lawn area of Dallas since August. Although most of the fires targeted trash bins, at least two fires have destroyed condominium construction sites, causing over \$1 million in damage.

"It's not uncommon to have a rash of fires," said Section Chief Allen Phyllis of Dallas Fire Department's Arson Investigation Division. "But

Salvation Army Offers, Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO — We Salvation Army's 13-state West had decided to offer a form of benefit. Specifically, the division to provide workplace benefits to adult member of an employ whether it be a same-sex partner a relative. The move followed a resolution by the five-member nation to allow each of the four territories domestic partner policies.

Before the ink dried on the Corporation's press release, however, commission reversed itself, possibly under pressure. "Earlier today," Wildmon, President of the American Association on Nov. 12, "I sent an alert that urged you to contact the Salvation Army and express that they would extend health benefits to partners of its homosexual employees."

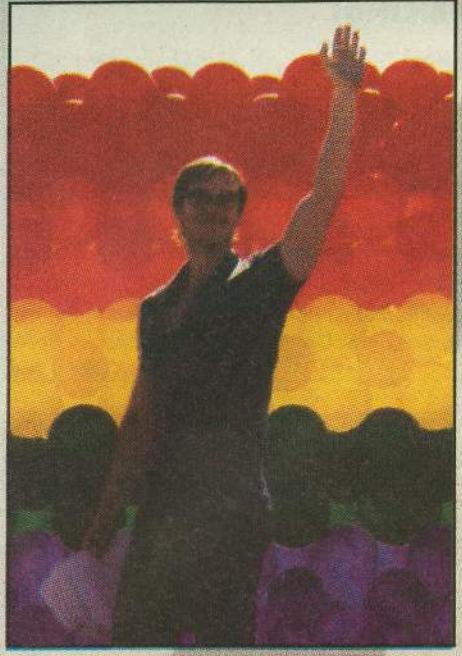
Jury Sides With Cop in Case

MINERSVILLE, PA — A jury came up with a verdict for a wrongful death civil suit brought by a teen suicide victim. Madonna Wayman's son, Marcus Wayman, shot himself in the early morning of April 18, 1999. Wayman and a friend had been at a local police station and lecture on homosexuality. Although Wayman's motivation is unclear, (and in some cases police officer Scott Willinski was the boy of having sex and threatening Wayman as gay. Willinski ordered his conservative step-grandfather to orientation, or else he, Willinski, would rather die than face his step-father such circumstances.

School District Allows Straight Alliance

FT. WORTH — Two gay school students were able to convince Barbara Cager to allow the formation of a Straight Alliance, but not without activists.

National Coming Out Project did not hold a national event this year because the day marked



the one-month anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The group encouraged GLBTs to "mark these coinciding anniversaries in the manner that feels most comfortable to you and your community," rather than pushing forward with previously planned festivities in dozens of U.S. cities.

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) provides an opportunity to show America that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people are a part of the fabric of this country - and in the days following the attacks, America was reminded of that fact, said HRC. "From Mark Bingham, the brave rugby player, to copilot David Charlebois to the countless GLBT firefighters, police and rescue workers - this country was shown an accurate slice of society, one inclusive of all Americans," said Candace Gingrich, president of HRC's NCOD efforts.

The terrorist attacks didn't stop Queer As Folk's Peter Paige from coming to Dallas, flying for his first time after the attacks to attend North Texas' Coming Out festivities in Oak Lawn and the State Fair of Texas.

California Governor Signs Massive Same-Sex Couples Bill

SACRAMENTO - California's new domestic partner bill, signed last Sunday by Governor Gray Davis as Mark Bingham's partner looked on,

Assemblymember Carole Langdon, engineered passage of a seemingly symbolic, but critically important bill creating a state-wide domestic partner registry. By the time the bill was passed and signed in January, the registry carried very few actual benefits. Domestic partners could visit each other in hospitals and the partners of state workers could access health insurance and other benefits. Originally open to straight and gay couples, the final version limited the registry to gay couples, and to senior heterosexuals. But the essential feature of the bill was the registry itself, which created a state-wide infrastructure for the recognition of same-sex couples.

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Of the gay men who reported taking the drug, many had combined it with speed, poppers, ecstasy or other substances. Half had obtained Viagra from a friend rather than a doctor. The group had more sex on balance than the gay men who did not take Viagra and more sex than the straight men as well. And 30 percent of HIV-negative gay Viagra-users told researchers they had unsafe sex with men of unknown or positive HIV status.

Viagra, which increases blood flow to certain essential body parts, should not be used with nitrates, a drug category which includes poppers and some heart medications. The combination of two substances, which dilate blood vessels, can lead to strokes and heart attacks and has killed some men.

Mayor Lee Brown Talks to The Triangle

HOUSTON - Mayor Lee P. Brown: The City of Houston should not be in the business of discrimination; that is why I introduced the Non-discrimination ordinance. I believe the opposition to such basic rights is mean-spirited. I am opposed to this proposal. Councilmember Annise Parker and I passed the ordinance extending health benefits to gay and lesbian domestic partners of city employees and I remain committed to this issue.

Texas Triangle: Do you believe this issue is more divisive than other issues you are facing as

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NOVEMBER 2001

Houston Voters Say Yes to Discrimination

HOUSTON - On Nov. 6, GLBT activists throughout Houston geared up for what everyone knew was going to be a tough fight. After months of phone calling, hours of block walking, and more weekends and holidays than anyone cares to count doing whatever it took to get the word out about Proposition 2, an anti-gay ballot measure that would forbid the city of Houston from ever extending domestic partner benefits to its GLBT employees, all that was left was the wait. And a long wait it was.

Activists held their breath as they lingered to see if the city of Houston had changed enough since 1985 (when a similar referendum passed by an 85 percent margin) to see the current measure defeated.

"It's 51 to 49 against us right now," a local activist said late on election eve. "But only 74 percent of the precincts have reported, and I think the ones that haven't come in yet are the gay dis-

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"It's not uncommon to have a rash of fires," said Section Chief Allen Phyllis of Dallas Fire Department's Arson Investigation Division. "But usually the numbers don't get this high, nor does the arson continue for an extended period. This number is unusual and to go this long is unusual."

Gays in Egypt Get Hard Time

CAIRO - Nearly half of the 52 men detained in Egypt since May for their alleged homosexuality were sentenced to several years of hard labor by the Emergency State Security Court for Misdemeanors in Cairo.

Twenty-two of the defendants will receive prison terms ranging from one to three years. One defendant facing an additional charge of "contempt for religion" was sentenced to five years. Twenty-nine other defendants were acquitted.

The 'Cairo 52' were arrested on the night of May 10, 2001 after police raided a floating night-club called "The Queen Boat." Fifty defendants were all charged with "obscene behavior" under a law against prostitution. Two more men were charged with "contempt for religion" as well. The trial began July 18 amid international scrutiny.

Because the case was tried under an emergency military court system established in 1981 after Islamic militants assassinated President Anwar Sadat, the sentences cannot be appealed unless through a petition to current President Hosni Mubarak.

MINERSVILLE, PA - jury came up with a verdict for a wrongful death civil suit brought by a teen suicide victim. Madonna's old son, Marcus Wayman, was found dead in the early morning of April 18, 1999. Wayman and a friend had been at a local police station and lecturing on homosexuality. Although Wayman's exact cause of death is unclear, (and in some cases, police officer Scott Willinski, the boys of having sex and that Wayman as gay. Willinski ordered his conservative step-grandfather to orientation, or else he, Willinski, would rather die than face his step-son such circumstances.

School District Allows Straight Alliance

FT. WORTH - Two gay school students were able to convince Barbara Cager to allow the formation of a Straight Alliance, but not without some activists.

Brad Carter, 17, and his friend asked Cager Nov. 5 whether they could form a straight alliance, a common school club across the country. The goal of such clubs is to allow gay and straight students to interact and sometimes lead to harassment and bias.

After not receiving any response from the students and their faculty, Brad Carter and his friend sought advice from the Tarrant County Straight Education Network (SEN).

DECEMBER 2001

A&M Frat Suspended

COLLEGE STATION - Epsilon (TKE) fraternity was placed on suspension until June 1, 2002. A&M University student organization was found to be in violation of alcohol and pledging rules.

The charges were made against Clay Cunningham, a junior in the college of engineering major who was accepted as a member of the fraternity but says he was力量 because they found out he was gay. He was forced to drink a bottle of beer to prove he was straight.

Salvation Army Offers, Cancels DP Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO – We reported that the Salvation Army's 13-state Western Corporation had decided to offer a form of domestic partner benefit. Specifically, the division announced plans to provide workplace benefits to one additional adult member of an employee's household, whether it be a same-sex partner, a roommate, or a relative. The move followed last month's decision by the five-member national commission to allow each of the four territories to set their own domestic partner policies.

Before the ink dried on the Western Corporation's press release, however, the national commission reversed itself, possibly due to right wing pressure. "Earlier today," wrote Donald E. Wildmon, President of the American Family Association on Nov. 12, "I sent an AFA action alert that urged you to contact Commander Busby of the Salvation Army and express your shock that they would extend health benefits to the sex partners of its homosexual employees...."

a new pledge event.

"The allegations, investigation and hearing created an opportunity for learning and growth for all involved. The true measure of the impact of this series of events will be the resulting changes in this group," he said.

The investigators concluded that the fraternity could not be held responsible for asking Cunningham to leave because he was gay due to the fact that the incident only involved a few members of the fraternity and was not based on policy or executive decision.

Texas Gays Lose Biggest Legislative Allies

AUSTIN – A few weeks after federal courts failed to fault the new district lines drawn by Texas' Republican-led legislative redistricting board, several advocates of gay and lesbian rights have decided not to seek re-election, claiming the new lines make it almost impossible for them to win.

"They got rid of us in the order of our degree of progressiveness," said Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt (D-Dallas), one of the first to announce she would not return. "They lined us up according to how concerned for human rights we were and drew us out of the race in that order."

Twenty-two groups filed suit in federal court to contest the newly created districts this summer claiming the lines divided certain "communities of interest" and skewed seats toward republican reclamation, but the court ruled the new lines were legal last week.

"We have been seriously, seriously threatened and I am extremely concerned about that and I think all of us should be. If you are not, you don't understand the situation," Ehrhardt said.

