

# THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Vol. 4 ▼ No. 13

The State's Gay News Source

January 12, 1996

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## HATE CRIME IN HOUSTON

Savage stabbing leads to calls for more education, stiffer penalties for anti-gay violence

By Tom Jackson  
Special to the TRIANGLE

HOUSTON—Sixteen-year lovers Fred Mangione and Kenneth Stern, who made their living as waiters and selling cos-

Murder suspects  
Ronald Henry Gauthier, 21, left, and Daniel Christopher Bean, 19.



metics on the side, frequently ended their days at Dolly's Place, a neighborhood pub in Katy on the outskirts of Texas' largest city.

But a jarring halt to the relationship and their routine came last week when both were attacked and one died at the hands of two half-brothers—self-proclaimed members of a California-based neo-Nazi organization.

Stern said Mangione, 46, suffered more than 35 knife wounds. "He bled to death in my arms," reportedly said Stern. "I said, 'Breathe with me, breathe with me', but he was gone."

Witnesses told police that, earlier, the suspects—Daniel Christopher Bean, 19, and Ronald Henry Gauthier, 21—had said that they were "going to get a fag." Later, they bragged: "We cut up this fag real bad."

The suspects, both from Columbia Falls, Mont., and visiting their mother in the Katy area, have been charged and are in custody. Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas lost no time declaring the killing "a hate crime."

Stern told police that the four had met at the bar and taken a drive together to get cigarettes. They returned to the bar 30 minutes later, with Stern and one of the suspects going inside, where Stern was attacked. When he returned to his van, he found Mangione dying.

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## Roberts Muzzled

Fundamentalist crusader told to back off from attacks on Triangle

By David Elliot  
TRIANGLE Staff

AUSTIN — Faced with a failing boycott campaign, negative state and national media attention and pressure from the radio station that sells him air time, fundamentalist Wyatt Roberts has toned down his attack on the Texas Triangle.

Roberts, executive director of the American Family Association of Texas, last Saturday, Jan. 6, focused on international affairs, not the Texas Triangle, on his paid hourlong program over KIXL-AM. It was the first time in months that Roberts did not dwell on advertisers he alleges promote the "homosexual agenda."

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Ronald Henry Gauthier, 21, left, and Daniel Christopher Bean, 19.



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By Kyle Young  
TRIANGLE Staff

**H**OUSTON — When Jack Valinski moved to Texas 14 years ago, his only contact with other gay people was a program on community radio called Wilde 'n Stein, named after gay writers Oscar Wilde and Gertrude Stein. Today he is one of the hosts of Lesbian and Gay Voices, a weekly program on the same station, KPFT, 90.1FM.

The program, which airs 8-10 p.m. Thursdays, features interviews with a wide spectrum of guests including regular features from community leaders like realtor Suzanne Anderson and Triangle managing editor David Elliot. Lesbian & Gay Voices also includes news updates produced by Los Angeles-based This Way Out, music by gay artists and complete listings of upcoming community events.

"We are produced and hosted by openly gay and lesbian people," said Valinski. "It is us telling our stories or us talking to people who have stories to tell."

For more than 20 years, the station has received strong support from the gay community. The KPFT studio at 419 Lovett Boulevard

was left to the station by a long-time gay supporter.

"Almost since the beginning of KPFT there's been some sort of gay or lesbian programming presence on the station which continues to this day," said general manager Garland Ganter.

"We've made a commitment to that."

Several of the station's past managers have been openly gay including Ray Hill, former host of Wilde 'n Stein.

"When KPFT appointed me general manager in 1980, we had to go back and change McCarthy-era FCC laws which said that homosexuals

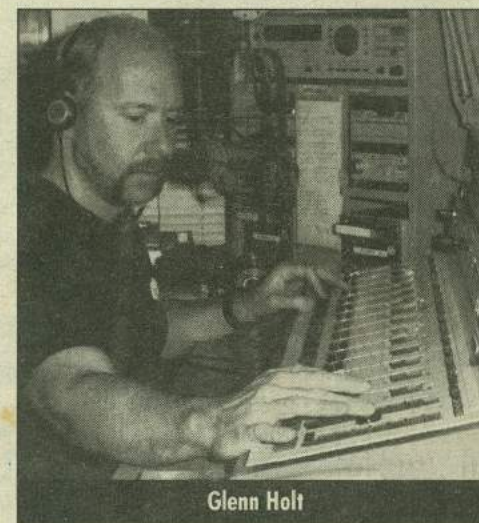
and convicts could not be general manager of a radio station," explained Hill. "The (Pacifica) Foundation stood behind me on both, and I became the first ex-convict and the first openly gay person to manage a broadcast facility in this country."

Although Hill is no longer employed by the station, he has remained a dedicated volunteer. For the past 15 years, he has hosted the weekly Prison Show, which has received international media attention. Hill also continues as a frequent guest on Lesbian & Gay Voices. He says radio was a crucial player in the development of the

continued on page 6



Ray Hill



Glenn Holt

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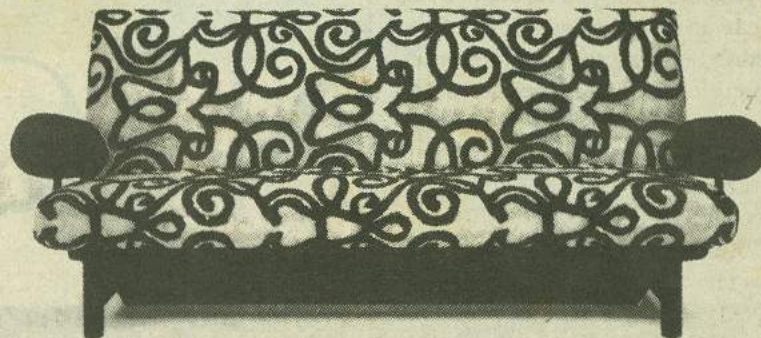
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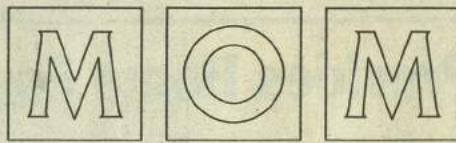
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## THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

The State's Gay News Source

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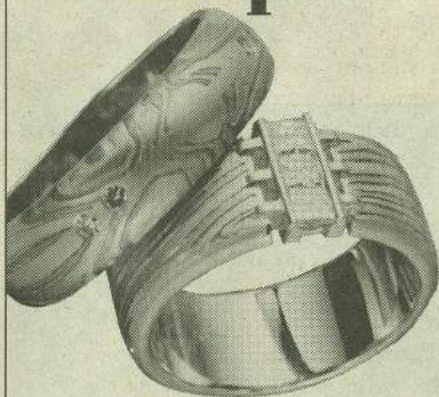
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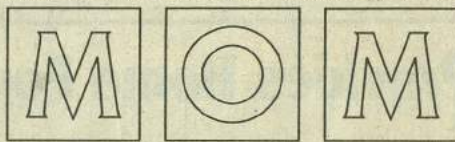
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THE TEXAS TRIANGLE is published every Thursday. Estimated readership 39,200. Subscription rates are \$45.50 (26 weeks) and \$91 (52 weeks). Advertising deadlines are Thursday noon (week before publication) for make-ready ads, Friday noon for classified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



## WE LISTEN TO YOU

To the editor:

A feeling of disgust and frustration surfaced as I read about Wyatt Roberts from the American Family Association of Texas slamming advertisers in the Texas Triangle, a lesbian and gay weekly out of Austin. Religious extremists such as Mr. Roberts are an integral factor in the decay of our country today. My childhood memory of my southern Baptist church is one of giving money to missions, of preaching love, and helping those less fortunate. Today, many churches feature angry white men with clenched teeth, one fist thrust into the air and the other clutching a hair dryer. The churches are directing their funds to building monuments to their leaders and teaching their congregations to "love to hate." You cannot teach people to hate others and expect anything other than the violence that is becoming a part of all of our lives.

**Suzanne Anderson**

Owner-Suzanne Anderson Properties  
Houston

*Editor's note: The following letter was sent to Wyatt Roberts, executive director of the American Family Association by Bookwoman on Dec. 30.*

Dear Mr. Roberts:

We were well aware that the Texas Triangle is a "homosexual newspaper" before receiving your letter and we are

Re the quote from Wyatt Roberts: "I can tell you that if all y'all had was those 1-900 man-to-man hot sex advertisers, we wouldn't be doing this" in your excellent issue of 1/5/96; we wonder if Mr. Roberts knows about "man-to-man hot sex advertisers" as an investor, or merely as a client?

Sincerely,

**J.W. Kellett**

Houston

To the editor:

Lately I have followed the discussions in the Triangle on Mr. Roberts' activities with more than average interest. I can appreciate the professional (as opposed to aggressive) reporting, since I believe that as honest approach requires openness, not just blind hate. I want to congratulate you, the advertisers and readers of the Triangle with the obvious triumph that could be read in last week's issue of the *Triangle*.

My heart was still glowing with pride when, on page 6 of that same *Triangle*, I encountered the "Instant Activist" section that proposed to put the Rush Limbaugh store out of business. The tone and idea behind this worries me, since it is purely negative and close-minded. Honestly, it is no way different from Mr. Roberts' actions! Maybe we should see if we can redo messages like that.

Whatever we do to anyone, we should take a positive approach, certainly in mass media like radio and statewide newspapers. Instead of fighting, should we not try to integrate with those who have other opinions than ours? This might mean that we need to listen to one another to understand those different opinions, and maybe we need to educate our opponents if we think he/she lacks knowledge or insight that we feel is required for a better judgment of things. This means an extra investment on both sides, but at least it's constructive, not

## EDITORIAL



## Queer Notes

ELLEN HOBBS

### Selfishness Alone Can't Explain Away Opposition to Affirmative Action

"You'll hear that [our society is racist] so often and so matter-of-factly these days that it's rarely questioned, but charges of racism, even those with some merit, are often just a thick sheet of smoke that hides a far more reaching problem," writes Michael Corcoran in his column in the *Austin American-Statesman's* Jan. 4 XL section. "We are a selfish society."

Corcoran's argument, in a nutshell, is that our prejudices merely stem from our wanting as much of the American Pie as

***It's easier for most of us to think that we're a selfish society and that's why we appear to be prejudiced than to face up to the hate that exists in our society.***

we can get our hands on. He says that we'll attack anyone with anything as we claw our way to the top, and racial differences make some people an easy target, but that does not mean racism is pervasive in our society.

Corcoran supports his theory that the problem of racism is overrated with some fairly weak arguments: O.J. Simpson is free after being accused of murdering two white people, and Michael Jackson can

into ideas touted by anti-affirmative action activists who say prejudice no longer really exists, but only a national fear of minority-hiring quotas. White men are selfish, they seem to say, and want all the jobs they can get; therefore quotas make them angry and afraid and that creates racism. Once quotas are gone, the fear and anger will be gone, and along with those will go racism. Of course, the African-American community in favor of affirmative action is selfish, too, they claim, so they want to hang on to the program so they can have more jobs, some of which they won't really deserve.

An obvious example of this selfishness-and-quotas justification can be found in the anti-queer rhetoric used by political activists fighting legislation for equal employment rights for gay men and lesbians. Although quotas have not been discussed by queer lobbyists pushing legislation that would protect workers from losing their jobs because of their sexual orientation, those fighting against the legislation have had no qualms about claiming that queers want hiring quotas similar to affirmative action put into place for their benefit. It's not that they don't like queers, it's just that queers are a little selfish. They want jobs they don't deserve.

But selfishness isn't the real problem; hatred is.

