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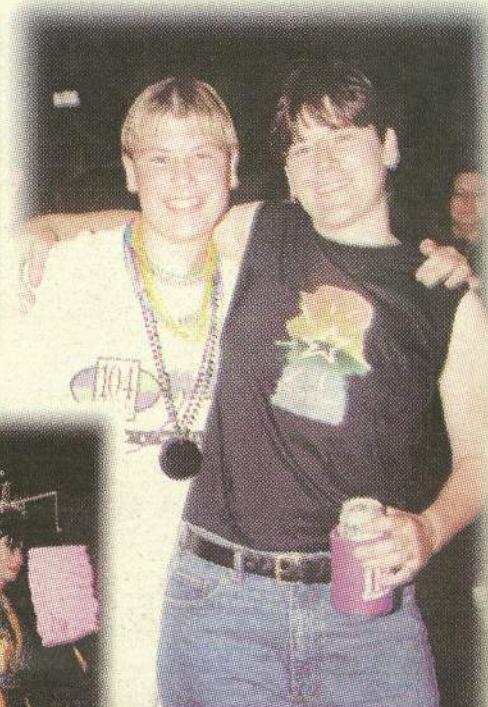
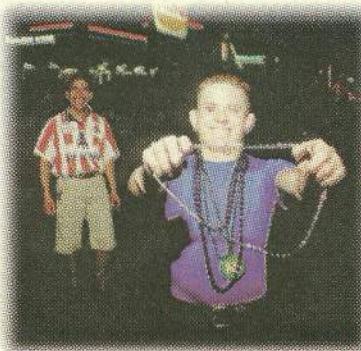
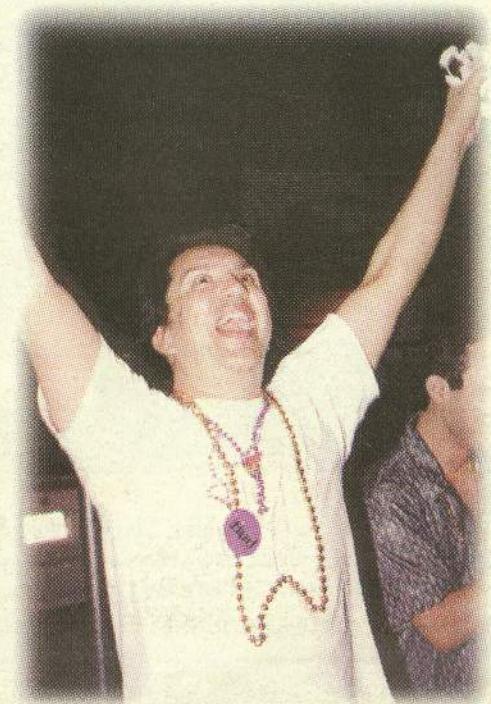
ISSUE 975

ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE.

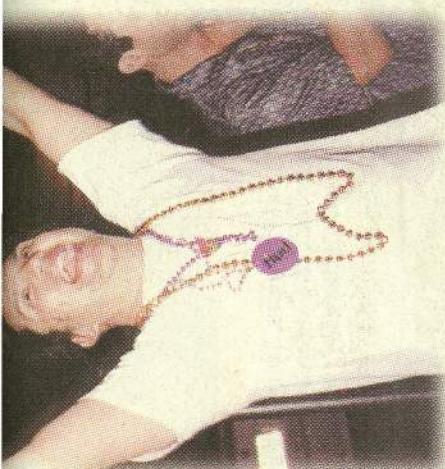
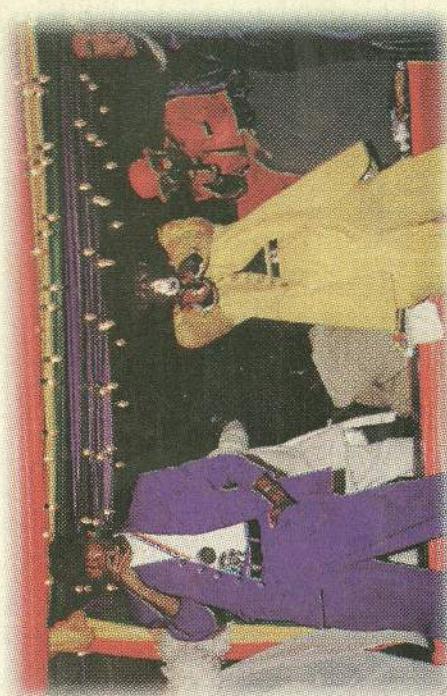
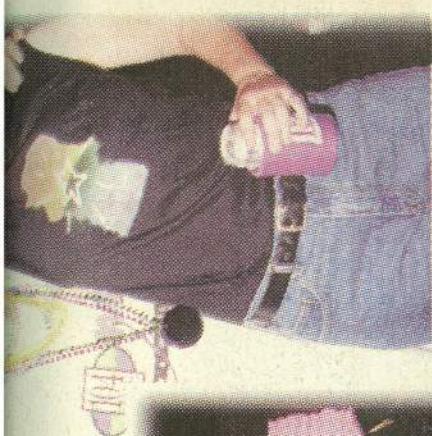
Ricky, Ricky,
Ricky!
Too many stories
on Ricky Martin
inside



JULY 2, 1999



Faces of Pride '90



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Police raid two gay bars during Pride Week

► Councilmember Parker demands answers from police on timing of bar inspections

by ANTHONY CONNOLY

Two popular gay bars—611 and JR.'s—were raided by Houston Police June 24, incensing openly gay councilmember, Annise Parker.