Also among the first-known casualties of the new lines in the sand is openly gay Glen Maxey who represents Austin's district 51. Maxey's district was completely redrawn to pit him against friends and long-term incumbents Elliott Naishtat and Ann Kitchens. Maxey could have either faced two of his friends in the primary election, moved to another district with a Hispanic majority within a month's time to run, or not run at all. Maxey announced Thursday he would not seek re-elec-

the incident in July when two Canadian tourists claim they were verbally gay-bashed and physically assaulted by Park Rangers.

In his interview with investigators, Officer Armando Vidales admitted to writing the email, saying it was prompted by two encounters he had on San Antonio streets with impassioned men, one "wearing a gay pride t-shirt."

Vidales said a man named Jo Hicks who claimed he was an attorney for the Texas Municipal League approached him three days after the arrest. The man began asking questions and told him to "stay away from Dan Castor, he's trouble," according to the report.

The report also found that Vidales was in direct violation of "San Antonio Park Rangers Rules and Regulations." Vidales is no longer employed as a Park Ranger.

The investigation found no evidence of derogatory anti-gay language, used either by the Canadians or Park Rangers, during the attack. They also disputed any claims of excessive force.

AIDS Patient Forced to Sit in Waste

WICHITA FALLS – Don Swatzell says Southwestern Bell forced him to sit in his own waste, constantly fear termination, and violated his right to privacy, but on Nov. 8, a jury ruled against him after deliberating for about an hour.

Swatzell, diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in May 1996, maintained a perfect attendance record and received several letters of recom-

mendation while working as an operator with Southwestern Bell (SWB) in Wichita Falls. It wasn't until AIDS-related illnesses and doctor visits caused several absences that he claims SWB refused to let him take breaks to eat food with his medication. He also says they did not permit him to take unscheduled restroom breaks to accommodate medication side effects.

Although the case cannot be appealed unless procedural errors can be found, Swatzell is very interested in finding an attorney who will take on the case. He noted that he only met with the attorney that tried his last case the night before the trial began.

"It is also hard to get employees to testify against their employer, especially if they are not

Mayor Candidates Seek Gay Vote

DALLAS – For the first time in city politics, all four top contenders for Mayor actively sought the endorsement of the oldest gay and lesbian political action committee in the city, The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) PAC. The endorsement was handed down after an hour-long DGLA-sponsored forum that provided gay voters a chance to meet the mayoral candidates and ask questions about their support of GLBT issues.

Candidates Laura Miller, Tom Dunning, Domingo Garcia and Tom Landis met with the community for well over an hour.

After the public Q&A, the DGLA PAC interviewed each candidate privately before recommending 'the best' candidate to the DGLA Board of Directors for approval. Maria Rubio, President of the Alliance, expressed appreciation to each of the candidates and acknowledged that any endorsement would disappoint some members of the Dallas GLBT community.

"However," she continued, "the PAC has recommended and the Board has accepted its recommendation, to endorse Laura Miller for Mayor of Dallas."

Armey to Leave Congress

WASHINGTON – House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Dallas) announced on the floor of the House that he will not seek re-election next year, a move that likely puts Houston-area Congressman Tom DeLay into the GOP leadership spot. Whether or not DeLay will be leading a majority in 2003 is up to the American people, however. Presently, the Republicans control the House with a bare six-seat majority, and Democrats won the two Governor's posts up for grabs last month. Armey's departure will open up a third Congressional vacancy in the Dallas area, where redistricting created a new seat, and where GOP Rep. Pete Sessions has relinquished his seat to run in the new district.

Armey crystallized his unpopular standing with the gay community back in 1995, when he "accidentally" referred to Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank as "Barney Fag." The embarrassed legislator swore it was a slip of the tongue, although Frank mentioned that no one had ever once accidentally called his mother "Mrs. Fag."

According to David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, Armey ranked with the "lowest of the low" in terms of gay community issues. His status was matched by DeLay, and between the two Texans, the conservative House built a bleak



Maxey & Ehrhardt

Jury Sides With Cop in Gay Suicide Case

MINERSVILLE, PA – A seven-member jury came up with a verdict for the defense in the wrongful death civil suit brought by the mother of a teen suicide victim. Madonna Sterling's 18-year-old son, Marcus Wayman, shot himself in the early morning of April 18, 1997. Hours before, Wayman and a friend had been hauled into the local police station and lectured on drinking and homosexuality. Although Wayman's sexual orientation is unclear, (and in some ways irrelevant), police officer Scott Willinski allegedly accused the boys of having sex and threatened to expose Wayman as gay. Willinski ordered Wayman to tell his conservative step-grandfather about his sexual orientation, or else he, Willinski, would do so. After the lecture, Wayman told his friend he'd rather die than face his step-grandfather under such circumstances.

School District Allows First Gay-Straight Alliance

FT. WORTH – Two gay Southwest High School students were able to convince principal Barbara Cager to allow the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance, but not without the help of local activists.

pefully.
final votes were tallied, long
st die hard election watchers
night, the numbers stood: 51
rendum, 49 percent against.
, hadn't changed enough.
a bit of a shock, Michigan's
e three anti-gay ballot meas-
ation in Kalamazoo, Traverse
n Woods all went our way, a
e previous gay rights defeats
burbs.

ngers Acted

O – The Municipal Integrity
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n construction sites, caus-
damage.

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llen Phyllis of Dallas Fire
vestigation Division. "But
lon't get this high, nor does

O — The Municipal Integrity investigation has concluded that two men were gay bashed by Park Ranger Walk. The Rangers arrested Joey Maleszyk in July and found that he used gay slurs during his arrest.

There was no probable cause for Antonio Parks and Recreation, according to Matthews told KSAT.

In the report's release, the Bexar County's Office decided to drop the charges against Abbruzzese and Maleszyk, according to the report.

James Arson Hot Spot

Investigators remain hopeful that a person or persons responsible for the fires set in the Oak Lawn neighborhood in August. Although most of the fires were small, at least two fires have caused significant damage.

"It's common to have a rash of fires," said Allen Phyllis of Dallas Fire Department's Fire Investigation Division. "But we don't get this high, nor does it last for an extended period. This is unusual."

Get Hard Time

Early half of the 52 men arrested since May for their alleged participation in the Emergency State Security forces in Cairo.

The defendants will receive from one to three years. One additional charge of "conspiracy" was sentenced to five years. Defendants were acquitted.

They were arrested on the night of July 11, 1999, when police raided a floating night-club boat. Fifty defendants faced "obscene behavior" under the law. Two more men were charged with "conspiracy for religion" as well. The charges are now under international scrutiny.

They were tried under an emergency system established in 1981 that allows assassinated President Bush's sentences to be appealed to the current President.

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School District Allows First Gay-Straight Alliance

FT. WORTH — Two gay Southwest High School students were able to convince principal Barbara Cager to allow the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance, but not without the help of local activists.

Brad Carter, 17, and Shawn Poling, 16, asked Cager Nov. 5 whether they could form the alliance, a common school 'club' in many parts of the country. The goal of such an alliance is to allow gay and straight students to discuss issues that sometimes lead to harassment and homophobia.

After not receiving any word from Cager, the students and their faculty sponsor sought advice from the Tarrant County Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

DECEMBER 2001

A&M Frat Suspended

COLLEGE STATION — The Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternity was given a deferred suspension until June 1, 2002, for violating Texas A&M University student organization rules concerning alcohol and pledging.

The charges were made in September by Clay Cunningham, a junior political science major who was accepted as a member of the fraternity but says he was later asked to leave because they found out he was gay. He also said he was forced to drink a bottle of Bacardi rum at

concerned for human rights we were and drew us out of the race in that order."

Twenty-two groups filed suit in federal court to contest the newly created districts this summer claiming the lines divided certain "communities of interest" and skewed seats toward republican reclamation, but the court ruled the new lines were legal last week.

"We have been seriously, seriously threatened and I am extremely concerned about that and I think all of us should be. If you are not, you don't understand the situation," Ehrhardt said.

Also among the first-known casualties of the new lines in the sand is openly gay Glen Maxey who represents Austin's district 51. Maxey's district was completely redrawn to pit him against friends and long-term incumbents Elliott Naishtat and Ann Kitchens. Maxey could have either faced two of his friends in the primary election, moved to another district with a Hispanic majority within a month's time to run, or not run at all. Maxey announced Thursday he would not seek re-election.

"The court has ruled and we are screwed," Maxey said. "There was a systematic effort to take out leaders on our issues, not only to increase Republican seats, but to take away the senior members who worked hardest on behalf of those without a voice."

Read our in-depth profile of Texas' first openly gay State Representative Glen Maxey at <http://www.txtriangle.com/archive/1008/maxey.htm>

Ranger Admits to Falsifying Evidence

SAN ANTONIO — Park Ranger Armando Vidales, accused of roughing up two Canadian tourists along the Riverwalk in July, admitted to investigators that he sent an email to city officials, gay activists, and this publication in an effort to strengthen his case and mislead investigators. His confession was contained in a copy of the Municipal Integrity investigation report obtained by *The Triangle* via an open records request filed earlier this month.

The email in question, one signed 'Mary Jo Hicks', raised several questions this summer when it was sent from a hotmail account shortly after

Southwestern Bell forced him to sit in his own waste, constantly fear termination, and violated his right to privacy, but on Nov. 8, a jury ruled against him after deliberating for about an hour.

Swatzell, diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in May 1996, maintained a perfect attendance record and received several letters of recommendation while working as an operator with Southwestern Bell (SWB) in Wichita Falls. It wasn't until AIDS-related illnesses and doctor visits caused several absences that he claims SWB refused to let him take breaks to eat food with his medication. He also says they did not permit him to take unscheduled restroom breaks to accommodate medication side effects.

Although the case cannot be appealed unless procedural errors can be found, Swatzell is very interested in finding an attorney who will take on the case. He noted that he only met with the attorney that tried his last case the night before the trial began.

"It is also hard to get employees to testify against their employer, especially if they are not protected by the union," Swatzell said. "Only one lady had enough guts to tell the truth on the witness stand."

Swatzell remains an employee with Southwestern Bell on long-term disability. He receives half his salary and maintains minimal health care benefits.

Judge Jerry Burkley has agreed to delay the trial until the new year to give Swatzell time to find an attorney. If you can offer legal assistance, please email maodws@swbell.net, or call 940-322-5403.

