

HOUSTON  
EDITION

# THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Vol. 5 ▼ No. 12

Your Gay News Source

January 16, 1997

**out  
in** Houston

Help remind city politicians that Houston's gay and lesbian community packs an electoral punch. Vote on Saturday...

The **Texas Legislature** is back in session. God help us all. Make plans to lobby for a strong hate-crimes bill at the March 23 **March on Austin...**

The Jan. 17 meeting of **Lesbians in Business (LiB)** will feature **Holly Nuber**, the former coach for the **Pearland High School** softball state champions. **Nuber** was fired last year, ostensibly for insubordination, but she claims she was fired because, in part, she was presumed to be lesbian. She is suing the school district. The meeting will be held at the **Innova Building** in Greenway Plaza at 7 p.m. Call the **LiB Line** at 529-0077...

The **Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network-Houston (GLSTN-Houston)** has

# Hate Crime

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hate-crimes bill at the March 23  
**March on Austin...**

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The **Gay, Lesbian, and  
Straight Teachers Network-  
Houston (GLSTN-Houston)** has  
changed its meeting times to the  
third Wednesday of each month  
at the **First Unitarian  
Universalist Church**, 5200  
Fannin, at 7:30 p.m. Call 529-  
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The **Kolbe Project** and  
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shown on the first Friday of each  
month. **Kolbe Project**, at 1509  
Fairview, offers this drug-and-  
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allow the gay and lesbian com-  
munity to meet one another in a  
setting quieter than bars and  
clubs. For more information, call  
**Kolbe Project** at 522-8182.

—Tristan MacAvery

# CRIME

Fighting for Our Lives  
at the Capitol...page 8

**ALSO  
INSIDE:**

**SENTENCED TO LIFE?: SAFER SEX  
REMAINS NECESSARY...page 10**

**AQUA: WHEN HOME FURNISHINGS  
ARE ART...page 13**



## What do these businesses have in common?

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# THE TEXAS TRIANGLE

Your Gay News Source

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**General Manager:** Barbara Wohlgenuth

**Editor:** Kay Longcope

**Managing Editor:** Dan Quinn

**Art Director:** Mary S. Benner

**Arts Editor:** Sean Moynihan

**Houston Bureau:** Tristan A. MacAvery

**Columnists:** Jeff Bray,

Amy Adams Squire Strongheart,

David M. Cohen, Beren deMotier,

Lesléa Newman, Ellen Hobbs,

Nancy Ford, Rob Nash,

Wayne Hoffman, Marvin Liebman,

Lynn C. Miller, Gary Reese,

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**News/Feature Contributors:**

Clarence Bagby, Jeff Bray, Gip Plaster,  
Chris Dennis

**Arts Writers/Reviewers:**

Lee Lynch, Dale Reynolds,  
Steve Warren

**Photographers:** Jana Birchum

**Cartoonists:** Alison Bechdel,

Joe Hoover, Eric Orner,

John D. Anderson

**Illustrator:** Sean Moynihan

**Office Manager:** Sean Moynihan

**Advertising Sales:**

**Austin** Cash Watkins 512/476-0576 x4

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**Houston Office:** 3400 Montrose,  
Suite 435  
Houston, TX 77006  
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**E-Mail:** txtriangle@aol.com

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In B  
In A



## We Listen to You

### CARPENTER, LOG CABINERS ONLY FOOLING THEMSELVES

#### To the Editor:

For the past three years I have kept silent while encountering in every lesbian and gay publication in Texas the right-wing rhetoric of Dale Carpenter. With great boredom I have reviewed his continual bashing of the Democratic Party, President Clinton, lesbian and gay Democrats, liberals and every social welfare policy enacted since Franklin Roosevelt. With his Aryan looks and Rush-like delivery, Carpenter would have us believe that the only hope for the lesbian and gay community is through the backdoor of the GOP.

While I never thought the words of Carpenter or the beliefs of his Log Cabin organization were worthy of any response, I find myself now motivated to address his latest lunacy, supporting the defeat of openly and proudly gay Glen Maxey by a "gay-friendly" Republican.

Mr. Carpenter, just what is a "gay-friendly" Republican? Is this someone who lets lesbians and gays ride in the back of the bus instead of running over us? Maybe it's someone like your friend, Dolly Madison McKenna, who believes the government should get out of our bedrooms but shouldn't protect us from being fired or allowing us to legally marry.

If Dale Carpenter and his fellow Log Cabiners believe that some gay-tolerant Republican would better represent our interests than an "out" and "proud" lesbian or gay man, then they are truly a misguided group and

### BATHHOUSE FOES DO MORE HARM THAN HOMOPHOBES

#### To the Editor:

Gay people in Austin breathed a huge, collective sigh of relief when lunatic-fringe preacher and notorious homophobe Mark Weaver finally left town. Now the anti-bath crusaders are showing that Reverend Weaver is still here in spirit.

In calling on the city to violate its own zoning process, "openly gay" Glen Maxey is attempting to become the most right-wing member of the Texas legislature. If he wants a "gay constituency," he should start representing US. Which backstabber is he trying to become? Lloyd Doggett? Bill Clinton?

AIDS activist Jim Thurman is demanding that gay bath owners "provide AIDS outreach and strictly monitor and enforce rules against unsafe sex" and donate \$1 per customer to AIDS organizations.

Who defines "AIDS outreach?" Should the baths be "Big Brother" to responsible adults and drive their customers away? What are Thurman and his friends going to do with the money that the baths pay them?

Thurman believes he knows best, but his tactics are backfiring. He's engaged in a negative public relations campaign...

He's never talked to the bath owners. He's not representing most gays' views, and he's probably killed any chance of cooperation.

Why does The Texas Triangle give so much positive coverage to people who are trying to run our lives, rather than taking a critical look at the harm they're doing? You haven't even questioned Thurman's

### WRITE TO US

**The Triangle welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 250 words. Submissions for Readers' Forum guest editorials should be no longer than 450 words. Write to The Texas Triangle, 1615 West Sixth St., Austin, TX 78703, fax us at 512-472-8154 or send e-mail to [txtriangle@aol.com](mailto:txtriangle@aol.com).**

# Editorial

## Guest Column

# Log Cabin's Choice: Ally or Trojan Horse

By Andy Smith  
and Paul von Wupperfeld

We helped found the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas more than six years ago because we believed gay and lesbian equal rights were important enough to be promoted from within both major political parties. As traditional Republicans, we felt an obligation to advocate for non-discrimination within the GOP because we understood its rules and knew its players.

During the years that followed, we promoted pro-equality Republican candidates, worked to defeat anti-gay efforts and helped elected officials to understand how gay and lesbian equality was a natural extension of the Republican concepts of limited government and individual freedom.

However, we never supported anti-gay candidates nor sat silently in the company of bigots.

chair, wrote to the anti-gay leadership of the Travis County Republican Party to urge them to work with Log Cabin to defeat Democrats, specifically citing Glen Maxey. Labinski's desperate attempt to secure a place at the table by sacrificing a respected gay icon told us that Log Cabin had finally gone too far and we could no longer remain silent.

Despite assertions made by LCR-Texas State President Dale Carpenter, two such letters, not one, were written to an anti-gay leader in the Travis County Republican Party. These letters specifically stated that LCR-Austin wished to work with that anti-gay GOP leadership to

find an "electable" candidate to replace Maxey. While the first letter was written during the spring of 1996, the second was written in early November. The second letter

even resorted to calling Maxey was a "socialist" and a "leftist."

The choice came down to whether Log Cabin cared more about promoting

**Instead of taking difficult and unpopular stands against anti-gay Republicans, Log Cabin has begun obscuring the homophobic realities of today's Republican Party.**



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supporting the defeat of  
openly and proudly gay  
Glen Maxey by a "gay-  
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Mr. Carpenter, just  
what is a "gay-friendly"  
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"proud" lesbian or gay man, then they  
are truly a misguided group and  
deserve our pity.

It's possible that Carpenter and his fol-  
lowers need to review the words of fellow  
Republican Abraham Lincoln about "fool-  
ing the people," especially each other.

**Harry Livesay**  
**Houston**

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Why does The Texas Triangle give so  
much positive coverage to people who are  
trying to run our lives, rather than taking  
a critical look at the harm they're doing?  
You haven't even questioned Thurman's  
obviously false claim that A.C.I. is located  
in a "residential neighborhood."

Jim Thurman, Glen Maxey and their  
ilk are doing more harm than homopho-  
bic legislator Warren Chisum.

**Jim Olinger**  
**Austin**

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concepts of lim-  
ited government and individual freedom.  
However, we never supported anti-gay  
candidates nor sat silently in the com-  
pany of bigots.

Since leaving our LCR offices a year  
ago, we've watched with sadness as LCR  
has moved away from being a gay and les-  
bian equal rights organization. Instead of  
taking difficult and unpopular stands  
against anti-gay Republicans, Log Cabin  
has begun obscuring the homophobic  
realities of today's Republican Party.  
Worse still, in a naive attempt to curry  
favor, numerous LCR members and lead-  
ers have begun supporting candidates and  
GOP groups that actively oppose gay and  
lesbian equality.

Over the last 12 months, we've seen  
the national Log Cabin group contribute  
money to and endorse anti-gay presiden-  
tial hopeful Bob Dole, we've watched as  
the Austin Log Cabin club made phone  
calls in support of a GOP slate that  
included such anti-gay candidates as  
Dole and Ron Paul, and we've listened in  
disbelief as a Log Cabin officer from San  
Antonio told racist jokes at an official  
meeting.

We knew a gulf had developed  
between what Log Cabin was meant to be  
and what it had become when we learned  
that Steve Labinski, LCR-Austin president  
and LCR-Texas political affairs committee

such letters, not one, were written to an  
anti-gay leader in the Travis County  
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even resorted to calling Maxey was a  
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The choice came down to whether  
Log Cabin cared more about promoting  
gay and lesbian equal rights or proving it  
was full of "good Republicans" by forming  
alliances with anti-gay forces against pro-  
gay Democrats. We would have chosen  
the former; the current leadership chose  
the latter. Though we've had our disagree-  
ments with Maxey, we recognize that he is  
a symbol for gays and lesbians of all polit-  
ical persuasions. Our complicity in his  
defeat with the help of the religious right  
would do all gays and lesbians tremen-  
dous political damage.

For almost three weeks, we sought to  
get Labinski to recognize that forming an  
alliance with the most anti-gay elements  
in the GOP to target Maxey was more  
than just politically naive, it was contrary  
to Log Cabin's mission. When this failed,  
Paul contacted Carpenter, urging him to  
act internally to repudiate this type of  
plotting. This too came to nothing. Having  
tried and exhausted all internal channels,  
we decided that the issues at stake  
should be brought into the light of public  
knowledge.

When we decided to turn over copies  
of the letters to the Texas Triangle, we  
knew the result would be a denial of

continued on page 5





# Austin News

## Pastors Sign Statement on Gays

By Dan Guinn  
TRIANGLE Staff

**T**he pastor of an Austin church is one of 15 United Methodist clergy from around the country who signed a recently released statement that challenges the church's positions on homosexuality and same-sex marriages.

Rev. Sid Hall of Austin's Trinity United Methodist Church said the "Statement of Conscience," which is entitled "In All Things Charity" and was released Jan. 1, should further debate in the church over issues involving homosexuality.

"The discussion is already started," Hall said. "It's more like a debate. The church is very divided."

The statement's signers term as "unacceptable" the United Methodist Church's position that the practice of homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching" even though the church also teaches that gay men and lesbians are of sacred worth.

"One does not 'practice' one's sexual orientation," the document states. "One

lives it."

Hall said he finds it ironic that the church officially makes a distinction between being gay and living life as a gay man or lesbian.

"It's still focusing on lifestyle without the recognition of orientation," Hall said.

In addition, the 500-word statement affirms "appropriate liturgical support" for ceremonies for same-sex unions.

The statement on same-sex unions goes beyond a similar one made by 15 United Methodist bishops last year. The bishops said they disagreed with, but would obey, church rules against same-sex unions, Hall said.

The statement from "In All Things Charity" doesn't commit any clergy to performing ceremonies for same-sex unions, but it leaves the door open for support for such actions, Hall said.

"We're saying that we will support those who do," he said.

In addition to Hall, the 15 signers of the statement include Minerva Carcano of the Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Prof. Victor Paul Furnish of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. ☉

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## Queer Notes

ELLEN HOBBS



### THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND LARRY FLYNT

How can you really like Larry Flynt?

It's really almost impossible, especially if you open up a copy of *Hustler*, the "adult" magazine produced by Flynt. It's racist, it's sexist and it's homophobic. It's quite awful.

So it's not surprising that Gloria Steinem is leading a protest against the new film, "The People vs. Larry Flynt," a film depiction of the *Hustler* king's battle to continue producing his unpalatable magazine. According to a Jan. 8 CNN Web story, Steinem told reporters at a press conference, "We are here to use our first amendment rights to protest pornography."

No, it's not surprising at all; but how good is it, really, for the first amendment itself?

It's truly doubtful that the movie is anything to celebrate: The dubious film is directed by Oliver Stone, who isn't exactly known for his accuracy in his characterizations of historical figures. It wouldn't be unfair to call Stone a sensationalist as well. Many reviews say that the movie shows Flynt as a salty character with a heart of gold, a comic hero with bad habits, and that there is no real exploration in the movie of the *Hustler* material that is considered the most offensive and even dangerous.

Jill Brooke, who wrote the CNN article, points to one of the incidents that has given *Hustler* such a bad reputation:

But it's also very easy to let your own opinions about pornography lead you off the topic. The topic is, really, the First Amendment and freedom of speech, and, for once, maybe Oliver Stone is right (sort of).

Unfortunately, after we make laws to limit speech that we don't all care for—in this case, tacky pornography—those same laws can be used to limit lots of other different kinds of speech that we may like a lot—let's say speech in which the government is criticized, or some kinds of religious speech, or art speech, or the speech produced by minority group members of all sorts. Or, perhaps, the more tasteful pornography that we prefer to call "erotica."

At no time has anyone come up with a way to limit "bad" speech that couldn't turn around and bite us on the backside later on. The idea that certain types of pornography leads to violent behavior is ludicrous: Are we really going to let people get off the hook for rape and other violent acts against women by saying that they got the idea from a nude magazine? Let's hope not!

It's easy to point fingers at the movie and say, "Ugh! Get that awful thing out of here!" But if Steinem and others try to thwart the film because it doesn't project the image of Flynt they'd like to see, they'll be doing to director Stone the same thing he shows happening to Flynt. And if Flynt can be portrayed as a hero of free speech,

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### EXHIBITS

NEW



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Jill Brooke, who wrote the CNN article, points to one of the incidents that has given Hustler such a bad reputation:

"The movie does not include such real-life incidents as Hustler's picture portrayal of a woman gang-raped on a pool table, that was followed soon after by the real gang-rape of a woman on a pool table. Flynt responded to the rape with a cartoon, saluting the gruesome story."

Yuck! It's really hard to like a guy who publishes stuff like that.

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It's easy to point fingers at the movie and say, "Ugh! Get that awful thing out of here!" But if Steinem and others try to thwart the film because it doesn't project the image of Flynt they'd like to see, they'll be doing to director Stone the same thing he shows happening to Flynt. And if Flynt can be portrayed as a hero of free speech, it'll be even easier for Stone to portray himself in the same light.

The protestors are fighting a losing battle, and it could be one that would cause them and us all more pain if they won it. If they really don't want this movie to be successful, perhaps they should stop drawing attention to it and let it fail at the box office on its own. ☐

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## EXHIBITS

### NEW

At DiverseWorks, 11 E. Freeway: The no oh Series—Dylan Francis's "Surreal Housewares" (sculpt built from kitchen ga gets) and "Abstract Realism" (paintings deformed humanoid: Jan. 18-Feb. 8. And: "Joyce Pensato," for cartoon characters re dered with subversio Jan. 24-Mar 25. 71 223-8346.

"Stella in Studio: Th Public Art of Frank S 1982-1997"—work resenting the abstra artist's public art pro including maquettes, sculpture, paintings, drawings and sketch books never before outside his studio. J 18-Mar. 23 @ the University of Houston



## Log Cabin's Choice: Ally or Trojan Horse

continued from page 3  
Labinski's actions.

Thus, it came as no surprise when Carpenter tried to obscure the facts in the column he wrote for last week's Triangle. However, no matter how many times he may deny it, Labinski did write letters to conspire with the religious right to defeat Maxey. Further, Carpenter's own words (Triangle, Dec. 19, 1996) stated "(I)f we can show that [a gay-friendly Republican can win] by beating [gay-friendly] Democratic incumbents, then, certainly, that's our mission."

Moreover, one week after the Dec. 19 story ran in the Triangle, LCR-Austin Vice President Rich Salinas wrote a letter to the Travis County GOP leadership apologizing for having their efforts made public. Clearly, what LCR was trying to do wasn't misunderstood by us or the Triangle. It was exposed.

### Gay Center Board Pushes Forward

Icy weather conditions held down attendance at a town hall meeting attended by members of the board of directors of the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center Inc. on Monday.

Biran J. Tognotti, president of the board, led a meeting of ten people at the Magnolia Ballroom in discussing the newly created proposal for the center itself.