As a people, we are no longer able to face up to our prejudices.

Sociologists study neo-Nazi groups and the Ku Klux Klan not because racism

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or giving money to mission or preaching love, and helping those less fortunate. Today, many churches feature angry white men with clenched teeth, one fist thrust into the air and the other clutching a hair dryer. The churches are directing their funds to building monuments to their leaders and teaching their congregations to "love to hate." You cannot teach people to hate others and expect anything other than the violence that is becoming a part of all of our lives.

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Owner-Suzanne Anderson Properties  
Houston

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Dear Mr. Roberts:

We were well aware that the *Texas Triangle* is a "homosexual newspaper" before receiving your letter and we are familiar with its contents. Not only don't we find the paper offensive, we think the *Triangle* is an informative and worthwhile publication. We will, of course, continue to advertise in the *Triangle*.

What we do find offensive is the notion that you feel you can intimidate businesses into not advertising where they see fit. In this day and age association with homosexuality is not a stigma. Our customers at Bookwoman, both gay and straight, respect diversity.

It's the Christmas season. Why don't you and your organization go and feed the homeless, or collect money for orphans in Bosnia instead of attempting to intimidate businesses? That would truly be Christian and Family Values based.

Sincerely,

**Susan Post**

Bookwoman

Austin

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

My heart was still growing with pride when, on page 6 of that same *Triangle*, I encountered the "Instant Activist" section that proposed to put the Rush Limbaugh store out of business. The tone and idea behind this worries me, since it is purely negative and close-minded. Honestly, it is no way different from Mr. Roberts' actions! Maybe we should see if we can redo messages like that.

Whatever we do to anyone, we should take a positive approach, certainly in mass media like radio and statewide newspapers. Instead of fighting, should we not try to integrate with those who have other opinions than ours? This might mean that we need to listen to one another to understand those different opinions, and maybe we need to educate our opponents if we think he/she lacks knowledge or insight that we feel is required for a better judgment of things. This means an extra investment on both sides, but at least it's constructive, not destructive. Really, it does not require being a Christian or reading the Bible to see what makes people live together in harmony. Let's love, not hate!

**Rick Van Rein**

Austin

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Unfortunately, Corcoran is buying

which they won't really deserve.

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As a people, we are no longer able to face up to our prejudices.

Sociologists study neo-Nazi groups and the Ku Klux Klan not because racism is such an aberration, but because the open and arrogant way these groups handle their hatred for others is an aberration. Most people would be embarrassed to say they hold such beliefs, but these openly-racist folks are proud to speak freely of their prejudices and hatred.

It's easier for most of us to think that we're a selfish society and that's why we appear to be prejudiced than to face up to the hate that exists in our society. Selfishness is a foible that's almost uncontrollable. Sure, we can work on it, but everybody's a little selfish, so why bother to work too hard?

Sorry, but to blame prejudice on selfishness is a cop-out. We have to accept that fact that we, as a society and as individuals, can and do hate.

And that hate leads to bias, lack of equity under the law, unequal resource distribution and violence.

The lesbian and gay community should be especially careful not to buy into the "selfishness" concept of racism; the same concept can just as easily be used to explain away hatred of queers. ○

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## A 'Heinous' Murder

continued from page 1

The suspects were caught running from the scene, covered in blood. They confessed to the crime but claimed it was provoked by sexual advances.

Carolyn Mobley, associate pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, termed the murder "heinous."

Mobley said: "The fact that these people would brag about it like there was no consequence indicates to me that they actually thought someone would approve. I hope and pray that our society is ready to stand up and say, 'no more, we will not tolerate this kind of hate, this kind of barbarism'."

Meanwhile, the German Peace Corps, the California-based neo-Nazi group with which the suspects claim affiliation, is under investigation by the FBI. Norma Graves, co-president of P-FLAG Houston, said she has been "pleased by the response from the FBI to this horrible act because they immediately classified the crime as a hate crime and are investigating it as domestic terrorism."

"I think only when our leaders in government respond in this way will it result in a greater understanding of the importance of stiffer hate crimes penalties," added Graves.

The suspects have been charged and are being held in the Harris County jail on \$50,000 bail each. "This was good work by law enforcement and the deputy who apprehended them," said Annise Parker, who serves as law enforcement liaison to the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Patrol Deputy Tim Navarre spotted the two suspects running near the police department's new storefront on Katy's Clay Road, as he was about to end a late-night shift. He later learned about the murder scene they were fleeing.

The brutal murder—the tenth slaying of a gay man in Texas in recent years—left a statewide community in mourning but no more so than the mothers of Stern and Mangione, who lived with them.

The Rev. David Welles of the Thai Presbyterian Church of Houston, who last Sunday participated in a memorial service for Mangione, said he knew Mangione and Stern as neighbors. He said Mangione "was friendly with everyone... almost naively that way" and termed his neighbors "reliable, trustworthy, good community members."

"Fred cared for both his own mother and Kenny's mom," said Welles. "He could not imagine not caring for them. I'm proud to have known Fred."

US Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, announced that she will ask the House Judiciary Committee, on which she serves, to hold hearings on hate crimes.

"Why is this happening? What is the climate in this society?" asked Houston activist Brandy Merritt of the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. "Until we educate people in high schools, and even in junior high and elementary schools, about gays, then hate crimes will not be a surprise and will constantly occur."

Aaron Masterson, president of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston, said Mangione's murder is another example of the link between hate speech, political rhetoric and violence. "Certain religious people say it's okay to hate sin but to love the sinner," he said.

"Some get this message but many don't. They are taught that homosexuality is wrong and they use it to justify killing in the name of God."

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response from the FBI to this horrible act because they immediately classified the crime as a hate crime and are investigating it as domestic terrorism.

"I think only when our leaders in government respond in this way will it result in a greater understanding of the importance of stiffer hate crimes penalties," added Graves.

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Harris County Sheriff Tommy Thomas promptly declared: "This was definitely a hate crime." Harris said the suspects said they committed the crime because one of the assaulted men had placed a hand on one of them in their van.

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"Some get this message but many don't. They are taught that homosexuality is wrong and they use it to justify killing in the name of God.

"Stopping hate-related violence will continue to be one of our top priorities in Texas," said Diane Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. She noted that Ft. Worth police are still investigating the stabbing death last month of Jackie Wayne Myers, who was gay. ☐

## Roberts' methods questioned continued from page 1

Gene Bender, general manager of KIXL-AM, told the Triangle in a telephone interview Monday that there was concern that Roberts' "methodology" was getting in the way of the radio station's message, which he said is spreading the word of the gospel.

"We have seen on occasion that sometimes the methods that people use get in the way of the message they are trying to communicate," Bender said. "We've not asked Wyatt to compromise his convictions, or anything else, but to understand what we as a radio station are trying to accomplish....I think he probably disagrees with what we've asked him, but he's agreed to try to work with us in trying to put the spotlight where it needs to be."

Meanwhile, Roberts, who has not disclosed how many members the American Family Association of Texas has or how it is funded, told the *Austin American-Statesman* he is exploring the possibility of taking his campaign to cable access TV. "I'm disappointed, but they own the station, and it's their right to do whatever they want," Roberts said.

continued on page 7

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## Right Wing Opposition to Gays Fraught with Irony

By Hastings Wyman, Jr.  
Special to the TRIANGLE

The achievements of the gay liberation movement in the past quarter of a century represent a quantum leap for gay men and women and a social revolution in the greater society. While the progress continues, American conservatism—ascendant in the nation's politics—remains a determined opponent for civil and social progress for gay people.

There are several ironies in this conservative opposition to gays. For one, the right wing media's attacks on gay political objectives often suffer from the ignorance that intolerance breeds. More ironically, American conservatives have ardently promoted economic capitalism and anti-government individualism—and it is just such conditions that have proved hospitable settings for the spawning and prospering of gay liberation.

Examples of the right wing's opposition to the gay revolution can be found in the pages of *Human Events*, a weekly journal of politics published here in the nation's capital that offers, according to its editor, "unvarnished, bare-knuckle reporting that peels back the layers of liberal, politically correct nonsense." And *Human Events* is not without influence—it is said that Ronald Reagan read it every week during his tenure in the White House.

Several recent *Human Events* articles illustrate the publication's anti-gay point of view. In "Why Are the Media in Bed With the Gay Community?" conservative columnist Cal Thomas, whose views often reflect those of the religious right, blasted recent coverage of studies by molecular biologist Dean Hamer that indicate a genetic basis for homosexuality. Thomas believes *The Washington Post* and other media gave the

tists who have studied the issue believe such experience constitutes a "choice." Why, indeed, would children born to Bonos, Gingriches, Goldwaters, Mosbachers, Schlaflys, et al—the list gets longer every year—"choose" to be gay?

Conservative writers appear oblivious to gay complaints about the national media, such as not covering gay stories, as was the case with AIDS for years, and stereotypical coverage—500,000 gay men in "straight-looking" clothes march on the mall, but the one drag queen gets his picture in the paper.

*Human Events* also attacked gay Republicans in "Log Cabin Agenda Belies Group's Moderate Image," another article by Peter LaBarbera. His effort to paint the Gay Republicans as radical relies primarily on Log Cabin's support for gay "marriage" (LaBarbera's quotation marks), gays in the military, "massive" spending on AIDS and similar proposals that are part of "the wider, politically liberal, homosexual activist movement."

The irony here is that many gays are either opposed to or unenthusiastic about legalized same-sex marriages (though I favor them). Moreover, the main impetus for the effort to put gays in the military came from lesbians and gays who want to risk their lives on behalf of their country—hardly a "radical" notion.

And AIDS funding has received strong support from many sources, certainly including but not limited to liberal Democrats.

But the saddest irony for anti-gay conservatives must be that the movement for freedom and acceptance for gays and lesbians is a by-product of the kind of system that the American Right has been striving to achieve both here and abroad.

## The AFA and its Homosexual Obsession

By Mary S. Benner  
Special to the TRIANGLE

If the amount of space allotted to various issues and concerns is a measure of the importance of those issues, then clearly gays and lesbians and the "homosexual agenda" are the primary concerns of the American Family Association (AFA). More than 50 percent of the national organization's web site is devoted to homosexuality, including a two-part article with sidebars and tables entitled "Homosexuality in America: Exposing the Myths."

In his introduction to this article, author Richard G. Howe writes that his goal is to "synthesize the tremendous amount of information on the subject, critically analyze that information and advance the claim that homosexuality is not normal or benign, and should not be given preferential treatment by law... homosexuality is morally wrong and is personally and socially destructive."

He concludes his introduction by stating, "[i]f it is true that homosexuality has the destructive effects on the individual and society that many believe, then it behooves us to know our enemy and forestall any further advance of homosexuality by understanding what it is, what the homosexual community is up to, and how to answer their arguments in the open marketplace of ideas."

Howe then presents and disputes 10 "Myths of Homosexuality," and repeatedly insists that homosexuality is a—if not *the*—threat to the American family. In his conclusion, he urges people to become informed, to "change as many minds to a proper understanding of this issue as we can, (and) become involved in the political process."

The presentation of gays and lesbians as the enemy is also supported by

another article on the web site by the Ramsey Colloquium, a group sponsored by the Institute on Religion and Public Life.

This group, described as "Jewish and Christian theologians, ethicists, philosophers and scholars who meet periodically to consider questions of morality, religion and public life," concludes: "In our public life, some discrimination is in order—when, for example, in education and programs involving young people the intent is to prevent predatory behavior that can take place under the guise of supporting young people in their anxieties about their 'sexual identity.' It is necessary to discriminate between relationships. Gay and lesbian 'domestic partnerships,' for example, should not be socially recognized as the moral equivalent of marriage."

