

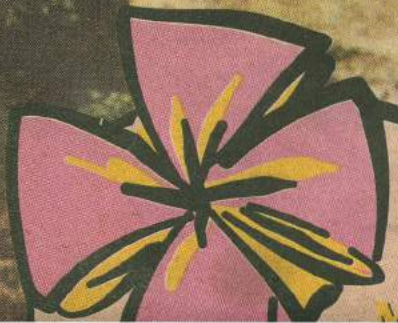
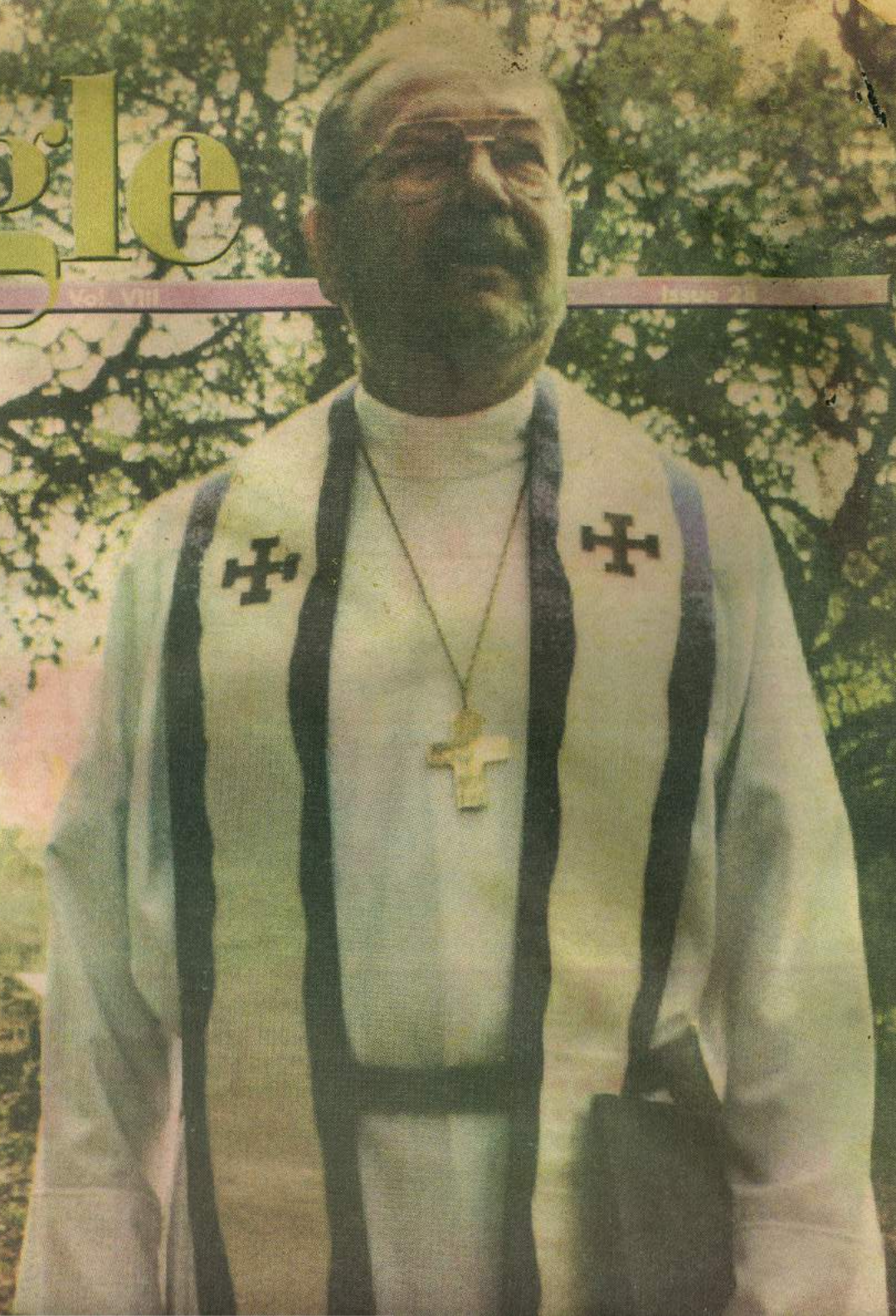
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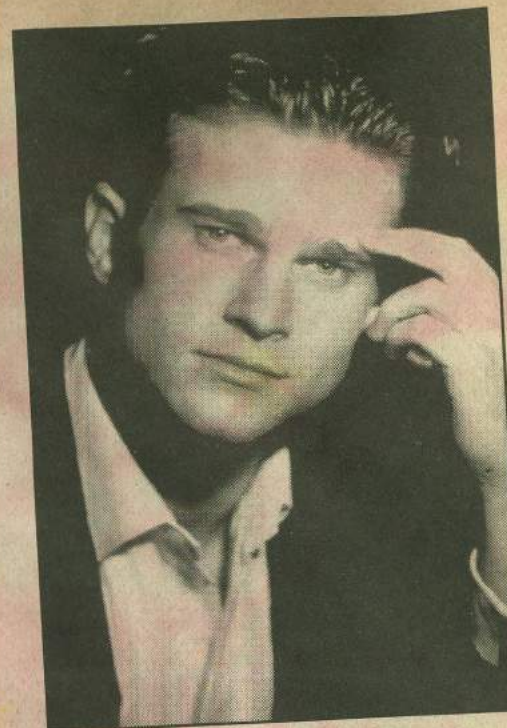
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Publisher
Todd Cunningham

Editor in Chief
Nancy Ford

Managing Editor
Matt Lum

Writers and Contributors
Dale Carpenter
Angela Cheng
Arthur Cohan
Jane Devlin
Michael Thomas Ford
Greg Kubiak
Tim Nason
Katrina C. Rose
Rex Wockner
Hastings Wyman

Art Director
Misty Hillin

Design Consultant
Donna Aldridge

Advertising Representatives
James Bengfort
Eileen Ledgerwood
Kelly Malone
Brandon Young

Classified Advertising Representative
Colin Riley, 1-800-435-8407

National Advertising Representative
RIVENDELL MARKETING COMPANY, INC.
212-242-6863

Office Locations
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Dallas
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Dallas, TX 75219
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Houston
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Bush 'A Better Person' for Meeting with Gays?

By Matt Lum
TRIANGLE Managing Editor

AUSTIN — Texas Governor George W. Bush met with gay Republicans in Texas last Thursday, emerging from the meeting calling himself a "better person" for having met with homosexuals.

Since the beginning of his campaign for president, Bush continually stated in various media outlets that he refused to meet with homosexuals, specifically the Log Cabin Republicans. While he was campaigning in South Carolina, a very conservative state, he told religious right voters that he would not hire gays, nor would he meet with gay groups, even though they were republican.

Then, right before his bid was up for Primary consideration in California, Bush began talk that included homosexuals in an effort to "center" his Republican campaign and move it from the far right.

The meeting with carefully-selected gay Republicans in Austin on April 13 came only after months and months of sidestepping gay and lesbian issues by Bush. His record in Texas shows his lack of support on several crucial issues to the gay community, including gay adoption, same-sex partnership rights, and the inclusion of homosexuals in any hate crimes legislation.

Bush's stance on these issues has not changed as a result of his meeting with

campaign began discussions this week to lay the groundwork for future meetings, but some say this is more of a political game than anything else.

A gay public relations specialist in Washington, DC whose brother is a big financial contributor to Bush and an active fund-raiser for his campaign organized the meeting. The "delegates" chosen to attend the meeting were chosen very strategically, according to LCR Austin's Steve Labinski.

Among those at the meeting were openly gay GOP elected officials — Mayor Dan Stewart of Plattsburgh, N.Y., and Councilmember David Catania of Washington D.C., and a number of Log Cabin members who endorsed Bush in the Republican primaries. LCR made

no endorsement in the GOP primaries, but will vote whether to endorse Bush and his running mate on August 4 in Philadelphia.

Bush "was very interested in the idea" of having a gay speaker at the Republican National Convention, Catania said. The discussion centered on the possibility that Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., might be that speaker.

Former presidential contender Gary Bauer, however, warned that Bush was risking losing conservative support to third-party candidate Pat Buchanan. He said having a gay speaker at this summer's Republican National Convention would go over "like a lead balloon."

"And while we disagree on gay marriage, for example, we agree on a lot of other issues and it's important for people to hear that."

—George W. Bush

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Bush's stance on these issues has not changed as a result of his meeting with homosexuals.

"I welcome gay Americans into my campaign," Bush told reporters after the meeting. "I want the Republicans, conservative Republicans, to understand we judge people based upon their heart and soul, that's what the campaign is about. And while we disagree on gay marriage, for example, we agree on a lot of other issues and it's important for people to hear that," he said.

"Today's meeting was a positive first step in an historic dialogue with a Republican presidential nominee, in an election cycle that has been truly historic for gay Americans," said Robert Stears, chairman of Log Cabin Republicans. "We commend Governor Bush for the positive dialogue he has begun this week with gay Americans, and we all are encouraged by the fact that this is the first of many opportunities to discuss policy issues and concerns which we share with him."

Senior leaders in LCR and the Bush

"And while we disagree on gay marriage, for example, we agree on a lot of other issues and it's important for people to hear that."

—George W. Bush

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Former presidential contender Gary Bauer, however, warned that Bush was risking losing conservative support to third-party candidate Pat Buchanan. He said having a gay speaker at this summer's Republican National Convention would go over "like a lead balloon."

"I think it would be bizarre to pick somebody to speak at the convention based on their sexual preference, because once you go down that road, why don't you pick a transvestite?" Bauer told The Associated Press in an interview.

There is little doubt that Bush's move to meet with gay Republicans has opened an often-closed door in the GOP, the door to the closet. The Republican Party's platform in Texas specifically notes homosexuals and "their agenda" as being against traditional beliefs, and states that sodomy "tears the moral fabric of society."

Still, Bush insists, "These are people from our neighborhoods, people with whom all of us went to school," he said. "I appreciate them sharing their stories with me. I'm mindful that we're all God's children."

The true indicator of Bush's acceptance of homosexuals may not be seen until our issues come across his desk. In Texas, when that has happened before, the results have been less than favorable.

Vermont One Vote Away from Legalizing Same Sex Unions

By Matt Lum
TRIANGLE Managing Editor

MONTPELIER — The Vermont Senate voted in favor of a "civil union" bill this week that would give same-sex couples the same rights and benefits afforded married couples under state law.

In December 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court handed down a decision that mandated that same-sex couples must be offered the same "benefits" and "protections" that married heterosexual couples now receive. In its ruling, the court directed the Vermont Legislature to decide whether these benefits will come through traditional marriage or through a similar arrangement such as a "civil unions" bill.

Stopping short of recognizing gay marriages, the bill allows for gay and lesbian Americans to take part in civil unions, just as heterosexual couples can marry. Same-sex couples will be entitled to all 300 or more benefits available under state law to married couples — including medical decisions, estate inheritance, overseeing burials, transferring property and certain tax breaks. Town clerks would be authorized to give same-sex couples licenses, and clergy, justices of the peace or judges would make their unions official.

There is no guarantee other states would recognize the unions, but no residency requirement was included that would bar couples from other states from traveling to Vermont to unite, even if only symbolically.

The unions would also have to be dissolved in family court, like a traditional marriage, and couples registering for a civil

gay and lesbian community have expressed delight in the ruling.

"It's great that it passed," said Beth Robinson, one of the lawyers who successfully argued before the Supreme Court that gay and lesbian couples were being unconstitutionally denied the benefits of marriage.

"What's greater to me is the margin by which it passed," Robinson said. "That shows me the Senate understands that gays and lesbians need and deserve the same protections as heterosexuals in our society and that's a great breakthrough."

Vermont House Speaker Michael Obuchowski said he would hold the House vote next Tuesday and was confident it would win final approval in that chamber.

At least 30 states have banned gay marriages, and Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal recognition of homosexual marriage and allowed states to ignore same-sex marriages licensed elsewhere.

"If people want to fly in for the weekend and get a civil union license and fly home, it's unlikely they're going to have their home state give it any legal recognition," House Judiciary Committee chairman Thomas Little has said.

On Tuesday, senators had debated whether civil unions would eventually lead to gay marriage or whether they would threaten traditional marriage.

"If this bill passed, would it have the tendency to encourage homosexuality?" wondered Republican Sen. John Crowley.

Sen. James Leddy said civil unions would not undermine his 28-year marriage — or anyone else's.

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The unions would also have to be dissolved in family court, like a traditional marriage, and couples registering for a civil union would also be held jointly responsible for debt incurred during the relationship.

There is evidence that public opinion towards same-sex marriage may be slowly changing, as people become more familiar with same-sex couples and the challenges they face. In September, an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll reported that two-thirds of all Americans believe that gay and lesbian people will win the freedom to marry.

Even so, earlier in the week, the Vermont Senate heard arguments to add two amendments to the state's constitution that would essentially threaten the recognition of the civil union. One amendment's purpose was to change the Vermont constitution to state that "One of the sole reasons for marriage was procreation" and the other would have overturned the Vermont Supreme Court's decision altogether.

Both amendments failed to earn even a simple majority in the legislature.

Now that the senate has approved the civil union's bill, representatives from the

that's a great breakthrough.
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Sen. James Leddy said civil unions would not undermine his 28-year marriage - or anyone else's.

"There's nothing in this court decision, nothing in this bill, nothing in the committed relationships of two people that presents a threat to my marriage," the Democrat said.

Opponents of the bill have continuously launched ad campaigns and organized several protests against the legislation.

"It's a tragic day for the state of Vermont, for the Senate has ignored the will of the people," said Janet Parshall of the Family Research Council in a statement. "But it's an even sadder day for the state of marriage, for the Senate action today was a direct assault on this sacred institution."

According to David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, "Vermont is taking care of its gay and lesbian citizens in a way that other states are not. Vermont is restating its commitment to fairness by [Thursday's] action."

Expect Tuesday for Vermont to make history by becoming the first state in America to recognize and validate the relationships of same-sex couples, and be prepared for the aftermath.

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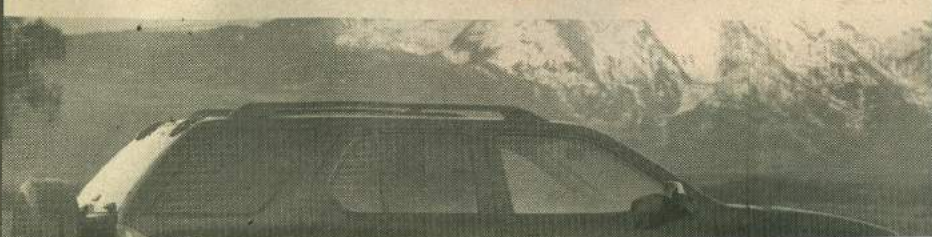
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Demonstrators to KTVT-TV: 'Drop Dr. Laura'

By Matt Lum
TRIANGLE Managing Editor

DALLAS — A wide-ranging coalition of demonstrators under the auspices of the national organization StopDrLaura.com, protested at the Dallas Offices of CBS affiliate KTVT-TV, channel 11, on April 15. They demanded that the station drop plans to air a television show hosted by radio talk show host and anti-gay activist Laura Schlessinger.

On Friday afternoon, April 14, gay and lesbian community representatives met with Brian Jones, VP and General Manager to demand that KTVT drop Laura Schlessinger's upcoming television show. John R. Selig of StopDrLaura.com, Cathy Renna of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), Steve Atkinson of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) and Dave Gleason of Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) met with Brian Jones for over an hour.

During the meeting Brian Jones brought out a memo that he had received from CBS stating that Schlessinger had apologized for her comments against gays. When the gay and lesbian community representatives

pointed out that Schlessinger had recanted her apology a few days later, Jones appeared surprised and expressed disdain that CBS had failed to share that information with him. The activists requested that Jones relay

broadcasters to look out for the good of their listeners and viewers. How dare KTVT put Laura Schlessinger on the air when she says hateful things against gays and makes untruthful statements about us?" he asked.

"Channel 11 needs to hear the lesson loud and clear that we are not going to go away on this issue. If they put Laura Schlessinger on the air, they have to be held accountable," said Steve Atkinson, Activism Chair of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Next, Cathy Renna, Director of Community Relations for GLAAD, told the crowd, "This is not a censorship issue. It is not about Dr. Laura's rights to her personal religious or moral values. She can scream them from the mountaintops. But if any media entity gives her a platform to spew her misinformation and defamatory language about us as people, we are going to hold them accountable."

Rabbi Harold Caminker, from Temple

Ner Tamid shared some lessons concerning hate. "There is a tradition in Judaism that goes back thousands of years concerning 'hatred without cause,'" he said. "And I wonder, Dr. Laura, if you know that 'hatred without cause' lead to the destruction of the

Holy Temple in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. In my Judaism there is no room for hate."

Dave Gleason, President of PFLAG-Dallas reminded the protestors, "It's not just



Cathy Renna of GLAAD speaks at the Dr. Laura Protest at KTVT-TV



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111 Soledad St., Ste 850
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210.886.0800

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More than 125 protesters attended the rally. Speakers faced the crowd from atop the bed of a pickup truck and addressed the protesters with a bullhorn. A banner held behind the speakers read "Hate Must Be A KTVT-TV Concern."

KTVT-TV, Channel 11, plans to offer "Dr. Laura" on television this fall. Schlessinger has used her current radio program to rail against gays and lesbians, calling them "deviant," and "biological errors," and has suggested that a "huge portion" of gay men is involved in pedophilia.

John R. Selig, Dallas Protest Organizer for StopDrLaura.com, kicked-off the rally by addressing the protesters.

"There is a social responsibility for

Community Relations for GLAAD, told the crowd, "This is not a censorship issue. It is not about Dr. Laura's rights to her personal religious or moral values. She can scream them from the mountaintops. But if any media entity gives her a platform to spew her misinformation and defamatory language about us as people, we are going to hold them accountable."

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Holy Temple in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. In my Judaism there is no room for hate."

Dave Gleason, President of PFLAG-Dallas reminded the protestors, "Its not just the gay community themselves that are upset, that are angry. For every child or adult out there who is gay, lesbian, bisexual transgendered or questioning, there are parents out there who are angry as hell at what Laura Schlessinger is saying about their children."

Selig advised, "Keep making phone calls and sending e-mails to Brian Jones at KTVT and to the other stations and companies listed on the StopDrLaura.com web site. The affiliates, CBS and Paramount are keeping track of the numbers of calls and e-mails that they receive. Advertisers don't want to get involved with controversy. Help keep the story in the news and help build the controversy."

Meanwhile, reports from California indicate that Dr. Laura's rehearsals show "She just can't get the hang of being a TV host. She's having a hard time walking with the microphone and talking at the same time, and just looks awkward on camera."