Several members of the advisory board also were in attendance, including John Kellett of the Kellett Foundation, University of Houston Prof. Janice Hutchins, Clair Koepsel of the Hollyfiend Foundation, Anjela Larkin-Byer of Sister of Houston, Rose Gaskin, Mollie of

We ask the leaders of LCR to decide whether they wish to lead an equal rights movement within the GOP or act as the representatives of the Republican Party within the gay community. If their choice is the former, they must renounce their efforts to undermine the work of pro-gay Democrats and stick to the real challenge of reforming the GOP.

However, if they choose the latter, they must accept that they have forfeited their place of respect within the gay and lesbian community and shall be treated as the anti-gay Trojan Horse they have become. ▽

*Smith was a Log Cabin Republicans-Texas founder, national secretary 1991-92, national vice president 1992-94 and Austin chapter president 1992-95. Von Wupperfeld also was an LCR state founder, state president 1992-95 and Austin chapter president 1990-92.*

basic employment rights."

Accepting the endorsement, Hill said, "This campaign combines some very diverse and sometimes conflicting communities. I can maintain my traditional base of support in the gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities, while picking up support from people interested in criminal justice issues and people concerned about censorship and government control of adult choices. That combination gives me better financing than I've ever had before and a broad range of issues to talk about in the campaign."

Hill is among 14 candidates running for at-large Position 4. He also has received the endorsement of the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance PAC.

# H o u s t o n N e w s

## Living Wage Issue Affects Gay Community

By Tristan MacAvery  
TRIANGLE Staff

**T**he economic well-being of some in the Houston gay community may be directly affected by the outcome of this weekend's city election. The "Living Wage" referendum, to be decided by voters Saturday, January 18, would raise the minimum wage within Houston city limits to \$6.50/hr. Jobs throughout the Montrose area, in gay-owned and gay-frequented establishments, will be affected, as will the wages of those employed at those establishments.

Suzanne Anderson, of Suzanne Anderson Properties and vice-president of Lesbians in Business (LiB), said she will vote for the measure. "This increase in the minimum wage is vital to the gay community. In the first place, women are generally underpaid anyway. Second, I have observed that many gay men tend to be underemployed, perhaps for health reasons or perhaps simply because they choose to work in various minimum wage jobs — bars, book stores, etc."

The referendum would not affect small businesses with fewer than 25 employees, but several larger companies have taken a strong stand against the measure. Fiesta, a large Texas supermarket chain, has joined with other large corporate-owned stores to wage an "expensive, not to mention offensive" campaign of television advertisements against the Living Wage, according to Sarah Williams, a member of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Protest rallies against Fiesta stores have been waged by ACORN members on several occasions, but they remain adamant in their stance against the Living Wage, said ACORN member Cleo Mata.

ACORN continues its last-minute campaign even as voters are bombarded from all sides with negative advertising. ▽

indeed be interested."

The election will be held Saturday, January 18.

### Free Yoga Classes

research. The results contained in the book were recently presented at the IX International Conference on AIDS, whereupon outraged AIDS activists, scientists and public interest groups called for an independent congressional investigation of the facts



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Other members of the advisory board include state Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Houston, Shelley Porter of the Human Rights Campaign and Texas Triangle publisher Kay Longcope.

The board has set another general meeting for 7 p.m. Jan. 20 at the Magnolia Ballroom at 715 Franklin. Call 713-867-7904 for more information.

## HGLPC PAC Endorses Hill for City Council

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee at its January 8 meeting endorsed Ray Hill in his bid for a seat on the Houston City Council.

"Ray Hill understands what our fight to end discrimination based upon sexual orientation is all about," said newly elected Caucus President Lane Lewis. "He has seen people in our community struggle for

founder, state president 1992-95 and Austin chapter president 1990-92.

basic employment rights."

Accepting the endorsement, Hill said, "This campaign combines some very diverse and sometimes conflicting communities. I can maintain my traditional base of support in the gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities, while picking up support from people interested in criminal justice issues and people concerned about censorship and government control of adult choices. That combination gives me better financing than I've ever had before and a broad range of issues to talk about in the campaign."

Hill is among 14 candidates running for at-large Position 4. He also has received the endorsement of the African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance PAC.

Log Cabin-Houston, however, endorsed local attorney Chris Bell. "I think he will be dedicated to representing all citizens and not just a special interest group," said chapter president Gary Van Ooteghem. Bell has pledged to work toward adoption of a non-discrimination ordinance in the workplace and health benefits for same-sex partners employed by the city.

Controversial in the gay community for his personal stance against same-sex marriage, Hill nevertheless has offered support for those who favor the concept. In an exclusive interview with the Triangle (October 24, 1996 issue), Hill observed, "We've fought for years to get the government out of our bedrooms, and now we're trying to put the red tape back into our relationships."

Hill has offered to maintain a private and confidential registry of those who wish to register themselves as domestic partners, with a view toward having "certified statistics" when the city council decides to address the issue of domestic partner benefits. "When the council wants to know if anyone would actually want [such benefits]," Hill said, "I'll be ready with the list of [probably] several hundred people who will

underemployed, perhaps for health reasons or perhaps simply because they choose to work in various minimum wage jobs — bars, book stores, etc."

The referendum would not affect small businesses with fewer than 25 employees, but several larger companies have taken a strong stand against the measure. Fiesta, a large Texas supermarket chain, has joined with other large corporate-owned stores to wage an "expensive, not to mention offensive" campaign of television advertisements against the Living Wage, according to Sarah Williams, a member of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Protest rallies against Fiesta stores have been waged by ACORN members on several occasions, but they remain adamant in their stance against the Living Wage, said ACORN member Cleo Mata.

ACORN continues its last-minute campaign even as voters are bombarded from all sides with negative advertising. ☐

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The election will be held Saturday, January 18.

## Free Yoga Classes Have Benefits to HIV+ Community

The Devanand Yoga Center is offering free classes in the Yoga Philosophy as a community service. Juan A. Mackrizz, President of the Center, observes that "several people in the classes who are HIV-positive report that they have more energy, are more relaxed, and are reducing their level of stress significantly. The students in the classes provide each other with friendship and support as they learn together." Classes are offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7 and Saturday mornings at 9, and are held at 3115 West Loop South, Suite 21. All levels are welcomed. For further information, call (713) 965-9642.

## Doctor/Author to Speak on AIDS/Ebola Creation

Dr. Leonard Horowitz, author of "Emerging Viruses: AIDS & Ebola — Nature, Accident or Intentional?", reveals his conclusions linking the creation of both viruses to military experiments linked with cancer

research. The results contained in the book were recently presented at the IX International Conference on AIDS, whereupon outraged AIDS activists, scientists and public interest groups called for an independent congressional investigation of the facts presented. Horowitz, whose work is considered valid by some AIDS researchers (including Dr. W. John Martin, former director of the Viral Oncology Branch of the FDA's Bureau of Biologics), is scheduled to speak at the University of Houston campus in the Houston Room on Wednesday, February 12, from 7:15 - 10:15 pm.

For reservations or further information, call (713) 639-3571.

## If You're Game (FISH)...

The Rainbow Fishing Club will have a special discount on its Sunday, January 19, excursion. Deep sea fishing aboard the Texsun II has been dropped from \$60 to \$45 per person, providing an excellent opportunity to brave the winter seas in search of game fish. You don't have to be covered with mussels; even a shrimp can learn — if he's not shellfish.

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## Canadians Want Marriage Recognized

Canada's national gay-rights group, EGale (Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere), has demanded that Prime Minister Jean Chretien issue a statement promising Canada will recognize Hawaiian gay marriages. A Hawaiian court ruled Dec. 3 that there is no compelling reason for prohibiting gays from marrying. The ruling was placed on hold while it is appealed to the state Supreme Court—but the Supreme Court previously has ruled that the government cannot discriminate based on gender in the issuance of marriage licenses without a "compelling" reason for doing so.

As such, gays are expected to win the appeal and same-sex marriage should be legal in Hawaii no later than early 1998. The matter cannot be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court since it is solely a matter of interpretation of Hawaii's state constitution. But will Hawaiian gay weddings be recognized by other states? Congress already has passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) stipulating that the rest of the country does not have to honor Hawaiian gay marriages, but many legal scholars say DOMA violates the U.S. Constitution's "Full Faith and Credit" clause under which states must respect each other's public acts.

Several states also have passed laws stating they will not be recognizing queer marriages from elsewhere. ♦

## Miss. Lawmakers Oppose Gay Marriages

Mississippi's constitution, which once barred people of different races from marrying, may be changed to also prohibit same-sex marriages. The House and Senate are working on proposals that would keep gay couples from wedding. The legislation is in response to a gay civil rights case in Hawaii. While a bill that unanimously cleared a Senate committee Wednesday makes same-sex marriages illegal, the House Constitution Committee is expected to go even further, putting a ban before voters in a constitutional amendment. Rep. John Reeves, R-Jackson, the House committee vice chairman and an author of the proposal, said the constitutional change would preclude gay couples from filing suit claiming a marriage law is unconstitutional. The constitutional change would be placed on a statewide ballot for voter approval. ♦

## Arkansas HIV+ Rapist Dies in Prison

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — Dexter Martin, a 33-year-old inmate with AIDS who has been serving a 40-year prison sentence for raping a 12-year-old boy and knowingly exposing him to HIV, has died of an AIDS-related illness, Arkansas corrections department officials said. Martin was only the second person convicted of endangering another person by intentionally exposing them to HIV in 1993. State officials say that as far as they know the boy Martin sexually attacked has not been diagnosed with HIV. —Keith Clark

## Medical Marijuana

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 say that as far as they know the boy  
 Martin sexually attacked has not been  
 diagnosed with HIV.

—Keith Clark

## Medical Marijuana Expected to be Issue in Wisc. Legislature

MADISON, Wisc. — Medical mari-  
 juana is likely to turn up as an issue in at  
 least one state legislature in 1997.  
 Wisconsin Rep. Tammy Baldwin says she  
 will introduce legislation this session that  
 would allow physicians to prescribe mari-  
 juana for some patients suffering debili-  
 tating pain. Voters in California and  
 Arizona last year approved ballot mea-  
 sures to allow doctors to prescribe the  
 drug for medical reasons.

—Keith Clark

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# National News Briefs

Compiled by Keith Clark

## Arizona Anti-Gay Measure Sparks Conflicting Views

**P**HOENIX, Ariz. — Arizona state Rep. Dan Schottel (R-Tucson) is planning to introduce legislation in this session of the Arizona House that would prohibit public school facilities being used by any groups that "support illegal activities" in an effort he says will prevent campus gay and lesbian clubs from being formed.

The Arizona Psychological Association quickly sent out letters to hundreds of school counselors throughout the state urging them to back anti-bias policies at their local campuses and to oppose Schottel's proposed legislation.

## AIDS Patient Claims Right to Die

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — An AIDS patient should be allowed to get a doctor's prescription to end his suffering, a lawyer said Monday in closing arguments of a trial seeking to overturn the state's ban on euthanasia.

The 1868 law was passed purely for religious reasons in a time when people died of diseases quickly, said Robert Rivas.

"The process of dying today in the United States is about as bad as it can be," Rivas said. "This case is about how Charles Hall wants to die. We are not talking about suicide. Mr. Hall is not suicidal."

The lawsuit comes as the U.S. Supreme Court weighs the challenge to

cyst, hepatitis B and partial blindness.

## Washington Gov. Backs Gay Marriage

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Outgoing Gov. Mike Lowry of Washington has proposed a measure legalizing gay and lesbian marriages in the state, a move most believe has almost no chance of passing the Republican-controlled state legislature. Rep. Ed Murray, an openly gay lawmaker and Seattle Democrat, will introduce the Lowry bill in the House and Democrat Sen. Pat Thibodeau will introduce a companion measure in the state senate. But Republican lawmakers are also planning to again introduce a measure that would define marriage as a contract between a male and a female, effectively blocking same-sex marriages in the state. An attempt last year to pass a similar bill got derailed in the state senate despite intense lobbying by anti-gay religious conservatives.

## With Amendment 2 Dead, Colorado Still Expecting Fireworks

DENVER — Colorado's now-dead Amendment 2 may be political history, but that doesn't mean anti-gay conservatives in the state have given up on their fight to block equal rights for homosexuals. State Democratic Party chairman Mike Beatty predicted that this year's state legislature "will be a jihad" and "the hottest non-political year session ever." Among the political battles to watch in the Colorado House

# State & Nation

## 'Vanity Fair' Reports Strange Story of Olympic Bombing Investigation

By Keith Clark  
Special to the TRIANGLE

**N**EW YORK — According to an article in the current issue of "Vanity Fair," Richard Jewell, the security guard who was first considered a hero and then a suspect in the bomb explosion that killed one person and injured more than 100 others at a park during the summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, was the object of weeks of investigation by the FBI in part because they believed he was a homosexual with a grudge against police.

Jewell was later exonerated and removed from the federal agency's list of possible suspects. The FBI's investigation of Jewell, along with leaks to the news media that he was the agency's primary suspect, outraged many civil libertarians in this country who said there was little or no evidence to make Jewell a suspect in the case to begin with.

In the article, "American Nightmare: The Ballad of Richard Jewell," Jack Martin, one of Jewell's attorneys, told the magazine that the rumors that Jewell is gay and despises cops originated from a school where Jewell once worked as a campus security guard and gained the dislike of many students because he reported several for smoking marijuana.

Martin said the rumors that the FBI spent weeks investigating during the summer of 1996 following the July 27 bombing are untrue. He said investigators seized on anything that might make Jewell appear as a more likely suspect in the case.

Some commentators on the FBI's investigation of Jewell and the quick publicity after news media reported he was a suspect in the Centennial Olympic Park pipe-bomb explosion have suggested the information was intentionally leaked in order to calm fears of the crowds visiting the summer Olympic Games.

Jewell's attorneys have filed lawsuits against the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, NBC-TV and reporter Tom Brokaw over their reporting during the investigation. ♦

## “Quote • Unquote”

by Rex Wockner



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"The process of dying today in the United States is about as bad as it can be," Rivas said. "This case is about how Charles Hall wants to die. We are not talking about suicide. Mr. Hall is not suicidal."

The lawsuit comes as the U.S. Supreme Court weighs two challenges in similar cases from New York and the state of Washington.

Florida considers assisted suicide as manslaughter, punishable by up to 15 years in prison. The judge in Hall's case said he would decide soon if that law violates privacy guarantees in the state Constitution.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Gross said the Privacy Act has been used unsuccessfully as a defense for smoking of marijuana, adoption by homosexuals and distribution of obscenity.

Gross added that it is often difficult to say who is terminally ill. He said some people whom doctors thought were going to die had unexpected remissions.

The lawsuit asked that physician-assisted suicides be allowed when people are adults, mentally competent and terminally ill. It was filed in February by Hall, Dr. Cecil McIver and two cancer patients who died before the trial could start.

The 5-foot-9 Hall, who now weighs only 105 pounds, contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. Hall, 35, said his health problems include a brain

would define marriage as a contract between a male and a female, effectively blocking same-sex marriages in the state. An attempt last year to pass a similar bill got derailed in the state senate despite intense lobbying by anti-gay religious conservatives.

## With Amendment 2 Dead, Colorado Still Expecting Fireworks

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## Gay Student Elected to School Board

CHICAGO — Miguel Ayala has become what is believed to be the first openly gay student elected to a seat on a school board in the U.S., the large Chicago Board of Education. Student members of school boards have no vote in board matters, but serve in an important advisory role, reflecting student concerns that adult board members sometimes overlook. The student members are elected by members of local school student councils.

Ayala, 17, is a senior at the city's Whitney Young High School, where he also serves on the student council and is an active member of the school's Pride Club, a student group for gays and lesbians.

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## “Quote • Unquote” by Rex Wockner

**"To those of us who recognize our role as part of a greater community not focused on sexual orientation, the word 'queer' continues to represent a hateful slur. Insistence on its use only reinforces the notion that those who use it see themselves as second-class citizens unworthy of—or unwilling to participate in—the common nation which binds us together. Speak out loudly when someone uses hateful slurs against you, even when that person happens to be gay."**

**—Staff editorial in Dec. 10 issue of the San Jose, Calif., gay newspaper OutNOW!**

**"I just go crazy when I hear these people on the stages on gay pride rallies going on and on how 'We're just like everyone else.' Then a seven-and-a-half-foot drag queen comes walking by and opens his butterfly wings and I just think, 'Yeah, we're just like everyone else.' I think we should celebrate who we are. I don't need anyone's approval."**

**—Comic Lea DeLaria in a Nov. 28 interview with San Diego's Gay & Lesbian Times.**

**"There is a terrible lack of leadership in the gay community and, at the same time, a lack of grass-roots organizing. The best people I know have all taken refuge in the arts because the partisan politicking is so demoralizing, and rotten at its core. We are always reacting, rarely putting something into play."**

**—Lesbian sex guru Susie Bright to Virginia's Our Own Community Press, in the December issue.**



# HATE CRIME:

## *Remembering the Victims, Fighting for Justice*

By Dan Quinn  
TRIANGLE Staff

Dianne Hardy-Garcia remembers vividly the last time the Texas Legislature considered a strong hate-crimes bill—the last time state officials had a chance to send a message that the lives of all Texas residents, including gay residents, matter.