Pat Robertson Resigns From Christian Coalition

VIRGINIA BEACH — Perhaps it is the end of the world as we know it. But in this case, that may be good news. Evangelist Pat Robertson resigned as head of the Christian Coalition, the powerful conservative political organization he founded in 1989 after a failed campaign for the U.S. presidency.

Robertson, in a letter delivered to the board of the group, said he was stepping down to focus his energies on his Christian ministry and The Christian Broadcasting Network, the group said.

Armey to Leave Congress

WASHINGTON — House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Dallas) announced on the floor of the House that he will not seek re-election next year, a move that likely puts Houston-area Congressman Tom DeLay into the GOP leadership spot. Whether or not DeLay will be leading a majority in 2003 is up to the American people, however. Presently, the Republicans control the House with a bare six-seat majority, and Democrats won the two Governor's posts up for grabs last month. Armey's departure will open up a third Congressional vacancy in the Dallas area, where redistricting created a new seat, and where GOP Rep. Pete Sessions has relinquished his seat to run in the new district.

Armey crystallized his unpopular standing with the gay community back in 1995, when he "accidentally" referred to Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank as "Barney Fag." The embarrassed legislator swore it was a slip of the tongue, although Frank mentioned that no one had ever once accidentally called his mother "Mrs. Fag."

According to David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, Armey ranked with the "lowest of the low" in terms of gay community issues. His status was matched by DeLay, and between the two Texans, the conservative House built a bleak civil rights record over the last seven years of Republican control.

Anti-Gay Rocker Comes to Texas Rangers

ARLINGTON, TX — The Texas Rangers signed the infamous lefty pitcher John Rocker to their ball club Tuesday, finalizing a trade with the Cleveland Indians that aims to boost the ball club's pitching power.

Rocker, initially signed to the Atlanta Braves in 1993, caused great controversy late 1999 when he made seemingly anti-gay, racist remarks while playing an out-of-towner in New York.

"We have zero tolerance for these statements but we do support the concept of a second chance for this player who is facing enormous personal and professional pressure right now," the Rangers' statement said. "The club intends to do everything possible to help him grow as a baseball player and person. That is part of our responsibility to our fans and our community."

Officials confirmed they've had many discussions with Rocker about his comments and have explained to him what conduct is expected of him while on the team. The Rangers regular season play will begin in April.



Maxey & Ehrhardt

Triangle Holiday CD Pick

By Nancy Ford

GoGirlsMusicFest 2001

GoGirlsMusic.com's team slogan is "cuz chicks rock!" You may even have seen the promo screen on Houston MediaSource television, a local cable access channel. But while this usage of internet/street slang may be a bit off-putting, the music produced by GoGirls is not.

In giving *GoGirlsMusicFest 2001* a spin on the CD player, listeners are convinced - if anyone was wondering - that chicks do indeed rock.

This compilation disc featuring 15 tracks by remarkably 15 talented women speaks to a number of topics including the triumph and tragedy of love, the angst of being queer in a 'don't-be-queer' world, and, of course, sexsexsex.

Susan Robkin relentless grabs our attention on the first track with "You Won't Change". Austin favorites Shade follow with the pulsing, slightly DeFranco-esque "Backseat". But our personal favorite track is One Real Peach's "Credit & Caffeine", if for no other reason than the fact it was originally copyrighted by a company called Cactus Prophylactic Publishing. Crack me up.

Naturally, there are a couple clunkers - with fifteen individual artists, it's inevitable. But overall, this sampler CD will have you bopping and humming along and longing for a Lilith Fair.

Each tune has been plucked from the artist's own full CD, so consider this a buffet. If you taste something especially delicious, you



can always go back to the table for more.

Founded by producer GoGirl Madalyn Sklar, GoGirlsMusic offers the companion *GoGirlsMusicFestival*. It's a series of annual showcase events across the United States promoting largely undiscovered women in music, all the while benefiting the Nicole Brown Charitable Foundation. (To our knowledge, O.J. has yet to make a contribution.)

GoGirls completed its 2001 11-city tour roster with a stop in Rochester, Massachusetts just last Saturday after hitting Houston's Continental Club in early November. Progressive women and men - make a resolution now not to miss this indie chick music tour when it rolls around in 2002.

GoGirlsMusicFest 2001 is available by accessing www.gogirlsmusic.com, at local alternative retailers, and whenever one of the GoGirls plays a women's music festival.

Our reviewer's rating: **B**

A NEW YEARS EVE
TO REMEMBER!!
MONDAY DEC. 31ST
MON OF THE HEAD FINO!

Between the Covers

By Jone Devlin

A Little Aaron Coolery

By Aaron Coleman

I was first introduced to Aaron Coleman when he performed as part of the ensemble cast of Michael Locke's *Sun Primed*. At that time I noticed that he was a standout performer and wondered if he had done any poetry of his own. I quickly (and gratefully) found out that the answer was not merely yes, but "yes indeed!"

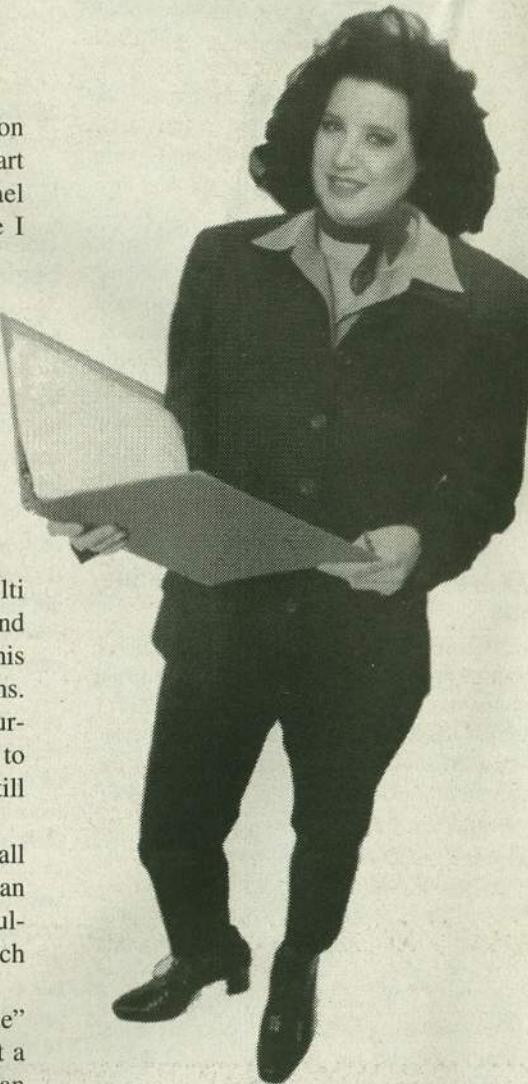
Coleman's book, *A little Aaron Coolery* is festive, enjoyable addition to the holiday season. Coleman is a multi faceted writer who has attitude and the stuff it takes to back it up and this is reflected to the max in his poems. He's not just a survivor, he's a survivor, damn it! - and he's going to make sure everyone knows he's still here and still standing tall.

Yet to say this book was all about attitude would be doing it an injustice. Coleman's work is as multifaceted as he is, and just as much fun.

Some examples of his "attitude" poetry include a poem called "Just a Suggestion". In this work Coleman requests:

I suggest you change your karma / approach / doctrine / clothes / philosophy / address / lifestyle / mood / viewpoint / channel / mind / spots / pattern / methodology ... Oh just everything. Just a suggestion."

Then there is "All You Had To Tell Was The Truth" in which he admonishes an unfaithful lover, "For falls follow



dying, and die in order to live, amen."

Then there is the romantic "Think me" where Coleman exhorts "Think me wherever you roam, if far from home, think me...."

Coleman's language is vibrant and alive. He has the ability to paint vivid pictures with his words and in this work he utilizes that talent to its fullest. You can

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Our reviewer's rating: **B**

**A NEW YEARS EVE
TO REMEMBER!!
MONDAY DEC. 31ST
MAN OF THE YEAR FINAL
\$500 CASH PRIZE**

Friday, Saturday &
Wednesday
"Amateur Strip
Contest" with



your Host
Roxanne Collins

Saturday
"Mimosas" 7am til 7pm
18 and up with proper ID

Sunday
"Mimosas" 10am til 6pm
Live Singing with Jody 8pm

Monday
"Man of the Week" Contest FINAL CHANCE
ENTER FOR MAN OF YEAR FINAL CONTEST.
with your Host Roxanne Collins

2517 Ralph @ Westheimer
Houston - 713.527.9071

**DON'T
MISS
HOUSTON'S
HOTTEST
MEN
COMPETE**



**CHAMPAGNE TOAST
& PARTY FAVORS
AT MIDNIGHT**

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Then there is "All You Had To Tell Was The Truth" in which he admonishes an unfaithful lover, "For falls follow pride, and you cannot undo, the ties and knots, your lies have woven, around you, when all you had to tell was the truth."

"All You Had to Tell Was the Truth" is special too in that it is one of the poems included in this collection that features a copy of the original, hand written version on the opposite page. Coleman does this several times throughout the work and I found it to be a nice touch, making the work just that much more personal.

As I noted earlier, not all of these poems are about attitude. In fact, Coleman is not shy at all about revealing his vulnerable side. Like all of us out there he's had his struggles and his bad times, and he doesn't hesitate to share them. Take, for instance, his poem "Calibrate the Tale" in which he says "The choir was singing in the backyard, behind the pulpit in the church, which reminded me, to forgive all that has passed, and endeavor me to, smile when I feel like crying, cry when I feel like

dying, and die in order to live, amen."

Then there is the romantic "Think me" where Coleman exhorts "Think me wherever you roam, if far from home, think me...."

Coleman's language is vibrant and alive. He has the ability to paint vivid pictures with his words and in this work he utilizes that talent to its fullest. You can feel the pain of the unfaithful lover, the thrill of meeting someone new and attractive, and the irritation at a neighbor that keeps putting little Friskies in their cat's dish when "He don't like no cheap-ass little Friskies..."

There is also a fair amount of fun to be found with the pages, in poems like "Again" (which ends with the line "Damn!!! Peed in the bed again!")) and "Panties in a Wad".