In two other articles, focusing on psychiatry and religion respectively, the AFA web site proposes that, rather than accepting lesbians and gays as they are, the correct course is to provide treatment and prayer to cure homosexuality with the result being either celibacy or heterosexuality.

In addition to their web site, the AFA boasts of a flagship radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day from the national AFA headquarters in Tupelo, Miss., plus a network of 100 radio stations (including 18 stations in Texas) broadcasting to 24 states. It publishes the monthly *AFA Journal* and runs the AFA Law Center with five full-time attorneys in Mississippi and 500 attorneys nationwide ready to "take an active role in free speech and religious freedom issues, especially those impacting the Christian family."

In addition to the national AFA, the organization claims 350 local affiliates working in every state. It refers to these affiliates as "the decency brigade, foot sol-

pitiable settings for the spawning and prospering of gay liberation.

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Several recent *Human Events* articles illustrate the publication's anti-gay point of view. In "Why Are the Media in Bed With the Gay Community?" conservative columnist Cal Thomas, whose views often reflect those of the religious right, blasted recent coverage of studies by molecular biologist Dean Hamer that indicate a genetic basis for homosexuality. Thomas believes *The Washington Post* and other media gave the research undue credence by, for example, failing to cite information that would cast doubt on the study. The reason Thomas cites for this bias is that the media wants to buttress the gay position that being gay is not a choice but genetic, and thus deserving of civil rights protections.

Thomas, however, seems unaware that significant numbers of gays and lesbians—liberal gay political activists, in particular—do not accept the genetic argument, in part because they believe such theories lead to eugenic proposals, the Nazis' genocidal policies being an extreme example. Indeed, the strongest—though by no means sole—support for the genetic basis for homosexuality is among conservative gay thinkers and writers.

One is tempted to suggest that if *Human Events* practiced a little multiculturalism and hired some openly gay or lesbian journalists, the publication would avoid such mistakes.

Second, *Human Events* and many other commentators ignore that even if homosexuality does result from early childhood experience, virtually no scien-

riage" (LaBarbera's quotation marks), gays in the military, "massive" spending on AIDS and similar proposals that are part of "the wider, politically liberal, homosexual activist movement."

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But the saddest irony for anti-gay conservatives must be that the movement for freedom and acceptance for gays and lesbians is a by-product of the kind of system that the American Right has been striving to achieve both here and abroad.

It's no accident that gay liberation began flourishing in the capitalist West that *Human Events* and its ideological allies so ardently supported in the cold war struggles with the Communist East, where the stodgy and socially conservative state ruled public life. The capitalist democracy trumpeted by *Human Events* and its feisty rightwing writers created widespread—not universal, but widespread—wealth and rapid, technology-driven changes in social tastes and attitudes. As a result, the old tightly knit, class- and religious-based communities where everybody knew everybody else's business and imposed sanctions for non-conforming behavior have broken down. In their place is growing a new, more diverse, more tolerant and more gay-friendly world.

It is usually the Left that is accused of the sin of unintended consequences. But in this instance, it is the Right which has unwittingly helped create—in its view—a monster: A free and prosperous citizenry that pursues happiness as it pleases, including making love with whom it pleases. ♦

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continued on page 6

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The Keeping Watch Coalition's mission will be to monitor and respond to right-wing campaigns, and to train, educate and organize supporters.

Services provided by the Keeping Watch Coalition include a World Wide Web Site, <http://205.162.178.160/KeepingWatch/index.html>, a magazine entitled "The Watchers' Report," a computerized database of information about right-wing movements, and assistance for scholars and journalists. For information on The Keeping Watch Coalition, contact [kpwatch@aquilapub.com](mailto:kpwatch@aquilapub.com), or at their current physical mail address of Keeping Watch Coalition, 722 West 66th St., Suite 255, Minneapolis, MN 55423. ♦

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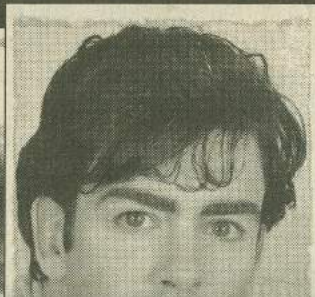
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## Gay Radio on KPFT

continued from page 1

gay community.

"Sometime after the first March on Washington in 1979, we began to think of the gay and lesbian community as a community," said Hill. "Prior to that it was either a place or an ideal. Gay and lesbian radio became the broadcast medium for that."

Both Valinski and Hill said that KPFT provides vital information to people in

***"It is us telling our stories or  
us talking to people who have  
stories to tell."***

**— Jack Valinski**

urban and rural areas who are not connected to the gay community.

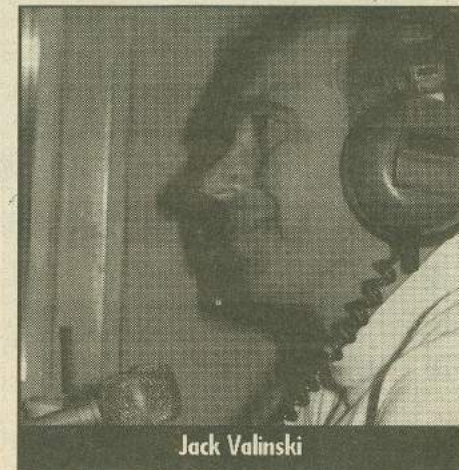
"We can penetrate the closet door," said Valinski. "If we can make life a little bit easier for one person, we have done some good."

Providing information and entertainment for gay youth has become a weekly project for Jimmy Carper, producer of KPFT's After Hours. The program gets so many calls from young people, regular phone volunteers come in just to field questions and provide resources. After Hours, heard late-night Saturdays from midnight to 3 a.m., features the "Queer Music Zone" and "irreverent" discussions.

"When you're on at midnight and you're a group that wants to get a message across, you have to be entertaining along with it, because people will just turn you off if you're too serious," explained Carper. "The serious shows are better suited for earlier in the evening, but when you get to midnight, you have to have some camping and carrying on."

young people the show is trying to reach. Ray Hill agrees.

"Generally speaking, I enjoy the stretch that the kids put on the envelope,



Jack Valinski

and I encourage it," said Hill. "It may not be the most tasteful thing in the world, but frequently it is good radio. If good radio depended on taste, we wouldn't have the Rush Limbaughs and they wouldn't be so successful."

After Hours may mirror Limbaugh's on-the-edge humor, but the show has a very different vision than that of the conservative broadcaster. Not only are issues relating to the gay and lesbian community discussed, After Hours also features hosts from the transgendered, bisexual and leather communities.

Both Lesbian & Gay Voices and After Hours provide a forum for gay Houstonians that is unlike any other—reaching out to people on both sides of the closet door.

"Of all the forms of media, radio is probably the most powerful," said Hill. "You can be in a room of 200 people and be the only one intimately listening to the radio, and so radio actually happens somewhere between your ears. That's a

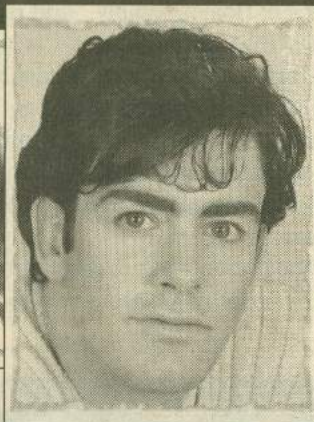
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"Of all the forms of media, radio is probably the most powerful," said Hill. "You can be in a room of 200 people and be the only one intimately listening to the radio, and so radio actually happens somewhere between your ears. That's a very important piece of geography to stimulate thoughts, develop ideas, and that's why radio works." ♦

## The AFA's Obsession

continued from page 5

diers and heroes in the war for family values [who] are advancing into enemy territory."

The recent call by Wyatt Roberts, executive director of the AFA of Texas, to boycott *Triangle* advertisers, is a tactic used and encouraged by the national AFA. The group monitors television programs and publishes "The Dirty Dozen," a list of sponsors who advertise on programs the AFA finds objectionable. The AFA encourages people to write to these sponsors and voice their objections. The AFA also encourages boycotts of companies who "promote the homosexual agenda" by such measures as offering domestic partners benefits to their employees. It also initiates boycotts of retailers who sell pornography.

The Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, founder and president of the AFA, makes his position clear in a brief essay entitled "The Enemy is Us," in which he admonishes Christians for complacency in the face of war. "There is a war going on," Wildmon writes, "unlike any war we have ever fought in our society. It is a spiritual war, a war for the hearts and minds of mankind."

After acknowledging that there is "no glory in fighting a war," he asks his Christian readers if they are "willing to pay the price, to make the sacrifices necessary." ♦

## Station Leans on Roberts

continued from page 4

Last Saturday, the Rev. Jim Rigby of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church had been scheduled to appear on Roberts' show. The day before the show was scheduled to air, however, Roberts informed Rigby that the joint appearance was cancelled. Rigby leads an interdenominational group called Faiths United for Social Justice and Tolerance.

"I think he's gotten orders to tone it down a bit," Rigby told the Triangle. "He said he still wanted to do (the debate), but that they (KIXL) didn't think it was a good idea...."

Bender left open the possibility that attacks against the Triangle may be allowed in the future.

"I can't specifically say what will and won't happen in the program. What I can say to you is we don't want methodologies to get in the way of what's really important at this radio station in trying to present the good news of Jesus Christ."

The fight pitting the AFA against the Texas Triangle has been brewing for four months, but intensified late last month, when Roberts sent letters to 50 Triangle advertisers in Austin and Houston, asking them to withdraw their support for the publication. Few have and, meanwhile, support for the publication is mushrooming.

Even though Roberts has stopped—temporarily, at least—attacking the Triangle on his radio program, he has pledged to contact 1,100 Austin churches in an effort to gain support for his boycott campaign.

In a related development, three organizations with ties to the progressive community—the Texas Freedom Network, People for the American Way, and Jewish Women International—are planning ways to boost support for Triangle advertisers.

The Texas Freedom Network this week announced it will sponsor a "Buy-In" and "Please Patronize" list in order to

support Texas businesses that advertise in the Triangle.

"Members of the Austin community are appalled at the tactics of the American Family Association, and we want to take action to support businesses that have been under attack," said Cecile Richards,

**"Members of the Austin community are appalled at the tactics of the American Family Association, and we want to take action to support businesses that have been under attack."**

— Cecile Richards  
Texas Freedom Network

the group's executive director. "We are notifying our members of those advertisers who have been under attack, and we are encouraging them to patronize these businesses. As part of our positive response, we will be sponsoring a 'buy-in' next Tuesday (Jan. 16)." Richards said the "buy-in" initially will target selected advertisers.

As part of the "buy-in," the public is invited at 11:30 a.m. to buy books, newspapers and magazines at Congress Avenue Booksellers, 716 Congress Ave. and lunch 12:30 p.m. at the Empanada Parlour, 500 East 4th Street.

Other developments in the AFA's crusade against the Triangle have centered in the state, national and international media, with Newsweek this week featuring the controversy in its Periscope section. ☐

## COMMUNITY

### Houston Caucus Elects Pat Gandy

**H**OUSTON — The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus elected officers and filled expiring board terms at their annual election meeting last week. Only one race had more than one candidate.

Retiring school teacher and State Democratic Executive Committee member Pat Gandy was elected president and Houston printer Norm Thompson was named vice president. Accountant and former board member Scott Simpson and financial consultant Patrick McKee were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively. McKee has served as treasurer for the past two years. Gandy has held numerous Caucus positions including vice president and board chair.