Cathy Renna of GLAAD speaks at the Dr. Laura Protest at KTVT-TV

Gay State Employee Targets Gay Mortgage Company

By Matt Lum
TRIANGLE Managing Editor

DALLAS — Jeff Johnston, owner of Pride Mortgage Company, received an email on Saturday morning at the end of March. "Whilst perusing the Texas Triangle I happened upon your ad," it said.

Although it is not unusual for Triangle advertisers to get calls or emails from our readers, Johnston felt as if he was being targeted for an investigation due to his advertising with the gay and lesbian press.

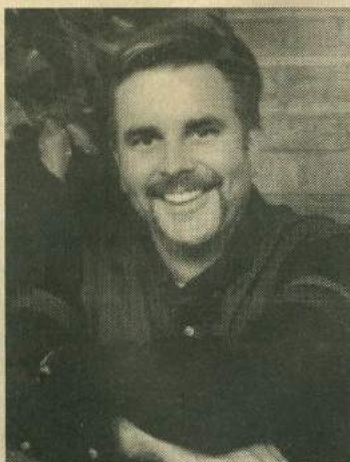
The email continued, "My name is David Thompson and am not only gay, but also the Licensing Supervisor for the mortgage broker loan officer licensing as required by the mortgage broker licensing act passed by Texas legislature in 1999."

Although Johnston is in full compliance with recent laws concerning the licensing of brokers and loan officers, several aspects of the correspondence from the supervisor at the agency struck him as inappropriate. For example, the emailed letter originated from a personal yahoo Email address, was written on a Saturday morning, and specifically mentioned aspects of Johnston's advertising in a gay publication.

Thompson's inquiry went on to ask if Pride Mortgage, Inc. was aware of licensing laws for brokers and loan officers in what

I found you," said Johnston.

In his reply to David Thompson, Johnston stated his concerns about the integrity of the inquiry and noted "You're are correct in that your questions are "nosy" as you put it. That you also feel they are "necessary" is beyond me since last time I read the law I saw nothing in it about your agency being on a witch hunt absent a complaint from a citizen."



Jeff Johnston, owner of Pride Mortgage

It was also odd to Johnston that the supervisor in the department that actually creates the licenses for brokers and loan officers failed to check his records before sending the inquiry.

"I'm glad to be of service in helping you become familiar with your own records as it relates to my firm," he wrote to Thompson. "In the future, I believe it would be appropriate for you to communicate

with our office from your work email address instead of your own private address on Yahoo. I'm certain the Commissioner would be most appreciative of your gallant efforts in selectively enforcing the law via his approved methods of correspondence from his office."

In response to Johnston's reply, Thompson stated, "It was truly not my intention to question yours nor your company's integrity. As a member of the Texas gay community, I merely wished to insure that Pride

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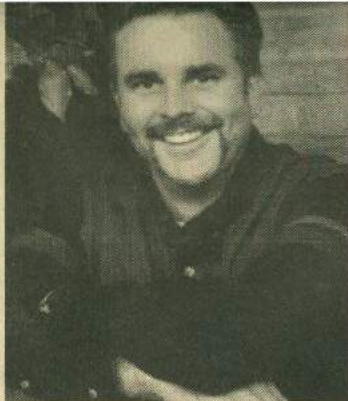
Thompson's inquiry went on to ask if Pride Mortgage, Inc. was aware of licensing laws for brokers and loan officers, in what Thompson himself called a "nosy, true, but necessary" inquiry.

"If you are mortgage brokers/loan officers [...and not] licensed, do you realize that you are in violation of the mortgage broker licensing act and are operating illegally?" he asked.

Johnston was shocked at what he considered to be a "witch hunt" by an employee of the State of Texas.

"I've never been the target of discriminatory practices on behalf of a governmental agency before simply because my company advertises in a gay publication," Johnston said in his reply. "You'll have to forgive me if I seem a little taken with the whole idea that a gay man in a state agency targets my business for scrutiny simply because I support our own community," he continued.

"What really matters here is that his personal email was very accusatory. It wasn't like 'hey, how's it goin', just checkin' up on you', it was more like, 'I carry a big stick and



Jeff Johnston, owner of Pride Mortgage

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In response to Johnston's reply, Thompson stated, "It was truly not my intention to question yours nor your company's integrity. As a member of the Texas gay community, I merely wished to insure that Pride Mortgage, Inc. was licensed - a feeble, though honest, desire to "look out" for our own, if you will.

"I am thrilled to learn that you were already on top of the licensing requirement," he said.

Although Johnston and Pride Mortgage are satisfied with the responses they received from the agency and Thompson's supervisor, the incident made the state aware that Pride Mortgage was a gay and lesbian business, which may or may not be a part of official or unofficial records at the agency.

It is unknown whether or not Thompson's supervisors or any one else at the state agency was aware of his sexuality until this incident.

Thompson's supervisor informed Pride Mortgage that at no time would such in inquiry occur again, and stated that no where in Thompson's job description does it mention anything about enforcing the law. "That is not his job, and he has been reprimanded," he said.

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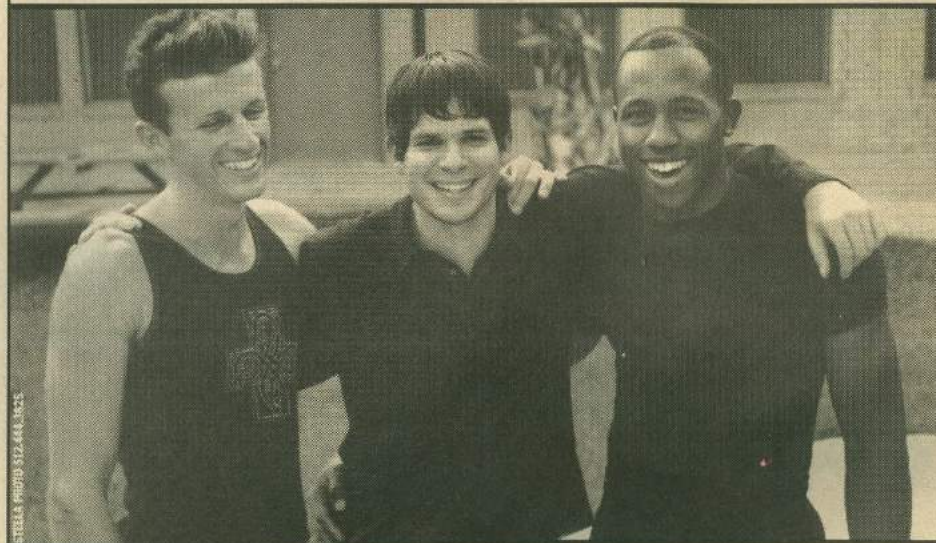
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Buchanan Blasts Bush's Leadership

WASHINGTON — Under George W. Bush's leadership, the Republican Party has surrendered the cultural soul of the nation and abandoned the American family, Pat Buchanan, the party's most prominent deserter, said last, according to The Associated Press.

By refusing to rule out abortion advocates as potential running mates, and by meeting with Republican homosexuals, Buchanan said, the presumed GOP presidential nominee is telling the party not to stand on the principle that family is all-important.

"He's raising the white flag and stacking arms [surrendering] in the cultural war for the soul of this country," Buchanan said on "Fox News Sunday."

Buchanan abandoned his quest for the 2000 GOP presidential nomination in October after repeated poor showings in opinion polls. He told supporters that, like the Democrats, the Republicans had stopped fighting "with conviction and courage to rescue God's country from the cultural and moral pit into which she has fallen."

On Bush's meeting last week with a dozen gay Republicans, Buchanan said: "He's sending a signal that this really is not a matter that we ought to let trouble us. But you know, what he's doing is he's walking away from the pro-family Republicans."

"Look, Republicans believe — or used to believe — the idea of preserving the family is critical, and any assault upon the family was really one of the reasons why this country is in such profound trouble," he said. "Mr. Bush is saying that this point of view (homosexuality) is thoroughly acceptable."

Navy Boss: Don't Test Gay Issues

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig told an audience at the U.S. Naval Academy that the military should not be considered a testing ground for gay-rights issues, The Associated Press reported.

Responding to a question about gays in military service, Danzig said Monday night that American society "hasn't reached a consensus" on gay rights.

"In the end, the military itself shouldn't be a driver of that, but a follower of the consensus of society," he said.

"It is really much more an issue for society-at-large as it is for the military," he said. "The military isn't essentially a testing ground."

Defense Secretary William Cohen last month said he would create a special committee to investigate anti-gay speech and harassment after a Pentagon inspector general's survey found that the problems are commonplace in the American military.

The Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy permits gays and lesbians to serve in the military as long as they keep their sexual orientation to themselves and commanders do not inquire about it.

The Pentagon was forced to take a closer look at how the gay policy is being implemented after the bludgeoning death last July of a gay Army private at Fort Campbell, Ky. His killer, a fellow private, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

ACLU Files Lawsuit for Fired Lesbian

LOUISVILLE, KY — In a first-of-its-kind case that may change the landscape of the national debate over whether religious

groups that discriminate should receive taxpayer funds, the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State have filed a lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Kentucky and a publicly-funded religious organization that fired a lesbian employee.

The lawsuit opens a new front in the battle against employment discrimination, by charging that Alicia Pedreira, a lesbian, was fired by Baptist Homes for Children because she did not share her employer's religious beliefs about homosexuality.

"Both the state and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children must be held accountable," said Jeff Vessels, Executive Director of the ACLU of Kentucky.

"Most citizens do not want their tax dollars used to discriminate, which is what is happening here."

"Everyone agrees that Alicia Pedreira was a good counselor. She was fired not because she couldn't do the job, but because of religious intolerance and discrimination," added Michael Adams, Associate Director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project and the lead attorney in the case. "If Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children believes that its religion teaches it to discriminate, that's its right. But to pay for it with taxpayer money violates the separation of church and state required by the Establishment Clause."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is the largest "private" provider of youth social services in Kentucky, and describes itself as the oldest Southern Baptist child care ministry in America.

On the same day Alicia Pedreira was fired in October 1998, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children enacted a written policy that homosexuality would prohibit employment there because it is inconsistent with the

organization's Christian values.

Methodists Affirm Gay/Lesbian Worshipers

WASHINGTON — Union United Methodist Church in Boston made history by voting to become the nation's first black Methodist church to officially welcome and include gay and lesbian worshipers.

"This is a courageous, precedent-setting decision that blazes a new

trail for other churches who want to be more inclusive and accepting of their gay and lesbian members," said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "This vote - combined with the resolution by the Central Conference on American Rabbis to allow same-sex weddings - shows that there is a growing trend towards religious inclusion that cuts across denominational lines."

The Union United Church, a 125-member institution led by Rev. Theodore L. Lockhart, voted to become a "reconciling and inclusive" church - a term that essentially means a church that accepts and affirms gay and lesbian people.

Hilda Evans, a 61-year-old married woman with two adult children, suggested in 1996 that the church become "reconciling and inclusive" and led the effort that ended in a successful vote.

Lesbian Wins Close City Council Race

ORLANDO — Community leader Patty Sheehan has won her bid for a seat on the Orlando, Florida, City Council, becoming the city's first openly gay or lesbian candidate elected to office, according to the Gay

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and Lesbian Victory Fund. By a vote of 52 to 48 percent, Sheehan beat one-term incumbent Bill Bagley in the non-partisan run-off for the 4th District seat on the Council.

"Voters in Orlando made the common-sense decision to put individual merit ahead of sexual orientation," said Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund Executive Director Brian K. Bond. "Patty Sheehan is a dedicated neighborhood advocate who will work tirelessly to serve all the families of her district and the city of Orlando. Her victory is a triumph of decency over discrimination, a victory not just for the local gay and lesbian community but for all the people of Orlando."

Sheehan was the second highest vote-getter in a non-partisan election on March 14. Since no candidate won an outright majority in that round of balloting, she and her opponent moved forward to the run-off in which she triumphed.

"Everyone wins when everyone is openly and honestly represented in public life," noted Bond. "We still have far to go until gay and lesbian Americans are fully and openly represented in our government, and until discrimination is a thing of the past."

But Patty Sheehan's victory is the latest sign that we are moving in the right direction."

NGLTF's 'Creating Change' Set for Atlanta

WASHINGTON — NGLTF Creating Change, the largest annual conference of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, is going to Atlanta, the historical and spiritual home of the civil rights movement and host to the nation's third largest Pride celebration.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has announced early registration rates for this year's conference, which will be held Thursday, Nov. 9 through Sunday, Nov. 12 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta.

"This year, NGLTF Creating Change makes its first journey to Atlanta, birthplace and resting place of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Virginia M. Apuzzo, interim NGLTF Political Director. "Atlanta is the home of the Cracker Barrel organizing campaign that inspired a national movement for equal employment rights, and venue for Olympics out of Cobb, the group that ousted the Olympic Games from anti-gay Cobb County. Atlanta will be an exciting place to visit just two days after the November elections as we contemplate the future of the GLBT movement for equality."

NGLTF Creating Change will kick off just two days after the November 2000 elections. As in previous years, NGLTF Creating Change will assemble more than 150 workshops on a vast array of subjects. These include strategy sessions, how-to organizing sessions, policy discussions and case studies. In addition, the conference will feature daily caucus and networking sessions, special gatherings, constituency group meetings, and brown bag lunches.

Other highlights of NGLTF Creating Change include a Sunday Procession of Respect to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-Violence, and a queer film festival Sunday evening.

Official sponsors of NGLTF Creating Change include Gay.com, G&L Internet Bank, Hero Magazine and PlanetOut.com. American Airlines is the official carrier of NGLTF Creating Change.

For more information about NGLTF Creating Change, access www.creatingchange.org, call 202-332-6483, ext. 3301

or email creatingchange@ngltf.org.

Gore Softens Opposition to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON — In an interview conducted last week by editors of Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times — all independent military newspapers — Vice President Al Gore referred to President Bill Clinton "an outstanding commander in chief". Later, the projected Democratic presidential nominee appeared to contrast himself with the president, whose relationship with the military got off to a shaky start, The Associated Press reported.

Clinton's 1992 campaign stirred allegations that he had dodged the Vietnam draft, and his first act in office was to try to end the ban on gays in the military.

"I would want to draw on the experiences that I have, limited though they were, to establish a close bond of understanding with the men and women in uniform," said Gore, who served five months in Vietnam as an Army reporter.

He also seemed to soft-pedal his campaign pledge to end the administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy and let gays serve openly in the military.

Asked about earlier remarks, since retracted, that he would require his Joint Chiefs of Staff to agree with him on gays in the military, Gore said: "I will certainly not have a litmus test. And I would want to hear any differing opinions."

He noted that changing the policy will take "a debate and a vote" and added that, if elected, "I will attempt to persuade the Congress to change the law that undergirds

the present policy."

In a campaign statement in December, Gore more forcefully declared: "If I am entrusted with the presidency, I will make those changes and propose legislation in Congress to eliminate this unacceptable form of discrimination."

Newspaper Aimed at Gay Seniors

NEW YORK — In page after page of the gay press, the image of gay America is often one of youthful vitality, The Associated Press reports. The Networker, a fledgling newspaper for older lesbians and gay men, seeks to change that image.

"Some folks tell us that as they get older they go back in the closet a little bit, because they're more leery of institutions in general and they become less comfortable with their sexuality," said Stephen Karpiak, the newspaper's editor.

"Part of the reason for the paper is to start to draw images about, yes, there are people who are 50, 60, 70 years old, who have very positive lifestyles, who are maybe even good-looking, God forbid. And they are part of this community."

Karpiak, 52, also is executive director of the Pride Senior Network, a nonprofit advocacy group for elderly gays. It publishes The Networker, which is starting as a quarterly distributed in restaurants, doctors' offices and other spots where gay people and seniors congregate. It is also available at the network's Web site.

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He noted that changing the policy will take "a debate and a vote" and added that, if elected, "I will attempt to persuade the Congress to change the law that undergirds

they go back in the closet a little bit, because they're more leery of institutions in general and they become less comfortable with their sexuality," said Stephen Karpiak, the newspaper's editor.

"Part of the reason for the paper is to start to draw images about, yes, there are people who are 50, 60, 70 years old, who have very positive lifestyles, who are maybe even good-looking, God forbid. And they are part of this community."

Karpiak, 52, also is executive director of the Pride Senior Network, a nonprofit advocacy group for elderly gays. It publishes The Networker, which is starting as a quarterly distributed in restaurants, doctors' offices and other spots where gay people and seniors congregate. It is also available at the network's Web site.

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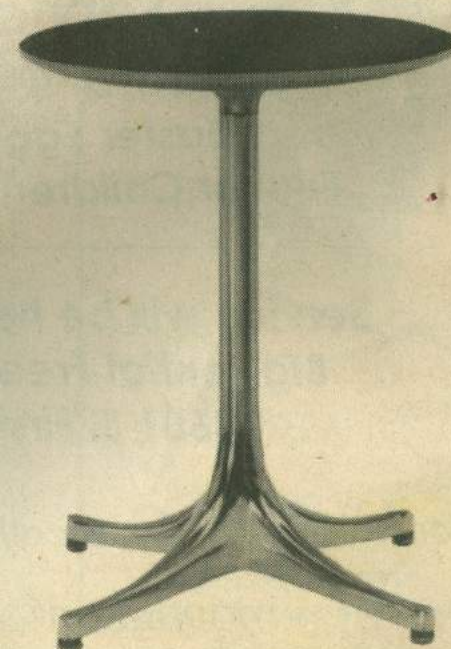
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Easter Sunday

International News

By Rex Wockner

Canadian Bill Passes House

Canadian legislation that will equalize gay and straight couples passed its final reading in the House of Commons April 11 by a vote of 174 to 72.

The measure grants gay couples all federal benefits received by common-law opposite-sex spouses and extends to gay and straight common-law couples many marriage rights that neither group currently has. It rewrites some 70 federal statutes in areas ranging from pensions and insurance to income tax and prison visits.

The bill is a response to several court decisions, including last year's Supreme Court ruling that Ontario's definition of "spouse" was unconstitutionally heterosexual.

"This legislation is about respect," said Justice Minister Anne McLellan. "It's about tolerance. It's about fairness."

The measure must pass through the unelected Senate, which is expected to rubberstamp it, before it becomes law.

Lords OK Equal Age of Consent

A measure to equalize the ages of consent for gay and straight sex at 16 received an unopposed second reading in Britain's anti-gay House of Lords April 11. Currently gay-male sex is not legal until age 18.

pretended family relationship" in schools.

Because the Section 28 repeal bill began in the House of Lords, the Lords' vote on it cannot be overridden via the Parliament Act.

Gay Group Gets \$1.4 Million from Government

The British gay lobby group Stonewall received \$1.41 million from the National Lottery Charities Board April 13.