Hardy-Garcia knew the vote on the bill—a law that would have provided enhanced penalties for people convicted of committing crimes motivated by prejudice or bias based on a victim's sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or religion—would be close as she walked up the steps to the Capitol that late May morning in 1995.

The state Senate, by a 22-8 vote, had passed the bill earlier that spring. Prospects in the state House of Representatives, however, were not as good as legislators gathered to cast a final vote on the measure.

Behind Hardy-Garcia walked the leader of a conservative, "pro-family" lobby group—a vocal opponent of the hate-crimes bill. Hardy-Garcia recalls the man saying loudly, as they walked up the steps, "They're going down today; they're going down."

"I was so enraged by this," Hardy-Garcia said, sure that the man knew who was walking ahead of him. "He was saying it to me to taunt me."

When Hardy-Garcia entered the House chamber, she scanned the floor, noting that all of the Republicans were present but that some of the

Democrats were not.

"That made me extremely nervous," Hardy-Garcia said, recalling that Democrats made up the vast majority of those lawmakers who supported the bill.

Her instincts were right. After impassioned debate, the House voted 70-68 against the hate-crimes bill.

"I was sick to my stomach," Hardy-Garcia recalled. "I had to take a few minutes to go to the bathroom to compose myself."

Hardy-Garcia later told reporters that supporters of a strong hate-crimes law would not give up, but the effort to pass such a bill was dead for at least two more years.

Later on that night, José Isassi, a 29-year-old gay man, became another hate-crime victim. Isassi, who was working his way through college, was beaten to death with a steel pipe by a 21-year-old man—who Isassi had picked up at a Corpus Christi gay bar—and two others. The

killers, including two boys aged 17 and 12, dumped Isassi's body in a field in an industrial section of the city, took money and other possessions from the victim's body and drove off in Isassi's blood-stained sports car. They were arrested later when police, alerted by the blood-spattered car windows, pulled the vehicle over and questioned the three, who it turned out were members of a local gang.

As with many such crimes, the perpetrators appeared to have chosen a gay man as a victim because they thought he would have a lot of money and would be easy prey. Indeed, Isassi's assailants told police that they had gone out that night specifically to find gay people to victimize, Hardy-Garcia said.

"That is prejudice," she said. "That is bias. That is a hate crime."

But getting legislators to understand the reasoning behind such crimes is difficult, said Hardy-Garcia, who, with the opening of the 75th Legislature last Tuesday, is again pushing a strong hate-crimes bill.

"When you look at these murders overall, it's like these people get murdered, their lives end, and it's like their lives didn't matter," she said.

To illustrate her point, Hardy-Garcia recalls the murder of Nicholas Ray West, a 23-year-old Tyler man who was killed in November 1993 by a man he met at a public park and two of the man's friends. The men beat West, forced him to disrobe, pumped nine bullets into him and then killed him with a final gunshot to the head. After they were arrested, the men bragged to police about having killed a "fag."

Although local law enforcement officials aggressively pursued the case against the men (two were later sentenced to death and one to life in prison), Hardy-Garcia said she was unable to persuade local legislators even to attend a Tyler rally in memory of West and against anti-gay violence.

"Politicians always stand up and talk against violence, against crime," Hardy-Garcia said. "(None of them) would even show up."



SUNDANCE

W

film festival. In 1995, he swept the two top prizes: Todd Haynes' third feature and Jen Jones' groundbreaking "Paris Is Burning." Sudden fame was born. The festival was flooded with offers. Araki's "The Living End," "Vegas in Space," "II," and the Leopold Swoon. This year, mances by first-time Croghan's romantic Under, "Love And the Wild "Showgirl Vegas musical c "Franchesca Page." In the documentary category, "Out At Work"—a hard look at the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain's 1991 firing of seven teen workers being gay (and subsequent national boycott)—should be a festival favorite always, the competition for all films is



the Texas Legislature considered a strong hate-crimes bill—the last time state officials had a chance to send a message that the lives of all Texas residents, including gay residents, matter.

Hardy-Garcia knew the vote on the bill—a law that would have provided enhanced penalties for people convicted of committing crimes motivated by prejudice or bias based on a victim's sexual orientation, race, ethnicity or religion—would be close as she walked up the steps to the Capitol that late May morning in 1995.

The state Senate, by a 22-8 vote, had passed the bill earlier that spring. Prospects in the state House of Representatives, however, were not as good as legislators gathered to cast a final vote on the measure.

of those lawmakers who supported the bill.

Her instincts were right. After impassioned debate, the House voted 70-68 against the hate-crimes bill.

"I was sick to my stomach," Hardy-Garcia recalled. "I had to take a few minutes to go to the bathroom to compose myself."

Hardy-Garcia later told reporters that supporters of a strong hate-crimes law would not give up, but the effort to pass such a bill was dead for at least two more years.

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**Demonstrators gather in Tyler, Texas, in 1994 to mourn the death of Nicholas Ray West, a hate-crime victim. Photo by Jana Birkum**

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So Hardy-Garcia will again push for legislative hearings on a strong hate-crimes bill. She will again call on family members and friends of hate-crime victims to tell their stories to lawmakers—to explain that the lives of the victims mattered. And to make sure those victims are remembered, she has compiled a lengthening list of murdered gay men:

- Tommy Lee Trimble, 34, and John Lloyd Griffin, 27, who were shot to death in May 1988 by a man they met in a Dallas public park where gay men sometimes cruise for sex partners. Although the killer was convicted of murder, state district Judge Jack Hampton sentenced him to only 30 years in prison. Hampton later told a reporter that he didn't "much care for queers cruising the streets picking up teenage boys." However, evidence never clearly showed that the victims had solicited the murderer for sex.

- Charlie Resendez, 38, who was beaten and kicked to death on New Year's Day in 1990 by a Marine he had met at a gay bar. The Marine received probation.

- Paul Broussard, 27, who was beaten and stabbed to death after he left a gay bar in July 1991. Broussard was beaten—with, among other things, nail-studded two-by-fours—by a group of 10 youths from suburban Houston who said they had gone to the Montrose area to "beat up some queers." One 18-year-old man was sentenced to 45-years in prison. Three other young men got 15-year prison sentences and are now up for parole. The others received probation.

- Thanh Nguyen, 29, who was beaten and shot to death in October 1991 in a Dallas park in which he and his boyfriend had chosen to enjoy a late-night dinner. As they were beaten and shot (Nguyen's boyfriend survived), their tormentors—three youths—cursed the victims as "queers," "faggots" and "gooks." One man was sentenced to life in prison.

- José Manuel Rubio, 28, who was stabbed 90 times when confronted by a gang of youths in July 1992 after one youth pretended to be interested in picking Rubio up in a San Angelo park. One youth was sentenced to life.

- Tommy Musick, 48, who was shot—four times in the back of the head—and killed in April 1993 by a Midland teenager who claimed Musick had propositioned him. The teenager was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

- Michael Benishek, who was murdered in January

brother, Ed, survived. One of the attackers was sentenced to life in prison.

- Jackie Wayne Myers, 32, who was stabbed to death at his Fort Worth apartment in December 1995 by a man police suspect he met at an adult video store. The case is unsolved.

- Fred Mangione, 46, a gay man who was stabbed to death in January 1996 in a van at a bar in Katy, just west

*"We have already paid too high a price  
not to do all that we can to stop  
the violence and suffering caused  
by crimes of hatred and prejudice."*

*—Rodney Ellis, Texas State Senator*

of Houston. Mangione and his partner of 16 years had met two men earlier in the bar. Witnesses said the two men had told others that they planned to "kill these fags." In August a jury sentenced one assailant, a self-described white supremacist, to life in prison for stabbing Mangione 35 times. The other man awaits prosecution.

- Bruce Jonathan Becker, 37, of Austin; David Francis Johnson, 37, of Wimberley; and Pablo Zuniga, 31, of Austin; killed over a 28-day period in July and August of 1996 by men police believe they picked up or met at gay bars or in gay cruise areas. Arrests have been made in all three cases, but police say that the crimes were not related.

- Craig Maddock, 26, who was stabbed to death and his body dumped in a field in Arlington in September 1996 by a man police suspected he met at an adult video store. Arlington police have arrested a suspect in the case.

- Darryl Smith, 31, whose body was found on Dec. 30, 1996, in his home in Fort Worth. Police believe Smith was stabbed to death by someone he met either at a gay bar or an adult video store. No arrests have been made.

Of the murders listed here, some of the men apparently were targeted at first simply for robbery. But, as Hardy-Garcia has pointed out repeatedly, many deaths

Stewart Gallas, a social worker at AIDS Services of Austin, helped found the Austin Gay/Lesbian Anti-violence Coalition (GLAC) in 1991 after two friends were assaulted outside an Austin gay bar by 17 youths who punched and beat the men with beer bottles. Gallas' friends didn't report the assault to police for some of the same reasons other gay victims refuse to do so, Gallas said.

Some of those reasons are embarrassment, guilt, fear of police and fear of outing themselves, he said.

"It was extremely frustrating to have police who were willing to talk to you and your friends and then to have someone who doesn't want to report," said Gallas.

Some gay victims also fear that police will blame them for putting themselves in the position of being assaulted or, in a state with a sodomy law, even arrest them for admitting that they are gay or lesbian, Gallas said.

"I still think (the sodomy law) lingers in people's minds," he said. "You're a legal outcast. You're already one down."

In a state with so many hate crimes, both reported and unreported, supporters of strong hate-crimes legislation often point out that such laws will help deter bias crimes by increasing penalties for those convicted of them. Also important, Hardy-Garcia said, is that a strong hate-crimes law is good for a state as diverse as Texas.

The current hate-crimes law is vague because it applies simply to crimes motivated by bias or prejudice toward a group, but the law does not define "group," Hardy-Garcia said. For that reason, prosecutors are afraid to use the law in court, she said.

"In Texas, a state that professes to be hard on crime, remaining silent or vague on this issue is wrong," she said. "We want to send a clear message that these kinds of crimes won't be tolerated, and that's good for Texas because the state is so diverse."

Supporters have not yet chosen a House member to sponsor the bill in that chamber, but state Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, sponsored the 1995 hate-crimes bill in the Senate and will do so again this year.

"We must not forget the personal tragedy that hate crimes leave in their wake," Ellis said. "We have already paid too high a price not to do all that we can to stop the violence and suffering caused by crimes of hatred and prejudice."

From left,  
Babs George,  
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• Michael Benishek, who was murdered in January 1994 in San Antonio after he was beaten with a blunt instrument and his throat slit by a man he met at a gay bar. The murderer was sentenced to life in prison.

• Larry Leggett, 43, who was stabbed to death in January 1994 at his Irving apartment by a man police believe he met at a gay bar. The case is unsolved.

• José Trevino, 47, who was strangled and bludgeoned to death in March 1994 in his El Paso home by two youths he had met at a cruising area. The teens were sentenced to life in prison.

• Leopoldo Quintanilla, 29, who was stabbed to death in June 1994, his body dumped in a field in Irving. Quintanilla, whose throat and genitals were cut, was last seen alive in a gay bar. The case is unsolved.

• Michael Burzinski, 29, who was beaten and shot in the head, execution-style, outside a Houston gay bar in July 1994. Two men were convicted of the murder and sentenced to life in prison.

• Ernest Saldana, 32, a disabled gay man who was kicked and beaten to death in his Austin home in November 1994 by four teenagers who had pretended to befriend him.

• Randall Tubb, 37, a gay man beaten and shot to death at his home by two men Randall and his brother had met at a Longview bar in December 1994. The attackers screamed that the two brothers were “fucking faggots” as one pumped bullets into both of them. Randall’s

had told others that they planned to “kill these fags.” In August a jury sentenced one assailant, a self-described white supremacist, to life in prison for stabbing Mangione 35 times. The other man awaits prosecution.

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Of the murders listed here, some of the men apparently were targeted at first simply for robbery. But, as Hardy-Garcia has pointed out repeatedly, you don’t have to kill someone to rob them. And often the victims were killed with a great deal of violence—for example, many suffered multiple stabbings and gunshot wounds and had body parts (including genitalia) mutilated.

“Very violent forms of crime are usually more than just robberies,” she said.

In addition, not all of these murders have been listed among the more than 1,600 hate crimes (which also includes bias crimes based on race, ethnicity/national origin and religion) recorded by the Texas Department of Public Safety from 1992 to the end of 1995. (Hate crime statistics for 1996 are not yet available.) And the 1,600 recorded hate crimes do not include the many that victims, especially many gay men and lesbians, do not report, Hardy-Garcia said.

bias crimes by increasing penalties for those convicted of them. Also important, Hardy-Garcia said, is that a strong hate-crimes law is good for a state as diverse as Texas.

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Hardy-Garcia said passing the hate-crimes bill will be difficult because Republicans now make up a majority in the Senate and because the House may be even more conservative this year than it was two years ago.

“We just have to give it our best shot,” she said. “I think it’s possible. I think we need to show that these people’s lives matter.” ☉

## BROUSSARD ASSAILANTS UP FOR PAROLE

Three men who pleaded guilty to the 1991 murder of Paul Broussard after he left a Houston gay bar will soon be eligible for parole. All three were sentenced in 1993 to 15 years in prison for the murder of Broussard, who was beaten with nail-studded boards and stabbed to death. A fourth man was sentenced to 45 years in prison and is not yet eligible for parole.

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, has asked that people write to state officials urging them to reject parole for the three men. Letters—which may be simple, short notes—must be received by state officials no later than Jan. 21 and must include the names and Texas Department of Corrections identification numbers for the three men: Jaime Aguirre, 24, TDC 668879; Javier Aguirre, 23, TDC 653413; Leandro Ramirez, 24, TDC 690675.

Letters may be mailed to Raven Cazan, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, State Director of Victim Services, P.O. Box 13401, Austin, TX 78711 or faxed to 512-406-5417.

Hardy-Garcia also noted that the men likely would not be up for parole so soon if a strong hate-crimes law had been in effect in 1991 because such a law likely would have provided enhanced penalties for the crime.



Some believe protease inhibitors may hold the promise of a way out of the AIDS nightmare. But they have also given gay America a puzzle with all new pieces.

This is part of a series on how promising treatments for HIV are raising hopes—and questions—in gay America. This is the second installment of a five-part series, "Sentenced To Life."

By Richard Shumate  
Special to the TRIANGLE

Safe sex, safer sex, HIV education, risk reduction—whatever the name, the guiding thread running through this effort for most of the past 15 years has been this:

Put the fear of death into 'em.

The belief that they could very well face an unpleasant, lingering death did effectively motivate gay men, who turned condoms into a most necessary accessory. Of course, not everyone listened to the gospel of risk reduction, even in the days when infection was viewed as an inevitable death sentence. And, by the early 1990s, studies were starting to show that an increasing number of men, especially young men, weren't being as conscientious as they had once been about safer sex. But there is no question that millions of people were saved — and that they were saved by those most basic of human emotions, fear and self-preservation.

But now, as hype and euphoria have started to spread about the promise of protease inhibitors as a treatment for HIV, many of those whose mission is to spread the gospel of safer sex are growing increasingly uneasy. For if it does turn out that this therapy can turn AIDS from a terminal illness to one that is chronic but treatable (and the jury is still very much out on that point), then death might no longer be the bogeyman that can drive the prevention message. The

## Sentenced to Life?

# Safer Sex - Survival

*HIV educators fear  
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about protease inhibitors  
could interfere with the  
message that practicing  
safer sex remains  
very necessary.*

and health educators with whom the agency works are expressing worry that men might be discarding safer sex practices.

### Study Not Reassuring

For those concerned educators, the results of a small behavioral study among gay men in Florida, released in December, could hardly have been reassuring.

From the sun and sand of Miami Beach, from the shadows of all that art deco, from ground zero in the gay party universe, came this news: In a survey of 157 gay men, about half younger than 30 and half older than 30, researchers from Florida International University found that almost three-fourths of them had engaged in unprotected anal intercourse in the year before they were surveyed.

Before drawing too many conclusions from these results, it should be noted that Miami Beach is far from a typical setting. Its hard-charging party atmosphere is duplicated in few other places, and the city has long had the reputation as a mecca for HIV-positive men, both of which could explain some of the lack of caution. But looking at possible reasons for the prevalence of unsafe sex, FIU researchers came to the conclusion the news about the promise of protease inhibitors was likely a contributing factor, and they recommended that current prevention messages be rethought.

### Prevention Best Option

Clearly, experts and educators say, prevention remains the best option — even if protease inhibitors eventually do live up to their billing — for a variety of reasons:

•First, protease inhibitors aren't a magic "morning after" pill, readily available to fix the impulsive, poor judgment of

## Stage

DAVID N

1997 going to be the Year of the Designer on Texas stages? Judging from the magnificent designs for two of the new year's first productions in Houston and Austin, it's architects of stage spaces are proudly into the spotlight with their and audience pleasing environments. Whether it's Michael Yeagan's fluid box designs for Austin Lyric Opera's monumental "The Ballad of Baby Doe" or Bert Schmidt's birds-eye floor plan for Alley Theatre's rib-tickling "The 120 Days of Sodom", we're talking world class theater that provides more than just a backdrop for the production.