Incumbent board member Matthew Huston was re-elected to board position four. Screening Committee Chair and small business owner Ralph Sikes was elected to board position five, previously held by 1995 board chair David Westerkamp.

Huston, an engineer, was elected board chair and Sikes was elected board vice chair at the board meeting immediately following the membership meeting. Sikes is also president of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.

Political consultant Clarence Bagby, former aide to U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, defeated longtime gay activist and campaign worker Patrick McIlvain for board position six in a tie-breaking second ballot.

"I'm delighted to be president of HGLPC," Gandy said last week. "And I'm looking forward to a productive year working with a dynamic board with

Republican precinct chairs as a result of the Precinct Initiative. Approximately two dozen people raised their hands when Richardson asked how many people present were running for precinct chair.

"I'm proud of what we have accomplished in the two years I've served as president," Richardson said. "The Caucus has made a real effort to go back to the nuts and bolts of what we're all about—grassroots organizing of gay and lesbian voters."

"I'm especially proud of the Discrimination Free Zone and Lincoln projects," Richardson added. "Given the new greater visibility of lesbian and gay Republicans, the HGLPC has made a real effort to work with them through efforts like the Precinct Initiative." ☐

The HGLPC meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Caucus offices at 2700 Albany. For information call (713) 521-1000.

### Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help AIDS hospice

Project Transitions, Inc. needs volunteers for all three of its programs: Doug's

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The fight pitting the AFA against the *Texas Triangle* has been brewing for four months, but intensified late last month, when Roberts sent letters to 50 *Triangle* advertisers in Austin and Houston, asking them to withdraw their support for the publication. Few have and, meanwhile, support for the publication is mushrooming.

Even though Roberts has stopped—temporarily, at least—attacking the *Triangle* on his radio program, he has pledged to contact 1,100 Austin churches in an effort to gain support for his boycott campaign.

In a related development, three organizations with ties to the progressive community—the Texas Freedom Network, People for the American Way, and Jewish Women International—are planning ways to boost support for *Triangle* advertisers.

The Texas Freedom Network this week announced it will sponsor a "Buy-In" and "Please Patronize" list in order to

the group's executive director. "We are notifying our members of those advertisers who have been under attack, and we are encouraging them to patronize these businesses. As part of our positive response, we will be sponsoring a 'buy-in' next Tuesday (Jan. 16)." Richards said the "buy-in" initially will target selected advertisers.

As part of the "buy-in," the public is invited at 11:30 a.m. to buy books, newspapers and magazines at Congress Avenue Booksellers, 716 Congress Ave. and lunch 12:30 p.m. at the Empanada Parlour, 500 East 4th Street.

Other developments in the AFA's crusade against the *Triangle* have centered in the state, national and international media, with *Newsweek* this week featuring the controversy in its Periscope section. ♦

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"I'm delighted to be president of HGLPC," Gandy said last week. "And I'm looking forward to a productive year working with a dynamic board with many talents." Gandy's goals for the year include increasing the Caucus's financial security and membership as well as expanding the presence of the HGLPC newsletter in the community.

"We must also work harder to convince people we screen how important hate crime legislation is and how important it is to speak up as elected officials and not just leave it to the gay community," Gandy added. "We must continue to build coalitions as we did with the election of Jew Don Boney to city council."

The group also unanimously voted to commend Caucus President Terri Richardson for her service to the organization and heard a report from Lincoln Project Co-chair Tirey Counts on the status of the Precinct Initiative, an effort co-sponsored by HGLPC and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston. The HGLPC committee coordinating the Caucus's involvement in the Precinct Initiative is known as the Lincoln Project.

Counts reported that 31 gay and gay-friendly individuals have filed to run for

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## Volunteers Needed

Sign up to help AIDS hospice

Project Transitions, Inc. needs volunteers for all three of its programs: Doug's House, Austin's only AIDS hospice; Roosevelt Gardens, an affordable and supportive living community for individuals and families living with AIDS; and Top Drawer Thrift Shop. Volunteers are also needed for office work, lawn maintenance, bulk mail assistance and special events.

Orientation sessions are designed to familiarize new volunteers with Project Transitions and the specifics and procedures of the programs for which they will be working. The next orientation session will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Austin State Hospital, 4110 Guadalupe St., Meeting Room A. For those persons wishing to volunteer at Doug's House or Roosevelt Gardens, additional training on Sunday, Jan. 21 is required. That training will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the same location. ♦

## Texas Spotlight

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

### PWA Coalition at Thomas Street Clinic Re-opening

HOUSTON — Members of the People With AIDS Coalition's Volunteer Program at Thomas Street Clinic will conduct tours during the grand re-opening of the clinic Friday, Jan. 12. The tours will take place during an open house from 3-7 p.m. The Harris County Hospital District facility is located in Houston's First Ward at 2015 Thomas Street.

The coalition's Volunteer Program at Thomas Street Clinic began in early 1993 with assistance and funding from state and federal grants. The program has been hailed as a model for volunteer programs across the United States. Members of the Volunteer Program—which is primarily staffed with persons who are patients at the clinic or clients of the PWA coalition—log about 16,000 volunteer hours each year.

The clinic's Volunteer Program encourages empowerment and seeks to build the self-esteem of both volunteers and patients alike. Volunteers perform clerical duties, act as patient buddies, answer telephones, staff the information desk, and work in social services and in the lab.

To reach the PWA Coalition, call (713) 522-5428. ♦

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## Anti-Gay Acts Sharply Up

### 180 incidents recorded

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The number of anti-gay actions by politicians, police and public figures nationwide went up last year, with California leading the way, a study found.

The report by People for the American Way documented 180 incidents of anti-gay actions in 43 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, including Gov. Pete Wilson's scuttling of a policy to allow gays to adopt children.

That is the most since the group began compiling the statistics three years ago and 46 more than in 1994.

"There is no doubt that incremental gains for lesbian, gay and bisexual equality have led to a vicious backlash," said Laurie Falik, co-chair of the San Francisco chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"This can be seen in the multiplying numbers of anti-gay initiatives at the ballot box and assaults on the street," she added.

Among the list of incidents was Wilson's cancellation of a state Department of Social Services policy that allowed unmarried couples, including gays and lesbians, to adopt children.

Others included anti-gay comments by Deputy Attorney General Andrew Loomis in a lawsuit over the discharge of a gay California National Guardsman. Another was the recommendation by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing that two San Francisco teachers' credentials be revoked for allowing a guest speaker to talk to sixth-graders about gay and lesbian sex.

A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force report released in July 1995 also showed an increase in anti-gay bills across the nation in the 1994-1995 leg-

The study, done in England, is the first to track children reared in lesbian families from childhood to adulthood, said Susan Golombok, a professor of psychology at City University in London.

The 25 children grew up with their lesbian mothers, most of whom had a female partner. For comparison, the study also tracked 21 children who grew up with unmarried heterosexual mothers, most of whom had a male companion.

None of the children in this comparison group considered himself or herself to be gay when interviewed as adults. The difference between that finding and the result for the lesbian families was not statistically significant.

"There's a very strong view among the lay public that these children have a very high chance of being lesbian or gay when they grow up," Golombok said. "The evidence from this study does not support this myth."

But the study had so few participants that Golombok said she could not rule out the possibility that there really is a difference in the rate of homosexuality in people from the two kinds of families.

She reported the work in the January issue of the journal *Developmental Psychology* with colleague Fiona Tasker.

Michael Bailey, a Northwestern University psychologist who has studied the sons of gay men, said the finding that most children from lesbian families grew up to be heterosexual adults fits in with previous studies.

Golombok also found that adults who had grown up in lesbian families were more likely to have had a same-sex relationship at some time than were adults from heterosexual families. That's probably because their upbringing made it easier to pursue such relationships if they were so inclined, Golombok said.

The study defined these relationships as anything from one-night stands to longer-lasting ones, she said. ●

## Oops! A Double Bogey for Ben Wright

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS Sports this week removed broadcaster Ben Wright from its golf coverage, after nearly eight months of controversy over sexist remarks that made him a persona non grata on the LPGA tour.

While saying there are no plans for Wright to return to golf broadcasts, CBS apparently avoided firing Wright by agreeing to honor the remainder of his contract rather than buying him out.

In a prepared statement, Wright apologized to CBS, the LPGA and to Valerie Helmbreck of *The News Journal* in Wilmington, Del., whose May 12 story last year ignited the controversy. In the story, Wright, 63, was quoted by the Delaware newspaper as saying "lesbians in the sport hurt women's golf" and that women golfers "are handicapped by having boobs."

"Despite the fact that I have been widely misquoted, there is no doubt that I have been guilty of making some insensitive remarks," Wright said in his statement of apology. He promised to be "more thoughtful and, I hope, more sensitive in the future."

Reacting favorably to Wright's removal from the network's golf coverage was the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). "His comments, as well as his beliefs, were inappropriate and CBS did the right thing by letting him go," said Tamra King, GLAAD's Media Director.

GLAAD continued to publicly advocate for Wright's dismissal and call attention to the controversy after an article in the December 4th *Sports Illustrated* rekindled debate over his comments last May. The more recent article made public additional facts which demonstrated that Wright had, in fact, made the statements in question. ●

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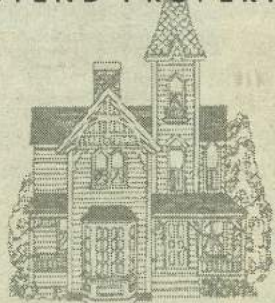
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Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

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Others included anti-gay comments by Deputy Attorney General Andrew Loomis in a lawsuit over the discharge of a gay California National Guardsman. Another was the recommendation by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing that two San Francisco teachers' credentials be revoked for allowing a guest speaker to talk to sixth-graders about gay and lesbian sex.

A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force report released in July 1995 also showed an increase in anti-gay bills across the nation in the 1994-1995 legislative session, said Robert Bray, San Francisco field representative for the group.

Out of 97 pieces of gay-related legislation nationwide, 39 were anti-gay and another 12 were pro-gay measures that were killed, vetoed or stalled, he said.

"I think what we saw was the states' pickup of the social arch-conservative agenda, and therefore more socially conservative pieces of legislation were introduced," Bray said. ♡

## Study: Children of Lesbian Moms Don't Turn Out Gay

By Malcolm Ritter  
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A study of 25 children who were raised by lesbian mothers found that only two became gay adults, despite the popular belief that such youngsters have a high chance of being homosexual when they grow up.

out the possibility that there really is a difference in the rate of homosexuality in people from the two kinds of families.

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# Election Watch

Information that affects your vote and shapes your opinion.

## Fundies Ogling State Board of Education

Do you know who your elected representative on the State Board of Education is? The board sets some policies and approves textbooks for the state's 1,046 school districts, 435,000 school employees and 3.6 million school children. Yet most people do not know who sits on the board, or even that elections are this March and November.

The radical right is prepared to capitalize on voters' ignorance. Already, the radical right is part of a tenuous coalition with Republicans on the 15-member board. Republicans hold nine seats; of those, five belong to fundamentalists.

Apparently, that's not enough. Members of the radical right are now taking on some Republican incumbents whose votes have not been conservative enough to please the fundamentalists. One key race is in Houston, where Terri Leo, a member of a conservative Christian women's group, is challenging incumbent board chairman Jack Christie, a Republican who generally—but not always—has voted in line with the fundamentalists. The winner of the March Republican primary between Leo and Christie will win the seat on the board because there is no Democratic challenger. In Austin, another interesting race is brewing: Three Republicans, including at least one fundamentalist, are vying for the GOP nomination to oppose Democratic incumbent Will Davis, a moderate. ♡

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Communication composed a fascinating history of gay and lesbian press.