The money will be used in Stonewall's Citizenship 21 program to challenge prejudice and homophobia, foster institutional change and build links among minority communities.

Five people will be hired to run workshops on gay issues for employers and government entities. A national gay database will be created for use by gay groups, police, health officials and charities.

Lottery Board Chair Lady Brittan said: "Our aim is to support those at greatest disadvantage in society, and we believe that the lesbian and gay community is as equally disadvantaged as many others. The Citizenship 21 project is an exciting attempt to tackle disadvantage across England by challenging prejudice and homophobia. It will also improve our understanding of lesbian and gay issues. In the scheme of things this award is very small, but we hope that Stonewall's innovative approach will make a real difference across the country."

Korean Film Festival Seeks Entries

The second Seoul International Queer Film & Video Festival is seeking entries.

The first festival, in 1998, "was a big

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The Lords still oppose the bill but because they have blocked it repeatedly in the past, the government now has the authority to invoke the little-used Parliament Act to change the law without the Lords' approval.

The Parliament Act can be used only when the unelected Lords repeatedly vote down a bill that began in and passed the elected House of Commons. The act has been used five times since 1911.

Had the Lords blocked the consent bill again, the government would have invoked the act immediately.

The measure still faces a third reading before the Lords but it is not expected to encounter further serious opposition.

The Lords likely will seek their revenge against Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour government by continuing to block repeal of Section 28, a 10-year-old law that prohibits cities from "intentionally promot[ing] homosexuality" or teaching "the acceptability of homosexuality as a

communities.

Five people will be hired to run workshops on gay issues for employers and government entities. A national gay database will be created for use by gay groups, police, health officials and charities.

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Korean Film Festival Seeks Entries

The second Seoul International Queer Film & Video Festival is seeking entries.

The first festival, in 1998, "was a big success," organizers said.

"The festival's percentage of seats was up to eighty-five percent and about more than 10,000 audiences met the queer film works during ten festival dates," Executive Director Seo Dong-Jin said April 11 in an English-language press release. "And we are proud to abolish almost all lawful and institutional obstacles to head off the queer view in Korean Society. In the end, the festival won the cultural civil rights to make and show queer film and video works."

The festival runs Sept. 1-7. Submissions should be sent by June 20 to 2000 Seoul International Queer Film & Video Festival, Organization Committee, Soongin-dong 207-40, Yongsu Building #206, Chongno-ku, Seoul 110-550, South Korea. For detailed information, e-mail queer21@thrunet.com.

A Testament of Faith and Love

By Sharon Barnes
TRIANGLE Contributing Writer

I was sixteen years old when I fell in love with Judaism. It was the day that my Rabbi told the confirmation class that the cornerstone of Judaism was tikkun olam—the piecing back together of the world. The story tells that the shards of the broken world lay scattered all over the earth and that it is the responsibility of the Jews to put the pieces back together to heal the world. However, there is a catch—the shards are hard to find because they are covered in dust. This makes the job more difficult because it means that the Jews have the responsibility of asking difficult questions and looking past seemingly obvious surfaces.

A landmark event occurred last month that affects both the Reform Jews and the lesbian and gay community. The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), which is the organized rabbinate of Reform Judaism, voted on a resolution on same-sex officiation.

The resolution states that, “the relationship of a Jewish, same gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual”, and goes on to say that it supports the decision of those rabbis who choose to officiate at the unions of same sex couples and also supports the decisions of those who do not. Furthermore, they are committed to developing educational and liturgical resources for gay and lesbian union ceremonies.

The history of the CCAR and its position on homosexuality began in 1977 when it adopted a resolution that called for legislation to decriminalize homosexuals and end discrimination of lesbians and gays. In 1990, the CCAR endorsed a report that stated that a person may become a rabbi, regardless of her or his sexual orientation. Then in 1996

the majority of Reform rabbis who do not perform interfaith marriages, the decision to perform Jewish homosexual unions often stirred up controversy. (“How can you do one and not the other?”). Another argument was that Reform Jewish rabbis often have a hard time getting recognized by the state of Israel. Some thought that taking a public stance might be risky, especially at a time when Israeli Reform Judaism is gaining increasing acceptance in the Jewish State.

In the meantime, Reform Rabbis struggled with the question of officiating over lesbian and gay unions. In 1999 the Women’s Rabbinic Network brought the issue to the floor again. When the CCAR met again in 2000, they decided that it was important to vote on a statement. Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker of Congregation Beth Israel in Austin was at the conference.

“It was much more emotional than I thought it would be—almost devastatingly so. Two people were against it and a long line was for it. There was a thundering ‘aye’ when we voted for it. Then there were a couple of ‘nay’s’. I was sitting near some gay rabbis...the whole room was sobbing,” she said.

Each rabbi decides what her or his level of comfort is regarding the ceremonies of recognition. Rabbi Dunsker is extremely passionate about officiating over gay and lesbian unions. She says: “All of my friends that I grew up with in Rochester are gay, so it is an issue that I am very conscious of...”

In terms of the actual ceremony, Rabbi Dunsker is interested in spending time with the Jewish gay or lesbian couple to craft non-traditional prayers. She would insist on exchanging rings, using a chuppah, and breaking glass.

At her sermon last Friday night, Rabbi Dunsker told the congregation, “When I



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At her sermon last Friday night, Rabbi Dunsker told the congregation, “When I officiate a marriage, I am trying to help two Jews start a home. Whether they are gay or straight doesn’t matter to me.”

“A Jew is a Jew—that is how we are different from Christianity. It is more about how you are born and how you live your life. Nobody can kick you out because being Jewish is on some level a people, nationality and religion. It crosses all of these lines.”

Rabbi Steven Folberg, also from Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, is chair of the Resolutions Committee. He comments, “There are lots of different kinds of pain in the world. I believe that there is nothing so painful as pretending you are someone you are not.”

Looking at me with eyes of wisdom and love, Rabbi Folberg adds, “If there are two Jewish people who are loving and committed to each other, they should be honored in a Jewish context. Judaism should be stretched to make room for that.”

To learn more about the CCAR Resolution, consult the web page: www.ccarnet.org

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Pet of the Week

Name: Elsie
Age: 2-3 years old
Breed: Doberman

Elsie is a two to three-year-old red female with cropped ears. She is a very sweet dog, calm and good with kids. Elsie was picked up by the Forney Road Shelter because she was found running loose. She is playful, friendly and affectionate and would make a very loving companion. Elsie also has a cowlick on the back of her neck that she thinks adds to her charm! In her photo session, Elsie took time out for a belly-rub. To adopt Elsie or inquire about other Dobermans needing homes, call:

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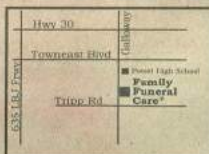
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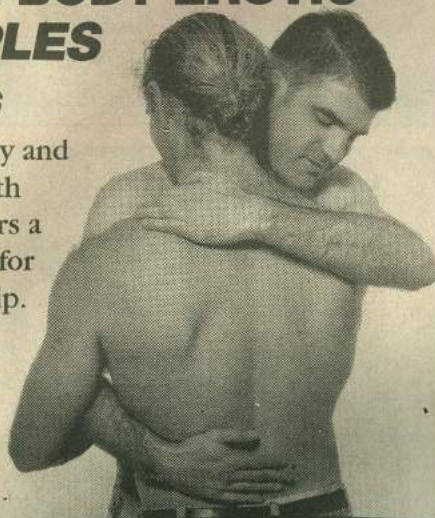
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Gay and Lesbian 'Frenzy' Set for Fiesta

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio's first out-of-the-closet, unofficial Fiesta event, the "Gay and Lesbian Fiesta Frenzy 2000", sponsored by TWA Airlines, gets underway at the RiverCenter Comedy Club at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25.

According to organizers, the program will consist of a madcap review including musical and dance numbers, the royalty of female impersonators, and prominent gay and lesbian comedy performers.

Featured "guest hostesses" include Pauletta Leigh, Autumn Summers, Layla LaRue, and Crystal Kelly. Each guest hostess will entertain and serve as a presenters for the event's featured performers, including Greg Hinojosa as Marilyn Monroe, Layla LaRue as Tina Turner, Vanessa Lourde as Barbra Streisand, Pete Sanchez as Frank Sinatra, and Daniel Acosta and Erica Daniels as Cher and "Cher Alike".

Live music will be performed by noted musical director and composer Mark Johnson.

The program will also include selected musical scenes from the Josephine Theatre's upcoming production of "La Cage Aux Folle" and the San Antonio Playhouse's "Nunsense".

The night will be capped off, organizers said, by a raffle for two round-trip tickets on TWA Airlines to any of its destinations within the United States or Canada.

Proceeds from the show and raffle ticket sales will support the programs of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

Tickets for the show are \$10 each and may only be purchased at the RiverCenter Comedy Club box-office, 849 East Commerce Street, Room 893. Info: 210-299-1420 or 210-732-4300.

(1997). The third installment, Ray Hill and Love, is the story of six colorful men in Hill's life, who include a well-known drag queen, Tiffany Jones (Kenneth Whitehead) and a Lutheran minister.

Edward Albee, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, has praised Ray Hill & the Sex Police: "Not a cliché the whole evening."

Hill has an extensive resume in the gay/lesbian community and on civil and prisoner rights. He is currently the founder, producer, and host of the weekly "Prison Show" on KPFT-FM, which began airing in 1980. Among his many achievements, in 1987 Hill won a landmark First Amendment case before the Supreme Court, which overturned a city ordinance that permitted police officers to arrest citizens who interrupt them during official business. Hill has won three other federal suits against the city of Houston in cases involving the police. In 1999, the Houston Trial Lawyers Foundation gave Hill its First Amendment Award.

Ray Hill and the Sex Police on Saturday, is scheduled for April 22, Ray Hill and Love will be staged on Saturday, April 29, with both performances beginning at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from both will support the center. Tickets for both performances: \$15. Info: 713-524-3818.

Program Set to Hone GLBT Organizational Strategy

DALLAS — Leadership Lambda has announced its "Strategic Planning: One on One" program. Scheduled for May 13, the one-day event will be highlighted by nationally-recognized strategic planning consultant Beth Applegate.

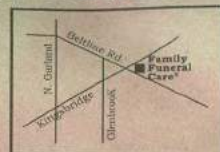
In the seminar, Applegate will meet with emerging gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered organizations in private ses-

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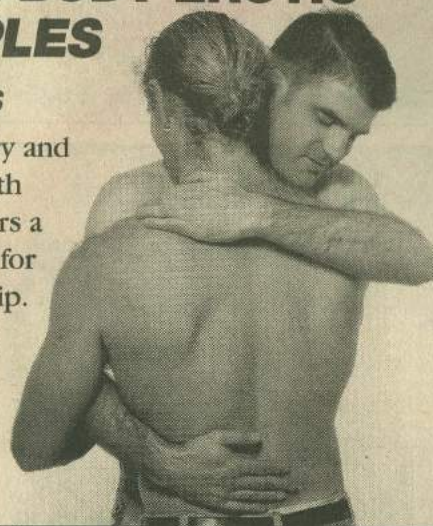


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Lake, and Crystal Kelly. Each guest host-
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Commerce Street, Room 893. Info: 210-299-
1420 or 210-732-4300.

Community Center To Benefit From Hill Performances

HOUSTON — Playwright, radio host,
and civil rights activist Ray Hill will present
two of his acclaimed one-man shows in ben-
efit performances on consecutive Saturdays
at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community
Center, located at 803 Hawthorne.

Produced by Diana Weeks, Ray Hill and
Love will receive only its second perfor-
mance at the community center. The world
premiere of this work took place on February
14, 2000. The Houston Gay and Lesbian
Political Caucus will cosponsor the produc-
tion of Ray Hill & the Sex Police.

Ray Hill & the Sex Police, first present-
ed in 1999, recounts Hill's encounters with
laws addressing homosexuality and the adult
entertainment business. This monologue is
the second in Hill's trilogy about his life,
which began with Ray Hill: The Prison Years

cers to arrest citizens who interrupt them
during official business. Hill has won three
other federal suits against the city of Houston
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In the seminar, Applegate will meet
with emerging gay, lesbian, bisexual and
transgendered organizations in private ses-
sions to receive information on strategic
planning and issues specific to their organi-
zations.

Tuition is \$150 per organization, which
allows up to five members of each organiza-
tion's leadership to attend. Applications for
acceptance is required, and space is limited,
organizers said.

Beth Applegate currently serves as co-
chair of the Board of directors of the Gay
Lesbian Straight Education Network
(GLSEN) and is a member of the Citizen
Advisory Committee on Economic
Strategies. She has also served as the
National Field Director of the Indiana
national Abortion and Reproductive Rights
Action League and Women's Outreach
Director for the Family Support Division of
Community Services for the Department of
the Army.

The program will be held at
Performance Consulting Inc. Info: 214-712-
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Capital Letters

Log Cabin Split: What's in It for Gay Folk?

Whether it's competing strategies or a personality clash, a battle royal or a tempest in a teapot, is the conflict among gay Republicans significant to the lesbian and gay community at large?



Hastings Wyman

By now, the particulars have been widely reported. GOP

presidential-nominee-to-be George W. Bush invited a group of gay Republicans to the Texas governor's mansion but pointedly left out Log Cabin Republican chief Rich Tafel and his allies on the national board, who have been at odds with the Bush campaign and had supported Sen. John McCain's presidential bid.

The case for the pro-Bush gays is that their participation in such a historic meeting — the first time a Republican nominee has met with a group of gay Republicans — substantially diminishes the anti-gay impulse in

American politics. Furthermore, by working loyally with the party, these gay GOPers are in a position to make significant gains for the gay cause. Moreover, it is important that gay people have some voice in the party that controls Congress and might win the White House in November, even if Republicans aren't very sympathetic to the policy proposals that most gay leaders advocate.

People like longtime gay GOP operative Carl Schmid, Philadelphia Log Cabin President David Greer and Northern Virginia Log Cabiner Scott Huch believe their approach is paying off. By raising money and doing legwork for the party, these and other gay Republicans are making themselves wanted in a once-hostile GOP. Rep. Tom Davis of Virginia, the powerful chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, has addressed the Northern Virginia Log Cabin Club, and there is conversation between the club and GOP Senate candidate George Allen. Despite the well-publicized homophobia of the GOP on most issues, party officials in other conservative states, such as California, Florida and Georgia, have also welcomed Log Cabin's participation in party affairs.

Moreover, many of these folks have known George W. Bush for a long time and say he is without prejudice against gay peo-

ple. They note that Bush and many of his closest political aides are comfortable having openly gay friends.

As a result, the sort of homophobic behavior that dominated the 1992 National Republican Convention and the party's 1998 Texas State Convention is becoming a thing of the past.

The flip side, however — and the position of Tafel and his allies — is that the GOP gets off the hook for its bigotry while remaining opposed to virtually the entire "gay agenda." One might overlook Bush's opposition to same-sex marriage because it's not very different from Al Gore's or even Clinton's. One might overlook Bush's support for the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military; although Gore has seen the light on that one, its history with the Clinton administration and a Democratic Congress suggests that substantial changes may not be enacted no matter who wins in November. And many principled libertarians — including some on the left — oppose hate crimes laws because they punish attitude rather than deed.

The problem with Bush and the majority of Republicans in Congress, however, is that they oppose virtually <every> pro-gay proposal — job bias laws that include gay people, adoptions by gay couples, repeal of

sodomy laws, anti-harassment programs in public schools. Bush has even waffled on appointing gay people to serve in his administration, though he is on record as saying one's sexual orientation shouldn't be a bar to government service.

Moreover, Bush's gay Republican critics believe that, personally tolerant or not, his campaign sabotaged a growing relationship with national Log Cabin leaders because the Bush camp wanted a free hand to "play the gay card" in the primaries, particularly in South Carolina. Log Cabin's national leaders say they were in regular contact with top Bush campaign officials throughout most of 1999 and that Bush's operation broke off the conversations well before the gay GOPers got behind McCain.

Thus, Tafel and his supporters in Log Cabin — and, of course, gay Democrats — believe that the pro-Bush gays are being used, and in the process are getting virtually nothing of value for the gay community.

Hastings Wyman publishes Southern Political Report, a nonpartisan biweekly political newsletter. Reach him at HWymanSPR@aol.com.



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reported. GOP presidential-nominee-to-be George W. Bush invited a group of gay Republicans to the Texas governor's mansion but pointedly left out Log Cabin Republican chief Rich Tafel and his allies on the national board, who have been at odds with the Bush campaign and had supported Sen. John McCain's presidential bid.

The case for the pro-Bush gays is that their participation in such a historic meeting — the first time a Republican nominee has met with a group of gay Republicans — substantially diminishes the anti-gay impulse in

man of the National Republican Congressional Committee, has addressed the Northern Virginia Log Cabin Club, and there is conversation between the club and GOP Senate candidate George Allen. Despite the well-publicized homophobia of the GOP on most issues, party officials in other conservative states, such as California, Florida and Georgia, have also welcomed Log Cabin's participation in party affairs.

Moreover, many of these folks have known George W. Bush for a long time and say he is without prejudice against gay peo-

ple. That one, its history with the Clinton administration and a Democratic Congress suggests that substantial changes may not be enacted no matter who wins in November. And many principled libertarians — including some on the left — oppose hate crimes laws because they punish attitude rather than deed.

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Letters to the Editor

Kudos and many, many thanks for including "Safe Spaces In Work Places" in [PFLAG Projects Aim to Neutralize Threat to GLBTS, Texas Triangle, April 7, 2000]. Thus far, no other paper has published anything on this important organization.

However, one small detail: My partner's name is Chelle Sunderland, not Funderland (a common mistake).

Anyone interested in volunteering for SSIWP can contact me at PFLAGJude@aol.com or through PFLAG Dallas. We need volunteers! Thank you for your support. See you at MMOW!

Judith Yates
Dallas, Texas

My sincerest congratulations on your choice to print Angela Cheng's article, "On Being Asian and Gay in Straight, White America." Viewpoints about queer people of color, particularly queer APIs, are often few and far between, and to see a well-thought out article about one woman's experience

about being queer and API is awesome.

I have been out for nearly ten years as an openly gay Philipino American and I remember the struggles I had to go through just in seeing representations of people who were similar to me in sexuality and ethnicity back in college in the early 90s. We often had to make our own publications to get our voices out there, which was very difficult before the internet came about!

To see that our voices are being heard in venues such as your weekly gives me comfort in knowing that we are making steps towards understanding who we are, as queers, and that we do not all fit the gay white male experience.

Best regards,
Efren Bose
via internet

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire community for their support in my candidacy for Texas Prime Choice 2000. This contest would not have been possible without the financial support from all of you to benefit various HIV/AIDS charities which affect the entire community. The title of Texas Prime Choice 2000 is one that I will

always cherish and respect.