"All businesses are subject to legitimate police actions to address illegal behavior," she said in a memo sent to HPD Chief C.O. Bradford. "However, it seems to me that common sense would preclude visits to bars in the gay community during Gay Pride Week."

According to Parker's office, several constituency complaints said 10-40 HPD officers in flak jackets "inspected," the two establishments, both on Pacific Street, last week. "Apparently no arrests were made, and the only violation involved were three improperly scratched bottles (which is a requirement of drinking establishments in Texas)."

During the police inspection, "the music was turned off, and no one was allowed in or out."

The councilmember said it made little sense for the police raid during Gay Pride Week, "Just as one might not pick the week of Cinco de Mayo to disrupt Hispanic clubs, or Martin Luther King's birthday to target black clubs."

Parker told Houston City Council,

Hormel sworn in



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Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, right, swears in James C. Hormel, left, as the new ambassador to Luxembourg at a State Department ceremony Tuesday, June 29, 1999, in Washington. Hormel became the nation's first openly gay ambassador. Timothy Wu, center, holds the Bible.



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Issue 975

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Parker told Houston City Council, June 30, she "could set her clock by Houston Police Department of bar raids during Pride Week." Her memo to the chief asks seven questions:

- How many police inspections were conducted in gay bars during the week of June 20 through June 26?
- Which gay bars were visited?
- What other city or state agencies were involved? How many officers?
- How were the visits generated (i.e. citizen complaint, undercover officer complaint)?
- How often are such inspections conducted?
- How many arrests were made?
- What were the reasons for the arrests?

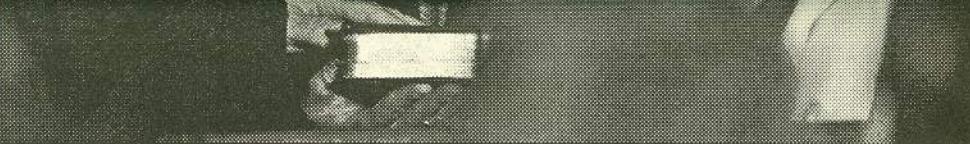
At press time, Chief Bradford was not available for comment. John Leggio of HPD said, "I was told by the chief, that he is aware of the memo and has been working on investigating the matter."

HPD, he said, has received citizen complaints about the raids.

"We're trying to find out what all the facts are."

Dennis Entler owner of 611 said, "They had 17 people on a raid and arrested no one—it was obviously harassment."

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Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, right, swears in James C. Hormel, left, as the new ambassador to Luxembourg at a State Department ceremony Tuesday, June 29, 1999, in Washington. Hormel became the nation's first openly gay ambassador. Timothy Wu, center, holds the Bible.



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Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999

Prideful Past...

A few captured moments from this years Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade from *Houston Voice* photographers: Lucinda Garces, Dalton Dehart & Kim Thompson



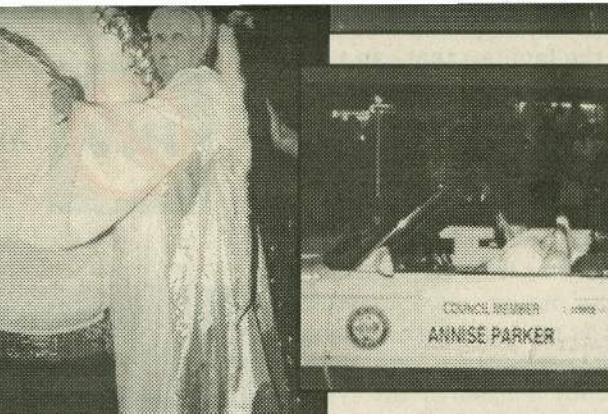
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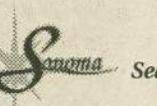
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Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999



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The parade that ate Montrose

► Organizers say this year's Gay And Lesbian Pride Parade a huge hit in many ways

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Pride, power and pizzazz was the theme of the 21st annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade held last Saturday in the heart of the Montrose. And there was plenty of all three Ps.

Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and families and friends came out in force to show their pride and growing power.

This year's parade, the only nighttime parade in Houston, was the largest yet with over 120 floats and 85,000 plus spectators, said to Clarence Bagby, media coordinator for Pride Committee of Houston events. The pride committee relies on its crowd estimates via the accounting of the Houston Police Department in charge of crowd control.

The night was hot and steamy, but there was no rain and crowds lined the parade route from start to finish.

Although sometimes sparser in the earlier stages, the crowds grew deeper and deeper as the parade neared the bend on Westheimer. In front of Chances and Mary's (the oldest gay bar in Texas, according to Bagby), and at the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer, spectators packed the parking lots and spilled over onto the street. They yelled, waved and vied for attention to get the myriad of trinkets and prizes thrown from the floats.

Then the parade passed under the huge disco ball suspended directly over the Montrose—Westheimer intersection. The ball was commissioned by the Pride Committee as a publicity effort, said Bagby. He says the committee wanted to, "commemorate, celebrate and educate the community, and the ball seemed a great way to

do that. The less than \$10,000 tag for the ball was provided by corporate sponsors says Bagby. The ball was unveiled initially the night before the parade to a crowd of about 200.

Parade corporate sponsors numbered 11 which were "more in number and money than ever before," says Bagby. First time entrant, Gallery Furniture was the major sponsor. Others included Bank United, Wells Fargo, Walgreens, Silver Eagle Distributors (Bud Lite), Slider's Bar, Tecate, ID Lubricants, HEB Pantry Foods, Elliott Brands International.