In 1947, V "America's Gayest" distributed. Its appeared on its Ben is a pseudonym by rearranging the but this pen name the newsletter either

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It was 195 Supreme Court declared illegal to mail gay It took a four-year this fight for something took for granted.

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The evolution of media has not been

## Church Vs. Church

In Cobb County, gays have turned to friendly religious forces to fight the Radical Right

By Richard Shumate  
Special to the TRIANGLE

ATLANTA — In the swirl of controversy surrounding gay/lesbian liberation, religious disapproval is a weapon usually wielded by the "anti" side. In Cobb County, Ga., however, the tables have been turned.

Almost from the beginning of the now two-year-old fight against the suburban Atlanta county's anti-gay rights resolution, activists have aligned themselves with religious leaders morally opposed to discrimination. So far, leaders of nearly 40 metro congregations, from a variety of denominations including Baptists and Methodists, are on record as opposing the resolution.

And this alliance reached a zenith on Nov. 29 when a top official of one of the nation's largest Jewish organizations publicly denounced the actions of the Cobb County Commission.

"We will not be silent. We will express our moral outrage against those trying to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the religious action committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Saperstein's statement came as UAHC, the largest organization within Reform Judaism, was holding its biannual convention in Atlanta. At its 1993 convention, the group, which represents 1.5 million adherents in the United States and Canada, formally voted to oppose discrimination based on sexual orientation. To that end, leaders of UAHC decided to hold no events affiliated with this year's convention in Cobb County, which has one of metro Atlanta's larger Jewish communities.

At the same press conference where Saperstein spoke, opponents of the reso-

lutions have been held in some jurisdictions in the past.

Coalition leaders admit the strategy of putting the resolution to a vote carries risk. But they are convinced they could win based on polling data which shows a majority of county residents now oppose the resolution and that opposition has grown over the past two years.

Cobb is a politically conservative suburban enclave of 450,000 people, where surveys show more than 70 percent of the residents are members of a church or synagogue. As activists began to organize

**Reconstructionists advocate strict literal adherence to the Bible. That includes a passage which fundamentalists interpret as mandating death as punishment for homosexuality, though Reconstructionist leaders insist they don't advocate making that punishment part of American law.**

against the resolution, they made a conscious effort to solicit the support of religious leaders they thought might be opposed to the resolution, in an effort to make inroads into the community.

"In Cobb County, we need the support of other voices. We need all the voices we can get," said Elaine Hill, co-chair of the coalition.

Another reason for the emphasis on building opposition to the commissioners' action among religious people is the

## STATE & NATION

### More Hate in Cobb County

Anonymous letter, hate calls aimed at Georgia author who will teach gay literature course at same college where Newt taught

By Richard Shumate  
Special to the TRIANGLE

KENNESAW, Ga. — Last week, about 15 students gathered in a lecture hall at Kennesaw State College to begin a study of modern gay literature, from Oscar Wilde and James Baldwin to Camille Paglia and everything in between.

And that didn't sit well with one anonymous correspondent in the college's English department, who has managed to turn the course offering into a public controversy.

Saying that it was a "sad day" for Kennesaw State, an anonymous letter writer, using English department stationery, alerted the local newspaper, the *Marietta Daily Journal*, that the course was being offered in the winter quarter. Two articles ensued—the course perhaps judged newsworthy because Kennesaw State is in Cobb County, the suburban Atlanta enclave where county government has formally condemned the "gay lifestyle."

"I guess I wasn't that surprised. I suppose there are always going to be one or two people like that in every academic department," says Dr. Greg Johnson, a Kennesaw State English professor and author of the acclaimed gay-themed 1993 novel *Pagan Babies*. He conceived the course, entitled "Modern Gay Literature," and will teach it.

Anti-gay sentiment within the Kennesaw State English department is not new. Though the majority of people within the department "are not that con-

Community reaction of the media attention has been subdued. But one of Johnson's colleagues, who shares the same name and happens to live in Cobb County (Johnson lives in the city), has been receiving harassing phone calls at home.

Johnson, who has taught at Kennesaw for seven years, came up with the idea for the course nearly three years ago, well before the county commissioners made Cobb the focus of international debate and protest over gay and lesbian rights by passing a resolution saying the "gay lifestyle" was incompatible with Cobb's community standards.

He received the support of a review committee in the English department, and the course was approved and published in the college's winter quarter catalog. This is believed to be the first time a specifically gay-oriented course has been offered at the undergraduate level in any public college in Georgia, according to a spokesperson for the state Board of Regents.

"It was part of an effort to bring our curriculum up to date," says Johnson, noting that the department has also been offering courses that focus on African-American and women's literature. He says he also wanted to teach the course for his own academic growth because, though he has featured the work of gay authors in other classes, he has never studied gay literature as a specific entity.

With 12,000 students, Kennesaw State, a four-year suburban commuter

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At the same press conference where Saperstein spoke, opponents of the resolution also asked, for the first time, that the issue be put to a vote of Cobb County's residents.

"For the past two years, the Cobb commission has squelched debate on this issue. Let's let the people of Cobb County decide," said Rabbi Steven Lebow, a member of the Cobb Citizens Coalition, formed to fight the resolution, and the leader of a Reform congregation in the county seat of Marietta.

In August 1993, the Cobb County Commission, on a vote of 4-to-1, passed a resolution saying the "gay lifestyle" was incompatible with its community standards. Despite the firestorm of controversy that has ensued—including a boycott initiated against the county's new convention center and a successful effort to get Olympic volleyball competition moved from Cobb—commissioners have refused to rescind the resolution.

Georgia law does not provide for public initiative, so there is no mechanism to force commissioners to put the resolution to a vote. However, non-binding referen-

**fundamentalists  
interpret as mandating  
death as punishment  
for homosexuality, though  
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"In Cobb County, we need the support of other voices. We need all the voices we can get," said Elaine Hill, co-chair of the coalition.

Another reason for the emphasis on building opposition to the commissioners' action among religious people is the genesis of the resolution itself. Rev. Charles Stanley, a televangelist and pastor of the Roswell Street Baptist Church, the county's largest, has said that he had discussions with the author of the resolution, Commissioner Gordon Wysong, prior to its introduction.

Wysong also has ties to a local Christian Reconstructionist group that backs the resolution. Reconstructionists advocate strict literal adherence to the Bible. That includes a passage which fundamentalists interpret as mandating death as punishment for homosexuality, though Reconstructionist leaders insist they don't advocate making that punishment part of American law.

"I think the religious community on the right is so strong in Cobb County and was really behind the resolution. So I think it is important to say, 'No, it's possible to be religious and not be for discriminating against gays and lesbians,'" says Lebow, who has been organizing opposition to the resolution among Cobb's clergy. ●

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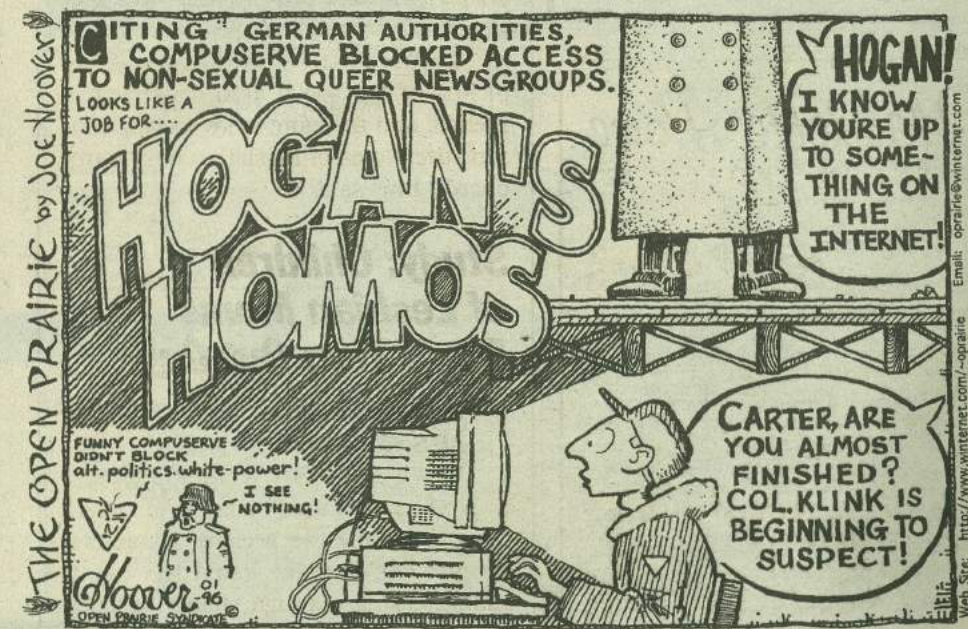
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Anti-gay sentiment within the Kennesaw State English department is not new. Though the majority of people within the department "are not that conservative," Johnson says anti-gay literature has previously been left in mailboxes, also anonymously. He and other colleagues have a strong suspicion as to who the perpetrator is, but no concrete proof.

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With 12,000 students, Kennesaw State, a four-year suburban commuter college, is one of the larger units in the state university system, with most students coming from Cobb County. It has been in the news lately for another controversial course, taught by House Speaker Newt Gingrich. ●





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Nothing makes Amanda more excited than a good battle over principles. Dear Fans. That is why we have been biting our nails and rubbing ourselves raw over the fascinating battle going on between the Texas Triangle and the American Family Association of Texas.

To those not in the know, the AFA has targeted the Triangle in a rabid hate-fest, anti-advertising campaign based on the supposition that the paper is bad for family values and detrimental to the morals of our young people. Imagine! Don't you think Wyatt Roberts, the group's executive director, could come up with something a little more imaginative? After all, it's not like we haven't heard these identical accusations a zillion killion times in the past 15 years! Go back to the Book of Ronnie, Chapter 1, Verse 12.4. "And it was said that Ronnie despised those who

loved one another in same-sex union, and he bade the Republican multitudes to build their walls high and shun the enlightened. And he spake unto them that redemption lie in the almighty Dollar, and released the sick from the hospitals into the streets where they would live or die by the will of God...He then broke the covenant of compassion by persecuting all who did not have white skin and those who did not beget children, and he condemned the plague-ridden to certain death and spoke not publicly of their plight but had them persecuted and set upon by the beasts."

Frankly, Amanda never takes low fashion, lack of humor and pompous demagoguery seriously. We had long ago thrown off the yoke of the Christian Right and the Republican Conservatives when they simply couldn't find any reason to laugh at themselves anymore—and we have seen no one who is less capable of self-laughter than this Roberts character!

Amanda wonders what it is in a person that makes him wish to spend such an amazing amount of time in the pursuit of misery and negativity. Who are these droll unhappy people? Did Mr. Roberts suffer some sort of setback that has led to this sad state of affairs? Did he experience some trauma as a child, or some terrible disappointment as a young adult to make him such a flagrant misanthrope?

When once confronted by a conservative moralist by the fact that we would not be able to join the kingdom of heaven and would not get to spend eternity with God, we simply laughed and stated that we could not imagine hav-

## Amanda

AMANDA B. RECKONDWITH

ing to spend eternity with anyone! Frankly, if God is as dour and as bereft of humor and goodwill as the fanatics of the AFA, we would much rather not spend much time with him at all! And so we would rather not spend ANY time with Roberts and his clan, and we fear that our rejection is probably joined by most other sane and well-meaning people. Perhaps it is the loneliness of crying in the wilderness that these bitter sex-starved people suffer from.