There are so many people who deserve to be thanked individually for their support and participation. Congratulations must be given to the other two contestants, Jim Benton and Craig Rutherford, for their hard work and dedication during this contest. The Ripcord, however, deserves special recognition and sincere appreciation for their sponsorship of the title.

I wish to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all who participated and attended the various fund raising events held these last few months. It meant a lot to see friends and friendly faces in the crowd. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

David K. Haynes
Texas Prime Choice 2000
Houston, Texas

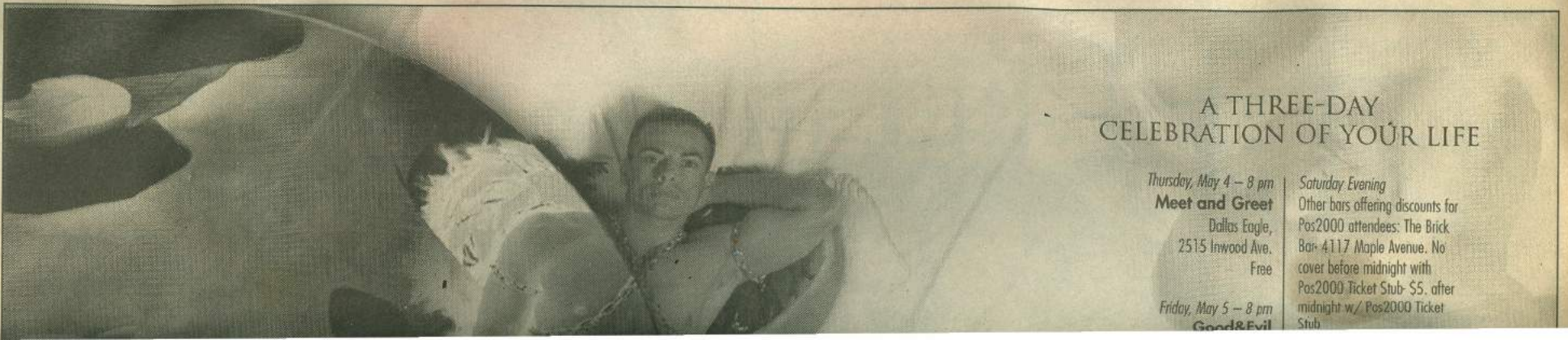
We would like to publicly recognize and draw attention to a great undertaking in our city — The Caregivers Wall. The Caregivers' Wall is spearheaded by Don Gill, a longtime supporter and fund-raiser for the community and in particular for AIDS charities throughout Houston. Mr. Gill's dream of having a monument for those Caregivers who give of their time, their talents, their hearts and their

souls to help those less fortunate is overdue for our city. As you know, Houston is comprised of caring people from all walks of life and The Caregivers' Wall will serve as a recognition of all those caring organizations and individuals who help people with HIV/AIDS and many other diseases such as cancer and the like. The Wall will not only serve as a "thank you" to those caring individuals, it will also serve as a reminder that together, as a community, we do make a difference. It is our hope the Wall will also serve as a means to attract more individuals to give of themselves and volunteer.

In closing, AIDS Foundation Houston is proud to be a part of this much needed recognition for Houston's caregivers and hope that the entire community would support it.

Sincerely,
Sara Selber
Executive Director
AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

The Texas Triangle welcomes your opinions, comments and complaints. Please send your Letters to the Editor online at editor@txtriangle.com or by fax 214-599-0156. Please include your full name and a daytime telephone number.



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<p>Friday, May 5 – 8 pm Good&Evil</p>	

Dallas. We need volunteers! Thank you for your support. See you at MMOW!

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Texas Prime Choice 2000
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and their friends





... and the HRC That it Rode In On

Ponder this: If Brandon Teena were alive today, would he even be able to afford to attend the Millennium March?

I have a ton of respect for Dianne Hardy-Garcia and her efforts regarding the



Katrina C. Rose

James Byrd Hate Crime bill in the Texas Legislature last year (even though I'm still not convinced of the constitutionality of hate crime enhancements, getting a thumbs-up from the Texas House on the

Byrd Bill was nothing short of a miracle — plus, it caused Dubya to utter his Dan Quayle-esque 'all crime is hate crime' line.) I was bummed that I wasn't able to go see her presentation at the OutFront Minnesota lobbying training session in Rochester last month; my work schedule intervened. I've heard nothing but good things about it. Dianne made quite an impression on the Minnesota folks.

Having duly praised Dianne, I cannot

duly praise the MMOW itself. Simply put, I don't think that it was a good idea. It smelled bad from the start and I do not think that the community has heard the last of its pre-Dianne dirty laundry.

My biggest problem with MMOW, though, can be summed up in three letters: HRC.

On March 22 a team of spiritual, feminist, and transgender activists, including members of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), met with HRC officials to discuss its transgender-exclusion policies and to negotiate an end to what transgender activists contend has been a three-year campaign by HRC to defeat employment protections for transgendered people.

HRC's Nancy Buermeyer stated that her organization is aware of the importance of gender expression in discrimination against gays, lesbians and bisexuals, blaming the non-inclusive language of ENDA on Barney Frank. Yet, she said that much of the HRC Board and the Congressional sponsors of ENDA are ignorant of the importance of gender expression to anti-gay discrimination and prejudice.

Same "Congress needs more education on the issue" song, different verse.

When asked by Texas NTAC member Vanessa Edwards Foster as to what HRC had been doing to educate those people, Buermeyer admitted that the issue is not something she discusses with them.

So, education by silence?

When it comes to TG issues, HRC collectively has mastered the art of nothingspeak better than Sir Humphrey Appleby.

Just a week prior to the aforementioned meeting, in a correspondence to Texas activist Sarah DePalma, Buermeyer stated "we would like to have some more information" about the *Littleton v. Prange* case (in which a Texas court invoked the federal Defense of Marriage Act to nullify a marriage between a post-operative male-to-female transsexual and a male.)

That has an air of admirability — though only when examined in a vacuum. The correspondence in question came almost five months after the Littleton decision was handed down. By that point I'd written a 165 page law review article on the case (at least one law professor has completed a shorter one and another has almost completed one.) Because of the blatantly political appellate court opinion, this case was the first opportunity to challenge the federal DOMA as a live controversy: it was an opposite-sex marriage that was declared to be a same-sex marriage and, therefore, invalid.

What wasn't there to know that HRC's money and attorneys couldn't have found out in five months? Were they afraid that they'd discover that helping a living transsexual might be the only way to get rid of DOMA in court?

That HRC needed "more information" on it five months after the fact should make anyone suspicious about HRC's ability (assuming that it truly has any willingness) to positively educate anyone or anything

gender-inclusive. I realize that Dana Rivers will be there. And, I've no doubt that the memory of Brandon Teena will be used by people bearing trendy little equal signs — people who either actually believe HRC's propaganda declaring that it actually gives a damn about TGs or know that it's not true and are complicit in the scam.

If you're there and if you see the bloody Brandon Teena shirt being waved, please remember that the version of ENDA that HRC is willing to accept would not have helped him at all. No one with a "gender identity crisis" will be covered by ENDA as it reads now. Had ENDA been law in 1993, Brandon would have been just as excludable from legitimate Nebraska employment as he was without ENDA and, therefore, just as likely to end up as an all-but-unemployable practitioner of petty theft and hot check writing.

And he'd likely have ended up just as dead.

Long ago, Chief Joseph said, "I have heard talk and talk, but nothing is done. Good words do not last long unless they amount to something." HRC's words that purport to be in support of transgendered people are the epitome of nothing.

I want nothing to do with HRC or its march.

During MMOW, I will be spending quiet time with my wonderful life partner here in Minnesota — the only state in the union that has been civilized enough to declare that my ability to perform a job is more important than the gender marker that was once on my drivers license. Like it or not, Texas will never be such a state. The only way that GLBT Texans will achieve freedom is federally — and if HRC's ENDA does not include TGs if its enacted, no amount Title VII wiggle room will ever cover me or my life partner.

I will not stand for it. I will not march for it.



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SALE!



Katrina C. Rose

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That HRC needed "more information" on it five months after the fact should make anyone suspicious about HRC's ability (assuming that it truly has any willingness) to positively educate anyone or anything about any aspect of any issue of basic importance to transgendered people, much less to educate Congress regarding our demand for inclusion in ENDA.

I realize that MMOW is titularly trans-

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I will not stand for it. I will not march for it.

Katrina C. Rose is a Texas attorney and political analyst who lives and works in Minnesota. Reach her at TexKatrina@aol.com.



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By Dale Carpenter

The Next Gay Tests for Bush

Now that George W. Bush has met with gay Republicans, we have to ask: Just how serious is he about courting gay support? There are three barometers we can use to gauge this; each is simple, clear, and completely within Bush's control.

For politically moderate and conservative gays who have feared another choice between bad and worse presidential candidates, there is finally a sliver of hope. Not even the unseemly and petty bickering among gay Republicans over who would attend their first-ever meeting with a GOP presidential nominee could overshadow the significance of the event. There is no going back. From now on, every Republican presidential nominee will be expected to have such meetings. Bush has also set an example for other GOP candidates around the country who have long refused even to talk to gay groups. With this necessary first step completed, Bush now has a chance to prove he actually deserves our votes.

There is one issue of threshold importance across the gay political spectrum. As gay Republicans sat talking to Governor Bush in Austin, they were unindicted criminals in the eyes of the state of Texas. The state has an anti-gay sodomy law. Bush said in his 1994 gubernatorial campaign that he supports that law. I suspect he said so out of perceived political expedience rather than conviction, but he has never publicly retracted the statement.

It wouldn't be politically costly for Bush to say he was wrong. Only a handful of states still have sodomy laws directed solely at gay sex. And not one of them is a state Bush will likely lose. He has an opportunity to lead by example on this — and have it cost him nothing.

It's no answer for Bush to say that sodomy laws are a matter for individual states to decide. The states-rights dodge might have worked in South Carolina, where the Confederate flag flies free, but Texas is Bush's own state.

Even prominent conservatives like Bill Kristol have come out against these anachronistic yet stigmatizing sodomy laws. Will Bush finally do so?

In 1998, President Clinton issued an executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in federal employment. It is his only substantive favor to gay people (other than the jobs he gave to campaign contributors). A congressional effort to prevent money from being used to enforce the order was defeated with the help of some House Republicans.

Conservatives generally don't like employment antidiscrimination laws since such measures constitute state interference in private business. That's why many, including many gay conservatives, oppose the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act and similar state proposals around the country to forbid discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in private employment.

But the principle of noninterference in private employment doesn't apply to Clinton's executive order. Tax-paying citizens have a right to expect their government, at the very least, not to practice invidious discrimination in its own hiring and firing practices. The executive order is nothing more than the legal guarantee of that justified expectation.

The next president will have the unilateral power to rescind the executive order or to keep it in place. Will Bush keep the policy?

In June, the Texas GOP will hold its biennial state convention* in Houston. In 1996 and again in 1998, the state party refused to grant gay Republicans information booth space at the convention. To justify their decision, party leaders cited the state's anti-gay sodomy law

— the same law Bush has supported — and publicly compared homosexuals to pedophiles. (Full disclosure: I was president of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas in 1996, when the group initiated an ultimately unsuccessful lawsuit against the state GOP for reneging on its contract to provide a booth. In 1998, I helped organize a rally outside the convention hall to protest the decision that year.)

On both occasions, Bush was silent about his party's decision to exclude gays. He did denounce the party's "name-calling" in 1998, but he never intervened to ensure actual access to the convention itself. Now it seems Texas GOP leaders are willing to risk another embarrassing and needless public confrontation with Log Cabin by denying the group a booth again this year.

Bush has tried to avoid taking a stand on the issue by saying it's an internal matter for state party leaders, not the governor, to decide. But that's hogwash. If the Texas GOP decided to exclude African-Americans, Latinos, or women, Bush wouldn't remain mute. As the national party's presidential nominee, Bush can get just about whatever he wants at his

own state party's convention. Even if he can't persuade Texas GOP leaders to change their minds, he can at least say publicly that exclusion is wrong.

If Bush is not willing to stand up to the far right over this, it's doubtful he can be trusted to stand up to them on matters of far greater significance. Will Bush support the effort of gay Republicans to have a simple information booth at the Texas state convention?

There are many other high-profile policy issues directly affecting gays this year, including federal hate crimes legislation and the military's ban on openly gay personnel. But none seems as clear-cut as the sodomy law, the executive order, and the booth. These may be small matters in the grand scheme of things, but Bush's handling of them will say a lot about the kind of president he would be. We'll be watching.

Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com. For more Outright, visit www.planetout.com. Carpenter



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have the worst reputation for violence than any other civilized (?) nation on the face of this planet. Nonetheless, there are days when I truly am proud to be an American.



Nancy Ford

Seems that moments before

Vermonters (Vermonteers? Vermontites? Vermanians?) ruled that gays and lesbians in their state would be afforded the closest thing anyone has seen to equal rights for committed partners, along comes word from Rome. Seems Italy's high court has ruled that gay ex-husbands needn't pay alimony if the Catholic Church annuls the marriage on the basis of the husband's homosexuality.

In the newswire, *Ansa* reported that The Court of Cassation (which looks suspiciously like 'Cessation', doesn't it?) ruled in the case of a couple that divorced in 1990, after 25 years of marriage, and gained an annulment in 1995. The Vatican court "will annul a marriage between a gay man and a heterosexual woman on the grounds that a gay man suffers from a form of mental illness that renders him incapable of understanding or fulfilling his marital duties," *Ansa* said.

I take exception to that last statement. It's not that we as queers don't understand the concept of heterosexual marital duties. It's just that we prefer a poke in the eye with a sharp stick. One second glance, perhaps some might feel that as a form of mental ill-

ness, poor house after the fall, so to speak. Yet, they'll still be labeled as mentally ill. Damned if you do, broke if you don't.

Expect to see a bevy of frugal Catholic men seeking to separate from their amores toss a coin or two into the other side of Trevi Fountains, if you will. Could end up saving them a bundle. And what's the harm in being labeled mentally ill if you can hang onto a few lira? More coins to throw into that fountain....

Here's yet another reason I'm proud to be an American. This week.

Turning our attention slightly eastward, there's a brouhaha a-brewing in Istanbul (not Constantinople), Turkey. Reuters reports that oil wrestlers there — big, strapping, hairy men who cover themselves in olive oil and grapple with each other wearing nothing but leather trousers (sounds like another night at the Bear Bar, doesn't it?) — are trying to restrict who their spectators are.

But wait, it gets better.

A group calling itself Bears of Turkey began web advertising for a tour to watch the 639th Kirkpinar oil wrestling championships to be held this summer.

"It's immoral," responded Traditional Sports Federation Chairman Alper Yazoglu, according to the Anatolian news agency. "We shall pass this matter on to the interior, foreign and other ministries to ask for this disgusting business to be stopped."

Disgusting? Nonsense! Big, strapping, hairy men lubing up and wrestling is an ancient tradition! If it hasn't been broke for 638 years, don't fix it. The sport of oil wrestling dates back to the Turks' untimely exit from Central Asia in the middle ages, the Anatolian report claims.

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Seems that moments before Vermonters (Vermonteers? Vermontites? Vermanians?) ruled that gays and lesbians in their state would be afforded the closest thing anyone has seen to equal rights for committed partners, along comes word from Rome. Seems Italy's high court has ruled that gay ex-husbands needn't pay alimony if the Catholic Church annuls the marriage on the basis of the husband's homosexuality.

In the newswire, *Ansa* reported that The Court of Cassation (which looks suspiciously like 'Cessation', doesn't it?) ruled in the case of a couple that divorced in 1990, after 25 years of marriage, and gained an annulment in 1995. The Vatican court "will annul a marriage between a gay man and a heterosexual woman on the grounds that a gay man suffers from a form of mental illness that renders him incapable of understanding or fulfilling his marital duties," *Ansa* said.

I take exception to that last statement. It's not that we as queers don't understand the concept of heterosexual marital duties. It's just that we prefer a poke in the eye with a sharp stick. One second glance, perhaps some might few that as a form of mental illness.

This, just when I was starting to thaw a little toward the Catholic Church — what with all the apologizing for past sins and what-not. Ain't that just the way? Leave it to the Catholic Church to put the "loopy" in loophole.

But let's look closer. It's only been legal since the mid-1970s for straight couples to divorce in Italy. On top of that, couples must be separated for three years in order to obtain one.

Three years? Now, that *would* be an adjustment. Don't mean to sound bitter, but with most gay unions I've known, by the time three years have passed many couples have joined, separated, tried it again at least twice (for the sake of the dog), started dating each other's friends, and then quietly — or not — moved on with their lives.

True, sticking with the old "homosexuality is a sickness" mantra may prevent our married Catholic brothers from going to the

Turning our attention slightly eastward, there's a brouhaha a-brewing in Istanbul (not Constantinople), Turkey. Reuters reports that oil wrestlers there — big, strapping, hairy men who cover themselves in olive oil and grapple with each other wearing nothing but leather trousers (sounds like another night at the Bear Bar, doesn't it?) — are trying to restrict who their spectators are.

But wait, it gets better.

A group calling itself Bears of Turkey began web advertising for a tour to watch the 639th Kirkpinar oil wrestling championships to be held this summer.

"It's immoral," responded Traditional Sports Federation Chairman Alper Yazoglu, according to the Anatolian news agency. "We shall pass this matter on to the interior, foreign and other ministries to ask for this disgusting business to be stopped."

Disgusting? Nonsense! Big, strapping, hairy men lubing up and wrestling is an ancient tradition! If it hasn't been broke for 638 years, don't fix it. The sport of oil wrestling dates back to the Turks' untimely exit from Central Asia in the middle ages, the Anatolian report claims.

The beary wrestlers, "their muscles rippling in olive oil under the hot sun," as *Anatolian chronicles* in *Honcho*-like style, try to pin each other to the ground.

But the "rippling under the hot sun" part isn't the problem, apparently. The common tactic of opponents putting a hand down each other's trousers to get a better grip, is.

Though this is not one particular athletic maneuver I would stand in line to witness, there is at least one aspect of Turkish wrestling that bests WWF:

Slightly less common is seeing a spectator hold up a sign that says "Allah 3:16."

Nancy Ford is a 1999 Vice Versa Award winner for excellence in the gay press. Join her for "The Dyke Show" comedy review every Thursday, 9 p.m. at The N Between (between Chances and The New Barn), 1100 Westheimer. Open mic available for musicians, poets, and comics. Info: 713-521-5822.