Not as intense as Michael Bolin, nor as laid back as Michael Locke, Aaron Coleman strikes a fantastic middle chord, letting your emotions ebb and flow while he shares his travels with the reader.

A Little Aaron Coolery by Aaron Coleman is published by Howell-DePew Enterprises and is available at Lobo Bookstore, 3939 Montrose, in Houston.

Our reviewer's rating: **A+**



vers

Entertainment Briefs

By Nancy Ford

GLAAD Announces Nominees for 13th Annual Media Awards

LOS ANGELES — The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) today announced the nominees for its 13th Annual GLAAD Media Awards presented by Absolut Vodka. The awards will take place in three ceremonies to be held in New York City on April 1, 2002 at the New York Marriott Marquis; in Los Angeles on April 13 at the Kodak Theater; and in San Francisco on June 1 at the Westin St. Francis.

The GLAAD Media Awards were created to honor individuals and projects in the media and entertainment industries for their fair, accurate and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and the issues that affect their lives. Nominees were published, released or broadcast between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30, 2001. Nearly 1,000 projects were considered in 26 categories.

This year, GLAAD expects more than 6,000 to attend the three ceremonies, raising more than \$2.5 million for the

(NBC). Nominated for Outstanding Television Drama Series are *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (UPN); *The Education of Max Bickford* (CBS); *ER* (NBC); *Queer As Folk* (Showtime); and *Six Feet Under* (HBO).

Nominated in the Outstanding Television Movie category are: *Anatomy of a Hate Crime* (MTV); *Armistead Maupin's Further Tales of the City* (Showtime); *A Glimpse of Hell* (FX); *Stranger Inside* (HBO); and *What Makes a Family* (Lifetime).

ABC television's soap, *All My Children*, was the sole nominee in the Outstanding Daily Drama category. Nominated in the Outstanding TV Journalism category are "The Children Speak", *20/20* (ABC); "The Face of AIDS", *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* (PBS); "Hate in the Hallways", *Criminal* (MTV); "Mark Bingham", *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* (HBO); "The Matthew Shepard Story", *American Justice* (A&E)

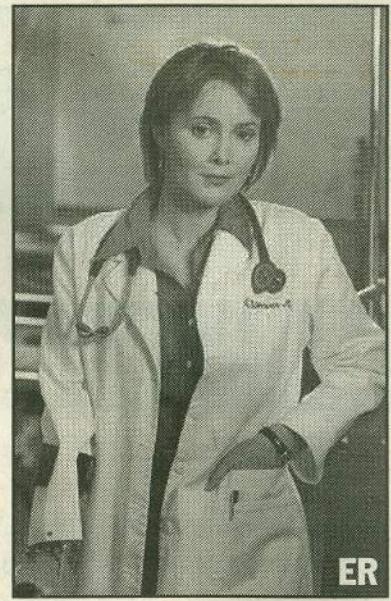
Nominated for Outstanding Music Album are *Play It Cool*, Lea DeLaria (Warner Bros. Records); *Poses*, Rufus Wainwright (DreamWorks Records); *Secret Music: A Songbook*, David Del Tredici (Composers Recordings, Inc.); *Skin*, Melissa Etheridge (Island); and *Not What I Heard*, The Gossip (Kill Rock Stars).

Doonesbury and *For Better or For Worse* both received nominations for Outstanding Comic Strip.

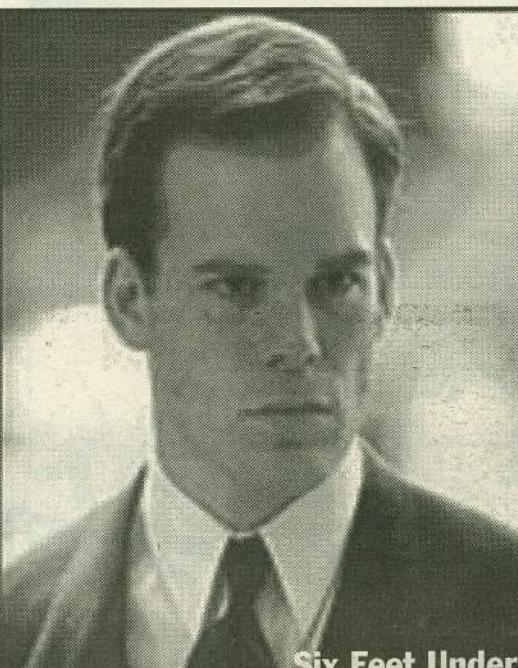
To ensure accuracy, the certified public accounting firm of Leslie Accountancy graciously distributes and tabulates all GLAAD Media Awards ballots.

Sing Out, Louise!

SAN ANTONIO — It's a New Year and there's plenty to be



ER



Six Feet Under



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This year, GLAAD expects more than 6,000 to attend the three ceremonies, raising more than \$2.5 million for the organization's work. Founded in 1985, GLAAD is a national organization with a staff of 32, an annual budget of \$5.3 million, and offices in Atlanta, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Presenting Sponsor Absolut Vodka is celebrating its 13th year with the GLAAD Media Awards and its 21st year in the GLBT community. More than 100 other corporate sponsors are showing their support, including American Airlines (GLAAD's official airline), Wells Fargo Bank, and AT&T.

Nominated for Outstanding Film are: *Big Eden* (Jour de Fete Films); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Fine Line Features); *Nico and Dani* (Avatar Films); *Punks* (Urbanworld Films); and *Songcatcher* (Lions

Gate Films. Nominated for Outstanding Film – Wide Release is *The Mexican* (DreamWorks Pictures). Nominated for Outstanding Television Comedy Series are: *The Ellen Show* (CBS); *Sex and the City* (HBO); *Some of My Best Friends* (CBS); *Will & Grace*

Lehrer (PBS); "Hate in the Hallways", *Criminal* (MTV); "Mark Bingham", *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* (HBO); "The Matthew Shepard Story", *American Justice* (A&E)

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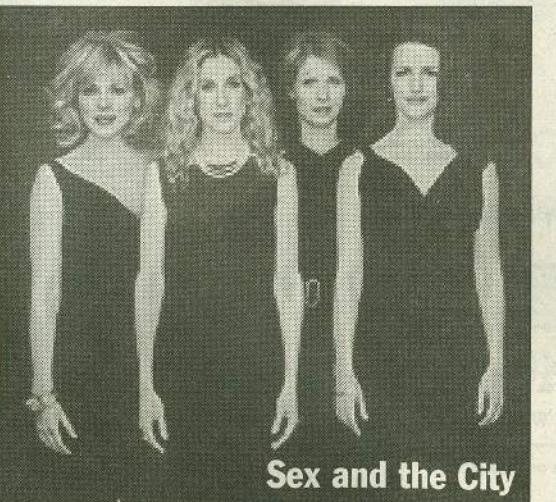
SAN ANTONIO — It's a New Year, and there's plenty to sing about! Alamo City Men's Chorale is seeking

additional singers for its 15th season. Scott MacPherson, ACMC's artistic director, will hold low-key, 15-minute vocal placement appointments (or, "auditions", as they call them in the trade) in early January. Experience singing with a choir or chorus, no matter how long ago, is desirable. At least some ability to read music is recommended. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 7-10 p.m. For more information, or to schedule a vocal placement appointment, call ACMC at 210-495-7464 or access www.acmc-texas.org.

Showtime Airs, Streams 'Duck'

NEW YORK - Showtime Networks is reviving the cult online animated series *Queer Duck* with a multimedia distribution, showing it both online and TV, officials said Wednesday. Showtime has ordered 20 episodes of *Queer Duck* which includes fifteen new episodes and the five original online episodes that aired on Icebox.com in October 2000. The show is produced by *Queer Duck* Productions in association with Mishmash Media.

Queer Duck is written by three-time Emmy winner Mike Reiss (The Simpsons, The Critic). The series featuring the lives of gay cartoon characters will launch Jan. 23 on SHO.com.



Sex and the City

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aron Coolery by Aaron published by Howell-DePew and is available at Lobo Montrose, in Houston.

viewer's rating: **A+**

Most Fabulous Story

is Exactly That

By Chuck Perroncel

I was present at the creation of the world.... Well, at the creation according to Paul Rudnick, author of *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, now playing at Theater New West and directed by Joe Watts. In this creation, Adam (Adam Clarke) and Steve (Steve Bullitt) come into being in jock straps and manage to get themselves thrown out of Paradise, where they discover they are naked and meet Jane (Natalie Maisel) and Mable (Jenny Yau), who inform them that Eden was a women's garden, "with nights for other creatures and discussion groups", 'til the boys "fucked it up".

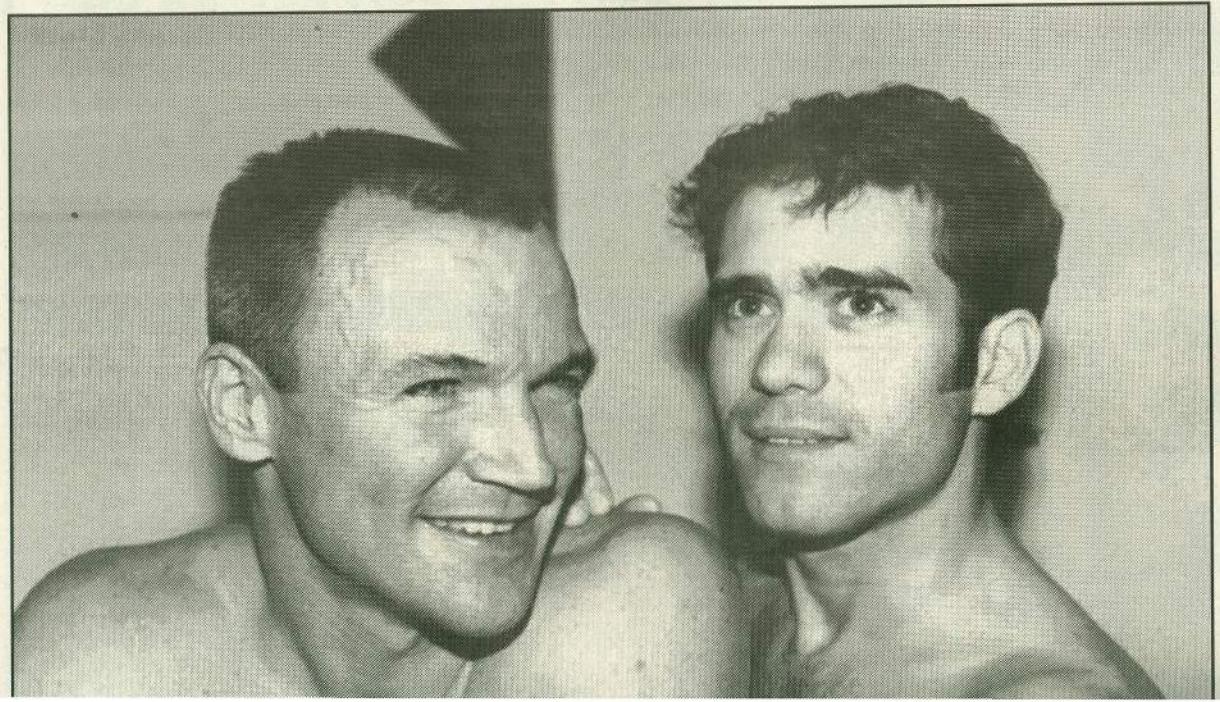
There follows a very queer romp through the history of the world with Adam on a neurotic quest for a very elusive God, and Mable New-Aging it through life's puzzles, while Jane attacks