These people are to be pitied for their hate-filled rhetoric. When faced with an evil spirit, it has been said that pity is the most deadly and sure defense. To pity something for its terrible circumstances is to negate its power over you. Compassion is the answer, but not the resigned simpering kind of compassion. No, Dear Fans, organizations like the AFA are a danger to our civilization because they believe in the suppression of freedom of speech, and they use coercion and the threat of social and economic punishment to get what they want. Those are not the teachings of Jesus, and they are certainly not the way any civilized and valid organization pursues its goals. In short, Amanda agrees with the Austin American-Statesman, which ran an editorial on the whole matter Sat., Dec. 29: Roberts is a bully, and his ongoing campaign only helps point out the desperation and the perverse nature of his and his group's bitterness. ♦

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## SERVICE DIRECTORY

### CITY COUNCIL

#### ERIC SILVERNALE CITY COUNCIL PLACE 1

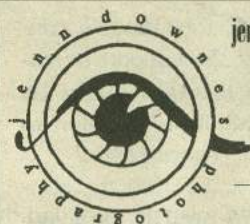
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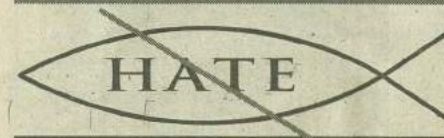


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## The Texas Triangle Arts &amp; Entertainment



## Tannhäuser to Dazzle Austin Audiences

By Gary N. Reese

Special to the TRIANGLE

The first time the renowned Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi had the chance to hear any music by his equally illustrious contemporary and rival, Richard Wagner, it was the overture to Wagner's *Tannhäuser* at the Paris Opera in 1865.

"Wagner is mad!" was the verdict of the Lion of Busseto. Evidently, the Parisians agreed; they gave a resounding thumbs-down to *Tannhäuser* and sent an embittered

The outcome for Verdi was hardly more favorable. Don Carlos, his grand opera in five acts premiered during the same season at the Opera, flopped as well. Austin audiences will have their first chance this weekend to hear *Tannhäuser* in a live, staged performance in the capital city, when the Austin Lyric Opera mounts its first production of a Wagnerian work.

Friday night is *Triangle Night* at the Opera, an annual event co-sponsored by the Texas Triangle and the Austin Lyric Opera.

Wagner's music dramas have visited the capital city from time to time. A traveling performance of *Tristan and Isolde* was performed in the early 1970s at Palmer Auditorium, of all places. But the Bard of Bayreuth is not heard often here; his second mature work, *Tannhäuser*, should mark a sort of turning point for the city's growing opera company—much as Puccini's *Turandot* accomplished two years ago.

Like most of the stories Wagner set to music, *Tannhäuser* takes place in the early Middle Ages, and portrays a man's struggle between flesh and the spirit. Tannhäuser, who has been carrying on a dalliance with Venus, the goddess of love, aspires for virtue as a Minnesinger at the court of Hermann, the landgrave of Thuringia. Tannhäuser also aspires for the hand of Hermann's niece, Elisabeth, but he's in a bit over his head here, because of his regrettably lustful past with Venus. Penance isn't so easily won, but Tannhäuser does a pretty good job of covering up his questionable credentials, up to a point at least.

Well, of course, the truth gets known in a very dramatic scene where Tannhäuser begins brazenly singing of his lascivious lust. Everyone is scandalized, and the whole situation is well-nigh ruined—to put it mildly—until a last-minute clemency from the pope in Rome arrives in time to save Tannhäuser's soul, but not in time to halt a whole round of expirations that close the opera on an admittedly grim note.

But Wagner, as well as Verdi, realized that on such situations is great music based.

Soprano Helen Donath, a Corpus Christi native who has had a celebrated performing career in Europe for the past quarter-century, sings the lead role of Elisabeth for opening night and the Sunday matinee performances; Susan Owen will assume the role for Saturday night's performance.

In the title role is tenor Jon Fredric West for Friday and Sunday; Timothy Mussard for the Saturday evening performance. Mezzo Eugenie Gruenewald sings the sultry role of Venus, and baritone Mark Rucker is Wolfram von Eschenbach for all performances, who sings the work's most familiar melody, "O Du mein holder Abendstern" (Oh, Most Heavenly Evening Star).

Carl St. Clair conducts all performances; the stage director is by the opera's general director, Joseph McClain.

All performances are in the University of Texas Bass Concert Hall; Friday and Saturday's events begin at 8 p.m., the matinee on Sunday at 3. For tickets, call Austin Lyric Opera's box office at 472-5992, or the toll-free line at 1-800-31-OPERA.

The work will be sung in German, with English subtitles.

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The work will be sung in German, with simultaneously projected English surtitles courtesy of EDS Corporation. ☉



k.d. lang is coming to texas



## LESBIAN ICON HEADED OUR WAY

Details were sketchy at press time, but yes, it's official: k.d. lang is coming to Texas. She will be performing at the Majestic Theater at 230 East Houston Street in San Antonio on Feb. 26. Tickets go on sale Jan. 20.

Rumors notwithstanding, Lang has NOT scheduled a Houston appearance at press time. For now, it looks like San Antonio will be the only stop in the Lone Star State for the Canadian-born superstar.

lang's tour is entitled, "The All You Can Eat Tour," named after her current hit CD, which features "Sexuality" and "If I Were You."

For those who missed it, lang made the cover

of the December/January issue of *Out* magazine.

"There is nothing in the world quite like hearing k.d. lang's pure, crystalline voice sing out just inches from your ear," the magazine wrote. "Stuck in crosstown traffic while heading to a photo shoot, she begins an impromptu version of fellow Canadian Jane Siberry's song, 'The Valley,' and for just a moment, the honks, hollers, and sirens of the world outside the cab are light-years away. There are moments that I am truly not in control of, that are completely just passing through me," lang says of her voice. "When I'm not thinking, and I just open up and let it channel through me. Those are the best deliveries."

To get lang's delivery at the Majestic, call and reserve tickets at (210) 226-3333. And keep an eye on the *Texas Triangle* for more concert information as it becomes available. ☉

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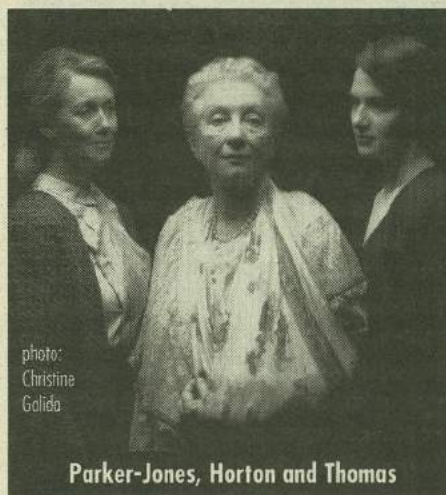
**SHEAR  
MADNESS**

**It's Murder Among the  
Curlers at Austin's Faster-**

**A**USTIN—When “A”, the 92 year-old acerbic heroine of Edward Albee’s *Three Tall Women* proudly proclaims “I remember everything!” it isn’t mere vanity on her part. It’s a rueful statement of absolute truth from a woman who has survived upper-class tribulations and marital disappointment. As portrayed with assurance by Lee Horton in Live Oak Theatre’s strong revival of Albee’s 1994 Pulitzer prize-winner, “A” is a matriarch capable of benign tenderness or castrating fury.

Albee’s portrait of his adoptive mother may have started out as a hatchet-job—revenge for the pain the self-absorbed and homophobic woman inflicted on the sensitive young playwright—but the play developed (in his own words) into “a funnier and more interesting” snapshot. The play has the dramaturgical shape of solid geometry or trigonometry—hence the alphabetical letter names of the characters.

Under Michael Hankin’s beautifully modulated direction, the disparate shape of the two acts emerges like the solution of a mathematical formula. Besides the



Parker-Jones, Horton and Thomas

luminous performance of Ms. Horton (who dispelled all memories of London’s Maggie Smith for this reviewer), the surprise of this production is the revelatory portrayal by Missy Thomas as “C”, the youngest of the women. Ms. Thomas has dazzled before (as Emily Bronte for example), but here she brings vivacity, intelligence, and charming willfulness to what has always seemed to be a “lesser” role. Perennial favorite Jill Parker-Jones, as “B”, acts on par with her colleagues, but it’s hard to escape the visual (and vocal) dissonance her Texas look and sound often creates.

Happily, production elements are once again at the high professional standard one expects from a theatre with national aspirations. What a pleasure to see Live Oak work its considerable magic on a different style than their usual Texas playwright.

*Three Tall Women* continues through

## Stage Struck

DAVID MARK COHEN



ents—a disapproving church lady and a truly horrifying step-father.

Nan Elkins gives the mother all the monstrous gloss of a Tennessee Williams heroine, while Clayton McGran is pitiful as the homophobic (yet pedophile) ex-Marine stepdad who spews venom and (surprise!) regularly abused the young Jesse. The rendolent air of soap opera consistently competes with the cliched scent of faded magnolias. Only Eric Porter, as Chris, Jesse’s earthy (and pithy) friend provides real relief (comic and otherwise), though one yearns to see this fine actor liberated from playing the dishy queen with the heart of gold.

It’s hard to look past the playwright’s long-winded, pretentious (and self-serving) program notes, designed no doubt to ward off the very criticism Jesse’s Closet so easily provokes. Besides penning the script, Johnson has also served as producer, director, and designer. (Ms. Elkins is Associate Producer) It’s enough to give vanity productions a bad name.

*Jesse’s Closet* performs through January 26 at the Dougherty Arts Center (1110 Barton Springs). Phone: 499-TIXS

### THE DRAGON, BRIEFLY...

Now that former *Austin Chronicle* critic Barry Pineo has abandoned his critical pen for the greasepaint tube, it’s a pleasure to note his marvelous title performance in *The Reluctant Dragon*, the inaugural production of Austin Theatre for Youth.

While the script (adapted by Mary Hall Surface from the book by Kenneth

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(L-R) ANDRA & JUDY

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Happily, production elements are once again at the high professional standard one expects from a theatre with national aspirations. What a pleasure to see Live Oak work its considerable magic on a different style than their usual Texas playwright.

*Three Tall Women* continues through Jan 28 at Live Oak Theatre (State Theatre, Congress Ave). Phone: 512-472-5143.

### JESSE'S CLOSET

Vanity of a very different sort is on display in *Jesse's Closet*. Ken O. Johnson's latest play is described as “an adult play about a young man's search for his biological father which involves him in the intimate life of a gay man.” Unfortunately for the drama, Brad, the young man in question (nicely played by John Hoff) has already found his natural father when the play begins—or so he thinks. That father is Jesse (Bill Jay), a socially-conscious resident of San Francisco's Castro District who has just succumbed to AIDS.

Since the play actually begins with Brad's return to Jesse's apartment after the latter's memorial service, most of the “search” occurs in awkward flashbacks in which son and father hardly ever occupy the same physical space. (Jesse never leaves his behind-the-scrim hospital bed.). The real drama is the confrontation between Brad and Jesse's Louisiana par-

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While the script (adapted by Mary Hall Surface from the book by Kenneth Grahame) holds few surprises, and while the direction by ATY Executive/Artistic Director Rick Schiller is appallingly amateurish, Mr. Pineo brings the same antic energy, mellifluous voice, and comic pomposity to this unconventional dragon as he did to Lady Bracknell in Public Domain's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. In short, it's a real treat.

Andrew Criss, the *Triangle's* own art director is the other shining light as Saint George, resplendent in a charming Prince Valiant page boy wig that has attitude to spare. As for the remainder of the cast, the less said, the better...(through Jan 14 at McCallum Fine Arts Academy Theatre. Phone: 459-2289). ☐



illustration: Groves

publicly denounced the County Commission. “We will not be s our moral outrage a discriminate on the tation,” said Rabb direction of the religi of the Union of Congregations.