We Are The Building Generation

MCC Austin Establishes New Home at Freedom Oaks

By Matt Lum
TRIANGLE Managing Editor

AUSTIN — On Palm Sunday, members of the Metropolitan Community Church in Austin held services on their new property in the south of town. An orchestral ensemble set up music stands while the congregation seated themselves on folding chairs. As trombones tuned and clergy prepared for services, churchgoers gazed over floor plans and models for their future place of worship.

Organized in 1975, the Austin Independent Community Church was later incorporated as Metropolitan Community Church of Austin in 1978, and is affiliated with the denomination of Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC).

Since its inception, MCC of Austin has seen substantial growth in their membership, and has had to relocate several times to larger locations. After renting from other churches in the 70's and 80's, MCC Austin purchased .323 acres of land on Springdale Road and a sanctuary was constructed. In 1991, having outgrown that facility, additional property consisting of almost three acres of land was purchased on Woodward Street.

As word of mouth continued to draw membership, it became apparent to church leaders that even the new building on Woodward would not accommodate the Church's rapid growth. The seating capacity

"When we say inclusive, we mean it," said Martin. "We are a gay and lesbian church."

Statistically speaking, the only churches seeing a continued growth denominationally are the ultra-conservative mega-churches. Martin recalls attending such a church with 40,000 members one Sunday. "As thousands and thousands walked up towards the huge church, the first table they encountered was filled with anti-gay literature," he said.

said Rev. Martin. "In order to continue our growth and provide a spiritual home for our membership and community, we have made several sacrifices. We have to move ourselves from the rental properties, get out of the store fronts, and provide a place for the community that we can call our own."

The plot of land cost the church \$500,000. "Because we were a church, the owner of the land agreed to the price and also allowed us to owner finance, which saved us quite a bit of money," said Martin.

Finding the land was one thing, but preparing the land for development has been another challenge. Because of Austin's strict building codes and policies on nature conservation, literally thousands and thousands of dollars and several years have been spent for soil testing, environmental studies, and master planning.

A detailed survey of the property was conducted to map every tree on the entirety of the ten acres, costing the church an estimated \$15,000. Any tree over 8 inches in diameter has to be replaced by the church, and a substantial deposit was mandated to the city to ensure that MCC would re-plant the woods that might be destroyed during construction.

"We thought since we were blessed with such a good deal on the land, that surely there were other problems with the soil, or erosion, but all tests have confirmed that our new land is just about perfect," said Martin.

The building committee — consisting of Darlene Hernandez, Kelvon Hansen, Stuart Phillips, Terry Wendel, Mark Crowder, Joann Eagle, Glen Baum,



The MCC Building Committee
Darlene Hernandez, Kelvon Hansen, Stuart Phillips,
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As word of mouth continued to draw membership, it became apparent to church leaders that even the new building on Woodward would not accommodate the Church's rapid growth. The seating capacity of the sanctuary had to be renovated to accommodate additional seating, and a temporary move to a larger, rented sanctuary was necessary. The services returned to the newly renovated facility on Easter Sunday in 1992.

All the while, the building committee for the church was actively searching for a new home. In 1996, the Woodward Street location was sold in anticipation of the purchase of an improved, new facility. The church negotiated to lease the Woodward Street sanctuary on Sundays from the new owners of the property from May of 1996 to July of 1997. Since that time, the church has been meeting at the first Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin.

MCC Rev. Ken Martin has seen the church grow for quite some time. At the turn of the last century, denomination was the main factor when people chose a place to worship. But in these modern times, according to the Reverend, they shop.

Considering several denominations within the Christian Church continue to alienate gays and lesbians by not recognizing Holy Unions, and in many cases preaching that homosexuality is a sin, GLBT Christians can often feel left out and shunned by their own belief system.

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The building committee — consisting of Darlene Hernandez, Kelvon Hansen, Stuart Phillips, Terry Wendel, Mark Crowder, Joann Eagle, Glen Baum, Dan Nelson, Bill Lukenbill, and Rev. Ken Martin — has worked through many challenges over the past four years to see the project to completion.

According to Martin, such great achievements demonstrate the faith and dedication of the church's membership.

"From the beginning, our entire congregation has felt a great deal of ownership of the land, and although we have a building committee, the concerns and wishes of our membership have always been first and foremost," said Rev. Martin.

In fact, the church members are very much invested in the expansion project, and have donated cash to the building fund, but have provided manpower to save the church money. Not only have they worked several fund-raisers, they constructed a specialized fence that was mandated by the city, saving \$23,000.

"A less faithful group of people would have been discouraged long ago," according to Martin.



The MCC Building Committee
Darlene Hernandez, Kelvon Hansen, Stuart Phillips,
Terry Wendel, Reverend Ken Martin, Mark Crowder,
Joann Eagle, and Glen Baum.
(not pictured: Dan Nelson and Bill Lukenbill)

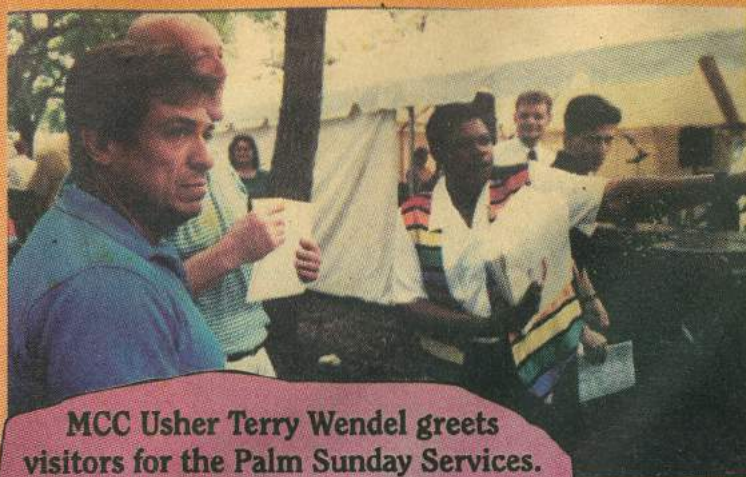
"They are raising another generation of bigots."

The leadership and congregation at MCC Austin have put forth great efforts to ensure that gays and lesbians have a safe, accepting place to worship. A building committee was formed several years ago to scout the area for larger, more accommodating properties.

It was consensus that about ten acres of land would be enough to meet the needs of the ever-growing church. When Realtors were first informed that the church was looking for ten acres in Austin, the first question asked was, "Just how many millions of dollars do you have to spend?"

In December of 1997, after looking at over fifty properties in town, MCC purchased their ten acres at 8601 South First Street. Since that time, the church has raised over \$325,000 in cash and sold over \$900,000 in bonds to see the expansion project through its completion.

"We have accepted that we are the building generation,"



MCC Usher Terry Wendel greets visitors for the Palm Sunday Services.

Freedom Oaks:

A Resource for the Entire Community

Freedom Oaks is the name given to the ten beautifully wooded acres of land purchased by MCC Austin. Not only will the area be the home of the new place of worship, but it will also provide a space for education, outreach, social activities and community involvement.

Even in the church's modest beginnings, several non-theistic groups in the gay and lesbian community have taken advantage of the church's space. Out Youth Austin, the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, as well as several 12-step programs have met in church space over the years, a tradition that Martin and MCC Austin plan to continue with renewed resources.

The two-phased building plan includes the addition of sports fields, classrooms, and a memorial garden. The Freedom Oaks Memorial Garden will be a centerpiece to the layout of the property.

"The memorial garden will serve as a permanent tribute and reminder of our community's leaders," said Martin. "The plight of gays and lesbians fighting for Equality is nothing new. We are only where we are now because we are standing on the shoulders of many great community leaders of the past."

The blueprints and models of the monument, the centerpiece of the garden, are spectacular — it is a monolithic triangular spectacle, according to Martin.

"We are still deciding how we are going to recognize individuals at the memorial, but we are surely going to pro-

vide a space for permanent recognition in the garden," said Martin.

Often times, the gay and lesbian community needs a place to come together and coalesce for many reasons. For example, after the murder of Matthew Shepard, and other tragedies within the community, members of the community expressed need for a place to gather to mourn and find strength in numbers. The memorial garden will provide a safe, permanent space for healing and gathering.

Building after Building

The estimated costs of the infrastructure on the site were estimated in 1997 to be around \$1.2 million. As time has passed and property values in Austin have increased, the current tally stands at \$1.4 million. According to Martin, the rise in costs is very minimal, noting that the price of sheetrock has risen almost 200 percent in the past three years.

"We were able to avoid serious cost increases because we are building a very non-traditional building," he said. The building will be erected by Sprung Structures.

According to company literature, from worship and drama to fellowship and recreation, Sprung Structures provide a unique innovative building alternative in a fraction of the time of conventional construction and at a significantly lower cost.

The instant structure manufactured by Sprung, Inc. resembles a hi-tech tent with engineered support and stability. Martin and his team traveled the country to view current structures that are identical to the building they have purchased.

"We want to invest in this building to get ourselves on the land," he said. "The building is designed to seat over 300 members and is very acoustically sound." The church plans to out-build from the structure, making it a permanent, insulated, and secure element of the compound.

The unique design of the structure is ideal for worship services, and as the congregation and the music department at the church continues to grow, the benefits of such a structure are evident. Although this building is in phase one of the master plan, and phase two calls for the addition of a traditional, larger structure, the new building will be an integral part of the process.

now we have to be consciously inclusive of the straight community as well," says Martin. "We want straight people to come to our church," he added. Among them are Martin's ex-wife and her husband, who regularly attend church services and are very active in church activities.

The church is also very racially and culturally diverse. At least some part of every service is conducted in Spanish.

"We asked our Spanish-speaking members if they wanted to have a separate Spanish service, but they agreed with our Pastoral Leaders that splitting the congregation was not in the best interest of the church or the community," said Martin.

In Austin, many mainline churches have been inclusive of gays and lesbians in their ministries, but Martin says that MCC still has its own niche, and that is a unique, truly inclusive, and very diverse program.

Over the next year or so, the Metropolitan Community Church of Austin will continue to develop their new property. Throughout all the location changes, financial challenges, and obstacles in obtaining a new home, the leaders and congregation at the church have continued to provide pastoral care and ministry in the community.

The entire church staff, under the direction of Rev. Ken



MCC Musicians prepare to play for the outdoor service at Freedom Oaks

- Martin, have proven themselves to be pillars of strength in the faith community as well as the gay and lesbian community as a whole. The church's Peace and Justice

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The unique design of the structure is ideal for worship services, and as the congregation and the music department at the church continues to grow, the benefits of such a structure are evident. Although this building is in phase one of the master plan, and phase two calls for the addition of a traditional, larger structure, the new building will be an integral part of the process.

The church has already paid for the building in full, and as soon as the land is ready for the structure, an \$85,000 deposit has ensured that the raw materials will be delivered within ten business days, at which time an engineer will oversee the entire construction.

An Inclusive, Diverse Congregation and Program

Although MCC is a gay and lesbian church, as membership has grown, so have the number of straight couples and families that attend the worship services. Rev. Martin attributes this to their inclusive theology and dedication to the community.

"We have discovered that as time goes on, we have had to make changes in our sermons.

Whereas before we were all gay, and sermons reflected that,

care and ministry in the community.

The entire church staff, under the direction of Rev. Ken



MCC Musicians prepare to play for the outdoor service at Freedom Oaks

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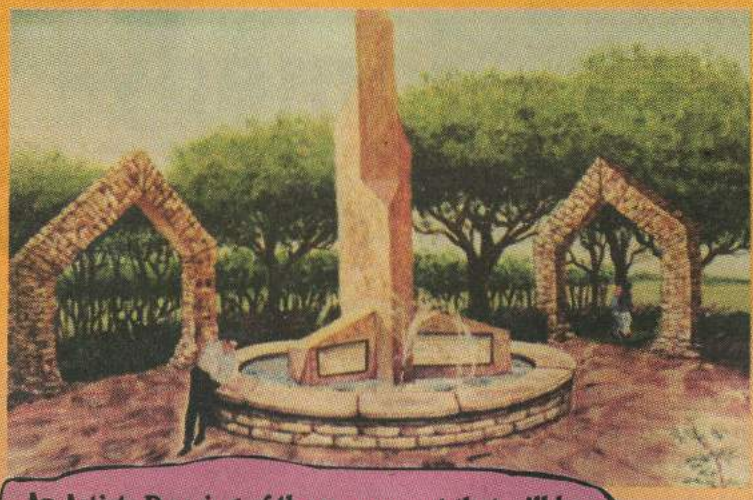
community as a whole. The church's Peace and Justice Ministry have served the needs of the community, most recently helping to organize a contingent for the Millennium March on Washington.

Rev. Martin has testified in the Texas House regarding issues of equal rights for gays and lesbians, and has been a partner in Soul Force. He has also met with Mel White and was present at the meeting with Jerry Falwell.

Through community service, the donation of meeting space, and a partnership with the Interfaith Care Alliance, the church's contributions to the community stand as an example of what hope, love, acceptance, and Divine intervention can do.

MCC Austin invites you to see their new property and celebrate with Easter Sunday services on April 23 at Freedom Oaks.

For more information, you can log onto the MCC website at <http://www.mccaustin.com/> or email MCCAustin@aol.com.



An Artists Drawing of the monument that will be located in the Memorial Garden at Freedom Oaks.



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'Til Temptation Do We Part...

Author Carren Strock had been married (more or less happily) for over 30 years. She had two grown children and was very active

in her suburban community. When a new family moved into town Carren quickly befriended the woman, and, finding they had a lot in common the two became close. So close in fact that

Carren, to her amazement, soon realized her feelings for her new friend were actually sexual.

Unfortunately, Carren's feelings were not reciprocated and ultimately the friendship ended. But it was because of this experience that prompted her to seek out other women like herself and eventually write a book about them.

Before any of you who are interested in (or living) this topic run out and buy it, please know that Strock's "Married Women who Love Women" is not a self-help book. It doesn't seek specifically to analyze, advise, or even advocate for these women. What this is is a series of interviews with women who are attracted to other women, but are living (or have lived) what, to all appearances, is a traditionally heterosexual life.

Strock has broken her book down into various sections, the majority of which deal only with the married

her own observations. This

is both fascinating and frustrating. The fascination comes, of course, from being able to look deeply inside women who are in fact leading double lives and who have been able, even when they ultimately decide to leave their marriages, to experience a level of acceptance that most openly gay people never have or will.

The frustration, meanwhile, stems from the fact that Strock refuses to comment on these women beyond generalities. Early on, Strock says the purpose of the book is to let women like herself know there are others out there, but simply to document this fact without offering any kind of suggestion on how to deal with it is more than a little bit unfair. Granted, just seeing a book like this is probably comforting on some level, but I

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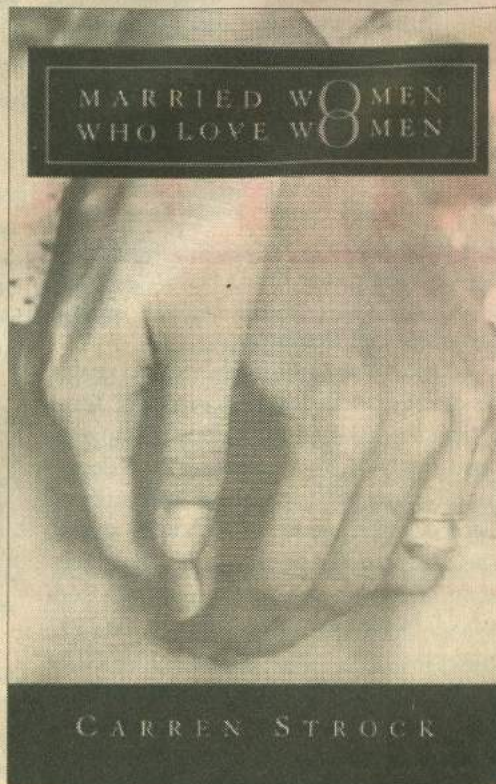
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Strock has broken her book down into various sections, the majority of which deal only with the married women themselves. She then presents a scenario and extensively quotes the women she has interviewed who fit into it.

Needless to say, given the manner in which Strock conducts her research there are no deep conclusions reached here. For instance, the most intriguing aspect of Strock's thesis is that sexuality is fluid, and can change as time goes on. Thus it would appear to be not unusual for many women who honestly believe they are heterosexual to find themselves, later in life, being attracted to members of the same sex, and acting on that attraction. Yet, even after seeing instance after instance where this appears to be the case, Strock still doesn't dwell on it or even expound on it all that much; thus the reader is left to draw their own conclusions about these women's supposed and sudden "conversion" to homosexuality. In fact, Strock's tendency throughout is to spend more time letting her subjects speak about their lives than offering

Strock says the purpose of the book is to let women like herself know there are others out there, but simply to document this fact without offering any kind of suggestion on how to deal with it is more than a little bit unfair. Granted, just seeing a book like this is probably comforting on some level, but I



think the people who are living this scenario would have had their comfort level enhanced significantly if there had been less case history and more resolution.

My impression is that Strock, for all her research, still hasn't worked through some of her own personal dilemmas with this issue. She's right about one thing though, this is definitely a topic that needed to be explored. My only regret is that Strock didn't choose to explore it more thoroughly.

"Married Women who Love Women" is published by Alyson and is currently available in all major bookstores.

Our reviewer's rating: C

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To The Gay and Lesbian Community of Austin

There have been Lobo Bookshops in Texas since 1973, and when my late partner, Bill White, and I opened our Austin Lobo in 1994 it was our intent to replicate our successful business in Houston.

And the community in Austin rallied to that effort so that by 1998 it was the more profitable branch of our business.

But circumstances had also changed. Bill died from AIDS in 1995 and my home in Houston was destroyed by fire in July of 1998. So that in August of 1998 when my Austin manager and a partner approached me to purchase that store, with my financing, I agreed. I had assumed, incorrectly, as events would prove that the store would continue in the same successful manner.

When that partnership approached me in March with its inability to continue, I was presented with a downsized store without significant inventory and fixtures in disarray.

Therefore, as of the first of April, I reassumed ownership of Lobo Austin, reconnecting it with its parent company, retaining Chris Sampson who had started with the business from our previous ownership and continued through the interim. And with the strong support of Blake White who also started with Lobo Austin and currently is manager of our Houston base, the store is undergoing a restoration, hopefully to its former self.

In 1996 I added the Oscar Wilde Bookshop in New York City's Greenwich Village to our holdings, combining the 27 years of Lobo experience with the now 33 years of Oscar Wilde (where Kim Brinster expertly guides the world's oldest gay and lesbian bookstore).

I sincerely hope that the Austin community will once again embrace Lobo as I attempt to recreate the type of store Bill and I envisioned a few years ago.