Schmidt's whimsical English Victorian Manor use for Alan Ayckbourn's play like a delirious hard game—three levels of the house exist simultaneously on one flat surface (in this case, the stage floor of the Leuhaus Arena stage), with the connecting staircases carefully outlined, step by step. The wonderful scene painting gives full flavor to the colorfully artificial for-



when infection was viewed as an inevitable death sentence. And, by the early 1990s, studies were starting to show that an increasing number of men, especially young men, weren't being as conscientious as they had once been about safer sex. But there is no question that millions of people were saved — and that they were saved by those most basic of human emotions, fear and self-preservation.

But now, as hype and euphoria have started to spread about the promise of protease inhibitors as a treatment for HIV, many of those whose mission is to spread the gospel of safer sex are growing increasingly uneasy. For if it does turn out that this therapy can turn AIDS from a terminal illness to one that is chronic but treatable (and the jury is still very much out on that point), then death might no longer be the bogeyman that can drive the prevention message. The fear is that there may be nothing powerful enough to take its place.

## Modifying Behavior

"Most people were willing to modify their behavior if the result of not doing so was that they were probably going to die," says Mark King, director of education at AID Atlanta, the city's largest HIV/AIDS group. "The question is whether they will be as willing to change what they're doing if we tell them that the reason they need to modify their behavior now is to avoid taking expensive drugs five or 10 years from now."

This is a particularly troublesome question considering that even with the possibility of death as a motivator, some

# HIV educators fear that all the hope and hype about protease inhibitors could interfere with the message that practicing safer sex remains very necessary.

studies have shown that perhaps as many as half of all gay men weren't using condoms consistently.

"I don't think  
gay

men want to use condoms. I think that's what it comes down to," says John Copeland, prevention programs manager for L.A. Shanti, an HIV care and prevention group in Los Angeles, "I think that pushing consistent condom use for

the rest of their lives is a hard message to sell anyway. I don't know that this would make it any harder."

At this point, what little evidence there is about the decisions gay men are making about safer sex, based on the news about protease inhibitors, remains anecdotal and appears to be mixed.

At Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, David Barr, the director of treatment education, says that in the last few months, the agency has begun receiving calls from people asking if they can toss away their rubbers.

"There have probably been no more than 10 (calls)," says Barr. "We're getting the questions, but we're not getting them that often."

Copeland, too, says people who work on safer sex education programs at L.A. Shanti aren't seeing this issue raised that much in their direct contact with the public. But he says many of the doctors

deduplicated in few other places, and the city has long had the reputation as a mecca for HIV-positive men, both of which could explain some of the lack of caution. But looking at possible reasons for the prevalence of unsafe sex, FIU researchers came to the conclusion the news about the promise of protease inhibitors was likely a contributing factor, and they recommended that current prevention messages be rethought.

## Prevention Best Option

Clearly, experts and educators say, prevention remains the best option — even if protease inhibitors eventually do live up to their billing — for a variety of reasons:

•First, protease inhibitors aren't a magic "morning after" pill, readily available to fix the impulsive, poor judgment of the night before. People who view this therapy as akin to getting a shot of penicillin to cure gonorrhea are in for a rude awakening.

These drugs are administered through a demanding regimen that requires taking 20 or more pills each day, at specific times and under specific conditions. Some drugs have to be taken on an empty stomach, others after a meal. One of the protease inhibitors now on the market, Norvir, has to be kept refrigerated. Missing even one or two doses, or getting the times wrong, could render the whole treatment useless.

Patients will have to take all of those pills for at least a year — and possibly a whole lot longer. While some researchers at this point theorize that people might eventually be able to discontinue the drugs if the virus is eradicated, there is no long-term conclusive evidence to back that up. So the result of not using a condom could turn out to be enduring this pill-popping regimen indefinitely, perhaps even forever.

•Second, protease inhibitors are expensive — running from \$10,000 to

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\$25,000 a year, depending on the combination used — and they can have severe and unpleasant side effects, including vomiting, nausea and diarrhea. Some patients have reported that their skin becomes so sensitive to pain that they can't stand for someone to touch them. Though not everyone develops these side effects, in some patients the symptoms become so severe and unpleasant that the treatment has to be discontinued.

•Third, while some studies have suggested that treatment with protease

inhibitors can reduce the level of virus in the blood to undetectable levels, there have been no studies establishing whether this renders people on protease inhibitors non-infectious.

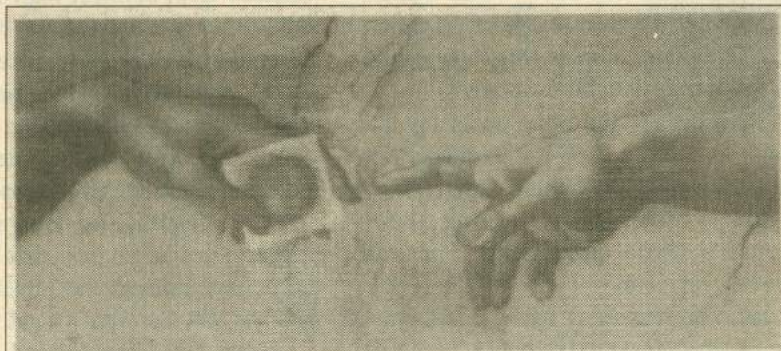
### Not "Magic Bullets"

Indeed, the possibility exists that having unprotected sex with someone who is taking a protease inhibitor could result in an HIV infection that, from the very first day, is resistant to treatment with the drugs. That's because any strands of HIV that remain in someone who is using inhibitors have likely survived by becoming resistant to them. For someone thus infected, the "magic bullets" would be blanks.

The transmission of protease-resistant strains of HIV is still a theory at this point. But the phenomenon has already been seen with AZT. Estimates are that as many as one in five people

benefit from that drug because they were infected by people who were on the drug and whose HIV had developed resistance.

•And finally, and perhaps most importantly, it may turn out that protease inhibitors don't live up to their hype. These drugs were approved under an accelerated process by the U.S. Food and



THE MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN OUTREACH PROGRAM

Cover illustration from a safer-sex kit distributed in Austin

Drug Administration, without lengthy testing as to their efficacy. They have been used in clinical studies for about two years, and they have been in widespread use for less than one. So no one knows if they will be effective in the long term, or what the possible effects of long-term use might be.

"If there is anybody out there who thinks that they no longer have to practice safer sex, they are wrong," says Barr. "I would sit them down with a group of people who are on this treatment and have them ask what it is like. This isn't like a shot. It's not syphilis. It's not gonorrhea."

As for revamping the prevention campaign, a group of HIV educators from around the country is scheduled to convene in Atlanta in February to try to sort out how their message needs to change to accommodate the new reality brought on by protease inhibitors.

"I don't think there is any consensus

### Relationships Encouraged

But even before protease inhibitors were added to the mix, many HIV educators already were rethinking the do-this-every-time-or-you'll-die approach, which seemed increasingly not to be working. At L.A. Shanti, for example, Copeland says prevention programming was recently changed to shift the emphasis from rigid insistence on universal safer sex to encouraging relationships inside of which wise, mutual decisions about sex can be made.

And Barr also says he believes safe sex educators should perhaps not focus so much on a motivating message and instead try to tackle a more important underlying issue—why men make the

decisions they make to have unsafe sex.

"Why did people ignore the message? It was not because they didn't understand the information," says Barr, who cites relationship pressures ("He won't love me if I won't...") and poor self-esteem as just two examples of why men sometimes make sexual decisions that are not in their self interest.

"These are already very complex decisions for men. They are very difficult issues. We have to help them deal with these issues," Barr says. "I don't think anything is going to make that more complicated."

Next week "To Work or Not To Work": issues faced by disabled PWAs considering re-entering the work force.

### Shape Your Body



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*\* This group's sliding fee scale is subsidized by Ryan White grant funds which are subject to change on a year-to-year basis.*





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the blood to undetectable levels, there have been no studies establishing whether this renders people on protease inhibitors non-infectious.

## Not "Magic Bullets"

Indeed, the possibility exists that having unprotected sex with someone who is taking a protease inhibitor could result in an HIV infection that, from the very first day, is resistant to treatment with the drugs. That's because any strands of HIV that remain in someone who is using inhibitors have likely survived by becoming resistant to them. For someone thus infected, the "magic bullets" would be blanks.

The transmission of protease-resistant strains of HIV is still a theory at this point. But the phenomenon has already been seen with AZT. Estimates are that as many as one in five people infected with HIV today will get little

testing as to their efficacy. They have been used in clinical studies for about two years, and they have been in widespread use for less than one. So no one knows if they will be effective in the long term, or what the possible effects of long-term use might be.

"If there is anybody out there who thinks that they no longer have to practice safer sex, they are wrong," says Barr. "I would sit them down with a group of people who are on this treatment and have them ask what it is like. This isn't like a shot. It's not syphilis. It's not gonorrhea."

As for revamping the prevention campaign, a group of HIV educators from around the country is scheduled to convene in Atlanta in February to try to sort out how their message needs to change to accommodate the new reality brought on by protease inhibitors.

"I don't think there is any consensus at this point," says King.

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Dr. Michael Lessner

## Dr. Michael F. Lessner

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### THE RISK OF GUM DISEASE

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A. About 50% of adults experience some degree of gum disease, and many are not aware they have it. As the disease progresses, gums may become red, swollen and tender and may bleed when brushed or flossed.

Gum disease is caused by bacteria in plaque, the colorless film that keeps forming on the teeth. Failure to control plaque by thorough brushing and flossing allows the bacteria to attach gums around the teeth. The gums begin to pull away, forming pockets where more plaque and bacteria can thrive.

Gum disease often is detected at dental checkups before a patient notices symptoms. In early stages, the problem can be treated successfully before irreversible damage is done to the gums and bone supporting the teeth. Professional cleaning, usually at the time of a checkup, removes plaque that even the most thorough brushing and flossing can't reach.

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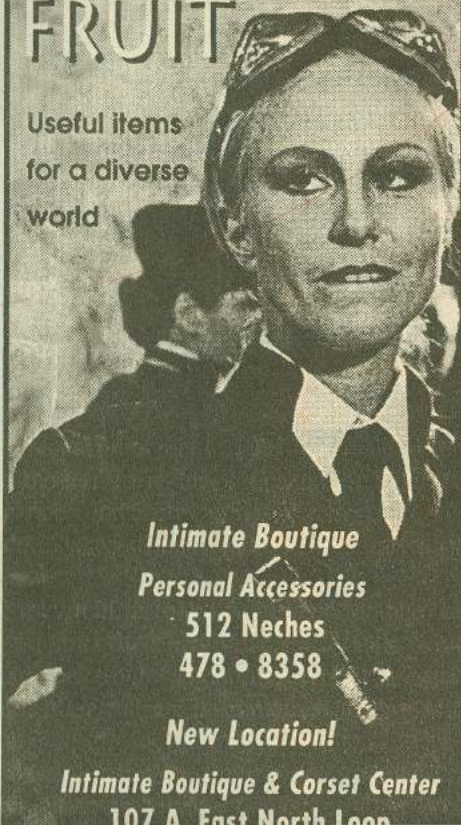


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# Out of the Closet and Nothing to Wear

LESLEA NEWMAN



## Dear Mr. President:

Well, I was simply delighted to catch a glimpse of the First Lady and the First Offspring right here in our little town of Lesbianville! How exciting to see the First Family, sans Papa, strolling down the streets of our fair city! At first, I thought my middle-aged eyes were playing tricks on me again, or maybe I was having a flashback (I dropped acid, Bill, but I never swallowed). Actually, Flash noticed the Dynamic Duo first. We were in Queer Shlock, our favorite downtown store, when she looked up from the labia-shaped lampshade she was admiring and said, "Hey, isn't that Eleanor Roosevelt?"

I looked up from the book I was reading and said, "No, Flash. That's Chelsea Clinton."

"Chelsea Clinton!" We raced out of the gift store and into the streets where a small crowd had gathered.

"Is it them?" I asked Snoop, our local Brenda Starr.

"It's them all right." Snoop was scribbling furiously in her notebook. "They're checking out the local college scene." Her voice dropped to a whisper. "Rumor has it that Chelsea's applied to Dyke University."

Dyke U.? My old alma mater? Oh, be still my heart! Mr. President, is it true? Are you really sending the First Teenager to the Land of Lesbos to receive an education? I am just dripping at the thought. Now Billy Boy, don't have a cow. It's not your darling daughter I'm all shook up about. Unlike the Lesbian Avengers, I do not recruit. No, what floats my boat is the thought of all those secret service chlo-

Feel if Your Dad Was Gay?" Which is what prompted this letter, oh Fearful Leader. What I want to know is this: how would you feel if your daughter was gay?

Now, before I am hung up by my bra straps for outing the First Teenager, let me assure you, Mr. Clinton (any relation to Kate?) that I know nothing about Chelsea's sexual proclivities. She was here for such a short period of time, I didn't ask, and she didn't tell. But, let's just give her the benefit of the doubt. Let's just say Chelsea is lucky enough to grow up to be a happy homo like moi. What will her life be like?

The first thing Chelsea does, to the cheers of every gay boy in the nation, is cut her hair. She looks so adorable in her new do that she instantly meets the grrrl of her dreams. The grrrl is kind, gentle, sexy, sweet, and strong enough to stomach the fact that her girlfriend's very own father signed a bill into law that prevented his own daughter from being legally wed. Let's say Chelsea and her Amazon (whom we'll call Babe) settle down and decide to raise a family. (It takes a village to find a sperm donor.) Little Tyke is born and everyone is happy—for a while. Then Chelsea loses her job because she's a lesbian (as I'm sure you know, Mr. Prez, the anti-discrimination bill did not pass). Chelsea is all stressed out, tensions mount in the marital bed, and Babe decides to take little Tyke home to mother. Babe also decides that Chelsea is not really Tyke's parent, and Chelsea goes to court. Unfortunately the judge deems Chelsea a "high school senior" to the

Chelsea is in seventh heaven until Doll falls ill with a mysterious disease. Her parents whisk her off to a treatment center and don't allow Chelsea near their darling daughter. Again Chelsea takes to the courts, and again a judge decides she is not immediate family. Chelsea is devastated. In despair, she decides to join the military, but as all her trials and tribulations have been in the tabloids, she's as good as told. So, what's a girl to do?

Well, you know what I always say: when in doubt, hire an agent. Chelsea writes her memoirs, a book called "First Dyke" which sells over a million copies. The book is translated into forty-seven languages. It becomes a movie, a play, a musical, a sitcom. Chelsea becomes rich and famous and a regular on The Rosie O'Donnell Show. Oh wait, that's not Chelsea's life. That's my life. In my dreams.

Anyway, Mr. Bill, the point is November 5th has come and gone. And on the same day my fellow Americans decided you were going to rule the roost for the next four years, I turned forty-one. So, even though you didn't ask, I'm going to tell you what I'd like for my birthday (there's always next year). I wouldn't mind some cash, which is something an out lesbian writer can always use. Short of that, my birthday wishes are these: I want to be able to walk down the street holding Flash's hand without being afraid that such a simple show of affection will result in a broken jaw. I want my marriage to be legally recognized. I want health insur-

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By Kay Longcop  
TRIANGLE Staff

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As I stood in the crowd all a-tremble, Bill, I realized, in my haste to see the Chief Executrix, I had forgotten to pay for the book I still clutched in my hand, a children's book called "How Would You

cheers of every gay boy in the nation, is cut her hair. She looks so adorable in her new do that she instantly meets the grrrl of her dreams. The grrrl is kind, gentle, sexy, sweet, and strong enough to stomach the fact that her girlfriend's very own father signed a bill into law that prevented his own daughter from being legally wed. Let's say Chelsea and her Amazon (whom we'll call Babe) settle down and decide to raise a family. (It takes a village to find a sperm donor.) Little Tyke is born and everyone is happy—for a while. Then Chelsea loses her job because she's a lesbian (as I'm sure you know, Mr. Prez, the anti-discrimination bill did not pass). Chelsea is all stressed out, tensions mount in the marital bed, and Babe decides to take little Tyke home to mother. Babe also decides that Chelsea is not really Tyke's parent, and Chelsea goes to court. Unfortunately the judge deems Chelsea a "biological stranger" to the child, and grants her no custodial or visitation rights.

But don't despair, Willie. Our heart-broken heroine is young, she's resilient, she falls in love again. This time she makes sure no babies are in the picture. Doll is just not the maternal type.

languages. It becomes a movie, a play, a musical, a sitcom. Chelsea becomes rich and famous and a regular on The Rosie O'Donnell Show. Oh wait, that's not Chelsea's life. That's my life. In my dreams.

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Lest you forget, First Father, I am somebody's daughter, too.