Other corporate entries included such newcomers to the parade as Super Cuts Whole Foods Market, Chase Bank, Shell, Compaq Computers, KIKK and KRBE radio stations, and many others were there too.

Most of the bars had entries in the parade: Rich's, Club Picasso, Energy, Pacific Street, and 611 Bar.

What was really different, says Bagby, was the number of churches in the parade. Bering Methodist, St. Stephen's Episcopal, Houston Ministries, Metropolitan Community Church were some that participated.

"It is interesting and perhaps even a bellwether of change in the general queer community," that so many churches participated says Bagby.

Protesters also showed up at the parade. "Less than a dozen" says Bagby. "Since they carried signs saying such things as 'God hates fags', they probably felt pretty stupid when they saw so many churches in the parade," he said.

Although there is much fun enjoyed by participants and spectators, Bagby says there is a serious side. "We want to make sure people know what it's all about." And that is the anniversary of Stonewall when, in 1969 when gays spontaneously

rioted against police oppression in New York City.

Bagby, a long time activist, walked the parade route so he could see it all. Then he doubled back to finish the parade with the Gay and Lesbian Task Force float. Riding on their float was Bagby's next door neighbor who is straight. She wanted to show her support says Bagby and even wore a T-shirt that said, "straight but not narrow."

"Those allies and supporters are critical to the success of our fight for equality," says Bagby.



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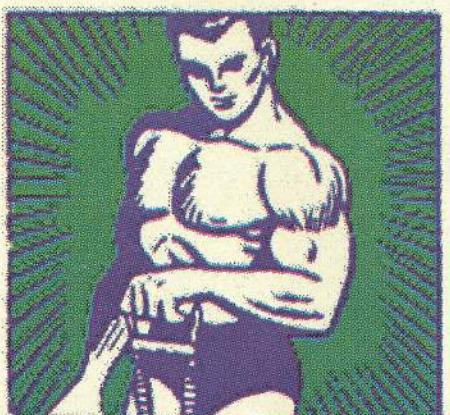
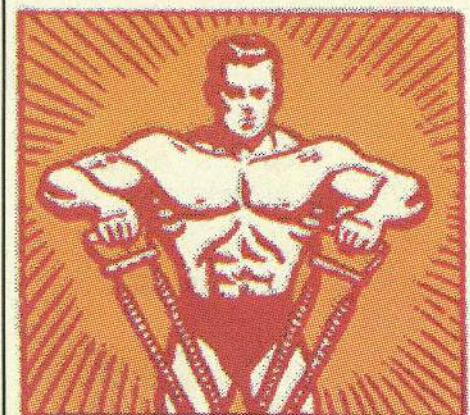
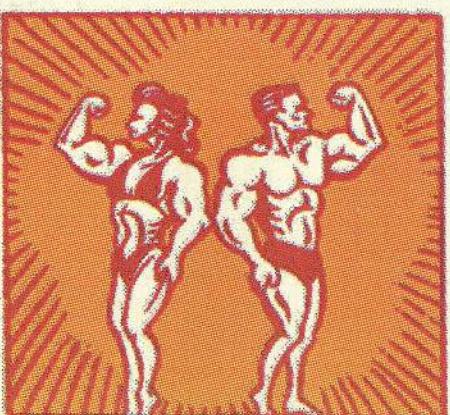
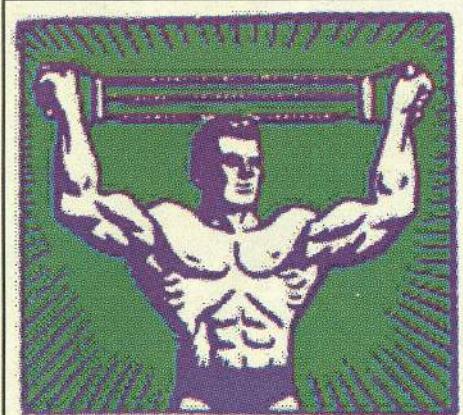
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came together to protest the police's raid on the bar.

and the successes of our fight for equality," says Bagby.