Ecclesiastes. In the present, at Adam and Steve's apartment, we become embroiled in a party with a Chanukah Tree, a lesbian wedding performed by a TV evangelist Rabbi in a wheelchair, and the wonderfully innocent comments by a Mormon co-worker of Adam's who is constantly tripping over her newfound liberalism. The party culminates in a horrendous birth scene which is geared to make you laugh hard enough to give you labor pains. The little one arrives as a sign of the continued goodness of life - and the need to prepare early for admission to Yale - just as Adam learns of Steve's impending demise.

But, not to worry. Every foray into the serious questions of the nature of God, the meaning of life and death, the purpose of the universe, dissolves into roiling or staccato laughter. Rudnick seems to be saying that anything too serious to joke about is just too serious. Yet his philosophical musings reflect pretty competent critical thinking - in manageable spurts - and they are integral to the comedy. Essentially, he opts for Steve's testament to Adam, "believe in not knowing" and in loving being alive with its questions, agonies, and possibilities.

Adam Clarke plays Adam as a sort of warm, fuzzily neurotic, Woody Allen-esque naïf. With his wide-eyed good looks and earnest demeanor, he is endearing and engaging. He is also quite funny. Steve Bullitt as Steve (Hey, get it? Adam plays Adam, and Steve plays Steve - a little casting pun?) manages the fine line between skeptic and cynic with polish. He stays on the warm side of doubting and the loving side of disagreement with his mate.

Natalie Maisel as Jane is butch to the 'nth degree. Hanging just this side of caricature she pulls off this role by letting her inherent softness show from time to time. Jenny Yau makes Mable so endearingly ditzy that you want to take her home on a leash (for her own protection). She convinces you that she can hardly think through as simple an idea as what's for lunch. Fine acting (I hope). The Ring Mistress of this world is Mary Hooper, who barks theater commands as Stage Manager. She keeps the show running smoothly and transparently that you almost



AUSTIN

Taylor Cage hosts *Queer Way Out* for GLBT musicians and stories on KOOP 91.7 FM every Saturday. *This Way Out* airs Fridays.



AUSTIN — Held Over! *Lysistrata* at Zachary Scott Theatre continues through Jan. 12 with a special performance at 8 p.m. on Jan. 11. 1510 Toomey Rd. 512-472-5282. scott.com.

Produced by *Outspoken* www.koop.org or 512-472-5282.

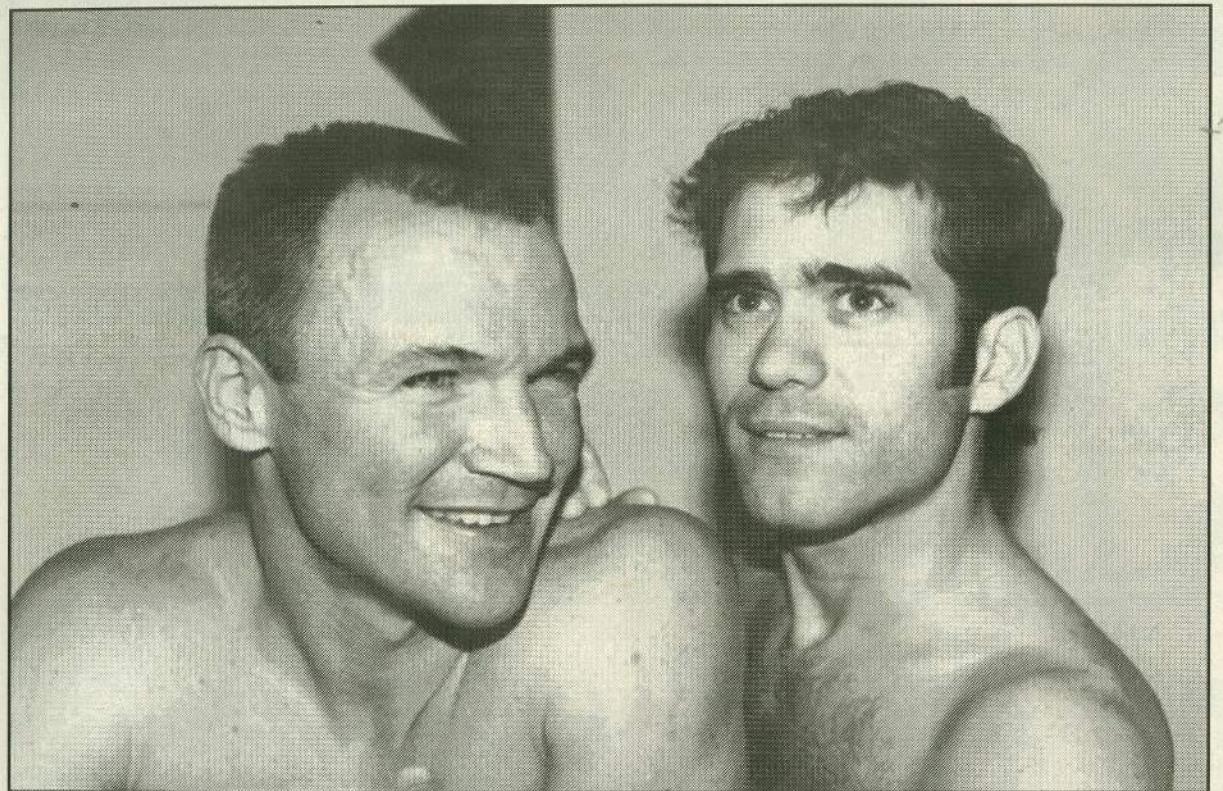
Santaland Diaries plays on Stage, through Jan. 6.

Vortex Theatre Company presents *Does Romeo and Juliet* (at Holy Cross), through Jan. 5. 512-478-5282.

DALLAS

One actor, eleven characters, non-stop minutes. Abbeville

world with Adam on a neurotic quest for a very elusive God, and Mable New-Aging it through life's puzzles, while Jane attacks



Adam Clarke (right) and Steve Bullitt play Adam and Steve in Paul Rudnick's *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* at Houston's Theatre New West through Feb. 2. 713-394-0464.

life with practical chutzpah and Steve looks on with a warm skepticism. The Old Testament was never funnier. Sodom and Gomorrah are a hoot and Noah's ark brings us face to face with a Canadian (bacon) Pig, a French Pussycat, a Horny Rhino with advanced erogenous zones and a wickedly funny flight into infidelity via bestiality. After all, forty days and forty nights is a long time. Pharaoh is plagued by sexual orientation issues and his leapfrog longings for Moses. The journey the purple brick road is all laid out in the Bible - which no one can read or understand - but which the "priest" visiting the garden has told the gang explains everything! This is not the stuff of sitcom, but it is full of chuckles, grins and guffaws.

We arrive at the second act, warmed by the comfort of

the nature of God, the meaning of life and death, the purpose of the universe, dissolves into roiling or staccato laughter. Rudnick seems to be saying that anything too serious to joke about is just too serious. Yet his philosophical musings reflect pretty competent critical thinking - in manageable spurts - and they are integral to the comedy. Essentially, he opts for Steve's testament to Adam, "believe in not knowing" and in loving being alive with its questions, agonies, and possibilities.

Adam Clarke plays Adam as a sort of warm, fuzzily neurotic, Woody Allen-esque naif. With his wide-eyed good looks and earnest demeanor, he is endearing and engaging. He is also quite funny. Steve Bullitt as Steve (Hey, get it? Adam plays Adam, and Steve plays Steve - a little casting pun?) manages the fine line between skeptic and cynic with polish. He stays on the warm side of doubting and the loving side of disagreement with his mate.

Natalie Maisel as Jane is butch to the 'nth degree. Hanging just this side of caricature she pulls off this role by letting her inherent softness show from time to time. Jenny Yau makes Mable so endearingly ditzy that you want to take her home on a leash (for her own protection). She convinces you that she can hardly think through as simple an idea as what's for lunch. Fine acting (I hope). The Ring Mistress of this world is Mary Hooper, who barks theater commands as Stage Manager. She keeps things moving so smoothly and transparently that you almost forget she's a theatrical device. Even when onstage crisply snapping orders to actors, light tech, and sound crew, she remains unobtrusive and seems essential. Definitely good acting.

The supporting cast who each play multiple roles are the clowns of this circus. Taavi Mark does his gender bending stuff with pizzazz. From Pharaoh to Santah s/he is mahvaluss! Belinda Babinec is kosher pork in her roles of Babe the Pig, and as the buck-raking TV-Rabbi. Funny lady! Mick Petersen is satisfyingly clerical as priest and as visiting friend. Tanya Bryan is so clean-scrubbed as the Mormon Peggy, that you almost forget how sensual she was as Fluffy, the Pussycat of Act One.

All said, this is a relaxing escape from the holiday crazies - religious and secular. It gives us enough distance to through laughter to keep a reasonable perspective on life when reason across the board is up for grabs. Rudnick is an extremely witty man. He doesn't stretch an inch for the hilarious. It is second nature for him. Joe Watts, director of Theatre New West usually manages to tickle the funny bone and tug the heart strings with his selections, but nothing I've seen him do compares with this little diamonique. It is fun and fine entertainment.