**By Kay Longcor**  
**TRIANGLE Staff**

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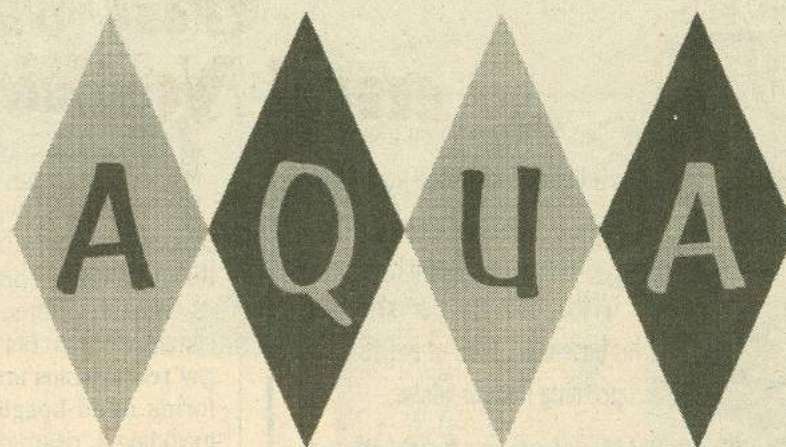
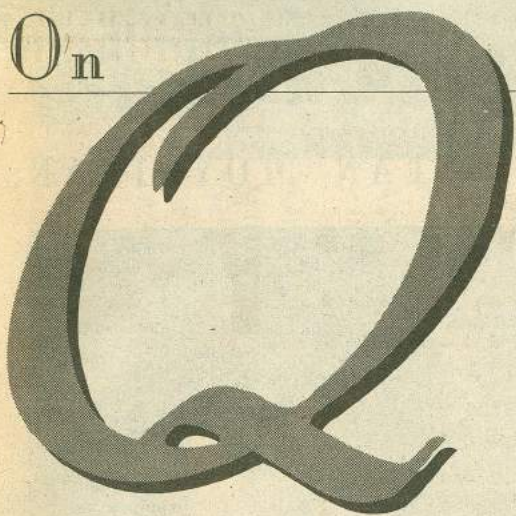


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# Aqua: Trying for the Artful Side of Modern



**By Kay Longcope**  
**TRIANGLE Staff**

If you're an inveterate collector—and seller—of home furnishings, what do you do? If you're Kelly Locker or Joe Callison, you worked years for other people awaiting the day you could start your own business.

That's what the two friends did last summer when they found rentable space at 1415 South Congress, which had been Antiques and Neat Things. "It was neither," said Locker.

The partners gutted the building, tearing out old carpets and "horrible paneling," said Locker, reconfiguring the 1,300 square feet of space. They opened Aqua, which specializes in Herman Miller 20th century modern home furnishings, on Labor Day.

Their specialty business is not just furniture; "it's art, too," says Callison, noting that the store—as eclectic as most on "The Avenue"—also carries French and Chinese

The business partners met in 1991 and realized very soon that they shared an abiding interest in modern furnishings. Locker, 39, said his interest in that style dates back to the late seventies and early eighties. Callison, 35, said his personal taste, before living with a lover (not Locker) who favored contemporary furnishings, was less developed "and just grew."

But after they met, it took five years of doing other things before they could take the big step and start their own business. Locker is a Corpus Christi native who graduated from Lubbock High School and Trinity University in San Antonio, majoring in art and design. After college, he remained in San Antonio for eight years, working at Bookstop.

"I got restless and saw the country via America-Pass (train)," he said. He moved to Austin in 1985, again working for Bookstop. "After Bookstop was bought out by Barnes



# The Artful Side of Modern

By Kay Longcope  
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Their specialty business is not just furniture; "it's art, too," says Callison, noting that the store—as eclectic as most on "The Avenue"—also carries French and Chinese antiques, as well as contemporary pottery and jewelry. But the accent is on Herman Miller modern furnishings, "99 percent (of which) is comfortable, contrary to popular opinion," said Callison.

"My inclination in opening the store," said Locker, "was to do hard-edge modern, being strict about the concept, but then I realized that the market we are in is not as sophisticated, so I made the conscious decision to mix modern with architecture, garden, French/Chinese antiques, pottery and glass of all styles, to show how well they integrate into modern furnishings."

There's "cold and sterile" modern, such as a pair of Bauhaus leather and chrome chairs dating back to the '20's, as well as "warm" modern, says Locker, pointing to a triangular Isamu Noguchi coffee table with inch-thick glass over an ebonized base as an example.

"It's not hard marble floors and tubular steel," Locker said of the Noguchi piece.

As warm, he said, are Eames chairs that look like molded art forms. As does a screen serving as a room divider. Both used to be made only of rosewood. The company stopped using rosewood because of endangerment to the rain forest, said Locker. It recently manufactured the last chairs and screen it will produce with a rosewood veneer, using rosewood it had on hand—inventory "reaching the end of its shelf-life," said Locker. He noted that only 500 of these classic items were produced and, once they sell, "there won't be any more."

Callison said that meshing modern with other styles is a great way to soften more severe furnishings. Modern furnishings through the centuries have been used that way, he noted, as "a good backdrop."

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"I got restless and saw the country via America-Pass (train)," he said. He moved to Austin in 1985, again working for Bookstop. "After Bookstop was bought out by Barnes & Noble, I had three options—Dallas, New York or taking severance. I did the latter and used the funds to open Redux Vintage off I-35 and 38 1/2 St. I was tired of working for others, and I didn't like the high stress, constant deadlines and shifting game plans."

"I've never regretted the decision," he said, though the stint with Redux Vintage lasted less than a year. "It was a horrible location." So he moved to New Bohemia, then Uncommon Objects when it opened on South Congress in March 1994. During that time, "Joe and I went merrily along in separate locations, paying rent, not having to be there every day. It was heaven on earth."

But not totally: "I didn't have control over the store's merchandising."

So when Callison, who was born in Odessa and raised in Houston, suggested that the two go into business together, Locker leaped at the chance. Callison majored in art at Southwest Texas State University and moved to Austin in 1985, waiting tables and briefly joining Locker at Redux Vintage.

But now, with their own specialized business, "we're getting a more refined sense of what it's worth and hoping we can bring people of Austin along with us," said Locker. "The modern furnishings market is bigger than one would expect. Many people, after the late sixties, felt 'been there, done that.' Everyone decided they had made a big mistake, taking and then abandoning modern, and they're coming back to it. Blond oak veneer from Sears is what some still think modern is, and it's a struggle informing people of what it is."

Of Aqua, he said: "If you're looking for a large overstuffed sofa, this is not the place to come. It is if you're looking for a piece of art as investment, something appreciating over time."



Aqua owners, l to r, Joe Callison and Kelly Locker





Jim Cantley can't go a single day without at least one poppy bagel from the Bagel Manufactory. Instead of eating them, he counts all the seeds and stores them in his basement. Piles of bagels await the upcoming nuclear winter.

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## JUDY CARTER

Lesbian stand-up comic and magician Judy Carter, who's been described as a cross between Harry Houdini and Robin Williams, brings her new comedy routine to three Texas clubs in the coming week. In her act, she deals with gay relationships and politics and performs mind-boggling magic tricks, including a "death-defying escape from her grandmother's girdle" (!). Her shows are Jan. 19 at 10:30 P.M. at Spankee's in Dallas (call 214-739-4760); Jan. 20 at 8 P.M. at Laff Stop in Houston (call 713-524-2333); and Jan. 21 at 8 P.M. at the Comedy Sports Playhouse in Austin (call 512-266-3397). Carter is an author, too: she wrote "Stand-Up Comedy, The Book," which Garry Shandling called "a fine book" and about which Elayne Boosler said, "Judy's book is truly funny, entertaining and an insightful guide." She also wrote the quite funny and insightful new book, "The Homo Handbook: A Guide to Finding Your Inner Homo" which covers just about everything that has to do with being gay. On top of doing stand-up, performing magic tricks and writing books, Carter also lectures at colleges and corporations and conducts "comedy workshops," her most recent one being the "Coming Out with Humor Workshop," which includes "Snappy Retorts to Stupid Bible Quotes," "Bigot-Bashing Made Easy" and "How to Come Out and Stay in the Will." She'll conduct one of her workshops when she's in Austin, on Jan. 22 from 7 until 10 P.M. (at the Comedy Sports Playhouse). It costs \$69 and it's designed for anybody—novice to professional, gay or straight. If you think Judy Carter can't make you funny, listen to what Oprah said: "Judy Carter can teach anyone how to be funny!" To enroll or to find out more call 512-266-3397.

## Arts, Briefly

SEAN MOYNIHAN



Judy Carter

## "A PERFECT GANESH"

Austin's Different Stages presents Terrence McNally's comedy-drama "A Perfect Ganesh," Jan. 17 through Feb. 8, at the Acting Studio. In the play, Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu god of travelers and Lord of Obstacles, watches over two



\$25,000 a year, nation used — a and unpleasant vomiting, nausea patients have r becomes so sensi stand for someo not everyone dev some patients th severe and unpleasant that the treatment has to be discontinued.

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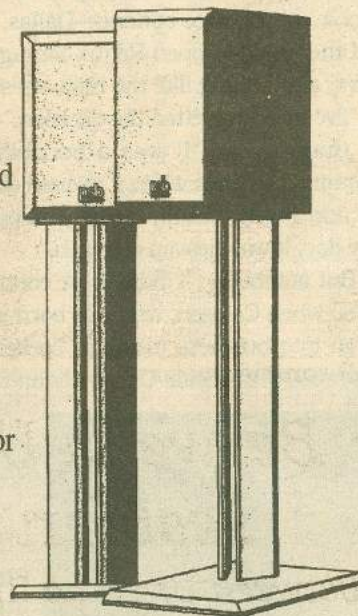
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From left, Diane Day, Jason Phillips and Marc Bolester in "A Perfect Ganesh," a Different Stages Production.

## "A PERFECT GANESH"

Austin's Different Stages presents Terrence McNally's comedy-drama "A Perfect Ganesh," Jan. 17 through Feb. 8, at the Acting Studio. In the play, Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu god of travelers and Lord of Obstacles, watches over two 50-ish Connecticut women as they take a two-week tour of India. The women—played by Doris Hargrave and Diane Day—have traveled to India to restore their troubled souls after each has lost a son and has had to deal with difficulties in her marriage. During their tour, their levels of consciousness are raised to a plane neither of them ever expected. Performances are Thursdays ("pay what you can") through Saturdays at 8 P.M. There's one matinee: Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 P.M. Tickets are \$11. The Acting Studio is at 5811 Burnet. For reservations and information call 512-454-TIXS.

## ANNA DEAVERE SMITH

The Alley Theatre, in conjunction with Houston's Society for the Performing Arts, presents "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992," Anna Deavere Smith's unflinching look at the 1992 Los Angeles riots in which she portrays over a dozen characters, including a Korean grocer, a home-boy and a white juror. The one-woman performance plays Jan. 21 through 26 in the Cullen Theater at Wortham Theater Center. Tickets are available at the Alley's box office, 615 Texas Ave., or by calling 713-228-8421 or 800-259-ALLE.



Anna Deavere Smith

## Not "Magi"

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## Stage Struck

DAVID MARK COHEN



Is 1997 going to be the Year of the Scene Designer on Texas stages?

Judging from the magnificent stage settings for two of the new year's first productions in Houston and Austin, it's clear that architects of stage spaces are stepping proudly into the spotlight with innovative and audience pleasing environments. Whether it's Michael Yeargan's fluid shadowbox designs for Austin Lyric Opera's monumental "The Ballad of Baby Doe," or Robert Schmidt's birds-eye floor plan for the Alley Theatre's rib-tickling "Taking Steps", we're talking world class theatricality that provides more than just a simple backdrop for the action.

Schmidt's whimsical English Victorian Manor house for Alan Ayckbourn's play is like a delirious board game—three levels of the house exist simultaneously on one flat surface (in this case, the stage floor of the Neuhaus Arena Stage), with the connecting staircases carefully outlined, step by step. The wonderful scene painting gives full flavor to the colorfully artifi-

There's precision and joy in all six of the actors, with Keith Reddin's impish solicitor vying with Liann Pattison's neurotic dancer for audience favorite.

Yes, the play's absolute fluff (and it can sag a bit in the second act), but you owe it to yourself to see such dazzling, silly fun.

Meanwhile, icy Austin threatened to overshadow Yeargan's frosty Rocky Mountain settings for Douglas Moore's American classic "The Ballad of Baby Doe", but Austin Lyric Opera proved once again that hiring a great designer is money well spent. The representational

setting—with vivid icons of Americana and breathtaking mountain vistas—allowed an impressionistic staging that seemed conceptually in line with the sprawling storyline. A gossip quintet with Augusta and four friends gave a high-class wink to the telephone hour of Broadway's "Bye-Bye Birdie" with its multiple portals. While the theatrical action often halted while



ce Bennett

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Michael Barnes, *Austin American-Statesman*

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Writer



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Schmidt's whimsical English Victorian Manor house for Alan Ayckbourn's play is like a delirious board game—three levels of the house exist simultaneously on one flat surface (in this case, the stage floor of the Neuhaus Arena Stage), with the connecting staircases carefully outlined, step by step. The wonderful scene painting gives full flavor to the colorfully artificial decor: the formal symmetry of the entrance hall

tile, a floral tapestry in the master bedroom, a tiger-print scatter rug in the otherwise gloomy attic. The riot of pattern is deftly outlined by strips of Christmas red carpet (indicating the solid walls that of course would obscure any arena setting). No mere scenic stunt, Schmidt's design enables the activity of Ayckbourn's play—and amplifies it.

The fabulous precision of the cast (many making their Alley debuts) is thus presented with absolute clarity. For example, the tippy-toeing miming of running up and down the stairs by the characters becomes truly hilarious. The set is in complete harmony with the knockabout farce of the play without ever overshadowing it.

The hallmark of director Michael Bloom's witty production—besides assembling a perfect cast and collaborators—is that he glories in the details—from the jaunty madcap music (Joe Pino's sound design is sublime) to a carefully chosen triple set of striped pajamas (a highlight of costume designer Tina Cantu Navarro).



From left, James Colby and Dan Daily in "Taking Steps."

Bruce Bennett

Americana and breathtaking mountain vistas—allowed an impressionistic staging that seemed conceptually in line with the sprawling storyline. A gossip quintet with Augusta and four friends gave a high-class wink to the telephone hour of Broadway's "Bye-Bye Birdie" with its multiple portals. While the theatrical action often halted while stage machinery whirled, future use of this set

should solve some of the transitional difficulties (and eliminate the need for that unnecessary Stage Manager—an unfortunate addition).

Still, Yeargan's setting (and David Nancarrow's evocative gaslight illumination and main drape projections) provided a jewelbox display for the warm singing of Cheryl Parrish as Baby Doe, the bravura acting of Melanie Sonnenberg as Augusta, and the brash bravado of Mark Delavan as Horace. Conductor Cal Stewart Kellogg brought out the romance and patriotism of Moore's melodic score, though it often overwhelmed the singers at the Friday opening. However, by the time Parrish mounted the steps to the Matchless Mine, shining in the silvery glimmer of the falling snow, all flaws were forgotten. Such is the power of opera—especially when a great singer is supported by a great designer.

*The Alley's production of "Taking Steps" continues through January 26. Phone: 713-228-8421.*



Pictured:  
Dan Sullivan  
Jeff Shaevet  
Photo Kirk D.

Michael Barnes, *Austin American-Statesman*

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# True, Uncommon Love

By Sean Moynihan  
TRIANGLE Staff

Near the end of William Nicholson's play "Shadowlands," there's a scene in which C.S. Lewis and his young step-son, Douglas Gresham, are trying desperately to come to terms with the untimely death of Lewis's wife and Gresham's mother, Joy Davidman. It's a scene of terrible sadness and loss. It captures so well the anguish, the helplessness, the utterly agonizing pain of losing someone with whom a person feels real, true, deep love. It's heavy stuff, not something that just any actor could pull off. It's the most a part can ask of an actor, and when it's attempted it can either be absolutely gut-wrenchingly convincing or entirely transparent and unmoving.

Fortunately, for theatergoers in Austin, the production of "Shadowlands" currently playing at Live Oak Theatre, features the gifted actor Ev Lunning, Jr., as

C.S. Lewis. When he breaks down in this scene you quite nearly forget that you're watching an actor and not a real person dealing with real emotional pain. He does it that well. Not all of his scenes require such forceful emoting, but even when his character is more subdued, one needs to remind oneself that he's watching a play. Lewis' idiosyncrasies, mannerisms, eccentricities, perfect British accent and unapologetic intellectualism are all captured perfectly by Lunning.

"Shadowlands" is about the relationship between C.S. Lewis, the British author and lecturer who wrote "The Screwtape Letters" and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," and Joy Davidman, an American poet. She begins a written correspondence with him and, from the start, feels that they are kindred spirits. Though flattered, and somewhat flustered, his intellectualism and cynicism and his inexperience with matters of the heart keep him from coming to a similar conclusion. He's reluctant to the idea of falling in love, but

when he eventually does, he really does. When they meet, he slowly begins to totally open himself up to love.

Since Nicholson's play takes place mostly in Oxford, where Lewis lectured, there's a lot of intellectual thought about love and friendship and religion and sadness and pain worked into the dialogue. There are some quite useful lines in there, if you're open to hearing them all. But, at the same time, like C.S. Lewis himself, the play isn't pompous or stuffy in its intellectualism.

There's much wit and humor involved, having to do with the differences between Americans and the English, between men and women and between those who are ruled by the heart and those who are ruled by the mind.

Complementing Lunning in his role as Lewis is Babs George as Joy Davidman, an ex-Jew, ex-communist, ex-atheist poet from New York. George is wonderfully abrasive and charming at the same time. She seems very in tune with the sometimes opposing forces working within her character, at once unguarded and wary. She's full of conviction but willing to change at the same time. One of the best things about this play is that the characters are so real, and so self-consciously aware of themselves and their limitations and contradictions and their capacity to change.