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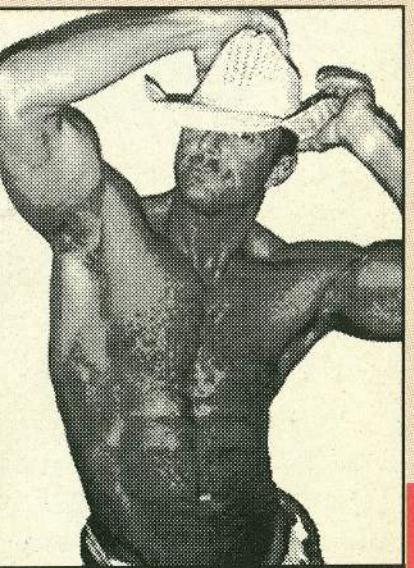
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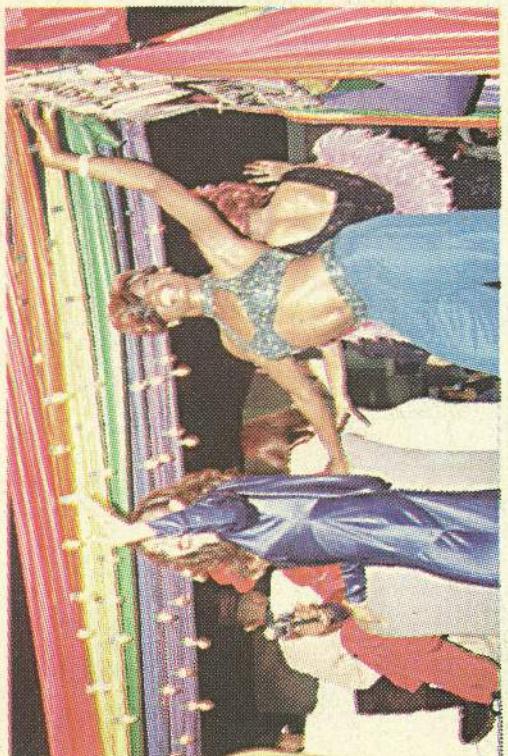
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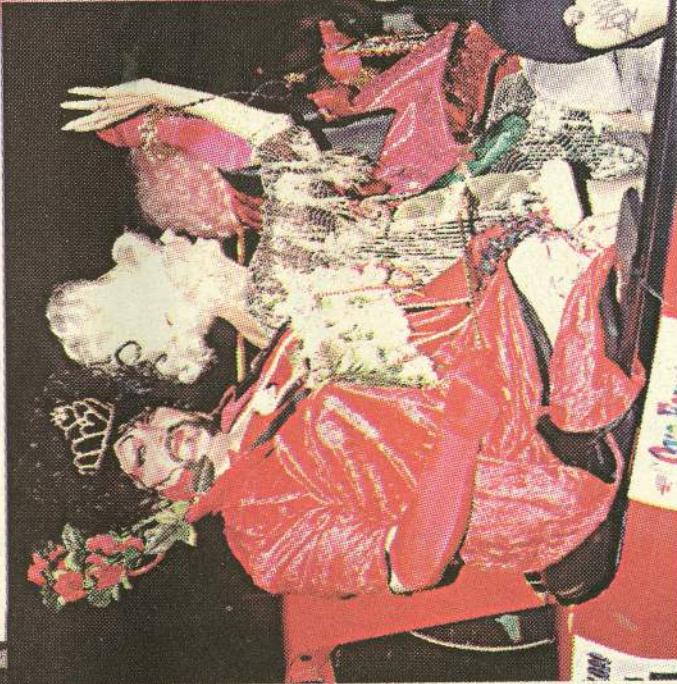
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Great parade...
see you next
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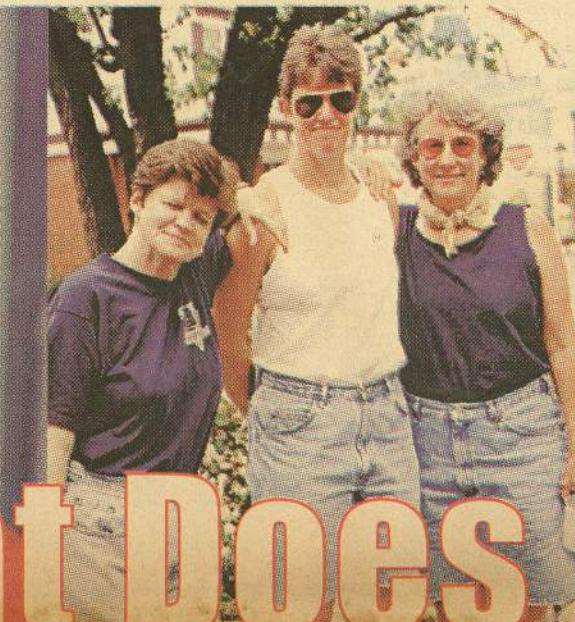
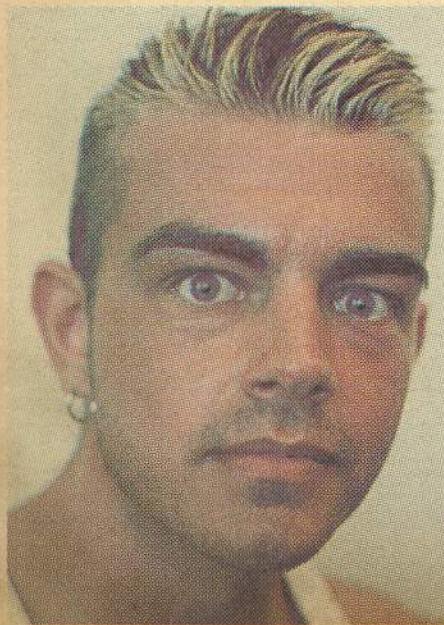
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HAPPY PRIDE HOUSTON

Exclusive pride interview
with 'South Park's' Big Gay Al
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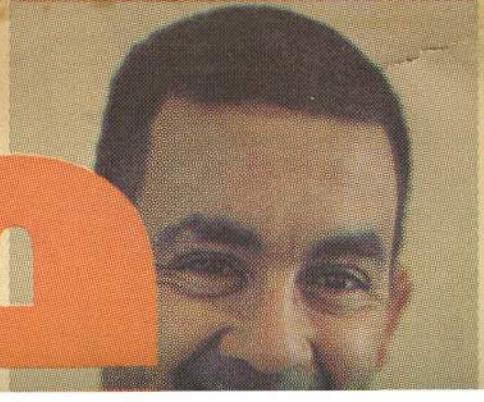
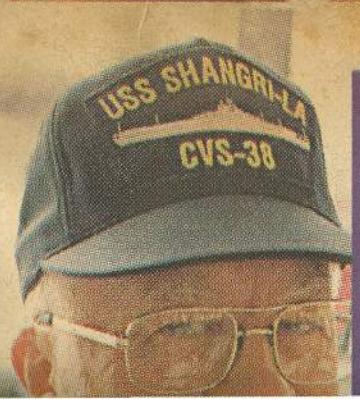