Saperstein's UAHC, the largest Reform Judaism, w nual convention in convention, the gro 1.5 million adherents and Canada, formal crimination based o To that end, leaders hold no events affili convention in Cobb one of metro Atlanta munities.

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“For the past t commission has squ issue. Let's let the p decide,” said Rabbi S ber of the Cobb Citiz to fight the resolution Reform congregation Marietta.

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# Speaking Up, Speaking Out



Roger Streitmatter: *Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America*; Boston: Faber and Faber, 1995; 424 pp., \$27.95 cloth.

By Gip Plaster  
Special to the TRIANGLE

Lisa Ben was a secretary who didn't have much to do. Her boss told her to look busy anyway. She decided to occupy herself by typing a newsletter called *Vice Versa*. Only twelve copies were made, but it was the beginning of the gay and lesbian press in the United States.

Rodger Streitmatter, a professor of journalism in the School of Communication at American University, composed a fascinating account of the history of gay and lesbian publications called *Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press in America*.

In 1947, *Vice Versa*, subtitled "America's Gayest Magazine" was first distributed. Its creator's name never appeared on its pages. (Actually, Lisa Ben is a pseudonym the author made by rearranging the letters in "lesbian," but this pen name never appeared in the newsletter either.)

Six copies of that ground-breaking publication were created at one time using carbon paper, then the pages were retyped to create another set. Most of the copies were handed out at the If Club in Los Angeles, and a few copies of the first issue were mailed to friends. The mailing stopped when someone alerted the author that what she was writing could be considered obscene and should not be mailed.

has it been without obstacles. As Streitmatter writes, what was in the 1950s a "love that dare not speak its name" became militant in the Stonewall Rebellion of the 1960s. In the 1970s, the gay and lesbian press played a role in transforming the riot at the Stonewall Inn from a "moment," into a "movement"—a movement toward gay and lesbian liberation.

Beginning in the seventies, the religious and political right sprang up to derail the gay and lesbian movement but they were largely unsuccessful. The whole story comes to a screeching halt, though, in the early 1980s when a "cancer" is discovered among gay men. What later became known as AIDS killed a generation of leaders and the women of the community came forward to lead the movement. In the 1990s, gay and lesbian issues came to the forefront and the gay and lesbian press moved toward the mainstream.

It would make a good soap opera if it were not so real.

Streitmatter has managed to create a work that is both easy to read and scholarly. It is extensively endnoted, yet readers can still follow the story as it unfolds chronologically.

This book will likely find its way into readers' hands to be read all the way through, then placed on a bookshelf to be held for reference. An extensive index makes finding specific topics or publications easy.

With 347 pages of text, Streitmatter does not leave out a detail. His narrative style guides—but not pulls—the reader through a history that would be

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the first issue were mailed to friends.  
The mailing stopped when someone  
alerted the author that what she was  
writing could be considered obscene  
and should not be mailed.

It was 1958 before the U.S.  
Supreme Court decided that it was not  
illegal to mail gay and lesbian material.  
It took a four-year legal battle to win  
this fight for something most groups  
took for granted.

A lot happened in the time between  
the hand-typed pages of *Vice Versa* in  
the forties and the glossy magazine *Out*  
in the 1990s. This emerging media  
became an invaluable part of the rise of  
the gay and lesbian movement.

"Written and edited by the same  
women and men who organized and  
marched in the picket lines, the publi-  
cations of the mid-1960s articulated the  
political philosophy that fueled the new  
defiance," Streitmatter wrote. "The pub-  
lications of the era directed this dra-  
matic change from conforming to the  
dictates of society to building a national  
gay community with values often in  
conflict with those of heterosexual  
America—and proudly so."

The evolution of the lesbian and gay  
media has not been a simple one nor

cer is discovered among gay men.  
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tive style guides—but not pulls—the  
reader through a history that would be  
fascinating no matter how it were pre-  
sented.

The best part of the book, though,  
is the reward found in the last chapter.

Streitmatter, whose expertise is evi-  
dent from the earlier chapters, shares  
his personal observations and conclu-  
sions after research into this part of the  
American press.

"I have, throughout this book,  
attempted to separate my own feelings  
from my work," he writes, adding that  
objectivity is only a myth anyway.  
"Partaking of anonymous sex and losing  
friends to AIDS, for example, are not  
concepts I became familiar with  
through archival research."

Through his honest observations  
and extensive, professional research,  
Rodger Streitmatter shows the impact  
that the gay and lesbian press has had  
on the gay movement. He also shows  
that the movement is not in vain and  
that liberation is winning, perhaps in  
part because of the press that covers  
the movement and helps shape it. ☐

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- At least 18 years old and have been diagnosed with AIDS
- Having involuntary weight loss • Experiencing testosterone deficiency

SOME SYMPTOMS OF TESTOSTERONE DEFICIENCY ARE:

- Decreased sex drive • Sexual dysfunction • Decreased energy levels
- Depressed mood • Weaker bones and muscles

Limitations: no infection with *Mycobacterium avium* complex,  
no anabolic steroid within 6 months prior to study entry

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE CTMF HIV STUDY GROUP AT 512-450-1866.

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## Film Classics at the MFA

Through Jan. 14, MFA Films showcases classic movies at Texas' only venue for the National Film Registry Tour of the Library of Congress. The series commemorates a century of American filmmaking and includes new prints of Charlie Chaplin's *City Lights*, John Huston's *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre* and Stanley Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove*, among others. The films play at the Museum of Fine Arts, 1001 Bissonnet, Houston. Times and ticket prices vary. Call (713) 639-7515.

## Merce Cunningham Dance Co.

Merce Cunningham's language of modern dance is one of natural clarity. He pares the art form down to simple ideas of movement and from that vocabulary he devises wonders. He introduces elements of imbalance and tension into a medium classically tied to symmetry and harmony. In his choreography things can be tentative, retractable, changeable and

## Arts, Briefly

SEAN MOYNIHAN

His works have been included in the repertoires of numerous ballet and modern dance companies all over the world.

The fourteen members of the highly-acclaimed Merce Cunningham Dance Company perform January 17 at San Antonio's Carver Community Cultural Center, (210) 225-6516; and January 20 at the Wortham Center in Houston, (713) 227-ARTS. Featured in the program are "Beach Birds" (1991) and "Ground Level Overlay" (1995), works that Mr. Cunningham created by using the dance computer software LifeForms.

## Frontera Fest '96

From January 16 to February 10 Frontera/Hyde Park Theatre in Austin presents Frontera Fest '96. The third annual performance festival features more than 200 innovative and adventurous actors, directors, playwrights and dancers from central Texas and beyond. On January 17 Lana Dietrich (below) appears in *Glory in the Daytime*, written and directed by two-time Best of the Fest winner Mary Lou Pilkinton. Also in the Fest: guest artists Margery Segal/NERVE, Erik Ehn & Raphael Perry and Kristen Kosmas. The theater is located at 511 West 43rd. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8pm. Call 512-499-TIXS. ☉



photo: Bret Brookshire

## Station

continued from page 4

Last Saturday St. Andrews Pres. been scheduled show. The day scheduled to a informed Rigby th was cancelled. R nomination grou for Social Justice a "I think he's down a bit," Rigby said he still wanted that they (KIXL) d idea...."

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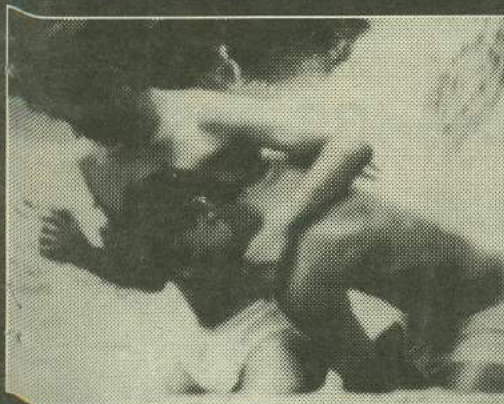
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no anabolic steroid within 6 months prior to study entry*

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION,  
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Howard Feinstein, OUT MAGAZINE

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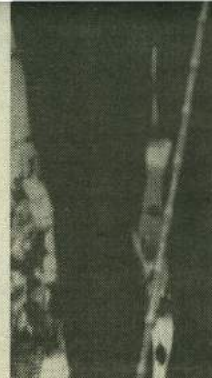
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After working with Martha Graham early in his career, Mr. Cunningham formed the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in 1953. He has choreographed for the New York City Ballet, the Paris Opéra and the American Ballet Theatre.

From January 18 to February 18, Frontera/Hyde Park Theatre in Austin presents Frontera Fest '96. The third annual performance festival features more than 200 innovative and adventurous actors, directors, playwrights and dancers from central Texas and beyond. On January 17 Lana Dietrich (below) appears in *Glory in the Daytime*, written and directed by two-time Best of the Fest winner Mary Lou Pilkinton. Also in the Fest: guest artists Margery Segal/NERVE, Erik Ehn & Raphael Perry and Kristen Kosmas. The theater is located at 511 West 43rd. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8pm. Call 512-499-TIXS. ☐



photo: Bret Brookshire

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We see many  
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May God give us  
the strength to face  
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and to love those  
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January 12 through 28, 1996.

**ARLINGTON****Exhibits**

ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART. *Retro 96: Nations of Nostalgia*, Jan 19-Feb 10. 201 W. Main. 817/275-4600.

**AUSTIN****Exhibits**

AUSTIN MUSEUM OF ART. *Digital Dramas: Strange & Familiar*, Jan 13-Feb 11. 3809 W. 35th. 512/458-8191.

WOMEN & THEIR WORK. *Artist-Sorceress*, Marilyn Waligore, through Jan 13; *Exilio: Crónica de una Obsesión*, Mercedes Peña, Jan 18-Feb 24. 1711 Lavaca. 512/477-1064.

THE WINSHIP BUILDING THEATER ROOM. *Theatrical Design & Technology: From Process to Product*, Jan 17-26. 23rd & San Jacinto. 512/471-5793.

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM. *Latin American Book Arts*, Jan 19-Mar 2. 419 Congress. 512/480-9373.

HUNTINGTON ART GALLERY. *Dennis Oppenheim: Drawings & Sculpture & The New Spirit: Pop Prints & Their Legacy*, Jan 19-Mar 3. 23rd & San Jacinto. 512/471-7324.

ELISABET NEY MUSEUM. *Elisabet Ney birthday party*, Jan 21, 2-4pm. 304 E. 44th. 512/458-2255.

DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER GALLERY. *New Airport Art*, proposed public art projects for the new Austin airport, through Jan 29. 1110 Barton Springs Rd. 512/397-1472.

RANSOM CENTER. *Photographs by Julia Margaret Cameron*, through Feb 9. 21st & Guadalupe. 512/471-8944.

CARVER MUSEUM. *That's My Baby*, dolls of color, through Feb 29. 1165 Angelina. 512/472-4809.

**Lectures/Workshops**

LAUTERSTEIN-CONWAY MASSAGE SCHOOL. *Beginner's class*, Jan 14, 10am-4pm; *Couple's class*, Jan 20, 6:30-9:30pm. \$25. 213 S.

for black theater artists, at selected theaters throughout Austin. Panels, focus groups and work sessions hosted by Progressive Arts Collective. Jan 20. 512/447-5343.

THE ARTIST'S VOICE. Dennis Oppenheim talks about his work. Jan 24, noon. UT's Huntington Art Gallery, 23rd & San Jacinto. 512/471-7324.