The role of Major W.H. Lewis, C.S.'s brother and the only person with whom



From left,  
Babs George,  
Ryan Boggus  
and Ev Lunning, Jr.

nection until Joy comes along, is played warmly and affectionately by Everett Skaggs. His comfortable, predictable world gets shaken up a bit by his brother's realization of love.

Douglas Gresham, Joy's wide-eyed young son, is played sweetly and innocently by Ryan Boggus, without a hint of the precocity that too many child actors seem to have.

Beautifully directed by Jill Parker-Jones, these four main characters and their emotional well-beings and concerns come together well and give the audience an intimate, emotional portrait of the strong ties of love and shared experience that keep a family, even a non-traditional one like this, together.

Live Oak Theatre's production of "Shadowlands" continues through Feb. 2 at the State Theatre, 719 Congress Ave. in

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Bitchy Butch©1993 by Roberta Gregory

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# Deep Inside Hollywood

MISS PAIGE TURNER

## SUNDANCE STAYS GAY

Without a doubt, the Sundance Film Festival is the gayest film festival in the world that is not a gay film festival. In 1991, two gay-themed films swept the two top honors at the festival: Todd Haynes' third film, "Poison," won best feature and Jennie Livingston's groundbreaking "Paris Is Burning" won best documentary. Suddenly, the New Queer Cinema was born. The following year, the festival was flooded with gay films, including Gregg Araki's "The Living End," the sci-fi dragfest "Vegas in Space," Derek Jarman's "Edward II," and the Leopold and Loeb love story "Swoon." This year, look for strong performances by first-time director Emma-Kate Croghan's romantic comedy from Down Under, "Love And Other Catastrophes," and the wild "Showgirls" meets "Priscilla" Vegas musical called

"Franchesca Page." In the documentary category, "Out At Work"—a hard look at the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain's 1991 firing of seventeen workers for being gay (and the subsequent national boycott)—should be a festival favorite. As always, the competition for all films is fierce at

bian films in these two alternate festivals as well.

## ELLEN'S FINALE

The time has finally come for "Ellen" to come out. In just a few months, May ratings sweeps will begin and all of the networks will be doing everything they can to pull the highest possible ratings. Since advertiser rates are determined by the results of this May ratings period, this can be a defining moment in a show's future. Talk of Ellen DeGeneres's title character coming out has been lingering for months, but with the season's last ratings battle around the corner, the time is now or never. ABC has already moved the show to 9:30 p.m., so that it is no longer airing during the family hour (8:00 - 9:00 p.m.) in anticipation of "Ellen" revealing herself to be a lesbian. So far this season, the ratings for the show have not been stellar, despite an incredible amount of publicity. At this point, the lesbian plot could be the only thing to save the show from cancellation.

Rumors are already flying





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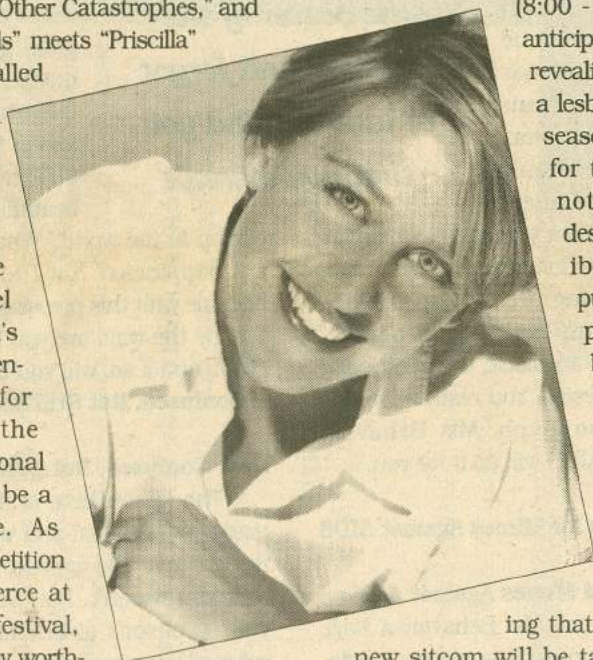


II," and the Leopold and Loeb love story  
"Swoon." This year, look for strong perfor-  
mances by first-time director Emma-Kate  
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the wild "Showgirls" meets "Priscilla"  
Vegas musical called

"Franchesca  
Page." In the  
documentary  
category, "Out At  
Work"—a hard  
look at the  
Cracker Barrel  
restaurant chain's  
1991 firing of seven-  
teen workers for  
being gay (and the  
subsequent national  
boycott)—should be a  
festival favorite. As  
always, the competition  
for all films is fierce at  
this prestigious festival,  
meaning that many worth-  
while films are not  
included.

Several filmmakers have turned to a  
Sundance alternative festival, Slamdance,  
which presents itself as a truly independ-  
ent festival. The success of Slamdance  
has led to the creation of another lower  
grade festival called Slumdance, which  
will let almost anyone with a film in.  
Given the level of desperation for film-  
makers to be in Park City, Utah, there are  
sure to be more than a few gay and les-

around the corner, the time is now or  
never. ABC has already moved the show to  
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bian plot could  
be the only  
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the show  
from cancel-  
lation.



Rumors are  
already fly-

ing that Arsenio Hall's  
new sitcom will be taking over the  
"Ellen" time slot next season, which would  
indicate that "Ellen" is moving somewhere  
else or leaving altogether. Whatever the  
outcome of the schedule changes, all eyes  
(and ears) will be on Ellen DeGeneres on  
March 1 when she presents an achieve-  
ment award to k.d. lang at the Los Angeles  
Gay and Lesbian Center's annual Women's  
Night dinner. ♦

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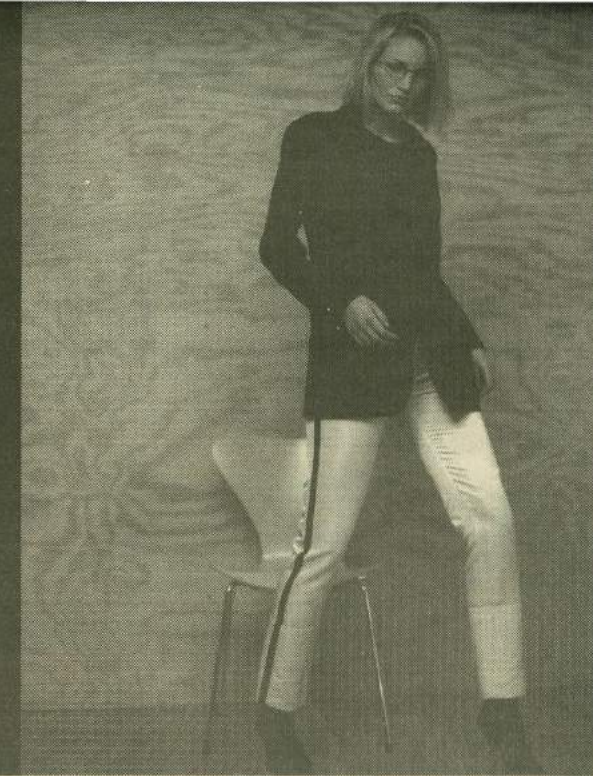
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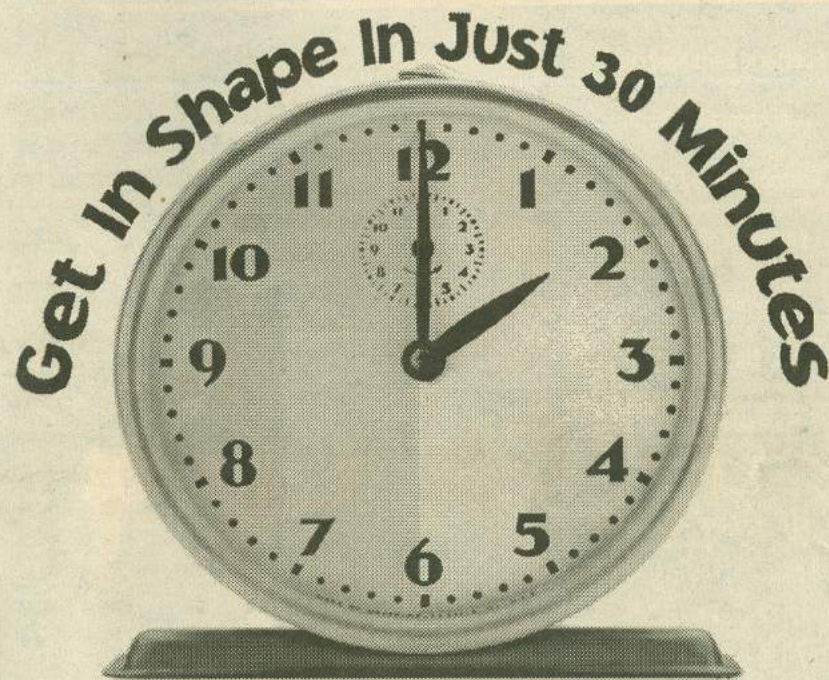
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## Ms. Behavior

ADVICE & ETIQUETTE BY MERYL COHN

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

We, the Mimes Against AIDS, are neither shocked nor amused by your (November, 1996) mimephobic declaration that, "Mimes are bad and wrong and universally despised...Ultimately they should be stamped out." Oh, that's just great! How about forcing us to wear ittle mime symbols so that you can easily identify us as you put us in camps and begin your evil plan for "stamping us out?" Sound familiar, Ms. Hitler-Behavior?

It does not surprise us that you have picked up this tired anti-mime theme; we wonder, however, how many of your readers recognize that you are merely rehashing 1980s strips of Bloom County and episodes of "Cheers." It's particularly twisted that your mime-blaming rant appears directly after a paragraph in which you talk about the imperative to call someone on their "racism or some other ugly character trait." Well, Ms. Aryan-Behavior, consider yourself called. We won't even go into the internalized mimephobia you reveal when you state: "Ms. Behavior nearly never leaves home in anything other than a black dress and a simple strand of pearls." Hmmm, white on black, the most basic tenet of Mime Design. You really shouldn't hate yourself so much, Ms. Behavior. Mimes Against AIDS will do it for you.

Sincerely,

Marcel Protease for Mimes Against AIDS

Dear Marcel and Mimes Against AIDS:

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

I am a gay man and am in a 12-step program because of all the terrible things that my family and society did to me.

Recently I was in the local post office, speaking with my sponsor. I had an urgent problem which I was explaining in great detail and felt sure that she was about to give me the most important advice of my life when something very disturbing happened: Suddenly, my sponsor's girlfriend walked into the post office and it was as if me and my problems just didn't matter anymore. It was a frenzy of curves, hair and lips run amok right there in the lobby! Then my sponsor left without even saying goodbye or divulging the golden key to my eternal happiness.

While I can appreciate that my sponsor's girlfriend is a major babe and I love a good saliva-fest as much as anyone, I feel miffed. Was that good gay sponsor etiquette, Ms. Behavior? I feel abandoned. Is the lesson that my sponsor's girlfriend is the most beautiful and important

person in the world? What about my eternal happiness? Am I too needy? Please help me with this pressing crisis!

By the way, are you in a 12-step program, and if so, will you be my sponsor?

—Confused, But Still Sober

### Dear Confused, But Still Sober:

The lesson here is that your mother made you feel that you were the center of the universe and forgot to later remind you that you weren't. Now you're miffed that

# Nat

## Arizona Measure Conflicts

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## AIDS Pat Right to

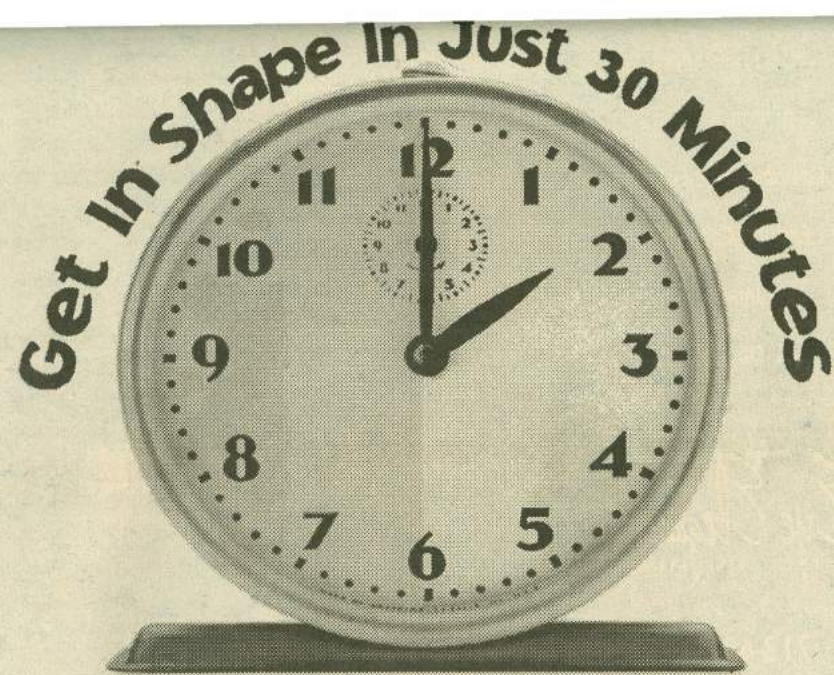
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your mime-blaming rant appears directly after a paragraph in which you talk about the imperative to call someone on their "racism or some other ugly character trait." Well, Ms. Aryan-Behavior, consider yourself called. We won't even go into the internalized mimephobia you reveal when you state: "Ms. Behavior nearly never leaves home in anything other than a black dress and a simple strand of pearls." Hmmmm, white on black, the most basic tenet of Mime Design. You really shouldn't hate yourself so much, Ms. Behavior. Mimes Against AIDS will do it for you.

Sincerely,

**Marcel Protease for Mimes Against AIDS**

### Dear Marcel and Mimes Against AIDS:

Feel free to call Ms. Behavior a Nazi, but please don't imply that she's a plagiaristic Nazi; she has never watched "Cheers" or read Bloom County. That others have denigrated mimes is merely reflective of the universal repulsion that is felt toward them. It would be interesting to explore reactions to mimes in other cultures and time periods; Ms. Behavior suspects that anti-mime sentiment is a collective unconscious feeling.

Although Ms. Behavior would not have suggested keeping mimes in camps, now that you mention it, she's rather taken with the idea. That you are offering to implement it yourselves is generous. The best method of torture that might occur at such camps would be the continuous replaying of old (black & white) mime footage.

Ms. Behavior is disappointed that the rest of your letter degenerates into a loud and paranoid rant. Until now, there was only one good thing that Ms. Behavior would have said about mimes: they're not a very vocal group. Unfortunately, you've ruined even that.

**that your mother made  
you feel that you were  
the center of the  
universe and forgot  
to later remind you  
that you weren't**

person in the world? What about my eternal happiness? Am I too needy? Please help me with this pressing crisis!

By the way, are you in a 12-step program, and if so, will you be my sponsor?

**—Confused, But Still Sober**

### Dear Confused, But Still Sober:

The lesson here is that your mother made you feel that you were the center of the universe and forgot to later remind you that you weren't. Now you're miffed that your sponsor's girlfriend's radiance has eclipsed your own, or at least that the girlfriend's pheromonal secretions are more alluring than yours. Your sponsor's girlfriend may not be the most beautiful and important person in the world, but she is to your sponsor, which is healthy. This is a good relationship model from which you might learn. One little correction, though: since Ms. Behavior was at the post office mailing her Christmas thank-you notes during your encounter, she knows for a fact that your sponsor did say goodbye.

Your own eternal happiness should come from within. You should be spending more time in front of the mirror, naked, confronting your issues with your own inner and outer beauty. And yes, you are too needy.

If Ms. Behavior were in a 12-step program, the tradition of anonymity would prevent her from disclosing this fact. In any case, as an advice and etiquette diva, she is a sponsor to both everyone and no one.

(You can write to Ms. Behavior in care of the Texas Triangle, 1615 W. 6th St., Austin, TX 78703).

## AIDS Pat Right to

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (UPI)—A state judge has ruled that a doctor's prescription for a lawyer's treatment of a tri-state's ban on e-

The 1868 law, which prohibited religious reasons for the death of a disease, was struck down by the state's Supreme Court.

"The process of the United States is to be," Rivas said. Charles Hall was charged with the crime of suicide.

The lawsuit was filed in the Supreme Court, which has ruled in similar cases from Washington.

Florida's constitution prohibits manslaughter, which is a crime that carries a life sentence in prison. Rivas said he would like to see the constitution amended to protect privacy.

Assistant Attorney General Gross said the lawsuit was filed by a man who had been arrested for marijuana possession and distribution.

Gross added that the man, who is terminally ill, had been told by people whom he had never met that he had a right to die.

The lawsuit was filed by a man who had been arrested for marijuana possession and distribution. Gross added that the man, who is terminally ill, had been told by people whom he had never met that he had a right to die.

The 5-foot-11-inch man, who is only 105 pounds, had been told through a blood test that his health was poor.