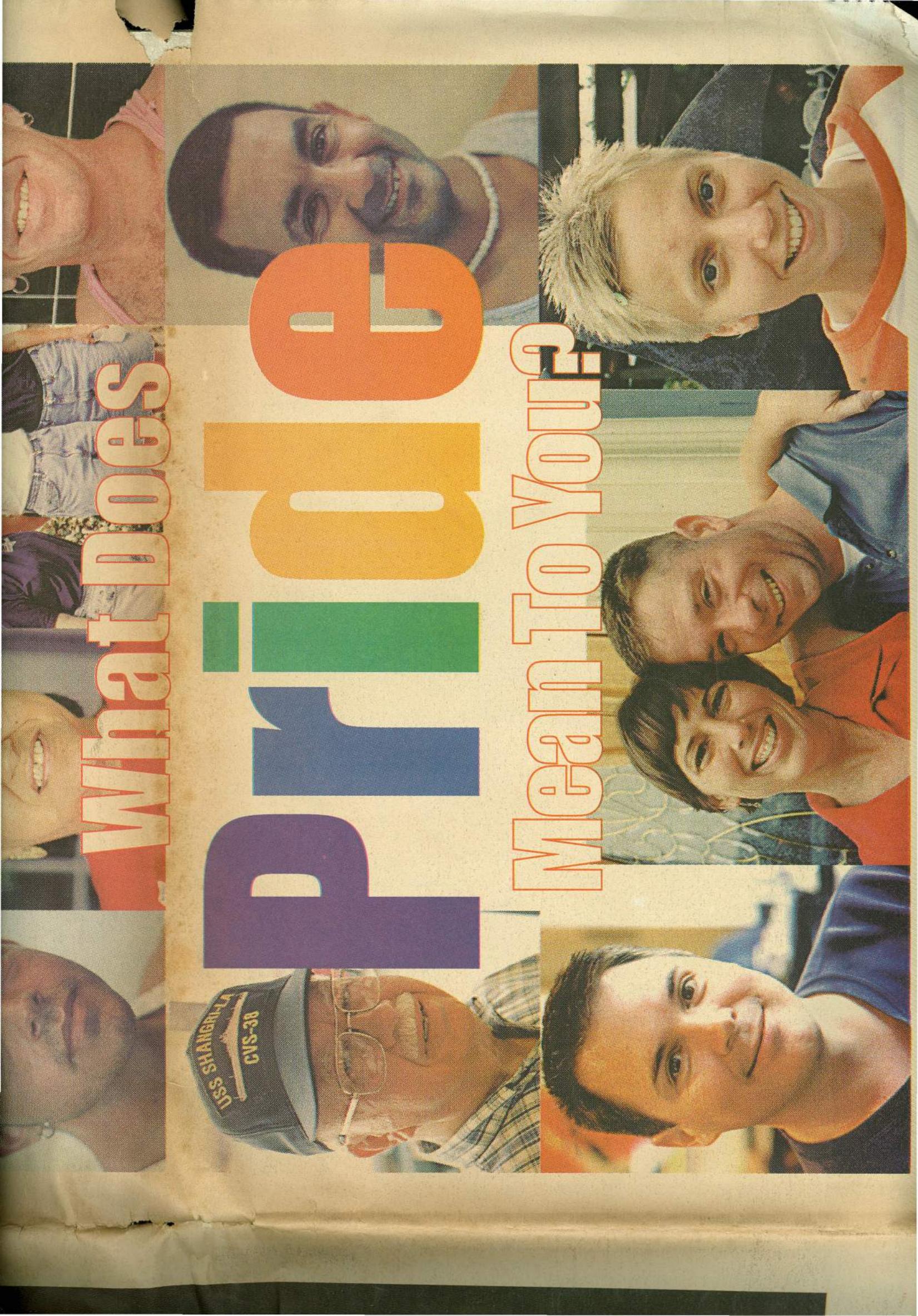
JUNE 25, 1999



What Does

pride





What does
it mean to you?

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Mean to you?

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State files sodomy brief claiming it's 'immoral'

by DENNIS VERCHER
Dallas Voice

Attorneys for two Harris County men challenging the Texas sodomy law say the state's defense of the statute will become apparent only when county attorneys file papers with a Texas appeals court.

The state's brief must be filed by July 7, said Suzanne Goldberg, an attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. The New York-based litigating foundation has assumed the lead role in presenting constitutional arguments against the sodomy law.

At press time the state had just filed its brief in the Lawrence and Garner vs. State of Texas involving the homosexual conduct 21.06 appeal.

The State argues that "21.06 is rationally related to legitimate governmental interests in: (a) discouraging what has historically been perceived to constitute immoral conduct; and (b) promoting family values."

Other comments set forth in their brief include the following:

1. "It is the homosexual conduct which is viewed as immoral, and a statute which renders that conduct illegal is obviously related to the goal of discouraging the conduct and thereby implementing morality."

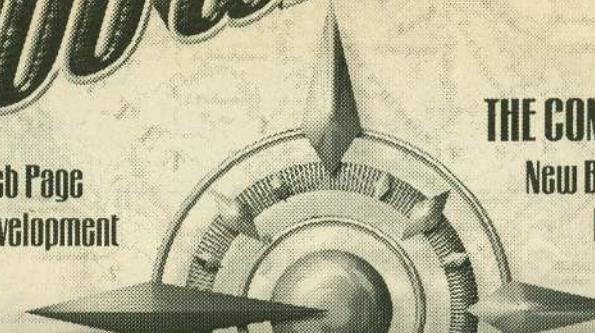
2. "a statute imposing criminal liability only upon persons who actually engage in homosexual conduct is perfectly tailored to implement the communal belief that the conduct is wrong and should be discouraged."