Our reviewer's rating:

A

AUSTIN — Held Over! *Lyon* at Zachary Scott Theatre through Jan 12 with a 1510 Toomey Rd. 512-471-5200. www.koop.org or 512-471-5200.

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DALLAS

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AUSTIN — It's the night before Christmas! Master comic actors Joe Sestak and Jennifer Tipton, where the Lions' Club, Jan. 2-6, at Paramount Theatre.

Calendar

AUSTIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Center for Women's Business meets for informative noon lunches at least once a week at 4100 Ed Bluestein, inside the City of Austin Small Business Assistance Center. Schedule info: 512-472-8522.

Invade the straight world, one straight bar at a time. Second Friday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Locations vary. Info: www.gorillathing.com.

The LesBiGay Students' Association (LBGSA) meets every Thursday, 8-10 p.m. in Sanchez 296 (Speedway between MLK and 21st) for discussions, movies, guest speakers and games. Or, meet them for coffee Wednesdays, 10 p.m., at the Spiderhouse outside patio, 2908 Fruth Ave. Hungry? How about lunch at the Family Tree, West Mall by steps in front of Architecture Building, Fridays at noon. Info: www.lbgsa.org.

PFLAG-Austin meets the third Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th @ Evans. Info: 512-302-PFLAG.

The Bisexual Network of Austin sponsors TGIB socials every Friday at 6:30 p.m. and open to all interested people. The Bi Women's Support Group meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at the Austin History Center and the Bi Boyz BBQ is held on the tenth of each month. Info: www.main.org/binetaustin or 512-370-9573.

ART

First Saturday is a day each month for art enthusiasts to explore the diverse dimensions of galleries across Austin. Sponsored by Galleries Austin. www.inthegalleriesaustin.com or 512-454-6671.

Austin Visual Arts Association offers life drawing classes with

The Austin Men's Project is young gay, bi and curious men coming together to build a strong and supportive community. Info: 512-447-4270 or www.austinmensproject.com.

Do you want to help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS? Would you be comfortable talking about sex in bars on 6th or 4th Street (like you don't already)? If so, then volunteer with the AIDS Services of Austin prevention team. Info: 512-406-6167.

Hike, camp, canoe, and do other overwhelmingly wholesome activities with Adventuring Outdoors, a gay recreation group. Meet them at a potluck on the first Wednesday each month, or help plan new activities on the third Tuesday. Info: Peter, 512-418-8881 or www.main.org/adventuring.

The Friends of David Powell Clinic seeks volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to assist in fund-raising activities, clerical work, and data base collection. The David Powell Clinic specializes in the treatment of HIV infected clients, and serves the uninsured and the under insured residents of Austin and Travis County. Info: Henry, 512-389-3958.

Austin Gamblers Bowling League, Austin's only gay and lesbian league, meets Tuesdays, 8:20 p.m. at Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover. Info: Kent Helser, 512-268-6822 or 512-787-1032.

Rainbow Roller Skaters meets semimonthly, second and fourth Wednesdays, 8 p.m. at Skate World Northwest, Anderson Mill Rd & 183. Tickets: \$6, benefiting local gay and lesbian charities. Info: Don, 512-851-9576 or e-mail dbaker62@earthlink.net.

Fast Track is a running club for gay men that meets three times a week, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and on Sunday mornings. Info: Jim, 512-453-8878 or web: www.fasttrackrunners.com.

Austin Frontrunners meets for its weekly walk/run each Sunday morning, 8:15-8:30 a.m. Then it's time for breakfast. Info: Charles, 512-473-8334 or www.frontrunners.org.

SPIRITUALITY

The Purple Light Transgender Support Group meets Sundays, 7 p.m. at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan. Info: www.goldleopard.com/purple.

Friends Associating and Relating (FAR) is a support group with educational and social activities giving gay men and lesbians a place to meet other than the bars. Info: 214-328-6749.

Lambda Weekly Radio - gay and lesbian radio of North Texas, Dallas and Fort Worth - airs every Sundays, 1 p.m. on KNON 89.3FM. Info: www.geocities.com/lambdaweekly.

Gay? Mature? Hungry? Dallas/Ft. Worth Prime Timers meet several times throughout the month for meals and fellowship. Info: 972-504-8866.

Baffled by bisexuality? BiNet Dallas meets the first Friday of each month for support/discussion, 7 p.m. at the John Thomas Gay and Lesbian Center, 2701 Reagan and the third Saturday of the month for brunch, 10:30 a.m. at La Madeleine (Lemmon at Oak Lawn). Info: www.geocities.com/binetdallas, or janelled.geo@yahoo.com.

Achting, baby! Dallas Gay Deutschklub is an organization dedicated to speaking and practicing the German language. Open to anyone who speaks fluent German. Info: 214-324-8085 or deutschklub@iname.com.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Hispanic Outreach Team (HOT) meets to assemble safe sex packets and to promote HIV relapse prevention among gay Hispanic males on the first and third Saturdays of the month, 10 a.m. John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 2701 Reagan. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 223.

The Resource Center of Dallas is starting a new health-related outreach team. The outreach team, H.E.A.D. Hunters, is open to gay and lesbian people who want to promote physical, sexual and mental health in the gay and lesbian community while meeting fun people and volunteering to make a difference in the community. Meets first and third Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. in the John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center 2701 Reagan St. Info: India, 214-528-0144 or istewart@resourcecenterdallas.org.

Positively Young provides resources, provides psychological and emotional support for HIV/AIDS infected youth and their parents/guardians. Info: Human Services Network, 972-283-0468.

Resource Center of Dallas offers free oral HIV testing and chlamydia and gonorrhea screenings Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 214-528-0144 to set appointment.

straight student organization
<http://orgs.unt.edu/GLAD>.

Interweave, Unitarian Universalist and Transgender Concerns, individual preferences for discussion. Denton Unitarian Universalist Info: Rachel at (940) 566-1818

University of North Texas Dallas Sundays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu>

EL

Under 22? Join the ELP: Young, lively discussions, activities. Community Center, 216 S Plantation.

FORT

Celebration Community Church, denominations. 908 Pennsylvania, www.churchhome.org.

Fort Worth Church Project, openly gay graduate of TCU Jefferson Church, 1959 San Jacinto, www.fortworthchurch.com.

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Austin Visual Arts Association offers life drawing classes with visual artist David Ketchum. Mondays, 2-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. Free coffee and snacks, and easels are provided. Cost: \$5. 3710 Cedar St. Info: call David Ketchum, 512-443-6331 or the AVAA office at 512-457-0075.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Austin Tennis Club (ATC) is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting tennis and social activities for the gay and lesbian community in Austin and the surrounding areas. Players meet for regular tennis session at South Austin Tennis Center from Fridays, 7-9 p.m. on three reserved courts. Info: <http://www.austintennisclub.com> or austintennisclub@hotmail.com.

Feeling vulnerable? Sensei Suzanne Pinette of Sun Dragon Martial Arts offers a free class in the Kyokushin style of karate, specifically tailored for women, children and families. 512-416-9735 or email to sun1dragon@aol.com.

Texas 360 Aquatics, the newest swim team in Austin, seeks swimmers of all ages and abilities to join the team. Info: texswim360@hotmail.com, www.texas360aquatics.com or Keith, 512-740-8457.

HIV Wellness Center seeks personal trainers to work with people living with HIV/AIDS. Minimal pay is negotiable. Info: Monica, 512-467-0088.

The Friends of David Powell Clinic seeks volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to assist in fund-raising activities, clerical work, and data base collection. The David Powell Clinic specializes in the treatment of HIV infected clients, and serves the uninsured and the under insured residents of Austin and Travis County. Info: Henry, 512-389-3958.

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SPIRITUALITY

Gay Men's Association meets first and third Fridays of each month, 7-9 p.m. at the University Catholic Center, University and E. 21st to discuss spirituality. Info: 512-476-7351.

BEAUMONT

Beaumont PFLAG meets twice monthly at 1575 Spindletop Ave. Call Caleb for dates and times. Info: 409-722-1632 or email Caleb.hutchens@NetZero.net.

Lambda A.A. Group meets Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. All meetings are open and smoke-free. 1385 Calder. Info: 409-866-6165.

DALLAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Thursday Writing Group for GLBT youth (ages 14 through 22) meets - guess when? - the first Thursday of each month, 6-7 p.m., at the Youth First Texas Youth Center, 5804 Cedar Springs. Info: janelled.geo@yahoo.com.

deutschklub@iname.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

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Mesa Redonda (Round Table), an HIV positive support group meets the first Thursday of each month. Positive Personals meets each first and third Tuesday, 6-10 p.m. at The Brick, 4117 Maple. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 142.

Pride Institute-DFW offers continued care support for GLBTs who have been in a substance abuse treatment center within the last year. Free. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Info: Jay Lewis, 214-207-5903.

Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center offers screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases each Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. at 4012 Cedar Springs. \$50. For appointments, call Donna Parks, RN, BSN at 214-528-2336.

SPIRITUALITY

A contemporary praise and worship community church is currently being organized in Dallas. Curious? Info: 972-669-5777.

DENTON

GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Association of Denton), the University of North Texas' gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered and/or

Celebration Community Church denominations. 908 Pennsylvania. www.churchhome.org.

Fort Worth Church Project openly gay graduate of TCU Jefferson Church, 1959 S. Main. www.fortworthchurch.com.

GALVESTON

Transgenders in the Brazoria and the surrounding areas are organizing a Community Awareness for Transgenders the first Friday of each month. Info: 214-528-0144 or 315-6764.

PFLAG Galveston holds a monthly meeting on the first Saturday of each month (located on Mechanic between 10th and 11th Streets in the Strand district) on the second Saturday of each month. Volunteers are needed.

HOUSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Work with the Mayor's Office to discuss the priorities of the city as well as the Mayor's thoughts. Liaison to the GLBT community. 6:30 p.m. to start off the New Year's Eve party. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 142.

Greater Houston GLBT Community Freedom, Liberty, and Justice. The Warwick Hotel. Info: 214-521-5124, ext. 142. www.ghglcc.org.

Like the Houston Comets? Houston Lady Cougars. For the first Lady Cougar game, go to the Houston Comets' website.