## WINTRY MUSINGS

**W**ell, Dear Fans, panic sets in when the thermometer sinks below 30 in Texas! When we got back from Christmas in South Dakota, we almost threw our yak stole upon the tarmac and kissed the warm Texas earth. In South Dakota, the highest temperature we experienced was 11 above, and that was at night. You know you're in a whole different place when the temperature is warmer at night than it is during the day!

Just when we had grown accustomed to the balmy Houston winter after our return, a terrible winter storm came roaring through and the whole situation changed. Friends in Dallas were packing up their cars and crowding the airports to flee to Houston. Friends in Houston were battering down the hatches and covering their tropical plants. Friends in Austin were running to San Antonio, and friends in San Antonio were rushing to the Valley. But no one escaped, Dear Fans! It was like one of those old nuclear war movies

matic vagaries, we didn't panic. We merely spread sheets over our plants, brought in plenty of fire wood, brewed gallons of Earl Grey tea, had Sebastian light a big fire, and pulled our comforter around our silken legs with our cat Mona, and Sebastian, purring on our feet for good measure.

Meanwhile, up in Dallas, a friend was trying to make his way home from work in Carrollton when his car began a playful slide down a major freeway ramp—the highest hill in the whole Metroplex. His Saturn slid all the way to Oak Lawn, with him screaming inside. When he landed outside Hunky's, he didn't have the nerve to continue any further, so he spent the night huddled under the french-fry lights with several very attractive waiters and one surly but accommodating customer.

In Austin, a dear friend's canoe instantly froze in the middle of Town Lake, and he was forced to walk upon the waters to the Congress Ave. bridge, where he spent the night nestled among the

swoon! Meanwhile, a school bus full of nuns witnessed him in the raging snow as he traversed the waters, and they can now be seen doing strenuous novenas from the bridge to honor their vision.

All the way up and down Texas, from east to west, our dear friends slid, tripped, slipped, crashed and banged their way home. And once home, they all stayed put.

The interesting thing about Texas is that people become literally paralyzed when it snows. In South Dakota the snow was three-feet deep and climbing. The city had stopped even trying to clear the side streets because there have been so many successive snow storms and blizzards. The Interstate looked like a country path with only one lane of two ruts to drive on.

Is this the new Ice Age, Dear Fans? Well, it could be. We remember reading about such apocalyptic things back in the '70s before Reagan came along and convinced everyone that everything was really just fine and industry could belch as much pollution into the air as it wanted without harming the environment. The winters have become erratic. Some are warm, others are cold. Some are down-

right frigid! This is one of those frigid times where we like to huddle near the fireplace with friends and play interesting board games like Twister. At least we're not floating away like our friends on the west coast! What will they do out there when the volcanoes erupt again, for heaven's sake?

Unlike those poor souls in the north, however, we Texans can at least look forward to warmer weather. If Houston ever became permanently cold, the rest of the world would indeed be under ice. After all, we're level with Cairo, Egypt, on the globe, you know! But such cold and terrible weather always gives us pause—a window into the lifestyles of millions of other Americans who cope with such horrendous conditions on a regular basis and somehow manage to live quite well. They tend to be rather depressed all the time, but a tropical climate never did create a Shakespeare or a Beethoven.

To those brave Northern souls, we raise our hot chocolate in salute, Dear Fans. And to the always-returning balmy Texas weather, we raise a margarita that was NOT frozen by merely sitting out on the back porch for five minutes! ♥

©1997 Questorcorp

# Amanda

AMANDA B. RECKONDWITH

# INDULGE



## Rapist

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—Keith Clark

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—Keith Clark

Christmas in South Dakota, we almost  
threw our yak stole upon the tarmac and  
kissed the warm Texas earth. In South  
Dakota, the highest temperature we expe-  
rienced was 11 above, and that was at  
night. You know you're in a whole differ-  
ent place when the temperature is  
warmer at night than it is during the day!

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to the balmy Houston winter after our  
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battening down the hatches and covering  
their tropical plants. Friends in Austin  
were running to San Antonio, and friends  
in San Antonio were rushing to the Valley.  
But no one escaped, Dear Fans! It was  
like one of those old nuclear war movies  
where everyone is caught in the flash on  
the freeway.

Since Amanda is used to such cli-

silken legs with only one lane of two  
country path with only one lane of two  
ruts to drive on.

Meanwhile, up in Dallas, a friend  
was trying to make his way home from  
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Metroplex. His Saturn slid all the way to  
Oak Lawn, with him screaming inside.  
When he landed outside Hunky's, he did-  
n't have the nerve to continue any fur-  
ther, so he spent the night huddled  
under the french-fry lights with several  
very attractive waiters and one surly but  
accommodating customer.

In Austin, a dear friend's canoe  
instantly froze in the middle of Town  
Lake, and he was forced to walk upon the  
waters to the Congress Ave. bridge, where  
he spent the night nestled among the  
bats. While they smelled rather bad, he  
said they made an excellent insulation.  
The thought makes Amanda nearly

country path with only one lane of two  
ruts to drive on.

Is this the new Ice Age, Dear Fans?  
Well, it could be. We remember reading  
about such apocalyptic things back in the  
'70s before Reagan came along and con-  
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## INDULGE



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# on the Town Austin

January 17 through 26

## COMEDY

Lesbian comic Judy Carter, author of "The Homo Handbook." Jan. 21, 8 P.M. @ the Comedy Sports Playhouse, 2525 W. Anderson. 512-266-3397.

January Blitz of Comedy @ Esther's Follies, 525 E. 6th: Chi Chi La Bomba's "Front Row Theater," Newt Gingrich and the Ethics of Washington, magician Ray Anderson, Who's Who of Austin and more! Thursdays-Sundays through Jan. 512-320-0553.

## DANCE

Andrea Ariel: "The Truth About Paper"—a dance solo about paper and its ability to hold the essential truths about humanity in the images, words and ideas we record on it each day. Jan. 17 & 18, 8 P.M. @ Hyde Park Theatre. 512-499-TIXS.

## EXHIBITS

## OPENING

## CONTINUING

"Six Metalsmiths"—works by Robert Abdallah, William J. Bastas, Wendel Broussard, Nancy Claire Hise, Diana Larson and Lars Stanley. Through Jan. 25 @ the Dougherty Arts Center Gallery, 1110 Barton Springs. 512-397-1455.

"The Art Guys: Wildlife"—amazing, fantastic, rustic, outdoorsy artwork about man and beast. Through Jan. 26 @ the Austin Museum of Art (Laguna Gloria), 3809 W. 35th. 512-458-8191.

At Women & Their Work, 1117 Lavaca: "New Paintings by Cynthia Lin"—abstract works by

## LECTURE

Dr. Sterling Lands, pastor of the Greater Calvary Baptist Church in Austin and president of the African American Ministers Alliance of Central Texas, delivers the keynote address, "Dream 2000, A new Harvest: Empowering the Family and Community," as part of the 4th annual Martin Luther King Community Celebration. Jan. 20, 7 P.M. @ U.T.'s LBJ Auditorium. 512-475-6630 or 475-6666.

## MUSIC

"Multicultural Musical Extravaganza"—Quarteto Ta Mere, Zhong Ti Lin, East Babylon Symphony, Dogon Sirius, Cosmic Intuition and

on U.S. television, performs with the Austin Symphony, Jan. 17 & 18 at 8 P.M. @ U.T.'s Bass Concert Hall. 512-476-6064 or 888-4-MAESTRO.

"Later at Live Oak" Cabaret: jazz, swing and musical theater, Saturdays, 10:30 P.M.-1 A.M. in the lobby of the State Theatre (719 Congress)—Kohler & Greenawalt, Jan. 18; Amy Baker Stinson & Michael McKelvey, Jan. 25. 512-472-5143.

DiverseArts East Side Circuit @ the Victory Grill, 810 E. 13th: J.W. Davis Group (jazz), Jan. 21; Ephraim Owens' Group (jazz), Jan. 22; World Music Thursday, Jan. 23; Big Game Hunters (hard rock, hip-hop and dance), Jan. 25. 512-477-9438.

River City Pops: "Let's Go to the Movies!" Jan. 23-26 @ Reagan High School Theater, 7401 Berkman Dr. 512-892-4410.

The Juilliard String Quartet plays works by Mendelssohn, Schoenberg and Mozart. Jan. 24, 8 P.M. @ U.T.'s Bates Recital Hall. 512-477-6060.

U.T. School of Music's Jessen Series of Distinguished Faculty Artists presents Darlene Wiley, soprano, Nancy Garrett, fortissimo, and Tom

## THEATER

### NEW

National Theatre of the Deaf performs "Curiouser and Curiouser," a spoken and signed production inspired by "Alice in Wonderland," featuring the characters of Lewis Carroll, Alice Liddell (the real-life girl that Alice was based on) and creatures from Alice's adventures. Jan. 17 & 18 @ U.T.'s B. Iden Payne Theatre, 23rd & San Jacinto. 512-471-1444.

"A Perfect Ganesh" by Terrence McNally, in which two Connecticut women in their fifties take a two-week tour of India to restore their troubled souls and are watched over by Ganesh, the Hindu god of travelers and Lord of

Obstacles. Jan. 17-Feb. 8 @ the Acting Studio, 5811 Burnet. 512-454-TIXS.

"Ruthless! The Musical," a campy farce by Joel Pailey and Marvin Laird about an ambitious little girl who sings her way into your heart while clawing her way to the top. Jan. 18-Feb. 23 on the Kleberg Stage @ Zach Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey. 512-476-0541.

"A Chorus Line"—Directed by original Broadway cast member Bayork Lee. Jan. 21-26. U.T.'s Bass Concert Hall. 512-477-6060.

Frontera Fest '97—The 4th annual festival of the best and boldest new performance featuring Laurie Carlos, Mauricio Cordero,

Amparo Garcia, Daniel Alexander Jones, Jason Phelps and others. Jan. 21-Feb. 22 @ Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd. 512-499-TIXS.

### CONTINUING

"Peter Pan"—The inaugural production of Austin Musical Theatre. Through Jan. 19 @ the Paramount Theatre. 512-477-6060.

"Panoptikon" (Part II of the X & Y Trilogy, A Cybernetic Opera) by Ethos—A sinister, sci-fi, fairy tale in which all characters are both human and machine. With singing, dancing and a little nudity. Thurs.-Sun. through Jan. 25, 8 P.M. @ Planet Theatre, 2307 Manor. 512-478-LAVA.

Live Oak Theatre presents "Shadowlands" by William Nicholson. The story of C.S. Lewis' fall from intellectual smugness and bachelorhood and his discovery of the transforming, awe-inspiring power of deep love. Directed by Jill Parker-Jones. Through Feb. 2 @ the State Theatre, 719 Congress. 512-472-5143.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Communities in Schools Central Texas needs volunteer tutors, mentors and classroom assistants. Bilingual and male volunteers are particularly needed. 2-hour orientation session, Jan. 22, 6-8 P.M. @ the CIS office, 2211 S. IH 35, #201. To register call 512-462-1171.

# in the Community

## A directory of Gay and Lesbian Organizations

(To list your group, fax information to Sean at 512-472-8154)

Ad Hoc (Alliance to Defeat Human Oppression & Condemnation). 1117 Red River. 793-2049.

Adventuring Outdoors. 440-2037.

Affirmation (gay & lesbian Methodists). 451-2329.

AIDS Services of Austin, 825 E. 53-and-a-half. 451-2273.

All Saints Holy Catholic Church (gay-affirming), 4301 N. IH 35. Sunday masses, 5 P.M. 280-9151.

Austin Gay & Lesbian Pasta Society. Monthly dinners. Mangia! 445-5304.

Lesbian Avengers. 447-9226.

Lag Cabin Republicans of Texas. 467-9797.

Lutherans Concerned of Austin & Central Texas. 2nd Sundays, 2 P.M. @ 1st English Lutheran, 3001 Whitis. 832-4159.

MCCA (Metropolitan Community Church of Austin), 1117 Red River. 708-8002.

National Leather Association Austin. 703-8927. <http://www.io.com/~austinja/austinja.html>

New to Austin (networking for new gay Austin residents)



continued from page 3  
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## Gay Cen Pushes I

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Washington, magician Ray Anderson, Who's Who of Austin and more! Thursdays-Sundays through Jan. 512-320-0553.

## DANCE

Andrea Ariel: "The Truth About Paper"—a dance solo about paper and its ability to hold the essential truths about humanity in the images, words and ideas we record on it each day. Jan. 17 & 18, 8 P.M. @ Hyde Park Theatre. 512-499-TIXS.

## EXHIBITS

### OPENING

"Out of Bounds: New Work by 8 Southeast Artists"—mixed media assemblages, time-based media and telematic/telepresence installations and environments featuring plants and live animals. Jan. 17-Mar. 2 @ U.T.'s Huntington Art Gallery, 23rd & San Jacinto. 512-471-7324.

"Fresh Ink: Austin Print Workshops"—etchings, lithographs, woodcuts, screenprints and monotypes from the collaborative printmaking workshops of Austin. Jan. 18-Apr. 13 @ the Austin Museum of Art (Downtown), 823 Congress. 512-495-9224.

Wildlife"—amazing, fantastic, rustic, outdoorsy artwork about man and beast. Through Jan. 26 @ the Austin Museum of Art (Laguna Gloria), 3809 W. 35th. 512-458-8191.

At Women & Their Work, 1117 Lavaca: "New Paintings by Cynthia Lin"—abstract works by



Jorian Jeter as Alice and Andy Vasnick as Lewis Carroll in the National Theatre of the Deaf's "Curiouser & Curiouser" at UT's B. Iden Payne Theater, Jan. 17 & 18.

the Dallas artist that incorporate her experience as an Asian-American woman, through Feb. 15; Kathy Lovas's "M Train"—a sound, slide and rocking chair installation that explores the psychology of time and memory, through Feb. 16. 512-477-1064.

Martin Luther King Community Celebration. Jan. 20, 7 P.M. @ U.T.'s LBJ Auditorium. 512-475-6630 or 475-6666.

## MUSIC

"Multicultural Musical Extravaganza"—Quarteto Ta Mere, Zhong Ti Lin, East Babylon Symphony, Dogon Sirius, Cosmic Intuition and

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The Juilliard String Quartet plays works by Mendelssohn, Schoenberg and Mozart. Jan. 24, 8 P.M. @ U.T.'s Bates Recital Hall. 512-477-6060.

U.T. School of Music's Jessen Series of Distinguished Faculty Artists presents Darlene Wiley, soprano, Nancy Garrett, fortepiano, and Tom Hale, French horn, performing works by Schubert. Jan. 25, 8 P.M. @ U.T.'s Jessen Auditorium. 512-471-1444.

## SEMINAR

The HIV Wellness Center (4301 N. I-H 35) offers a seminar focusing on issues of returning to work from disability or medical leave, with Houston employment attorney Mitchell Kofine and others. Jan. 18, 9:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Brunch included. Register: 512-467-0088.

others perform in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Jan. 17 & 18, 8 P.M. @ Synergy Studio, 1501 W. 5th. 512-604-4405 or 322-0227.

Pianist Earl Wild, who, in 1939, was the first person to perform a piano recital

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All Saints Holy Catholic Church (gay-affirming), 4301 N. I-H 35. Sunday masses, 5 P.M. 280-9151.

Austin Gay & Lesbian Pasta Society. Monthly dinners. Mangia! 445-5304.

ALLGO (Austin Latina/o Lesbian & Gay Organization)/Informe SIDA, 1715 E. 6th. 472-2001.

Austin Frontrunners (running & walking group). 473-8334.

Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus. 474-0750.

Austin Raedical Faeries (alternative spirituality). 3rd Thursdays, 7 P.M. @ Cornerstone. 703-8952. lazarus@bga.com

Austin Stonewall Chamber of Commerce. 707-3794.

Bisexual Network of Austin & Bisexual Women's Support Group. 370-9573.

Bound by Desire (women's S/M support group). 250-0985.

Capital City Men's Chorus. 477-SING.

Cornerstone Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 1117 Red River. 708-1515.

GLSTN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teachers Network). 323-2329.

HIV Wellness Center, 4301 N. I-H 35. 467-0088.

Integrity Austin (gay & lesbian Episcopalians). 445-6164 or 447-4779 (v/tdd).

The Kingdom Seekers in Christ Jesus (charismatic worship & ministry), 7310 S. Congress. Sundays, 10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. 443-5940.

Lesbian Avengers. 447-9226.

Log Cabin Republicans of Texas. 467-9797.

Lutherans Concerned of Austin & Central Texas. 2nd Sundays, 2 P.M. @ 1st English Lutheran, 3001 Whitis. 832-4159.

MCCA (Metropolitan Community Church of Austin), 1117 Red River. 708-8002.

National Leather Association Austin. 703-8927. <http://www.io.com/~austinfo/austinfo.html>

New to Austin (networking for new gay Austin residents). 346-8666.

Out Youth Austin, 1117 Red River. 708-1234.

P-FLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Austin. 3rd Tuesdays, 7 P.M. @ Grace United Methodist, 205 E. Monroe. 302-FLAG.

Prime Timers Austin (middle aged & older gay & bisexual men). 1st Sundays, 2 P.M. @ Austin History Center. 282-2861.

Project Transitions. 454-8646.