**Music**

TANNHÄUSER. Austin Lyric Opera. Jan 12-14. Bass Concert Hall, 23rd & E. Campus. 512/472-5992 or 800/31-OPERA.

CAFEZINO. Nancy Scott w/ Millie Marlow; Jan 12; Hope Morgan, Jan 13; Kat del Rio, Jan 17; Ursula's Curse, Jan 18; Pamela Hart, Jan 19; Polk, Barton & Towhead, Jan 20; Chuck Pinnell, Jan 24; Diana Jones, Jan 25; The Therapy Sisters, Jan 26; The Studebakers, Jan 27. 5414 Parkcrest. 512/444-7530.

ABENDMUSIK CONCERT SERIES. Elaine Dykstra & Paula White, dual harpsichordists. Jan 13, 8pm. St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River. 512/453-5200.

LA FOLLIA. *How Like an Angel*, music for epiphany. Jan 13, 8pm. First English Lutheran Church, 30th & Whitis. 512/892-1326.

RIVER CITY POPS. *Pops 'til Ya Drop!* Jan 18-21. McCallum High School Theater, 5600 Sunshine Drive. 512/892-4410.

MISS XANNA DON'T & The Wasted. Jan 19. Emo's, 603 Red River. 512/477-EMOS.

JAMES DIAZ, ORGANIST. Featuring works by Bach, Dupré and others. Jan 28, 4pm. Bates Recital Hall. 512/471-1444.

**Organizations**

AUSTIN GREENS. Ecological justice, social justice, nonviolence and grassroots democracy. Meetings: Jan 13, 11am, Riverside Public Library, 2410 E. Riverside; Jan 24, 7pm, Terrazas Public Library, 1105 E. Cesar Chavez. 512/707-0804.

AUSTIN RAEDICAL FAERIES meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

512/703-8952.

AUSTIN STONEWALL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Next meeting: Jan 18, 6pm. Bertram's Restaurant, 1601 Guadalupe. 512/472-8299.

GAY, LESBIAN, STRAIGHT TEACHERS NETWORK (formerly known as ANGLES). Open to anyone concerned about sexual orientation issues having a positive place in education. 512/323-2329.

LESBIAN AVENGERS meet every Sunday at 7pm. Grassroots Peace Building, 227 Congress. 512/447-9226.

PROJECT TRANSITIONS. HIV Bereavement Support Group for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one to AIDS and/or those who are caring for someone with AIDS. Special groups for partners, families and caregivers. 512/454-8646.

SAPPHIRE. Jan 12, 7-9pm, Share Your Fantasy Night; Jan 26, 7-9pm, Lesbian Psychology with Sonny Lansdale. MCC, 425 Woodward. 512/323-2476.

STAYING NEGATIVE, an AIDS Services of Austin support group for non-infected gay and bisexual men, meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month. 512/406-6165.

**Religion/Church Services**

LUTHERANS CONCERNED OF Austin & Central Texas. Next meeting: Jan 14, 2-3:30pm. Call David or Mike at 512/832-4159.

INTEGRITY/AUSTIN (lesbian/gay Episcopalians). Eucharist, Jan 21, 5:30pm. All Saints' Episcopal Church. 512/445-6164.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH. Sunday service, 11am. 425 Woodward. 512/416-1170.

UNITY CHURCH of North Austin. Services: Wednesdays, 7:30pm. 9603 Dessau. 512/836-6372.

**Theater/Performance**

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON. Austin Theatre for Youth. Jan 13-14. McCallum Fine Arts Academy Theatre. 512/459-2289.

FRONTERA FEST '96, jam-packed

# TO DO

TRIO. Jan 19-Feb 4. The Public Domain, 807 N. Congress. 512/474-6202.

ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE. Through Jan 27. Capital City Playhouse, 214 W. 4th. 512/472-2966.

WHO IS THERE? Community Theater in Spanish. Through Jan 27. Mexic-Arte, 419 Congress. 512/480-9373.

SHEAR MADNESS. Through Jan 28. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey (off S. Lamar). 512/476-0541.

ESTHER'S FOLLIES. Original topical satire and musical comedy. Every Thursday through Saturday. 525 E. 6th. 512/320-0553.

**Volunteer Opportunities**

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS needs volunteers willing to help students at all grade levels. To inquire about The Pebble Project call Judith Martin at 512/462-1771. Bilingual & male volunteers are particularly needed.

LONE STAR HOSPICE needs loving, caring volunteers to provide companionship and aid to persons with known limited life expectancy. Hospice care is intended to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients and to offer support for caregivers. Volunteers can help in many ways. Training begins at the end of January. Call 512/HOSPICE or 800/332-3982.

sored by Travis County Transportation & Natural Resources. Saturdays, 9:45am, Jan 20-Feb 24. 2701 FM 2322 North. 512/473-9437.

**DALLAS****Theater**

A TUNA CHRISTMAS benefit performance for Turtle Creek Chorale. Jan 18, 8pm. \$50. The Majestic Theater. 214/526-3214.

THE STERNHEIM PROJECT: *The Unmentionables & The Snob*. Dallas Theater Center. Through Feb 4. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 214/522-TIXX.

**Organizations**

HONESTY/TEXAS (gay/lesbian Baptists) meets the first Monday of each month. 214/827-9447.

UJIMA (lesbian/gay/bisexual African-Americans) meets the 2nd Sunday of each month, 3pm. Cathedral of Hope MCC, 5910 Cedar Springs. 214/521-5342 ext. 828.

UMOJA HERMANAS (lesbian/bisexual women of color) meets the 2nd Saturday of each month. Alpha Thomas, 214/943-8750.

**FORT WORTH****Exhibits**

MODERN ART MUSEUM of Fort Worth. *Arshile Gorky: The Breakthrough Years*, Jan 14-Mar

Square. Recent photographic acquisitions, through Jan 14. 410 Houston. 817/738-9215.

AMON CARTER MUSEUM. *The Ties That Bind: Views of Community on the American Frontier, 1850-1900*, through Feb 11. 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd. 817/738-1933.

**Theater**

FOREVER PLAID. Through Apr 6. Casa Mañana, Sundance Square, 109 E. 3rd. 817/332-CASA.

**Volunteer Opportunity**

AIDS OUTREACH CENTER, providing services and education to persons affected by AIDS/HIV. 1125 W. Peter Smith. 817/335-1994.

**HOUSTON****Dance**

SLEEP (making peace with the angels). Pat Graney Company. Jan 12-13, 8pm. U of H Lyndall Finley Wortham Theater, Entrance 16. 713/228-0914.

MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE CO. Jan 20, 8pm. Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 500 Texas. 713/227-ARTS.

**Exhibits**

SKIN SPEAK. Jan 27-Mar 3. Diverse Works, 1117 E. Freeway. 713/223-8346.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS. *The 20th Century: Decorative Arts*, through Feb 4; *Call & Response II: The 3rd Ward & the Museum*, through Feb 11; *Tina Madotti: Photographs*, through Feb 25; *Voices of the American West*, through June 30. 1001 Bissonnet, 713/639-7300.

**Film**

MFA Films. *Chinatown*, Jan 12; *Duck Soup*, *Big Business*, *The Learning Tree*, *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*, *Shadow of a Doubt*, *Raging Bull* & *Dr. Strangelove*, Jan 13; *City Lights*, *Ninotchka*, *Within Our Gates* & *2001: A Space Odyssey*, Jan 14; *Suture w/ filmmaker Laura Groppe*, Jan 19; *The Virgin Spring* & *Persiana*, Jan 20; *Torment*, Jan 21; *Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter*, w/filmmaker Deborah Hoffmann, Jan 26; *The Seventh Seal* & *The Merchant of*

**Music**

CULLEN THEATER. Quartetto Gelato, Jan 12, 8pm; Tom Chapin, Jan 21, 7:30pm. Wortham Center, 500 Texas. 713/227-ARTS.

HOUSTON SYMPHONY. *Phantom of the Opera*, works by A. L. Webber, Jan 18-21; *Music of the North*, works by Glinka, Rachmaninoff & Sibelius, Jan 26, 28-29. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana. 713/227-ARTS.

**Organizations**

GAY & LESBIAN HISPANICS UNIDOS meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7-9pm. Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713/813-3769.

JUST FOR US, a group for kids grades 6-12 who have gay or lesbian parents. Sponsored by HGLP. 713/980-7995.

SURVIVORS OF LOSS, a weekly group for gay men or women who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm. Sharpstown General Hospital. Contact psychiatric services director Hubbell Fowler, 713/778-2677.

**Religion/Church Services**

BERING MEMORIAL United Methodist Church. Sunday service, 10:45am; spiritual support group, Wednesdays, 6:45pm. 1440 Harold. 713/526-1017.

COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH. Sunday service, 1:30pm. 6610 Alder. 713/668-8830.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of the Resurrection. Sunday services, 9am & 11am. 1919 Decatur. 713/861-9149.

**Theater/Performance**

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940. Jan 12-Feb 3. Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury.

ALLEY THEATRE. Alley Shakespeare Repertory and Moving Theatre. Vanessa Redgrave in *Julius Caesar*, Jan 12-Feb 10, and *Antony & Cleopatra*, Jan 19-Feb 10. 615 Texas. 713/228-8421.

LA BOHÈME. Houston Grand Opera. Jan 19-Feb 4. Brown

12 MINUTES MAX! A Community Gathering with Da Camera, Houston Ballet, Writers in the Schools and MECA, Jan 26, 8pm. Diverse Works, 1117 E. Freeway. 713/223-8346.

PIAF. Through Jan 27. New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th. 713/869-8927.

WITH & WITHOUT. Through Feb 4. Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. 713/524-6706.

BOX OFFICE OF THE DAMNED. Through Feb 10. Theater LaB Houston. 713/868-7516.

**Other Happenings**

MEN'S NETWORK. *Shame, Pride & Points in Between*, Jan 17, 7-9pm. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713/529-0037.

THE SUMMIT. Royal Lipizzan Stallions, Jan 20, 2 & 7:30pm; Harlem Globetrotters 70th Anniversary Tour, Jan 26, 7:30pm. 713/627-9470.

BAYOU BEND COLLECTION & GARDENS. *A Place for All People* family day, Jan 21, 1-5pm. 1 Westcott, off Memorial. 713/639-7586.

**SAN ANTONIO****Music**

SAN ANTONIO SYMPHONY. Mark O'Connor, fiddle, Jan 25 & 27, 8pm. Majestic Theatre, 224 E. Houston. 210/554-1000.

**Religion/Church Services**

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH. Sunday service, 10:30am; Bible study, Sundays 7pm; prayer service, Wednesdays 7pm; workshop, Wednesdays 7:30-9pm. 1136 W. Woodlawn. 210/734-0048.

**Theater/Performance**

CARVER COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER. Roscoe Lee Browne & Anthony Zarbe, poetry, Jan 12; Merce Cunningham Dance Co., Jan 17; Dance Theatre of Harlem, Jan 24. 226 N. Hackberry. 210/207-7211.

SAN ANTONIO LITTLE THEATRE. *Hip-Hip Horatio & A Connecticut Yankee*, Jan 13, 20 & 27; *Annie*

**WE LISTEN**

To the editor:

A feeling of dis surfaced as I read from the American Texas slamming ad Triangle, a lesbian Austin. Religious ex Roberts are an integ of our country today ory of my southern of giving money to love, and helping Today, many chu white men with cle thrust into the air a a hair dryer. The c their funds to bui their leaders and te tions to "love to ha people to hate other other than the violer part of all of our lives

Suzanne Anderson

Owner-Suzanne Houston

Editor's note: Th sent to Wyatt Robert the American Fan Bookwoman on Dec.

Dear Mr. Robert

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