Lesbian Book Discussion Group. Provides a place to meet and form friendships. Info: www.lesbianbookgroup.com or 383-6738.

Want to improve your Spanish? Spanish Language Center. Rather than instruction? Charlatan's Spanish School. Twice a month, on alternating

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straight student organization meets Wednesdays. Info:
<http://orgs.unt.edu/GLAD>.

Interweave, Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns, invites people of all faiths and sexual preferences for discussion every Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St. Info: Rachel at (940) 566-1833.

University of North Texas Delta Lambda Phi fraternity meets Sundays. Info: <http://orgs.unt.edu/dlp>.

EL PASO

Under 22? Join the ELP: Youth Group Saturdays, 7-8 p.m. for lively discussions, activities, and community involvement. Community Center, 216 S. Ochoa, across from the Old Plantation.

FORT WORTH

Celebration Community Church is a church for people of all denominations. 908 Pennsylvania Ave. Info: 817-335-3222 or www.churchhome.org.

Fort Worth Church Project is pastored by David Boger, an openly gay graduate of TCU's Brite Divinity School. First Jefferson Church, 1959 Sandy Lane. Info: 817-595-6925 or www.fortworthchurch.com.

GALVESTON

Transgenders in the Brazoria County and Galveston area and the surrounding areas are encouraged to call C.A.T.S. Community Awareness for Transgender Support, which meets the first Friday of each month. Info: 409-741-2501 or fax 801-315-6764.

PFLAG Galveston holds a membership drive at Purgatory (located on Mechanic between 25th and 26th Streets in the Strand district) on the second Monday of each month. Volunteers are needed.

HOUSTON

y divertirnos en espanol. All levels welcome. Info: charlahouston@msn.com, or 713-416-7203.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus general meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: voter@hgpc.com.

The past is present. Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc., 1609 West Main - #4, is open Saturdays, 12 noon-6 p.m. and Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Info: 713-227-5973 or www.gcam.org.

BiNet Houston meets Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center located at 803 Hawthorne. Bi-questioning people, GLBT, and all open-minded people are welcome. Info: 713-467-4380 or email us at bihouse@flash.net.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center offers varied programming for Houston's GLBT community. Fridays, 7 p.m.: Lesbian Film Night. Q-Patrol convenes for the Saturday-night patrol at 9:30 p.m. each Saturday (new members, call 713-528-SAFE or email qpatrolinc@aol). 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-2022.

The parade's over, but the party continues. Pride Committee of Houston is currently seeking volunteers to help produce the biggest Pride celebration in North America. Info: 713-529-6979, info@pridehouston.org or www.pridehouston.org.

An Uncommon Legacy Foundation meets the third Wednesday of each month, 1400 Hermann Drive in the Gallery, first floor. Volunteers are needed to work with the local steering committee as plans get underway for upcoming events. Info: 713-520-1142.

Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf meet every second Friday, 7:30 p.m. at Montrose Clinic, 213 Westheimer.

Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at Bering Memorial Methodist Church, room 230. Info: Shelby, 281-485-5097 or email lgirft-houston@egroups.com.

Cyberwomen, unite! Need info about health, politics, resources, a calendar of community meetings and events, and more? Log on to FEMNET, a free Email list of interest to feminists and lesbians in the Houston/Galveston area. FEMNET-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Houston Pride Band welcomes new members to rehearsals each Wednesday, 7 p.m. at 1307 Yale (Dignity Houston). Info: Andy, 713-527-0931.

New Barn, 1102 Westheimer, Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Info: Patricia or Carl, 713-721-2011.

Join the Gay/Lesbian Breakfast Club for a three-mile walk each Saturday, 9:30 a.m. the Memorial Park in front of the tennis center. They then adjourn to Java Java Cafe, 911 11th, for breakfast. Info: 281-437-0636 or <http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.htm>.

Lone Star Volleyball Association meets Sundays, 4:30 p.m., University of St. Thomas's Jarabeck Center, 4000 Mt. Vernon St. New players are welcome and play for free. Winter 2002 season starts Jan. 6.

Body Positive Wellness Clinic offers a 3-month core program for HIV positive men and women consisting of supervised exercise training and nutritional counseling as well as optional massage therapy and chiropractic care. Graduates of the program are encouraged to continue using the facilities and receiving all services. Info: 713-524-2374.

The Montrose Clinic offers free HIV testing every Tuesday at The Club Houston from 8 p.m.-12 midnight, every Wednesday at Mary's 4-8 p.m. and at the Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 6-9 p.m., and every Thursday at Toyz Disco, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. Please call 713-830-3070 for more information or other testing locations.

SPIRITUALITY

Congregation Beth Israel hosts a monthly study group led by Rabbi Whitman and Rabbi Glickman for gay and lesbian Jews in the Houston area. First Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Israel Info: Rabbi Glickman, 713-771-6221.

New Hope Christian Community holds its nondenominational worship service at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, Sundays, 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818 or 713-801-7386.

MINERAL WELLS

Mineral Wells Prime Timers, an organization for older gay and bisexual men and their younger admirers meet the second Saturday of each month. 324 Whispering Oaks Southwind. Info: 940-325-0325 or mwtprime@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

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Work with to discuss the priorities of the GLBT community as well as the Mayor's thoughts. Join Janine Brunjes, the Mayor's Liaison to the GLBT community on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m. to start off the New Year. Roundtables are scheduled the second Wednesday of each month. 713-520-1142.

Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents Freedom, Liberty, and Justice for All, a New Years Eve gala at The Warwick Hotel. Black tie. 713-523-7576 or www.ghglcc.org.

Like the Houston Comets? Then you'll love the University of Houston Lady Cougars. For information on free tickets to your first Lady Cougar game, go to www.ladycoogs.com/glbt.

Lesbian Book Discussion Group meets twice a month to provide lesbians a place to meet, talk about great books, and form friendships. Info: <http://www.geocities.com/lesbianldg/> or 713-383-6738.

Want to improve your Spanish through informal conversation rather than instruction? Charla Houston's Spanish Group meets twice a month, on alternating Thursdays, para hablar, practicar,

Houston is currently seeking volunteers to help produce the biggest Pride celebration in North America. Info: 713-529-6979, info@pridehouston.org or www.pridehouston.org.

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Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force-Houston Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at Bering Memorial Methodist Church, room 230. Info: Shelby, 281-485-5097 or email lgirtf-houston@egroups.com.

Cyberwomen, unite! Need info about health, politics, resources, a calendar of community meetings and events, and more? Log on to FEMNET, a free Email list of interest to feminists and lesbians in the Houston/Galveston area. FEMNET-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Houston Pride Band welcomes new members to rehearsals each Wednesday, 7 p.m. at 1307 Yale (Dignity Houston). Info: Andy, 713-527-0931.

A Feminist Group for all women (each woman defines her own feminism) meets every Sunday at 10:45 a.m. in the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore Sojourner Truth Room, 3rd floor. Info: Iris Greer Sizemore, 713-529-8571 or Laura Reich, 713-529-1886 or ChzHead005@aol.com.

FUND-RAISERS

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston offers its first Rummage-A-Rama, held the first Saturday of each month at Club Nsomnia, 202 Tuam. Booth space available. Info: Michael gates, 713-521-1613.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

GLBTQ? HIV/AIDS? Grieving? Lonely? Bering Support Network wants to help. Info: 713-526-1017 or www.beringumc.org.

The Montrose Soccer Club is alive and kicking. Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Woodrow Wilson School, 2100 Yupon. Info: MontroseSC@soccer.com

Southern Country Houston; a lesbian and gay 501(c) 3 dance club, teaches all forms of Country & Western dancing at The

locations.

SPIRITUALITY

Congregation Beth Israel hosts a monthly study group led by Rabbi Whitman and Rabbi Glickman for gay and lesbian Jews in the Houston area. First Thursday of every month, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Israel Info: Rabbi Glickman, 713-771-6221.

New Hope Christian Community holds its nondenominational worship service at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, Sundays, 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818 or 713-801-7386.

MINERAL WELLS

Mineral Wells Prime Timers, an organization for older gay and bisexual men and their younger admirers meet the second Saturday of each month. 324 Whispering Oaks Southwind. Info: 940-325-0325 or mwtprime@yahoo.com.

SAN ANTONIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The First Wednesday Club, a networking and social group for business and professional women, meets the first Wednesday of each month for food, drink, and general merriment. Info: first-wed@hotmail.com.

Y.U.T.H. Group (Youth United To Help), a peer support and social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth meets the first and third Fridays of every month, 6-8 p.m., 611 E. Myrtle. Info: 210-732-4300 or yuth@glccsa.org.

The Gay + Lesbian Community Center of San Antonio offers a wide variety of social, health, and educational programs each week for the Alamo City's GLBT community. 611 E. Myrtle in the sub-level of the Metropolitan Community Church. Monday thru Saturday, 1-8 p.m. and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. Info: 210-732-4300 or <http://glccsa.org>.

Does your organization have a special event of interest to queer Texas that you would like to publicize? Please email txtrihoust@aol.com by Friday for publication in next Friday's issue.