SapphFire ("Bringing the Lesbian Community Together"). 1st Fridays, 7:30 P.M. @ Trinity United Methodist Church, 600 E. 50th. 323-2476.

Staying Negative. 1st & 3rd Sundays, 7 P.M. @ Cornerstone. 406-6165.

Tapestry Women's Chorus. 453-1691.

Texas Gay Rodeo Association Austin Chapter. 346-0561.

The Tribe (social/networking group for gay men). 434-3280.

Unity Church of Positive Prayer, 9603 Dessau. 836-6372.

University Catholic Center Gay Men's Group. 476-7351.

Waterloo Counseling Center, 2525 Wallingwood. 329-9922.

misunderstood was exposed.

## Gay Cen Pushes

Icy weather attendance at the meeting attended by many directors of the Community Center. Biran J. T. board, led a meeting at the Magnolia Ballroom created proposals.

Several members of the board also were present. John Kellett of the University of Houston, Rev. Hutchins, Clair Foundation, Anj Houston, Rev. Metropolitan C Resurrection and Commerce Bank.

Other members include state Rep. Houston, U.S. Rep. Houston, Shell Rights Campaign, publisher Kay Longo. The board meeting for 7 p.m. Ballroom at 715 7904 for more information.

## HGLPC Pushes Hill for

The House Political Caucus Committee at endorsed Ray Hill the Houston City "Ray Hill" to end discrimination orientation is all Caucus President seen people in the

Fax submissions to (512) 472-8154, or mail to 1615 West Sixth St., Austin, TX 78703



# on the Town Houston

January 17 through 26

## DANCE

Chrysalis Dance Company performs Becky Valls's "The Diary of a Mad Domestic" and Sean Curran's "(Another) A Musing Machine" Jan. 18 @ the Jewish

Blaffer Gallery. 713-743-9530.

## CONTINUING

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet: "An

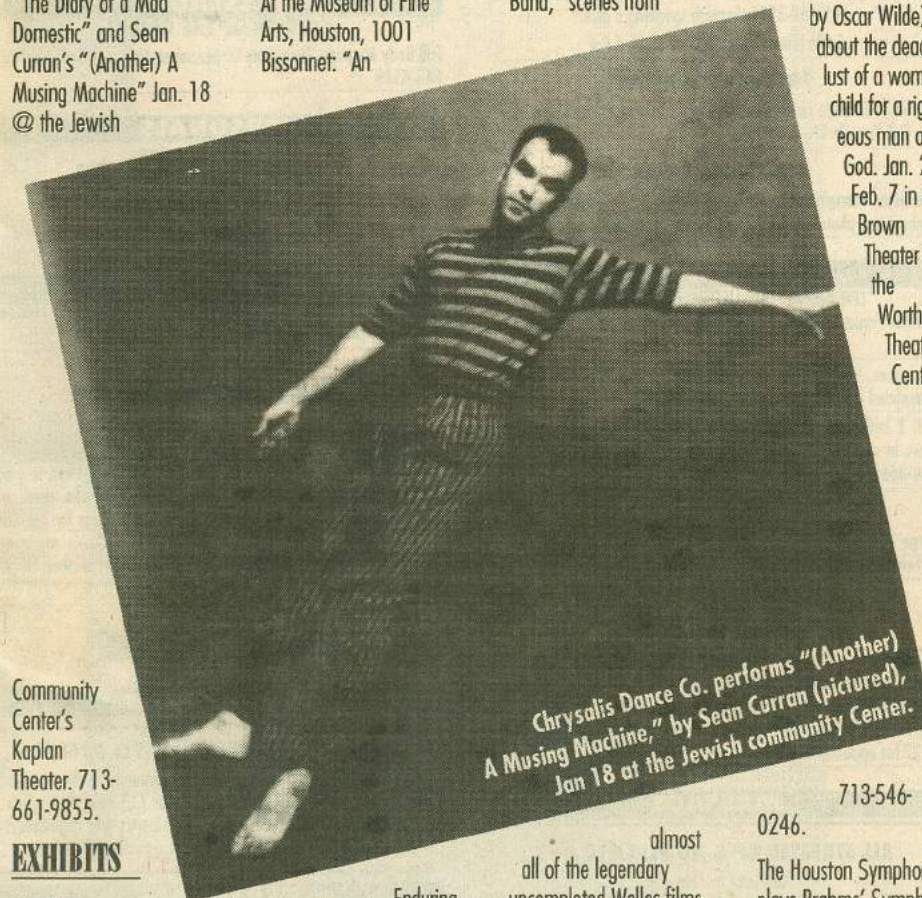
## FILM

MFA Films: "Orson Welles: The One-Man Band," scenes from

Romantic era with readings from the Mendelssohns' letters and diaries. Jan. 17, 8 P.M. in the Cullen Theater @ Wortham Theater Center. 713-524-5050.

12 Minutes MAX! New and original music by Patrick Clark, Joseph Zitt, John Kiefer and Ray Ogar. Jan. 18, 9 P.M. @ DiverseWorks, 1117 E. Freeway. 713-223-8346.

Houston Grand Opera presents Richard Strauss's "Salome" (libretto by Oscar Wilde), about the deadly lust of a woman-child for a righteous man of God. Jan. 23-Feb. 7 in the Brown Theater @ the Wortham Theater Center.



Chrysalis Dance Co. performs "(Another) A Musing Machine," by Sean Curran (pictured), Jan 18 at the Jewish community Center.

Community Center's Kaplan Theater. 713-661-9855.

## EXHIBITS

## NEW

Enduring

almost all of the legendary uncompleted Welles films,

0246. The Houston Symphony plays Brahms' Symphony

Queensbury. 713-467-4497.

The Alley Theatre and the Society for the Performing Arts present "Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992"—Anna Deavere Smith's one-woman, multi-character show about the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Jan. 21-26 in the Cullen Theater @ Wortham Theater Center. 713-228-8421 or 800-259-ALLE.

"Virgins and Other Myths" by Colin Martin. The coming out story of a gay man who goes from all-American hero to sex-driven male hustler. Jan. 22-Mar. 1 @ New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th. 713-869-8927.

Moliere's "The Miser," a comedy about a man who frustrates the wedding plans of his children with his miserly ways. Jan. 23-Mar. 2 @ Main Street Theater, 4617 Montrose. 713-524-6706.

## CONTINUING

Ralph Macchio in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." The national tour of the Broadway musical about a window washer who climbs up the corporate ladder with the help of a "how-to" guide. Through Jan. 19 @ Jones Hall. 713-629-3700.

"Phantom"—Arthur Kopit and Maury Yeston's musi-

cal retelling of "The Phantom of the Opera." Through Jan. 19 @ the Music Hall, Bagby & Walker. 713-622-8887 or 800-766-6048.

"Taking Steps"—Madcap British farce by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Michael Bloom. Through Jan. 26 @ the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas. 713-228-8421 or 800-259-ALLE.

"Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years" by Emily Mann. The oral history of two African-American women, Sadie and Bessie Delany, over the course of a century, adapted from their book. Through Feb. 8 on the Large Stage @ the

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas. 713-228-8421 or 800-259-ALLE.

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" by Irish playwright Frank McGuinness, about three men held hostage in Beirut. Through Feb. 9 @ Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd. 713-682-6557.

"The Tragic and Horrible Life of the Singing Nun" by Blair Fell. A fun, nun-filled romp with Soeur Sourire, Maria von Trapp, Sister Bertrille, Mother Teresa et al. Through Feb. 16 @ Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo. 713-868-7516.

# in the Community

## A directory of Gay and Lesbian Organizations

(To list your group, fax information to Sean at 512-472-8154)

AIDS Foundation Houston, 3202 Wesleyan Annex. 713-623-6796. Hotline: 713-524-AIDS.

AALGA (African American Lesbian & Gay Alliance). 713-523-5950, aalga@aol.com

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. 713-526-1017.

Corporation Network Group. 281-366-5030.

Covenant Baptist Church. 713-668-8830.

Dignity (gay & lesbian Catholics). 713-880-2872.

Front Runners (running group). Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M.,

Houston Professional Men's Association. 713-861-0866.

Houston Women's Flag Football League. 713-315-9368.

Integrity Houston (gay & lesbian Episcopalians). 713-432-0414.

Just For Us (a group for kids grades 6-12 who have gay or lesbian parents, sponsored by HGLP). 713-284-4939.

Lambda Rollerskating Club. Wednesdays, 8-10 P.M. @ Starlite Skating Academy. 713-933-5818.

LiB (Lesbians in Business). 713-529-0077.

Log Cabin Republicans of Houston. 713-529-9100.



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HEALTH

Community  
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Theater. 713-  
661-9855.

## EXHIBITS

### NEW

At DiverseWorks, 1117  
E. Freeway: The no tsu  
oH Series—Dylan  
Francis's "Surreal  
Housewares" (sculptures  
built from kitchen gad-  
gets) and "Abstract  
Realism" (paintings of  
deformed humanoids),  
Jan. 18-Feb. 8. And:  
"Joyce Pensato," familiar  
cartoon characters ren-  
dered with subversion,  
Jan. 24-Mar. 25. 713-  
223-8346.

"Stella in Studio: The  
Public Art of Frank Stella,  
1982-1997"—works rep-  
resenting the abstract  
artist's public art projects,  
including maquettes,  
sculpture, paintings,  
drawings and sketch-  
books never before seen  
outside his studio. Jan.  
18-Mar. 23 @ the  
University of Houston's

Enduring  
Legacy: Masterpieces  
from the Mr. & Mrs. John  
D. Rockefeller III Collection  
of Asian Art," through Jan.  
19; "Splendors of Ancient  
Egypt," through Mar. 30.  
713-639-7300.

"Schemata: Drawings by  
Sculptors" Through Feb.  
16 @ the Glassell School  
of Art, 5101 Montrose.  
713-639-7500.

"The Blues & the Abstract  
Truth"—installations by  
Sharon Engelstein,  
Barsamian, Greg Tate,  
Ron Smith/Sebastian  
Walker. Through Mar. 1  
@ Project Row Houses,  
2500 Holman. 713-526-  
7662.

"Mark Rothko: The Chapel  
Commission" Through  
Mar. 29 @ the Menil  
Collection, 1515 Sul Ross.  
713-525-9400.

Chrysalis Dance Co. performs "(Another)  
A Musing Machine," by Sean Curran (pictured),  
Jan 18 at the Jewish community Center.

almost  
all of the legendary  
uncompleted Welles films,  
Jan. 17-19, 7:30 P.M.;  
"Wings" (USSR, 1966),  
about a once-famous  
World War II female  
fighter pilot who can't  
adjust to peacetime life,  
and "Brief Encounters"  
(USSR, 1967), about a  
Soviet-era love triangle,  
Jan. 25 & 26. @ the  
Museum of Fine Arts,  
Houston, 1001  
Bissonnet. 713-639-  
7515.

Movie Time, Fridays, 7  
P.M. @ the Kolbe Project,  
1509 Fairview: "Anything  
Goes," Jan. 17; "Torch  
Song Trilogy," Jan. 24.  
713-522-8182.

## MUSIC

Da Camera presents  
"Fanny and Felix: A  
Mendelssohn Family  
Commemorative  
Concert." Music from the

713-546-  
0246.

The Houston Symphony  
plays Brahms' Symphony  
No. 1 and other works,  
Jan. 24-27 @ Jones  
Hall, 615 Louisiana. 713-  
227-ARTS or 800-227-  
ARTS.

## SPOKEN WORD

From DiverseWorks:  
"PhoneWorks"—recorded  
readings and soundings of  
new poetry, fiction, sound  
and experimental text-  
based art by Houston writ-  
ers and artists. Dial  
713-228-2882 to hear  
work by: Claire T.  
Lawrence, through Jan.  
31.

## THEATER

### NEW

Agatha Christie's "Ten  
Little Indians," a mystery  
comedy set on the coast of  
Devon in the 1940s. Jan.  
17-Feb. 7 @ the Country  
Playhouse, 12802

Brown  
Theater @  
the  
Worham  
Theater  
Center.

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Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. 713-526-  
1017.

Corporation Network Group. 281-366-5030.

Covenant Baptist Church. 713-668-8830.

Dignity (gay & lesbian Catholics). 713-880-2872.

Front Runners (running group). Tuesdays, 6:30 P.M.,  
Sundays, 9 A.M. @ Memorial Park. 713-522-8021.

GAYS (Garden & Yard Society)—(gay gardening club).  
713-862-3922.

Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos. 713-813-3769.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. New members always wel-  
come. 713-521-SING.

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce,  
1109 Hyde Park, #178. 713-523-7576.

Heartsong Women's Chorus. 713-947-1488.

HATCH (Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of  
Homosexuals). 713-942-7002.

Houston Area National Organization for Women (HANOW).  
2nd Thursdays, 6:30 P.M. @ Interfaith Ministries Bldg.,  
3217 Montrose. 713-665-8669.

Houston Area Women's Center, 1010 Waugh. 713-528-  
6798.

Houston Chain Gang Bicycling Club. 713-863-1860.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents (HGLP). 2nd Tuesdays, 7  
P.M. @ Grace Lutheran. Child care provided. 713-284-  
4939.

Houston Outdoor Group. 4th Thursdays, 7 P.M. @ 1116  
Jackson Blvd. 713-526-7688.

Houston Professional Men's Association. 713-861-0866.

Houston Women's Flag Football League. 713-315-9368.

Integrity Houston (gay & lesbian Episcopalians). 713-432-  
0414.

Just For Us (a group for kids grades 6-12 who have gay or  
lesbian parents, sponsored by HGLP). 713-284-4939.

Lambda Rollerskating Club. Wednesdays, 8-10 P.M. @  
Starlite Skating Academy. 713-933-5818.

LiB (Lesbians in Business). 713-529-0077.

Log Cabin Republicans of Houston. 713-529-9100.

Lutherans Concerned (@ Grace Lutheran). 713-869-4218.

MCCR (Metropolitan Community Church of the  
Resurrection), 1919 Decatur. Sunday services, 9 & 11  
A.M. 713-861-9149.

Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-  
0037.

Montrose Ice Picks. 2nd Thursdays @ Galleria Ice Rink.  
713-522-3687.

National Gay & Lesbian Journalists Association. 713-528-  
1793.

National Leather Association Houston. 713-434-2417.

P-FLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays)  
Houston. 713-867-9020.

Prime Timers Houston. 713-867-3903.

Rainbow Fishing Club. 713-523-6381.

Roundtable, the Houston Philosophy Forum. 1st & 3rd  
Wednesdays, 7 P.M. @ Cafe Express, Waugh & W. Gray.  
713-779-8620.

Survivors of Loss. Tuesdays, 7 P.M. @ Sharpstown General  
Hospital. 713-778-2677.

Twenty Something (social & support group for gays and  
lesbians in their 20s). 713-315-6786.

Fax submissions to (512) 472-8154, or mail to 1615 West Sixth St., Austin, TX 78703



# REAL ESTATE



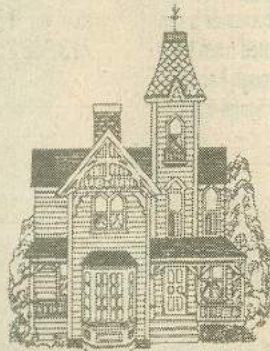
## Throw Away Your Wish Bone

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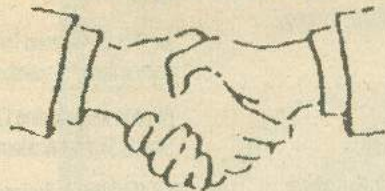
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2 Bedroom/2 bath condo is west of Burnet Rd & north of Hancock Dr. Upstairs, end unit with elevator access. Fireplace • Skylights • Ceiling Fans • Shady & green landscaped common area. **\$88,500. Call Mary Black (512) 892-0870, pager 469-1100.**

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1 & 2 bedrooms available. Water and gas paid. Utilities on site. Move-in specials. \$475-\$625. Also: on-site manager position open. 940-0664, leave message.

### HYDE PARK

Large 1BR/1BA. 4213 Avenue C. \$675/month. Available 1st week of Feb. Jim-480-0202.

### TRAVIS HEIGHTS

Off Riverside, convenient to downtown. Attractive house, corner lot, large trees, landscaped yard, sprinkler system. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Hardwood floors. Ceiling fans. Deck. New kitchen. Washer. Dryer. CA/CH. \$1250/month + deposit. References required. Call 442-5127 for appointment.

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## SAN ANGELO

### PERSONALS

Would like to meet male friends in San Angelo Area. I like to play 42/88, and Hearts your place or mine. I do not smoke, drink, or use drugs. I have two adult films to share. Best times for me Sun thru Thur 2PM - 10PM. Lets meet for coffee or supper my treat. Caucasian or Hispanic age 50 and up. Write to me. Nathan HC 60 Box 201, Robert Lee, TX 76945.

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For publication serving the women's community in the greater Texas region. Competitive commission. Call 713-868-1910 or fax info to 713-868 1912. Advertisers, distributors and contributors are also needed. Athena Art, Box 66604, Houston, TX 77266.

### PERSONALS

## CARPENTER ONLY FOR

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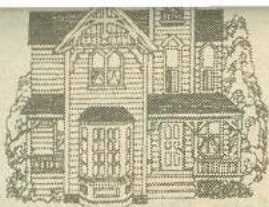
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