This is not an easy undertaking for me personally. I have now joined the ranks of 'senior citizens' at a time when all independent bookstores are coming under increased financial pressure from the superstores and the Internet. I am well aware that the social climate for gays and lesbians has vastly improved since I opened that first Lobo in Dallas in 1973. While that is obviously great for all of us it also enlarges our options in the general society, creating an atmosphere in which there is less incentive to shop 'gay owned' as more and more of the mainstream is 'gay friendly.'

Lobo has always strived to remain competitive. Our discounts on all books match or beat most other outlets. Lobo is unmatched since being the first to offer gay videos to rent two decades ago.

I appreciate your past support, I seek your backing once again. While I may not be present in Austin except on rare occasions please feel free to contact me with your views and concerns at linglelobo@aol.com anytime.

Larry Lingle
President, White Lingle Enterprises, Inc.

Theater Benefits from Award-Winning Weirdness

By Arthur B. Cohan III
TRIANGLE Contributing Writer

AUSTIN — Look up the phrase "artistically gifted" in the dictionary. It would be no great big surprise to find a picture of one of Austin's newest Artistic Directors, Dan Dietz.

Dietz's presence in Austin's Theatrical community is anything but new. This actor's actor commands the audience's attention whether he is performing on stage, directing a critically acclaimed staging, producing a spectacular production, or as his invigorating ideas jump from one of his scripts to the stage with an original breathe of unique life.

Recently, this twenty-nine year old award winning veteran took on a modernistic role within his theatrical endeavors as co-Artistic Director of the non-traditional Salvage Vanguard Theatre Company (SVT). Sharing the spotlight with Jason Neulander, the two are committed to encouraging SVT "to combine explosive energy with expert technique, creating forms, which defy theatrical traditions and define a new American avant garde."

"Jason and I immediately hit it off — one of those rare connections, where you meet someone who totally speaks your language artistically," recalls Dietz of his first encounter with Neulander.

Dietz came to Austin in 1995 to pursue his graduate work at the University of Texas in the Theatre History and Criticism program upon receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kennesaw State College in Kennesaw, Georgia. After a year of "scholarly work", Dietz realized that he was in the wrong program. Deciding to take a year off from

1998. That same year "was a rough year for Salvage Vanguard. We all got really burned-out, and we lost sight of who we were as artists (individually and together)." Early in 1999, with talks of maybe shutting down the company, Neulander and Dietz "had a couple of long talks about what we wanted as artists, what we wanted from a theater company, what work we liked, what work we didn't," recalls Dietz.

Realizing that the two held some of the same beliefs, Neulander invited Dietz to join him as Co-Artistic Director of SVT. Dietz gladly agreed with the stipulation that it was contingent on his finishing his Masters program. Without hesitation, the union was made when Dietz graduated this past December.

SVT's troubling 1998 had little effect on Dietz's ability to create. "Writing just became a natural extension for my love of words and of reading. I get a lot of encouragement as a writer,(though people often thought my stories were weird)".

The Austin Critics Table didn't think his writing too weird. In 1999, they awarded him with the award for Outstanding New Play honoring his script, *Dirigible*. The play, which sought the truth behind the Hindenberg explosion and the real Bradys of the Brady Bunch fame, was a huge success for SVT.

When asked what characteristics constitute success for SVT, Dietz simply stated, "a play we would love to see.....a play that hits you right in the gut that leaves you saying 'Whoa! Something just happened to me'and one that we would love doing; not one we think our audiences would love seeing."

City's Greenwich Village to our home... years of Lobo experience with the now 33 years of Oscar Wilde (where Kim Brinster expertly guides the world's oldest gay and lesbian bookstore).

I sincerely hope that the Austin community will once again embrace Lobo as I attempt to recreate the type of store Bill and I envisioned a few years ago.

This is not an easy undertaking for me personally. I have now joined the ranks of 'senior citizens' at a time when all independent bookstores are coming under increased financial pressure from the superstores and the Internet. I am well aware that the social climate for gays and lesbians has vastly improved since I opened that first Lobo in Dallas in 1973. While that is obviously great for all of us it also enlarges our options in the general society, creating an atmosphere in which there is less incentive to shop 'gay owned' as more and more of the mainstream is 'gay friendly.'

Lobo has always strived to remain competitive. Our discounts on all books match or beat most other outlets. Lobo is unmatched since being the first to offer gay videos to rent two decades ago.

I appreciate your past support, I seek your backing once again. While I may not be present in Austin except on rare occasions please feel free to contact me with your views and concerns at lingelobo@aol.com anytime.

Larry Lingle
President, White Lingle Enterprises, Inc.

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spectacular production, or as his invigorating ideas jump from one of his scripts to the stage with an original breathe of unique life.

Recently, this twenty-nine year old award winning veteran took on a modernistic role within his theatrical endeavors as co-Artistic Director of the non-traditional Salvage Vanguard Theatre Company (SVT). Sharing the spotlight with Jason Neulander, the two are committed to encouraging SVT "to combine explosive energy with expert technique, creating forms, which defy theatrical traditions and define a new American avant garde."

"Jason and I immediately hit it off — one of those rare connections, where you meet someone who totally speaks your language artistically," recalls Dietz of his first encounter with Neulander.

Dietz came to Austin in 1995 to pursue his graduate work at the University of Texas in the Theatre History and Criticism program upon receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kennesaw State College in Kennesaw, Georgia. After a year of "scholarly work", Dietz realized that he was in the wrong program. Deciding to take a year off from school, Neulander had cast him in the 1997 production of Ruth Margraff's play "The Battle of San Jacinto". The role won him the 1997 Austin Critics Table Award for Best Actor, as well as a B. Iden Payne Award for Best Actor nomination. Above all, it began a relationship with the SVT and Neulander that Dietz strongly believes in today.

"I started reading at around the age of 3 or 4 years old, and I just fell in love with words," admits Dietz. It is this love of words and his love of the theater that led his interest in writing. Although he received the 1995 Kennesaw State College New Play Award and an Honorable Mention from the 1995 Young Playwrights Festival of Georgia, it wasn't until he completed his first year of studies at University of Texas that he began to think of maybe moving his educational studies towards play writing.

Upon receiving two consecutive play writing fellowships from the James A. Michener Center for Writers, Dietz entered the play writing graduate program at UT in

him as Co-Artistic Director of SVT. Dietz gladly agreed with the stipulation that it was contingent on his finishing his Masters program. Without hesitation, the union was made when Dietz graduated this past December.

SVT's troubling 1998 had little effect on Dietz's ability to create. "Writing just became a natural extension for my love of words and of reading. I get a lot of encouragement as a writer,(though people often thought my stories were weird)".

The Austin Critics Table didn't think his writing too weird. In 1999, they awarded him with the award for Outstanding New Play honoring his script, *Dirigible*. The play, which sought the truth behind the Hindenberg explosion and the real Bradys of the Brady Bunch fame, was a huge success for SVT.

When asked what characteristics constitute success for SVT, Dietz simply stated, "a play we would love to see.....a play that hits you right in the gut that leaves you saying 'Whoa! Something just happened to me'and one that we would love doing; not one we think our audiences would love seeing."

What constitutes success for the actor himself? "Earning enough money from writing and directing that all I had to do [for money] was write, act, or direct....but most of being nationally known, or at least a following from throughout the country."

Dietz's *Blind Horses* script, which was produced last fall as part of his master's program at UT, reinforced Dietz's competence as a writer. The script was definitely another feather in his hat and another reason for someone to consider becoming a Dietz groupie.

From the moment he, by chance, auditioned for his senior play of Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, Dietz has won acclaim. His role as Henry Higgins won him a Best Actor Award from Walton High School Drama Club and ever since then Dietz has devoted himself to the theater.

"I'd finally found something I could work my ass off for that didn't feel like work.

"Or it did," he reconsidered. "But it was so fulfilling, I didn't mind the work."



Stages' 'Memory of Water' Quenches Comedy Thirst

By Chuck Perroncel
TRIANGLE Contributing Writer

What could be funnier than an Irish wake, especially when it is viewed from the bedroom of your mother who is "more or less dead?" The answer is "very little!" The *Memory Of Water* is proof enough of that. But what's a wake without sentiment...and memories, and haunting, and alcohol and pot and pills and adultery? Did I mention the coffin delivered to the house?

These three sisters are a riotous retort to Chekhov!

Teresa (Leslie Maness) is the dutiful and bitter older sister who took care of mum to the end — hating every minute of it. Mary (Nathalie Cunningham) is the golden girl who had the talent and opportunity and became an MD and is involved in a five year affair with a married colleague. Catherine

(Lisa Marie Singerman) the menopause baby is a punker with spiked red-orange hair and a handbag full of powdered happiness who greets every situation with a whine and a single query: "Want some drugs?" And if that's not enough to split your sides with laughter, there's Mum (Deborah Hope), who just won't stay dead — at least not for Mary. This "Ab-Fab" menagerie turn the blackest recollections of their collective and separate pasts, their present and their futures into nearly unbelievable hilarity. They are supported by Teresa's hapless second husband, Frank (Tom Prior), who wants to quit the diet supplement business and open a pub. They are confused by Mike (Mark J. Roberts), Mary's lover whose wife is too "ill" for him to abandon, but well enough to attend a hospital gala.

The audience was folded in half with burst after burst of the laughter of surprise and tragi-comic recognition of our poor human situation. One liners, elaborate narrative humor, sight gags — everything but pratfalls make this funeral-in-the-making the funniest thing on the Boards.

Nathalie Cunningham, whom we only heard off-stage as the French maid, displays her uncommon talent as a frustrated 30+ M.D. who is haunted by her past and trapped without a future.

Lisa Marie Singerman as the youngest sister is quite convincingly "wiggy" and if Leslie Maness had fluffed one more pillow or emptied one more ashtray while it was in use, I would have gotten up and slapped her. She has "proper" written all over every action — when sober. Tom Prior is that unusual actor who can be quite in control of being totally befuddled; and Mark J Roberts



'Cold Sassy' Sizzles

By Charles C. Perroncel

HOUSTON — Well! Gockley and the gang have done it again! *Cold Sassy Tree* (a Georgia town named for a snow storm in a sassafras grove) is a pulse stopping opera for all of you who love opera and for those of you think you hate opera and so have never gone to one. A brilliant — and huge — cast, a more than fine orchestra/conductor marriage, a set that'll knock your socks off, and a score... well, more on that later.

The story is funny, folksy, romantic, iconoclastic, touching, sentimental and just gosh darn apple pie American.

Kudos to all the cast, and special accolades for HGO's home grown John McVeigh (Will Tweedy) a handsome young tenor of exceptional talent — the narrator and younger romantic lead; Dean Peterson (Rucker Latimore) the bass-baritone romantic lead who sings the town's old stalwart old-independent-pain-in-the-ass; and to Patricia Racette (Love Simpson), ingenue, a soprano of notable voice and acting skill; to Beth Clayton (Loma Williams) a mezzo of commanding stage presence and vocal power, and to

director Bruce Beresford whose vision of this theatrical three-ringer is both vigorous and tender. The cast is so large it is impossible to laud each singer who deserves "bravo!" So, "Bravi" to you all.

Cold Sassy Tree is HGO at its innovative, youthful, exuberant, musical and creative best. It is what, for my buck, opera is supposed to be ... the best entertainment since Ringling Brothers — Barnum And Bailey abandoned their tents!

And the score? Go prepared to check your ideas of what opera is supposed to sound like at the door and you'll have an aural orgasm. These are modern sonorities mixed with hymn tunes and folk melodies... a pastiche that really works! Standing to applaud Carlisle Floyd (composer-librettist) was a sincere vote of appreciation.

Houston Grand Opera's Cold Sassy Tree — A Musical Drama in Three Acts, runs at Brown Theater in Wortham Theater Center April 25, 28, 30, and May 6. Info: 713-227-ARTS.

Our reviewer's rating: A+



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Nathalie Cunningham (Mary) and Deborah Hope (Vi)



Lisa Marie Singerman (Catherine) standing; Leslie Maness (Teresa) left; Nathalie Cunningham (Mary) right

ported by Teresa's hapless second husband, Frank (Tom Prior), who wants to quit the diet supplement business and open a pub. They are confused by Mike (Mark J. Roberts), Mary's lover whose wife is too "ill" for him to abandon, but well enough to attend a hospital gala.

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Lisa Marie Singerman as the youngest sister is quite convincingly "wiggy" and if Leslie Maness had fluffed one more pillow or emptied one more ashtray while it was in use, I would have gotten up and slapped her. She has "proper" written all over every action — when sober. Tom Prior is that unusual actor who can be quite in control of being totally befuddled; and Mark J Roberts needs no apologies to any man who has let "the little head" rule every decision, but still wants to appear concerned and humane.

Deborah Hope graces this small but pivotal role with the complexity of emotion required to convince us that even gallivanting moms have a certain claim to our compassion.

The Memory of Water the first play by Shelagh Stephenson is creatively directed by Deborah Kinghorn in a set by Kirk Markley that fairly screams middle class England. To his enormous credit, David Gipson resisted all temptation to "woo-woo" lighting in the haunting scenes. Poor dead Mum is just another lively inhabitant of her bedroom.

The Memory of Water runs at Stages through May 7.

Our reviewer's rating: A, and then some!

Kudos to all the cast, and special accolades for HGO's home grown John McVeigh (Will Tweedy) a handsome young tenor of exceptional talent — the narrator and younger romantic lead; Dean Peterson (Rucker Latimore) the bass-bari-tone romantic lead who sings the town's old stalwart old-independent-pain-in-the-ass; and to Patricia Racette (Love Simpson), ingenue, a soprano of notable voice and acting skill; to Beth Clayton (Loma Williams) a mezzo of commanding stage presence and vocal power, and to

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Our reviewer's rating: A+



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Elizabeth Taylor Receives GLAAD's Highest Honor

LOS ANGELES — On the evening of April 15, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) honored silver screen legend Elizabeth Taylor, actress/director Anne Heche, and the best in film, television and theatre at the Los

Angeles ceremony of the 11th Annual GLAAD Media Awards Presented by Absolut Vodka.

At the ceremony, Carrie Fisher presented Taylor with GLAAD's Vanguard Award, which honors a member of the entertainment

community who has made a significant difference in promoting equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Heche was presented with Stephen F. Kolzak Award, named after a highly successful casting director who devoted the last part of his life to fighting AIDS and homophobia in the entertainment community. The award, presented to Heche by Sharon Stone, honors a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender member of the entertainment or media community for their outstanding

contribution in combating homophobia.

Other guests and presenters included Jay Leno; Roseanne; Eric McCormack, Debra Messing and Sean Hayes (*Will & Grace*); James Van Der Beek, Katie Holmes, Michelle Williams, Kerr Smith and Meredith Monroe (*Dawson's Creek*); the cast of the hit show *Popular*; Julia Louis-Dreyfus; Camryn Manheim; Leeza Gibbons; Jonathan Taylor Thomas; Billy Bean; Jason Behr (*Roswell*); Bill Brochtrup; Delta Burke; Enrico Colantoni; Alan Cumming; Jane Curtin; Tim Daly; Ileana Douglas; Christine Ebersole; Rebecca Gayheart; Sophie B. Hawkins;

Michael Jeter; Joan Jett; Garry Marshall; Doris Roberts; Cristina Saralegui; Bruce Vilanch and many others.

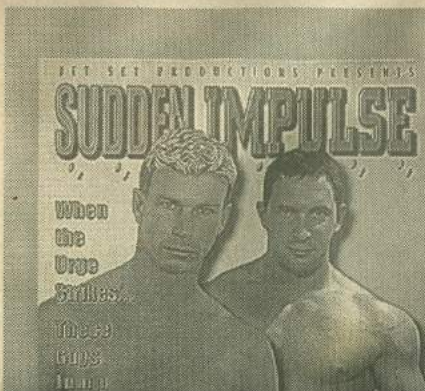
Additional awards will be presented in Washington, D.C. on May 13; and in San Francisco on



Elizabeth Taylor shines with Vanguard Award



The cast of Will and Grace





Elizabeth Taylor shines with Vanguard Award



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The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is dedicated to promoting and ensuring fair, accurate, and inclusive representation of individuals and events in all media as a means of eliminating homophobia and discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.



Carrie Fisher and Jay Leno

11th Annual GLAAD Media Awards Honorees and Winners:

Vanguard Award:
Elizabeth Taylor

Stephen F. Kolzak Award:
Anne Heche

Outstanding Film, Wide Release:
Being John Malkovich

Outstanding TV Comedy Series:
Will & Grace

Outstanding TV Drama Series:
Dawson's Creek

Outstanding TV Individual Episode:
"Wild Wild Mess," Popular

Outstanding TV Talk Show:
Leeza

Outstanding TV Movie:
Execution of Justice

Outstanding Los Angeles Theater Production:
Medea, the Musical

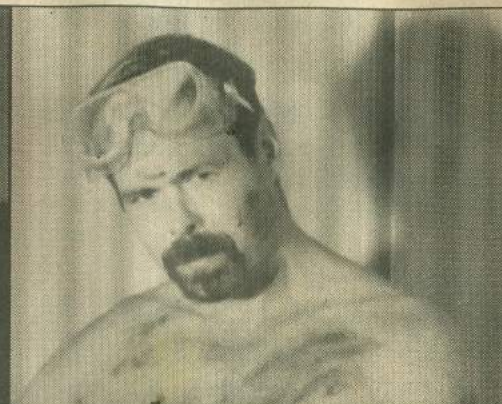


Leeza Gibbons and Cristina Saralegui

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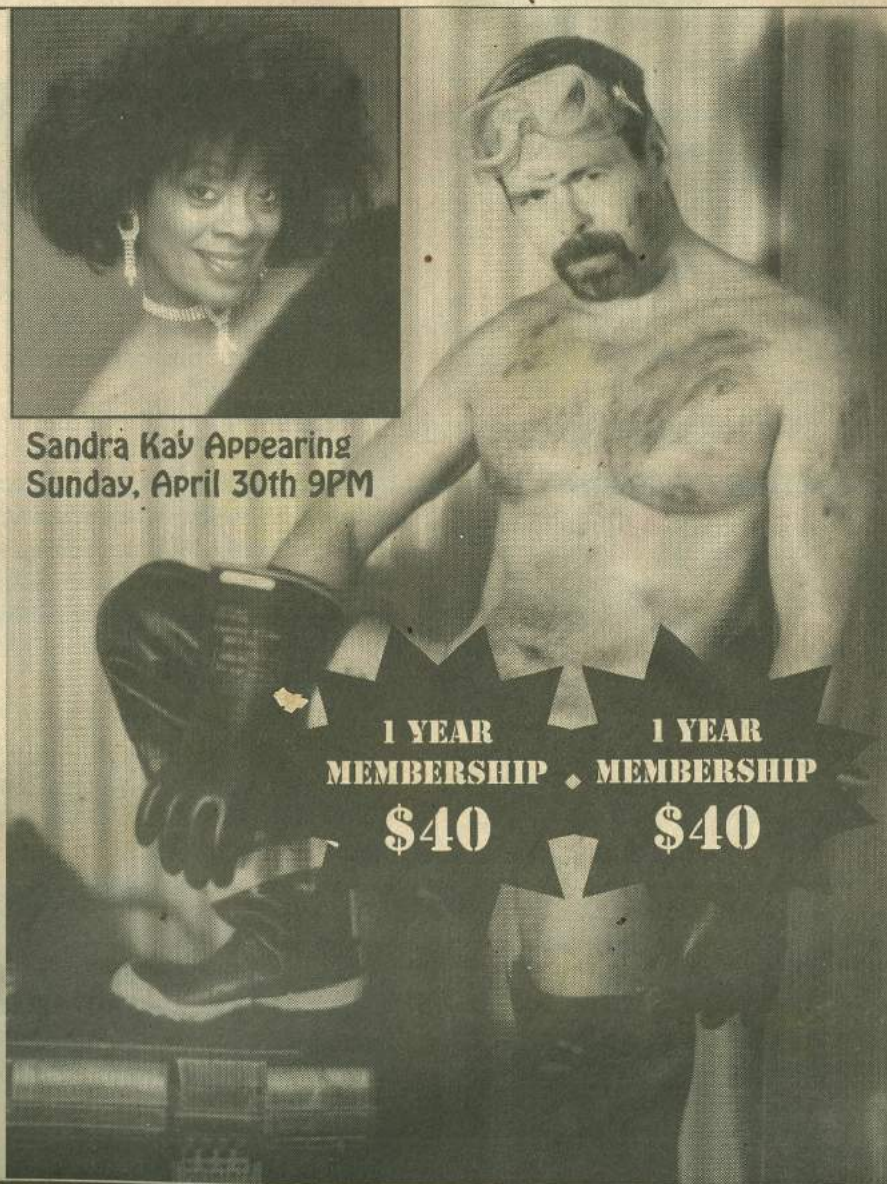
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**AUSTIN****ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Denise Stokes, a member of President Clinton's HIV/AIDS Advisory Council keynotes "Our Problem, Our Solution: HIV/AIDS Conference 2000," addressing the growth of HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. Saturday, April 29, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Huston-Tillotson College. Info: Marie Sandoval, 512-469-2016.