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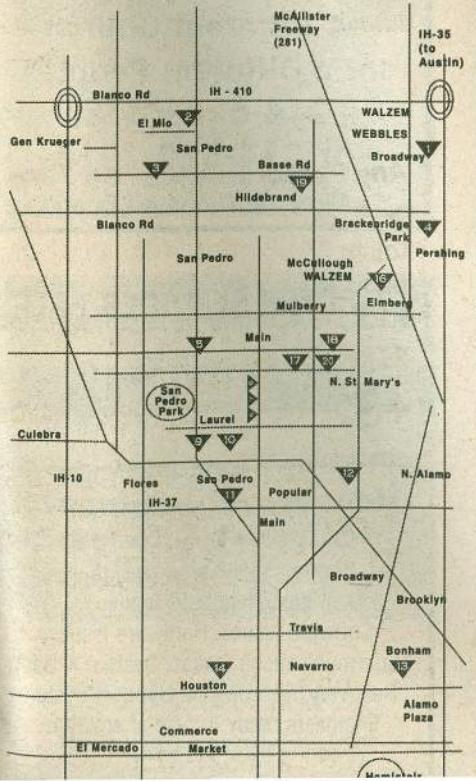
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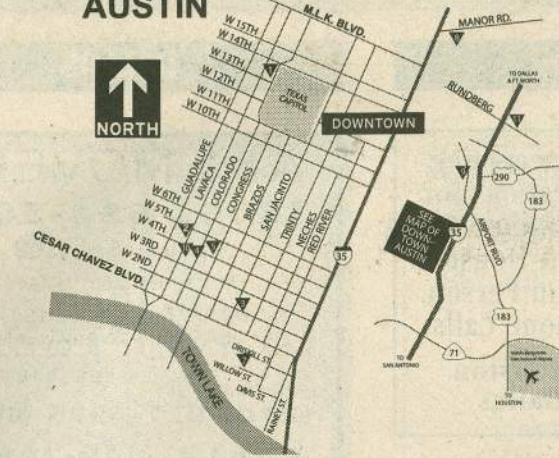
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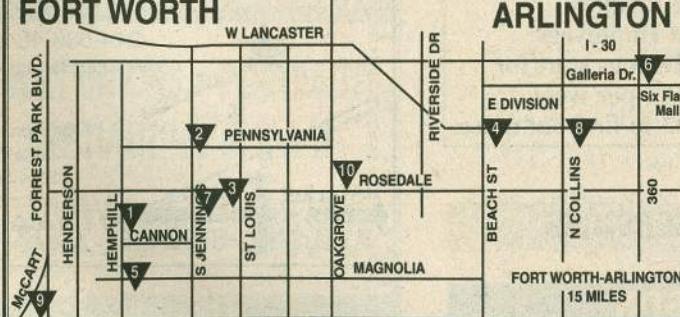


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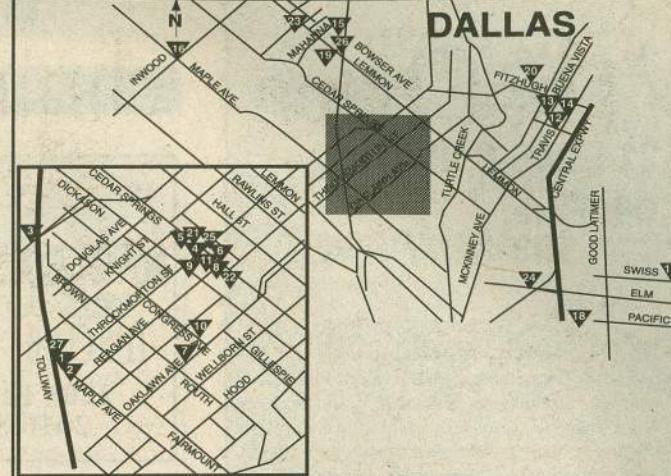
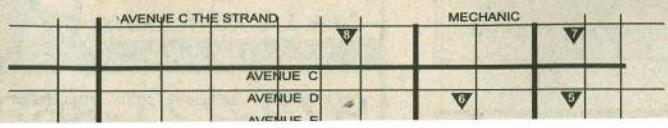
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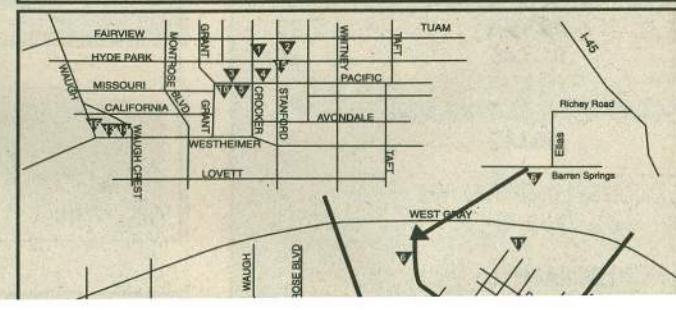


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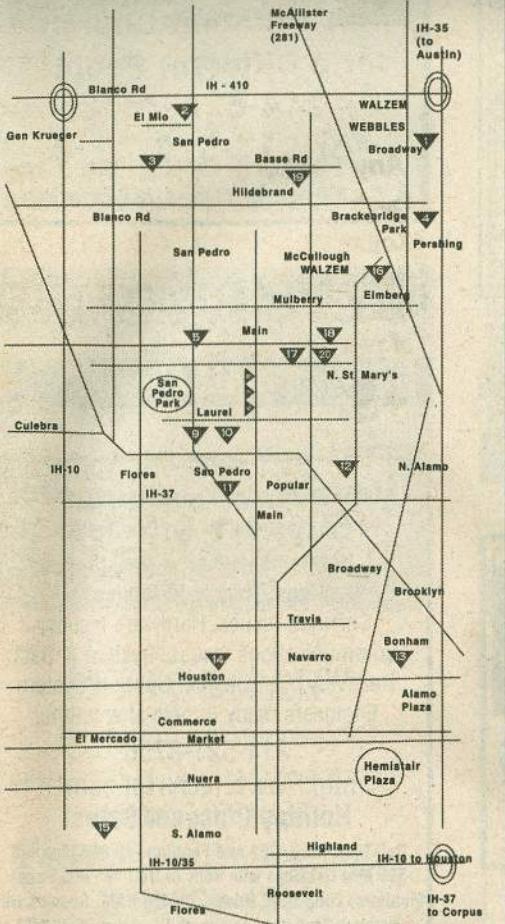
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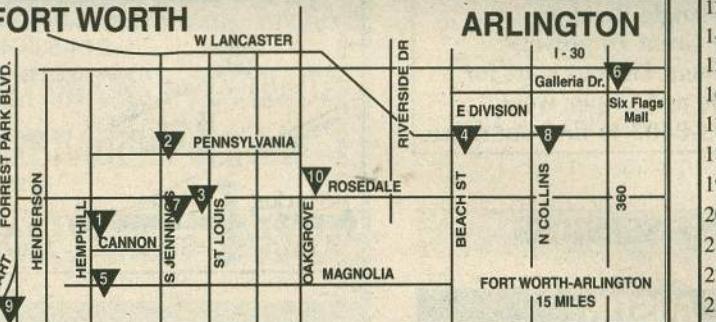
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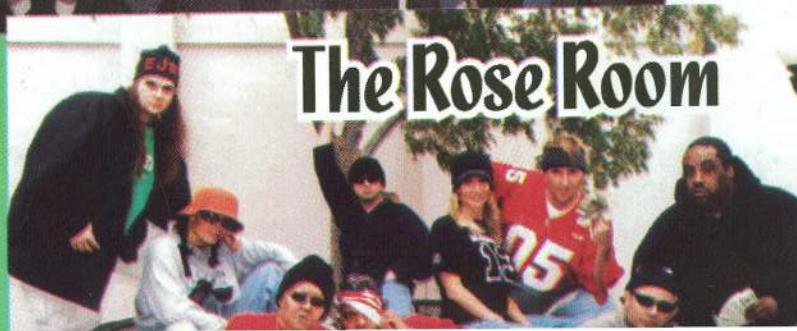
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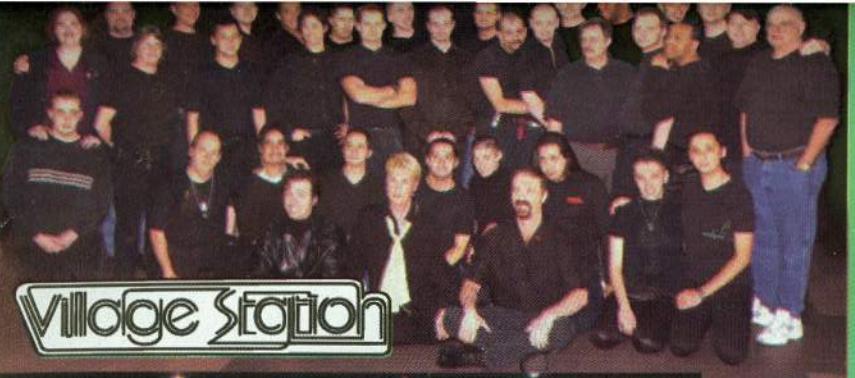
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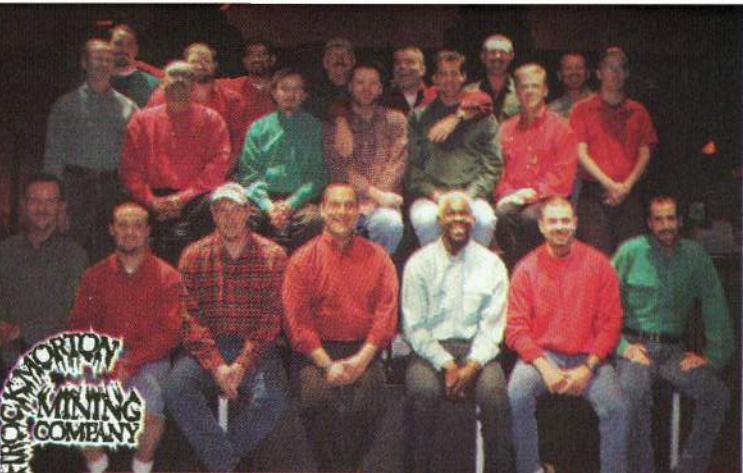
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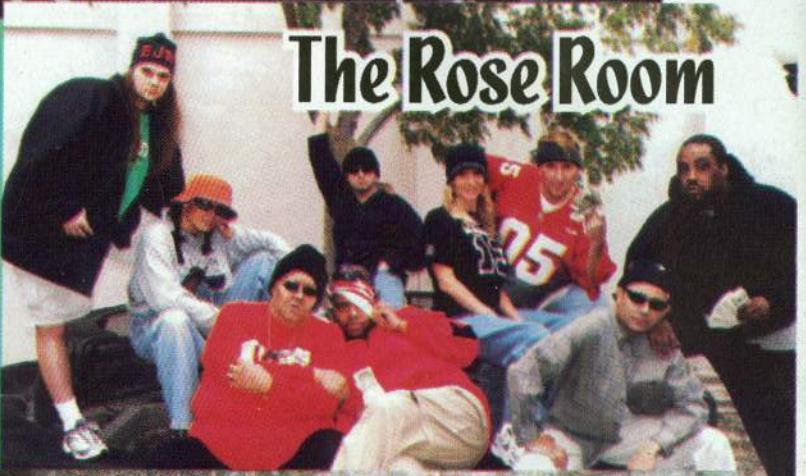


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