3. "In a traditional exercise of democratic decision-making, the electorate decided in 1974 that deviant sexual intercourse among heterosexual couples was no longer a matter with which the government should be concerned. The electorate evidently continues to believe that any sexual conduct between persons of the same sex is immoral and unacceptable."



Kitane, lawyer for the defendants: The next step will be oral arguments.

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4. "A legislative distinction between persons of the same sex engaging in an act and persons of different sex engaging in the same act is not so strange or foreign as to be irrational."

5. "The punishment for homosexual conduct under the common law included death by burning or being buried alive." In 1854, the Texas Legislature determined that homosexual anal intercourse should be punishable by hard labor in the penitentiary for up to five years. Six years later the law was changed to include a range of punishment of no less than five years and no more than fifteen years in the penitentiary.

The State concludes its brief by asserting that this matter should be left to the Texas Legislature.

The briefs are not available on line.

"The State's brief is the response to our brief. We are the ones appealing the convictions," said Mitchell Katrine, one of the lawyers involved with the appeal.

"The next step will be oral arguments in Houston sometime in the next two to four months."

Goldberg's brief, previously filed with the appeals court, contends that the law violates gays' and lesbians' rights to

➤ See Sodomy on Page 8

Kitane, lawyer for the defendants: The next step will be oral arguments.

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Lambda says it will take the case to the highest court in the land

Sodomy from page 3
privacy and equal protection.

The statute, Sec. 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, outlaws oral and anal sex between members of the same gender. Those convicted of the Class C misdemeanor are subject to a fine of up to \$500.

The plaintiffs, Tyrone Garner, 31, and John Geddes Lawrence, 55, were arrested last September after a disgruntled friend summoned authorities to Lawrence's northeast Harris County apartment. The friend told sheriff's deputies that an armed man was inside. 4 and Lawrence engaged in anal sex.

The men were charged with violating the sodomy statute. They pleaded no contest before a Harris County justice of the peace on Nov. 20 and were assessed fines of \$125 each. The men appealed the case to a county court. There, they also pleaded no contest and appealed, moving the case to the Court of Appeals for the 14th Judicial District.

At the appeals court

Goldberg declined to speculate about when the appeals court would schedule oral arguments. But she said the case should move more swiftly than a previous challenge to the law.

That case, *Morales vs. Texas*, was filed in 1990 and ended in 1994 when the Texas

Supreme Court, after hearing oral arguments, ruled that it had no jurisdiction over the constitutionality of a criminal statute.

In Texas, the state Supreme Court ordinarily hears appeals of civil matters. The Court of Criminal Appeals, an independent body, is the state's highest court of appeals in criminal matters.

The Court of Criminal Appeals



Lawrence (right) and Garner (above). Police broke into Lawrence's apartment and caught the two engaged in anal sex.

would not take the *Morales* case because none of the five plaintiffs in the 1990 case had been charged with violating the law.

That's why gay activists are enthusiastic about the current appeal, which does involve plaintiffs convicted of violating the statute.

Jurisdictional arguments and the right of the plaintiffs to press the appeal should not be an issue in this case, attorneys said.

But the case may not end in the Texas courts. In her brief, Goldberg also contends that the sodomy law violates both

upheld the Georgia sodomy law. The ruling is the U.S. Supreme Court's standing precedent affirming the right of states to pass laws regulating private, consensual sexual behavior involving same-gender participants.

Now, more than a decade later, Goldberg believes the high court might be willing to revise its views—particularly given its 1997 decision striking down a Colorado measure forbidding the passage of gay rights laws.

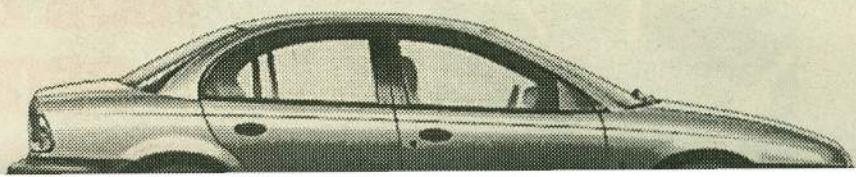
That decision, in *Romer vs. Evans*, "lays the groundwork for decisions in other cases, that gay people deserve to be treated equally," Goldberg said. "There is nothing in the Supreme Court's jurisprudence that suggests we wouldn't win this case if we have to take it that far."

Goldberg said she hopes the case will be resolved favorably in the Texas courts. Still, she added, Lambda is likely to pursue an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

"I can't say for definite at this point, but we would probably take the case as far as it needs to go to get a positive outcome," she said.

the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. If the plaintiffs receive an adverse ruling from Texas appeals courts, they retain the option of filing an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

In *Bowers vs. Hardwick*, a 1986 decision appealed from Georgia, justices



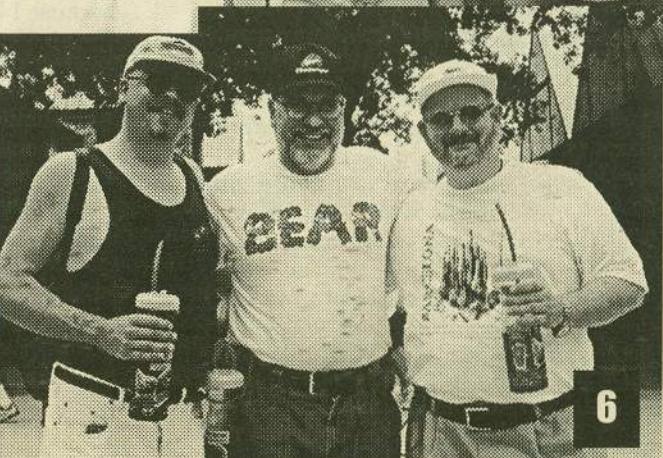
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Pride... WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?