Central Texas Father's Support Group, a free support group for fathers meets Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. at the P.A.C.E. Project, 825 53rd 1/2 Street Suite E104. Info: 512-467-0803 or www.paceproj.org.

Bisexual Network of Austin hosts free ongoing events for the community. TGIB Socials are held on Fridays at 6 p.m. and are open to all. The Bi Women's Support Group meets at 7 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at the Austin History Center (9th and Guadalupe). The Bi Boyz BBQ meets on the 10th of the each month. Info: 512-370-9573.

Gay Men's Association meets first and third Fridays of each month, 7-9 p.m. at the University Catholic Center, University and E. 21st to discuss spirituality. Info: 512-443-7351.

Austin Family Pride, a support and social group for GLBT parents and their children, meets Sunday, April 30, 4 p.m. Info: 512-682-6988, ext. 5081.

ART

No yolk! The artwork of Elizabeth M. Guenther hangs at through May 31 at The Omelettry, 4811 Burnet Rd. Info: www.lizonline.com

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TEXAS

Please fax all requests to 713-521-5830 or email: calendar@txtriangle.com



Sounds Easter-y to us. Joecile Harlow (l) and Danitra Tapscott hick it up in Theatre Suburbia's *If the Good Lord's Willing and the Creek Don't Rise* at Theatre Suburbia through May 13. Tickets: \$7-\$9. Info: 713-682-3525. Photo by Jack Richburg

or 512-965-RIDE.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Austin Gamblers Bowling League meets Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Dart Bowl, 5700 Grover. Info: Jim McDonald, 512-335-2773 or Todd Taylor, 512-751-3659.

HIV Wellness Center seeks peer counselors to provide one-on-one social support to its clients. Training begins March 28. Info: Leah, 512-467-0088.

Craig and Carla (Cassie Fitzgerald) in "Fruits and Vegetables", a funny and suspenseful story of a father and daughter. Through May 13 at The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. Tickets: \$10-\$12. Info: 512-454-TIXS.

Portraying a multitude of characters, from a nine year old boy confused with his sexuality to an eighty-three year old Jewish widow, Ragan Fox's RAGANOMICS comedically asserts the importance of family in trying times. April 27-29, 8 p.m.; May 12 and 13, 11 p.m. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd

DALLAS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Learn the realities about developing intimacy in relationships. Plus, lunch! Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. at John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Info: 214-521-5124.

Caring Friends Center has moved. Take those donatable goods for people with HIV/AIDS and breast cancer to 3701 W. Northwest Hwy., Suite 186. Info: 214-219-7300.

Razzle Dazzle Dallas, Inc., a charity whose aim is raise and distribute money to AIDS Service Organizations and provide direct services for persons living with HIV/AIDS is currently accepting Board Member applications and volunteers. Info: P.O. Box 190225, Dallas, TX 75219-0225 or call 214-983-1657.

Courage, the University of North Texas' gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered and/or straight student organization meets Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. in the General Academics Building, room 317. Info: <http://oigs.unt.edu/courage>.

FUND-RAISERS

Start clipping and rolling — Legacy Founders' Cottage wants your coupons and spare change. Drop both off at the collection box at Cafe Brazil's Cedar Springs location. While you're there, check out the Legacy "Wish List" on the bulletin board; your trash may be someone else's treasure.

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FUND-RAISERS

Hallelujah! Austin Baptist Women's GospelFest 2000 features David Pierson, Scarlett Leigh, Kelly Kline, Topaz, Dee Dee Davis, Goldie Haynes, Christine King, Michael T., Todd Johnson, Murrah Noble, Chad Martin, and the Kingdom Seekers Singers. Easter Sunday night, April 23, 9 p.m. at Dick's Deja Disco at 113 San Jacinto Benefits the HIV Wellness Center. Info: www.abw.homepage.com.

Vaseline those teeth—it's pageant time! The second annual Mr. & Mrs. Rainbow Pageant benefits Project Transitions. Sunday, April 30, 9 p.m. at Rainbow Cattle Co.

Hill Country Ride for AIDS, a two day, 125 mile ride, is scheduled for May 6-7. Bike riders and volunteers are needed to participate in the event, and help raise funds for our local AIDS programs. Info: www.hillcountry.org



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Rainbow Roller Skaters roll the second Wednesday of every month, 9-11 p.m. at Skate World Northwest, Anderson Mill Rd. and 183. Everyone is welcome. Tickets: \$6. Benefits AIDS Services Austin. Info: Don, 512-491-8797 or dbaker62@earthlink.net.

ON STAGE

Capital City Men's Chorus presents "Make Them Hear You: Songs From Another Time" with special guest Virdell Williams, baritone. Two performances only! Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 30, 4 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover. Tickets: \$10. Info: 512-454-TIXS (8497).

It's a busy season at Zachary Scott Theatre. Bucky — The Life and Times of Buckminster Fuller runs through April 22. So does *An Almost Holy Picture*. Info: 512-476-0541, ext. 1.

Different Stages presents Mario (Richard

Craig) and Carla (Cassie Fitzgerald) in "Fruits and Vegetables", a funny and suspenseful story of a father and daughter. Through May 13 at The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd. Tickets: \$10-\$12. Info: 512-454-TIXS.

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BEAUMONT

Church of Kindred Spirits meets every Sunday at 1575 Spindletop Ave., with potluck dinner at 5:50 p.m., Bible study at 6:15 p.m. and Sunday Service at 6:55 p.m. Resurrection MCC Home Groups: Kindred Spirits I, Spiritual Growth and Development meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. and Evangelistic Angels meets Saturdays, 7 p.m. 2106 Hazel St. Info: chkindspir@aol.com or 409-860-5795 or 409-835-4765

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

Service Organizations and provide direct services for persons living with HIV/AIDS is currently accepting Board Member applications and volunteers. Info: P.O. Box 190225, Dallas, TX 75219-0225 or call 214-983-1657.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

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

Positive Personals meets each first and third Tuesday, 8 p.m. at Brick Bar. Info: Keith Willard, 214-521-5124.

Pride Institute-DFW offers continued care support for GLBTs who have been in a substance abuse treatment center within the last year. Free. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Info: Pauline Stafford, 214-408-5488.

Nelson-Tebedo Health Resource Center offers screening and treatment for sexually



transmitted diseases each Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. at 4012 Cedar Springs. \$25. For appointments, call Donna Parks, RN, BSN at 214-528-2336.

ON STAGE

Pocket Sandwich Theatre offers the comedic spoof Sherlock Holmes — The Melodrama through May 13. Tickets: \$6-\$14. Info: 214-821-1860.

Kitchen Dog Theatre presents One Flea Spare, directed by Adrian Hall. Through April 23 at McKinney Avenue Contemporary (MAC), 3120 McKinney. Tickets: \$8-\$18. Info: 214-953-1055.

Love blooms deadily in Federico Garcia Lorca's The Butterfly's Evil Spell. Presented by Our Endeavors Theatre Company at Deep Ellum Center for the Arts through April 30. Tickets: \$7-\$17. Info: 972-355-2879.

DENTON

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

EL PASO

Lambda's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is available around the clock to help deal with the effects of violence within male-male/female-female couples. Lambda provides information, referrals, and support to

ON STAGE

Alan Ayckbourn's Man of the Moment runs through April 22 at Stage West, 3055 S. University Drive. Tickets: \$15-\$20. Info: 817-784-9378.

GALVESTON

Transgenders in the Brazoria County and Galveston area and the surrounding areas are encouraged to call C.A.T.S. Community Awareness for Transgender Support, which meets the first Friday of each month. Info: 409-927-1705.

GAYS (Galveston Area Youth Support), a group for lesbian, gay, bi, and trans teens and their friends, meets Saturday, April 29, 7-10 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, located at 502 Church Street (behind the WhataBurger). Info: email PFLAGGalveston@aol.com.

HOUSTON

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Men's Coming Out Group will meet on Friday, April 21, 7 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818.

Full Figured Bi Women of Houston meet Saturday, 7:30 p.m. April 29 for dinner and dancing. Open to all bisexual women and their partners (boyfriends, husbands, etc). Info: Susan, 281-693-5419 or email princessgrl99@yahoo.com.

803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818.

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

B.L.A.G.C. meets each Monday, 7 p.m. to provide visible leadership among the black lesbian and gay community. Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne Ave. Info: Bonita Kirk at 713-801-7386.

HAMS, a gay, lesbian motorcycle club, has a social at a different coffee house in the Montrose area once a month. Info: 713-688-1300 or hams1999@yahoo.com.

FUND-RAISERS

It's the biggest annual party in Houston's GLBT community! Bunnies on the Bayou hop out to Wortham Plaza, 600 Texas Avenue on Easter Sunday, April 23, 2-7 p.m. Benefits numerous community organizations. Info: www.bunnies.org.

HEALTH & FITNESS

"Skate Till You Drop" with Lambda Roller Skating Club every Tuesday, 8 p.m. at Tradewinds Roller Rink, 5006 W 34th St. (off 290). Info: 713-523-9620 or online at neosoft.com/~rsc.

The Body Positive Wellness Center offers a



Two good Fridays in three weeks! Kate Clinton, the unimpeachable Madame President of Comedy, presents Y2K8 comedy at Cathedral of Hope. Friday, May 5, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance, 2/\$25, or \$20 at the door. Info: 214-351-1901 ext182.

work, The Play About the Baby, continues through May 6 at Alley Theatre. Tickets: \$32-\$49. Info: 713-228-8421.

Theatre New West announces auditions for the award-winning musical review Fairy Tales. Two men, two women, between ages of 20-40. April 29, 1 p.m. 1415 California. Info: 713-522-2204.

Join comedian Nancy Ford for "The Dyke Show" Thursdays, 9 p.m. at The N Between (between Chances and The New Barn), 1100 Westheimer. Open mic available for musicians, poets, and comics. Info: 713-521-5822.

SPIRITUALITY

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

SAN ANTONIO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The gay + lesbian community center, located at 3126 N. St. Mary's, offers a wide variety of social, health, and educational programs each week for the Alamo City's GLBT community. The center, located at 3126 N. St. Mary's, is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Info: 210-732-4300 or access glccsa.org.

FUND-RAISERS

Lorca's The Butterfly's Evil Spell. Presented by Our Endeavors Theatre Company at Deep Ellum Center for the Arts through April 30. Tickets: \$7- \$17. Info: 972-355-2879.

DENTON

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

EL PASO

Lambda's Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is available around the clock to help deal with the effects of violence within male-male/female-female couples. Lambda provides information, referrals, and support to those directly affected by GLBT domestic abuse. Trained AVP volunteers are called upon to assist families that have had homophobia and transphobia lead to unhealthy and often dangerous living conditions. Donations may be sent to LAMBDA at P.O. Box 31321, El Paso, Texas 79931-0321. Lambda is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Info: AVP@lambda.org, call 915-562-GAYS or access <http://www.lambda.org>.

FT. WORTH

ART

"2000 BC: The Bruce Conner Story Part II" unfolds through April 23 at the Modern Art Museum of Ft. Worth. Info: 817-738-9215 or www.mamfw.org.

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The Quilt goes on. NAMES Project Houston presents its monthly Fabric Sale, April 29-30, 1 p.m. Info: 713-526-2637.

Marta Balletbò-Coll's 1995 romantic comedy, Costa Brava, will be featured at Lesbian Movie Night on Friday, April 28, at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. A Mexican/Spanish-theme potluck will precede the movie at 7 p.m., and discussion will follow. \$3-\$5 donation welcomed. The center is located at 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818.

Lesbian Literature Group meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at Lobo Bookstore/Cafe, 3939 Montrose. Info: Jennifer, 713-523-3037 or jsharon@msi.uth.tmc.edu.

Lesbian Island Association, a new group for women in their twenties, meets Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. \$3 donation welcomed.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne Ave. Info: Bonita Kirk at 713-801-7386.

HAMS, a gay, lesbian motorcycle club, has a social at a different coffee house in the Montrose area once a month. Info: 713-688-1300 or hams1999@yahoo.com.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

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

The Montrose Clinic offers free HIV testing on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 6-9 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. Info: 713-524-3818.

ON STAGE

City Contemporary Dance Company, Hong Kong presents "China Wind/China Fire" as part of Dance Salad Asia, April 28-29, 7:30 p.m. at Wortham Center's Cullen Theatre. Info: 713-629-3700

The show must go on. Edward Albee's new

p.m. Tickets: \$15 in advance, 2/\$25, or \$20 at the door. Info: 214-351-1901 ext182.

Open mic available for musicians, poets, and comics. Info: 713-521-5822.

SPIRITUALITY

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

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FUND-RAISERS

We Are Alive, Inc. and Dreams Come True, Inc. present River Parade Block Party, Monday, April 24, 6 p.m. on Augusta and Covenant. Games, dancing, refreshments, and entertainment by Millennium Slow and The Mosaics. Info: 210-737-1411.

Have a laugh and win a trip for two on TWA at "Gay and Lesbian Fiesta Frenzy 2000". Tuesday, April 25, at 8:30 p.m. at RiverCenter Comedy Club. Benefits the programs of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. Tickets: \$10. Info: 210-299-1420 or 210-732-4300.

Texas Lone Star Bears presents its Fiesta Bear Party, featuring the Mr. Texas Lone Star Bear competition, food, raffles for prizes, games, and more. Other competition winners will be Mr. Texas Lone Star Cub and Mr. Texas Lone Star Polar Bear. Friday, April 21, 9 p.m., at The Hideout, 5307 McCullough.



The TEXAS Triangle Classifieds

Austin • Dallas • Houston
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Announcements

Austin

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Employment

Austin

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Employment

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Employment

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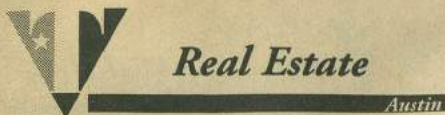
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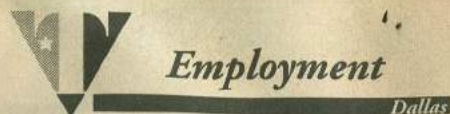


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Employment

Dallas

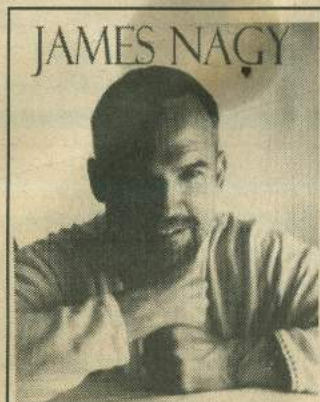
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Employment

Dallas

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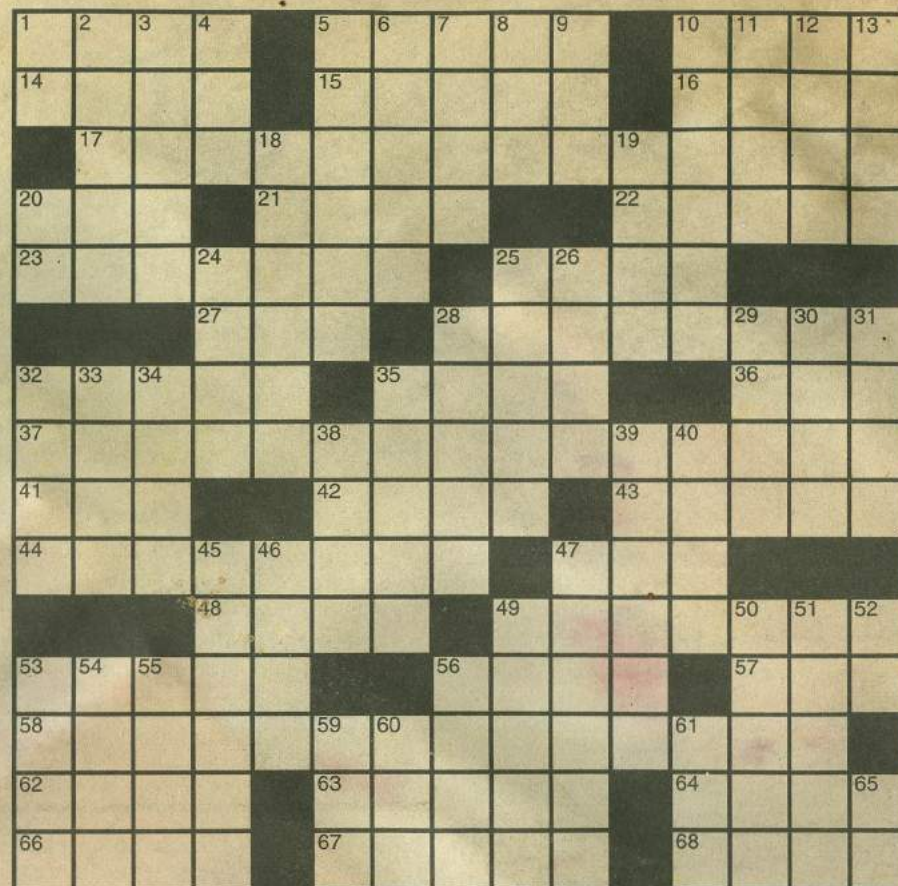
Across

1. Operations, Training & Management Office
5. Out of fashion
10. European fish
14. Ardor, or elan
15. German sub
16. Alleviate
17. Start of a quote referring to Dr. Laura (with "I just...")
20. Mediterranean fruit
21. On the highest peak
22. Superman's young friend; Jimmy ____
23. Someone who adds ornaments
25. Ms. Lee, of bakery fame
27. Four stringed guitar
28. Sword sashes
32. Isolated
35. Cast aside capriciously
36. Sludge
37. Quoter of the quote
41. Pipe type?
42. Debauchery
43. Garners
44. Tart flavored with sesame or caraway
47. Possess
48. GM car division (abbr.)
49. Exceeded the limit
53. Caution, to Juan
56. American cuckoos
57. Self
58. Last of the quote
62. A small island
63. Fortify with weapons again
64. Swiss mountains
66. Want
67. Stagnates
68. Director Preminger

Down

1. "The Wizard of ____"
2. Lukewarm

4. Pay or cash tender?
5. "I tawt I saw a ____ tat!"
6. Find repugnant
7. Ivory or Dove
8. H.S. senior's exam
9. 7th letter of the Greek alphabet
10. Basement
11. Yucks
12. Druggie?
13. Swiss capital
18. Member of a NY baseball team
19. Divine creator
20. ____ la la
24. Ladder crosspiece
25. Tasting like sea water
26. Lowest female singing voice
28. Marine pump type
29. Borodin's Prince
30. Actor Roy of "Silence of the Lambs"
31. Male human offspring
32. Poisonous vipers
33. Exist
34. 1 time only
35. Pulls with sudden movements
38. Gates book; "The ____ Ahead"
39. Latest
40. Tarzan's mate
45. Slept in a convenient place
46. Unite in a mass
47. Narcotics from the opium poppy
49. Saw logs
50. Passed out the cards
51. "Aida" setting
52. "____ unto others..."
53. Blood-related
54. Workbench's work holder?
55. Not busy
56. ____ retentive
59. Telekinesis expert Geller
60. Wine choice
61. Government Accounting Office
65. Fifth note of the scale

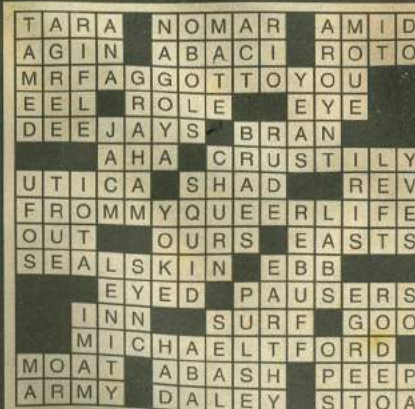


Dykesville

by Tami Friday



Last Week's Solution

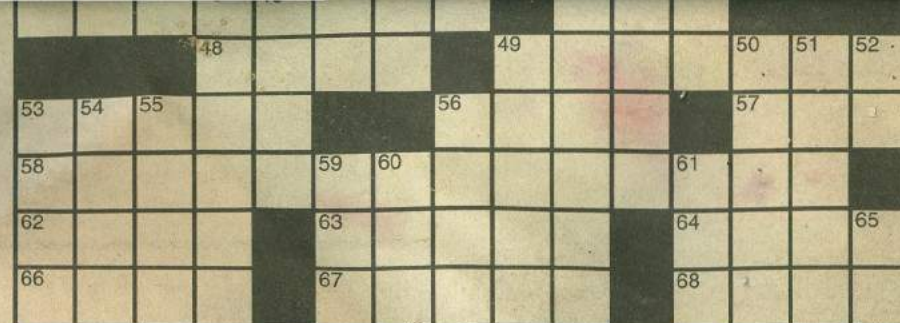


25. Ms. Lee, of bakery fame
 27. Four stringed guitar
 28. Sword sashes
 32. Isolated
 35. Cast aside capriciously
 36. Sludge
 37. Quoter of the quote
 41. Pipe type?
 42. Debauchery
 43. Garners
 44. Tart flavored with sesame or caraway
 47. Possess
 48. GM car division (abbr.)
 49. Exceeded the limit
 53. Caution, to Juan
 56. American cuckoos
 57. Self
 58. Last of the quote
 62. A small island
 63. Fortify with weapons again
 64. Swiss mountains
 66. Want
 67. Stagnates
 68. Director Preminger

30. Actor Roy of "Silence of the Lambs"
 31. Male human offspring
 32. Poisonous vipers
 33. Exist
 34. 1 time only
 35. Pulls with sudden movements
 38. Gates book; "The ___ Ahead"
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 59. Telekinesis expert Geller
 60. Wine choice
 61. Government Accounting Office
 65. Fifth note of the scale

Down

1. "The Wizard of ____"
2. Lukewarm
3. Actress Kidder



Dykesville

by Tami Friday



Last Week's Solution

T	A	R	A		N	O	M	A	R		A	M	I	D
A	G	I	N		A	B	A	C	I		R	O	T	O
M	R	F	A	G	G	O	T	T	O		Y	O		
E	E	L		R	O	L	E				E	Y	E	
D	E	E	J	A		S		B	R	A	N			
			A	H	A		C	R	U	S	T	I	L	Y
U	T	I	C	A		S	H	A	D			R	E	V
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O	U	T		O	U	R	S			E	A	S	T	S
S	E	A	L	S	K	I	N		E	B	B			
			E	Y	E	D		P	A	U	S	E	R	S
			I	N	N		S	U	R	F		G	O	O
			M	I	C	H	A	E	L	T	F	O	R	D
M	O	A	T		A	B	A	S	H		P	E	E	P
A	R	M	Y		D	A	L	E	Y		S	T	O	A

New Book

HONESTLY ETHEL by John D. Anderson

GEORGIE, IN MY SURPRISE EASTER BASKET THIS YEAR, I WANT ONE BAG OF JELLY BEANS, A COUPLE CREME EGGS, THREE CHOCOLATE BUNNIES, AND A BOX OF PINK MARSHMALLOW PEEPS, BUT GET THE GOOD QUALITY PEEPS AND NOT THE PEEPS THAT ARE ON SALE WITH ONE EYE ON THEIR BEAK BECAUSE I WON'T EAT ANY MUTANT PEEPS.



I SEE. AND ANY PARTICULAR COLOR YOU'D LIKE THE PLASTIC GRASS TO BE IN YOUR SURPRISE EASTER BASKET?

HONEY! IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SURPRISE! WHATEVER COLOR YOU PICK IS FINE WITH ME!



**Aries** March 21 - April 20

A romantic partner who has been gone from your life for a while gets in touch and they want a reconciliation. I know that something you have wanted for a long time now seems to be a passing fancy and you think about what you want right this minute. You deal with partnership issues in every area of your life this week. Friendships help you cope with the stress of your love life. Communication skills help too.

Taurus April 21 - May 21

You experience some friction in your various relationships this week. Financial matters and romance mingle, although this is rarely a good thing. I think it is a good idea to never try buying love. Give your heart, not expensive gifts. You concentrate on work and pleasure. New romantic partners come along now and you find them very congenial. Sharing mutual pleasures would be lots of fun. Let yourself go!

Gemini May 22 - June 21

A friend who is good with money offers a useful suggestion. I see some luxury items appealing to you, and now you have to see if you can acquire them at a price that doesn't break your piggy bank. Be patient about your projects. Things will happen for you when everything is right, so do your part and make things as perfect as you possibly can. Concentrate on what's important and let idle worries go.

Cancer June 22 - July 22

You find it easier to deal with personal relationships than with professional matters. A supportive mate is helpful, and your long talks help you make sense of a difficult goal that is slow to be realized. I want you to spend quality time with your lover now. An event that you like to share is more special because of all the memories you generate together. A good deed you do brings you good luck.

Libra September 24 - October 23

Don't take short cuts when other people's feeling are at stake this week. Do what you know is right in your heart, even if it is not totally convenient or pleasant for you. You and I both know what that is. Maintain high standards in your dating practices: Don't go looking—let the love of your life find you. Go out to socialize now with your good friends and see what happens. Let go of the things that are bad for you. Change is usually good!!!

Scorpio October 24 - November 22

You may want to work with a trustworthy friend to explore those feelings that I see have been giving you problems. Don't sit around waiting for the return of a lost lover. If someone gives you the heave-ho, give it right back to them and move on to find a better mate. Financial independence is very important to you, so concentrate on positive goals and organizing your finances to the maximum benefit.

Sagittarius November 23 - December 21

Concentrate on what you really want because it doesn't matter what goals you have, as long as you keep them in your sights. I see this as a time you will gain much help through the good intentions of other people. You have to be true to your own heart though, and follow your own path. If your love life isn't going well, it is time to connect positively with the people in your life you call your friends. These are the people who are really there for you and may be willing to introduce you to the love of your life.

Capricorn December 22 - January 20

You are definitely in the mood for a vacation this week...the only problem is that I see you have been working practically around the clock leaving precious little time for journeying. This is a good time to cheer up a distressed friend with some carefree fun. Stay mellow even under stress. Remember that most events come and go and although they can seem intense at the time, in retrospect they matter little.

Aquarius January 21 - February 19

You have to make a difficult decision that requires careful thought this week. I think it a good idea to make a list of the pros and cons, as this could really help the process along. Trust in the advice you receive from an expert, but trust more in your own instincts. A friend who is quite a jock wants to challenge you to a contest in your favorite sport. Even if you don't win, it will be fun to give this contest your all!

Pisces February 20 - March 20

I recommend you concentrate on romance this week. Sharing your life with someone special is essential to you. You really want to reach out to your mate. If you are unattached, attending a singles event may be the answer you are searching for. Being able to open up and share yourself within a positive framework of intimacy is great!



You concentrate on work and pleasure. New romantic partners come along now and you find them very congenial. Sharing mutual pleasures would be lots of fun. Let yourself go!

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Leo July 23 - August 22

You want to spoil a lover like they are your pampered pet. Of course that goes both ways, and I know you are just as happy to accept pampering from them. A friend who is going through tough times appreciates your willingness to offer some tender loving care. A cultural event inspires you to express yourself. Take your time with a relationship, and if you are not ready to move toward intimacy, just say so!

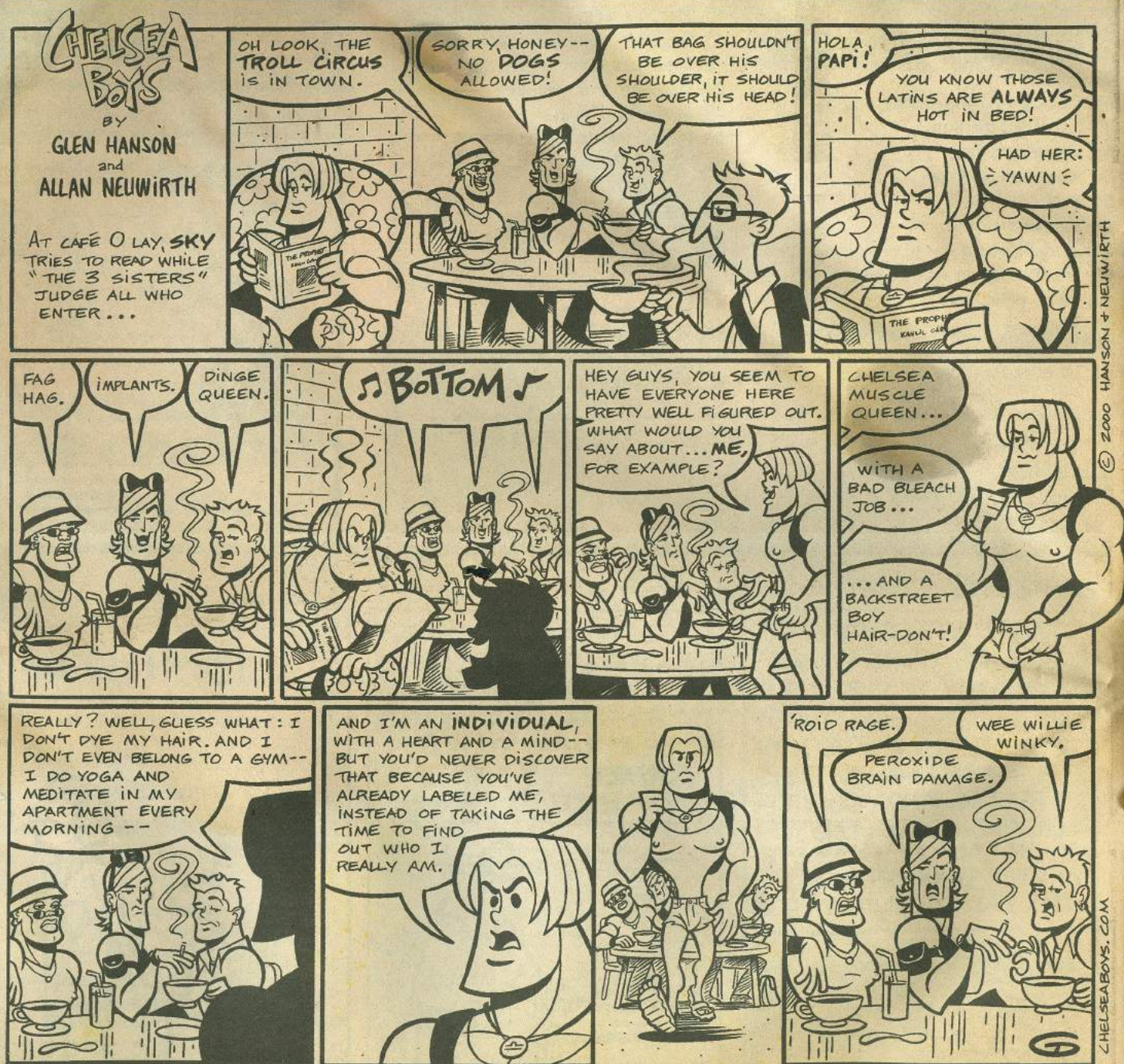
Virgo August 23 - September 23

You debate the wisdom of an upcoming party and ask yourself if you should stay home or go to the event. You are busy now with a lot of professional concerns, and it is hard for you to concentrate on anything else. Listen to me and believe that your hard work will pay off! A friend who has your best interests at heart may give you some advice, but they may not have a clue what's really up with you at this time in your life.

to them and move on to find a better mate. Financial independence is very important to you, so concentrate on positive goals and organizing your finances to the maximum benefit.

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On the phone and NOW on the Web.

THE NUMBER

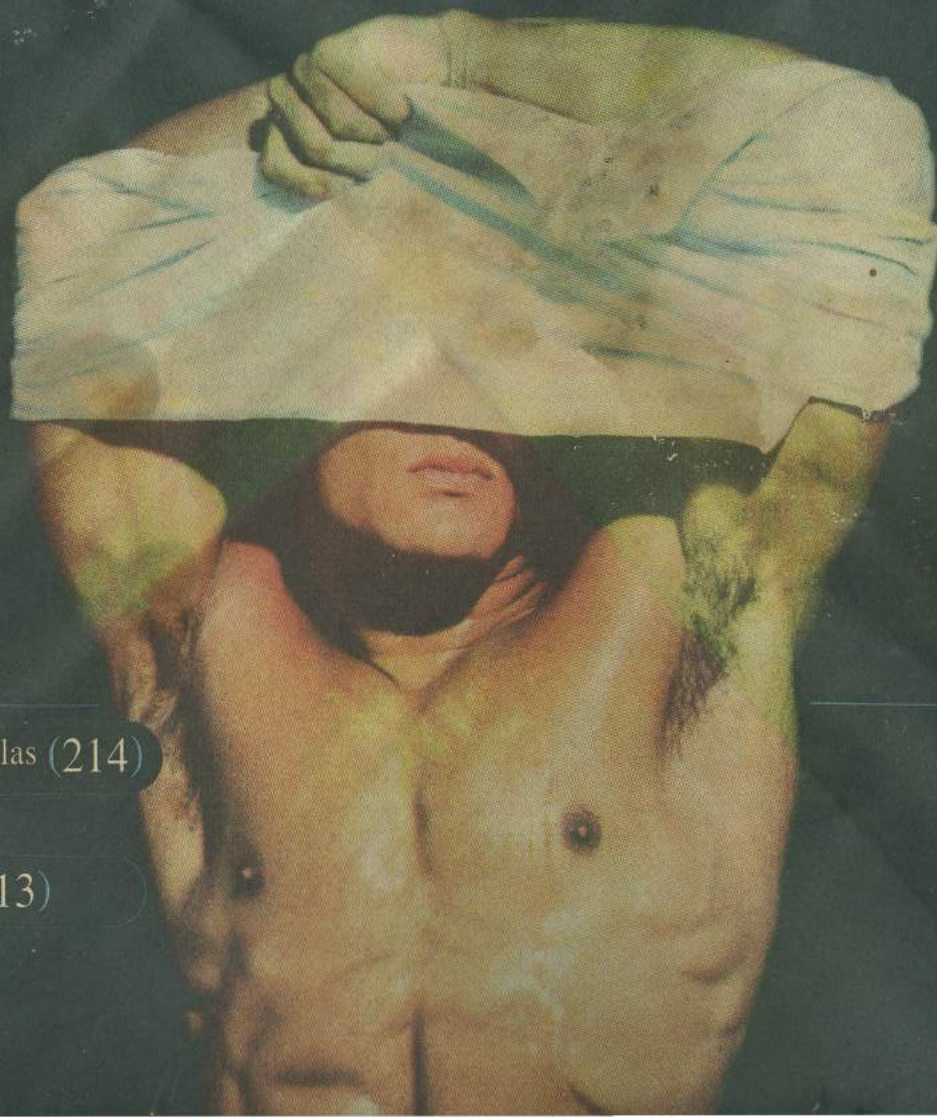
Whether you're looking for Mr. Right or Mr. Right Now, we've got your Number.

760-7707

Dallas (214)

523-8989

Houston (713)



A photograph of a muscular man's torso, showing his chest and abdominal muscles. His arms are raised above his head, and he is holding a white cloth or towel. The background is dark and textured.

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