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1. Pride to the University Of Houston group Global means hanging out and being yourself; 2. Pride for Raci Farris is "being ourselves,"; 3. for Ronda Watt, Kristi Casanova, Radhika Dave, and Marie it means "togetherness,"; 4. Trina Gonzales says pride is "loving who we are,"; 5. Chris Valk says it means, "being able to hold your head up,"; 6. being with friends, like Rodney Steen, James Ozga and Bill Wooton; 7. "Freedom to be what comes naturally," says Dean

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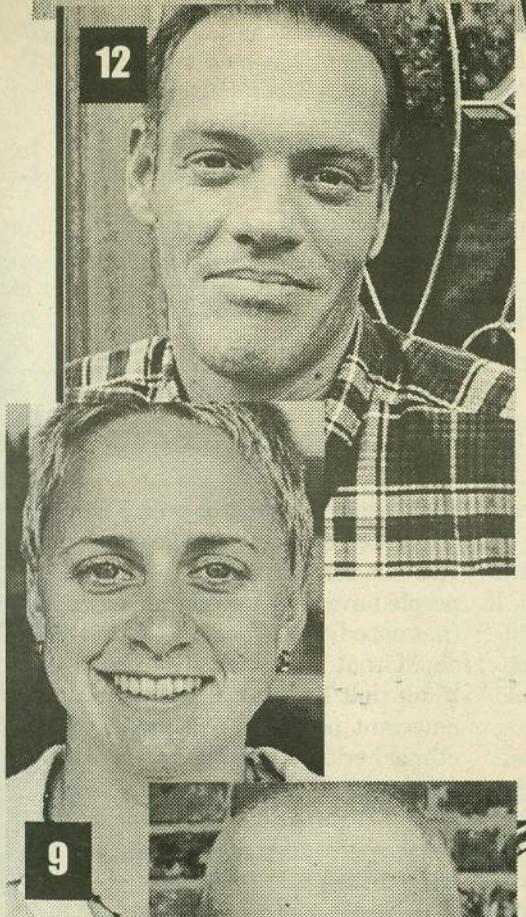
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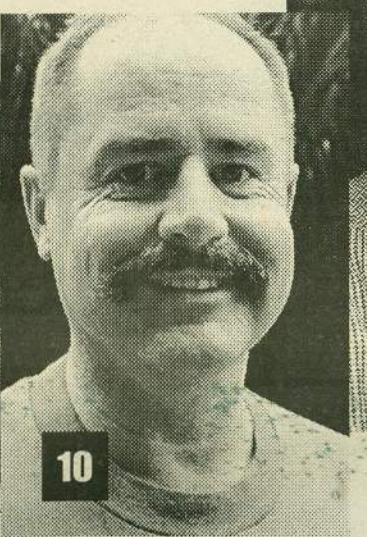
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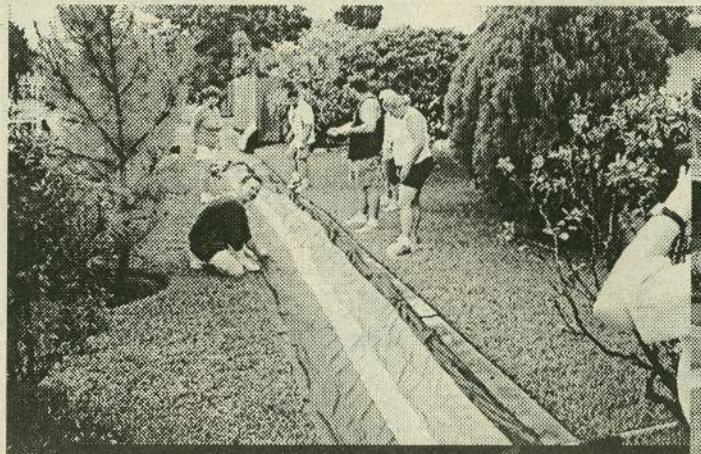
1. Pride to the University Of Houston group Global means hanging out and being yourself; 2. Pride for Raci Farris is "being ourselves,"; 3. for Ronda Watt, Kristi Casanova, Radhika Dave, and Marie it means "togetherness,"; 4. Trina Gonzales says pride is "loving who we are,"; 5. Chris Valk says it means, "being able to hold your head up,"; 6. being with friends, like Rodney Steen, James Ozga and Bill Wooton; 7. "Freedom to be what comes naturally," says Dean Silver; 8. "To be happy with who you are," says Linda Lou; 9. "Loving women as women," says Robyn Macquie; 10. Larry Bell says it's, "freedom to express love unabashedly,"; 11. "Being comfortable with who you are," says Jackie Dorval; 12. to Robert Bardell it means, "to be gracious and kind in the face of adversity,"; 13. "waking up in the morning and just be," says Gayle Pressler; 14. being with one another in public, even at AstroWorld!; 15. To Merle Gremillion pride is "that my sexual identity is a legitimate part of me."

photos by Kim Thompson and Lucinda Garces



Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999

'Prideful Past...



With the annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade this weekend, here's a look back at last year's event from *Houston Voice* photographer Dalton DeHart.

HIV positive?
No insurance?

MICHAEL A. BARTLEY, M.D., P.A.
"Your Neartown Psychiatrist"

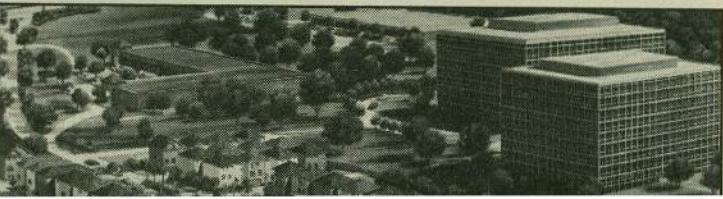
Now Seeing Adult and Geriatric Patients

Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 1999

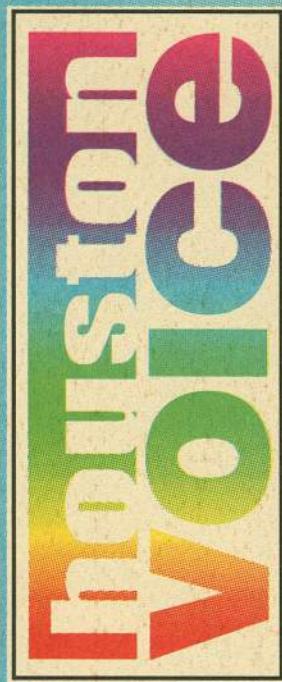


You have
always

You refuse to accept the ordinary.
We don't think you should have to.

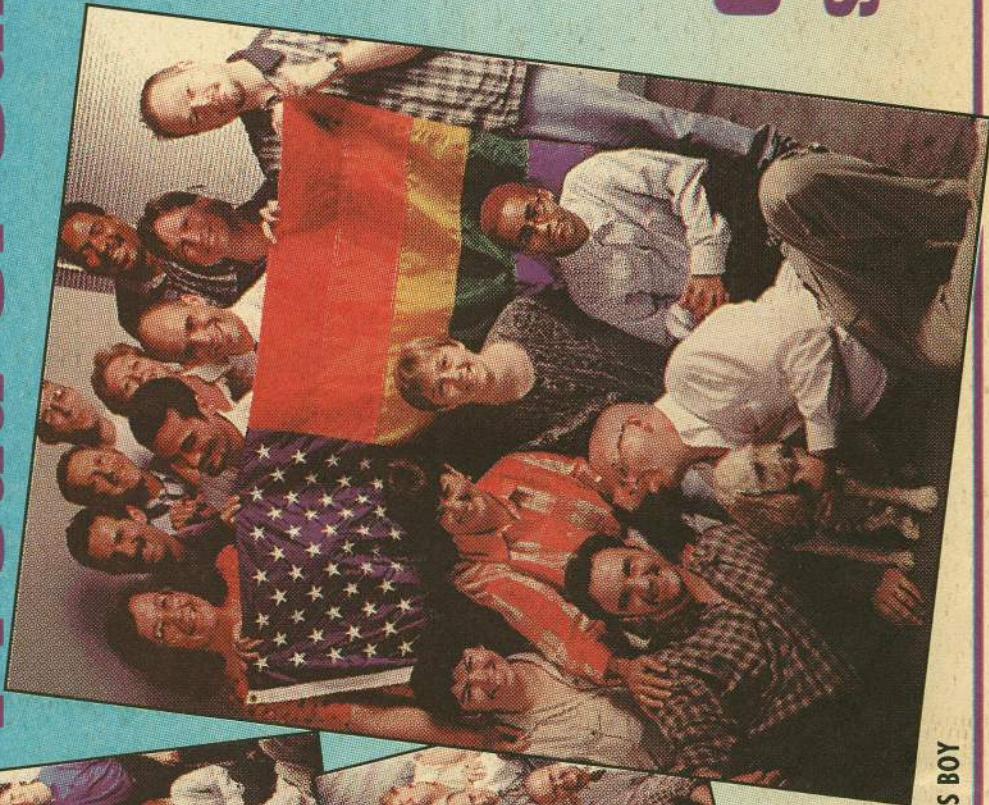


PROUD OF OUR PEOPLE



**Celebrates Pride
Every Week of the Year!**

**Our Staff wishes you all a
safe and happy **Pride '99****



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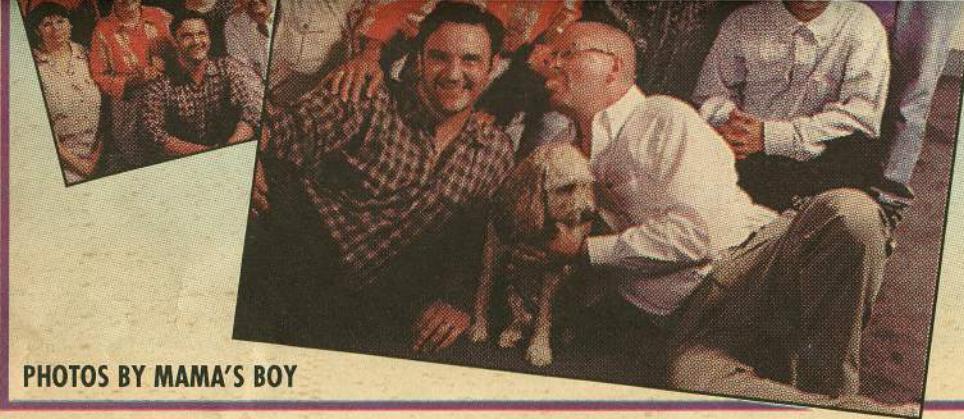
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